



Dall's Sheep 2020 Survey

Denali National Park & Preserve

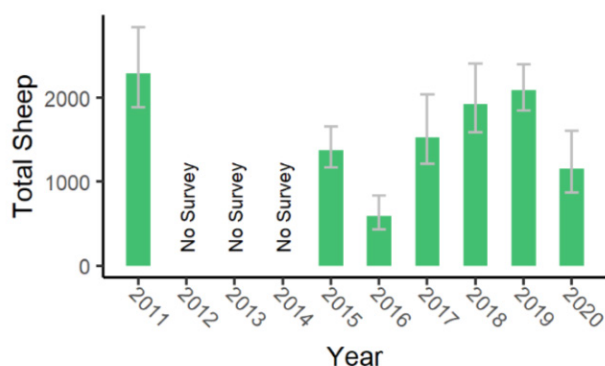
Survey Details

The National Park Service conducted an aerial survey for Dall's sheep in Denali National Park and Preserve between July 14th and 16th, 2020. This survey area includes portions of state game management units 13E, 19C, and 20C. The survey method uses distance sampling following transects based on elevation contours to estimate the total population.

This survey was conducted by a single pilot-observer team. Eighty-four of 95 transects were completed in approximately 32 hours of flight time. These data cover a study area on the north side of the Alaska range (see map right).

Results

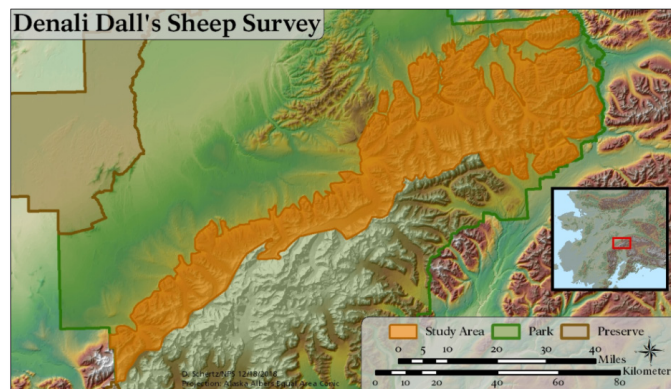
The provisional estimates for total sheep are 1154 (95% Bayesian Credible Interval: 873 - 1606). Based on the previous estimates it appears the population suffered a decline between 2011 and 2015, and again in 2020. This apparent decline may be related to larger than usual spring snowfalls that could have affected survival, but additional surveys will be necessary to confirm this theory.



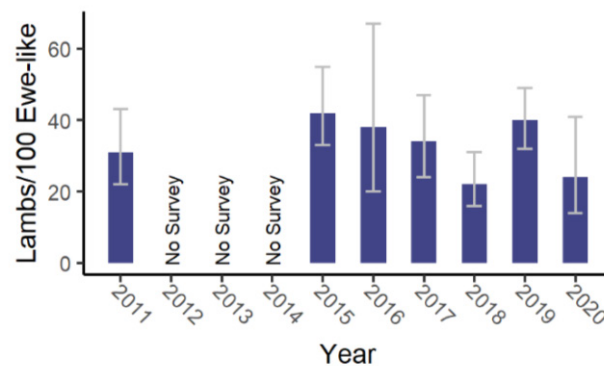
Total Dall's Sheep Distance Sampling Estimates 2011-2020 for the study area within Denali National Park & Preserve. Error bars indicate 95% Bayesian Credible Intervals.

Contact Information

Will Deacy, ARCN Biologist, William_Deacy@nps.gov
Bridget Borg, DENA Biologist, Bridget_Borg@nps.gov
<https://www.nps.gov/im/cakn/dallsheep.htm>



2020 Study Area surveyed for Dall's sheep in Denali National Park and Preserve.



Reproductive success from 2011-2020 for the study area within Denali National Park & Preserve. Error bars indicate 95% Bayesian Credible Intervals.

Provisional 2020 Dall's sheep estimates for the study area within Denali National Park & Preserve.

	Mean	95% BCI*
Total Sheep	1154	(873 - 1606)
Adults	1059	(800 - 1480)
Lambs	96	(58 - 164)
Rams	657	(479 - 946)
Lambs: Ewe-like	0.24	(0.14 - 0.41)

* 95% BCI = 95% Bayesian Credible Intervals