

# Deer ID Guide

## White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

White-tailed deer have a tan to reddish-brown coat in the summer and slightly duller color variations in the winter. Males (bucks) possess antlers during the summer months that are shed during the winter. White-tailed deer have brown tails with a white underside, and often white under-bellies. Fawns have reddish coats with white spots along their backs and sides. They are common in forests and open fields, as they feed predominantly on grasses and other vegetation. White-tailed deer are found almost everywhere in the United States.

Buck



Doe



## Fawn



## Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

Mule deer are common across their range in the Western half of the US. In areas where they overlap with white-tailed deer, they can be difficult to tell apart. They have the same tan to reddish-brown coat in the summer, duller in the winter, but lack the white under-belly. Mule deer antlers differ from those of white-tailed deer in their branching pattern – mule deer antlers fork into two main beams as they grow, while white-tailed deer antler points grow off a single beam. Since the does don't have antlers, the most useful features to use to differentiate them from white-tailed does are the larger ears, white rear, and white skinny tail with black tip of the mule deer. Similarly, the fawns can be distinguished by their larger ears and white rears.

## Buck



Doe and Fawn

