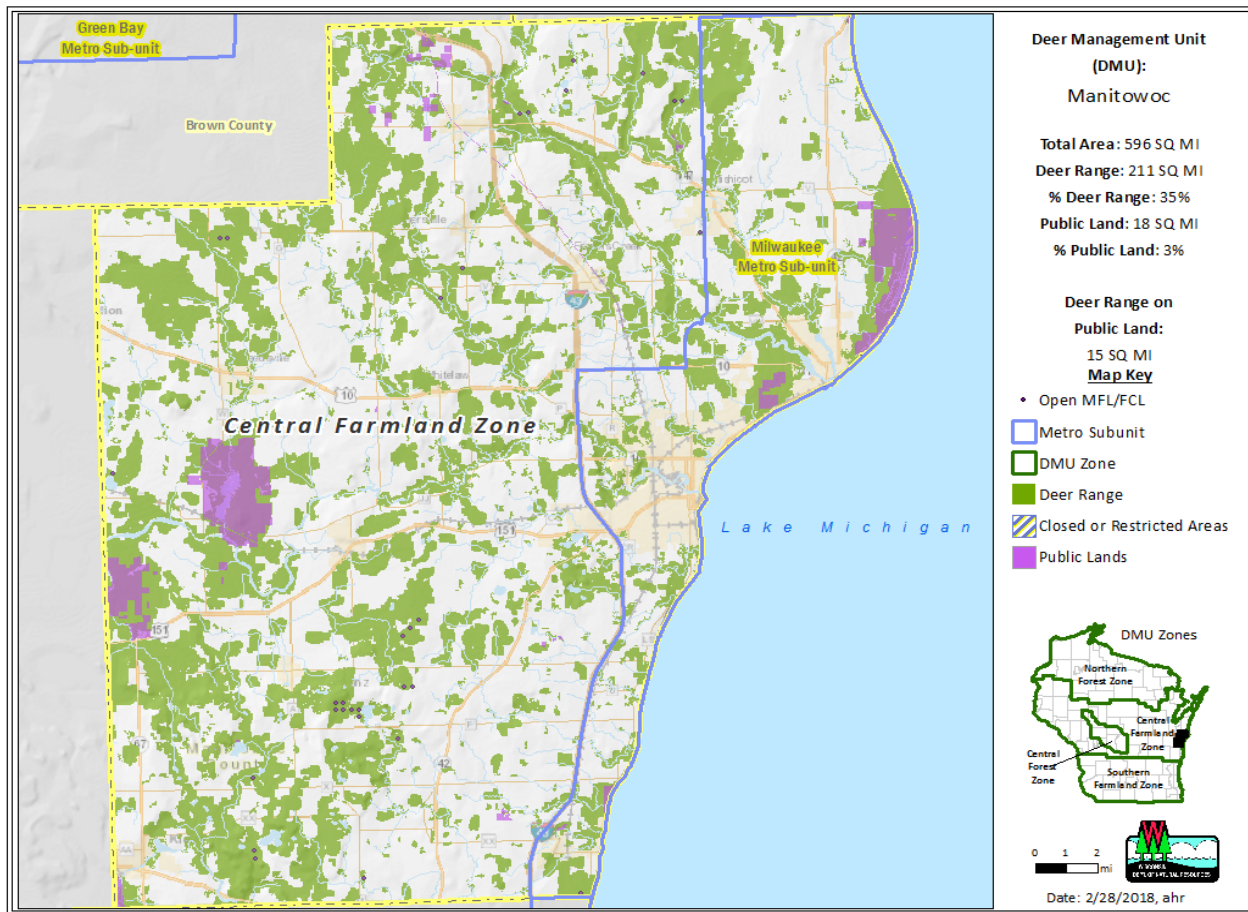


Manitowoc County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Manitowoc County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 36.6 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (172 square miles). The unit is predominately private land with a mix of farmland, marsh and woodland. Hunting access on private land has become increasingly challenging and habitat quality varies greatly across the unit, creating a tremendous disparity in deer distribution. Much of the forest habitat is bottomland hardwoods. The eastern portion of Killsnake and Collins Marsh Wildlife Areas along with Point Beach State Forest provide public hunting access on a combined 8,900 acres (14 square miles). Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 35 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvest has been consistently high with approximately 11.5 bucks killed per square mile of deer range. In addition to the public land there are approximately 440 acres of private land under the Voluntary Public Access (VPA) program for hunters to utilize. Please go to the DNR's home page and search VPA Manitowoc County for a list of the properties that are open, and any associated restrictions and access for each property. There has been a recent change to the boundary of the DMU. The Milwaukee metro unit has been expanded to the north and now extends north to the Kewaunee County line. The deer range metrics within the expanded boundary for Manitowoc County include 126 sq. miles, 39.2 sq. miles of which are considered deer range, or 31.1% of the unit. Within the expanded metro unit there are 5.7 sq. miles of public land and 5.2 sq. miles of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease the population due to agricultural damage, increasing numbers of deer-vehicle collisions, and lack of forest regeneration.