The Winter Severity Index (WSI) is a general measure of winter conditions based on the premise that prolonged cold temperatures and deep snow can reduce overwinter survival of white-tailed deer. In Minnesota, the WSI is calculated by accumulating a point for each day with an ambient temperature \( \leq 0 \) degrees F and an additional point for each day with a snow depth \( \geq 15 \) inches. End-of-season values <100 indicate a mild winter; values >180 indicate a severe winter.

Temperature data: PRISM Climate Group
Snow depth data: MN Climatology Working Group

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