

Look Closer

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

The first destination in our new photo essay series, *Look Closer*, focuses on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Located in the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska, Prince of Wales is the fourth largest island in the United States at 135 miles long and 35 miles wide. The majority of the island's lands fall within the Tongass National Forest. At nearly 17 million acres, this national forest is the nation's largest.

Historically, timber harvest opened up much of the island's interior and allowed for populations of black bear and Sitka blacktail deer to expand to near epic proportions. With this expanse of both maintained and closed-off roads, accessing most areas and having the opportunity to view numerous individuals of the species draws many hunters every year.

Black bear and deer make up the majority of the hunter-taken trophies, though the island does support a decent number of wolves. Due to the generally accessible nature of the island, the harvest of wolves on Prince of Wales is far more regulated than in other areas of the 49th state. Alaska hunting regulations also have elk listed for this area though their numbers are low and there has never been a Boone and Crockett caliber bull accepted from this area of the state. The harvest of wolverine is also allowed.

A look in the records book reveals that many of the top entries for both Sitka blacktail and black bear have come from Prince of Wales Island. While some trophies are listed with just the island's name, some of the other locations also included from the island are Thorne Bay, Thorne River, El Capitan Peak, and Klakas Inlet. In total, there are well over 150 entries that have come from this area for the three categories represented. ■

David A. Langrehr
Black Bear
Taken: 5/7/2007
Score: 20-2/16



William B. Steele Jr.
Non-typical Sitka blacktail
Taken: 8/7/1987
Score: 134-0/8



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Wesley S. Brown
Black Bear
27th Awards Youth Invitee
Taken: 6/7/2009
Score: 21-9/16



William C. Musser
Non-typical Sitka blacktail
Taken: 11/12/2005
Score: 124-2/8



Mark T. Young
Black Bear
Taken: 4/27/1993
Score: 22-9/16

NICHOLAS J. FUCCI/ALASKASTOCK.COM

Jason R.
Richmond

Typical
Sitka
blacktail

Taken:
10/28/2008

Score:
111-6/8



Owner: Robert Kase
Picked Up: 1954
Score: 21-6/16

Craig, Alaska
15 October 1954

The Boone & Crockett Club
Mrs. Grancel Fitz, Secretary
5 Tudor City Place New York City 17, NY

Gentlemen:

Convinced that Alaska must have the worlds record Black Bear in her midst judging from the enormous population of these animals, I have passed word around and have loggers, fishermen and hunters on the watch for outstanding trophies. Hardly had I got started on this project when a logger friend brought in a black bear skull for measurement. We have very carefully measured this skull and I have photographed same. I am inclosing photos and if our measurements are correct, I think this skull will place third on the list as listed in your 1952 Book. He comes within 2/16" of first place!

A. Greatest Length Without Lower Jaw 13-3/16
B. Greatest Width 8-6/16

TOTAL and FINAL SCORE 21-9/16"

Exact locality where killed Trocadero Bay, Pr of Wales Island, Craig, Alaska

Date Killed Unknown

Present owner Robert Kase

Address

Kase Lumber & Timber Co, Craig, Alaska

and Address

By whom killed Unknown

L R Hall, Craig, Alaska (I am a registered guide though my participation on this matter has not influencing friends to look for trophies and my photographs of