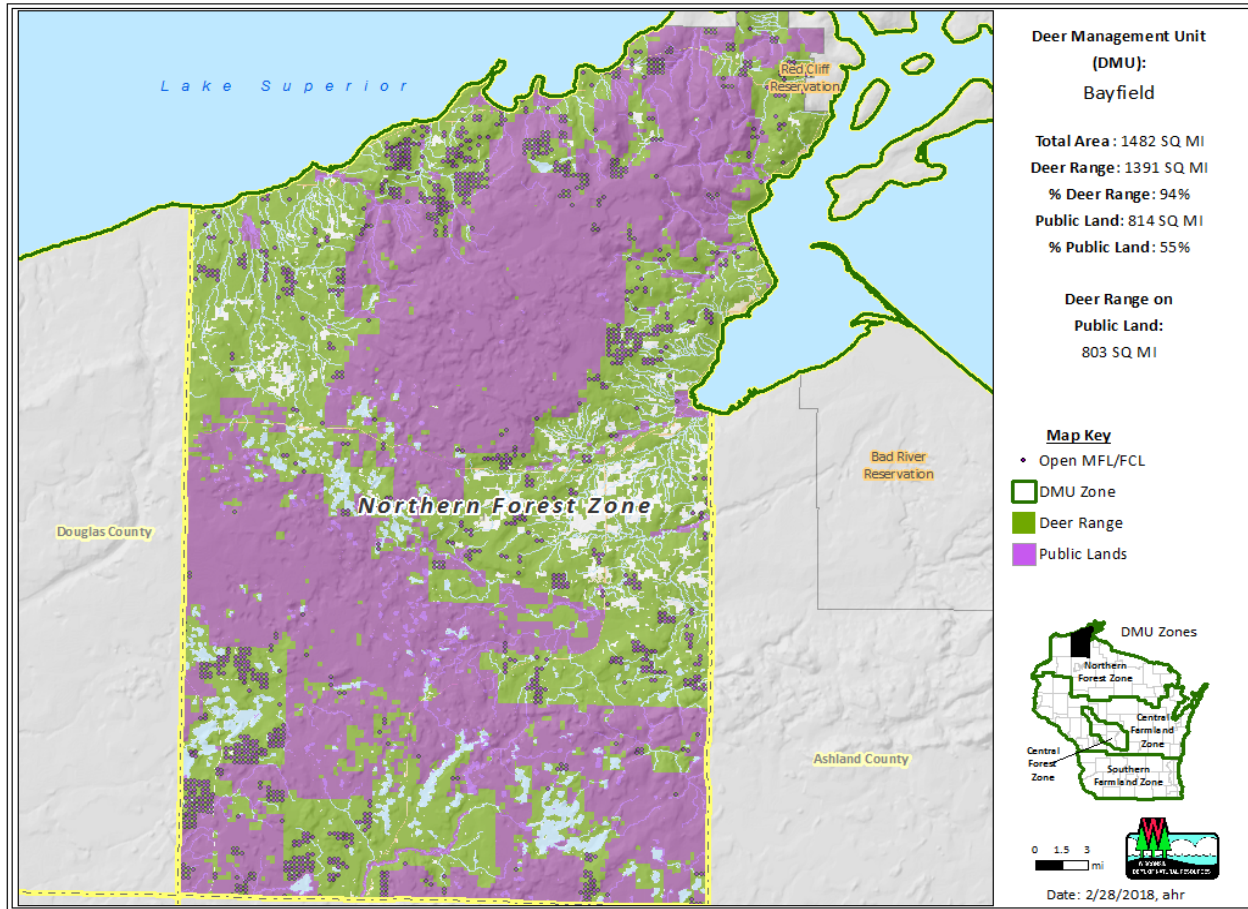


# Bayfield County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

## Management Unit:



## Manager's Note:

The Bayfield County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 94 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Approximately 55 percent of lands in the unit are open to public hunting, with the largest landownerships in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and the Bayfield County Forest. Numerous state fisheries areas, wildlife areas and natural areas are also available for public hunting, as well as large blocks of industrial forest lands and private lands enrolled under the open Managed Forest Law program. Habitat types vary throughout the unit, generally corresponding to soil type and land management practices. A mix of farms, woodlands, diverse forest and orchards near Bayfield are found on the heavy red clay soils that follow the Lake Superior shoreline. The greatest densities of deer in the unit are found in and around agricultural areas. Pine Barrens-related habitat is found in a large band of sand soil that extends from the center of the Bayfield peninsula southwest to Barnes. Hunting in "the Barrens" can be popular, but is most productive during years with good acorn crops. Mid- to late-successional northern hardwood forests dominate the loam covered glacial till soils in the south-central portion of the unit extending east, and more diverse aspen and mixed-northern hardwood forests exist around the many lakes in the southern quarter. Annual snowfall in the Bayfield peninsula and higher elevations in the south-central portion of the unit can significantly affect deer populations. Variations in habitat and climate result in an unevenly distributed deer herd throughout the unit. Hunter density is light to moderate with an estimated 7-12 hunters per square mile, with most hunters located in the western one-third of the unit. The average annual buck harvest is about 2.1 bucks per square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain the population.