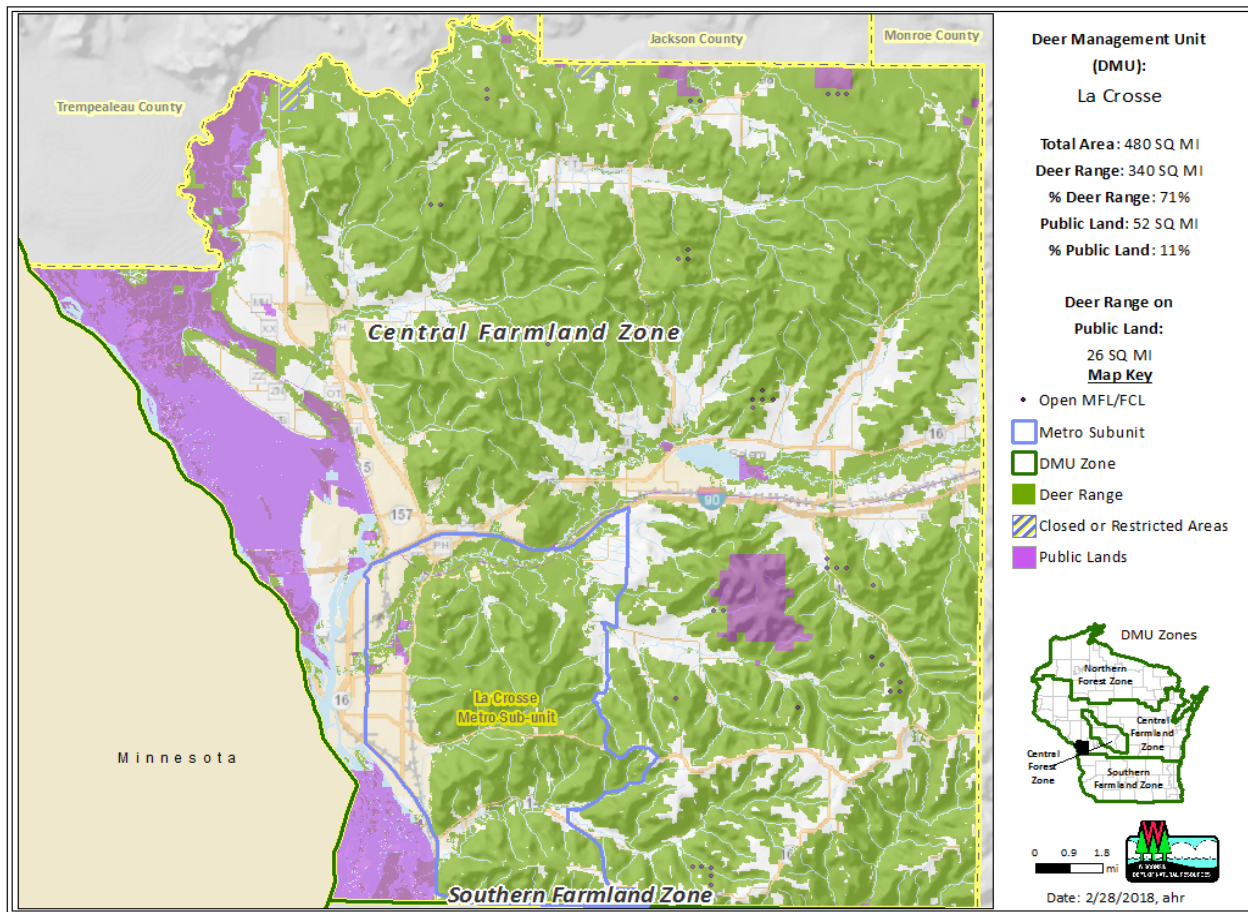


La Crosse County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The La Crosse Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 70 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The unit is located in what is frequently referred to as the Coulee Region. Coulees are made up of steep-walled valleys and ravines varying greatly in size and width, with many having streams or dry washes at the bottom. Most of the farmland in this unit is located on top of flat ridges or wide valley bottoms with forested areas on the hillsides. Forested areas are mainly dominated by oak and central hardwood species. The Black River delineates the northwest boundary and the Mississippi River delineates the western boundary of the unit, providing flood plain forest habitat for deer. This mix of habitat and agricultural lands provide ideal deer habitat. Roughly 90 percent of the unit is in private landownership and landowner permission is needed to hunt. State-owned public lands available for deer hunting include Coulee Experimental Forest and Van Loon Wildlife Area, with smaller state-owned parcels and easements along various trout streams. County-owned lands open to deer hunting include Hoeth County Forest and Brice County Forest. Other hunting opportunities exist on some local municipality lands and lands owned by non-profit organizations. Deer and hunter densities vary across the unit with numerous factors influencing local deer populations and hunter densities. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 15-20 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvests average 3-4 bucks per square mile of deer range. The La Crosse Metro subunit is primarily an urbanized area with extended harvest seasons to increase deer hunting effectiveness and management of the deer herd. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population. New baiting and feeding bans will go into affect for La Crosse County in 2018 due to the proximity of recent CWD positives found in Vernon County.