

Mule Deer



Mule Deer in Yellowstone National Park

Mule deer are the most abundant deer in Yellowstone. There are about 2,300 to 2,500 of them in the park. They are larger than their cousins, the white-tailed deer. They are 31 to 42 inches tall at the shoulder. Males (bucks) are 120 to 330 pounds; females (does) are 95 to 200 pounds. They are named for their large, mule-like ears. Their main food is woody vegetation like shrubs. They also eat grass, berries, acorns, and apples. They don't hibernate, but their metabolism slows in the winter.

In Yellowstone, they are found in forests, grasslands, and shrublands. Some people have created feeding programs to help the deer live through the winter when their food sources are scarce.

What did you learn about the mule deer of Yellowstone?

1. How many mule deer are in Yellowstone National Park?

There are about 2,300 to 2,500 mule deer in Yellowstone.

2. How did they get their name?

Mule deer are named for their large, mule like ears.

3. What do mule deer mainly eat?

Mule deer mainly eat woody vegetation.

