



**Results of the 2014 Off-Reservation *Waawaashkeshi*
(deer), *Omaskooz* (elk) and *Makwa* (bear) Harvest in
the 1836, 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of
Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin**

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the 2014 off-reservation harvest of *waawaashkeshi* (deer), *omashkooz* (elk) and *makwa* (bear) in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes (Figure 1).

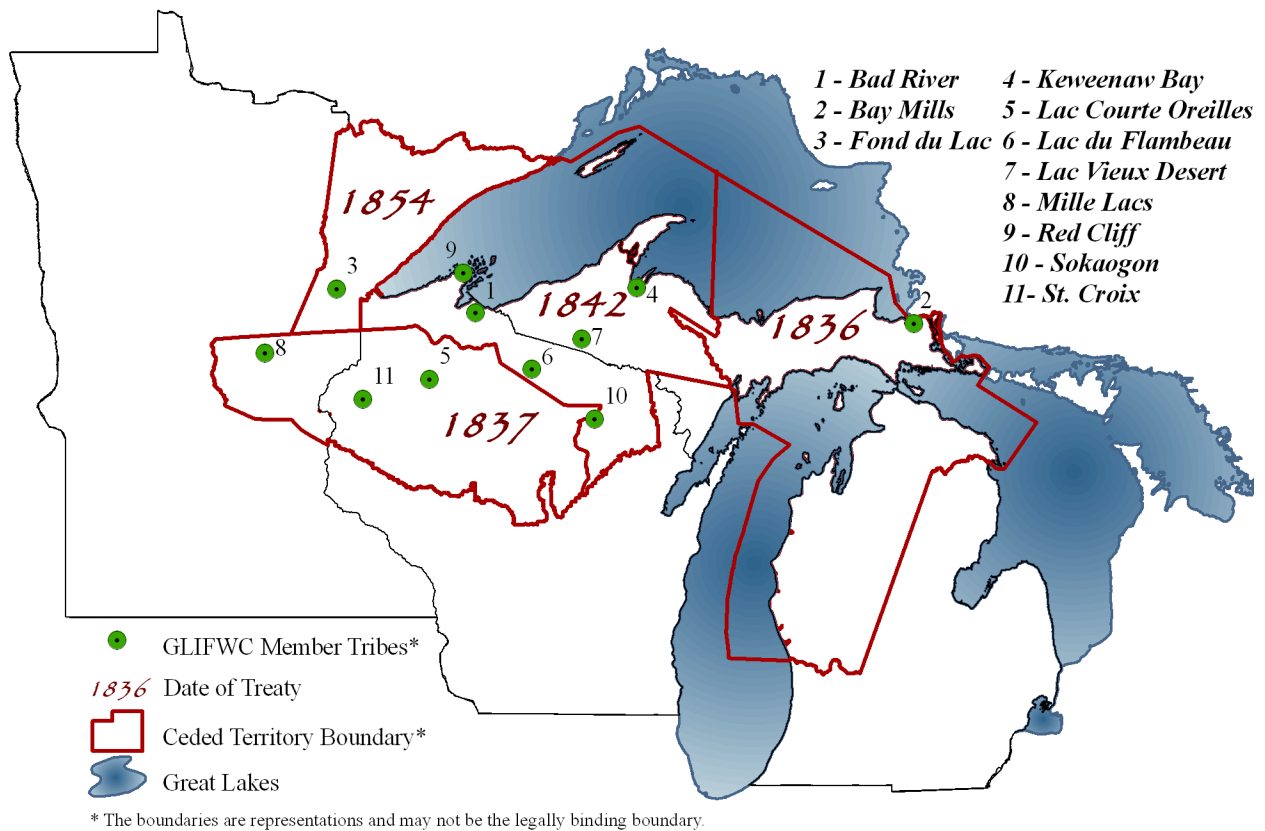


Figure 1. Location of ceded territories and GLIFWC member tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

WAAWAASHKESHI

Regulation Summary

Michigan

1836 Ceded Territory - In the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan, season regulations were enacted to be consistent with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree (*United States v. Michigan* (2007)) signed by five tribes and the State of Michigan. The Bay Mills Indian Community is the only GLIFWC member tribe that is signatory to the treaty of 1836 and the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.

1842 Ceded Territory - Five tribes have enacted regulations on harvesting in this area: Keweenaw Bay, Lac Vieux Desert, Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, and Fond du Lac. Tribal wardens and GLIFWC Conservation Enforcement wardens enforce tribal regulations, with hearings on alleged violations held in tribal court.

