

Deer Trustee Report Rule Package

What it means for deer hunters in Wisconsin.



Standard Season Structure

03/05/14

Archer, crossbow and Gun Deer License Tag Availability:

- Each deer hunting license (archer, gun, crossbow) will include one buck deer tag valid statewide*.
- One free antlerless tag* will be issued with each deer hunting license (2 with a patron license) for use in any Farmland Zone unit only, EXCEPT these tags will be valid statewide for youth under 18 years of age and Class A and C disabled permit holders. Antlerless tags are not weapon specific, and can be used with your archer, gun or crossbow license, during the appropriate season.

* Hunters who purchase both archer and crossbow licenses will be issued ONLY one buck tag and one free antlerless deer tag total for use with either of these two licenses.

- Additional Bonus Antlerless Tags: Where available, all bonus antlerless tags will be unit and land type (public or private) specific.
- The number of public and private lands tags available is based on harvest objectives within each unit.
- Bonus antlerless tags may be purchased for \$12/tag (residents) or \$20/tag (non-residents) and will be sold first-come, first-serve until all are sold. Sales begin August 16, 2014.



Deer Hunting Season	Season dates
Archery & Crossbow Seasons	Sept. 13 – Jan. 4, 2015
Archery & Crossbow Seasons - All Metro Zones	Sept. 13 – Jan. 31, 2015
Youth Gun Hunt (Not in State Parks)	October 11 & 12 Statewide
Deer Hunt for Hunters with Certain Disabilities	October 4 – 12 Enrolled Properties Only
9-day Gun Deer	November 22 – 30 Statewide
Gun Deer - All Metro Zones	Nov. 22 – Dec. 10
Muzzleloader	Dec. 1 – 10 Statewide
December Antlerless-only Hunt	Dec. 11 – 14 Central Farmland and Central Forest Zones only
Holiday Hunt (Not in State Parks)	Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2015 Antlerless Only Southern Farmland Zone only

