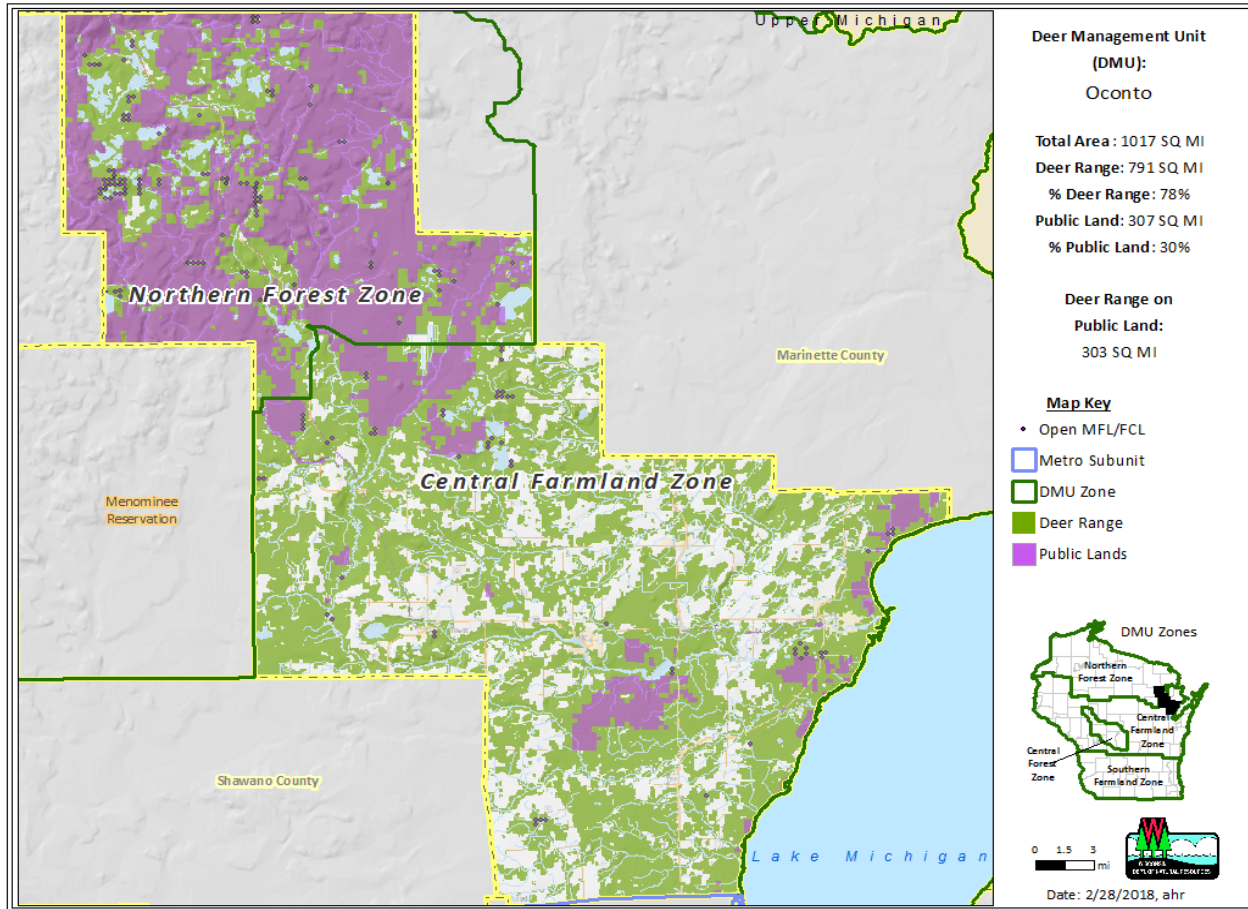


Oconto County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

Oconto County consists of two Deer Management Units (DMUs); the Northern Forest Zone 1 and the Central Farmland Zone 2 being divided by State Highways 64, 32, and County AA using the old, numbered management unit boundaries and the dominant habitat type in each. The area of the Central Farmland Zone 2 is 413 square miles, 73% of which is considered deer range. Public land only makes up about 9% of this area and it contains 14% of the deer range. These public lands are Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Areas and Oconto County Forest predominately. Private land then makes up 81% of the zone and contains 86% of the deer range. Urban and suburban development as well as the ownership breakdown, create challenges for public hunting access. Agricultural crop damage, vehicle deer collisions, nuisance deer, and deer disease are issues in this unit. Deer numbers have risen over the past few years; correspondingly harvest has generally increased. Registered kill though, reflects the capacity of hunters in the zone to take antlerless deer despite liberal antlerless harvest opportunities. The CDAC objective for this zone is to decrease the population. The area of the Northern Forest Zone 1 is 337 square miles, 94% of which is considered deer range. Public land makes up about 70% of this area. Public lands are predominately National Forest and Oconto County Forest. Private lands then are 30% of the area and are 84% deer range. Deer range habitat quality varies for both public and private lands but is now beginning to change on public lands from mature stands to young forest with an increase in timber harvest activity. It will be important to watch forest regeneration over time. This zone generally produces a harvest of 2-3 bucks per square mile of deer range and antlerless harvest dependent on permit issuance. The CDAC objective for this zone is to increase the population.

Contact Information:

Wildlife Biologist: Dave Halfmann (715) 927-2735

Conservation Warden: Paul Hartrick (920) 373-4179