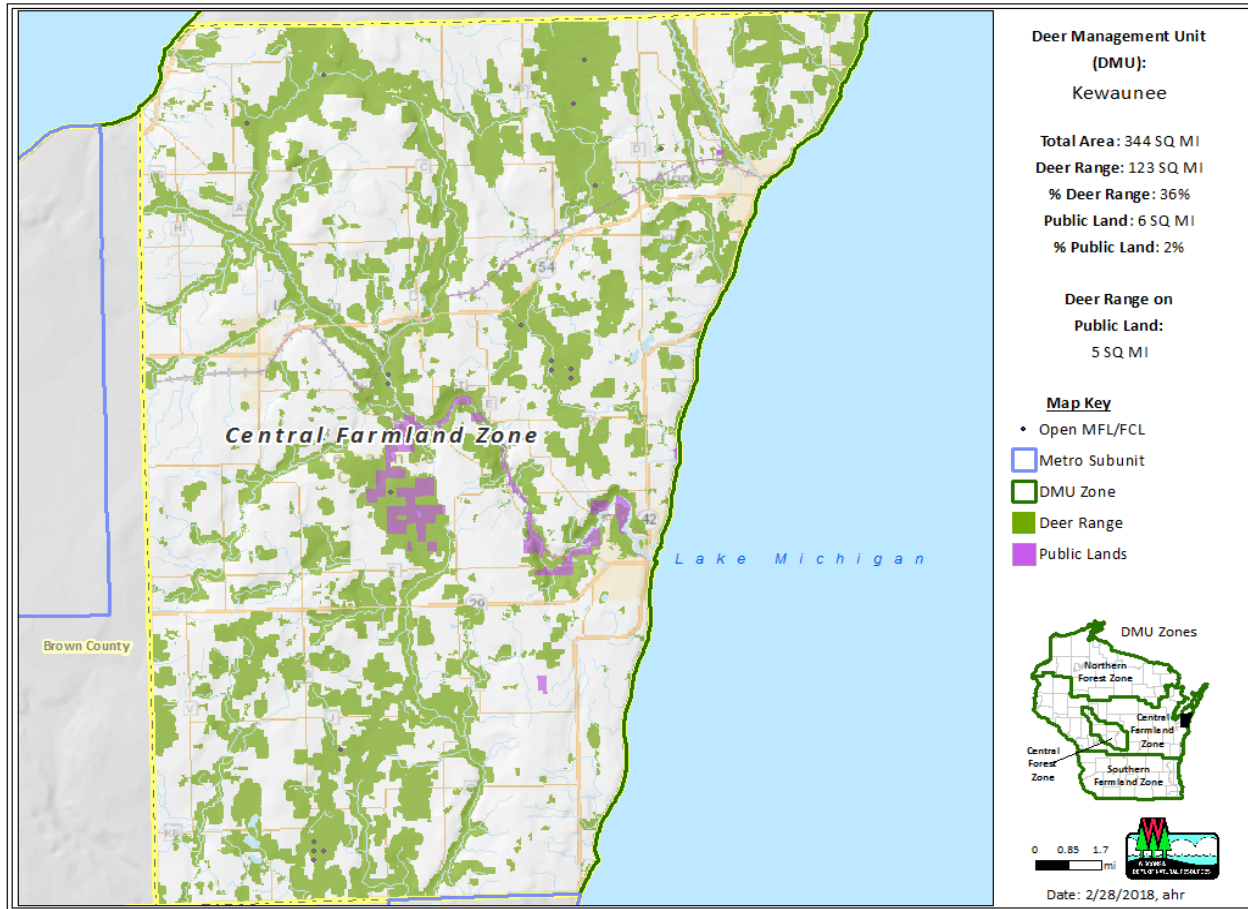


Kewaunee County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Kewaunee County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. 35 percent of the unit is considered suitable winter deer range. However deer occupy a larger portion of the landscape during the summer and fall in scattered woodlots and wetlands. The mix of forest and ag land provides optimal deer habitat and deer populations can grow quickly. Winter browse has been impacted by years high deer density and winter impacts can occur if agricultural food is not available. Lake Michigan influences temperatures, keeping most winters milder than farther inland, but also delays spring green up a bit. Public hunting opportunities are concentrated in the eastcentral portion of the unit in the state-owned Besadny Fish and Wildlife Area. In this county it is important to achieve an adequate antlerless harvest to avoid excessive browse and agricultural damage. The current deer herd management objective is to maintain the population, which requires an antlerless harvest at almost 2:1 compared to bucks. This has been supported by multiple farmland antlerless tags issued with each license. However, the herd is near record high numbers, so increasing the antlerless harvest is still called for to move the population to a more sustainable level.

Deer Management Unit Harvest History

Fawn to doe ratios collected in late summer give information on fawn recruitment and survival and are used as an input into the formula for annual deer herd abundance estimation. Fawn to doe ratios were summarized using groups of county deer management units. County deer management units were grouped based on location, habitat characteristics, and deer demography.