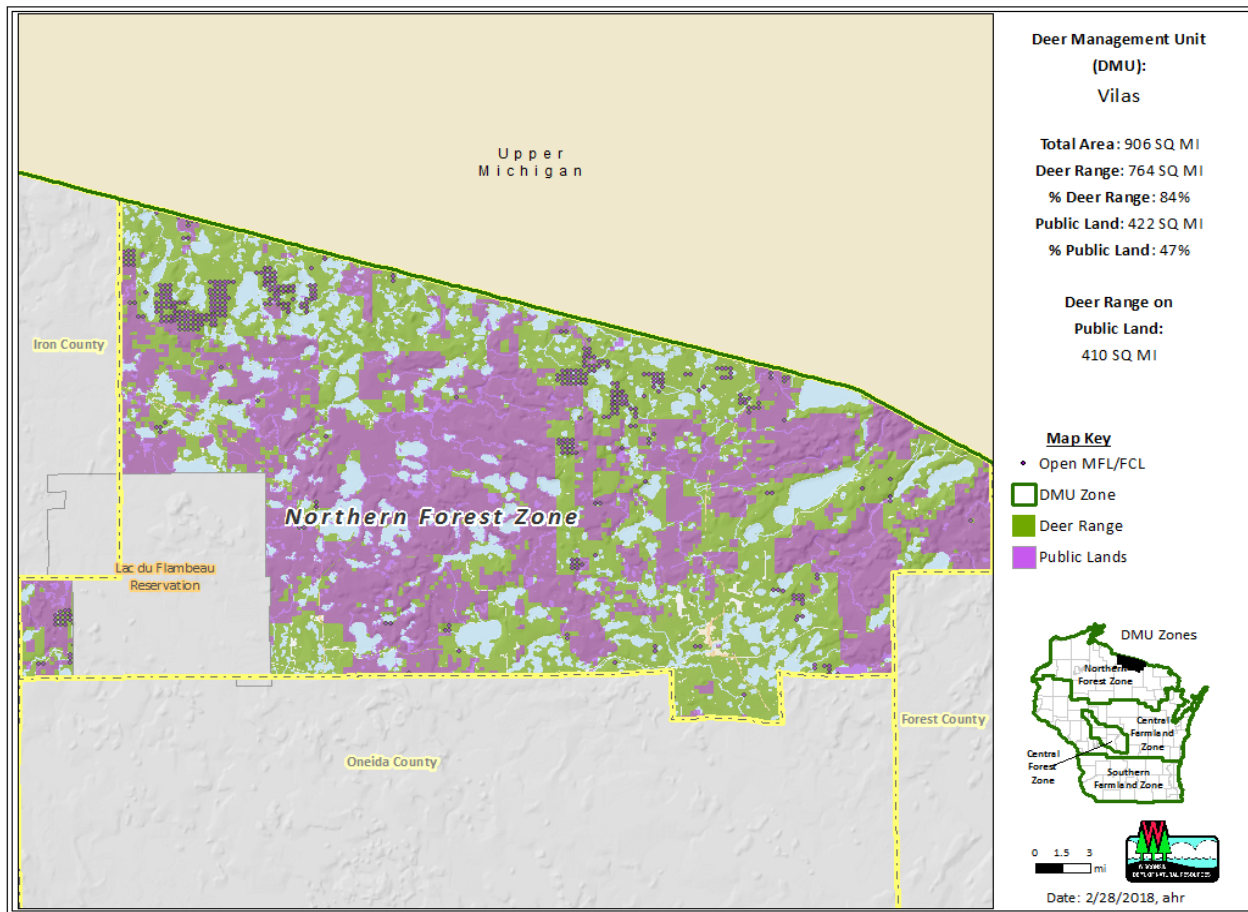


Vilas County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Vilas County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 84 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit contains numerous lakes, bogs, and marshes. Sandy soils support forests consisting of aspen, pine and oak which are considered to be fair summer deer range. Deer are subject to impacts of severe winters but herds still manage to rebound during mild winters. Urban deer and associated feeding was common in the more populated areas of the unit but a county wide baiting and feeding ban went into effect in 2016. Over half of the unit is open to public hunting including the Northern Highland State Forest, Vilas County Forest, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Powell Marsh State Wildlife Area and a number of other properties open to the public such as industrial forest lands enrolled in open Managed Forest Land and Forest Crop Land programs. Public roads and access are abundant and hunter access is above average. As in most units, deer are not evenly distributed and hunters may find higher densities of deer near urban areas or in remote areas that have dense cover and natural food sources. Buck harvest density is typical of a northern forest unit. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 15 hunters per square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain the population. Look for deer in younger forests where deer can find more foods and hiding cover.