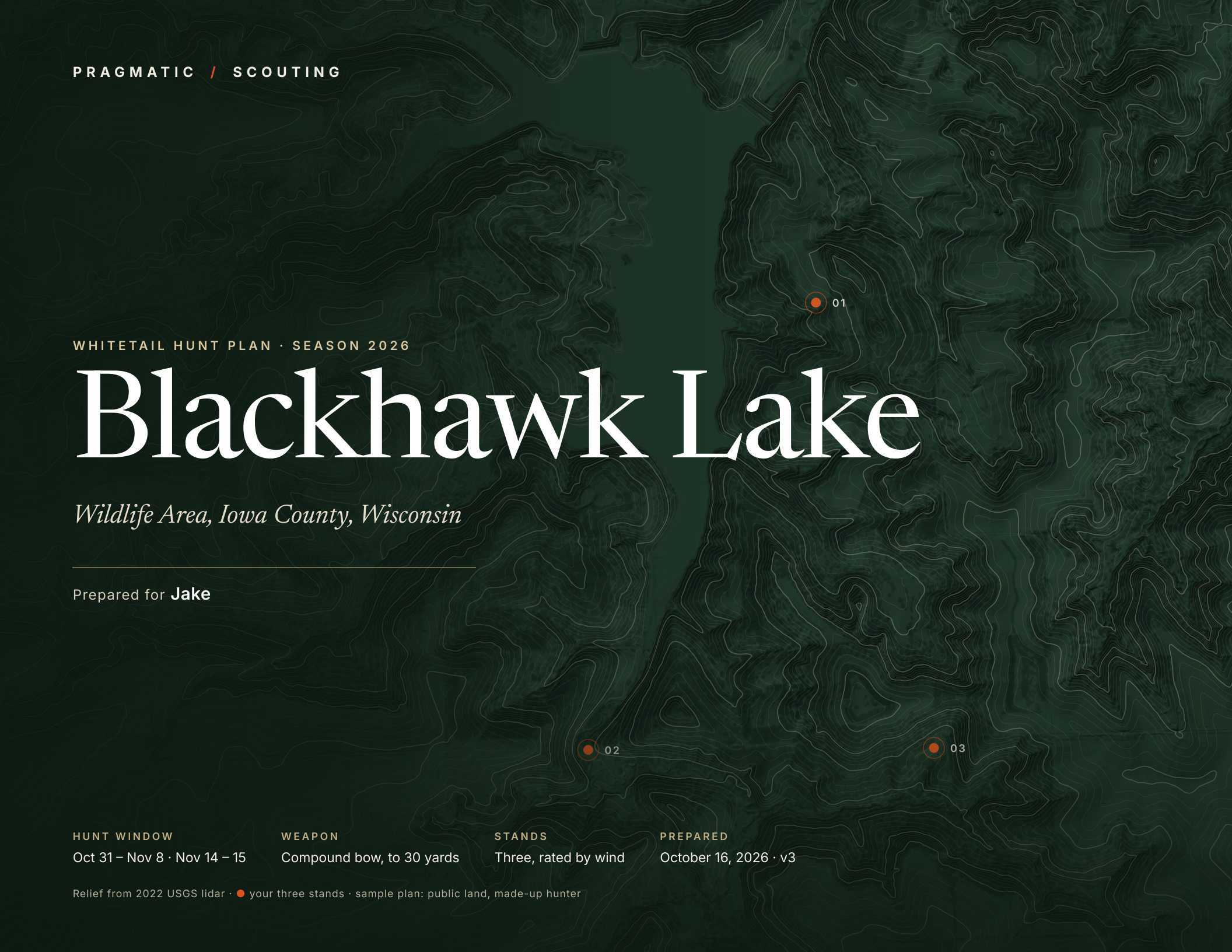
PRAGMATIC / SCOUTING

WHITETAIL HUNT PLAN · SEASON 2026

Blackhawk Lake

Wildlife Area, Iowa County, Wisconsin

Prepared for **Jake**



HUNT WINDOW
Oct 31 – Nov 8 · Nov 14 – 15

WEAPON
Compound bow, to 30 yards

STANDS
Three, rated by wind

PREPARED
October 16, 2026 · v3

Relief from 2022 USGS lidar · ● your three stands · sample plan: public land, made-up hunter

THE PLAN AT A GLANCE

Three stands that give you a clean wind on four mornings in five.

Blackhawk's 1,500 acres have roads on every side and nine parking lots. I mapped the ground the way I map my own: cover, trees, soils, deer food, and where deer bed and travel, from lidar, satellite pictures, the soil survey and my deer simulator. Then I picked three stands that give you a clean wind on the most sits. **Lakeside Run is the one I'd most want you in**: the farthest stand from a road, on a trail my terrain model rates high. Walk it once for tracks before you sit it.

3	80%	66%	Nov 5–6
stands, each rated by wind	of mornings have a stand that fits	of evenings have a stand that fits	best days, Thursday and Friday

IN THIS PLAN

Field card: which stand, when to leave	3	Plate 6 · Wind and scent	9
Plate 1 · Your ground and your stands	4	Plate 7 · The three stands up close	10
Plate 2 · Land and water	5	When to go, and when plans change	11
Plate 3 · Trees and soils	6	After the shot · Before you go	12
Plate 4 · Deer food	7	Rules, sources and method	13
Plate 5 · Bedding and travel	8		

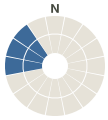
YOUR STANDS



1 Lakeside Run FIRST CHOICE

SE to SSW · OK: ESE, SW

East Side Prairie lot · 450 yd walk



2 Cave Hollow Draw

W to NW

Cedar lot · 700 yd walk

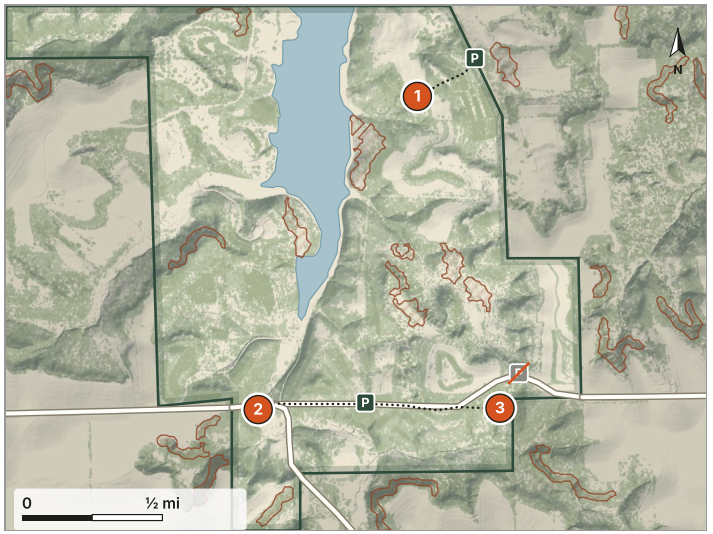


3 Field Bottom

NNE to ESE mornings, calm mornings · Evenings: NNE to ENE, OK E and ESE

Cedar lot · 875 yd walk

Best OK No stand Inner ring mornings, outer ring evenings



The wildlife area, your three stands and their lots. Full map on page 4.

