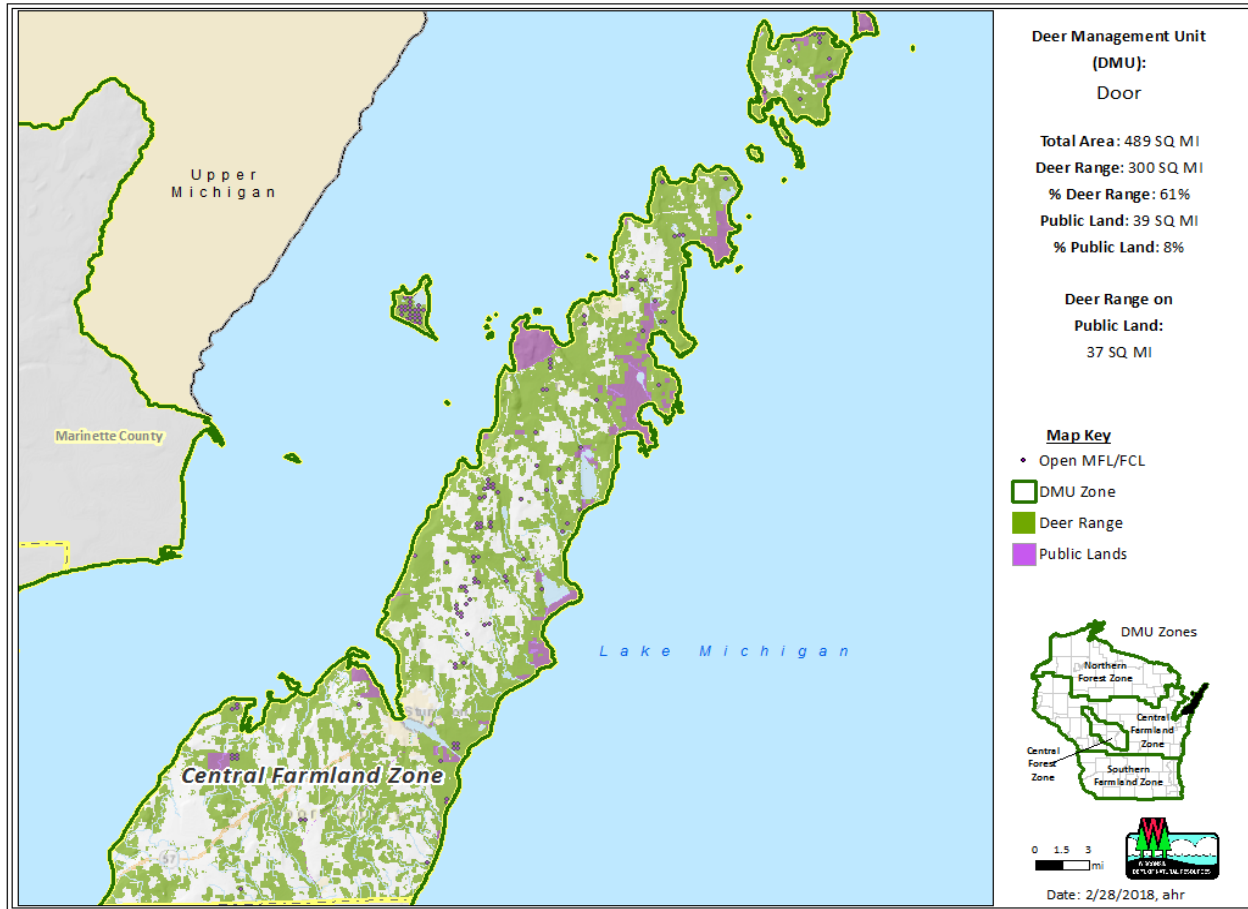


Door County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Door County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 61.5 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Deer range varies considerably from nearly 100 percent forested habitat on the islands to less than 30 percent scattered woodlots in the southern agricultural areas of the unit. Habitat quality also varies greatly, creating a tremendous disparity in the distribution of the deer herd from north to south. Deer range varies from dense cedar forests similar to Canadian boreal areas supporting low deer numbers in the north, to flat farmlands with hardwoods and shallow productive agricultural soils in the south capable of supporting many more deer. Available winter browse in the southern portion of the unit and on islands is very limited and winter impacts on the herd can occur fairly quickly compared with cedar swamp habitats of the northern portion. Public hunting opportunities are well scattered, but total only a small percent of the acreage available. Most public land acreage is in State Park and conservancy areas which allow deer hunting, but in a much reduced season structure. A unique aspect of this unit is that the vast majority the boundary is surrounded by large water bodies, essentially functioning as a large linear island. Also, impacts of deer migration and hunting in adjacent units are minimal. In this unit it is important to maintain an adequate antlerless harvest to avoid excessive browse and agricultural damage. Due to unique fruit and vegetable agricultural farms in the unit, deer damage thresholds are more quickly met than traditional corn and soybean rotations. The current deer herd management objective is to decrease the population.