

# DEER PERMIT AREA 126 HUNTING INFORMATION

## 2025 Deer Hunting Information

**Designation:** One-deer limit: bucks only

**Firearm Options:** All Legal Firearms

**Special Regulations:** N/A

### Seasons:

Archery: Sept. 13 - Dec. 31

Youth: Oct. 16-19

Early Antlerless: N/A

Statewide Firearms: Nov. 8 - 23

Late SE Firearms: N/A

Muzzleloader: Nov. 29 - Dec. 14

Late CWD: N/A

### Land Cover Types % Tot.

Woody Cover	93
Grassland and Wetlands	1
Annual Row Crops	0
Open Water	4
Developed	2

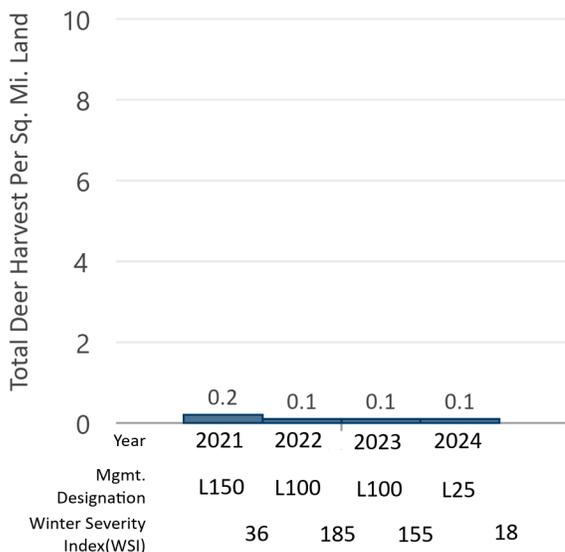
### Total Land Area in 2024 (Non-water)

942 Sq. Mi.

### Lands Open to Public Access Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	7
State Forest	119
Misc. State Land	53
County Managed Land	16
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	0
USFS Land (National Forest)	517
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0.8
Walk-In Access	0
<b>Total for Public Hunting</b>	<b>712.8</b>

### Harvest, Designation and Winter Severity Index (WSI)



## Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 126 is largely forested public land in Cook County from the Manitou River and Lake Superior shoreline to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Grand Portage Reservation boundaries. There's more private land surrounding small towns and resort areas along Highway 61 and Grand Marais. Winter and habitat impact deer populations the most here. Deer typically spend winters near the Lake Superior shoreline unless conditions are mild. For this past winter, deep snow remained in the forest throughout April thanks to some late season snowfalls and prevented deer from moving inland until sometime in May. The current spruce budworm outbreak has damaged or killed large acreages of fir and spruce across Cook County which further limits good winter cover for deer as well as summer and winter cover for moose. The 2022 population goal for DPA 126 was to keep the deer population low but stable to minimize impacts to moose in Cook County. The deer population is still below goal and thus a Bucks-Only strategy will remain in effect for the 2025 hunting seasons.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Nancy Hansen, 218-834-1452

**Important Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Information**  
Optional CWD testing

### 2024 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 1

Hunter Success: 10%

### 2024 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms	80	0	1	0	81
Archery	3	0	0	0	3
Muzzleloader	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85</b>