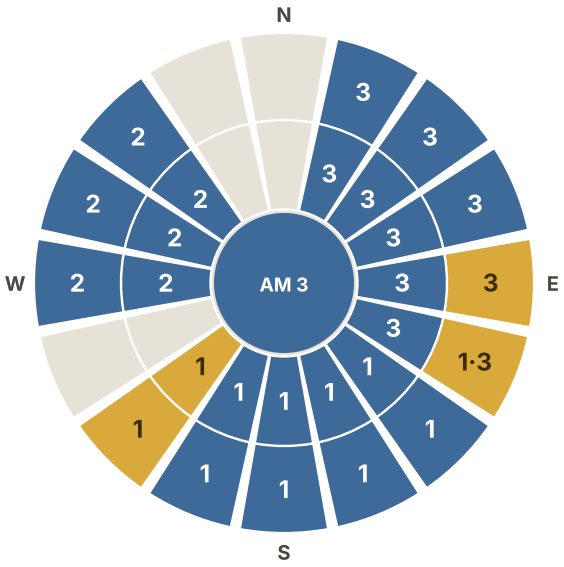
Two rules for every sit. Sit a stand up to 3 times, then rest it at least 4 days; an all-day sit counts as 2, and every climb counts. Walk out the way you came in.

FIELD CARD

Which stand, and when to leave the truck

Print this page and keep it in your pack. Central time.

WIND FROM



Best OK No stand

Inner ring mornings, outer ring evenings. Stands 1 and 2 need a steady wind: 7 mph or more, or a sky at least partly cloudy. Calm: Field Bottom, mornings only.

WHEN TO GO

DAY	LEGAL LIGHT	LEAVE TRUCK, MORNING ①	②	③	EVENING SIT, LEAVE BY ①	②	③	DOWN BY
Sat Oct 31	7:08–6:14	6:15	6:10	6:00	3:10	3:05	3:00	7:14
Sun Nov 1	6:09–5:13	5:15	5:10	5:05	2:10	2:05	2:00	6:13
Mon Nov 2	6:11–5:11	5:15	5:10	5:05	2:05	2:05	1:55	6:11
Tue Nov 3	6:12–5:10	5:15	5:15	5:05	2:05	2:00	1:55	6:10
Wed Nov 4	6:13–5:09	5:20	5:15	5:05	2:05	2:00	1:55	6:09
Thu Nov 5	**6:15–5:08**	**5:20**	**5:15**	**5:10**	**2:05**	**2:00**	**1:55**	**6:08**
Fri Nov 6	**6:16–5:06**	**5:20**	**5:15**	**5:10**	**2:00**	**2:00**	**1:50**	**6:06**
Sat Nov 7	6:17–5:05	5:20	5:20	5:10	2:00	1:55	1:50	6:05
Sun Nov 8	6:19–5:04	5:25	5:20	5:15	2:00	1:55	1:50	6:04
Sat Nov 14	6:27–4:58	5:30	5:30	5:20	1:55	1:50	1:45	5:58
Sun Nov 15	6:28–4:57	5:35	5:30	5:20	1:55	1:50	1:40	5:57

Best days: sit all day Thursday; Friday morning only if the same stand fits. Clocks fall back Sunday, Nov 1 (rule). Check legal light against the DNR's table.

AFTER THE SHOT, WAIT

Heart or lung	**30 min – 1 hr**
Liver	**8 – 10 hr**
Gut, or not sure	**10 – 12 hr**
Wait ends after dark	**Next morning**

IF THE WIND TURNS

Climb down when no deer are in sight and go where the rose says, or scout. Bumped deer walking in: finish the sit, then rest the stand 4 days.

