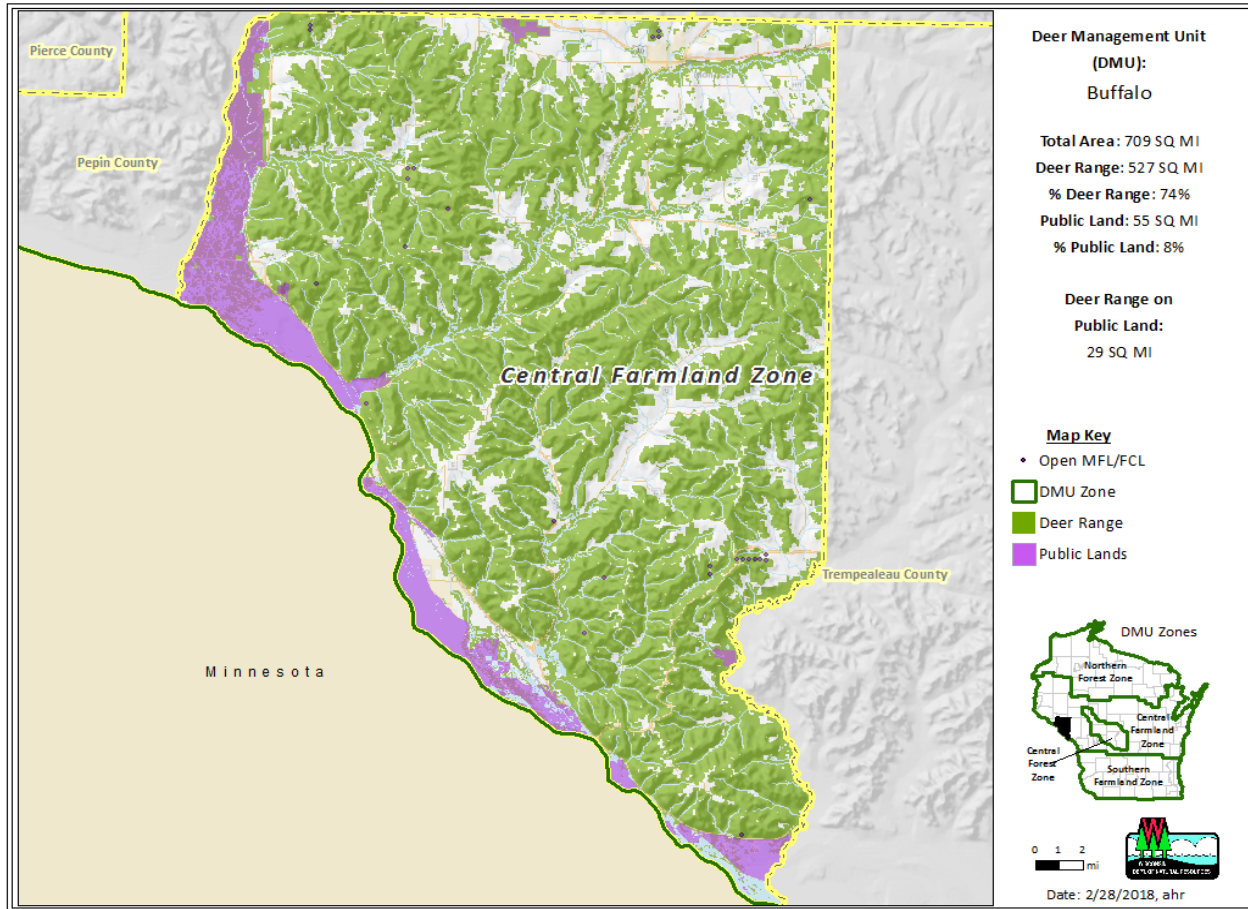


Buffalo County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Buffalo County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 74 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is comprised of approximately 92 percent private land and 8 percent public land, with public land ownership including the Tiffany Wildlife Area and Big Swamp Wildlife Area. The unit is typical of the Driftless Area of the state, with many agricultural valleys and ridge tops and steep, heavily wooded hillsides providing ideal deer habitat. Although good deer habitat is found throughout the unit, deer are not evenly distributed across the landscape due to various factors including changes in land use, hunting techniques, and landownership changes, as well as variability in hunter selectivity. The unit has seen a steady increase in bow hunting pressure over the last 20 years due to the unit's national notoriety for producing trophy bucks. The annual harvest reflects an increasing percentage of bucks harvested during the bow season. Lower antlerless harvest rates, coupled with the deer herd's high reproductive capacity, has allowed the herd to remain at a high level. 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.

Central Farmland Management Zone