

DEER PERMIT AREA 277 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	11
Grassland and Wetlands	31
Annual Row Crops	43
Open Water	10
Developed	5

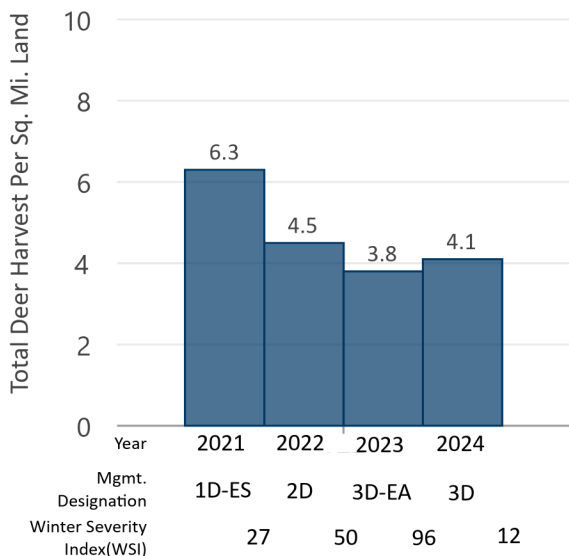
Total Land Area in 2024 (Non-water)

1058 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	17
State Forest	0
Misc. State Land	8
County Managed Land	0
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	34
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	1
Total for Public Hunting	60

Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 277 lies along the Alexandria Glacial Moraine. As such, we are blessed with a rich and diverse mosaic of natural resources and habitat. The area is a patchwork quilt of cropland, lakes, prairie pothole wetlands, grasslands, and mesic oak-basswood forest. There are numerous public lands available for hunting, including State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and even more U.S. Fish and Wildlife administered Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs). In addition, there is a decent percentage of private land enrolled into conservation programs, such as: CRP, RIM, and USFWS grassland/wetland easements. While northern MN and SE Minnesota get more fanfare, DPA 277 is a top tier deer hunting area by any metric. The 2019 public goal setting process arrived at a goal of reducing the 2019 deer population by 25%. Harvest numbers indicate that we may have approached that following the harsh winter of 2022-23. However, the extremely mild winters of 2023-24 and 2024-25 have allowed the population to more than recover. Buck harvest is a reliable indicator of the overall deer population. 2024 buck harvest was a record high for the DPA. In fact, it was nearly 30% higher than the median target buck harvest for the DPA. Given the excellent habitat, food availability, and consecutive mild winters, we need to be aggressive with the hunt strategy to bring this population towards the public set goal using a 3-Deer limit and an Early Antlerless season.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Cory Netland, 320-347-7630

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information
Optional CWD testing

2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 8

Hunter Success: 37%

2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	1879	193	842	154	3068
Archery	344	50	399	42	835
Muzzleloader	137	34	209	18	398
Total Harvest	2360	277	1450	214	4301

