



# DALL SHEEP

*Ovis dalli dalli*

## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

The Dall sheep averages about three feet in height at the shoulder and four to five feet in length.

### WEIGHT

An adult Dall sheep ranges between 100 and 240 pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

The Dall sheep eats a variety of grasses and sedges.

### HABITAT

The Dall sheep prefers an alpine habitat in arctic or sub-arctic environments.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The Dall sheep is found throughout western Canada and the United States, particularly the mountainous regions of Alaska and the Yukon Territories.

### FUN FACT

Dall sheep lambs inherit their parent's home range and return to those home ranges every year.



There are two subspecies of the Dall sheep, *Ovis dalli dalli* and *Ovis dalli stonei*, also called the stone sheep. The Dall sheep has a white pelage, whereas the stone sheep has a gray to black pelage. Dall sheep are the only “thin-horned” mountain sheep. They depend upon rugged, steep cliffs that allow them to escape from predators. They have virtually no competitors. Dall sheep death is usually caused by predation from wolves or from avalanches and accidental falls. Males stay separated from the females all year long except for during the mating season. The males have a dominance hierarchy that is based on the size of their horns.

