

DEER PERMIT AREA 281 HUNTING INFORMATION

2025 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: Three-deer limit

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	6
Grassland and Wetlands	15
Annual Row Crops	72
Open Water	2
Developed	6

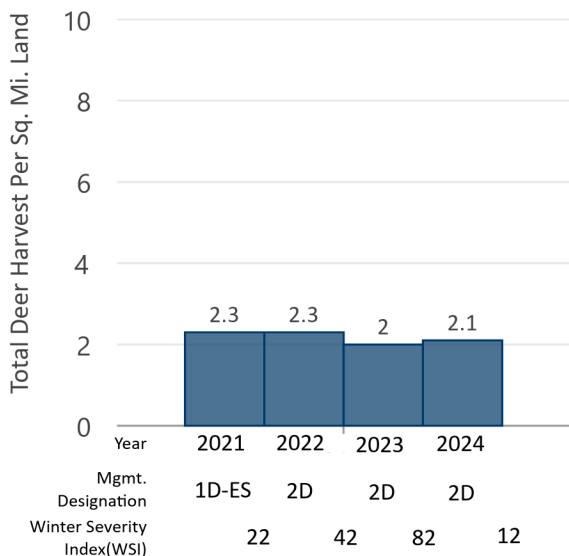
Total Land Area in 2024 (Non-water)

575 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	7
State Forest	0
Misc. State Land	1
County Managed Land	2
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	2
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	1
Total for Public Hunting	13

Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 281 encompasses a large swath of the Minnesota River valley and the lower reaches of some of its tributaries. A mixture of floodplain forest, oak woods, prairie, wetlands, and cropland provides a very diverse mix of habitat that provides for a large deer herd. The population in this permit area has been over goal for some time and has necessitated a more liberal strategy than many surrounding permit areas. Several public land hunting opportunities are found within the permit area and are heavily used during archery, firearm, and muzzleloading deer seasons. The designation for 2025 will be 3-Deer limit.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Jeffrey Zajac, 507-233-1257

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information
Optional CWD testing

2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

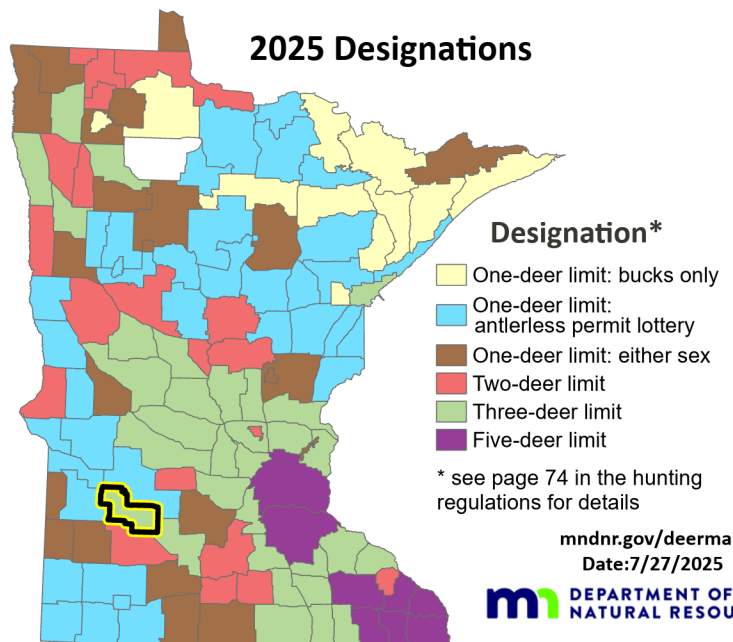
Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 5

Hunter Success: 34%

2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	603	32	225	36	896
Archery	99	9	86	5	199
Muzzleloader	51	3	75	3	132
Total Harvest	753	44	386	44	1227

2025 Designations



mndnr.gov/deermap

Date: 7/27/2025