CALL

DNR call center	**1-888-936-7463**
GameReg, by 5 PM next day	**1-844-426-3734**

① Lakeside Run
East Side Prairie lot · 450 yd · hang north of trail

② Cave Hollow Draw
Cedar lot · 700 yd · hang east of trail

③ Field Bottom
Cedar lot · 875 yd · hang southwest of trail

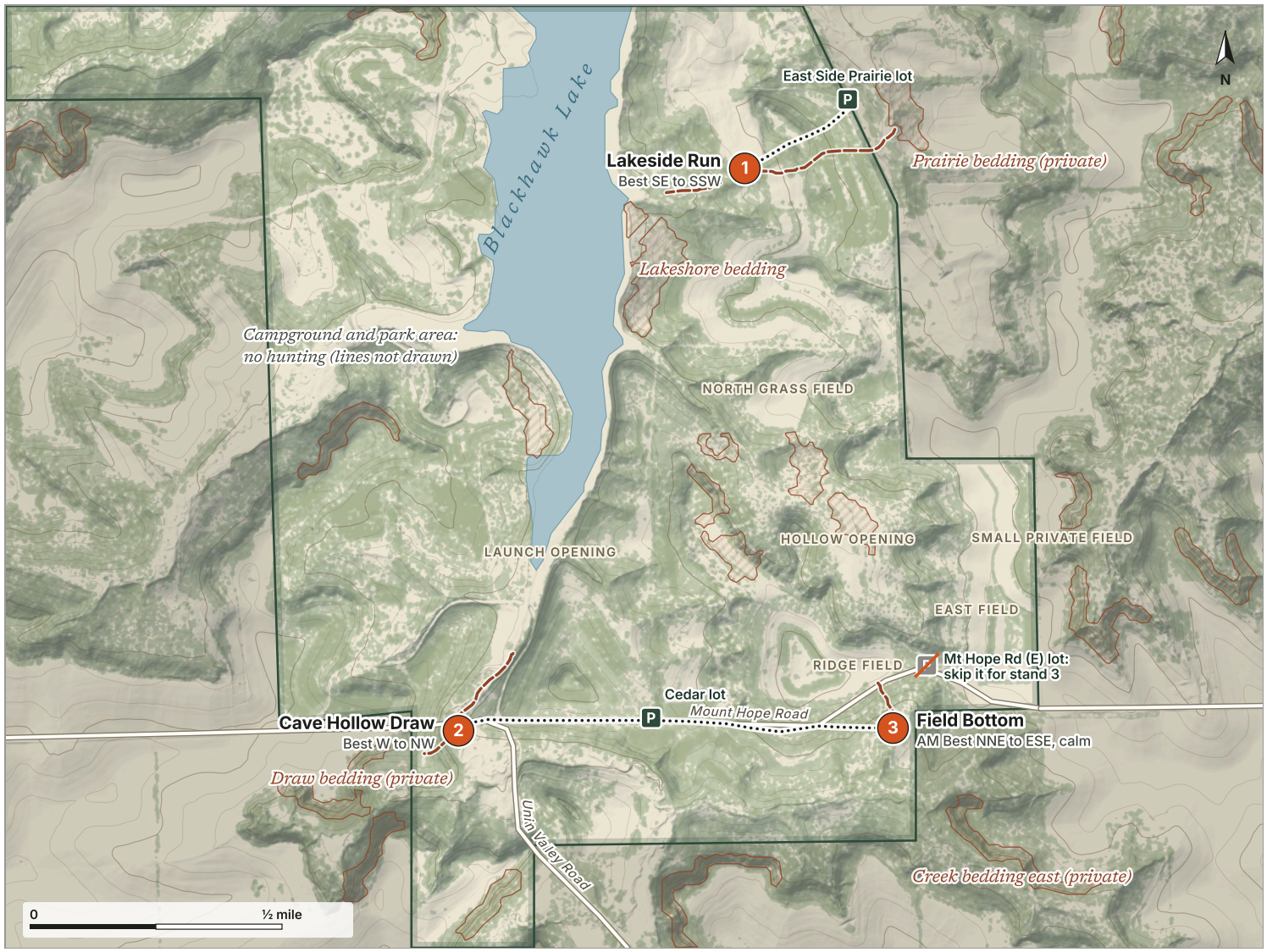


PLATE 1

Your ground and your stands

Three stands across 1,500 acres of public land, each on a deer trail between beds, each with its own lot and walk in. Pins match your onX.

MAP KEY

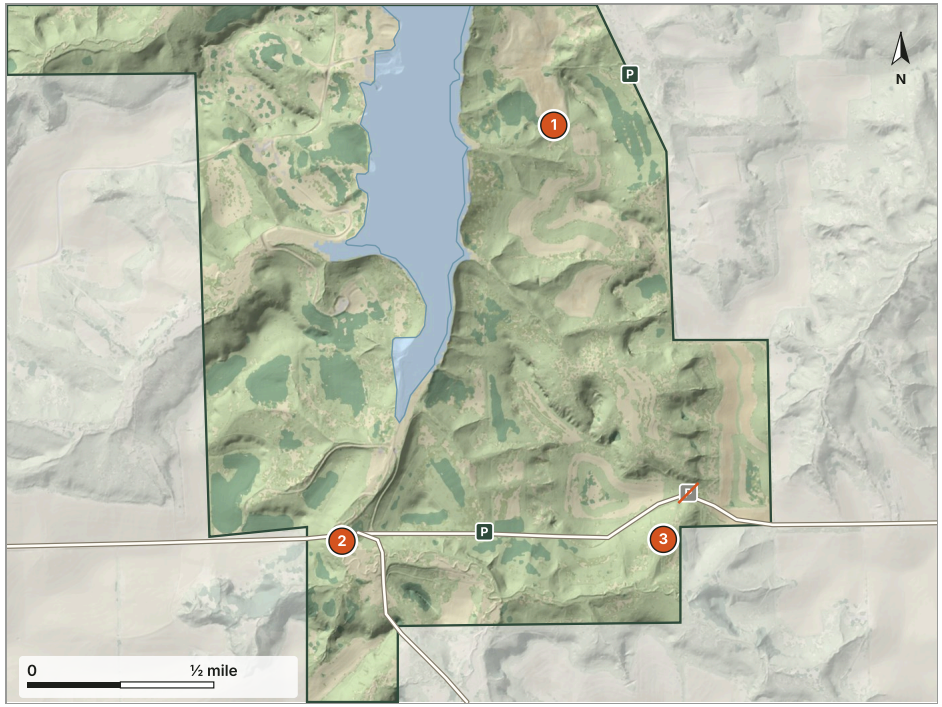
- Your stand
- Your walk in and out
- Parking lot
- The stand's deer trail *(model)*
- Likely bedding: stay out *(model)*
- Woods, from lidar canopy
- Field or opening
- Private land: stay off without permission
- Wildlife area line
- Road; dashed where I can't confirm it's open
- Contour every 20 ft

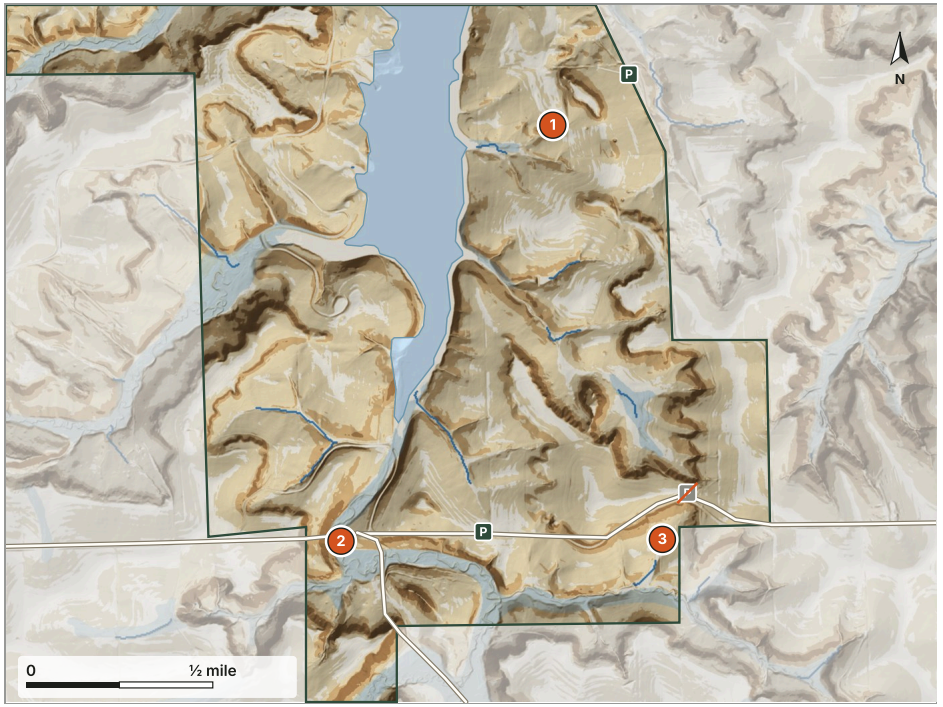
North up. Relief, woods and contours: USGS 3DEP lidar, April 2022 (leaves off). Roads: Overture Maps. Bedding and trails are my model from the lidar: confirm with tracks.

