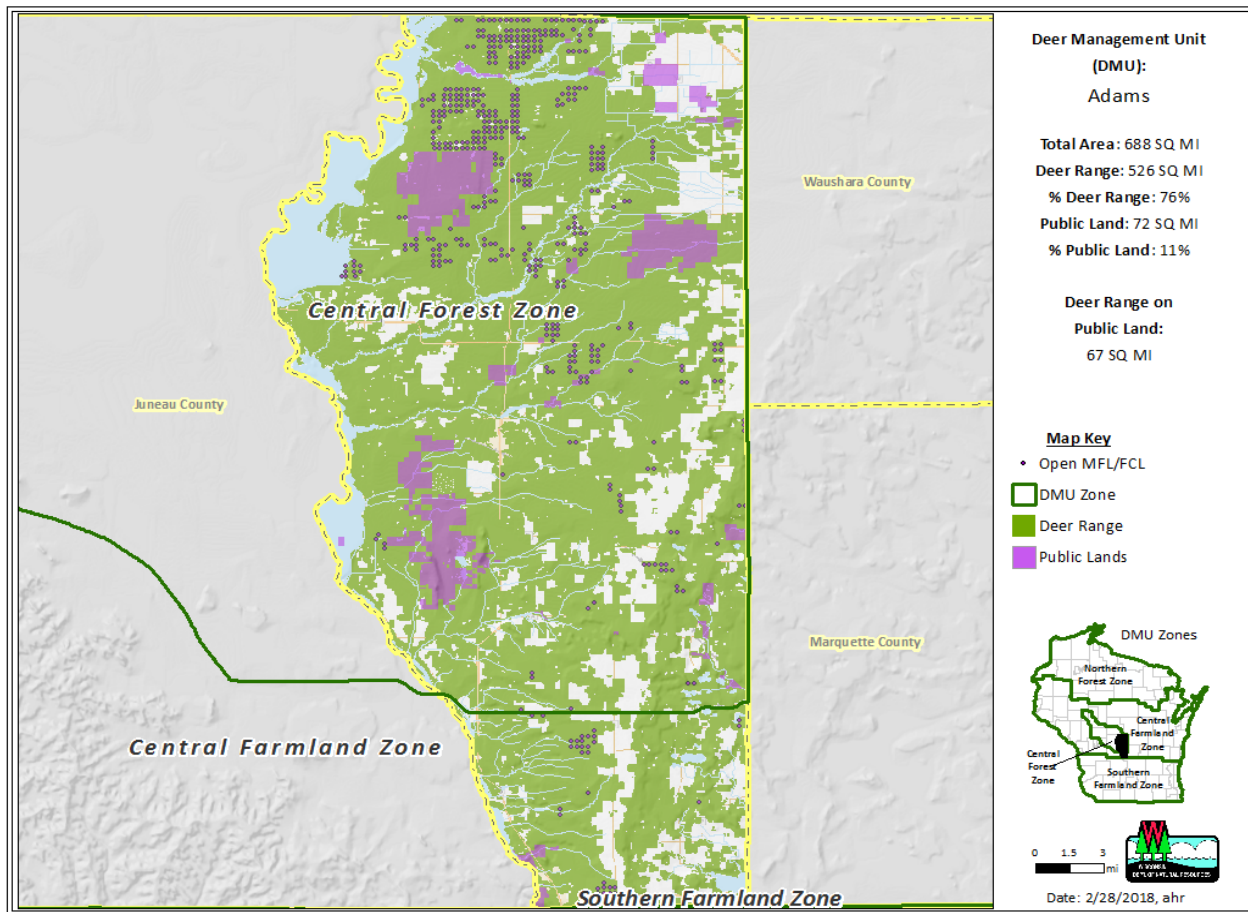


Adams County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Adams County Deer Management Unit is divided by Highway 82 in which the area south of Highway 82 is located in the Central Farmland Zone and the area north of the Highway 82 is located in the Central Forest Zone. Approximately 72 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The habitat quality varies greatly across both zones leading to high variability in deer distribution. Habitat is more productive for deer in the Central Farmland Zone portions of the unit where crop fields and a more productive forestland are intermixed. Because of a higher deer reproductive capacity in this zone, a significant deer population exists providing many hunting opportunities on private lands, which make up 96 percent of all land area in the unit. In the Central Forest Zone portions of the unit, large forest blocks and expansive irrigated fields are found. These areas are typically less productive but still manage to produce a moderate deer population with antlerless harvest opportunities offered in most years. Almost all of the public hunting land in the county is found in the Central Forest Zone and includes Leola Wildlife Area, Colburn Wildlife Area, Lawrence Creek Fish and Wildlife Area and Quincy Bluff and Wetlands State Natural Area. In addition to the public lands mentioned, private lands enrolled in Managed Forest Law or Voluntary Public Access programs provide public hunting access and opportunities as well. No matter what area you are hunting, harvest possibilities are increased with pre-season scouting. The current deer herd management objectives are to maintain the population within Central Forest Zone portions and to maintain the population in the Central Farmland Zone portions of the unit. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in wild deer in Adams County since 2012, and continues to be an important factor regarding deer management in this unit.