

Hair loss in Black Tailed Deer

Emerging Disease Syndrome ?

- Impact of Climate Change
 - Animal movements
 - Invasive species
- Global Commerce
 - Animals and animal products
 - Tourism
- Effect on animal health, food production and subsistence harvest

Hair loss in Black Tailed Deer

- Reports not uncommon in Alaska
 - increasing incidence recently, usually occur in the spring
- Reported in Pacific Northwest associated with lice infestation, deer in poor body condition
 - May be related to another condition suppressing the immune system
 - May be an exotic or newly introduced species, no natural immunity to the louse



Hair loss condition

- Canadian wildlife biologists have had some reports of hair loss in the spring with a patchy pattern
 - Thought to be spring molt
 - No association with mortalities or sick animals
 - Not aware of tick problem, but possibly lice may be an issue





Cause of Hairloss

- Normal molting process occurring in the spring
- Ectoparasite infestation – lice, ticks, mites
- Nutritional imbalance or deficiency
- Hormonal imbalance

Challenges in reporting and surveillance

- Need for samples from Alaskan Black Tailed Deer
 - Report to local ADF&G biologist
 - Pictures can be helpful
- Need to establish a better surveillance system
 - reporting and response