Black-tailed Deer

Columbian Black-tailed Deer | *Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*



THE MEADOW BROWSER

A familiar *coastal neighbour*

A deer pauses between woodland and meadow. Native to the coast, black-tailed deer browse shrubs and wildflowers, and their effect on sensitive habitats depends on how many gather in a particular place.

THE DEER YEAR

Spotted fawns are usually born in late May or June. Bucks shed and regrow their antlers each year.

WHERE IT LIVES

Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the southern mainland coast, from forest to woodland edges.

ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Heavy local browsing can reduce flowers important to native bees. Native deer are neither universally helpful nor harmful.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

Large ears, a mostly black upper tail with brown near its base and a relatively small white rump patch.

FOOD THROUGH SEASONS

Feeds mainly on leaves, new shoots, shrubs and other available vegetation, changing its diet with the season.

STATUS WITH CONTEXT

The wider mule deer species is BC Yellow-listed and S5 (Secure, 2024); this is not a separate subspecies rank.

Sources: BC Conservation Data Centre; E-Fauna BC; Beckett et al. (2022).