PLATE 2 · ATLAS

The lay of the land: cover, steepness and water

1,318 acres of land inside the wildlife area line on this map, 749 of it hardwood timber. Most of it is rolling sidehill: 54% runs 8 to 20 percent and another 26% is steeper.





COVER acres on the public land

Hardwood timber	749 ac
Grass, prairie or hay field	275 ac
Evergreen (pine or cedar)	142 ac
Thick regrowth and brush	108 ac
Crop field	28 ac
Open water	137 ac
Buildings and yards	3 ac

STEEPNESS AND DRAINAGE share of the public land

Flat to gentle, under 8%	20%
Moderate, 8 to 20%	54%
Steep, 20 to 35%	18%
Very steep, 35% and up	8%
Drainage line 25 acres or more drain past	3.5 mi
Bottoms that can flood soil survey	85 ac

YOUR WALKS IN, FROM THE LOT TO THE STAND ground from the lidar, about

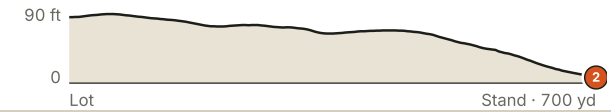
1 Lakeside Run

up 95 ft, down 80 ft going in



2 Cave Hollow Draw

up 10 ft, down 95 ft going in



3 Field Bottom

up 90 ft, down 95 ft going in

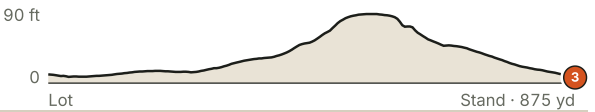
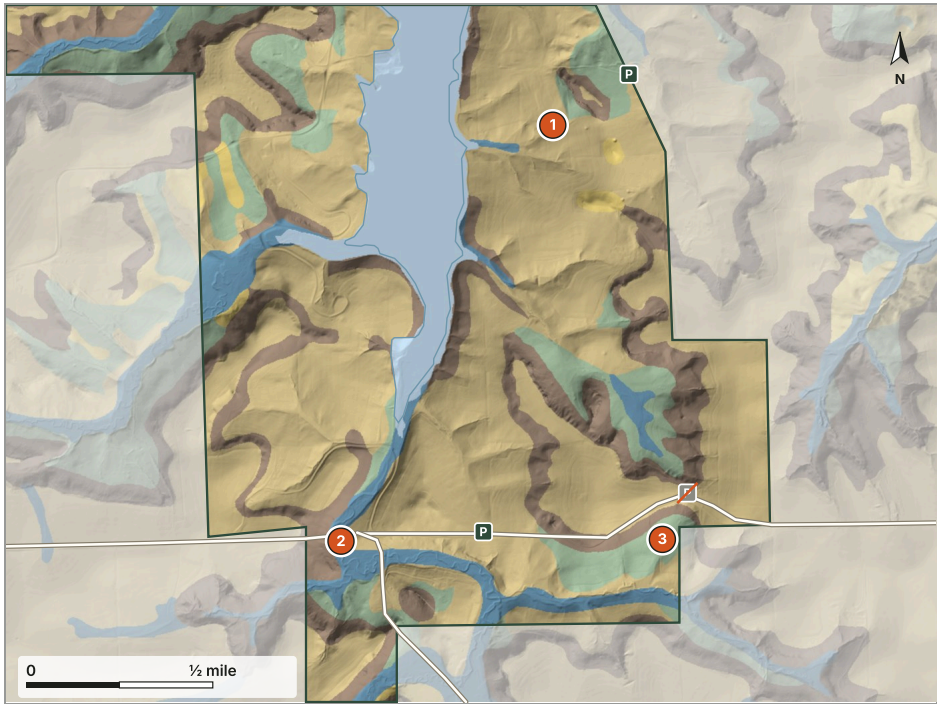


PLATE 3 · ATLAS

Trees and soils

The timber sorts into six groups by how it greens up, colors and drops its leaves in two years of satellite pictures. Nobody walked plots, so the tree names are my read of what makes that look. MY READ





TREE GROUPS likely trees, acres on the public land

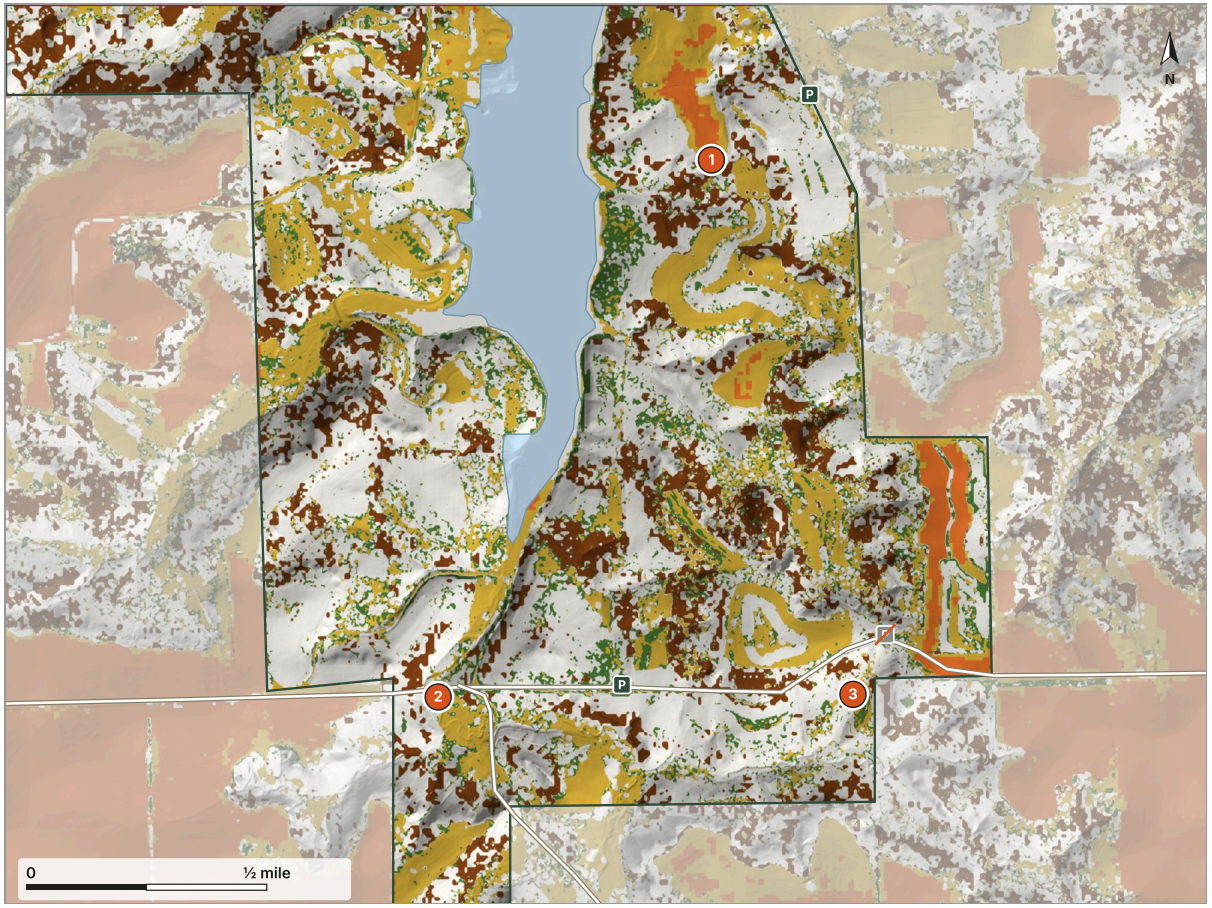
Hardwood that turns red-brown and holds late	the oak look: red, white and bur oak	193 ac
Hardwood that colors and drops early	maple, basswood, walnut, ash or aspen	225 ac
Hardwood that stays green late	lowland hardwoods, or a buckthorn and honeysuckle understory	162 ac
Green late, some green in winter	cedar or pine mixed in hardwood, or a brushy evergreen understory	123 ac
Evergreen all winter	pine plantings or red cedar	88 ac
Thin or broken canopy	young timber, edges, old cuts growing back	22 ac

