

White-tailed Deer

Clint Shipley

Range

- Native deer
- Most of the United States
- Southern Canada
- Mexico
- Recently introduced to Europe



Characteristics

- Medium sized
- Male deer – bucks
- Avg. weight 150 – 200 lbs.
- Female deer – does
- Avg. weight 90 – 130 lbs.



Characteristics

- Bucks grow antlers
- Antlers develop in early spring
- Calcium deposits/ true bone
- Covered in vascular tissue “velvet” while maturing
- Primarily used for sexual selection
- Shedding typically occurs mid-winter



Purpose of Antlers

- Protection
- Sexual Selection
- Dominance



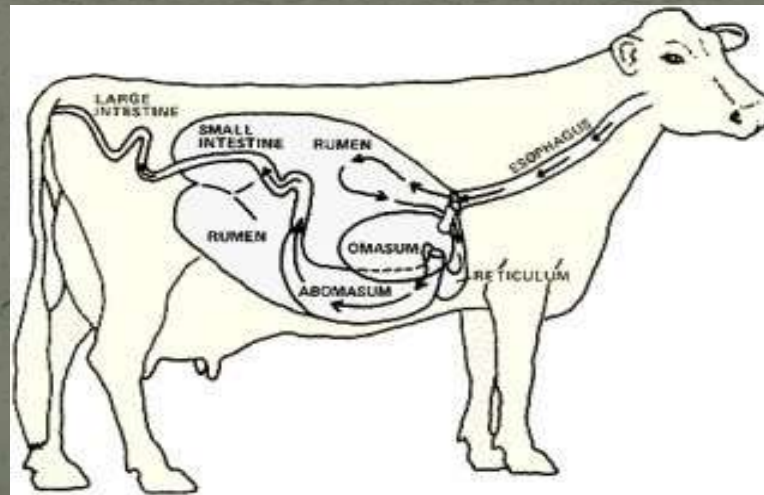
Reproduction

- Females enter estrus cycle in Oct/Nov.
- Referred to as “the rut”
- Bucks can lose up to 20% body weight
- Reach sexually maturity in 1.5 years
- Females give birth in May/June
- Typically deliver 2-3 fawns



Diet

- Herbivores
- Have multi-chambered stomachs
- Similar to other ruminants such as cattle/sheep



Diet Cont.

