



**Results of the 2008 Off-Reservation
Waawaashkeshi (Deer)
Omashkooz (Elk)
and Makwa (Bear)
Harvest in the
Ceded Territories of Michigan**

by
Miles Falck
Wildlife Biologist

Administrative Report 09-04
January 2010

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
Biological Services Division
P.O. Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-6619

Results of the 2008 Off-Reservation Waawaashkeshi (Deer) Omashkooz (Elk) and Makwa (Bear) Harvest in the Ceded Territories of Michigan

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the 2008 off-reservation harvest of waawaashkeshi (deer), Omashkooz (elk) and makwa (bear) in Michigan by GLIFWC-member tribes who retain hunting, fishing and gathering rights on these lands in the treaties of 1836 and 1842 (Fig. 1). Tribal hunters were members of 4 Lake Superior bands with reservations in the upper peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin: Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD), and the Bad River Band (see Fig. 1).

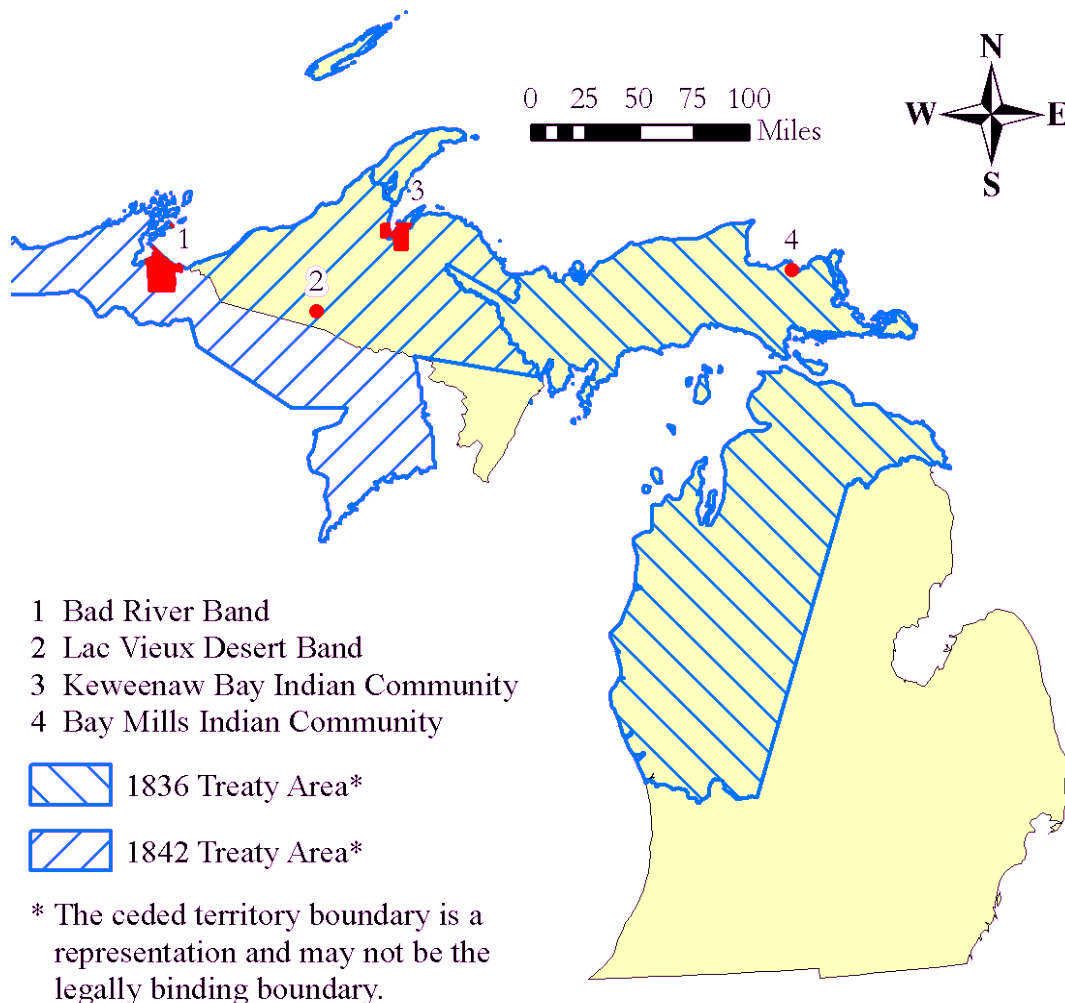


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC-member tribes and ceded territory in Michigan.

DEER HUNTING

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory. In 2008, 444 carcass tags were issued to BMIC tribal hunters. Hunters were given 2 carcass tags each unless additional tags were requested in writing. Harvest information was collected (month and county of harvest, antlered or antler-less) from hunters who filled their first 2 two tags before additional tags were issued. At the end of the season all hunters who had been issued tags were contacted and harvest information was collected by the BMIC Conservation Enforcement Department.

