

Sasquatch Census

How many sasquatch are there? The question of sasquatch population in North America comes up quite frequently. We really don't have much to go on for making a proper estimate, but we can apply a number of "givens" and come up with something that I think is reasonable. Nevertheless, this is totally "off the wall," and if you have a better idea on how to come up with a number, then I ask that you let me know.

First off, I have to use the Pareto's principle here, which is commonly called the 80/20 rule. Remarkably, the rule works exceedingly well. I used it time and time again in the business world. What it states is, in any situation, roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. If, for example, you added up all the money you spent in a year and listed all the recipients of that money (people or companies), you would find that about 80 % of the recipients got about 20% of your money; and of course, the reverse also applies (20% of the recipients got about 80% of your money).

We have an estimate of 400 sasquatch incidents per year in North America. In other words, it appears that sasquatch might have been present (sightings, footprints, sounds, other) on 400 occasions; however this would represent only 20% of the actual available sightings. Had there been more people "everywhere" people go, then there would have been 2,000 ($.20x=400$; $x=2,000$) incidents per year.

Now you have to stretch your mind a bit. The sightings only happened in areas where people were, otherwise there would not have been a sighting. Given each incident involved a different sasquatch, then the population of sasquatch in the "people areas" was 2,000; but people only get into about 20% of the land; so the total population of sasquatch in all the land is 10,000 ($.20x = 2000$; $x=10,000$).

Given this makes sense, I have a theory that the sasquatch sighted are a long way from the main population of these beings. I have stated before that this main population is in British Columbia, the Yukon, and Alaska. Essentially, the sightings/incidents in the "people areas" in these regions and beyond are of individuals in small bands that have wandered away from the main group.

What we have then is about 8,000 sasquatch in the main group in BC, the Yukon and Alaska, and about 2,000 wandering around outside of this area causing about 400

sightings/incidents per year (factored out to 2,000).

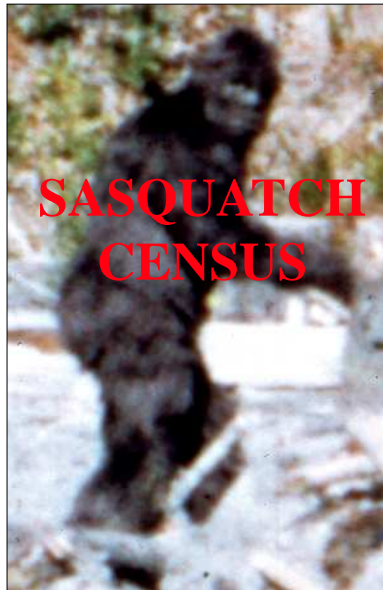
The fact that there are numerous sightings in Washington, Oregon, and California is because of the significant people populations in these states. British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska have a combined people population of about 4.86 million; Washington, Oregon and California have a combined people population of about 45.7 million (statistics as of 2010). There is over 9 times the number of human eyes in Washington, Oregon and California than the primary region stated. Also keep in mind that once you go above the 49th parallel (US/Canada border), most BC people live within about 100 miles North of that parallel. The USA with its more friendly climate has a much greater human population span.

The obvious question here is, if there are 8,000 sasquatch in one region, why can't we simply go in and catch one? Well, here's the "kicker." The region stated has 540,100 square miles of essentially non-penetrable forest (it might as well be 20,000 leagues under the sea). Statistically, there would be one sasquatch per 67.5 square miles. Even if they were all concentrated in 20% of the area, we still end up with 13.5 square miles per sasquatch.

I estimate that no more than 20% of the 540,100 square miles is reasonably accessible. In other words there are forest service and logging roads. This results in 108,020 square miles. If 20% of the total sasquatch population are in this area, that amounts to 1,600. The old and tired saying "needle in a haystack" is totally understated. What you have is a haystack about 100 feet high and comprising 108,020 square miles. As to the 1,600 needles, they have eyes and legs so can see you coming and move away. What about using a plane? One cannot see much from the air and there is nowhere to land except on lakes even if a sasquatch is seen. I suppose high-end videos could record something, but it's a very expensive undertaking.

Skeptics (including anthropologist) never consider what I am saying here (few are good at arithmetic) so keep saying, "Why can't you catch one?" Given sasquatch do NOT exist, it can be seen that one would be very difficult to find with an expedition if they did exist.

As I have stated in previous papers, the only chance there is for "catching" a sasquatch is to get one of those that has ventured out of its usual habitat to places where it



can be seen by humans. Those sasquatch, or the prints they leave or sounds they make, form the sighting or incident reports we get. In most of these cases, the sasquatch came to us; we did not go looking for it.

There are a multitude of reasons why we don't have much photographic evidence of these individuals; mostly because one seldom gets within 100 feet of a sasquatch and you need a high-end camera to get anything meaningful.

Nevertheless, I will concede that we should have more and better photos because there have been numerous close encounters; however, in these cases the moment is so brief there was not enough time to get/position and focus a camera. It needs to be mentioned that there are so few researchers with a proper camera looking for sasquatch, that it is more a matter of luck than anything else for a good photo to be taken.

