



**Results of the 2003 Off-Reservation  
Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear)  
Harvest in the  
Ceded Territories of Michigan**

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# Results of the 2003 Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the Ceded Territories of Michigan

## Introduction

This report summarizes the 2003 tribal harvest of waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) on lands in Michigan that were ceded to the United States by the Lake Superior Ojibwa in the treaties of 1836 and 1842 (Fig. 1). The majority of hunters were members of 3 Lake Superior bands with reservations in the upper peninsula (UP): Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), and the Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD) (see Fig. 1). However, harvest by members of 2 Wisconsin Bands (Bad River and Sokoagon) signatory to the treaty of 1842 is also included in harvest totals for the 1842 ceded territory.

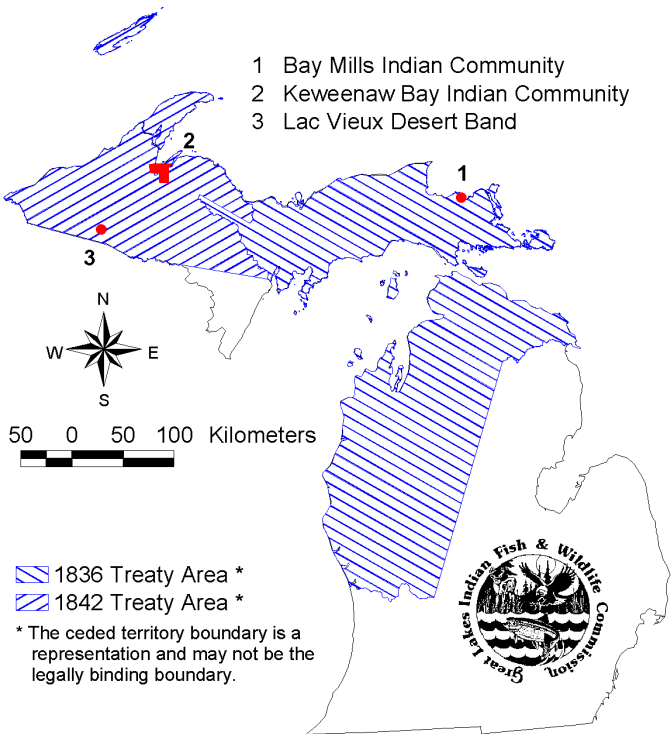


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes and ceded territory in Michigan.

## DEER HUNTING

### Regulations

Tribal members of Michigan tribes were regulated by distinct and specific tribal regulations for the 2003 season. Table 1 summarizes the major features of off-reservation tribal deer hunting regulations in Michigan by tribe.

**Table 1.** Tribal deer hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes located in Michigan.<sup>a</sup>

Tribe	Season Dates	Antlerless Bag Limit	Season Bag Limit
BMIC	1 Aug - 1 Jan	none	none
KBIC	1 Sep - 1 Jan	none	4
LVD	2 Sep - 31 Dec	none	4

<sup>a</sup> Members of 2 Wisconsin Bands hunted in Michigan pursuant to the treaty of 1842.

Bay Mills tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department good for either antlerless or antlered deer on public lands within the 1836 treaty boundaries. The deer hunting season opened on August 1<sup>st</sup> and closed on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Hunting hours were from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal members were not required to register deer taken within the 1836 treaty area. There was no commercial harvest of deer but harvest for subsistence use was unlimited.

Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. The deer hunting season opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> and closed on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid tribal hunting and fishing card that allowed members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. Initially 2 deer tags good for either antlerless or antlered deer were issued. Two additional tags could be obtained after registering the first 2 deer for a maximum of 4 deer during the season. All deer were required to be registered with the KBIC Conservation/Law Enforcement Program within 7 days of harvest.

Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The deer hunting season opened on the day after Labor Day and closed on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Hunting hours were ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid off-reservation natural resources harvesting permit. Initially 2 deer tags good for either antlerless or antlered deer were issued. After the state season opened, 2 additional tags could be obtained after registering the first 2 deer for a maximum of 4 deer during the season. All deer harvested were required to be tagged and

registered at a tribal registration station by 5 p.m. of the next working day.

Methods

*1836 Ceded Territory.* Because registration was not required, a telephone survey (Appendix A) was used to estimate the number of deer harvested in the 1836 treaty ceded territory. Permit holders were sorted by phone number and every other permittee with a phone number listed was selected from a random starting point. A total of 42 (28%) permittees were contacted during the survey. Total harvest was estimated by calculating the mean number of deer harvested per permit from the phone sample and multiplying it by the total number of permits issued. The antlerless ratio, and harvest by county and month were calculated similarly.

*1842 Ceded Territory.* Harvest data for the 1842 ceded territory in the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each deer registered. Information included county and date of harvest, and type of deer (antlered or antlerless).

