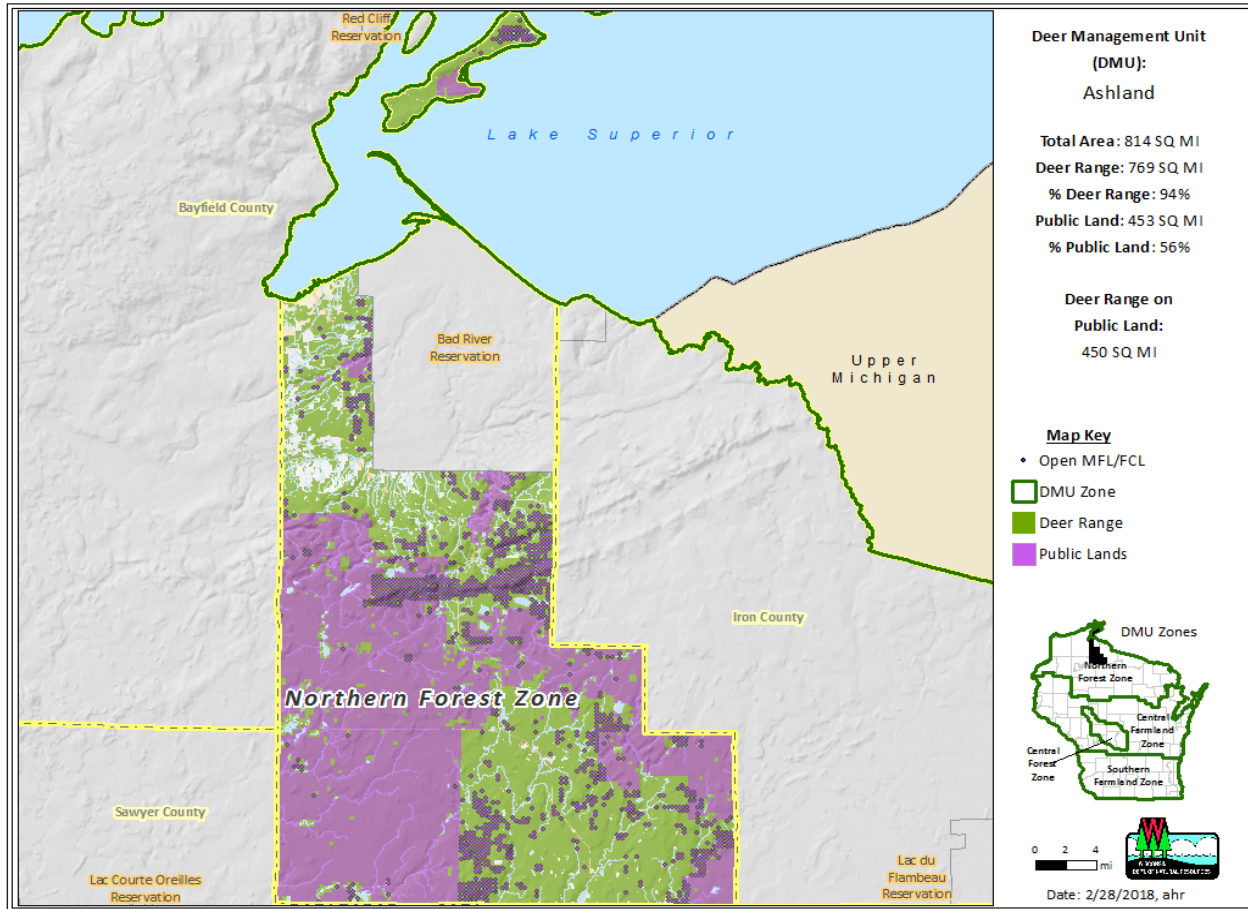


Ashland County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Ashland County Deer Management Unit is located in the Northern Forest Zone. Approximately 95 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Approximately 56 percent of lands in the unit are open to public hunting, with the largest landownerships in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, mining company lands, Ashland County Forest as well as numerous industrial forest properties. Habitat types vary significantly throughout the unit creating an uneven distribution of deer throughout. The greatest densities of deer are found in the agricultural areas primarily located in the northern part of the unit from Ashland to Highbridge and also in a smaller, more scattered agricultural band from Glidden to Butternut. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest lies west of this band and the county forest lands lies to the east. Mining company lands are located just south of Mellen and extend east beyond the Iron County border. Hunters report seeing fewer deer outside of agricultural areas primarily due to later-successional habitats found in the National Forest and mining lands, but also largely due to winter impacts on these herds in the snow-belt portion of the unit. Low hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 6-7 hunters per square mile of deer range, although they are well dispersed throughout the unit. The average annual buck harvest in the County is about 2 bucks per square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to increase the population.