

[This year's mild winter largely beneficial for fish and wildlife species](#) February 3, 2024

Minnesota

Grand Forks Herald

... "The past couple of winters were hard on deer, of course, and deer right now, throughout, I'd say all of Minnesota, are doing just fine and able to access food..."

[Blane Klemek, Northwest Region wildlife manager] ...,

[Harvest is official: Minnesota's deer hunt season was a downer](#) March 1, 2024 Star

Tribune

... DNR's wildlife managers have been saying publicly since 2018 that northern deer are losing winter habitat due to logging practices on public lands. Froberg said this winter's mild conditions bode well for deer in northern Minnesota, but the animals will need several mild winters to "start to recover" their population ...,

[Historic warm, low-snow winter boon to many wildlife, bust for others](#) March 6, 2024 The

Lawton Constitution

... after back-to-back severe winters in 1995-96 and 1996-97 when many deer perished. With a string of mild winters that followed, northern Minnesota saw its highest-ever deer population ... This is one of the few winters of the past 10 years that haven't seen deep snow on the ground that restricts their access to food and their ability to escape predators...

[Downtrend continues for deer harvest, could lead to further restrictions](#) March 16, 2024

Minnesota, KSTP-TV

... a key factor in the recent dips is the harsh and snowy winters of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 ... it's too early to tell, but the mild winter could bode well for future harvests...

Deer numbers in northern Minnesota March 16, 2024 Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources

Deer populations have been lower in northern Minnesota, particularly following the severe winters of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Several factors can drive these declines, resulting in fewer deer on the landscape during subsequent hunting seasons.

Deer numbers can suffer during prolonged severe winters, especially in areas with deep snow or insufficient winter habitat. In these conditions, deer must expend more energy to acquire food, making them more vulnerable to predators. Wolves play a large role as a predator of deer, especially in winter, but there is little evidence to suggest that northern Minnesota's low deer numbers are directly due to wolf predation. The influence that wolves play in influencing deer populations likely changes over time and space, and can be exacerbated in response to other changing conditions, like poor quality wintering habitat.

Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, also hit hard by severe winter, saw similar declines in deer harvests in 2023.

This year's extremely mild conditions do bode well for deer in northern Minnesota, but deer populations in the far north will need several mild winters to start to recover. Check out the DNR website for more on [winter severity and factors that impact deer survival](#).

[Behind the scenes of season setting](#) April 23, 2024 Minnesota DNR News

... The [2023-2024 WSI estimates](#) indicate this winter to be one of the most mild winters Minnesota has seen in recent history. This bodes well for Minnesota deer as the usual stressors associated with winter (such as reduced food availability, mobility and survival) were less of an issue compared to other years. Keep in mind though: One mild winter doesn't guarantee a significant increase in deer numbers. For example, the winter of 2020-2021 was very mild, but was also followed by two consecutive harsh winters ...