

Deer in Alaska

Hunters now have the opportunity to harvest mule and white-tailed deer in Alaska. In order to learn more about mule and white-tailed deer entering the state, the Board of Game made it possible for hunters to harvest those deer in Units 1, 5, 11-13, 20, and 25. There is no closed season, no harvest ticket/permit required, and no bag limit. Hunters who harvest these deer are required to salvage the entire carcass. Hunters do not have to contact an ADF&G office prior to harvest, but should understand which samples are requested. Hunters may submit the following samples at a local office such as Anchorage, Fairbanks, Douglas, Palmer, Tok, and Delta Junction: head with brain and skull plate intact, heart with lungs attached, liver, hide, one hoof, pellets (1/4 cup).

Go online for more information: <http://hunt.alaska.gov>

Mule deer

Does: 110-165 lbs

Bucks: 150-250 lbs

Not common in Alaska. Narrow white tail with a black tip. Large, mule-like ears. Bucks grow bifurcated antlers (each beam forks) that are commonly larger than Sitka black-tailed deer antlers.



White-tailed deer

Does: 100-160 lbs

Bucks: 150-225 lbs

Not common in Alaska. Wide tail; outside of tail is brown, underside is bright and visible while nervous or fleeing. Bucks grow antlers with individual tines diverging off the main beam.



Sitka black-tailed deer

Does: 80-120 lbs

Bucks: 120-200 lbs

Common in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak. Outside of tail is entirely black or dark brown. Bucks grow bifurcated antlers (each beam forks) that are commonly smaller than mule deer antlers.



Photo Credit: Kristian Larson