Minnesota

In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to be consistent with *Minnesota v. Mille Lacs* (1999) and the wildlife management plans which have been developed by tribal and state officials following the Supreme Court's affirmation of the tribes' reserved rights. GLIFWC member tribes with treaty reserved rights in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota have enacted regulations at least as restrictive as the Model Off-Reservation Conservation Code for the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory ("Minnesota Model Code").

A harvest threshold system precludes the need to establish tribal antlerless *waawaashkeshi* quotas in Minnesota. Under this system, if the tribal antlerless *waawaashkeshi* harvest surpasses the threshold established for that permit area, then a declaration process is required for that permit area in the subsequent year. Because no antlerless thresholds were exceeded in 2013, no declarations were required for the 2014 season.

Six State Parks that are wholly or partially within the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory hold special hunts to reduce *waawaashkeshi* populations. In these State Park special hunts, hunting opportunity is limited by hunter density and not by desired harvest. Because of this, a declaration is required for participation in State Park special hunts. These declarations are for the number of hunters, not the number of *waawaashkeshi*. Table 1 summarizes the special hunts that took place in 2014.

Table 1. Special hunts at Minnesota State Parks wholly or partially within the 1837 ceded territory in 2014.

Park	Date	Type of Hunt
Banning	11/1-11/2	Youth
St. Croix	11/1-11/2	Youth
St. Croix	11/20-11/23	All Ages / Either Sex
William O'Brien	11/20-11/23	All Ages / Either Sex
Crow Wing	12/5-12/7	Muzzleloader / Either Sex

Wisconsin

Tribal *waawaashkeshi* hunting regulations for members hunting in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin were enacted to be consistent with the rulings and stipulations related to *Lac Courte Oreilles v. Voigt* (1983). GLIFWC member tribes with treaty reserved rights in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin have adopted codes at least as restrictive as the Voigt Treaty Off-Reservation Conservation Code (“Voigt Model Code”). Currently, the Voigt Model Code can change through a technical amendment process, which allows for nearly automatic updates when state law, hunting, fishing, or harvesting regulations are liberalized. The Voigt Model Code can also be updated with more restrictive provisions as needed for conservation.

A harvest threshold system precludes the need to establish tribal antlerless *waawaashkeshi* quotas in Wisconsin. Under this system, if the tribal antlerless *waawaashkeshi* harvest surpasses the threshold established for that management unit, then a declaration process is required for that management unit in the subsequent year. Because no antlerless thresholds were exceeded in 2013, no declarations were required for the 2014 season.

Harvest

Waawaashkeshi harvest data were collected at tribal registration stations. Tribal registration stations were located on each of GLIFWC’s 11 member tribe’s reservations in addition to two stations in St. Paul, MN. GLIFWC conservation wardens also registered harvest in the field. With the exception of permits issued by Fond du Lac and Keweenaw Bay, all tribal permits and harvest registrations were entered into GLIFWC’s online permit system. Keweenaw Bay provided tribal off-reservation harvest data by county upon the season’s closure. Fond du Lac provided a summary of harvest by permit area upon the season’s closure.

Total Harvest

A total of 1,365 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested off-reservation in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season (Tables 2 and 3, Figure 2).

Michigan

A total of 138 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested off-reservation in Michigan during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season (Table 2). Antlered *waawaashkeshi* comprised 32% of the total harvest. Bay Mills members harvested 80 *waawaashkeshiwag* in the 1836 ceded territory. In the 1842 ceded territory, 58 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested by members of Bad River, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Vieux Desert, and Sokaogon. *Waawaashkeshi* were harvested from 11 counties in Michigan during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season (Table 3, Figure 2). Chippewa, Gogebic, Baraga, and Mackinac counties accounted for 85% of the harvest.

Minnesota

A total of 71 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested off-reservation in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory by members of Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs (Table 2). Antlered *waawaashkeshi* comprised 42% of the harvest. Harvest was greatest in Mille Lacs County (Table 3, Figure 2).

Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, a total of 1,156 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested off-reservation in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories. Antlered *waawaashkeshi* comprised 38% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season was distributed among 23 counties in Wisconsin (Table 3, Figure 2). Vilas, Burnett, Bayfield, and Forest counties accounted for 63% of the harvest.