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Grasses
- Acorns
- Fruit



Vicek, 2008



Life on the Edges, 2009



Bradford, 2006



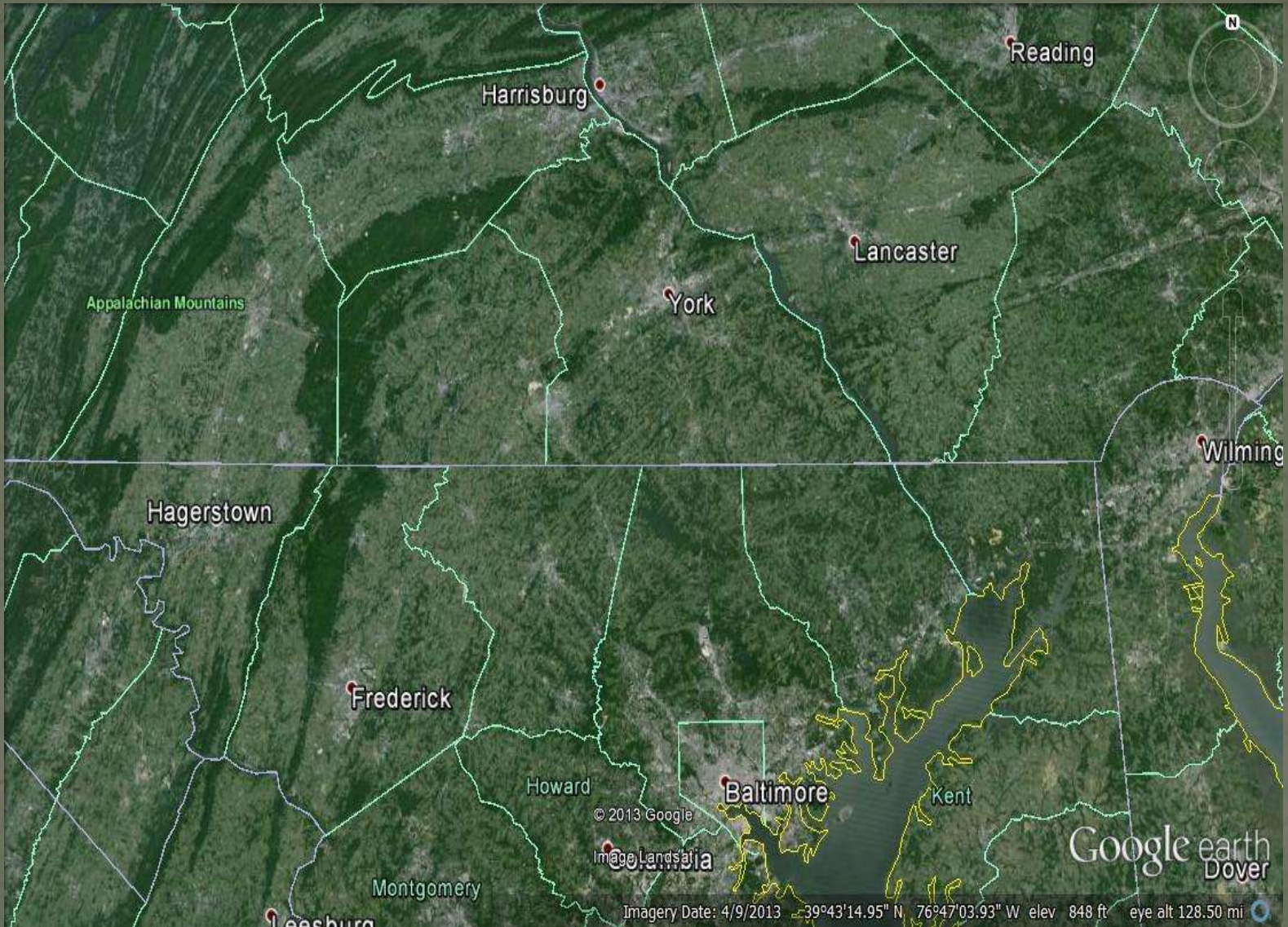
Rayner, 2007

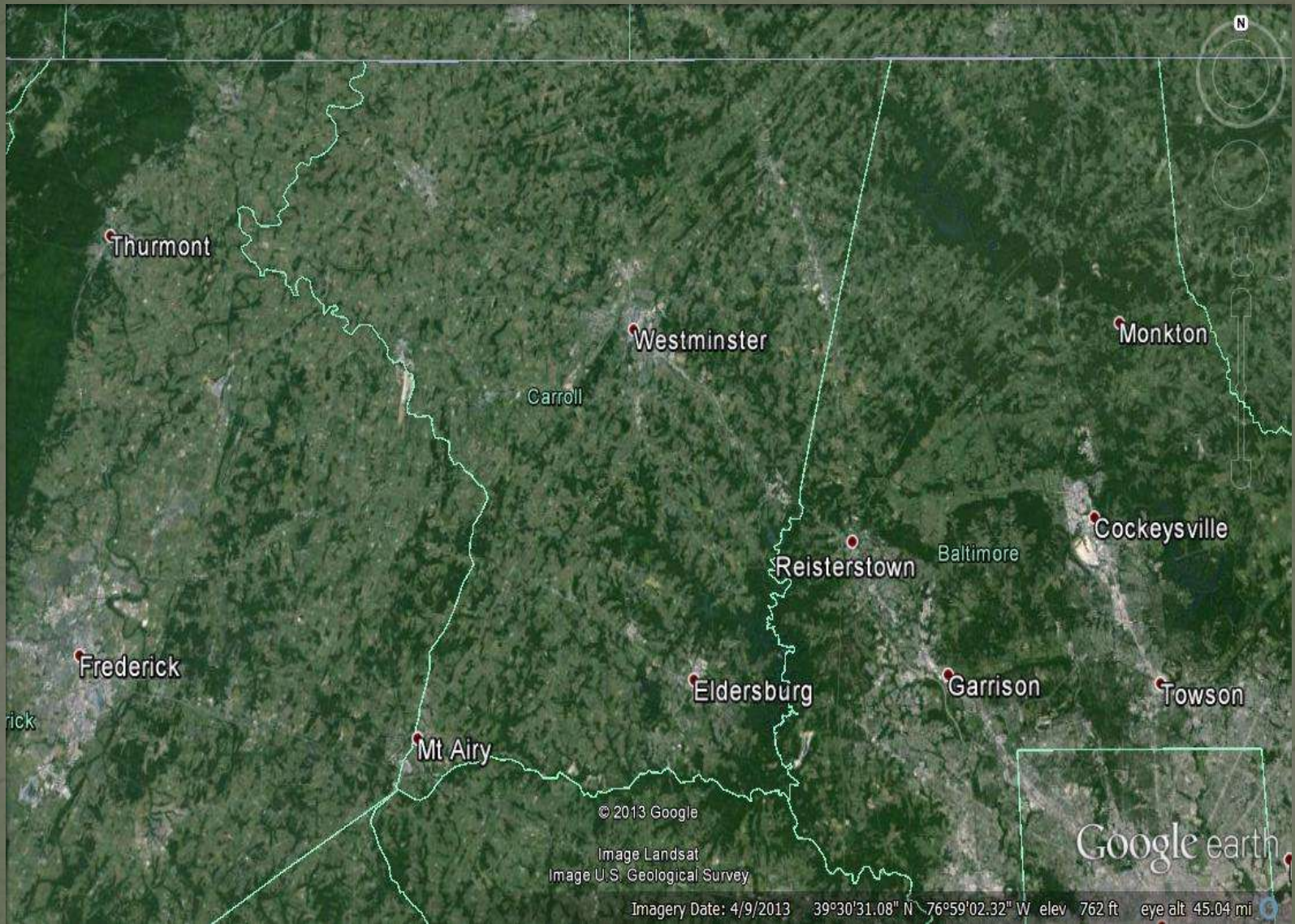
Life Cycle

- Reach sexual maturity in 1.5 yrs.
- Physically mature in 4.5 - 5.5 yrs.
- Regression begins at 7.5 - 8.5 yrs.
- Starvation

My habitat

- Small cattle farm
- Hardwoods
- Fields
- Liberty Reservoir





Google Earth, 2013



Google Earth, 2010



Fun Photos



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