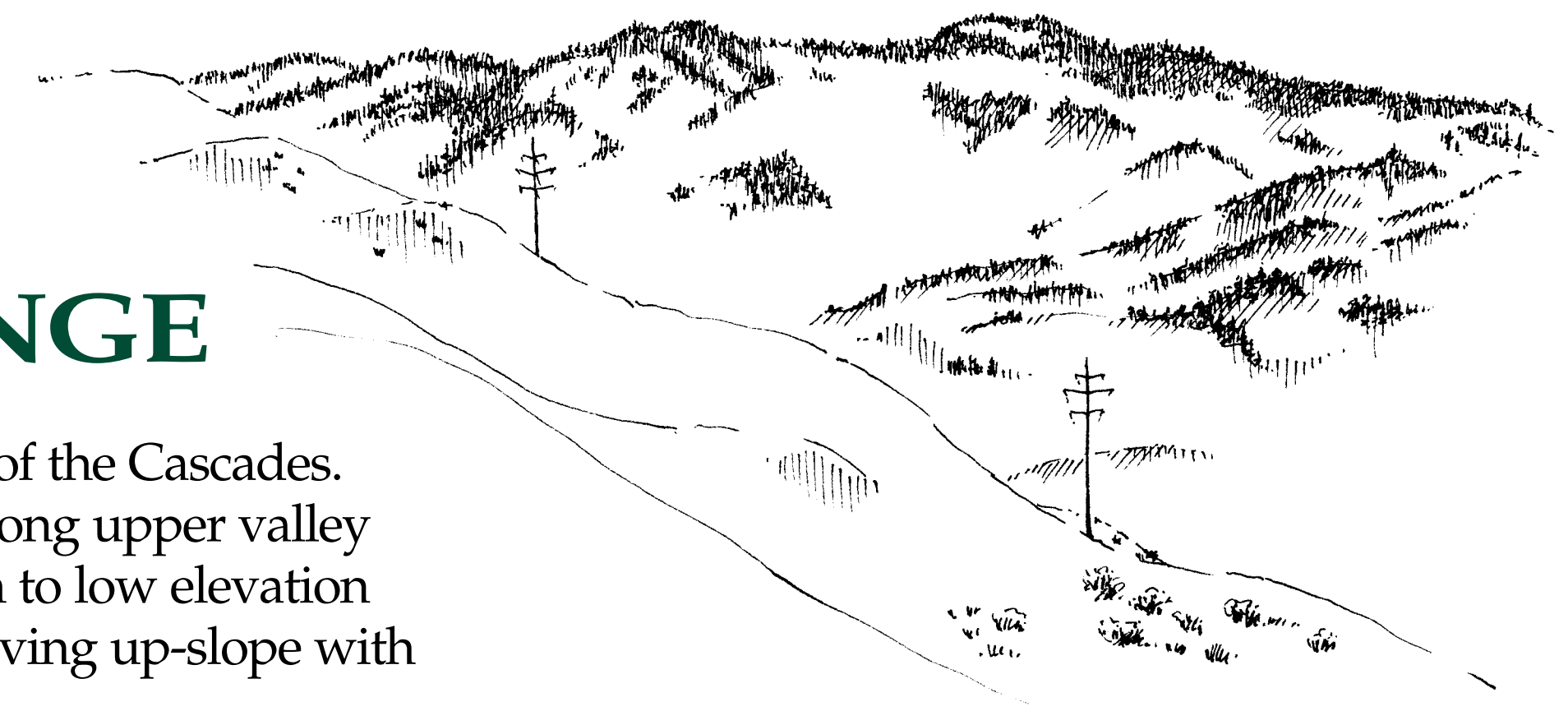




MULE DEER WINTER RANGE

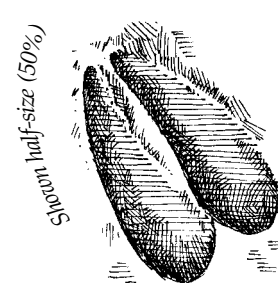
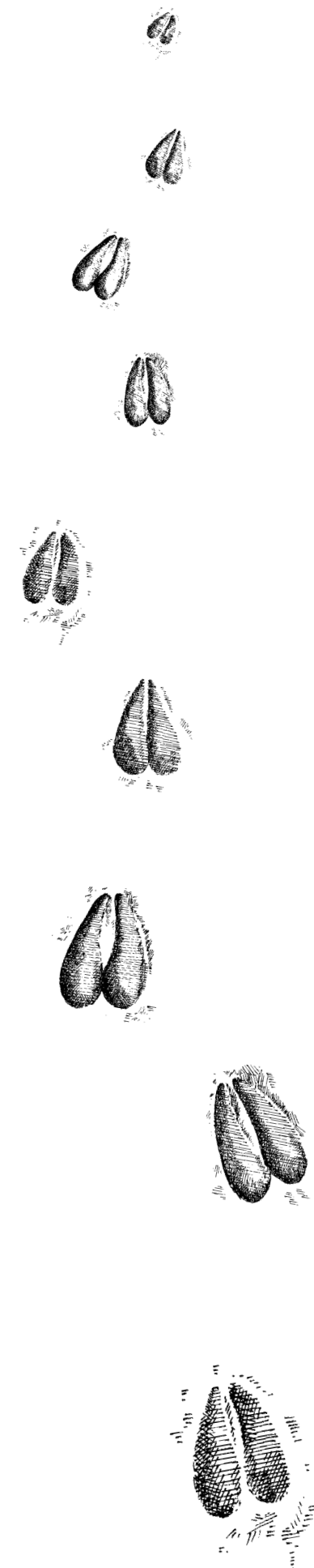


