

DEER PERMIT AREA 218 HUNTING INFORMATION

2024 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: Three-deer limit

Firearm Options: Shotgun using slugs, muzzleloaders and handguns legal for big game

Special Regulations: N/A

Seasons:

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

Land Cover Types % Tot.

Woody Cover	12
Grassland and Wetlands	29
Annual Row Crops	49
Open Water	4
Developed	6

Total Land Area in 2023 (Non-water)

884 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Hunting

Publically Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	9
State Forest	0
Misc. State Land	0.2
County Managed Land	0
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	14
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	0
Total for Public Hunting	23.2

Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 218 contains much of southern Stearns County and parts of eastern Pope County. DPA 218 varies from intensive agriculture in areas of the west to wooded rural/urban areas to the east. Deer populations in this DPA have usually remained very stable through the years with adequate harvest pressure. Population goal setting took place in 2019-2020, with the final goal of a 25% decrease in the deer population relative to 2019. Liberal to moderate deer harvest strategies are necessary to achieve this, thus a Three-deer limit with an early antlerless season is in place in 2024 to help meet the goal.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Peter Borash, 320-223-7871

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information

Optional CWD testing - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/cwd-testing.html>

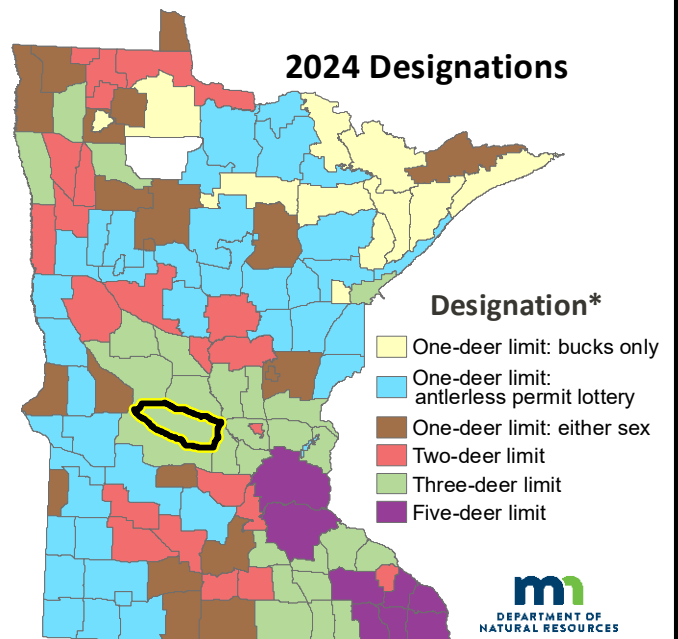
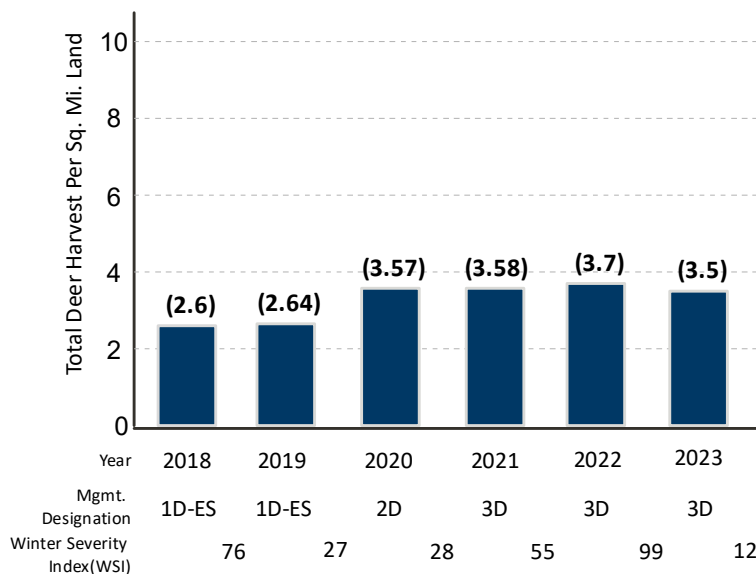
2023 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 7
Hunter Success: 39%

2023 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	1118	239	766	182	2305
Archery	176	31	303	34	544
Muzzleloader	82	23	124	14	243
Total Harvest	1376	293	1193	230	3092

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



* see page 70 in the hunting regulations for details