



Mule Deer Tracks

Mule Deer Are Active in This Area

Please Do Not Feed Deer

PREVENTING DEER DAMAGE ON YOUR PROPERTY

Most foothill, bench areas and valley floors are traditional wintering and foraging areas for deer. They will regularly feed on many plants used in landscaping.

The most effective way to eliminate unwanted browsing by deer is to enclose the area with a fence that is at least 7-8 feet high. Entrances must be closed at all times, particularly at night. Lower fences, such as 4-foot-high chain-link, and decorative, wood or metal fences will reduce, but not eliminate deer use.

- Wrap highly susceptible landscaping plants with heavy burlap.
- Wrap trees with wire mesh or burlap.
- Avoid using ornamental plants in your landscaping. Instead, use native shrubs and plants that can withstand occasional browsing by deer.
- Plants that are preferred by deer and frequently suffer damage include: day lilies, firs, fruit trees, hostas, ivy, junipers, some pines, tulips and yews. For a list of plants visit: <http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/deer-browse.php>

AT HOME

Deer can become trapped and injured falling into window wells. Once in the well, deer may crash through the glass and do damage to the home in their efforts to escape. To prevent this cover window wells with commercially available grates, bubbles, fencing or build a cover using quarter inch hardware cloth or wire.

ROAD SAFETY

- SLOW DOWN while driving through deer habitats, especially at dawn and dusk and during the spring and winter months when deer are migrating.
- Pay attention to wildlife crossing warning signs.
- Watch for movement along the roadway. If you see one deer there will likely be more.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Always give deer plenty of space, especially while driving. It is against Utah law to allow your dogs to chase or harass deer.

- Males, or bucks, can be especially aggressive during the fall breeding season, or "rut," which usually occurs in November.
- If you see a deer fawn on its own, the best thing to do is to keep your distance and leave the animal right where you found it. The mother is usually close by.
- If a deer knocks you down, curl into a ball, protect your head.



Mule deer are among the most watchable Utah wildlife, and can generally be seen throughout the state during all seasons of the year.

Remember: always observe deer from a safe distance.

Tell your family and neighbors about deer conflict prevention.

wildawareutah.org

MULE DEER FACTS

Mule deer *Odocoileus hemionus* are found throughout Utah in many types of habitats, including neighborhoods and backyards. The mule deer gets its name from the size of its mule-like ears. It is the smallest member of the deer family in Utah. Mule deer are extremely popular game animals in Utah. The breeding season, called "rut," occurs in mid-November. Female deer, called does, typically give birth to one or two offspring in late spring or early summer. Only the males, or bucks, have antlers. They are shed every year. Mule deer migrate annually from high mountain habitats where they summer, to lower elevations in the winter, to avoid deep snow and to find food. Mule deer are the primary food source for cougars in Utah. As such, cougars follow deer during their annual migrations. They can be seen throughout the year and are mainly active at dusk and dawn. In winter, they may be active throughout the day.

MULE DEER FEEDING HABITS VARY WITH THE CHANGING SEASONS.

Mule deer are known as browsers. From late spring to early fall, mule deer gain weight and build fat reserves by feeding heavily on broad-leaved plants and grasses. During the winter and early spring, when there is little forage available, their diet is mostly leaves, stems and buds. This type of vegetation is difficult to digest and lacks enough nutritional value to maintain top body condition. As such, mule deer must use stored body fat to survive. During winter, an adult deer may lose up to 20 percent of its body weight, and as much as 40 percent of its daily energy comes from body fat. A deer's winter survival depends on the weather, its stored fat reserves, and its ability to conserve energy.

FEEDING DEER...JUST SAY NO! While well-intentioned people try to help deer by feeding them, they can harm them instead.

- Do not feed deer or provide them with salt or mineral licks.
- Deer are ruminants that need sufficient time to switch from a summer to winter diet. Offering the wrong foods, especially during the winter months, is harmful to deer and can kill them.
- Feeding deer not only makes them lose their natural wariness of humans, it can also contribute to the transmission of disease by unnaturally concentrating deer.
- Attracting deer to your property through feeding may attract predators, like cougars that follow deer herds.
- Feeding deer near neighborhoods and roadways increases the risk of deer-vehicle collisions.
- Annual migration patterns to wintering areas may be disrupted if the deer are enticed to remain at a feeding area.

If you have an encounter with aggressive wildlife, please alert the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) office near you. If the encounter occurs after hours or on the weekend, please call your local police department or county sheriff's office, who can contact a conservation officer to handle the situation.

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Ogden (801) 476-2740
Price (435) 613-3700

Salt Lake City (801) 538-4700
Springville (801) 491-5678
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