Table 2. Harvest summary for the 2014 off-reservation tribal *waawaashkeshi* season by registration station, state and type of *waawaashkeshi*.

Station	Michigan		Minnesota		Wisconsin		Subtotal		Total
	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	
Bad River		3			37	37	37	40	77
Bay Mills	26	54					26	54	80
Fond du Lac ^a			1	13	16	30	17	43	60
Keweenaw Bay ^b	9	9					9	9	18
Lac Courte Oreilles					99	111	99	111	210
Lac du Flambeau					98	280	98	280	378
Lac Vieux Desert	9	26			3	2	12	28	40
Mille Lacs			27	27	9	11	36	38	74
Red Cliff					29	38	29	38	67
Sokaogon		2			48	97	48	99	147
St. Croix					97	107	97	107	204
Warden Registration			2	1	1	6	3	7	10
Subtotal	44	94	30	41	437	719	511	854	1,365
Total	138		71		1,156		1,365		

^a Includes harvest by Fond du Lac members reported by Schrage (2015).

^b Includes harvest by Keweenaw Bay members members provided by Kauppila (2015).

Table 3. Harvest summary for the 2014 off-reservation tribal *waawaashkeshi* season by state, county and type of *waawaashkeshi*.

State	County	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Michigan	Baraga ^a	8	8	16
	Chippewa	21	39	60
	Gogebic	7	20	27
	Grand Traverse	0	1	1
	Houghton ^a	0	1	1
	Iron	0	2	2
	Kalkaska	2	1	3
	Luce	0	1	1
	Mackinac	3	11	14
	Marquette ^a	1	1	2
	Ontonagon	1	6	7
	Unknown	1	3	4
	Subtotal	44	94	138
Minnesota	Aitkin	1	4	5
	Crow Wing	0	2	2
	Mille Lacs	13	12	25
	Morrison	4	4	8
	Pine	11	6	17
	Unknown ^b	1	13	14
		Subtotal	30	41

^a Includes harvest by Keweenaw Bay members members provided by Kauppila (2015).

^b Includes harvest by Fond du Lac members reported by Schrage (2015).

Table 3. (continued).

State	County	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Wisconsin	Ashland	4	1	5
	Barron	4	1	5
	Bayfield	67	76	143
	Burnett	91	119	210
	Chippewa	2	0	2
	Clark	0	1	1
	Douglas	34	55	89
	Florence	1	11	12
	Forest	32	76	108
	Iron	4	13	17
	Langlade	12	12	24
	Lincoln	0	3	3
	Marathon	1	2	3
	Marinette	1	5	6
	Oneida	20	27	47
	Polk	2	3	5
	Price	12	20	32
	Rusk	3	4	7
	Sawyer	40	45	85
	St. Croix	1	0	1
	Taylor	2	0	2
	Vilas	66	205	271
	Washburn	25	26	51
Unknown	13	14	27	
	Subtotal	437	719	1,156
Total		511	854	1,365

There were 590 successful *waawaashkeshi* hunters in 2014 (Figure 3, Table 4). The average number of *waawaashkeshiwag* harvested per hunter in 2014 was 2.3 (Figure 3). During the 2014 off-reservation tribal *waawaashkeshi* season 294 hunters shot more than 1 *waawaashkeshi* (Figure 3, Table 4). Many tribal hunters provide meat for extended family, other tribal members in need, elders, feasts, and other community events. Thus, preserving the ability to harvest multiple *waawaashkeshiwag* has been an on-going goal of the off-reservation tribal *waawaashkeshi* season structure. The trend data illustrated in Figure 3 is slightly different from that reported in prior years because it now includes hunters from Keweenaw Bay.

