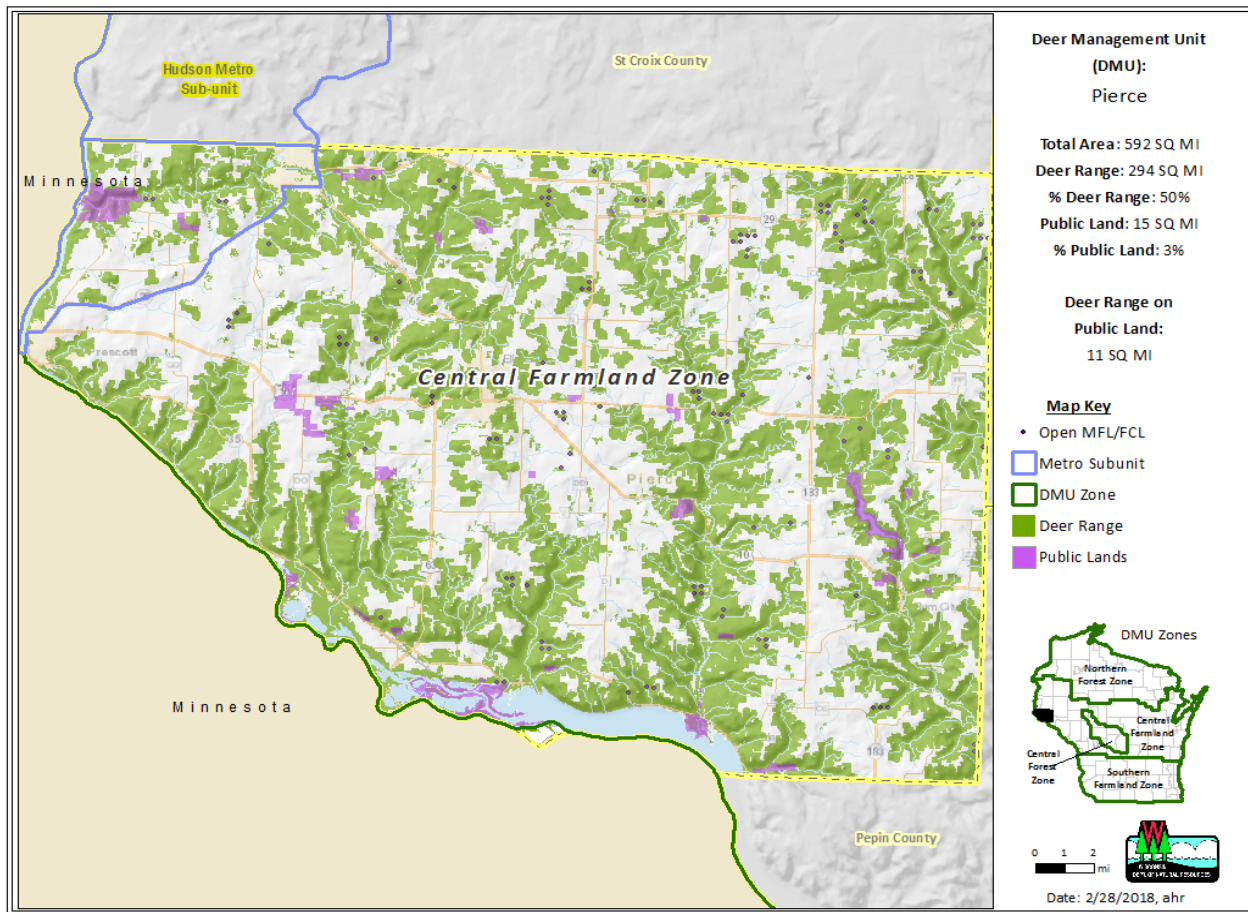


# Pierce County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Pierce County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 50 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range (294 square miles). The unit has a physically diverse landscape consisting of mixed hardwood coulees, river bottoms and agriculture. Suitable habitat is dispersed throughout the unit including vast wooded river floodplain and river bluffs associated with the Mississippi River, coulees and ridges in the eastern portion of the unit and scattered woodlots interspersed with agriculture throughout the central portion of the unit. The Hudson Metro subunit is a large urban interface with increasing rural development around the town of River Falls towards Hudson, and is located in the far northwestern portion of the county. This area provides additional hunting opportunities unique to Metro subunits. The vast majority (~98%) of land in the unit is private landownership. However, public hunting opportunities do exist on approximately 1,500 acres of public land including the Pierce County Islands Wildlife Area, Manion Wildlife Area and Rush River Delta State Natural Area. Additionally, there is approximately 3,000 acres of private land enrolled in the Voluntary Public Access program providing public hunting opportunities on private land. Also, located within the Hudson Metro subunit, the Kinnickinnic River State Park provides public hunting access during extended hunting opportunities for the Metro subunit. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 22 hunters per square mile of deer range and more than 6 bucks per square mile of deer range are harvested in the unit. Harvest averages 15 deer per square mile of deer range. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population.