How to Draw and Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve Black-Tailed Deer

The black-tailed deer of Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve are otherwise known as mule deer and are noted by the tuft of dark hairs that make up their tail. They are often dark brown or can come in shades of gray to lighter colors of reddish brown, with some white patches along their belly and neck. They do no stray overly far from home and stick with other deer from the local population with ‘relatives’ on their mother’s side. As herbivores they do not hunt or eat other animals and insects, so they mostly consume leaves and twigs of lower vegetation but take nuts, fruits, and berries when they can get them. Keep an eye out for these critters on Caves Highway on your next time up to the Monument.

1. Start with a slightly misshapen oval; things don’t need to be perfect in nature.
2. Draw in the starters of some legs and a swoopy shape for the head of your deer.
3. Add some ears so your deer can hear cougars coming and finish up those legs.
4. Add an eye and a nose so your deer can see and smell. Also put in that fourth legs so your deer can get around and climb the slopes of the mountain.
5. Do some light shading, adding some contrast after adding a line on the stomach for some definition.
6. Add some hooves as deer are known as ungulates, and don’t forget some hairs on the chinny-chin-chin.
7. Go over your lines in ink or a darker color and you have a deer ready to browse for leaves.