

DEER PERMIT AREA 269 HUNTING INFORMATION

2025 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: One-deer limit: antlerless permit lottery (275)

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

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

Seasons:

Archery: Sept. 13 - Dec. 31

Youth: Oct. 16-19

Early Antlerless: N/A

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	4
Grassland and Wetlands	19
Annual Row Crops	69
Open Water	1
Developed	7

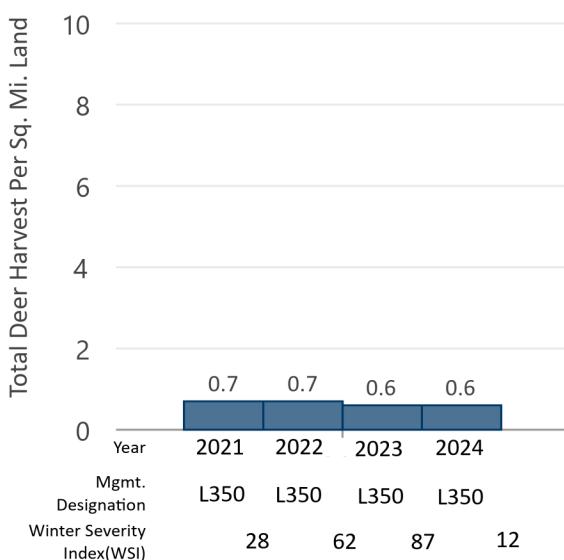
Total Land Area in 2024 (Non-water)

650 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	17
State Forest	0
Misc. State Land	2
County Managed Land	0
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	5
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	5
Total for Public Hunting	29

Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 269 includes the southern half of Clay and the north quarter of Wilkin Counties. The land base is 70% agricultural, but a decent habitat mix of grasslands, wetlands and woodlots are present along the Agassiz Beach Ridge and the Red River and its tributaries. Severe winters in 2022 and 2023 reduced deer numbers below goal, but easy winters in 2024 and 2025 have the herd rebounding nicely. Buck harvest increased by 15% in 2024 while the antlerless harvest remained low due to restrictive antlerless tag allocations. There is a high population of deer around Buffalo River State Park, but in general deer numbers remain slightly below goal levels established in 2019. New this year - this DPA is now a CWD Surveillance Area with mandatory sampling of deer harvested during the opening weekend of the firearms deer season, and a deer feeding and attractant ban for Clay and Wilkin Counties; see the 2025 MN Hunting Regulations for more information. A Lottery designation with a small increase in antlerless tags to 275 will be used in 2025 to maximize harvest opportunities while allowing the herd to continue to grow towards goal levels.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Rob Baden, 218-846-8476

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information

Mandatory CWD testing Nov. 8-9

A deer feeding and attractant ban is in effect for Clay and Wilkin Counties. See mndnr.gov/cwd/feedban.html for details

2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 2

Hunter Success: 24%

2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	253	9	36	4	302
Archery	53	3	20	3	79
Muzzleloader	32	1	4	0	37
Total Harvest	338	13	60	7	418

2025 Designations

