

Agricultural Deer Damage Shooting Permits 2014

By Brad Koele and Noah Balgooyen

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is responsible for issuing shooting permits for deer causing damage or a nuisance. The purpose of deer shooting permits is twofold: to reduce ongoing and future damage to agricultural crops, and to reduce nuisance deer conflicts by reducing local populations in areas of high abundance, within and/or outside the regular deer hunting seasons. There are two types of Deer Shooting Permits issued in Wisconsin: Nuisance Deer Shooting Permits, and Agricultural Damage Deer Shooting Permits. Nuisance deer shooting permits are issued for non-agricultural situations, and are most commonly issued to municipalities and airports. They are occasionally issued to private landowners for extraordinary situations. The second and most common type are the Agricultural Damage Deer Shooting Permits, which represent one type of abatement used in the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). It is the policy of the WDNR that farmers applying for Agricultural Deer Damage Shooting Permits also enroll in the WDACP.

Methods

Authority to remove wildlife causing damage or nuisance is granted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by State Statute 29.885. The Department issues shooting permits for deer causing damage or a nuisance in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 12.

Results

Nuisance Deer Shooting Permits

The WDNR issued 65 Nuisance Deer Shooting Permits in 2014 through which 822 deer were harvested. This compares to the issuance of 71 Nuisance Deer Shooting Permits and 453 deer harvested in 2013. The counties with the highest number of permits issued in 2014 were Waukesha (5), Dane (4), and Sheboygan (4); Table 1.

Agricultural Damage Deer Shooting Permits

In 2014, six hundred and seventeen Agricultural Damage Deer Shooting Permits were issued for agriculture damage abatement through which 3,457 deer were harvested. In 2014, Permit harvest constituted 1.1% of the total deer harvest in Wisconsin (Table 2). On average, 5.6 deer were harvested under each permit (range 0 - 113) in 2014. The total number of permits issued statewide in 2014 remained unchanged from the number issued in 2013. The statewide Permit deer harvest decreased 7.4 percent from 2013 to 2014, from 3,733 to 3,457 deer (Figure 1).

The counties for which the greatest number of permits were issued in 2014 were Vernon (55), Marinette (39), and Polk (27); Table 1. Counties with the highest number of deer harvested on permits in 2014 were Shawano (310), Marathon (257), and Marinette (231); Table 2.

Deer management unit boundaries were changed for the 2014 deer hunting season, and are now designated by the county and tribal reservation boundaries. The state has additionally been divided into four new Deer Management Zones: the Northern Forest zone, the Central Forest zone, the Central Farmland zone, and the Southern Farmland zone Forest Zone (Figure 2). Deer harvest off of shooting permits in 2014 was highest in the Central Farmland Zone (2,088 deer harvested off of 306 permits); Table 3.

