

# DEER PERMIT AREA 344 HUNTING INFORMATION

## 2020 Deer Hunting Information

Voluntary CWD Testing - All Seasons

Carcass Movement Restrictions in Effect

Designation: Hunter Choice: 1 deer limit

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

Special Regulations: See page 70 of the Hunting Regulations for special CWD regulations.

### Seasons:

Archery: Sept. 19 - Dec. 31  
 Youth: Oct. 15 - Oct. 18  
 Early Antlerless: Oct. 15 - 18  
 Firearm A: Nov. 7 - Nov. 15  
 Firearm B: Nov. 21 - Nov. 29  
 Muzzleloader: Nov. 28 - Dec. 13

### Land Cover Types % Tot.

Woody Cover	39
Grassland and Wetlands	26
Annual Row Crops	31
Open Water	0
Developed	4

### Total Land Area in 2019 (Non-water)

186 Sq. Mi.

### Lands Open to Public Hunting

Publicly Owned Lands	Sq. Mi.
State Wildlife Management Area	43
State Forest	5
Misc. State Land	0
County Managed Land	0
USFWS Land (WPA and NWR)	0
USFS Land (National Forest)	0
Privately Owned Lands	
Forest Legacy/Forests for Future	0
Walk-In Access	0
<b>Total for Public Hunting</b>	<b>48</b>

## Wildlife Manager Report

Deer Permit Area (DPA) 344 is part of the Driftless Area in southeast Minnesota, characterized by forested hillsides and bluff prairies interspersed with farmland. This permit area contains Whitewater WMA including the Whitewater State Game Refuge, which is a 2500-acre area where deer and waterfowl hunting are restricted. The refuge is open to small game and turkey hunting. DPA 344 is Hunter's Choice, allowing hunters to harvest one deer, either a buck or a doe. Hunters must choose A or B firearms season. In this permit area, the department established a harvest goal to monitor population stability. The current goal is to, on average, be harvesting somewhere between 406 and 496 bucks (buck harvest is generally a better indicator of population status than overall harvest). The Managed designation in 2019 placed additional harvest pressure on the population; Hunters Choice with the early antlerless season in 2020 is anticipated to maintain adequate harvest while helping to achieve the long-term goal. Please note that the early antlerless season, October 15-18, coincides with the youth season. DPA 344 is open to early antlerless hunters but only youth hunters with valid youth license and tags are allowed to hunt within the Whitewater State Game Refuge. There is a special firearms hunt within the Whitewater State Game Refuge during the B season, November 21-29. 100 hunters are selected by special drawing to participate in the 2 antlerless deer limit hunt where bonus permits are allowed. All selected hunters must possess a B season firearms license and complete an online orientation before receiving their special permit. Applications for the hunt must be submitted by September 10. Please contact WMA staff with any questions or for clarifications regarding DPA 344. This DPA is within the CWD Control Zone where mandatory carcass movement restrictions are in place for all deer, including fawns. DNR-provided dumpsters will be available for hunters to dispose of carcass waste properly. CWD testing is voluntary during the entire archery, firearms and muzzleloader seasons by providing the head of harvested deer at designated self-service sampling stations. Antler point restrictions (APR) are removed and cross-tagging of bucks is allowed.

DNR Wildlife Contact(s): Jamie Edwards, 507-796-3282

## 2019 Firearm Deer Hunter Statistics

Hunters per Sq. Mi. Land: 14  
 Hunter Success: 31%

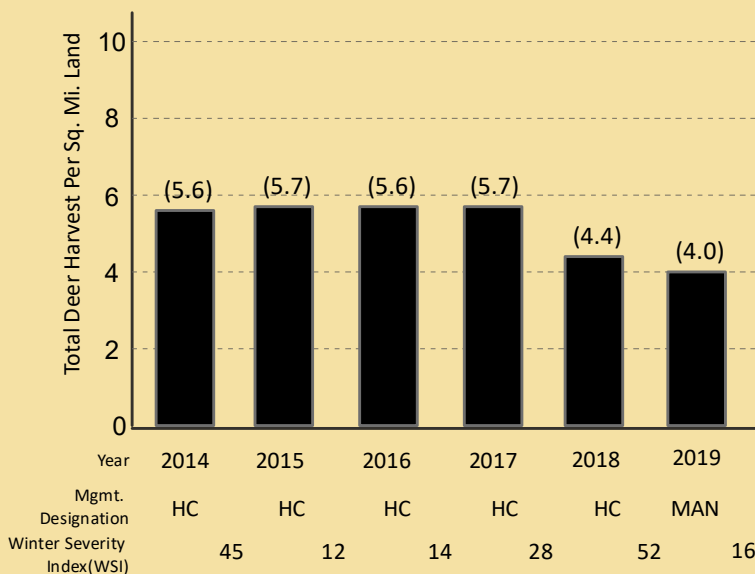
## 2019 Deer Harvest

	Adult Male	Fawn Male	Adult Female	Fawn Female	Total
Firearms <sup>1</sup>	391	77	259	94	821
Archery	84	15	35	9	143
Muzzleloader	16	6	30	7	59
<b>Total Harvest<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>509</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1064</b>

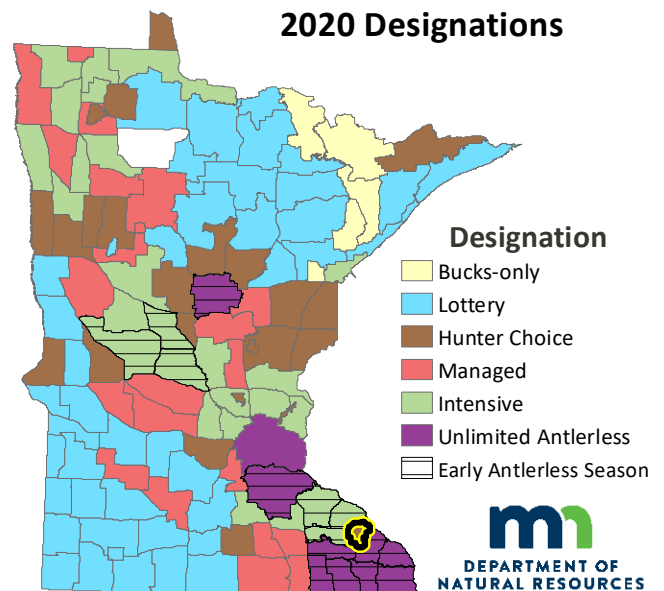
<sup>1</sup>Includes Regular A and B seasons as well as early antlerless and youth seasons if it applies.

<sup>2</sup>Includes all seasons above plus any special hunts.

## Deer Harvest, Management Designation and Winter Severity Index from 2014 - 2019/20



## 2020 Designations



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mn.dnr.gov/deermap  
 Date:2020-08-05