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 for GLIFWC-member tribes in Michigan was 180 deer (51% antlerless) (Table 1). A total of 77 deer (52% antlerless) were registered in the 1842 ceded territory in Michigan and reported harvest for the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan was 103 deer (50% antlerless). Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of deer harvested in the ceded territories of Michigan in 2008.

Table 1. Summary of 2008 off-reservation tribal deer harvest in Michigan.

| Treaty Area of Harvest | Antlered | Antlerless | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1836 | 51 | 52 | 103 |
| 1842 | 37 | 40 | 77 |
| Total | 88 | 92 | 180 |

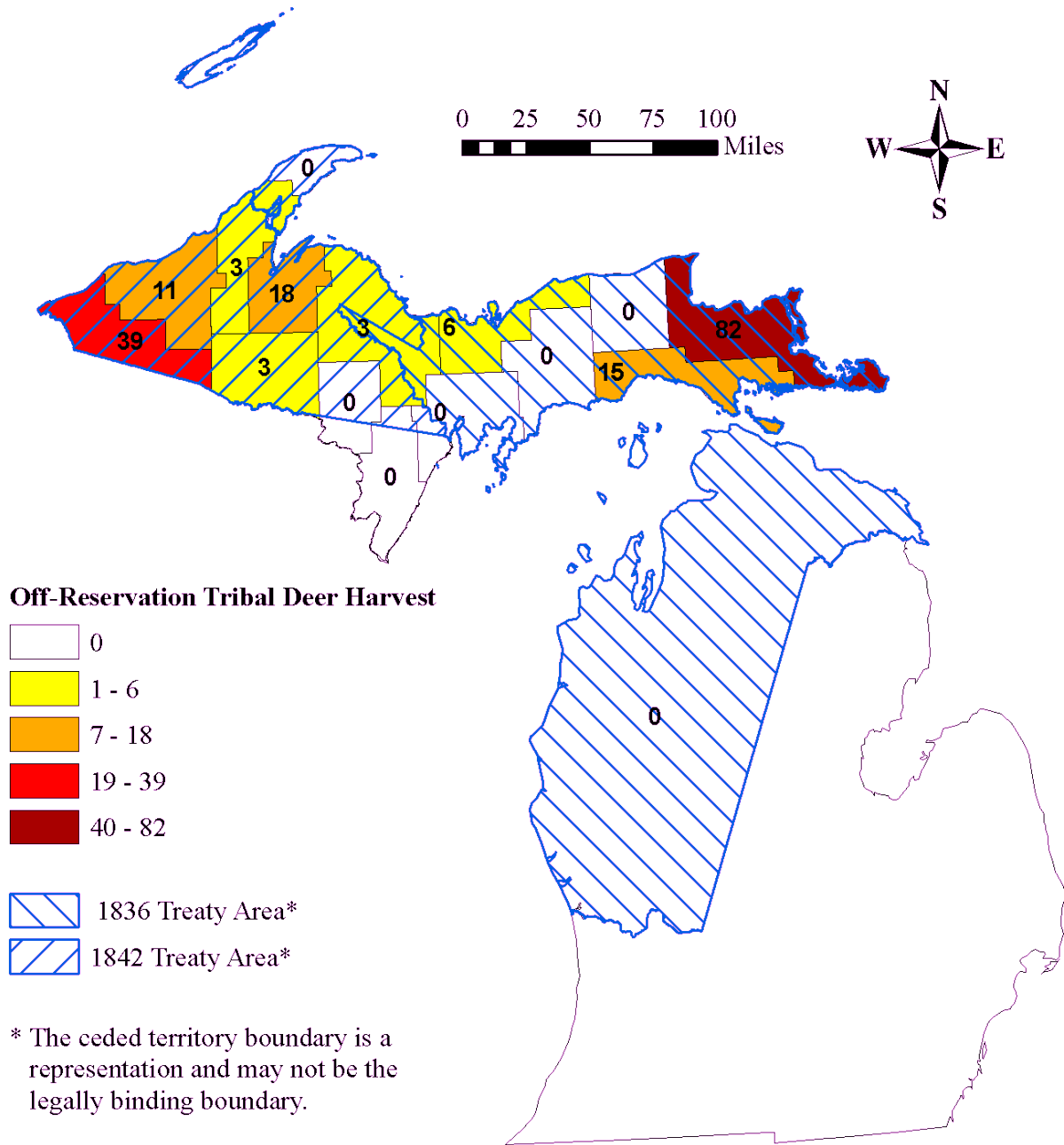


Figure 2. Distribution of off-reservation tribal deer harvest in Michigan, 2008.