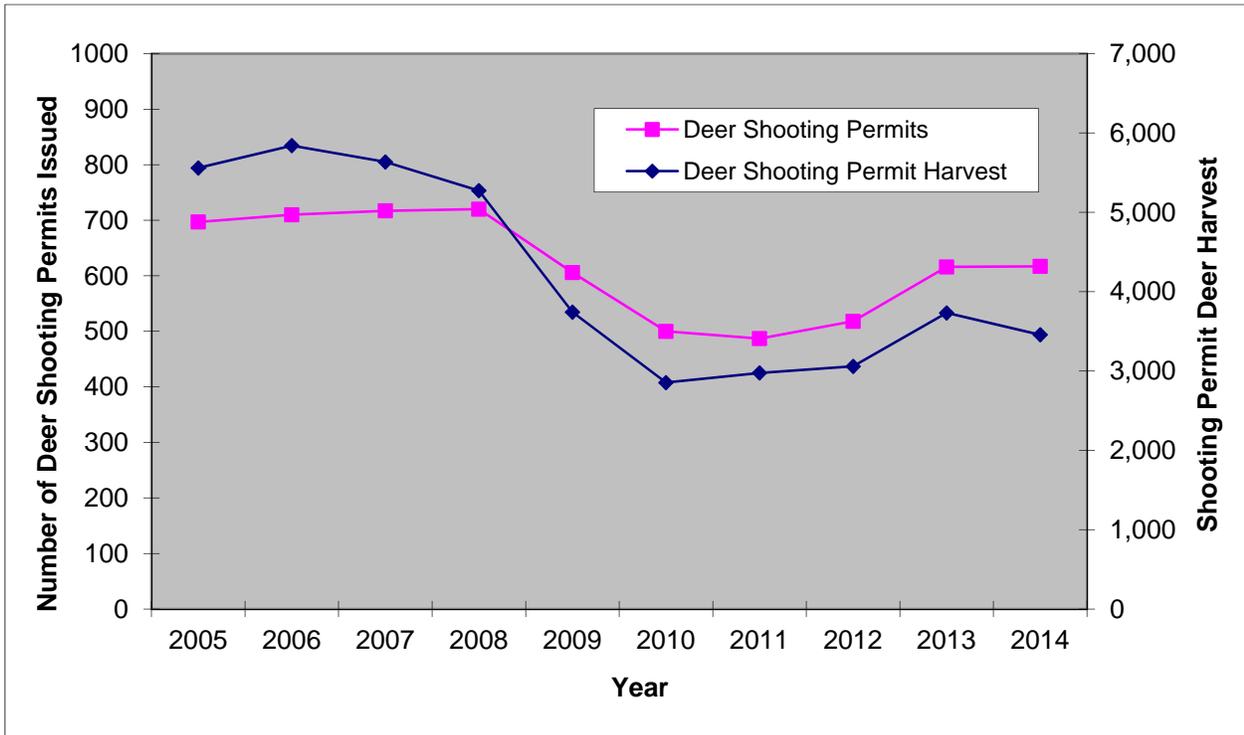


Figure 1. Trends in the number of deer damage shooting permits issued and deer harvested, 2005-2014. Damage deer harvest data is from information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers issuing deer shooting permits, and may differ from damage harvest data in the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. The number of deer shooting permits issued is based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers and entered into the Wildlife Damage Database.

Table 1. *Number of Nuisance Deer Shooting Permits issued per county in 2014.*

| 2014 Nuisance Deer Shooting Permits | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| County | Number of Permits | Harvest |
| Bayfield | 1 | 1 |
| Brown | 3 | 74 |
| Clark | 1 | 0 |
| Columbia | 2 | 2 |
| Dane | 4 | 31 |
| Douglas | 2 | 25 |
| Eau Claire | 1 | 7 |
| Florence | 1 | 92 |
| Grant | 1 | 0 |
| Green | 1 | 0 |
| Green Lake | 1 | 10 |
| Jefferson | 1 | 12 |
| Juneau | 1 | 0 |
| La Crosse | 3 | 41 |
| Lincoln | 2 | 3 |
| Manitowoc | 1 | 2 |
| Marathon | 2 | 0 |
| Marinette | 2 | 0 |
| Milwaukee | 2 | 23 |
| Oneida | 3 | 3 |
| Outagamie | 2 | 0 |
| Ozaukee | 1 | 48 |
| Pepin | 1 | 0 |
| Polk | 1 | 9 |
| Portage | 2 | 27 |
| Rock | 1 | 0 |
| Saint Croix | 2 | 23 |
| Sawyer | 2 | 4 |
| Shawano | 2 | 5 |
| Sheboygan | 4 | 46 |
| Vilas | 3 | 4 |
| Waukesha | 5 | 221 |
| Waupaca | 1 | 0 |
| Winnebago | 1 | 16 |
| Wood | 2 | 93 |
| Totals | 62 | 713 |

Table 2. Agricultural Damage Deer Shooting permits issued, damage deer harvest and statewide deer harvest (all seasons), 2010-2014. Statewide harvest data are from the 2014 Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. Shooting permit harvest data are based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers issuing deer damage shooting permits, and may differ from damage harvest data in the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. The number of deer damage shooting permits issued is based on information collected in the Wildlife Damage Database.

