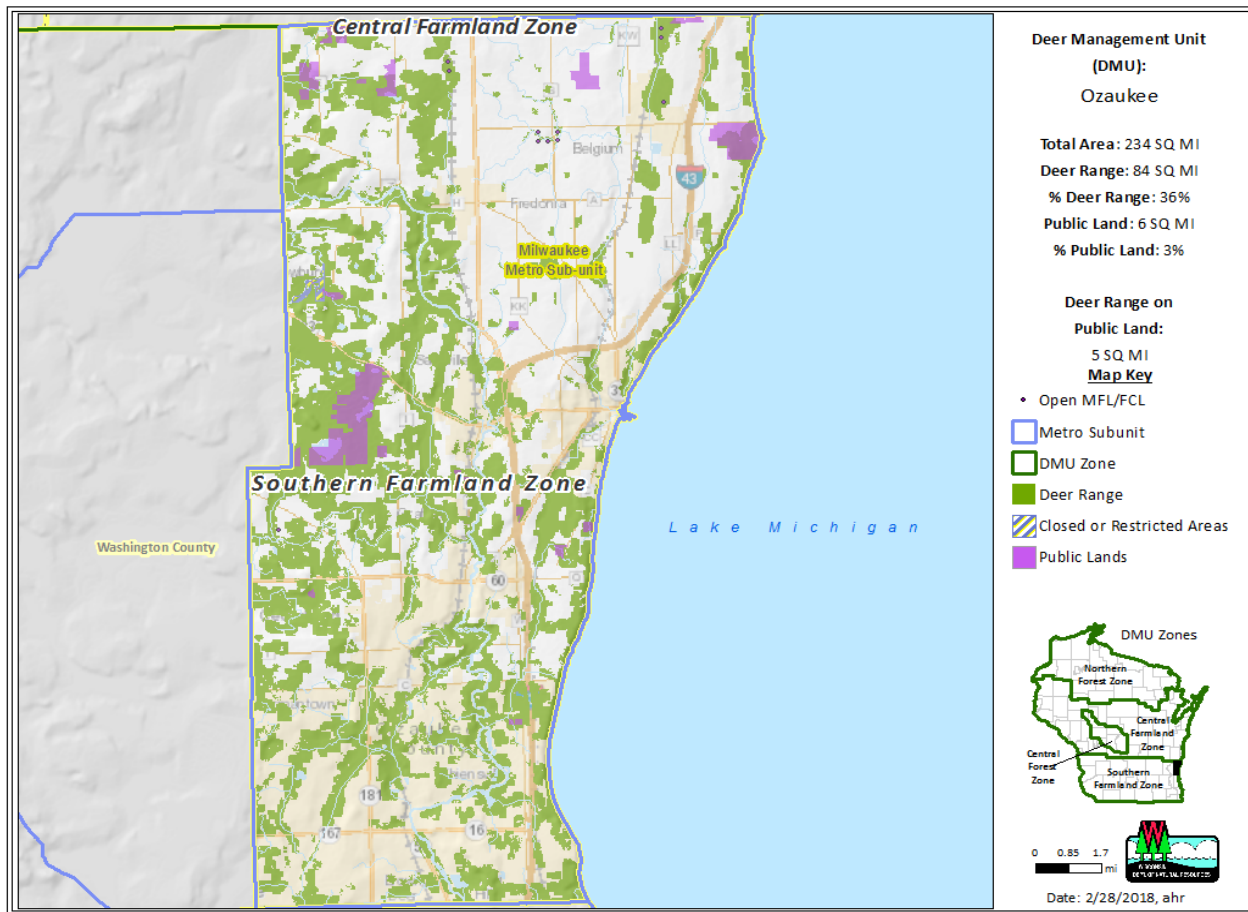


Ozaukee County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Ozaukee County Deer Management Unit is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. Approximately 36% of the unit is considered suitable deer range (85 square miles). This unit is the second smallest Deer Management Unit in the state (234 square miles). More than half of the land area is within the municipal boundaries of cities (Mequon, Cedarburg and Port Washington) or villages (Grafton, Theinsville, Saukville, Fredonia and Belgium), with remaining land in farmland, residential and commercial development, county and city parks, nature centers, state or other natural areas and areas with fragmented or limited deer habitat. About 90 percent of the unit is within the Milwaukee Metro subunit which historically had been managed with a goal of keeping the deer population at a relatively low density to minimize deer-vehicle collisions and deer damage to crops, nurseries, native vegetation and ecological communities. Most deer harvest occurs on private land. About 4,200 acres (<3%) of the unit is public land and about 75% of that is open to some form of deer hunting. The largest public parcel is Cedarburg Bog. Other public lands include Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area parcels, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Areas, Harrington Beach State Park, scattered state-owned habitat areas, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District parcels, certain Ozaukee/Washington Land Trust parcels, and other miscellaneous parcels. The unit's deer harvest has remained relatively consistent since the Metro subunit boundary was expanded in 2001, with bow and crossbow hunters accounting for one-third to half of the total deer harvest each year. Deer hunting pressure varies widely depending on the type of land ownership. The current CDAC deer herd management objective is to decrease the population.