ELK HUNTING

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory. The Bay Mills Indian Community issued eight elk permits to tribal hunters. Six of those were cow tags and two were hunter choice. All animals were checked in at Michigan DNR check stations for disease testing and a tooth was taken for aging.

Results

A total of eight elk were harvested off-reservation in the 1836 ceded territory of Michigan by members of the Bay Mills Indian Community during the 2008-09 elk season (Table 2). Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of elk harvested in the 1836 ceded territory of Michigan in 2008-09.

Table 2. Summary of 2008-09 off-reservation tribal elk harvest in Michigan.

| Unit | Season | Cow | Bull | Total |
|--------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| L | Early 8/26-8/29 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| D | December 12/9-12/16 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| B | December 12/9-12/16 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| L | Tribal 12/17- 12/31 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| L | Late 1/14-1/18 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | | 6 | 2 | 8 |

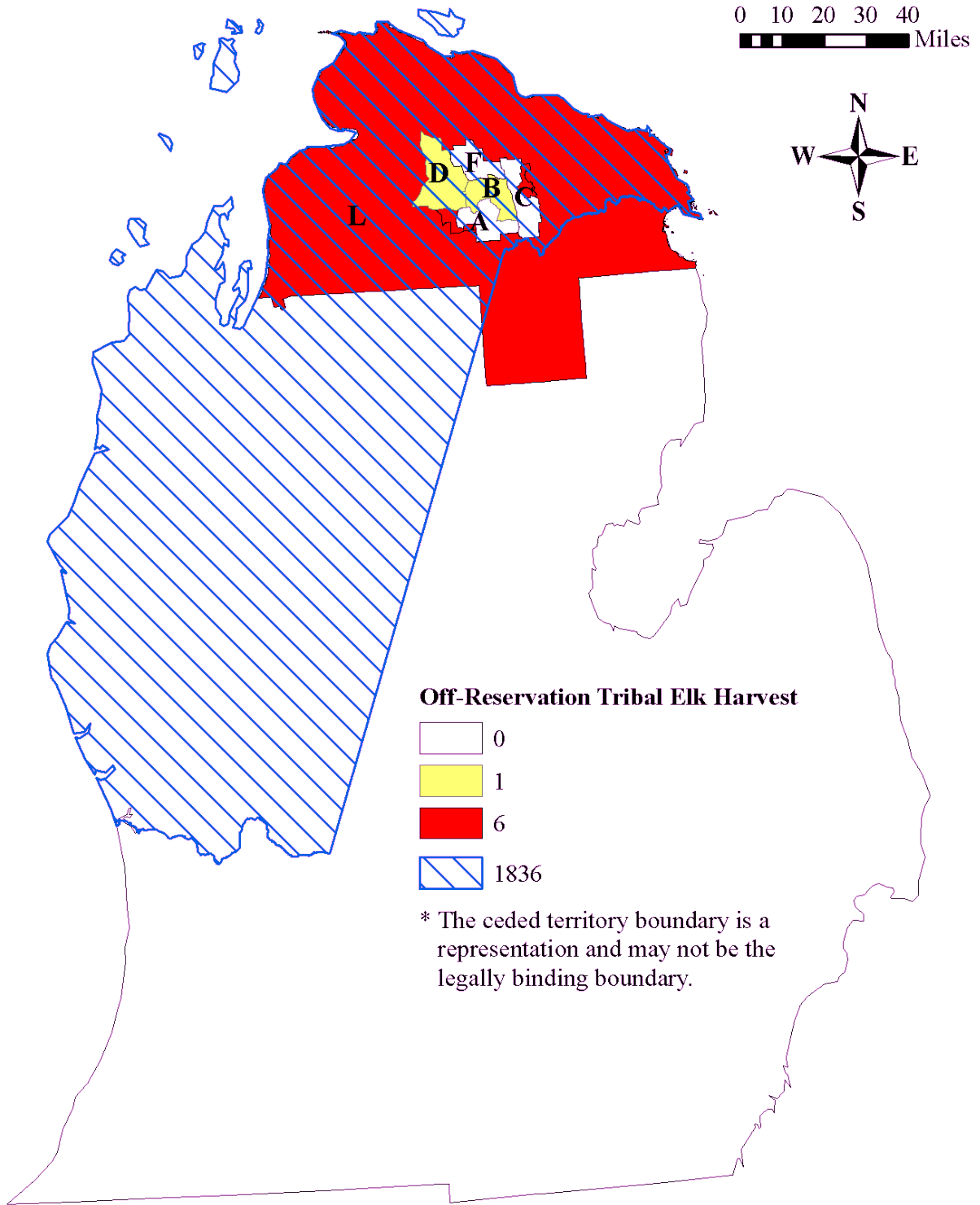


Figure 3. Distribution of tribal elk harvest in Michigan, 2008.

