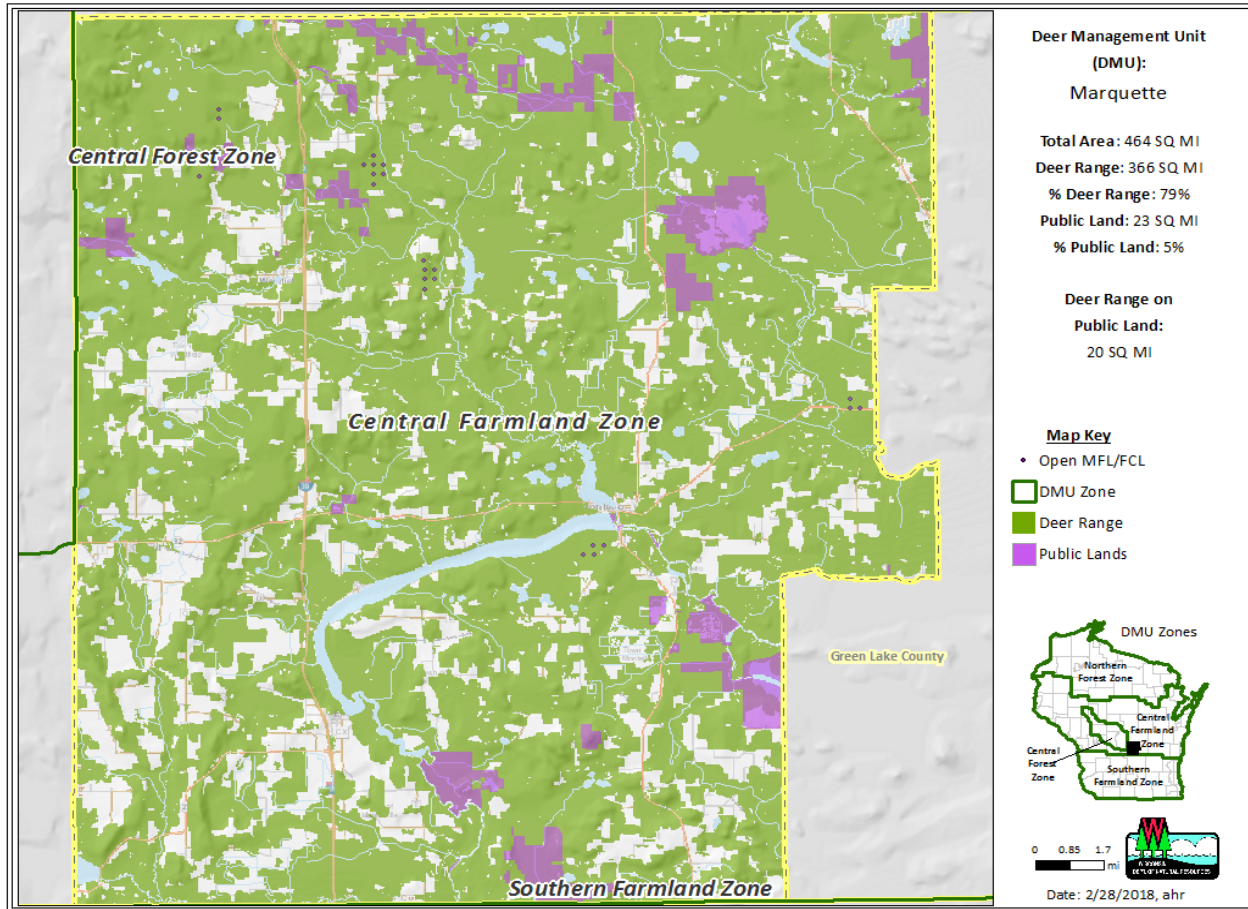


# Marquette County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Marquette County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 79 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The county is dominated by large wetland areas, of which many have been drained for “muck farming” and are highly productive for farming. The majority of upland habitat is dry sandy soils and has recently seen an increase in the use of center-pivot irrigation systems in agricultural fields. Although it is predominately of private landownership, there are several public areas open to hunting and fishing. These include French’s Creek Wildlife Area, Germania Marsh Wildlife Area, Grand River Marsh Wildlife Area, White River Marsh Wildlife Area, Mecan River Fisheries Area, Caves Creek Fisheries Area, Lawrence Creek Fisheries Area, Lawton Creek Fisheries Area and the Fox River Wildlife Refuge. The unit has traditionally had high buck harvests per square mile of deer range, although a decrease in the number of one year old bucks harvested each year and a corresponding increase in the number of older age and larger bucks in the harvest has occurred. The deer herd has the potential to be very productive but is very unevenly distributed throughout the unit. Winter weather typically has little to no impact on survival and recruitment, which has led to high levels of agricultural deer damage and liberal hunting season frameworks. High hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 25-30 hunters per square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease the population.