

DEER PERMIT AREA 173 HUNTING INFORMATION

2024 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: One-deer limit: antlerless permit lottery (25)

Firearm Options: All Legal Firearms

Special Regulations: Special CWD related regulations in this area. See mndnr.gov/cwd for details

Seasons:

- Archery: Sept. 14 - Dec. 31
- Youth: Oct. 17 - 20
- Early Antlerless: N/A
- Firearm A: Nov. 9 - 24
- Firearm B: N/A
- Muzzleloader: Nov. 30 - Dec. 15
- Late CWD Hunts: N/A

Land Cover Types	% Tot.
Woody Cover	81
Grassland and Wetlands	11
Annual Row Crops	0
Open Water	5
Developed	2

Total Land Area in 2023 (Non-water)

471 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Hunting

Publically Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	17
State Forest	136
Misc. State Land	33
County Managed Land	126
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	0
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	2
Walk-In Access	0
Total for Public Hunting	314

Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 173 is an area of mixed hardwood, aspen, and lowland conifer forest that has plenty of public access (60%). There is good cover and winter habitat, but quality forage is scattered. DPA 173 has low success rates and there are indications that the population continues to decline. The winter of 2023-24 was quite mild and should move the population toward goal, but there is still a need to be conservative. Harvest rates continue to come in lower than desired and hunters express frustration with the deer numbers. DPA 173 will change to Lottery 25 for the 2024 season. A small lottery will provide opportunity for archery, youth hunters, and other users. This will help move the population towards the goal set in 2021.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Russell Reisz, 218-429-3053

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information Mandatory CWD testing Nov. 9-10

A deer feeding and attractant ban is in effect for Aitkin and Itasca County. See mndnr.gov/cwd/feedban.html for details

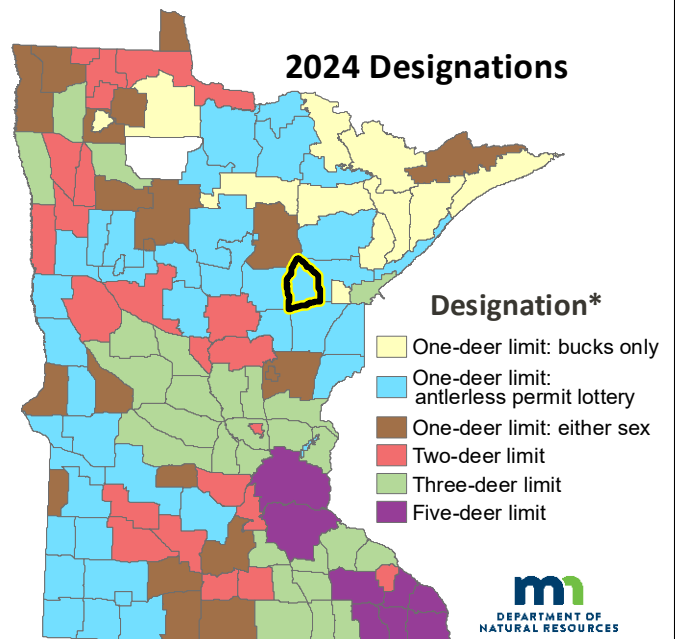
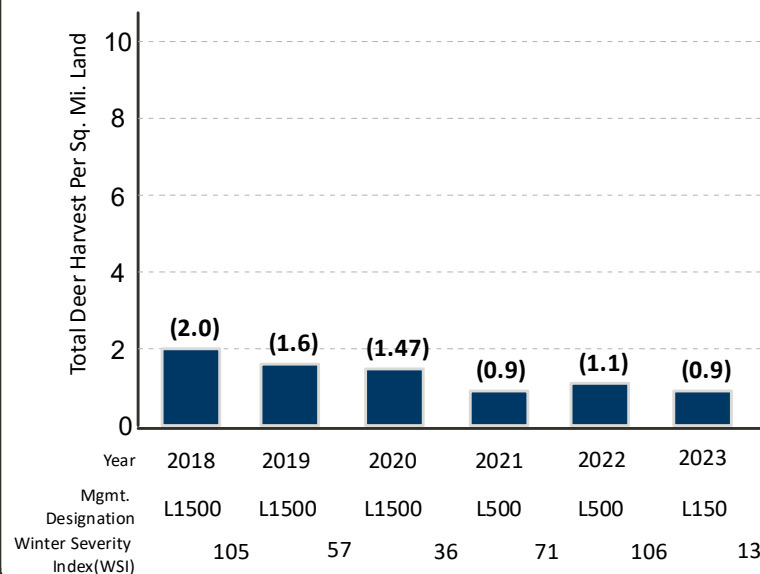
2023 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 6
Hunter Success: 15%

2023 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	305	7	67	5	384
Archery	9	0	16	3	28
Muzzleloader	1	0	0	0	1
Total Harvest	315	7	83	8	413

Deer Harvest, Management Designation and Winter Severity Index from 2018 - 2023/24



* see page 70 in the hunting regulations for details