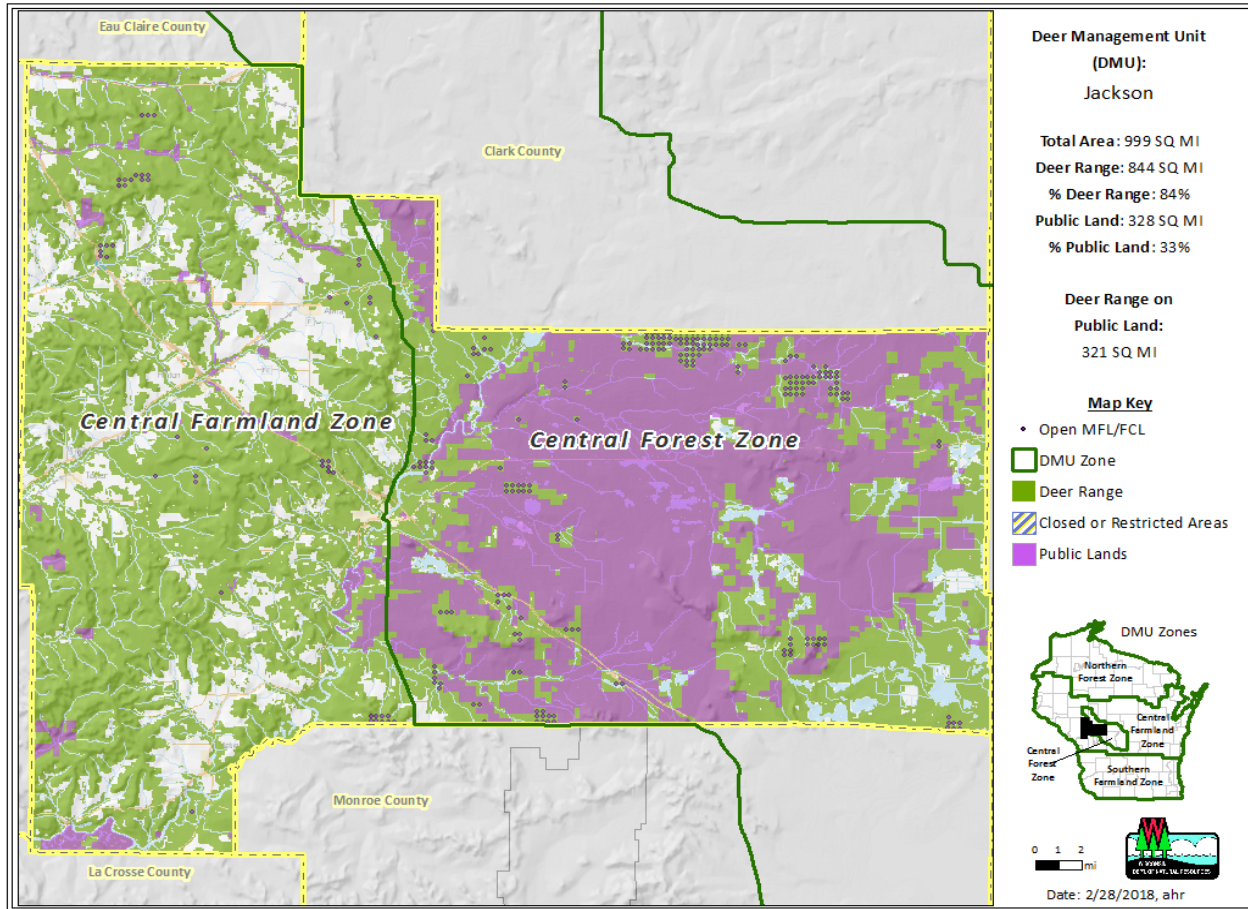


Jackson County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Jackson County Deer Management Unit is split into two management zones with about half of the county in the Central Forest Zone and half in the Central Farmland Zone. State Highway 27 divides the two zones. As a whole, approximately 84 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range and lies on the transition between the driftless area of western Wisconsin and the central forest region. As a result, habitat types, deer populations, public land availability and deer management strategies vary significantly between the west and east sides of the unit. The Central Farmland Zone terrain of in the western portion of the unit is typical of the driftless area with many valleys and ridge tops in agricultural production and steep, heavily wooded hillsides in-between. This habitat generally supports an abundant deer population and provides ample hunting opportunity on private property. Only four percent of the Central Farmland Zone portion of the unit is in public ownership. Those public properties include the North Bend Bottoms, South Beaver Creek, West Taylor State, and Morgan Marsh State Wildlife Areas as well as several state Fishery Areas open to public hunting. In addition to state-owned properties, hunters can access private land enrolled in either the open Managed Forest Law or Voluntary Public Access programs. The terrain in the Central Forest Zone portion of the unit is generally flat and is primarily forested. In general, this habitat produces fewer deer than the fertile farmland areas but still produces a moderate deer population with great hunting opportunities. Although deer populations are lower on this side of the unit, an abundance of public land open to hunting exists that provides hunters with ample room to spread out. These properties include the Black River State Forest, Jackson County Forest and a portion of the Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area. Combined, these properties offer vast hunting opportunities on over 190,000 acres. Hunting pressure is generally lower on these properties than on the smaller public properties in Central Farmland Zone portion of the unit. The current deer management objectives are to increase the population in the Central Forest Zone and stabilize the population in the Central Farmland Zone portion of the unit.