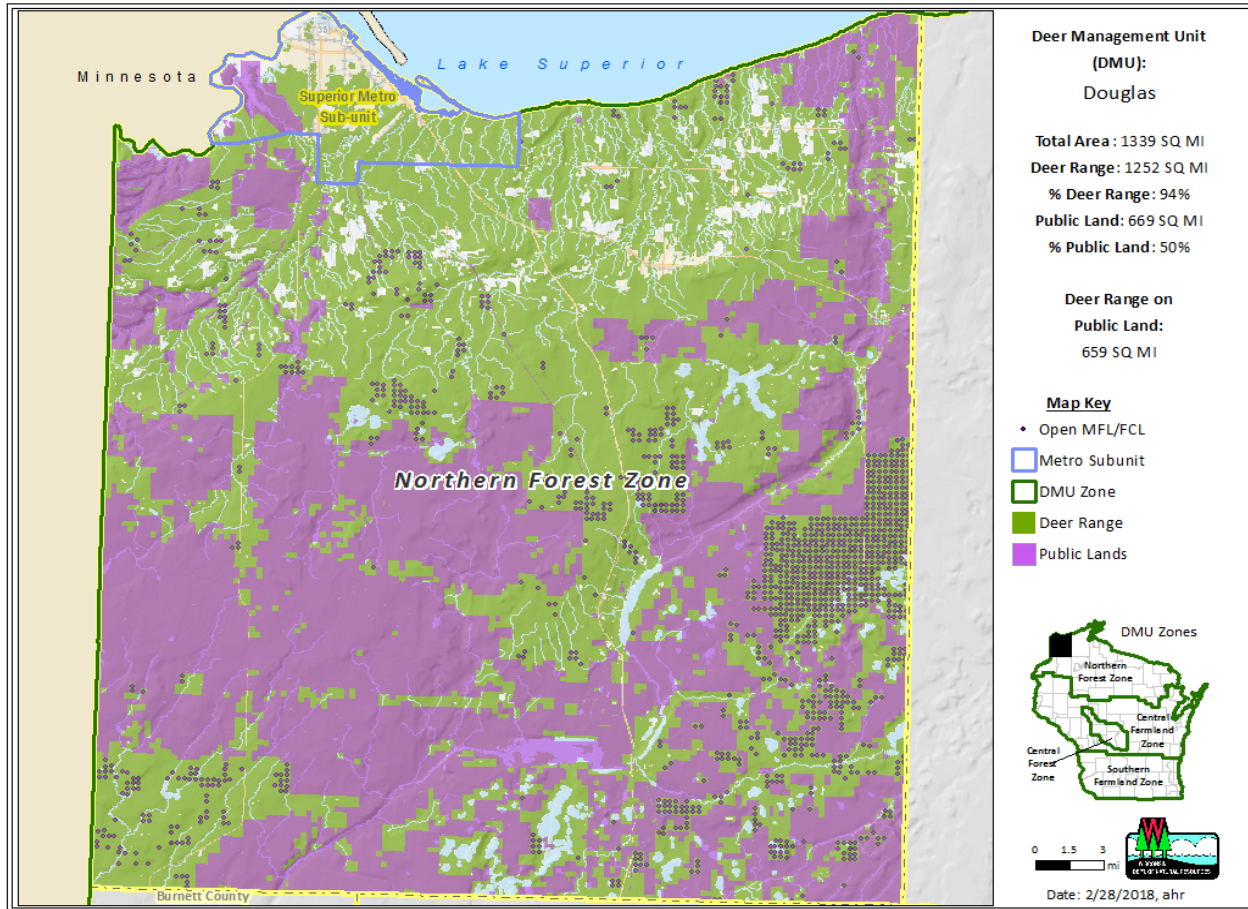


Douglas County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Douglas County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 95 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Land cover varies greatly from north to south corresponding to soil types and landownership patterns. The northern one-third of the unit is a mixture of agricultural and forest lands comprised of aspen, fir-spruce and white pine dissected by steep drainages. The central portion consists of diverse forest types including aspen, oak, pine, spruce-fir uplands with large amounts of lowland alder and conifer swamps and bogs. The southern portion is heavily dominated by jack pine, red pine and scrub oak dotted with small seepage lakes and ponds. Approximately 52 percent of the unit is open to public hunting including Douglas County Forest, Douglas County Wildlife Area, Brule River State Forest, Red River Stream Bank Protection Area and thousands of acres of industrial forest land open to the public through the open Managed Forest Land and Forest Crop Land programs. Hunter densities on the opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average 8-12 hunters per square mile of deer range. Antlered buck harvest rates average 2-3 bucks per square mile of deer range. A Metro subunit lies within the unit surrounding the city of Superior and covers 35 square miles of mostly urban, suburban and municipal forest open to archery deer hunting through permits administered by the city. The current deer herd management objective is to increase the population as a whole in the county but to maintain the current level within the Superior metro-subunit.