SOILS Iowa County soil survey, grouped

Deep silt loam on ridges and upper slopes	801 ac
Deep silt on lower slopes and valley sides	151 ac
Bottoms that can flood	85 ac
Steep, rocky or shallow to bedrock	246 ac
Sandy or thin silt over sandstone	14 ac
Water	

UNDER YOUR STANDS

1	**Lakeside Run**	Oak look	Ridge silt loam	15% slope
2	**Cave Hollow Draw**	Oak look	Flood bottom	9% slope
3	**Field Bottom**	Green-late hardwood	Lower-slope silt	14% slope



FOOD WITHIN 300 YARDS OF EACH STAND public land, acres

	ACORNS	BROWSE	FIELD GREENS	WASTE GRAIN
1 Lakeside Run	11 ac	3 ac	9 ac	5 ac
2 Cave Hollow Draw	8 ac	5 ac	9 ac	0 ac
3 Field Bottom	4 ac	4 ac	9 ac	0 ac

PLATE 4 · ATLAS

What deer can eat here in early November

Each food gets its own color, drawn from the cover and tree maps. Acres are on the public land.

Acorns	Oak-look timber	193 ac
Browse	Thick regrowth and thin canopy	130 ac
Field greens	Grass, prairie and hay fields	275 ac
Waste grain	Crop fields	28 ac

Acorns MY READ

The oak-look timber is where I'd expect acorns. Both your first two stands sit in it. Oak crops swing a lot from year to year, so look under the oaks on your scouting walk.

Browse

Thick regrowth and young timber are food and cover in one spot. If the oaks are bare this fall, I'd expect deer to lean on these and the fields.

Field greens

Grass, prairie and hay. Hay and clover stay green late; tall native prairie is more cover than food.

Waste grain

Only 28 of the 524 crop acres on this map are public. Deer that feed there at night bed back in the timber, which is why your stands sit on the trails between.

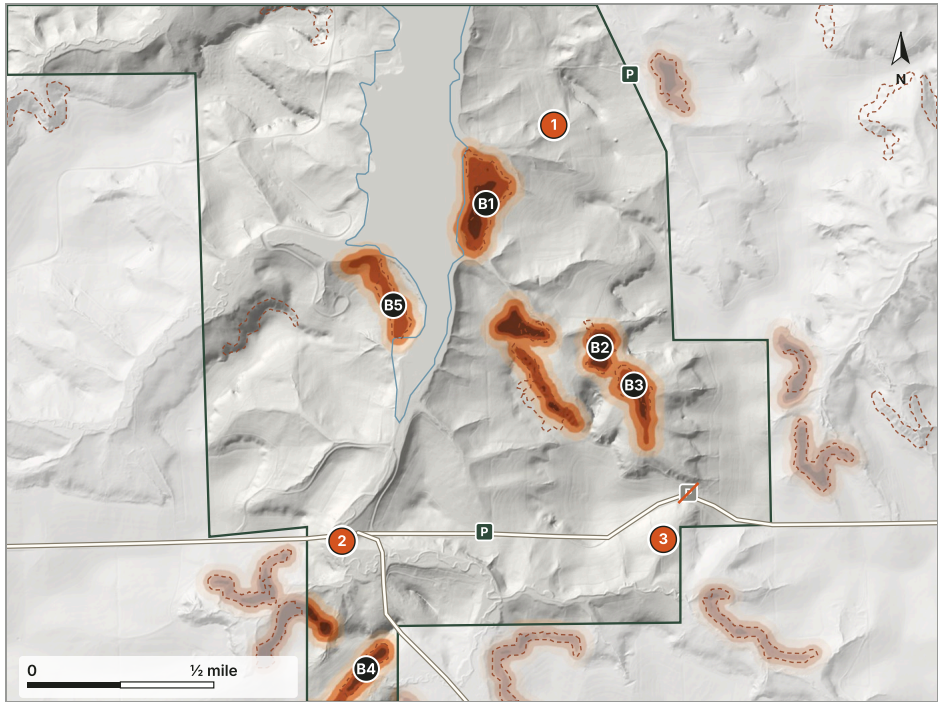
Cover and trees: USGS lidar (2022), ESA WorldCover (2021) and Sentinel-2 (2025 and 2026). Food is my read of those maps, not a plant survey: check it on your walk.

