

Large Ungulate Abundance in British Columbia

Region		Moose		Elk ²		Black Tailed Deer		Mule Deer		White Tailed Deer	
		2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend
1	Vancouver Island ¹	10 - 20	stable	5,300 - 6,300	stable to increasing	44,000 - 65,000	stable	0	n/a	0	n/a
2	Lower Mainland	70 - 100	stable	2,200 - 2,800	increasing	17,000 - 29,000	stable	3,000 - 5,000	stable	20 - 50	stable
3	Thompson	7,000 - 9,000	stable	300 - 500	increasing	1,000 - 2,000	stable	30,000 - 50,000	stable	6,000 - 10,000	stable to increasing
4	Kootenay	4,000 - 6,000	stable	10,000 - 20,000	declining to stable	0	n/a	10,000-20,000	stable	30,000 - 60,000	declining to stable
5	Cariboo	15,000 - 24,000	stable	350 - 500	stable to increasing	1,000 - 6,000	stable	15,000 - 25,000	stable	2,000 - 5,000	increasing
6	Skeena	25,500 - 48,000	declining to stable	300 - 700	stable to increasing	35,000 - 55,000	stable	2,000 - 3,000	stable	500 - 1,500	stable
7	Omineca	23,500 - 39,000	stable	1,000 - 1,800	increasing	0	n/a	3,000 - 6,000	stable	500 - 1,000	stable
7	Peace	37,500 - 60,500	declining to stable	15,000 - 35,000	stable to increasing	0	n/a	4,000 - 7,000	stable	4,000 - 10,000	stable
8	Okanagan	4,000 -5,000	stable to increasing	2,500 - 3,500	stable to increasing	0	n/a	28,000 - 42,000	stable	31,000 - 44,000	stable
PROVINCIAL TOTAL (ROUNDED)		115,000 - 192,000		35,000 - 71,500		98,000 - 155,000		95,000 - 160,000		74,000 - 135,000	

Region		Bison		Thinhorn Sheep ³		Bighorn Sheep		Mountain Goat	
		2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend	2022 Estimate	Estimated Trend
1	Vancouver Island ¹	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1,500 - 2,600	stable
2	Lower Mainland	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	1,700 - 3,000	increasing
3	Thompson	0	n/a	0	n/a	1,400 - 1,600	declining to stable	1,600 - 1,800	stable
4	Kootenay	0	n/a	0	n/a	1,700 - 2,000		7,000 - 8,000	stable to increasing
5	Cariboo	0	n/a	0	n/a	350 - 500	declining	3,500 - 5,000	stable
6	Skeena	0	n/a	4,100 - 7,700	declining to stable	0		19,000 - 25,000	declining to stable
7	Omineca	0	n/a	300 - 600	stable	0	n/a	4,500 - 8,500	stable
7	Peace	1,100 - 1,900**	see comment ***	6,700 - 9,900	declining to stable	100 - 200	declining	4,400 - 6,700	declining to stable
8	Okanagan	0	n/a	0	n/a	600 - 900	declining	200 - 300	stable
PROVINCIAL TOTAL (ROUNDED)		800 - 1,800		11,000 - 18,500		4,000 - 5,500		43,000 - 61,000	

**Includes both Plains Bison (700-1,000) and Wood Bison (450-900)
*** Includes three distict populations. One stable, one shows evidence of decline, and one likely expanding range.

Estimated Trend compares regional estimates to the previous ungulate table (2017).

¹ Region 1 includes a portion of the central coast
² Region 6 estimates includes Elk and Black-tailed Deer on Haida Gwaii.
³ Stone Sheep in Region's 6 and 7, and Dall Sheep (700 - 1,300) in Region 6.

Caribou:

- Caribou are not listed on the above table, but are monitored very closely at the herd level. To review herd data please consult: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/caribou/bc_caribou_herds_population_estimates.pdf

Moose, Elk:

- Are inventoried using aerial surveys by management unit. The ministry aims to survey each important management unit once every 5 years. Data are extrapolated from manage unit estimates. Where possible moose surveys are designed to collect information on both population size and bull-to-cow ratios in the populations.

Black Tailed Deer, Mule Deer, White Tailed Deer:

- These species are abundantly present within their natural range. Given this abundance, estimates are mostly based on harvest numbers and do not indicate a conservation concern.

Bison:

- Data based on aerial surveys (data include both Plains Bison and Wood Bison)

Sheep species, Mountain Goats:

- Individual sheep and mountain goat population trends can vary both regionally and by herd. Populations are monitored for both overall population size and for generation dynamics (e.g. presence of mature males, young).