BEAR HUNTING

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory. A total of 16 permits were issued in 2008 for bear, however only 3 were issued to active bear hunters, the remaining permits were issued for incidental harvest during the deer hunt. Because participation in the bear hunt is limited among Bay Mills Indian Community members, a targeted survey of the active bear hunters was conducted by the BMIC Conservation Enforcement Department to determine the level of harvest.

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

A total of three bear were harvested off-reservation in Michigan by GLIFWC-member tribes during 2008 (Table 3). Two bear were harvested in the 1842 ceded territory and 1 was harvested in the 1836 ceded territory. Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of bear harvested in the ceded territories of Michigan in 2008.

Table 3. Summary of 2008 off-reservation tribal bear harvest in Michigan.

| Treaty Area of Harvest | Boar | Sow | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1836 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1842 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 3 | 0 | 3 |

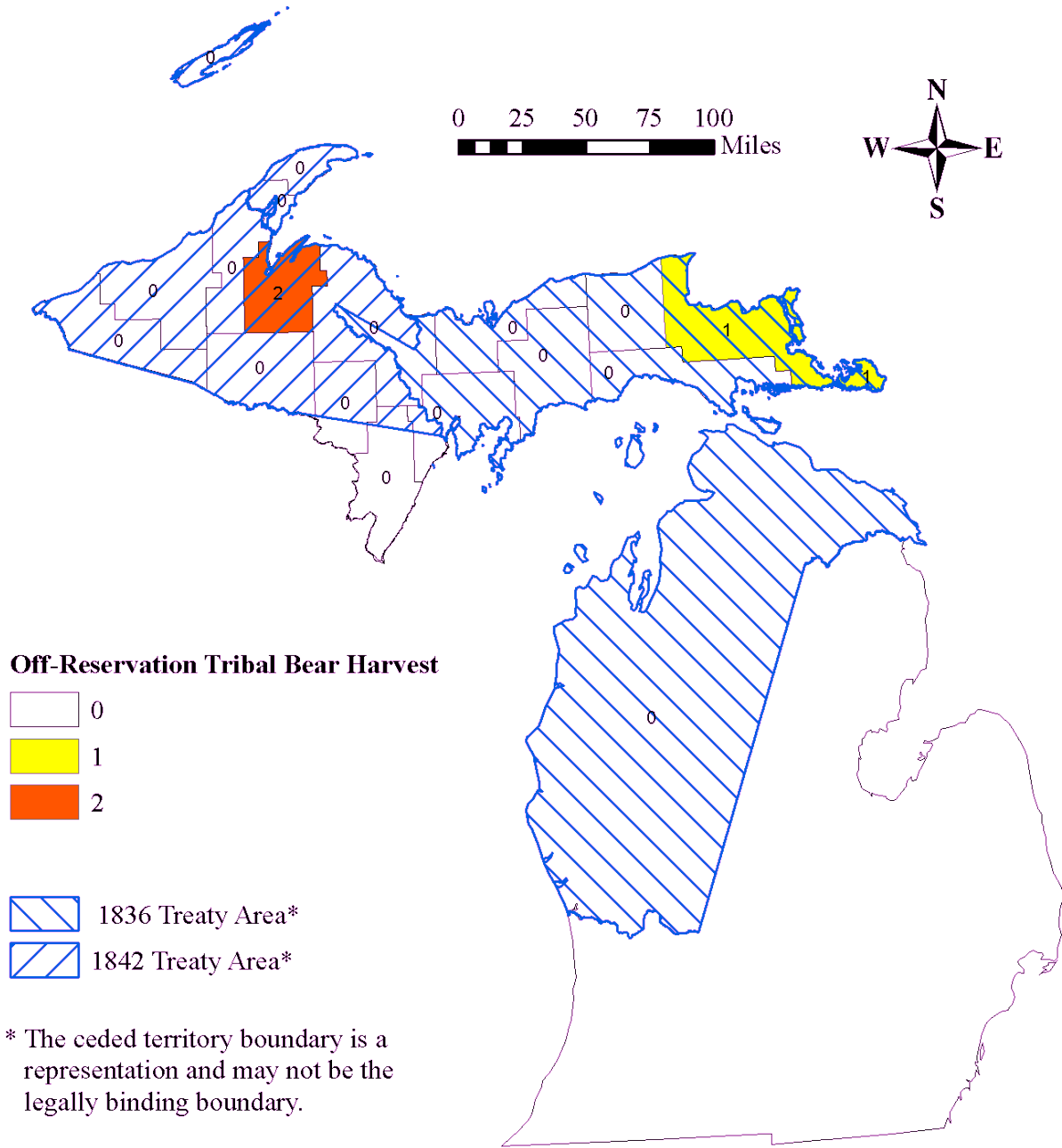


Figure 4. Distribution of off-reservation tribal bear harvest in Michigan, 2008.