| County | 2014 | | | 2013 | | | 2012 | | | 2011 | | | 2010 | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest |
| Adams | 13 | 105 | 4,248 | 11 | 56 | 5,666 | 12 | 61 | 5,601 | 9 | 67 | 4,689 | 10 | 55 | 4,382 |
| Ashland | 0 | 0 | 948 | 2 | 11 | 1,869 | 1 | 2 | 2,587 | 0 | 0 | 2,549 | 0 | 0 | 1,715 |
| Barron | 8 | 39 | 6,511 | 8 | 48 | 7,132 | 4 | 12 | 6,745 | 4 | 16 | 6,524 | 3 | 15 | 7,413 |
| Bayfield | 3 | 0 | 2,107 | 4 | 19 | 3,989 | 4 | 16 | 5,921 | 4 | 11 | 5,206 | 5 | 14 | 4,999 |
| Brown | 10 | 47 | 2,845 | 6 | 27 | 2,682 | 5 | 18 | 2,269 | 4 | 25 | 2,033 | 2 | 7 | 1,862 |
| Buffalo | 11 | 0 | 8,125 | 14 | 151 | 7,595 | 6 | 69 | 9,006 | 11 | 97 | 7,787 | 7 | 66 | 7,734 |
| Burnett | 5 | 27 | 2,435 | 5 | 27 | 4,764 | 4 | 36 | 5,234 | 4 | 28 | 5,833 | 5 | 34 | 8,769 |
| Calumet | 3 | 8 | 1,399 | 5 | 12 | 1,350 | 2 | 5 | 1,233 | 1 | 5 | 1,144 | 2 | 11 | 998 |
| Chippewa | 3 | 14 | 6,371 | 3 | 9 | 6,329 | 3 | 0 | 6,329 | 2 | 1 | 5,969 | 1 | 4 | 6,050 |
| Clark | 10 | 59 | 8,094 | 10 | 43 | 11,438 | 7 | 44 | 10,956 | 9 | 37 | 10,363 | 6 | 44 | 10,045 |
| Columbia | 12 | 140 | 6,622 | 14 | 171 | 6,118 | 15 | 134 | 6,514 | 11 | 118 | 7,190 | 12 | 124 | 8,205 |
| Crawford | 9 | 29 | 4,508 | 7 | 38 | 4,411 | 4 | 29 | 4,810 | 5 | 14 | 4,218 | 5 | 19 | 3,883 |
| Dane | 11 | 19 | 3,899 | 11 | 18 | 3,911 | 12 | 15 | 4,694 | 15 | 19 | 4,480 | 18 | 17 | 5,649 |
| Dodge | 8 | 10 | 4,766 | 10 | 54 | 4,590 | 9 | 22 | 4,403 | 9 | 32 | 4,158 | 11 | 32 | 4,476 |
| Door | 6 | 35 | 3,889 | 7 | 11 | 3,759 | 7 | 14 | 3,763 | 9 | 29 | 3,120 | 4 | 7 | 2,983 |
| Douglas | 0 | 0 | 2,307 | 1 | 0 | 4,664 | 1 | 3 | 6,513 | 1 | 4 | 6,381 | 4 | 28 | 7,616 |
| Dunn | 5 | 32 | 7,825 | 3 | 20 | 7,476 | 5 | 27 | 8,600 | 2 | 5 | 7,568 | 1 | 6 | 6,801 |
| Eau Claire | 1 | 1 | 4,191 | 2 | 0 | 4,189 | 1 | 0 | 4,601 | 2 | 5 | 4,175 | 2 | 4 | 4,092 |
| Florence | 4 | 26 | 1,392 | 3 | 20 | 2,179 | 6 | 31 | 3,494 | 4 | 27 | 4,286 | 3 | 14 | 2,214 |
| Fond du Lac | 6 | 16 | 4,670 | 11 | 82 | 4,609 | 9 | 17 | 4,294 | 11 | 62 | 3,902 | 11 | 56 | 3,774 |
| Forest | 2 | 5 | 1,487 | 0 | 0 | 2,319 | 1 | 3 | 3,064 | 1 | 3 | 2,555 | 0 | 0 | 1,522 |
| Grant | 12 | 72 | 6,242 | 14 | 154 | 6,412 | 11 | 179 | 7,071 | 16 | 166 | 6,459 | 22 | 183 | 6,614 |
| Green | 1 | 0 | 2,121 | 4 | 8 | 2,322 | 2 | 8 | 2,935 | 2 | 4 | 2,414 | 0 | 0 | 3,267 |
| Green Lake | 15 | 133 | 4,208 | 16 | 114 | 3,857 | 11 | 97 | 3,919 | 11 | 93 | 4,027 | 9 | 75 | 3,818 |
| Iowa | 13 | 89 | 4,852 | 14 | 49 | 5,295 | 14 | 85 | 6,225 | 13 | 127 | 5,661 | 12 | 71 | 6,202 |
| Iron | 0 | 0 | 291 | 0 | 0 | 657 | 0 | 0 | 1,252 | 0 | 0 | 1,315 | 0 | 0 | 721 |

