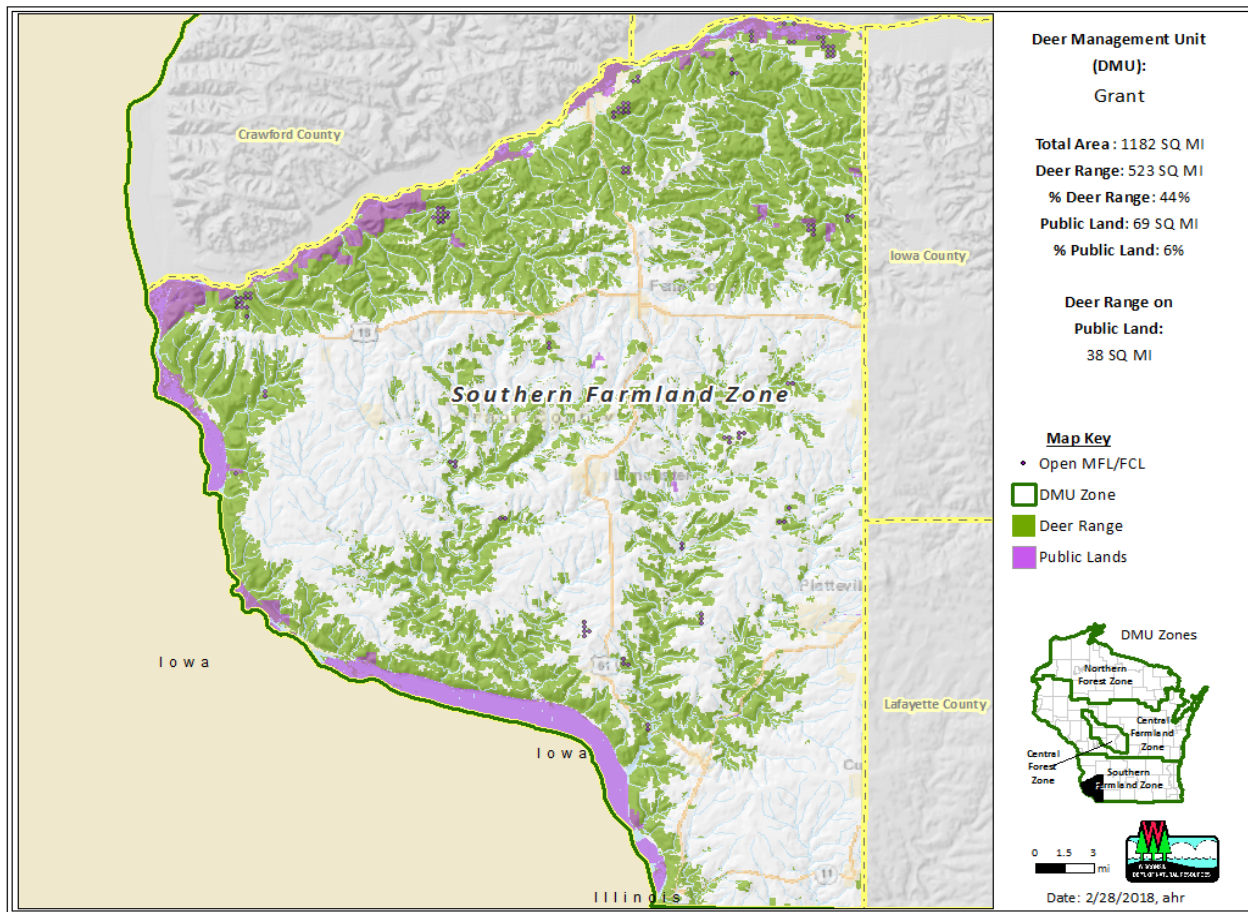


Grant County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

Grant County is located in the Southern Farmland Zone. The total land area is 1182 square miles, with 523 square miles (44 percent) considered suitable deer range. Agriculture land use is extensive in areas where the topography permits. These areas have some of the most fertile soils in the state. Land that is too steep to cultivate is generally wooded or pastured. The northern and western portions of the unit have many large-tract landowners and both hunting access and pressure is limited on much of the private land. As a result, neighboring producers experience substantial agricultural damage caused by deer. The northern portion of the unit is the most heavily forested and contains the majority of the public land. The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway lies along the unit's northern boundary. Wyalusing and Nelson Dewey State Park on the west side of the unit are also open to public hunting. The Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge along the unit's western border is open to public hunting although special regulations and closed areas exist in the refuge. The southern two-thirds of the unit are more open with the main forested areas located in the watersheds of the Grant and Platte Rivers. There is little public land in the southern two-thirds of the unit. Deer harvest during the 2017 season averaged 13 deer per square mile of deer range. There were 12 new cases of CWD detected in Grant County in 2017, bringing the total to 29. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain the population.