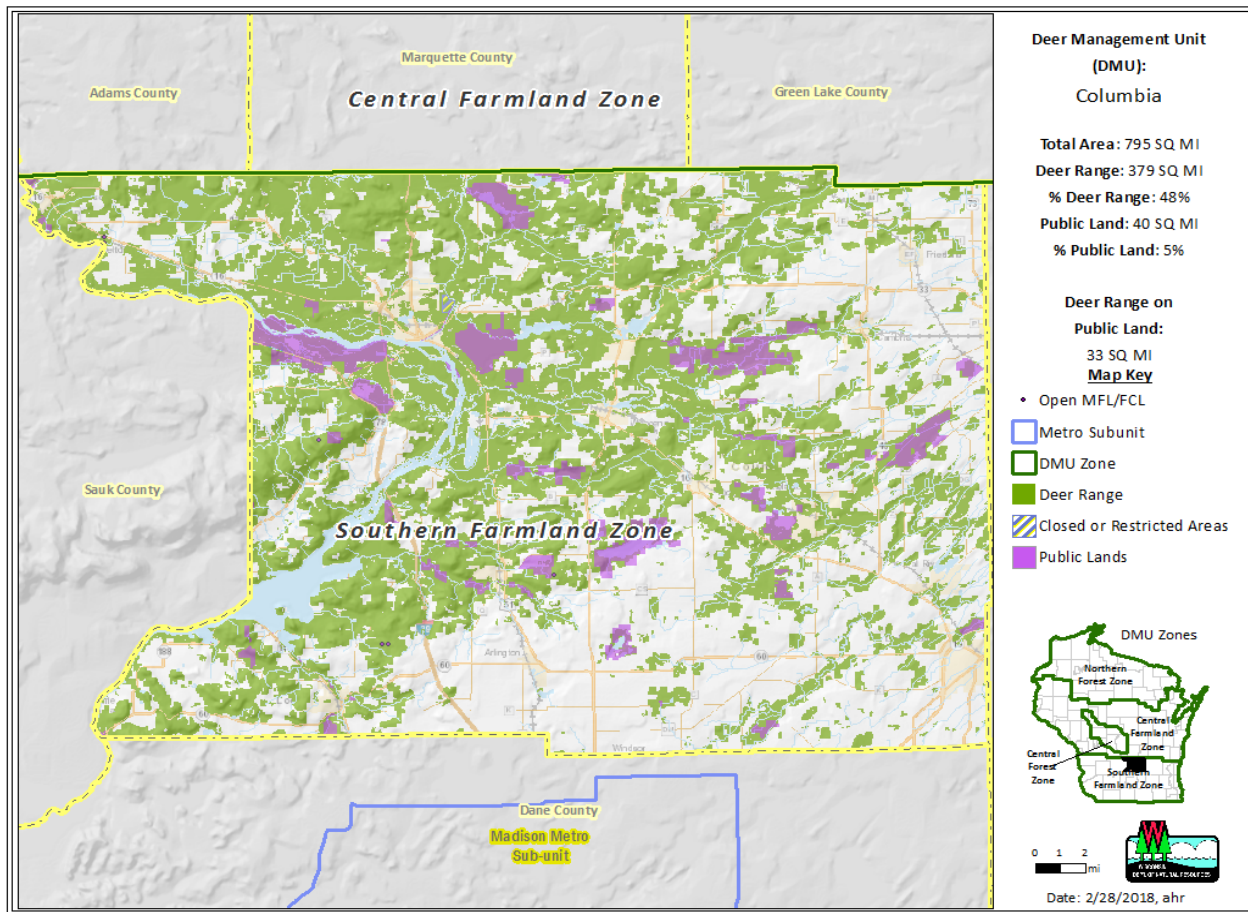


# Columbia County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Columbia County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 48 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range with a significant amount of agricultural land interspersed across the landscape. Approximately 6 percent of the unit is open to public hunting (~30,500 acres). A wide variety of public lands are located within this unit which include several Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lands, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service land, private properties enrolled in the open Voluntary Public Access program and the Columbia Power Plant Wisconsin Power and Light land. Hunting pressure on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season can vary from 15 to 33 hunters per square mile of deer range in any given year. The deer herd has the potential to be very productive with winter weather typically having little impact on adult survival and fawn recruitment. Chronic Wasting Disease has been confirmed in West Point, Lodi, Caledonia, Dekorra, Arlington, Leeds, Lowville, Otsego, Fountain Prairie, Courtland, Pacific, Fort Winnebago and Marcellon Townships. For the latest information on CWD in this unit, please visit the following DNR webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/prevalence.html>. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease 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.