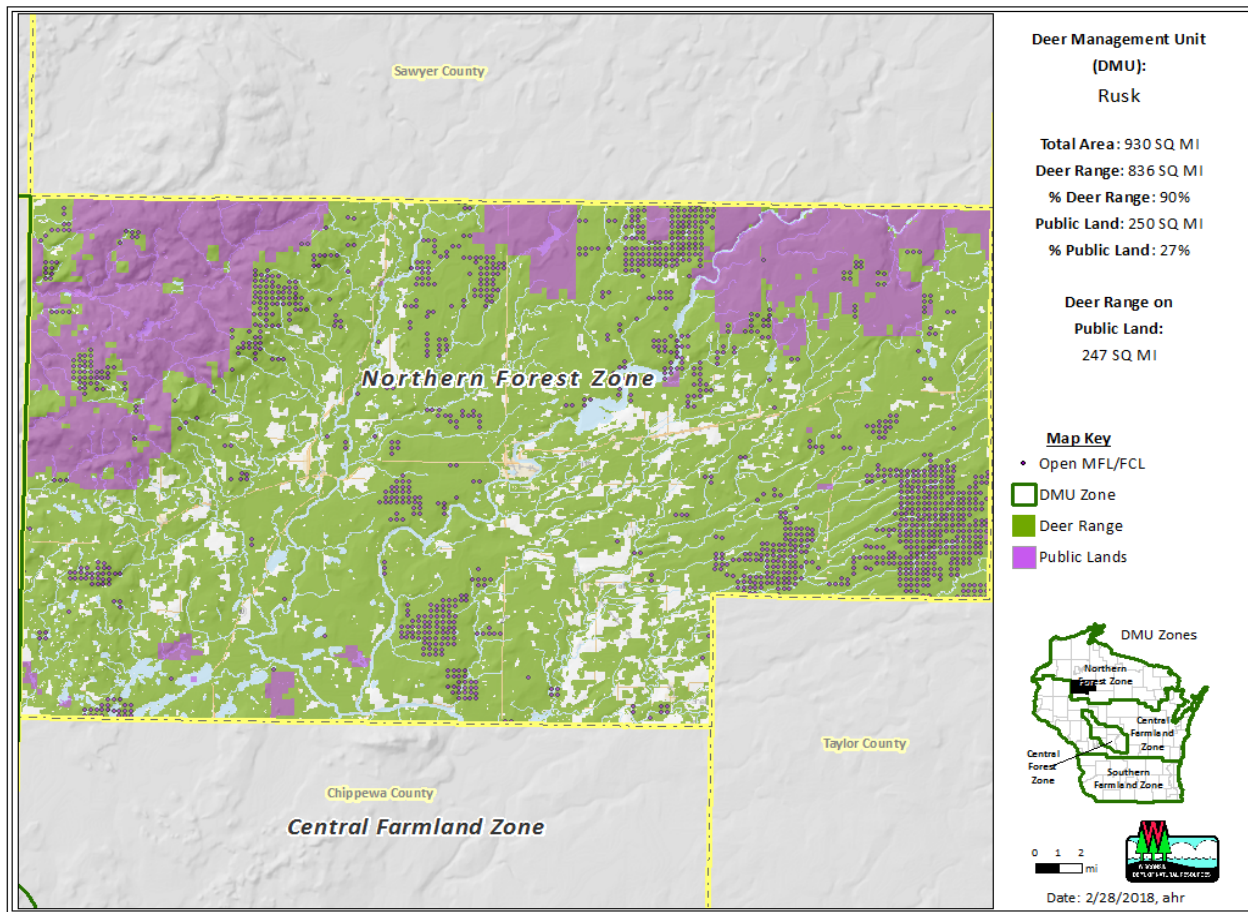


Rusk County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Rusk County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 90 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Habitat varies greatly and consequently deer populations vary across the unit. Areas in the southern half of the unit consist mostly of private land dominated by farms holding the best habitat and deer numbers. Of this area, the southwest portion is certainly the best habitat containing the highest deer herd. This area contains some public land consisting of three managed wildlife areas and a small amount of industrial forest land. The northern half of the unit contains some farmland in the central area but most is a mix of mature northern hardwood forest and associated wetland drainages which hold the lowest numbers of deer. Public land makes up about one-quarter of the total unit area. The northern portions abound with public hunting opportunities on county forest, state forest and industrial forest landownership. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season range from 10 hunters per square mile of deer range to 15 or more in the southern portion of the unit. The buck harvest rate is 2-3 bucks per square mile of deer range in the forested areas to 5-6 per square mile of deer range in the farm country. Recent years have had lower than average long-term buck harvest rates. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain the population.

Deer Management Unit Harvest History

Fawn to doe ratios collected in late summer give information on fawn recruitment and survival and are used as an input into the formula for annual deer herd abundance estimation. Fawn to doe ratios were summarized using groups of county deer management units. County deer management units were grouped based on location, habitat characteristics, and deer demography.