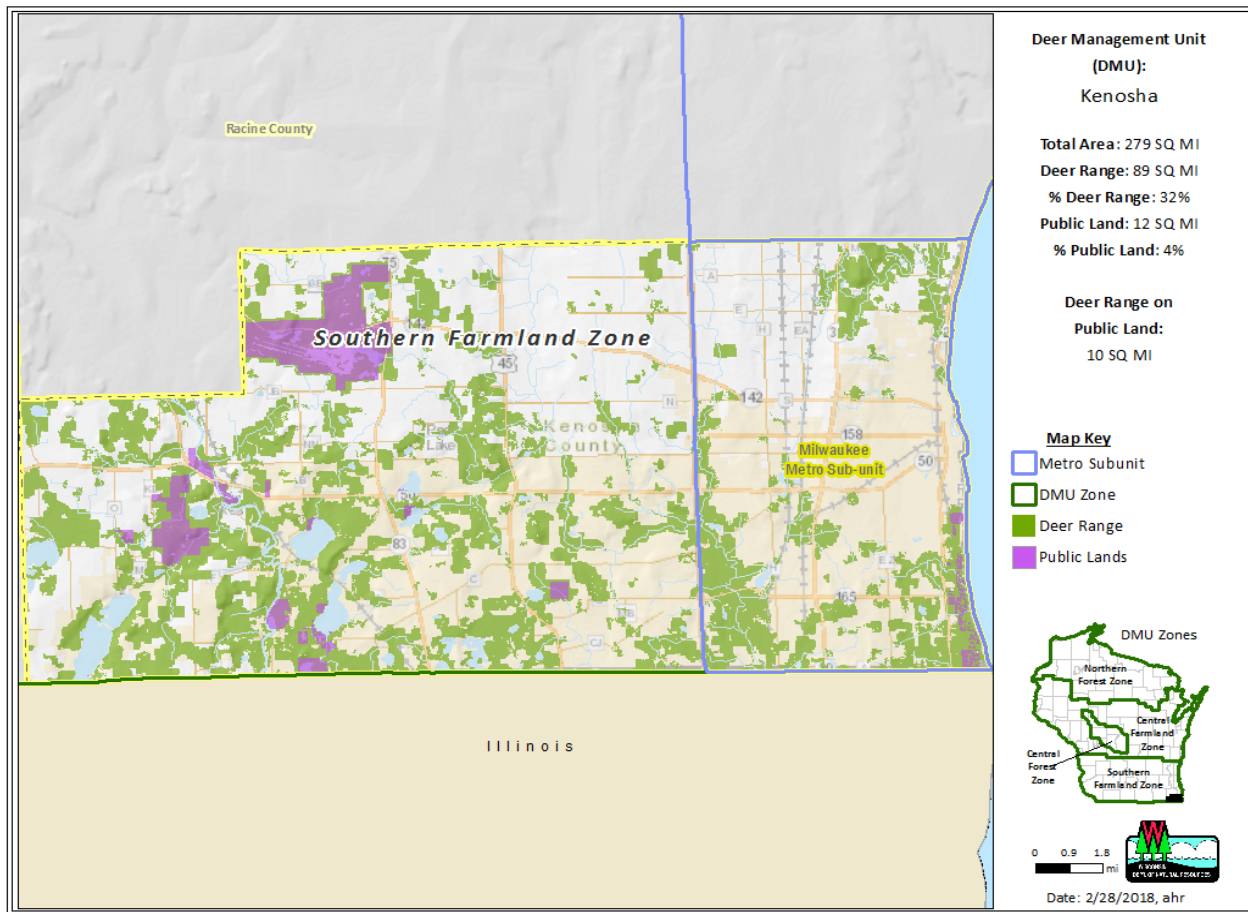


Kenosha County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Kenosha County Deer Management Unit is in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 32 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (79 square miles on private land and 9.9 square miles on public land). The unit is a mix of agricultural lands, isolated woodlands of varying size, wetlands, river ways, lakes, urban centers and dense urban development. The eastern one-third of the unit is bisected by Interstate 94 and the Milwaukee Metro subunit is located east of the interstate. Public hunting opportunities are limited with public land making up about 4 percent of the unit. Access to private lands is tightly controlled by landowners throughout the unit and heavy urban development on the east side limits hunting opportunities (Metro subunit). Public lands with hunting opportunities include New Munster Wildlife Area, Peat Lake West Wildlife Area, Richard Bong State Recreation Area and Peat Lake State Natural Area (only during the 9-day gun deer season). Hunting opportunities in the Metro subunit are mainly found on private lands because of the scarcity of public land in the Metro subunit. The Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area, a state property in the subunit adjacent to the Carol Beach Subdivision, provides limited archery hunting opportunities. The 2013 legislative action (ACT 71) will increase archery and crossbow hunting opportunities on private lands only in the Metro subunit and other urban areas, but should not result in a significant increase in the harvest. Management objectives west of the interstate and for the Metro subunit have been to lower herd levels to minimize vehicle-deer collisions, prevent agricultural and/or urban damage and to help with Chronic Wasting Disease management. Past aggressive season frameworks west of the interstate resulted in a slight down turn in the population trend, but recent bonus season framework; consecutive years of poor opening gun deer weekend weather; no bonus antlerless permits available over the last 3 years; and an increasing trend in the buck harvest over the last 11 years suggests a slight increase in the population trend. (The 2015 season saw the highest buck harvest in the last 11 years- 235.) Liberal season frameworks in the Metro subunit are limited by hunting access which has resulted in a slightly increasing population trend. The CWD management zone