

DEER PERMIT AREA 218 HUNTING INFORMATION

2025 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: Three-deer limit - Early Antlerless

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

Special Regulations: N/A

Seasons:

Archery: Sept. 13 - Dec. 31

Youth: Oct. 16-19

Early Antlerless: Oct. 16-19

Statewide Firearms: Nov. 8 - 16

Late SE Firearms: N/A

Muzzleloader: Nov. 29 - Dec. 14

Late CWD: 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 2024 (Non-water)

884 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly 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 is a very productive area that 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. Despite a hard winter in 2022-2023 and high harvest in recent years, consecutive mild winters have led to rising deer populations. Liberal to moderate deer harvest is necessary to maintain and possibly decrease the population, thus a 3-Deer limit with an Early Antlerless season is in place in 2025.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Peter Borash, 320-223-7869

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information
Optional CWD testing

2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

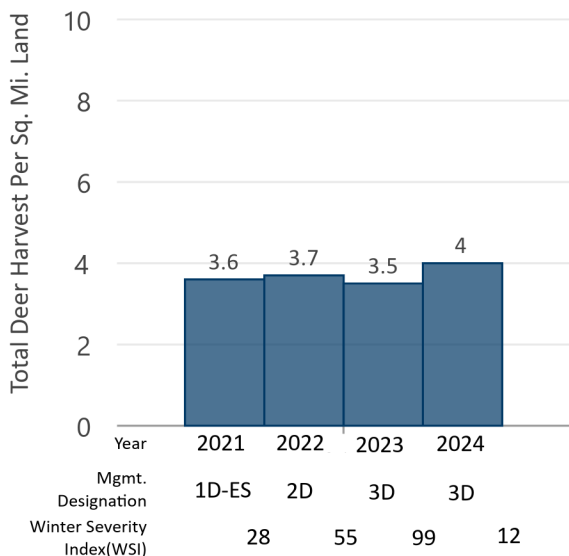
Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 7

Hunter Success: 44%

2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	1394	214	818	189	2615
Archery	247	47	349	42	685
Muzzleloader	74	28	139	12	253
Total Harvest	1715	289	1306	243	3553

Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



2025 Designations

