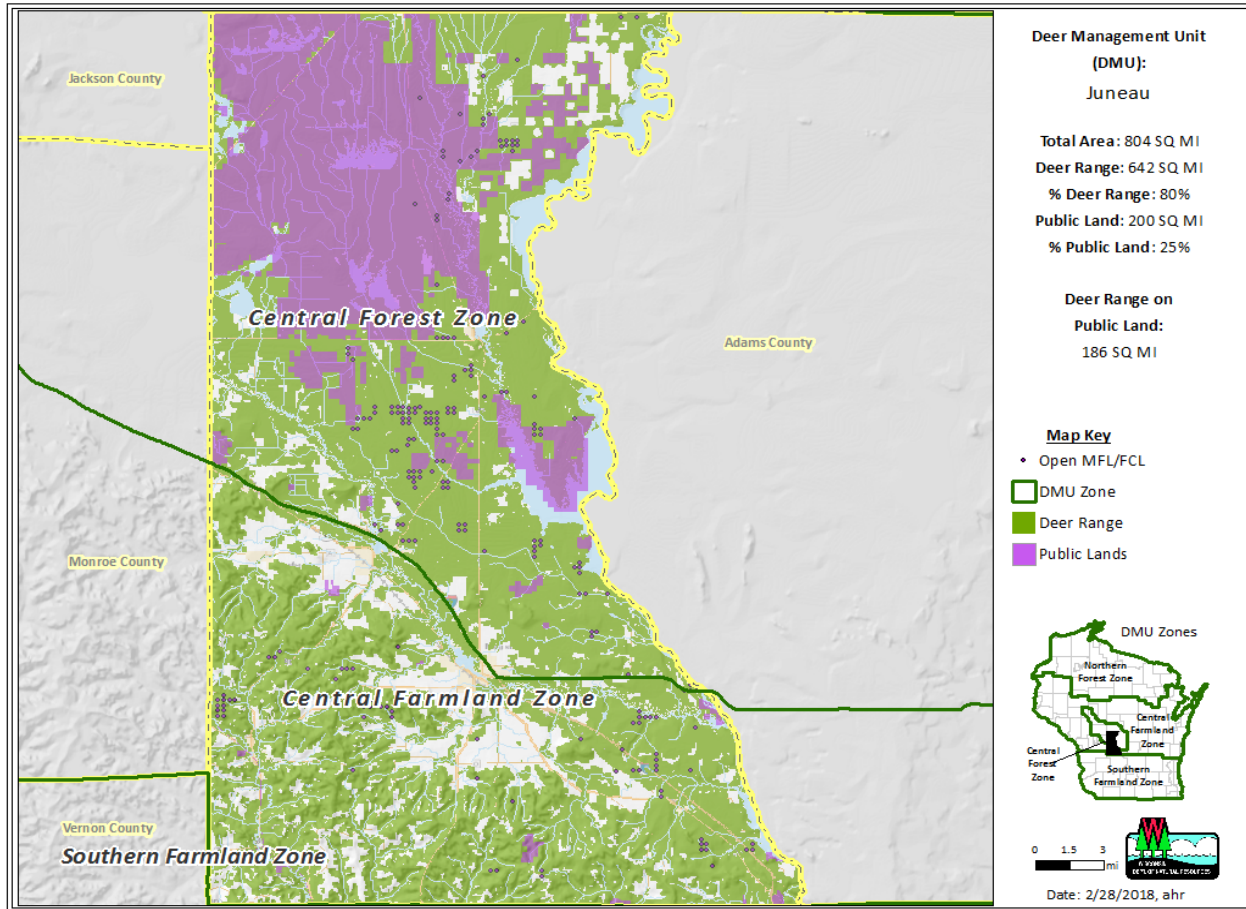


# Juneau County Deer Metrics Report

## Spring of 2024

### Management Unit:



### Manager's Note:

The Juneau County Deer Management Unit is divided between both the Central Forest Zone and Central Farmland Zone with the division being State Highway 82 from the eastern border of the unit intersecting and then following Interstate 90/94 to the western border. Approximately 74 percent of the unit is considered suitable deer range. The Central Forest Zone lies to the north and east of State Highway 82/Interstate 90/94 and the Central Farmland Zone portion lies to the south and west. The habitat quality varies greatly across both zones leading to high variability in deer distribution. The Central Forest Zone portion of the unit is characterized by large forest blocks, expansive public lands and some large irrigated fields to the eastern side. The habitat is far more productive for deer in the Central Farmland Zone portion where crop fields can be found on the hilltops with wooded valleys adjacent. Because of a good reproductive capacity, a robust deer population provides many hunting opportunities. These opportunities are mostly on private lands as only 2.8 percent of the total land area in this portion of the unit is public land. However, large amounts of public land are found in the Central Forest Zone portion including Meadow Valley Wildlife Area, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Buckhorn Wildlife Area, Yellow River Wildlife Area and Juneau County Forest Lands. Public land comprises 38 percent of the total area in this portion of the unit. In addition to public lands already mentioned, opportunities can be found at Buckhorn State Park, and on private lands enrolled in open Managed Forest Law and Voluntary Public Access programs. The Central Forest Zone portion is not as productive and can be influenced by severe winters. The current deer herd management objectives are to increase the population in the Central Forest Zone portion and stabilize in the Central Farmland Zone portion of the unit. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in Juneau County since 2012, and continues to be an important factor in deer management in this unit.