

Table 1. Population estimates and composition survey results for the Mentasta Caribou Herd, Alaska during 1973-2003.

YEAR	JUNE CALF/COW	SEPT. CALF/COW	SEPT. BULL/COW	SEPT. POP EST ^a	FALL POP. COWS	COMPOSITION BULLS	CALVES

1973	39	32	40	2200	1279	512	409
1974							
1975	25						
1976							
1977	26	27	42	2710	1604	673	433
1978	38	25	42	2240	1341	563	335
1979	51						
1980		42	46				
1981	32	40	43	2820	1541	663	616
1982	46	39	36	2210	1263	455	493
1983	35	28	44	2770	1610	709	451
1984	44	29	36	2720	1648	593	478
1985	51	46	41	3140	1679	688	772
1986							
1987	18	12	41	3160	2065	847	248
1988	34	18	43	2480	1540	662	277
1989	31	16	45	2600	1615	727	258
1990							
1991	3	2	42	1940	1347	566	27
1992	16	6	41	1430	973	399	58
1993	9	4	38	970	683	260	27
1994	19	11	38	880	591	224	65
1995	26	22	35	850	541	189	119
1996	16	11 ^b	35 ^b	780	534	187	59
1997	15	5	40	610	432	159	23
1998	13	10	42	540	350	150	35
1999	13	10	77	430	230	177	22
2000	1	0	59	470	297	175	0
2001	11 ^c	5	66	390	228	150	12
2002	21 ^c	29	45	330	190	86	55
2003	17	16	46	360	223	101	38

^a September population estimates are based on # of cows at time of postcalving count and fall calf/bull/cow ratios.

^b 1996 fall comp count was not conducted because of early mixing with Nelchina herd. Fall calf/cow ratio was estimated from postcalving calf/cow ratio and survival of calves of radiocollared cows (.70; 30 June - 30 September). Fall bull/cow ratio is assumed to be the same as 1995.

^c Prior to 2001, June comp counts were conducted by helicopter. Beginning in 2001, results are from post-calving Supercub census.