Home for Jacobson Preserve mule deer extends from the Columbia River to the crest of the Cascades. In summer, bucks feed in high alpine forests, and groups of does and fawns cluster along upper valley streams and lakes, lush with vegetation. The onset of winter snow pushes deer down to low elevation winter range like the Jacobson Preserve. In late spring, they begin the cycle anew, moving up-slope with the green up of grasses and shrubs.

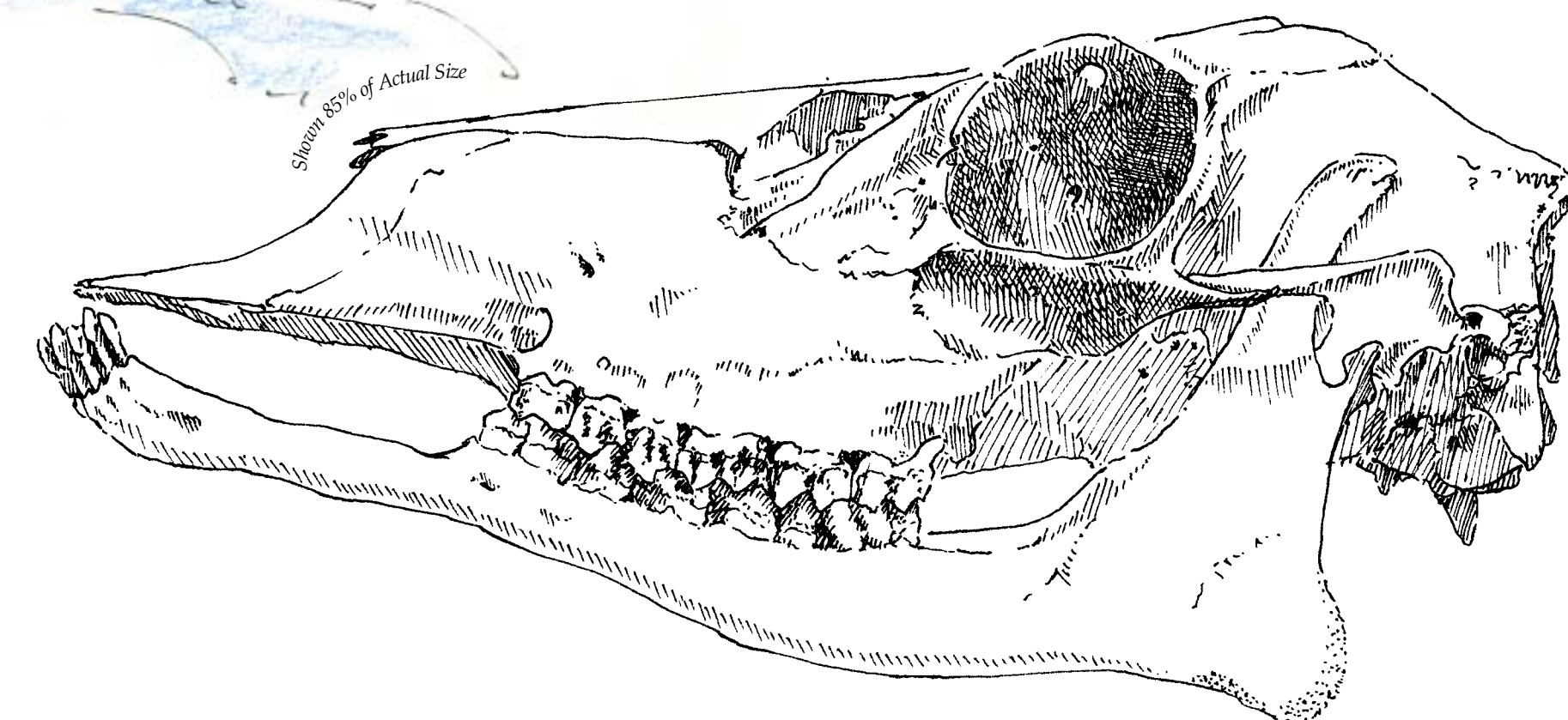
Winter survival is a battle against starvation, and a deer may drop up to thirty percent of its body weight during winter. Caloric intake must not dip too far below energy expenditure, so access to nutritious foods can make the difference between life and death. Mule deer prefer energy-rich bitterbrush twigs to less nutritious sagebrush, balsamroot, and buckwheat. Bitterbrush also allows deer to conserve energy by providing a place to hide from predators, and a buffer from wind and cold.



Our homes and roads diminish winter habitat and fragment the corridors connecting winter and summer ranges. The impact is complex because development brings lights and noise, and dangers such as traffic and dogs. Always alert, mule deer flee to distance themselves from potential dangers. However, these bursts of speed expend vital energy stores, reducing long-term survival odds.



Shown half-size (50%)



Shown 85% of Actual Size