PLATE 5 · ATLAS

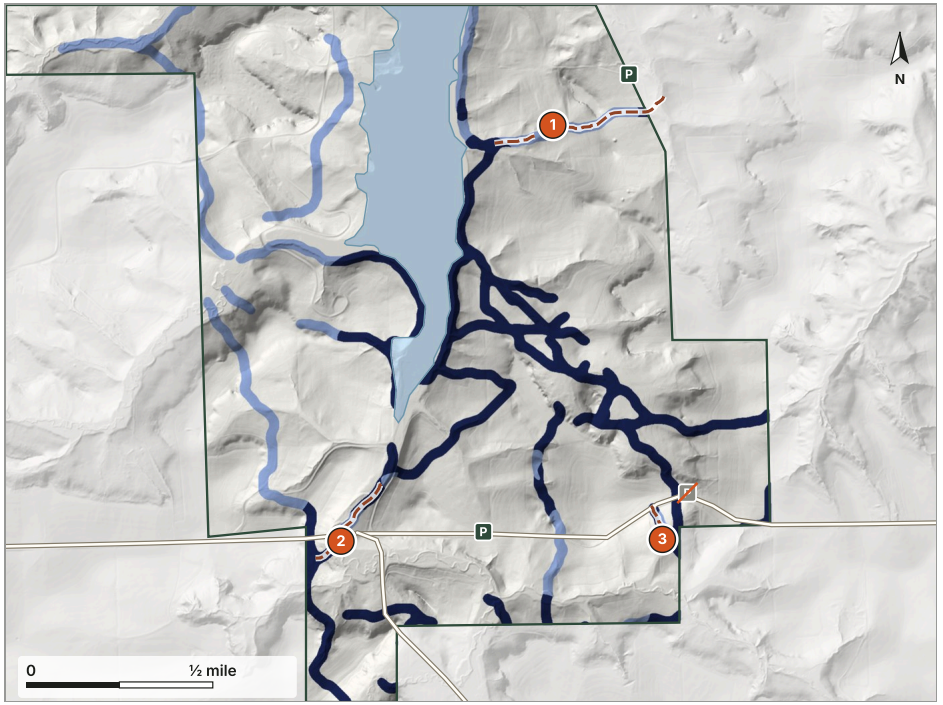
Where deer bed and how they move

Bedding is from my deer simulator, run 120 times a day for 123 deer on this ground. Travel lines come from my terrain model; they're dark where the simulator agrees and light where it doesn't. Both are models: tracks decide.

MODEL

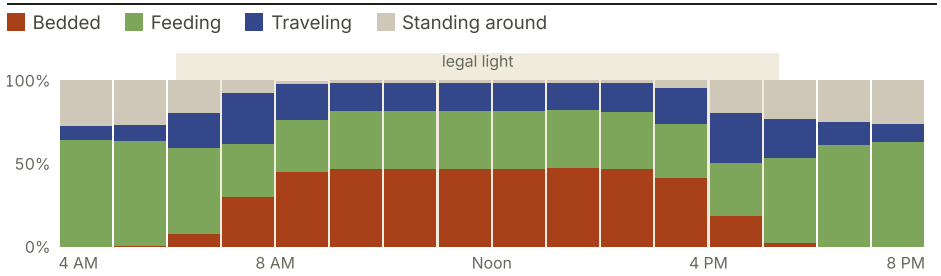


BEDDED DEER IN LEGAL LIGHT Some · More · Most · Top 5%



LIKELY TRAVEL, AND HOW SURE I AM Both models agree · Terrain model only

WHAT MODEL DEER ARE DOING, BY HOUR Thursday, Nov 5



Travel peaks in the first two hours of legal light and the last two before it ends. At midday close to half the deer are bedded.

BUSIEST PUBLIC BEDDING share of public bedded deer-hours

	SIZE	SHARE	NEAREST STAND
B1	9 ac	28%	1 490 yd
B2	4 ac	18%	3 951 yd
B3	4 ac	13%	3 739 yd
B4	4 ac	13%	2 612 yd
B5	5 ac	12%	1 1,137 yd

4 of the 6 busiest bedding areas are on private land around the edges, and the public side holds 44% of the bedded deer-hours. Field Bottom's trail is backed by both models. Lakeside Run and Cave Hollow Draw are on terrain-model trails only, so check those for tracks first. Stay out of every bedding area.

PLATE 6

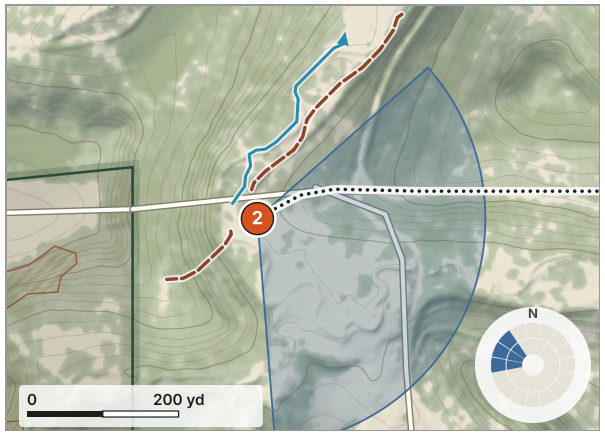
Wind and scent: where each stand works

Your scent on a Best wind · On an OK wind · Best mornings, OK evenings · Calm, cool air slides



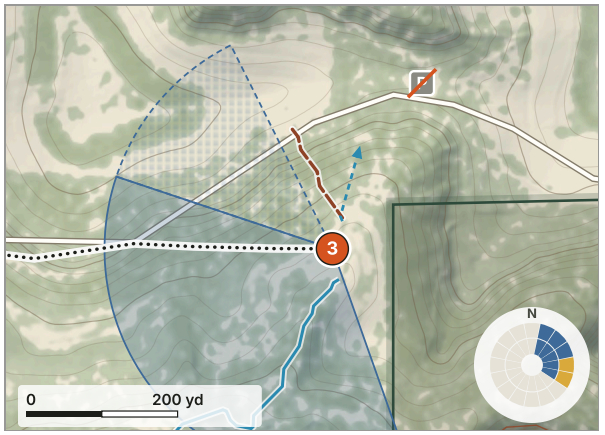
1 Lakeside Run

Best SE to SSW. OK: ESE, SW. Steady wind only (7+ mph or partly cloudy).



2 Cave Hollow Draw

Best W to NW. Steady wind only (7+ mph or partly cloudy).



3 Field Bottom

Best NNE to ESE mornings, calm mornings. Evenings: NNE to ENE, OK E and ESE. Calm mornings OK until the air turns uphill: puff from 8 AM.

