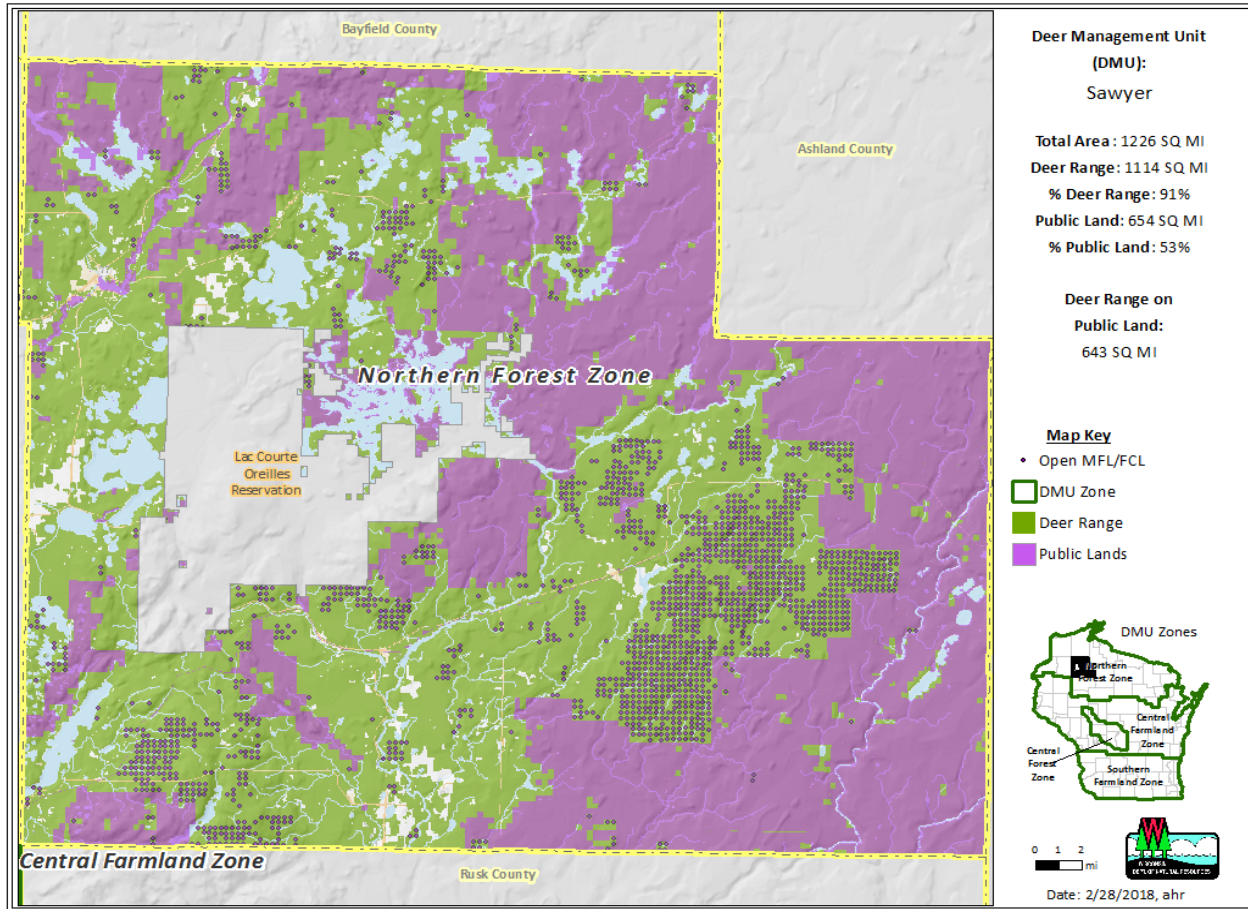


# Sawyer County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Sawyer County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 91 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (1,114 square miles). The unit consists of 1,226 square miles of land area and is comprised of 53 percent public land and 47 percent private land. Habitat varies from northern forest interspersed with agricultural areas in southwest and west central portions of the unit; oak, pine and hardwoods in the northwest and northern portions; some large black spruce swamps interspersed with lowland hardwoods in the east and mixed upland conifer-hardwood areas in the north and east. Soil type influences habitat type with soil types ranging from light, sandy soils in the west, heavy, silt loams in the south and east and mixed soils in the north and northeast portions of the unit. Deer densities are unevenly distributed throughout the unit depending on landownership, quality of habitat and land-use. Large areas of state, county and industrial forests in the west, southwest, southeast and east-central portions maintain intense forest management which promotes young forest growth and high quality deer habitat. Relatively less timber harvest occurs in the northeast portion of the unit on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), resulting in lower deer carrying capacities but more wilderness-style hunting opportunities. The new "Good Neighbor Authority" on the CNNF, which allows the US Forest Service to get help from State and County Foresters with setting up timber harvests on the national forest, is resulting in more timber being harvested and better deer habitat on the CNNF to occur. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 9 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvest averages 1 to 2 bucks per square mile of deer range. As of the fall of 2017 the deer herd management objective is to maintain the population, however, the Sawyer County Deer Advisory Council intends to seek greater balance of deer between public and private landownership.