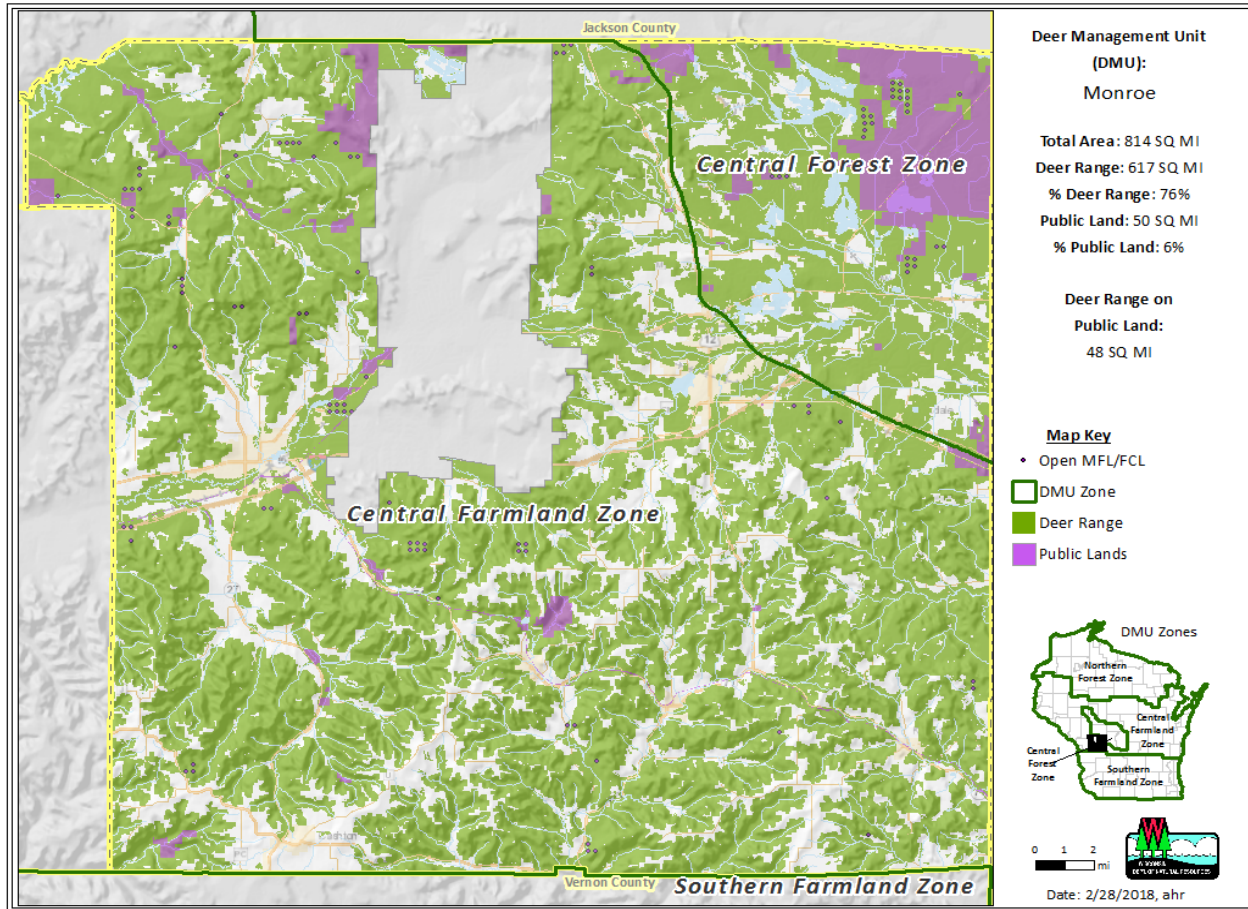


Monroe County Deer Metrics Report

Spring of 2024

Management Unit:



Manager's Note:

The Monroe County Deer Management Unit is divided between both the Central Forest Zone and Central Farmland Zone with Interstate 94 being the boundary line between the two zones. The majority of the unit lies in the Central Farmland Zone with the northeast corner in the Central Forest Zone. Approximately 75 percent of the farmland and 79 percent in Forest zone are considered suitable deer range. Habitats vary from coulees and ridges in the south and west, to sand barrens in the northeast portion of the unit. Deer habitat quality also varies across the unit creating disparity in deer distribution. Traditional agriculture can be found throughout the unit with cranberry farms located in sandy soil areas of the north. Private landownership comprises 85 percent of the land area. Some of the larger state-owned public lands open to deer hunting include Meadow Valley Wildlife Area, Big Creek Fisheries Area and La Crosse River Fisheries Area, with smaller scattered state-owned lands throughout. Fort McCoy is a military base that totals 60,000 acres with about 46,000 acres open to public hunting; for more information please contact their Permit and Sales office at 608-388-3337. Other public lands open to hunting include Monroe County Forest Lands; for more information please contact the Monroe County Forester at 608-269-8635. Hunter densities on opening day of the 9-day gun deer season average about 20 hunters per square mile of deer range. Buck harvest averages 3-4 bucks per square mile of deer range. The current deer management objective is to maintain the population in the Central Forest Zone portion and decrease the population in the Central Farmland Zone portion of the unit. Due to recent CWD positives found in Vernon county and proximity to Monroe county a baiting and feeding ban will be in affect for 2021.