

Field Guide Example



ii) **Common Name:** White Tailed Deer

Scientific Name: *Odocoileus virginianus*

iii) Tan to brown color with white patches near throat, face and bottom of tail. Males have antlers and weigh between 150-300lbs. Startled deer will flee with tail upright showing bright white warning sign for other deer or to confuse predators.

iv) **Importance in Ecosystem:** Their importance to the ecosystem is as an herbivore as they will eat many plants in the forest. This keeps the growth of these plants that they consume under control so they don't grow too much and cause problems for other plants. They are also important as prey, a food source for many predators such as wolves and cougars. However, due to diminishing numbers of wolves and cougars, deer numbers can easily get out of control where they can cause serious harm to an ecosystem. Hunting has been established as a reliable way of helping to keep numbers in check.