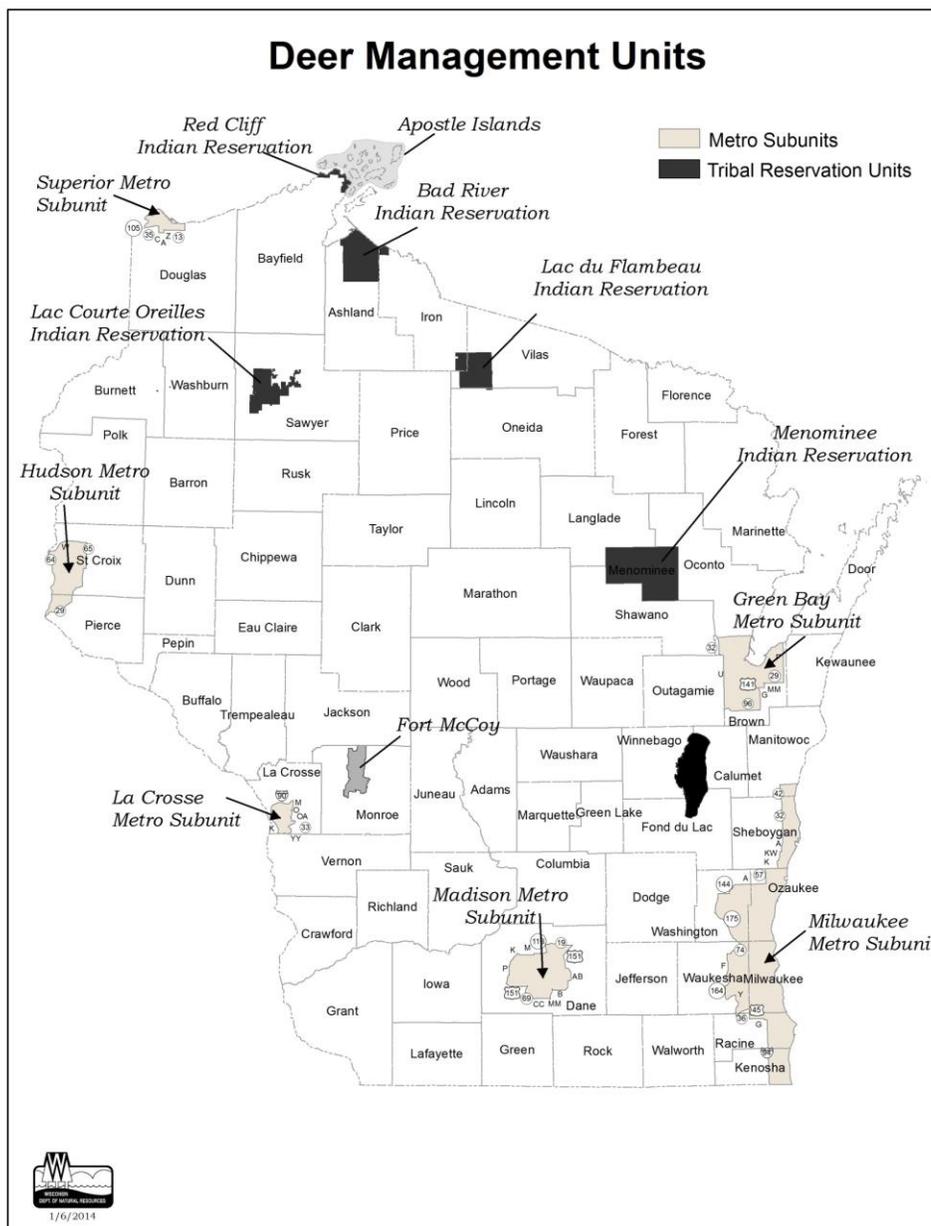


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Deer Management Units

- Consolidated the number of DMUs using county boundaries as DMU boundaries.
- Eliminated special State Park DMUs statewide (now included in the surrounding DMU).
- CWD-affected area – Identified by county boundaries similar to the way that counties are identified where baiting & feeding of deer is prohibited.





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Deer Management Advisory Committee

- Establish a Deer Management Advisory Committee in each county in 2014 that will hold “herd status” meetings to evaluate local data regarding the deer herd. The committee will begin making recommendations to the Department for the 2015 deer seasons.
- Membership may vary by county based on interest with potential membership including:
 - Conservation Congress
 - Local group representing deer hunting interests
 - Agricultural
 - Forestry
 - Tourism
 - Transportation
 - Urban (city/village) representative
 - Tribal representative (Ceded Territory)
- The population goal for each DMU will switch from a specific overwinter population goal of deer per square mile (e.g., 25 deer/mi²) to an objective of increase, maintain or decrease that would be evaluated every 3 years. All Northern and Central Forest DMUs will have an increase objective for 2014 and all Central and Southern Farmland DMUs will have a maintain objective for 2014.
- The recommendation for the DMU objective would be based on a variety of metrics or categories of data that might include:
 - Deer health indicators
 - Deer impacts on other natural resources
 - Societal impacts
 - Information provided from hunters (deer seen/hour of effort)
 - Population model estimates
- Three members of the county deer management advisory committee are required to have held a license authorizing deer hunting in 7 of the previous 10 years.

Deer Management Unit Herd Management Options

- Bonus buck available in Southern Farmland Zone units only.
 - Each unfilled bonus buck authorization sticker earned in 2013 may still be used in 2014.
 - Only one bonus buck authorization sticker earned in 2014 may be used in 2014.
 - Buck authorization stickers earned and not used in 2014 may or may not be valid in 2015.
- Issue extra antlerless permits for sale above the historic number sold for each unit.
- Increase the number of free Farmland or Metro subunit antlerless tags with each deer license purchase.
- Implement 4-day October antlerless gun hunt in disease-affected areas only by emergency rule process.
- Allow the addition of the 9-day Holiday Antlerless-only season to any DMUs or subunits in either Farmland zone that doesn't already have it.



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Other Proposed Program Changes

- Transition to an automated deer registration system in the 2015 deer season with a pilot occurring in 2014 for selected hunters.
- Restore a statewide restriction on the harvest of all white and albino deer.



- 9-day Nov. Gun Deer + 10-day Muzzleloader Seasons
- ▨ 9-day Nov. Gun Deer + 10-day Muzzleloader + 4-day Dec. Antlerless-only Seasons
- 9-day Nov. Gun Deer + 10-day Muzzleloader + 9-day Antlerless-only Holiday Hunt Seasons