

Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

information for family forest owners

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



Photo of Columbian White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus leucurus)
www.wdfw.wa.gov

State Range Image Not Currently Available

Species: Columbian White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*)

Group: Mammal

Natural Heritage Rank: G5, S1

Legal Status: Federally Endangered, State Endangered

General Description

This is a subspecies of white-tailed deer that occurs only along the lower Columbia River. Deer are brown to grayish or grizzled brown with a white abdomen. The tail is brown on top and white underneath. Males have antlers which are shed annually. Fawns are born in the spring. Deer eat grasses, herbs, shrubs, and younger leaves of trees. White-tailed deer can be distinguished from black-tailed deer by their smaller ears, white tail, and antlers tines that come off a single beam.

Habitat

This subspecies lives in wet bottomland forests, meadows, and prairies that occur on islands and along the banks of the lower Columbia River.

Range in Washington

This subspecies occurs in Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties.

Threats

Historically this subspecies was hunted to very low numbers in the 1800 and early 1900s. Current threats include flooding of current habitat, especially Columbia River islands, and problems associated with small population size.

The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit www.wdfw.wa.gov or www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp, or www.natureserve.org.

