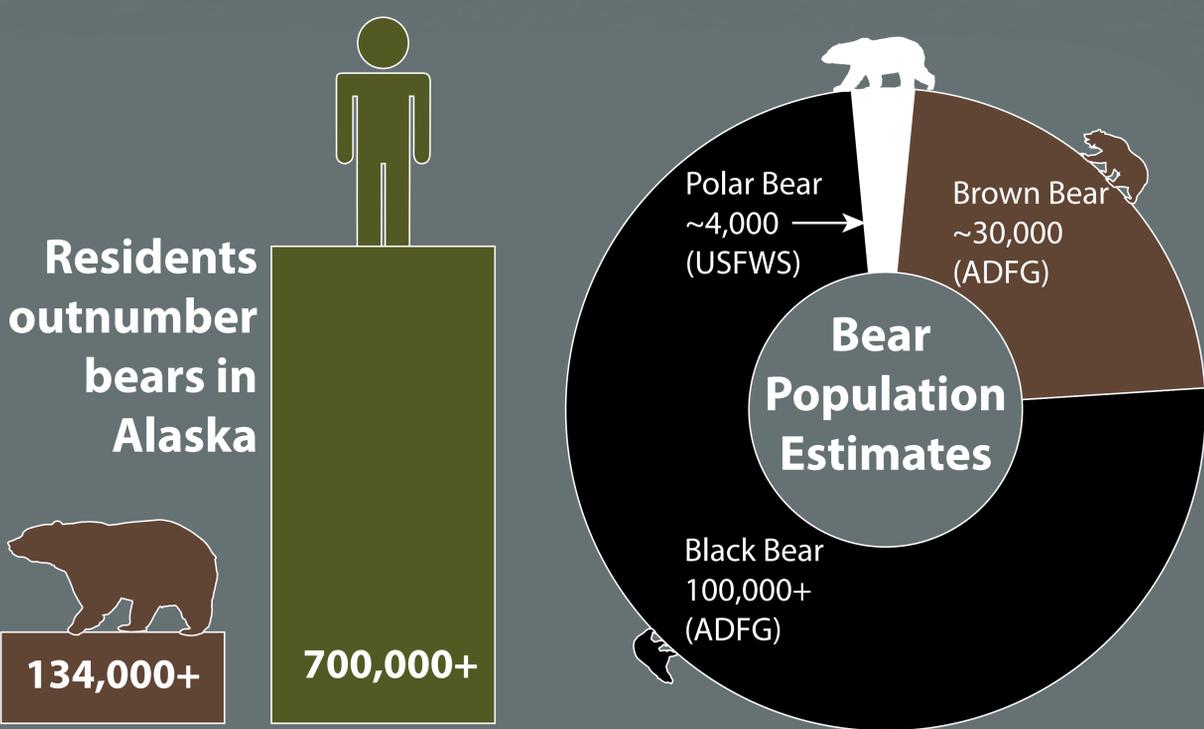


BEARable Knowledge FOR ALASKA



DID YOU KNOW?

All grizzly bears are brown bears, but not all brown bears are grizzly bears. Southern coast brown bears that have access to coastal food resources like salmon, are brown bears. Brown bears that live in the interior feeding on non-marine animals, berries, vegetation, invertebrates, and carrion are referred to as "grizzly" bears. Because of this difference in diet, brown bears typically outweigh grizzly bears.



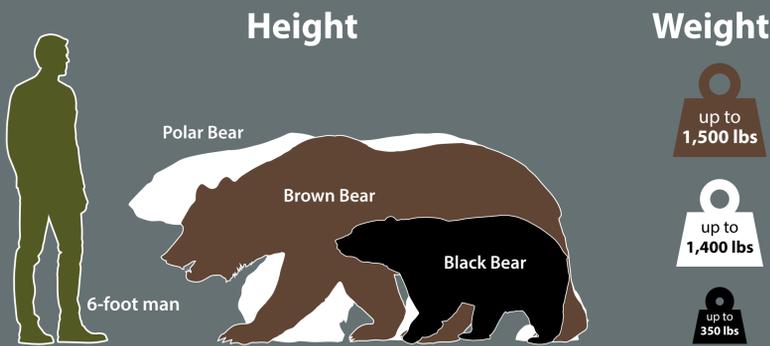
Habitat Ranges

Alaska is the only state to have all three North American bear species.



Big Bears

In Alaska, average bear height is 3-5 feet from paw to shoulder. Polar bears and brown bears can be the same size while black bears are much smaller. But when it comes to weight, brown bears outweigh polar bears.



Tailored Tools

DID YOU KNOW?

Black bears have five toes on their front and rear paws with short hooked claws allowing them to be expert tree climbers.



Faster Than They Look

DID YOU KNOW?

Fat not only keeps polar bears warm, but increases their buoyancy when they swim.

Bears can swim on average 6 mph



Learn more about our wildlife program at www.blm.gov/alaska/wildlife

Brown bears in the Kivalina River downstream from the Raven Bluff archeological site, Alaska. Photo by Craig McCaa (BLM)

References: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Oceana, and Live Science. Data as of 2020.