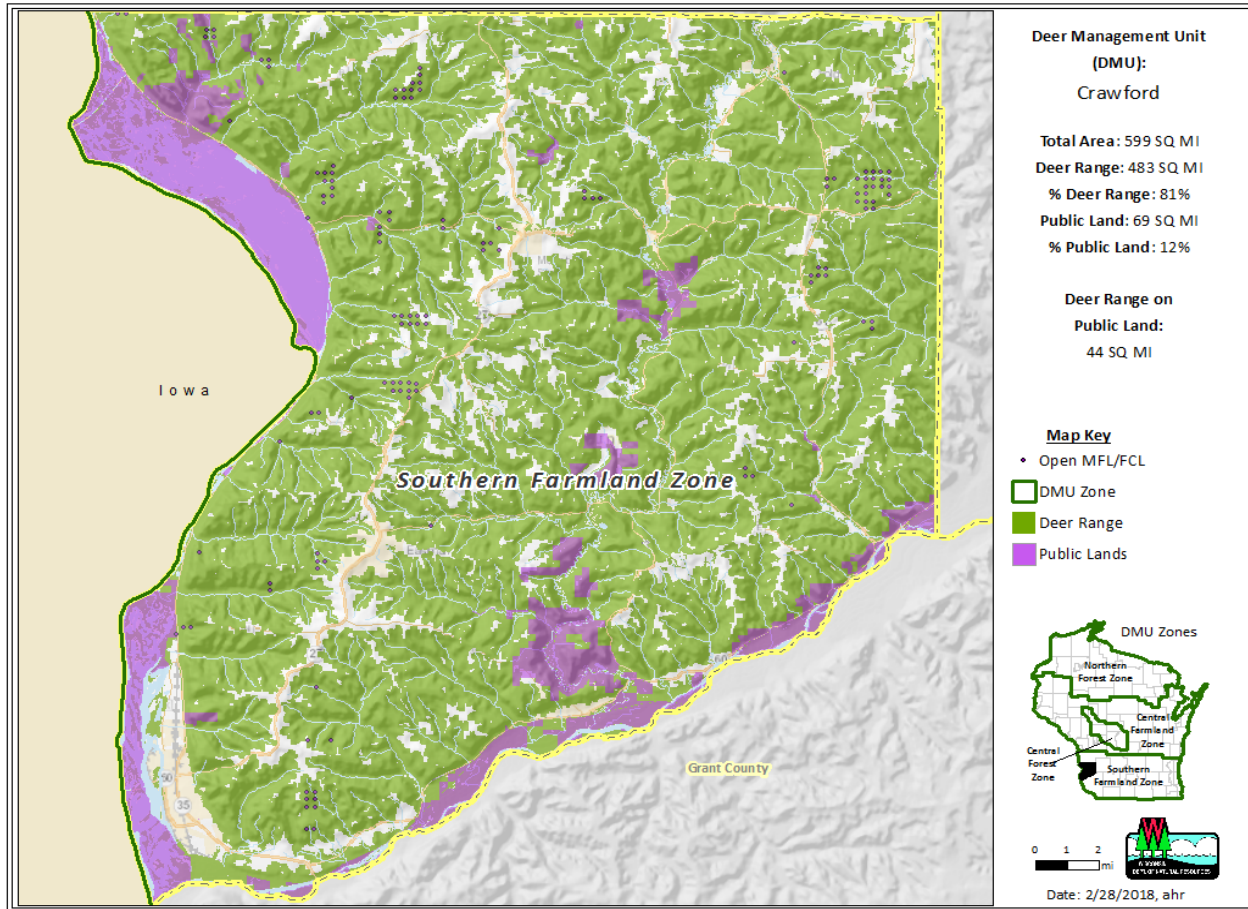


Crawford County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Crawford County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 81 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit lies in the un-glaciated Driftless Area of Wisconsin and is characterized by rolling ridges and narrow, steep-sided valleys. Two main ridges, separated by the Kickapoo River, run north to south through the unit. Many secondary ridges run east to west. Habitat in the unit is typified by extensive woodlands that follow the steep hillsides and stream corridors, mixed with cash grain and dairy agriculture on ridge tops and valleys. Oak often dominate the woodlands, but without active management much of the oak is converting to more shade-tolerant tree species, especially in areas east of the Kickapoo River. South-facing slopes are often snow-free during much of the winter. Land ownership is primarily private with rural residences, vacation home developments, and hobby farms common throughout the unit. Crawford County contains about 69.5 square miles of publicly accessible lands. Publicly-owned properties include the Kickapoo River Wildlife Area–Bell Center Unit, Kickapoo River Wildlife Area–Wauzeka Unit, Rush Creek State Natural Area, and Hogback Prairie State Natural Area. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 13 hunters per square mile of deer range, and buck harvests average about 3.5 - 5 bucks per square mile of deer range. In 2018 the overall deer harvest averaged about 10.4 deer/square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population. Both wild and captive white-tailed deer in Crawford County have tested positive for chronic wasting disease. Seventeen wild deer tested positive for CWD in 2020, bringing the cumulative total to 33.