

January 25, 2021

MN DNR Update:

DNR has finished out the deer season with an estimated 197,214 deer harvested. That is 7% higher than the 2019 harvest, 10% higher than the five-year-mean and 12% higher than the ten-year-mean. We recorded 11% increase in antlerless deer harvest and a 2% increase in antlered buck harvest.

We wrapped up archery season with an estimated 26,923 deer harvested, which is 11% higher than last year. The late season CWD hunts resulted in 452 deer harvested the first weekend (Dec 26-27) and an estimated 231 deer harvested the second weekend (Jan 2-3) for a total of 683 harvested deer.

Deer population and goal setting for 2021 begins in February. If you would like more information please see website at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/deer/management/population.html>. Minnesotans interested in deer populations in certain areas of the state can take an active role in shaping deer population goals during an open public input process starting Monday, Feb. 8.

DNR is beginning Elk working group meetings. The Grygla working group meeting is on Monday February 8 from 10-12. We will be updating the group on the 2020 elk season harvest and planned approach for the 2021 elk season.

DNR is continuing to monitor the Line 3 progress and permit conditions. There are approximately 25 environmental monitors across the line to ensure that license and permit conditions are being followed. So far not too many issues, although the ground has not frozen in many locations along the eastern portions of the line.

Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (NMOP) Section Forest Resource Management Plan (SFRMP) public comment period closed December 18th. We only received a few comments, so DNR will revise based on those comments and finalize sometime late winter/early spring. Norther Superior Uplands (NSU) SFRMP is still being formulated and will hopefully be out for public comment in early spring.

After the Federal Delisting of wolves, management reverts to the State. DNR is currently using the 2001 Wolf Management Plan as a guide and is in the process of updating this plan. For updates please see <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wolves/index.html>.