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 and snow depth data provided by the MN Climatology Working Group.