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.