

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Coues' White-tailed Deer

Coues' White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus couesi*)

Coues' white-tailed deer, commonly called whitetails, often throw up their tails and display a snowy, white underside. Hence their name describes what most people see: fleeing whitetails. Coues' whitetails in New Mexico are smaller than mule deer and have a delicate appearance.

The Coues' white-tailed deer is the smaller of the two subspecies of whitetails found in New Mexico. In fact, the Coues' whitetail is smaller than any other deer in the United States except the Florida Keys' white-tailed deer.

An average Coues' white-tailed buck weighs only 80 to 100 pounds and stands only 30 to 32 inches high at the shoulder. Whitetails, like most deer, are browsers, primarily eating shrubs and trees. They also eat forbs (weeds) when in season. Whitetails will eat hundreds of different kinds of plants. Buckwheat, false mesquite and mountain mahogany are common shrubs eaten.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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