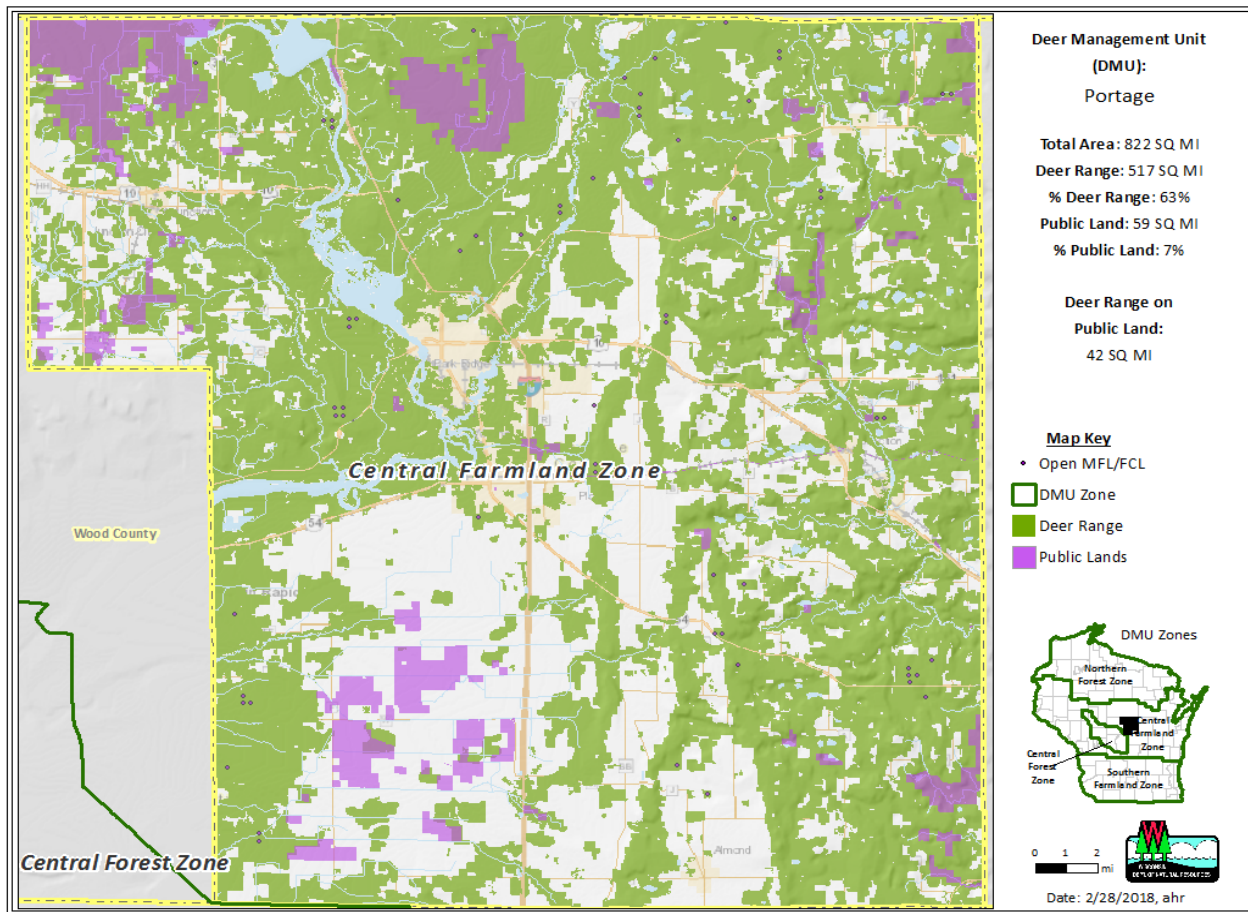


Portage County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Portage County Deer Management Unit is located in the Central Farmland Zone. Approximately 63 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. Habitat varies considerably from rolling moraines with dairy production and center-pivot irrigated agriculture in the eastern and southern portions of the unit, to flat, sandy plains in the central and southwestern portions, and to the gently rolling topography with numerous floodplains and wetlands in the northwestern portion. Such diverse habitats result in great differences in deer distribution throughout the unit. There are numerous public land hunting opportunities available with nearly 36,000 acres of land open. These public lands include George W. Mead Wildlife Area, Dewey Wildlife Area and Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area in the northwest; Buena Vista Wildlife Area in the southwest; Emmons Creek Fishery Area, Radley Creek Fishery Area, Hartman Creek State Park and Pickerel Lake State Natural Area in the southeast; and Peterson-Sannes Creek Fishery Area, Richard Hemp Fishery Area, Little Wolf Fishery Area and New Hope Pines State Natural Area in the northeast. The county-owned Wisconsin River Recreation Area north of the city of Stevens Point and the Becker Lake Recreation Area north of Ellis are also managed as public hunting areas. The current deer herd management objective is to stabilize the population.

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.