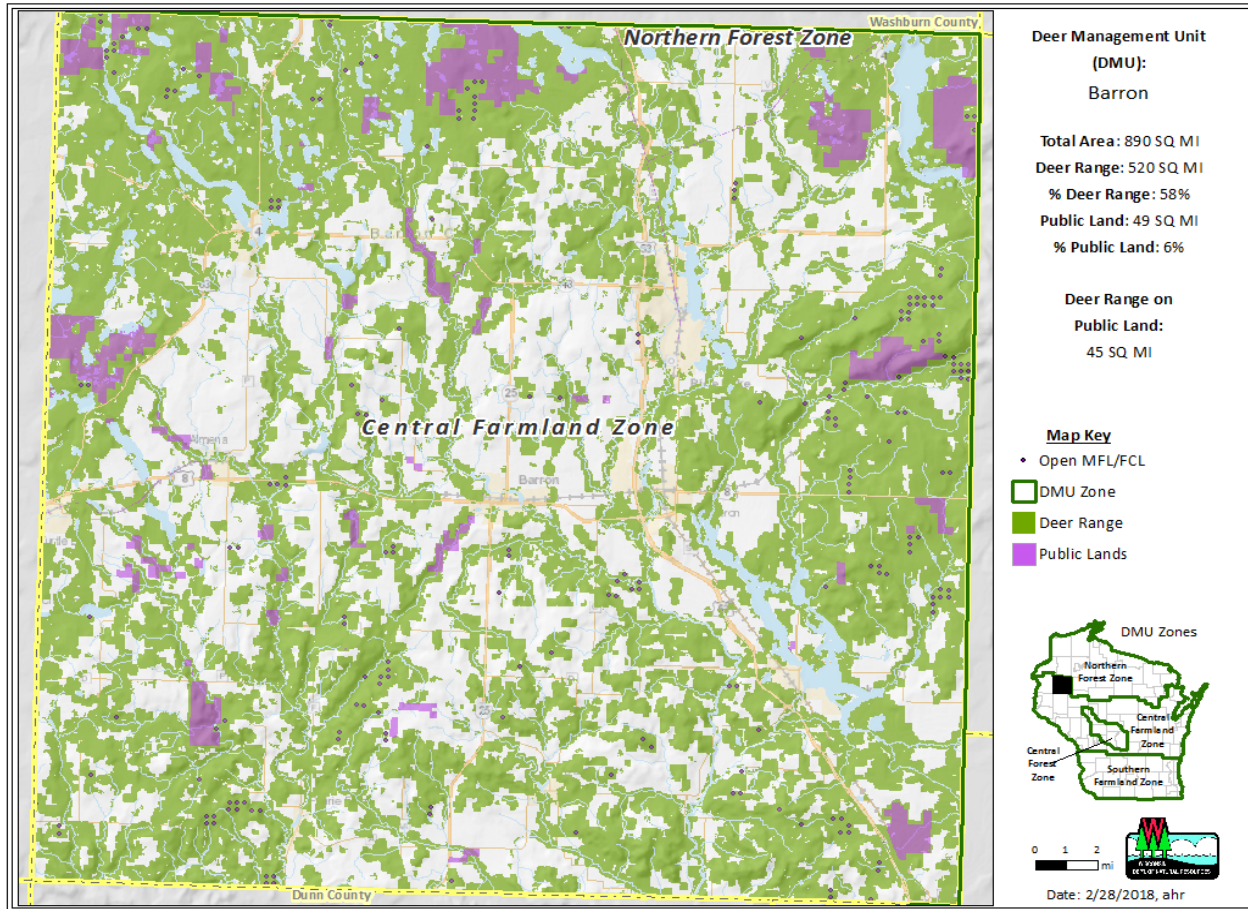


Barron County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Barron County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. The unit is roughly an even mix of forest and farmland with 59 percent of the unit considered suitable deer range. Approximately 90 percent of the unit is privately owned with about 88 percent of the deer harvest occurring on these lands. Most forested lands and much of the unit's public lands are located on Barron County Forests or State Wildlife Areas in the north, east and northwest portions of the unit. Smaller Fisheries and Wildlife Management Areas are scattered throughout the unit. The heavily forested northern and eastern portions of the unit transitions into mostly open agricultural lands with scattered small woodlots in the central part of the unit. The southern part of the unit is comprised of rolling hills and an even mix of forest and agricultural lands which produce some of the highest deer numbers in the unit; although deer are generally found in good numbers throughout the unit.

Fertile farmland soils and abundant year-round food sources coupled with recent mild winters make antlerless deer harvest necessary for maintaining a balance between deer numbers and agriculture and environmental sustainability. Approximately 35 percent of bucks harvested are 2 ½ years of age or older and the unit has a buck harvest density of about 5 bucks per square mile of deer range, which is one of the highest buck harvest densities for this part of the state. Because of the relatively high buck harvest density and good trophy buck potential, the unit has an opening day hunter density of approximately 1 hunter per 40 acres of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease the population.