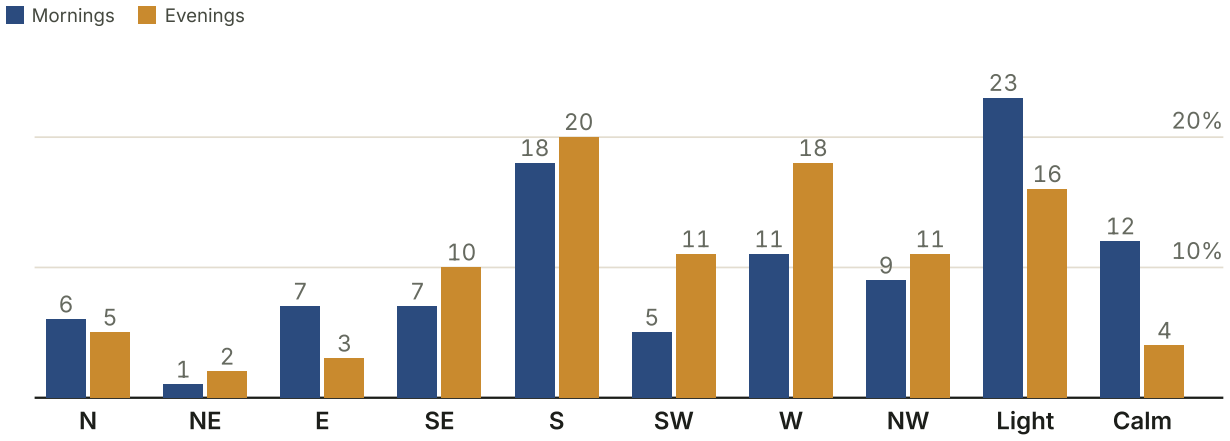
WHICH STAND ON WHICH WIND

N	No stand: scout or rest one
NE	3 Field Bottom
E	3 Field Bottom *(evenings OK)*
SE	1 Lakeside Run
S	1 Lakeside Run
SW	1 Lakeside Run (OK)
W	2 Cave Hollow Draw
NW	2 Cave Hollow Draw
Calm	Mornings 3 Field Bottom · **evenings no stand**

Mornings and evenings match unless the row says so. Between SW and W, and NW and N, no stand fits.

HOW OFTEN EACH WIND BLEW WHILE DEER MOVE

% of days, Oct 31 – Nov 15, 2015–2024



Some stand fits 80% of mornings (78% Best) and 66% of evenings (56% Best). Iowa County Airport, 9 mi south; Lone Rock agrees within 3 points. Fans: scent out to 300 yd, the wind's slice plus 30° each side (a rule of thumb).

PLATE 7

The three stands up close

Shot band 15–25 yd · 30 yd: every shot inside · Contours every 4 ft



1 Lakeside Run

WINDS	**SE to SSW** OK: ESE, SW
PIN	43.019657, −90.276723
WALK	East Side Prairie lot, 450 yd on the onX line, in from the northeast. Never cross the trail.
HANG	North of the trail, 18–25 ft up, so it passes 15–25 yd out.

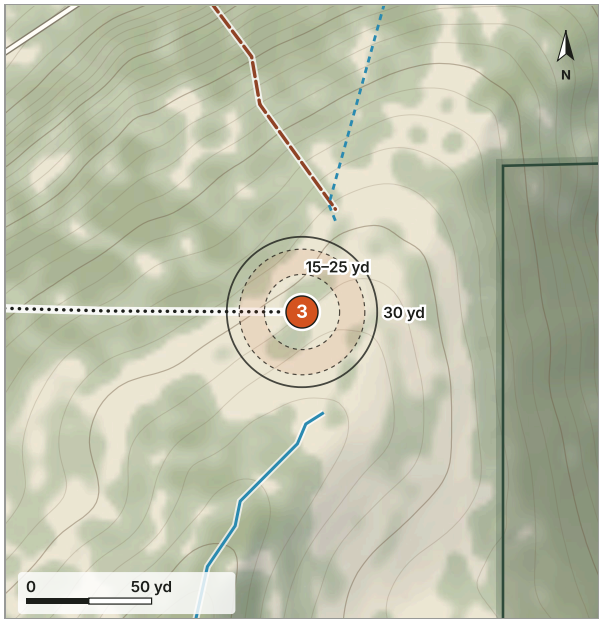
South-facing sidehill about 400 yd east of the lake. The trail runs 20 yd southeast of the pin, between lakeshore bedding 325 yd southwest and private-land bedding 525 yd east. Wear a brimmed cap: low morning sun on your left.



2 Cave Hollow Draw

WINDS	**W to NW**
PIN	43.003804, −90.288613
WALK	Cedar lot, 700 yd: about 570 yd west along Mount Hope Road, then 135 yd down into the draw.
HANG	East of the trail, so it passes 15–25 yd out.

Bottom of a draw 130 yd west of Union Valley Road. The trail runs up the draw 26 yd west of the pin, from private-land bedding 250 yd west. Low evening sun sits left of the trail.



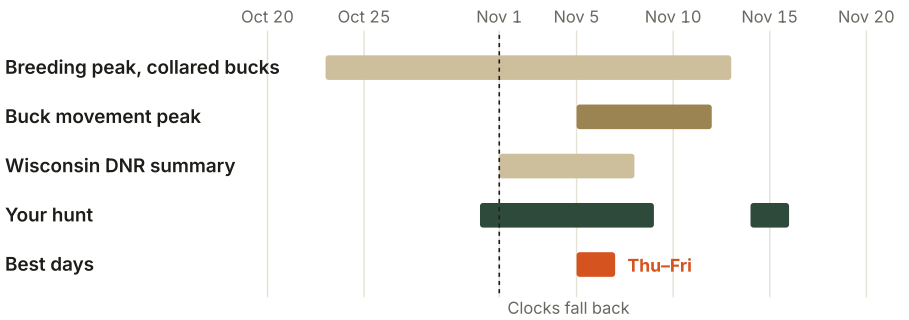
3 Field Bottom

WINDS	**NNE to ESE mornings, calm mornings** Evenings: NNE to ENE, OK E and ESE
PIN	43.003473, −90.271648
WALK	Cedar lot, 875 yd: about 610 yd east along Mount Hope Road, then 270 yd through the woods. Skip Mt Hope Rd (E) lot: that walk crosses the trail.
HANG	Southwest of the trail, so it passes 15–25 yd out.

Wooded bottom 150 yd south of Mount Hope Road, 80 yd west of the private line. Your only stand for northeast and east winds and calm mornings, so watch its sit count.

WHEN TO GO

Your best days are Thursday and Friday, November 5 and 6



In a GPS-collar study of 188 bucks in Iowa, Dane and Grant counties, the rut peaked October 23 to November 12 and buck movement peaked November 5 to 11; the DNR's summary says about November 1 to 7. Bucks 3 and older moved more at night at the peak, so it's no sure thing.

Weekdays are my call, from an Alabama study where deer moved less in daylight Sunday to Wednesday after weekend hunting. **Sit all day Thursday**, and Friday morning only if the same stand fits. From Sunday, November 1, rest whichever stand the forecast favors for those days.

LEAVE TIMES

Every hunt day is on the field card. They allow 35 yards a minute plus climbing time and 15 minutes to get set, so you're settled 20 minutes before legal light, or 2½ hours before it ends. Wisconsin's hours run 30 minutes before sunrise to 20 minutes after sunset at Sheboygan, plus 12 minutes for Blackhawk's zone, so don't use a sunrise app.