| County | 2014 | | | 2013 | | | 2012 | | | 2011 | | | 2010 | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest |
| Jackson | 11 | 119 | 5,935 | 10 | 89 | 7,175 | 7 | 88 | 8,523 | 7 | 68 | 6,974 | 12 | 89 | 7,378 |
| Jefferson | 3 | 0 | 2,594 | 7 | 2 | 2,702 | 4 | 2 | 2,981 | 3 | | 2,614 | 5 | 19 | 3,530 |
| Juneau | 2 | 0 | 3,725 | 2 | 1 | 4,702 | 0 | 0 | 4,947 | 0 | 0 | 4,480 | 0 | 0 | 4,466 |
| Kenosha | 1 | 5 | 442 | 0 | 0 | 470 | 0 | 0 | 512 | 0 | 0 | 440 | 0 | 0 | 567 |
| Kewaunee | 3 | 7 | 2,680 | 2 | 5 | 2,632 | 1 | 4 | 2,603 | 1 | 4 | 2,084 | 0 | 0 | 1,705 |
| La Crosse | 2 | 16 | 4,314 | 5 | 28 | 3,778 | 1 | 15 | 4,310 | 2 | 10 | 3,778 | 2 | 18 | 3,720 |
| Lafayette | 2 | 0 | 2,424 | 2 | 0 | 2,848 | 2 | 0 | 3,535 | 3 | 15 | 2,916 | 5 | 15 | 4,008 |
| Langlade | 4 | 19 | 2,134 | 3 | 26 | 3,215 | 3 | 1 | 3,775 | 5 | 21 | 3,767 | 1 | 5 | 1,768 |
| Lincoln | 5 | 29 | 2,101 | 5 | 29 | 3,731 | 4 | 23 | 4,449 | 6 | 32 | 4,729 | 1 | 0 | 3,000 |
| Manitowoc | 8 | 35 | 4,262 | 8 | 27 | 3,958 | 6 | 19 | 3,399 | 4 | 9 | 2,766 | 3 | 2 | 2,557 |
| Marathon | 25 | 257 | 12,269 | 25 | 317 | 14,223 | 30 | 335 | 14,152 | 25 | 271 | 14,468 | 21 | 312 | 12,153 |
| Marinette | 39 | 231 | 8,025 | 44 | 247 | 9,926 | 40 | 228 | 9,980 | 43 | 183 | 10,423 | 44 | 205 | 7,396 |
| Marquette | 14 | 133 | 6,187 | 15 | 134 | 5,611 | 14 | 163 | 6,040 | 12 | 144 | 5,604 | 17 | 179 | 5,723 |
| Menominee | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Milwaukee | 1 | 0 | 178 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 1 | 0 | 41 |
| Monroe | 12 | 39 | 6,768 | 17 | 57 | 7,529 | 9 | 26 | 7,808 | 11 | 20 | 6,845 | 14 | 19 | 6,858 |
| Oconto | 13 | 48 | 6,926 | 9 | 40 | 7,502 | 6 | 0 | 8,253 | 3 | 11 | 7,445 | 4 | 19 | 6,221 |
| Oneida | 2 | 8 | 2,503 | 5 | 22 | 4,056 | 6 | 23 | 4,815 | 3 | 10 | 6,742 | 1 | 2 | 3,608 |
| Outagamie | 25 | 150 | 5,016 | 26 | 142 | 5,021 | 27 | 114 | 4,710 | 24 | 148 | 4,054 | 25 | 140 | 4,001 |
| Ozaukee | 2 | 10 | 1,319 | 2 | 10 | 1,187 | 1 | 5 | 1,119 | 2 | 3 | 926 | 1 | 6 | 976 |
| Pepin | 1 | 6 | 2,675 | 0 | 0 | 2,564 | 2 | 13 | 2,894 | 1 | 4 | 2,444 | 2 | 15 | 2,465 |
| Pierce | 3 | 8 | 4,853 | 1 | 4 | 4,217 | 1 | 0 | 4,878 | 1 | 6 | 4,276 | 3 | 11 | 3,890 |
| Polk | 27 | 156 | 8,996 | 29 | 198 | 8,779 | 23 | 207 | 9,011 | 15 | 138 | 9,050 | 17 | 109 | 11,768 |
| Portage | 17 | 99 | 6,822 | 16 | 124 | 7,529 | 12 | 112 | 7,421 | 12 | 114 | 7,182 | 11 | 84 | 5,638 |
| Price | 6 | 8 | 1,939 | 5 | 9 | 3,971 | 2 | 8 | 4,878 | 1 | 9 | 5,470 | 3 | 18 | 4,446 |
| Racine | 1 | 1 | 587 | 0 | 0 | 589 | 1 | 0 | 597 | 1 | 0 | 545 | 1 | 0 | 694 |
| Richland | 15 | 34 | 5,476 | 19 | 125 | 5,726 | 17 | 89 | 6,621 | 16 | 102 | 5,552 | 24 | 142 | 6,148 |
| Rock | 1 | 0 | 1,787 | 1 | 1 | 1,947 | 1 | 0 | 2,318 | 2 | 2 | 2,169 | 2 | 7 | 2,736 |
| Rusk | 2 | 6 | 2,484 | 0 | 0 | 5,482 | 5 | 0 | 5,907 | 2 | 15 | 6,374 | 1 | 2 | 5,523 |
| Sauk | 13 | 69 | 7,329 | 8 | 35 | 7,113 | 7 | 0 | 8,127 | 6 | 13 | 7,132 | 7 | 27 | 8,182 |

