SURVIVAL AND CAUSE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY OF BUCK BLACK-TAILED DEER IN WASHINGTON

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We determined survival rates and causes of mortality for age 1.5 and older buck black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus) in the Skookumchuck and Snoqualmie game management units (GMU) of western Washington. September-August survival rates were 0.494 (SD = 0.124; n = 28) in Skookumchuck and 0.385 (SD = 0.095; n = 26) in Snoqualmie for 1999-2000. Survival rates were 0.504 (SD = 0.124; n = 38) in Skookumchuck and 0.642 (SD = 0.091; n = 32) in Snoqualmie, 2000-2001. Hunting harvest was the leading cause of mortality, and accounted for 67% and 43% of all known deaths in Skookumchuck and Snoqualmie, respectively. The proportion of the age 1.5 and older buck population harvested annually was 0.31-0.35 in Skookumchuck and 0.20-0.22 in Snoqualmie.

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