WHEN PLANS CHANGE

If the day doesn't go to plan

The wind turns, or goes light under a clear sky at stand 1 or 2. Climb down when no deer are in sight and go where the field card says, or scout.

A calm or light northeast or east morning. Only Field Bottom fits. From 8 AM, puff every 15 minutes and climb down if it drifts north toward the trail. On a calm or light evening, no stand fits.

You bump deer walking in. Finish the sit, then rest that stand 4 days.

A truck is at your lot, or at Mt Hope Rd (E) when you're headed to Field Bottom. Go to another stand that fits, or scout.

A doe in range. Take her at Field Bottom or Cave Hollow Draw and save Lakeside Run for a buck. Both drags are short: about 150 yd up to Mount Hope Road or 130 yd up to Union Valley Road.

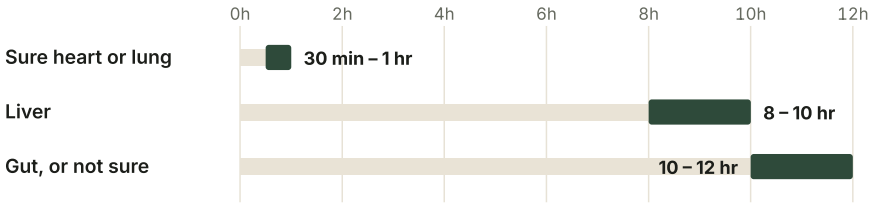
> *"Every climb counts. In Auburn University's tracking, bucks avoided a hunted stand's area for about three days."*

AFTER THE SHOT

Mark it, back out, and wait

Mark where you last saw the deer, back out quietly and wait. After an evening shot, take your stand down before you track. If you jump the deer, back out and treat it as a gut hit.

WAIT AT LEAST hours after the shot



Liver or gut, and the wait ends after dark: go back at legal light the next morning.

Liver, gut and next-morning waits follow the National Deer Association. The heart and lung wait, and "not sure means gut", are my own, more cautious rules.

A leashed dog can trail a deer if nobody with the dog carries a weapon. Following one onto private land takes the landowner's OK. Shining is banned 10 PM to 7 AM, so ask DNR wildlife staff (1-888-936-7463) whether a light on a blood trail counts.

SAFETY. Wear a full-body harness or saddle tether from the time you leave the ground until you're back down, with a lifeline or lineman's rope on the climb. Know your backstop.

BEFORE YOU GO

Check these before your first sit

- [ ] **Walk each route once at midday, around October 24.** Check each pin's trail for tracks and pick your tree, staying out of the bedding.
  This is where my model meets the ground.
- [ ] **Check the onX pins on the satellite layer.**
  My lidar is from April 2022; anything cut since won't show.
- [ ] **Check which end of Mount Hope Road reaches Cedar lot.**
  My data can't confirm the road is open through the wildlife area.
- [ ] **Check legal-light times against the DNR's 2026 table.**
  I couldn't open it, so the card's times are figured, not copied.
- [ ] **Ask the landowner east of Field Bottom about following a hit deer.**
  The stand is 80 yd from their line.
- [ ] **Check the recreation area's map for its no-hunting zones.**
  Its campground and park-area lines aren't in my data.
- [ ] **Line up a tracking-dog handler, and tell someone where you'll sit.**

WISCONSIN RULES THAT MATTER

Rules for this ground

Your archery license includes a statewide bow buck authorization. For a doe, pick the Iowa unit and public-access land when you buy.

On DNR land south of Highway 64, a stand can be up only from 1 hour before shooting hours to 1 hour after. No screw-ins or cut lanes; you can prune limbs under 1 inch flush with the trunk.

Put your DNR customer ID, or name and address, on your stand, readable from the ground, and on the outside of any trail camera.

Iowa County is closed to baiting and feeding, salt and minerals included. Up to 2 ounces of scent can go anywhere; more must be out of deer's reach and come out at the end of each day.

Register through GameReg (gamereg.wi.gov or 1-844-426-3734) by 5 PM the day after you recover the deer.

No gun season falls on your dates, so orange isn't required, but pheasant hunters work the grass: wear it walking in and out.

Iowa County has CWD. Testing is free at the Barneveld kiosk, about 20 miles east.

HOW THIS PLAN WAS MADE

Method

TERRAIN AND WOODS

USGS 3DEP lidar, flown April 10, 2022, leaves off: ground on a 2-yard grid and tree height from the canopy returns. Every map in this plan is drawn from it.

TREES, FOOD AND SOILS

Sentinel-2 satellite pictures from spring 2025 to fall 2026 sort the timber by how it greens, colors and drops its leaves. Cover adds ESA WorldCover. Soils are the USDA soil survey for Iowa County. Tree names and foods are my read.

DEER

Bedding comes from my deer simulator (123 deer, 120 runs a day for Oct 31, Nov 5 and Nov 14, light pressure). Travel is my terrain model from the lidar, checked against the simulator: the map shows where the two agree and where only the terrain model has a trail. Both are models, not sightings: they're marked and listed to check.

WIND

Ten years of NOAA hourly records for your dates, mornings and evenings while deer move. Scent fans are a rule of thumb, out to 300 yards.

TIMING

Peer-reviewed collar studies of the rut and of hunting pressure, read against the Wisconsin DNR's summary.

RULES

The DNR's 2026–27 regulations and the administrative code, checked October 16, 2026.

SOURCES · CHECKED OCTOBER 16, 2026

Sources

Rules. Wisconsin DNR, Hunting Regulations Fall 2026 – Spring 2027 (dnr.wisconsin.gov). Wis. Admin. Code NR 10.06(5), 10.001(2s), 10.07(2), unofficial copy (justia.com). DNR pages for Blackhawk Lake Wildlife Area, CWD results by county and the baiting-and-feeding map. Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area hunting rules and map.

Land and weather. USGS 3DEP lidar, April 2022. Overture Maps roads and buildings. Copernicus Sentinel-2 L2A, 2025–2026 (AWS open data). ESA WorldCover 2021 v200. USDA NRCS soil survey, Iowa County WI049, version 21, Aug 27, 2026. NOAA hourly records, Iowa County Airport and Lone Rock, Oct 31 – Nov 15, 2015–2024.

Deer research. Hunsaker, Gilbertson, Storm & Turner 2025, *Ecology and Evolution*, doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71589, with the DNR's summary. Wiskirchen et al. 2022, *Wildlife Research*, doi.org/10.1071/WR21047. Auburn University stand-avoidance research, as summarized by SC DNR and the National Deer Association. NDA on waiting after the shot, 2023 and 2025.

PRAGMATIC / SCOUTING

Prepared by Pragmatic Scouting for this hunter only. Hunt safe, wear a full-body harness, and know your backstop.