

DEER PERMIT AREA 281 HUNTING INFORMATION

2024 Deer Hunting Information

Designation: Two-deer limit

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

Special Regulations: N/A

Seasons:

- Archery: Sept. 14 - Dec. 31
- Youth: Oct. 17 - 20
- Early Antlerless: N/A
- Firearm A: Nov. 9 - 17
- Firearm B: N/A
- Muzzleloader: Nov. 30 - Dec. 15
- Late CWD Hunts: 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 2023 (Non-water)

575 Sq. Mi.

Lands Open to Public Hunting

Publically 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

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 2024 will be Two-deer limit.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Jeffrey Zajac, 507-637-4076

Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information
 Optional CWD testing - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/cwd-testing.html>

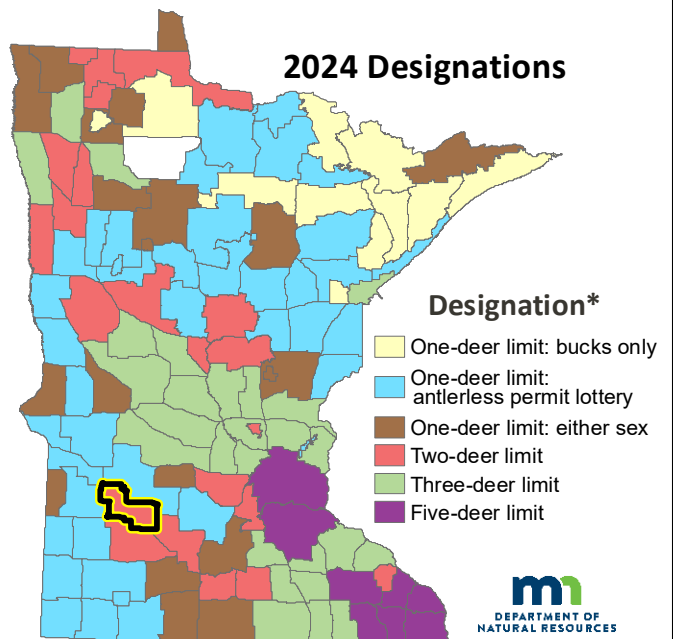
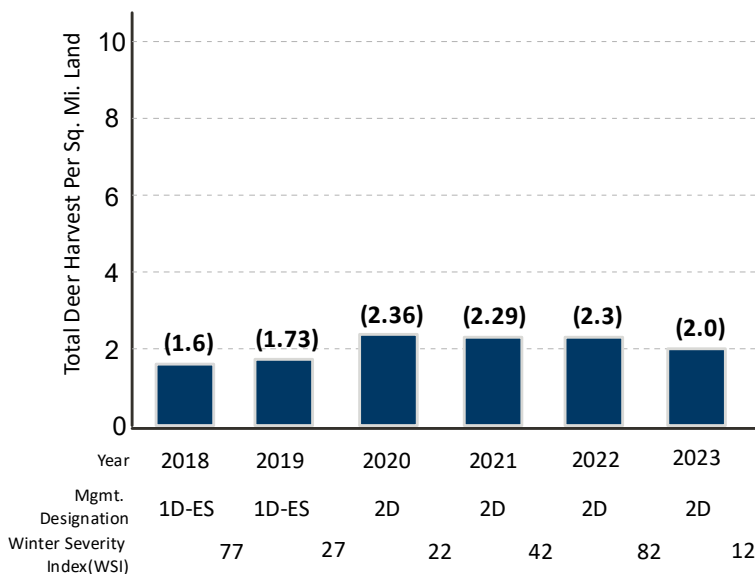
2023 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 5
 Hunter Success: 31%

2023 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	472	42	262	30	806
Archery	85	10	105	5	205
Muzzleloader	63	8	70	4	145
Total Harvest	620	60	437	39	1156

Deer Harvest, Management Designation and Winter Severity Index from 2018 - 2023/24



* see page 70 in the hunting regulations for details