| County | 2014 | | | 2013 | | | 2012 | | | 2011 | | | 2010 | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest | No. permits | Damage harvest | Total harvest |
| Sawyer | 9 | 3 | 1,672 | 12 | 37 | 4,033 | 5 | 19 | 4,618 | 6 | 9 | 4,717 | 8 | 18 | 3,778 |
| Shawano | 22 | 310 | 11,228 | 18 | 188 | 11,648 | 12 | 128 | 10,770 | 11 | 178 | 10,092 | 7 | 66 | 10,015 |
| Sheboygan | 0 | 0 | 3,121 | 1 | 5 | 3,265 | 0 | 0 | 3,161 | 0 | 0 | 2,575 | 0 | 0 | 2,483 |
| St Croix | 3 | 20 | 4,163 | 5 | 16 | 3,867 | 3 | 21 | 4,416 | 5 | 16 | 3,676 | 3 | 17 | 4,118 |
| Taylor | 8 | 0 | 3,282 | 1 | 0 | 6,762 | 1 | 0 | 6,361 | 3 | 24 | 6,744 | 3 | 14 | 5,560 |
| Trempealeau | 12 | 97 | 7,399 | 11 | 115 | 7,449 | 11 | 80 | 8,588 | 9 | 59 | 7,361 | 11 | 76 | 7,402 |
| Vernon | 55 | 157 | 7,764 | 41 | 104 | 6,985 | 30 | 85 | 7,726 | 22 | 28 | 6,430 | 26 | 64 | 6,141 |
| Vilas | 3 | 23 | 1,901 | 4 | 20 | 3,145 | 4 | 26 | 2,385 | 3 | 22 | 3,499 | 1 | 8 | 1,624 |
| Walworth | 5 | 19 | 1,229 | 6 | 4 | 1,422 | 3 | 0 | 1,606 | 3 | 9 | 1,917 | 3 | 10 | 1,941 |
| Washburn | 4 | 38 | 1,967 | 5 | 42 | 4,827 | 5 | 34 | 5,380 | 2 | 20 | 5,295 | 4 | 24 | 8,565 |
| Washington | 15 | 64 | 3,408 | 13 | 70 | 2,884 | 13 | 42 | 3,039 | 14 | 54 | 2,500 | 14 | 41 | 2,549 |
| Waukesha | 2 | 4 | 2,212 | 5 | 7 | 2,053 | 3 | 8 | 2,221 | 3 | 2 | 2,042 | 2 | 5 | 2,522 |
| Waupaca | 19 | 170 | 11,589 | 14 | 111 | 12,074 | 10 | 55 | 12,281 | 7 | 39 | 11,417 | 6 | 41 | 9,910 |
| Waushara | 13 | 67 | 5,951 | 12 | 78 | 5,627 | 12 | 76 | 5,908 | 15 | 83 | 5,854 | 13 | 68 | 5,380 |
| Winnebago | 6 | 28 | 2,617 | 10 | 59 | 2,398 | 10 | 52 | 2,523 | 9 | 57 | 2,456 | 10 | 53 | 2,468 |
| Wood | 10 | 58 | 4,905 | 8 | 63 | 6,370 | 7 | 49 | 6,678 | 4 | 29 | 5,837 | 6 | 18 | 5,439 |
| Total | 617 | 3,457 | 304,289 | 617 | 3,733 | 342,631 | 518 | 3,077 | 368,314 | 487 | 2,976 | 347,711 | 500 | 2,854 | 336,871 |

