

Deer Impacts on Forests



Wildlife Management Perspective:



**Deer are a Native Keystone Species
socially, economically, and ecologically**

NR 1.15: Goal Setting Criteria

- **Carrying capacity**
- **Hunter success**
- **Ecological and economic impacts of deer browsing**
- **Disease transmission**
- **Deer-vehicle accidents**
- **Chippewa treaty harvest**
- **Hunter access to land**
- **Ability to stay at goal**
- **Tolerable levels of agricultural damage**

Agricultural Damage Criteria in code:

Exceeds 2.5 times median in 2 of 4 of the following:

- Appraised losses per hundred over-winter deer**
- Appraised losses per square mile**
- Appraised losses per square mile of agricultural land**
- Number of claims per 100 square miles**

Deer Population Goals and Harvest Management Environmental Assessment

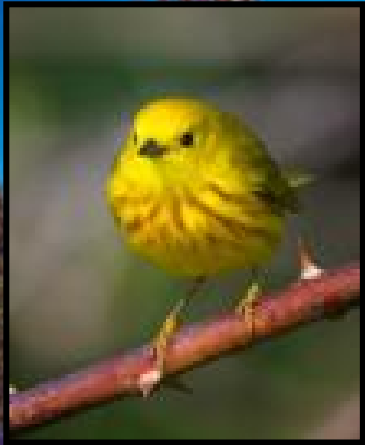


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Socio-Economic Factors





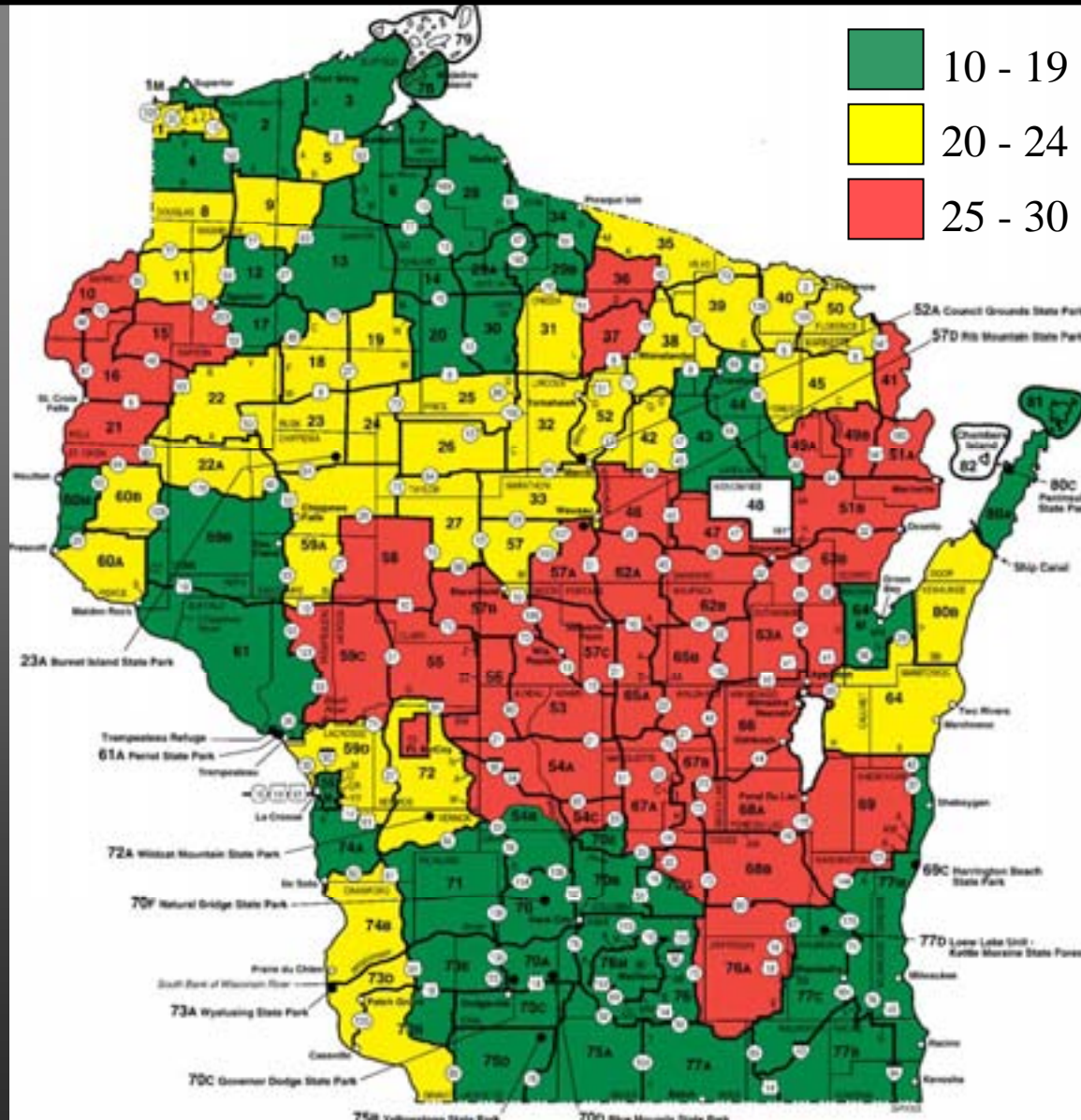