As to inadvertent or intentional killing of sasquatch, I concede that it is odd nothing was taken of the remains and provided to scientists. The only incident of this nature in British Columbia was a strange decomposed corpse found by hunters (Harrison Mills, 1977). Little of the head remained because the body had been scavenged by animals. The hunters definitely did not think the remains were that of a bear. One of the hunters called the Fish and Wildlife department and reported the finding upon getting access to a telephone. Upon insisting the corpse was not a bear, he was told that the department would investigate. Subsequent calls to the department indicated that no action was taken. Had the remains been that of a human, someone from the department would have been immediately dispatched, but I doubt such would be justified when all that was involved was a strange animal. It is unfortunate the hunters did not take a small sample (hair and/or tissue), but this was 40 years ago and not much could have been done with the sample at that time, so apparently was not thought of.

Now, I will say without reservation that there are probably bones in wilderness regions that have "survived" the natural process of disintegration. The problem is, where does one start looking for them? Alleged strange bones have been sent to museums, but they simply disappeared. This is not odd because museums don't have the resources to do very much. Such bones, given they existed, are probably lost forever in museum storage.

Sightings in BC are for the most part quite convincing; especially since many of them were investigated. Nevertheless, footprint photographs and casts are very few; far less than such in the USA. Many reports are from First Nations people and they would not bother with this sort of thing. Furthermore, interest in the sasquatch in BC

is nowhere near that of the USA. You can count on your fingers how many BC researchers I have known; currently I know just three who do diligent research.

Of course, skeptics will say that all I have done here is rationalize things to account for the failure of finding tangible evidence, and I suppose that's true; however, if one considers the size and inhospitable nature of BC he or she will see the immense task involved. As I have mentioned in previous papers, there were more people in BC's wilderness regions 100 years or so ago than there are now. Most native people have moved to the cities or reservations and there are no trappers worth mentioning. There are hunters and they do report seeing sasquatch. The point here is that if there are no people or very few people to see something, the sasquatch and its footprints just go unnoticed; it does not matter how many there are.

Of course, my census is based on 400 sasquatch sightings/incidents per year. It takes into account both reported and non-reported incidents. If you are uncomfortable with this figure, here is a chart showing both fewer and more sightings/incidents along with the calculated sasquatch population.

SIGHTINGS/INCD.	EST. POPULATION
25	625
50	1,250
75	1,875
100	2,500
200	5,000
300	7,500
400	10,000
500	12,500
600	15,000

If only British Columbia is considered, the base figure would be 290, which equates to a sasquatch population of 7,250. I used 8,000 for BC, the Yukon and Alaska because it is 80% of the total population of 10,000. In other words, 20% of sasquatch will wander away and 80% will stay home.

Of course Pareto may not be right if something happens to upset the natural balance. Perhaps far more sasquatch have wandered away to other areas because of forest fires or they are learning that food is much more plentiful and available in farming communities. If you don't think a migrant population of 2,000 is enough, then by all means use another number.

From what I can see, BC is definitely the most sasquatch populated region. Nevertheless, even if the

people population in this province were to increase several or many times, there would not be a significant increase in sasquatch sightings/incidents. This is because all the people would settle in the main southern cities and the few smaller cities inland. The map on the right shows that the province is for the most part not suitable for people habitation. If we use Pareto again, it would say that 80% of the province is just not “people friendly.” It may be beautiful and all that on a sunny day, but it is generally wet, quite cold, and gets progressively colder the further north one travels. If you fly to Prince Rupert, your plane lands between two giant walls of snow. In Prince George, if the temperature goes below -40°F cafes offer free coffee (well, back in the old days). There are, of course summers, but out in the woods you have to contend with countless billions of black flies and mosquitoes. The terrain is treacherous with massive swamps and annoying, somewhat dangerous, plants. Outdoors people (hunters and others) do go into “the bush” and there might be very tiny settlements of First Nations people, but their presence is negligible as it relates to the size of the land. Along the coast of BC there are about 40,000 islands. Sasquatch-related incidents have occurred on some islands. A few were last explored in the 1960s by Bob Titmus.

Upon discussing with John Green the possibility of a scientific expedition to go into the area (80%) mentioned, he simply said, “No, it won’t work.” The region is just too big, even if there are 8,000 sasquatch in there. I believe the only hope we have is that Google Earth technology will eventually allow us to see through bush and be able to specifically identify animal species. Other than that, notwithstanding a road kill, the only hope is a hunter getting evidence (one way or the other) or a rural resident (farmer generally) doing the same. It has to be physical evidence; photographs/videos won’t do unless they are very high resolution, and even then they will be questioned.



Anyway, I have provided a reasonable census and the issues we face to satisfy science and the skeptics. I really don't see a resolution anytime soon. As to those (professionals and otherwise) who jump into the sasquatch issue as if they have all the answers and then disappear, all I can do is quote René Dahinden:

*IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE FACTS
YOUR OPINION IS OF NO VALUE.
R.D.*