

DEER PERMIT AREA 278 HUNTING INFORMATION

2025 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: One-deer limit: antlerless permit lottery (300)

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	3
Grassland and Wetlands	30
Annual Row Crops	55
Open Water	7
Developed	5

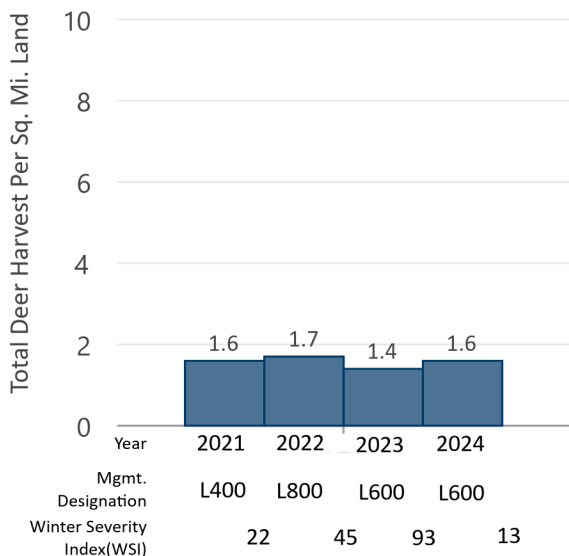
Total Land Area in 2024 (Non-water)

402 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	40
State Forest	0
Misc. State Land	0.2
County Managed Land	0
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	19
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	0.2
Total for Public Hunting	59.4

Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 278 runs along the Minnesota River from Ortonville southeast to Montevideo, containing parts of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift Counties. Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge and LqP WMA highlight this DPA; nearly 20% is public land with excellent deer habitat. Agriculture is the dominant land use outside of the public lands, but still includes some decent habitat interspersed throughout. Harvest data suggests deer numbers remain at the lower end of our goal, if not slightly below. However, we had a second consecutive mild winter and field reports indicate the population might be higher than the harvest indicates. We will once again issue 300 antlerless tags in a Lottery and continue to monitor trends in the harvest.

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

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information
Optional CWD testing

2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

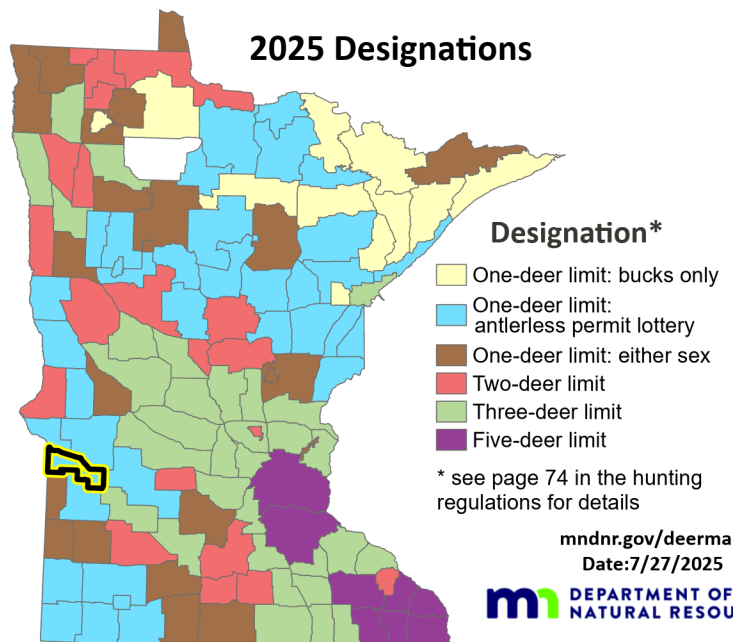
Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 4

Hunter Success: 26%

2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	390	15	52	8	465
Archery	63	2	24	1	90
Muzzleloader	53	2	11	3	69
Total Harvest	506	19	87	12	624

2025 Designations



mndnr.gov/deermap

Date: 7/27/2025