

# DEER PERMIT AREA 274 HUNTING INFORMATION

## 2025 Deer Hunting Information

**Designation:** One-deer limit: antlerless permit lottery (350)

**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: 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	1
Grassland and Wetlands	17
Annual Row Crops	68
Open Water	9
Developed	5

### Total Land Area in 2024 (Non-water)

354 Sq. Mi.

### Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	5
State Forest	0
Misc. State Land	0
County Managed Land	0
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	11
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	0.1
<b>Total for Public Hunting</b>	<b>16.1</b>

## Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 274 encompasses much of Big Stone County, with a small portion extending into Traverse County near Brown's Valley. The best habitat and deer numbers are in a band of hardwood ravines and prairie knobs along the shores of Big Stone Lake. While there is some public hunting opportunity here, most of the land is private. The rest of DPA 274 is dominated by ag land with shallow lakes and grasslands, where deer numbers are lower. Both total harvest and buck harvest increased last year. This is indicative of strong deer numbers and plenty of opportunities for hunters to harvest deer. Given the harvest and subsequent mild winter, we believe deer numbers are now at the upper end or slightly above goal, with continued pockets of deer causing crop issues. To reduce the herd and stay within goal we increased antlerless permits in a slightly to 350 in a Lottery.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Curt Vacek, 320-435-4040

**Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information**  
Optional CWD testing

## 2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

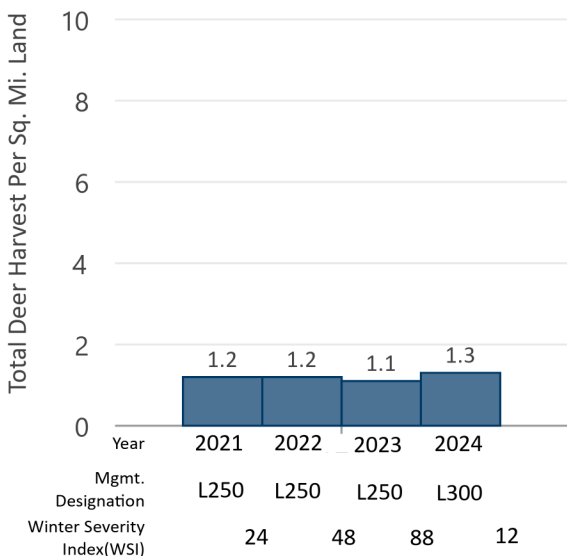
Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 3

Hunter Success: 35%

## 2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
<b>Firearms</b>	279	19	64	7	369
<b>Archery</b>	34	2	17	2	55
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	20	0	9	0	29
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>453</b>

## Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



## 2025 Designations