Table 3. Deer damage shooting permits issued, damage shooting permit deer harvest, and statewide deer harvest (all seasons) by deer management zone. These zone designations are new for 2014, and along with the change to designating deer management units by county, replace the past DMU designations.

| Deer Management Zone | No. of Permits | Damage Harvest | Total Harvest | Percentage of Total Harvest |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Northern Forest Zone | 101 | 455 | 36,235 | 1.3% |
| Central Farmland Zone | 306 | 2,088 | 187,093 | 1.1% |
| Central Forest Zone | 28 | 192 | 11,163 | 1.7% |
| Southern Farmland Zone | 182 | 722 | 69,759 | 1.0% |
| Unknown Zone* | 0 | 0 | 39 | 0.0% |
| Totals: | 617 | 3,457 | 304,289 | 1.1% |

* Includes deer shooting permits and deer that were registered under a deer shooting permit where the DMU was not recorded.

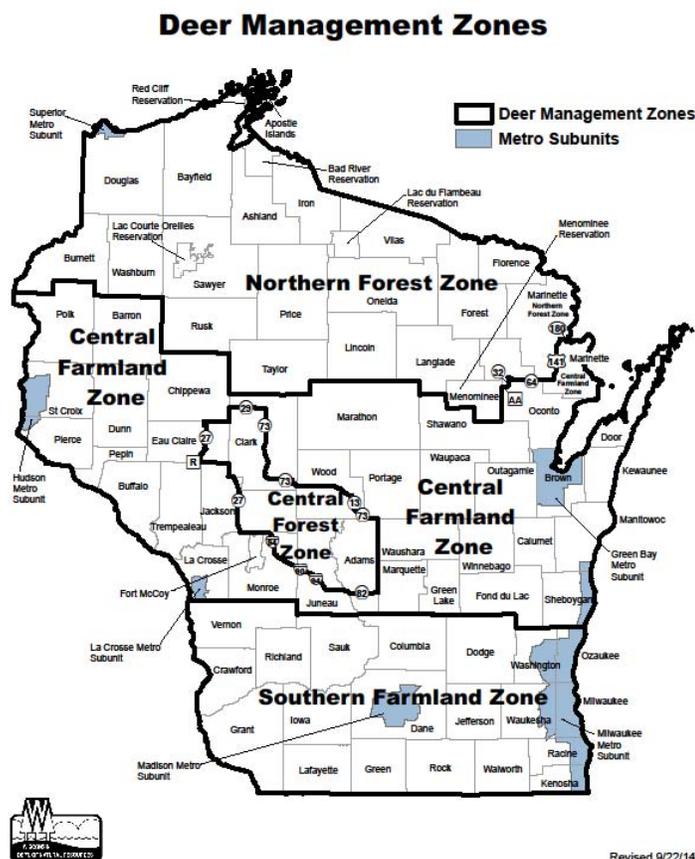


Figure 2. Map of new Deer Management Zones, effective 2014.