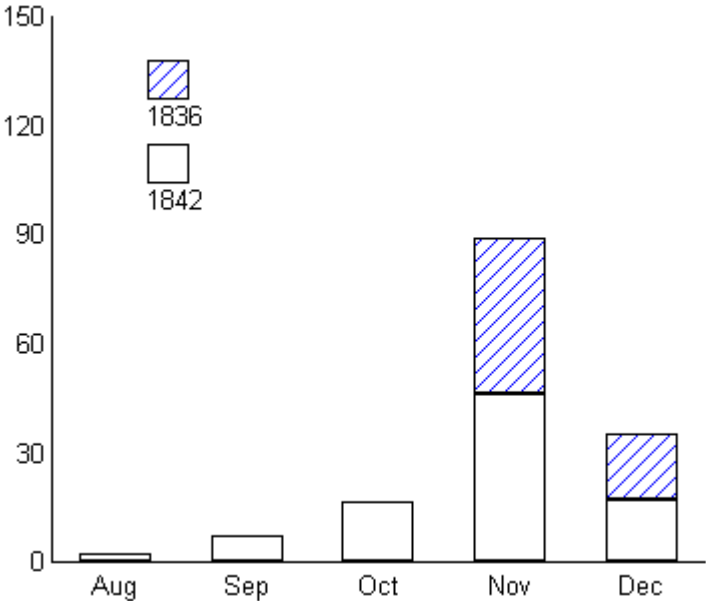
Results

The total off-reservation tribal deer harvest in Michigan was estimated to be 149 deer (60% antlerless) (Table 2). A total of 88 deer (60% antlerless) were registered in the 1842 ceded territory in Michigan and total harvest for the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan was estimated to be 61 deer (59% antlerless). Harvest was greatest during November (Figure 2). Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of harvest for the ceded territories of Michigan.

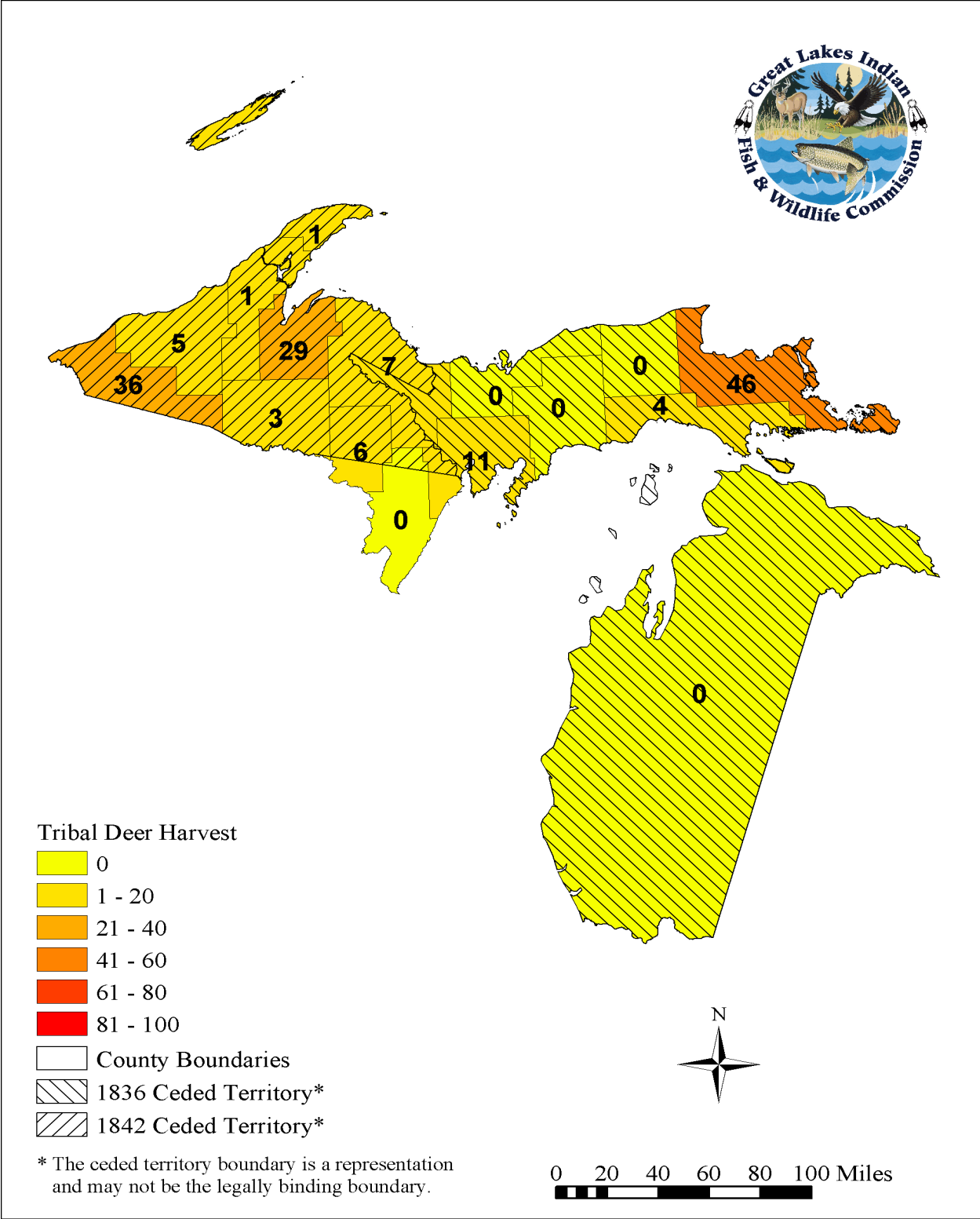
**Table 2.** 2003 Michigan tribal deer harvest by registration station<sup>a</sup>.

