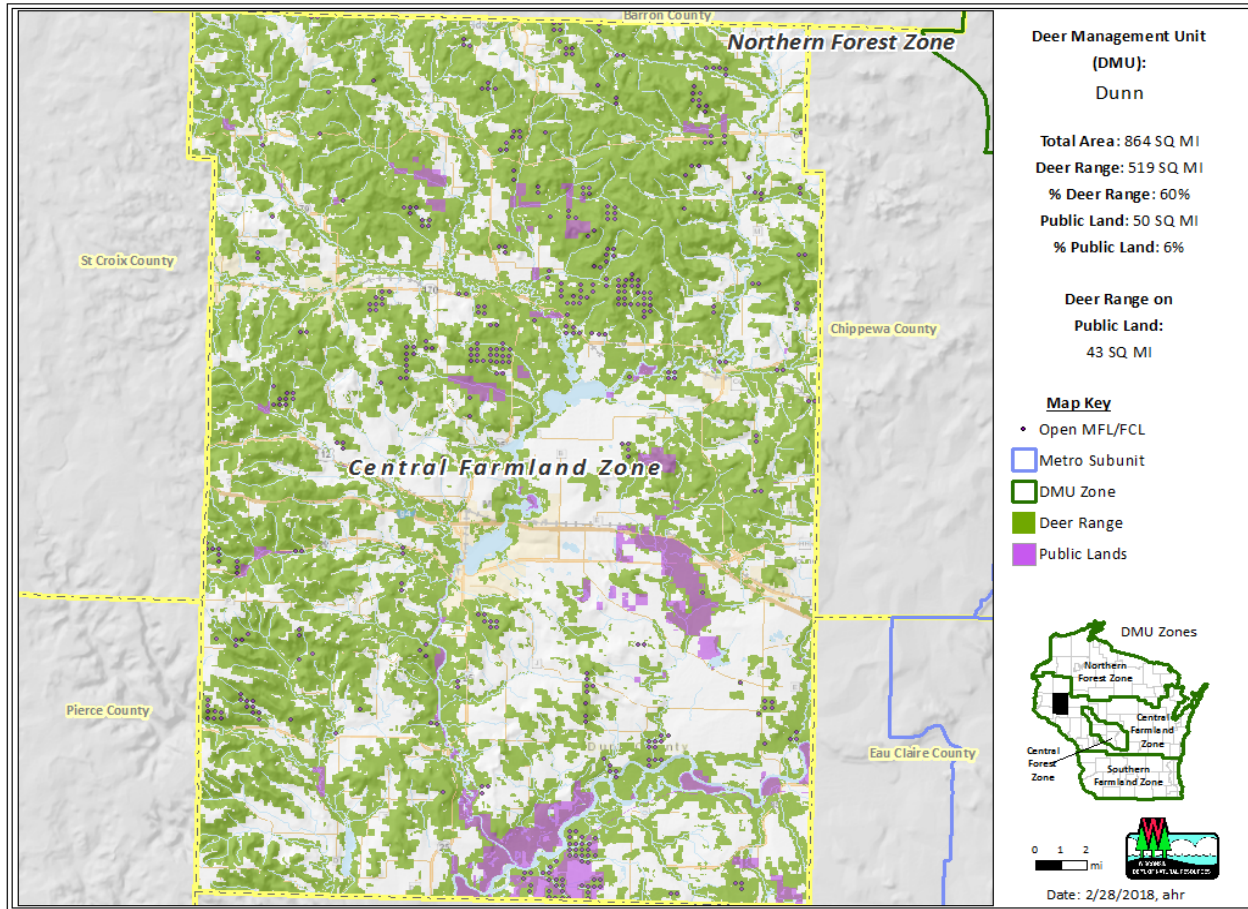


Dunn County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Dunn County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 67 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (586 square miles). Habitat quality varies greatly throughout the unit creating tremendous disparity in deer distribution. The unit is diverse and comprised of large wooded ridges and agricultural valleys, bottomland forest along the Hay, Red Cedar and Chippewa Rivers and expansive farmlands dominated by center-pivot irrigation agriculture. The tension zone runs through the northern portion of the unit creating a diverse plant community with species found in both the northern and southern parts of the state. Public hunting opportunities are abundant with nearly 20,000 acres of the unit in public lands. These properties include Muddy Creek Wildlife Area, Dunnville Wildlife Area, Lamb's Creek Wildlife Area, Big Beaver Creek Wildlife Area, Hay Creek Wildlife Area, Otter Creek State Natural Area, Nine Mile Island State Natural Area and the Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area. Public hunting is also permitted on county-owned portions of the Chippewa River Islands and on Xcel Energy's Tyrone property in the southern portion of the unit through enrollment in the open Voluntary Public Access and Managed Forest Land programs. In addition, deer hunting is allowed at Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area during the 9-day gun deer season only. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population.