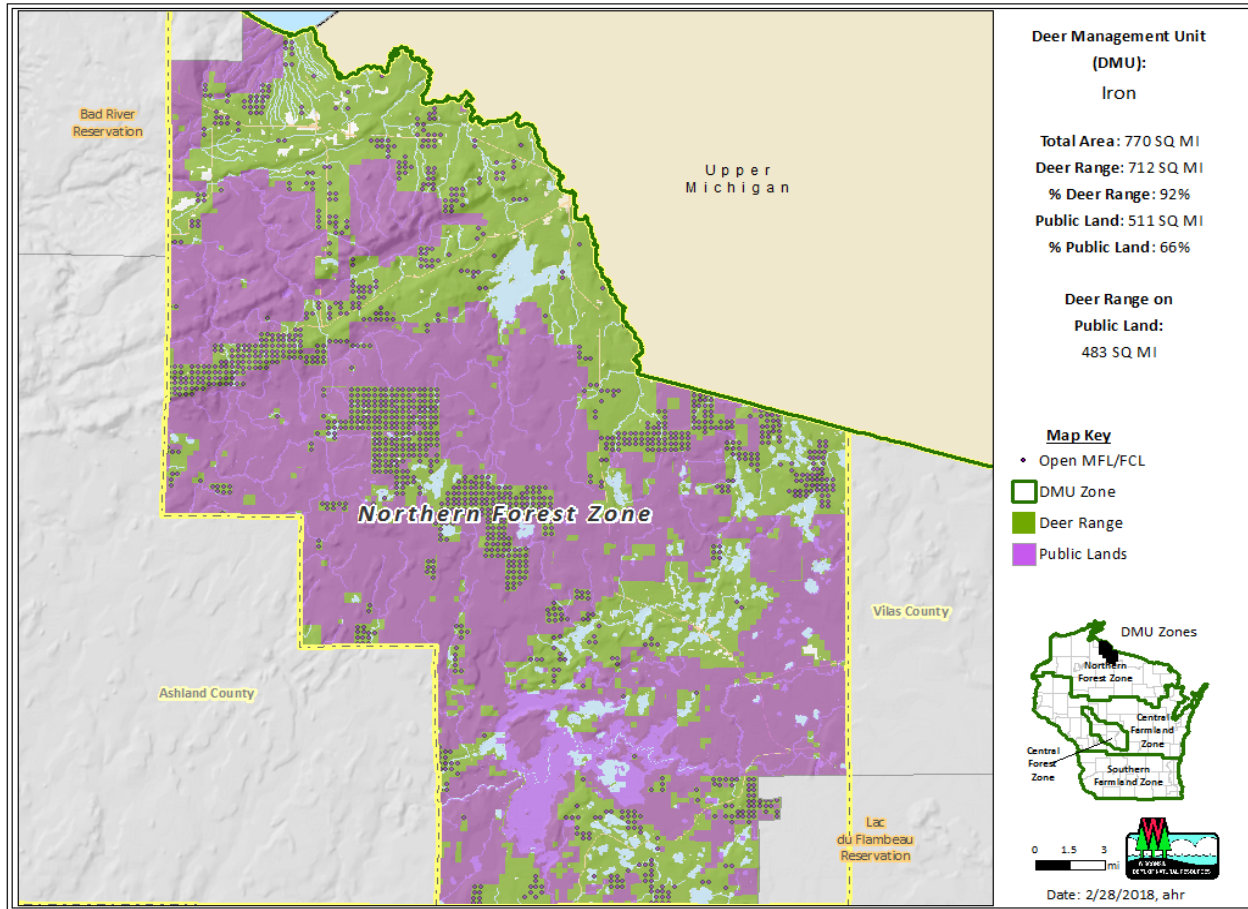


Iron County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Iron County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 92 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (742 square miles). This mostly forested unit contains upland forests comprised of mixed northern hardwood, aspen, oak (limited), balsam fir, white pine, jack pine, spruce and hemlock and lowland forests comprised of tamarack, spruce and cedar. Iron County has very little agriculture with most residing in the far north. The unit also contains a large amount of county-owned forest land (over 170,000 acres). Being in the Lake Superior Snowbelt, the northern portion of the unit commonly receives heavy snowfall. With large amounts of northern hardwoods and forested wetlands and very little agricultural and non-forested uplands, this unit can only support a moderate deer population. Much of the unit land base is open to public hunting including Iron County Forest, Underwood Wildlife Area, portions of Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, Moose Lake Natural Area, Island Lake Hemlocks State Natural Area, Caroline Lake State Natural Area, Bass Lake Preserve State Natural Area, Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area, as well as thousands of acres of industrial forest land open to the public through the open Managed Forest Land and Forest Crop Land programs. Low hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average 5-6 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvest ranges from about 1 deer harvested per square mile of deer range. It is important to note that this unit can only support a moderate deer population because of habitat quality and winter severity. The current deer herd management objective is to increase the population.