Registration Station	Treaty Area of Harvest	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Bay Mills	1836	25	36	61
Bad River	1842	0	1	1
Keweenaw Bay	1842	20	25	45
Lac Vieux Desert	1842	15	27	42
Total		60	89	149

<sup>a</sup> Data for the 1836 ceded territory was estimated from a phone survey described above.



**Figure 2.** Off-reservation tribal deer harvest by month in Michigan ceded territories, 2003.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of off-reservation tribal deer harvest by county in Michigan, 2003.

## Bear Hunting

### Regulations

As with deer hunting, distinct tribal regulations governed tribal bear harvest in Michigan. Table 3 summarizes the major features of off-reservation tribal bear hunting regulations in Michigan by tribe.

**Table 3.** Tribal bear hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes located in Michigan.

Tribe	Season Dates	Bag Limit
BMIC	1 Apr - 30 Jun 1 Sep - 30 Nov	none
KBIC	1 Sep - 1 Jan	1
LVD	2 Sep - 31 Dec	none

\_\_\_\_\_ Bay Mills tribal members hunted under the regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department. The open season for bear ran from 1 April - 30 June and from 1 September - 30 November. Registration was not required for harvested bears and there was no bag limit. Unlawful hunting methods included harvesting or molesting a bear in its den as well as harvesting a cub or a sow with cubs. Bait was restricted to organic matter placed on the ground.

\_\_\_\_\_ Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. As per KBIC deer hunting regulations, the possession of a valid tribal hunting and fishing card allowed tribal members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. The open season for bear ran from 1 September - 1 January. Registration was required for all harvested bear and the bag limit was 1 per season. Unlawful methods included the use of dogs, snares, or traps.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The open season ran from the day after Labor Day - 31 October. There was no bag limit and registration was required for all bear harvested.

### Methods

*1836 Ceded Territory.* A telephone survey (Appendix A) was used (as described above) to estimate the number of bear harvested. A total of 38 (30%) permittees were contacted during the survey.

1842 Ceded Territory. Harvest data for the 1842 portion of the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each bear registered. Information included sex, county, and date of harvest.

## Results

Two boars were reported harvested off-reservation in the ceded territories of Michigan in 2003.

**Table 4.** Number of bear harvested by Treaty Area during the 2003 tribal bear season in Michigan.

Treaty Area	Boar	Sow	Total
1836 <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0
1842 <sup>b</sup>	2	0	2
Total	2	0	2

<sup>a</sup> data estimated from survey sample

<sup>b</sup> data from registration stations

## Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Jeanne Bouschor, Keweenaw Bay license clerk, and Dan North, GLIFWC wildlife technician, and Steve Garske, GLIFWC invasive plant aid, for compiling these results. Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC biological services director, and Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife section leader, provided editorial comments.



**Appendix A**

**2003 Deer Harvest Survey - 1836 Ceded Territory**

Tribal ID number : \_\_\_\_\_

Did you hunt DEER **OFF-RESERVATION** with a **tribal** permit during the 2003 **tribal** deer season?

Yes  No

In which county or counties did you hunt? (check all that apply)

Chippewa  Mackinac  Luce  Other : \_\_\_\_\_

How many deer did you harvest? \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in table)

Number of Deer		Date of Harvest	County of Harvest
Antlered	Antlerless		

**2003 Bear Harvest Survey - 1836 Ceded Territory**

Did you hunt BEAR **OFF-RESERVATION** with a **tribal** permit during the 2003 **tribal** bear season?

Yes  No

In which county or counties did you hunt? (check all that apply)

Chippewa  Mackinac  Luce  Other : \_\_\_\_\_

How many bears did you harvest? \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in table)

Number of Bear		Date of Harvest	County of Harvest
Boar	Sow		