Ecological Factors



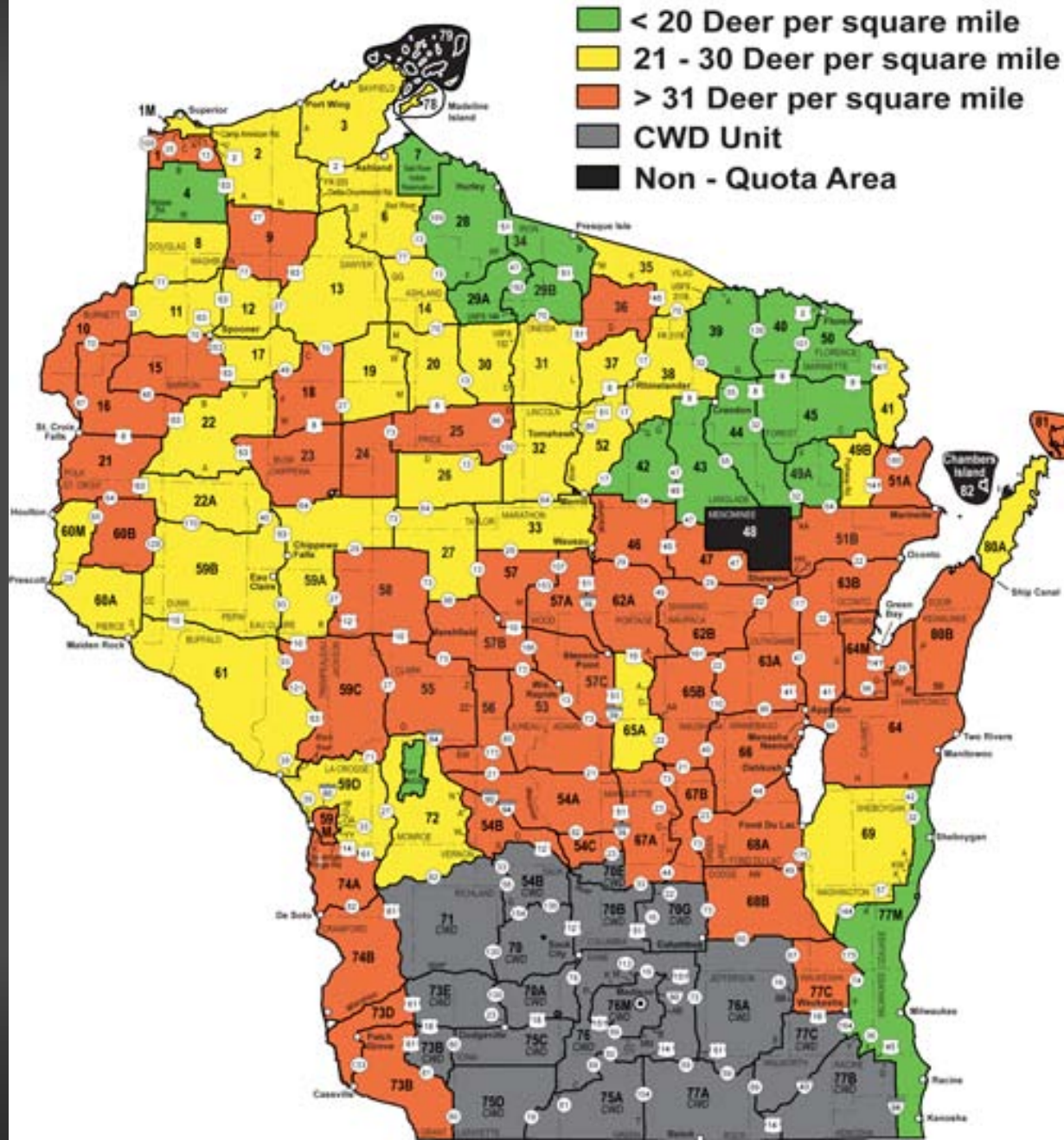
Management Capability Factors



Deer Management Unit Goals



2005 Deer Density Estimates



Process for setting goals

1. Gather data on criteria
2. Public and stakeholder involvement
3. Tribal negotiations
4. Department recommendations
5. Natural Resources Board approval
6. Legislative approval

Balanced stakeholder input is the key to balanced deer population goals



Working with hunters and landowners is the key to maintaining deer populations at goals



**Magic of
reducing
deer herds to
goals**



Factors affecting success in keeping deer at goals:

- Traditions – season and bucks
- Conflicts with other recreationists
- Demand for success (see and shoot deer)
- Demand vs. supply
- Mild winters
- Deer disease and hunter participation
- Private land access
- Baiting and feeding
- Development of homes in forests
- MFL exemptions for public access
- Leases of industrial forest land
- Selling of large forests in small parcels