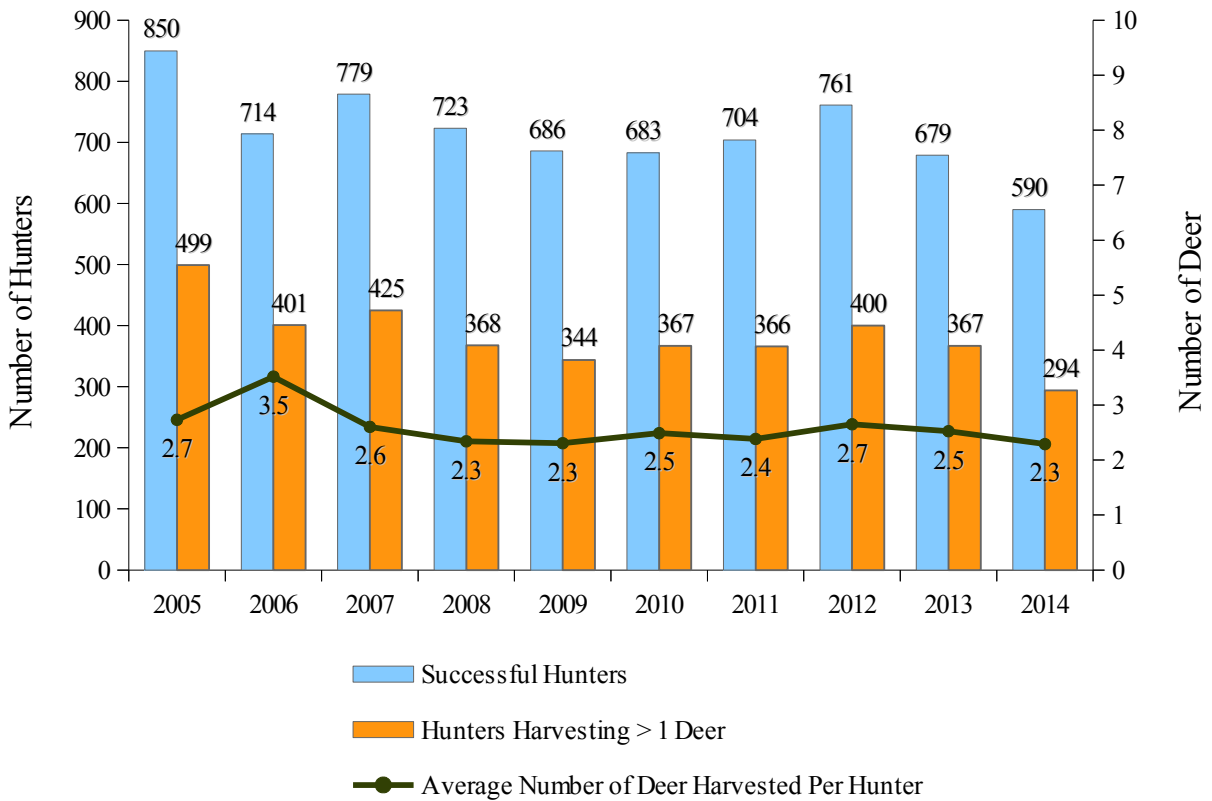


Figure 3. Trends for number of successful hunters, hunters harvesting multiple *waawaashkeshiwag*, and average number of *waawaashkeshiwag* harvested per hunter from 2005-2014. *Waawaashkeshiwag* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011. *Waawaashkeshiwag* registered at Fond du Lac were not included.

Table 4. Number of successful hunters and the number of *waawaashkeshiwag* they harvested off reservation during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season. *Waawaashkeshiwag* registered at Fond du Lac were not included.

Number of Deer	Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Total Number of Deer
1	296	50%	296
2	142	24%	284
3	63	11%	189
4	31	5%	124
5	18	3%	90
6	9	2%	54
7	5	1%	35
8	7	1%	56
9	4	1%	36
10	2	0%	20
11	7	1%	77
12	1	0%	12
13	2	0%	26
14	1	0%	14
16	1	0%	16
22	1	0%	22
Totals	590	100%	1,351

Antlerless Thresholds

Minnesota

Fifteen *waawaashkeshi* permit areas and 6 State Parks which hold special *waawaashkeshi* hunts are wholly or partially within the 1837 ceded territory. A total of 41 antlerless *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested by tribal members from 8 permit areas and 1 state park in 2014 (Table 5). The tribal antlerless *waawaashkeshi* harvest was below the threshold level in all permit areas, thus there was no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota for 2015.

Table 5. Off-reservation tribal *waawaashkeshi* harvest and antlerless threshold by permit area during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season in Minnesota.

Permit Area	Antlerless Threshold	Antlerless Harvest
152	25	0
154	100	3
156 ^a	100	7
157 ^a	100	4
159 ^a	100	4
183 ^a	100	2
221 ^a	100	1
222	100	4
223	100	0
224	25	0
225	100	0
227	100	0
235	25	0
236	100	0
249	100	11
St. Croix S.P. ^a	--	5
Total	1,275	41

^a Includes harvest by Fond du Lac members reported by Schrage (2015).

Wisconsin

A total of 30 *waawaashkeshi* counties in Wisconsin are wholly or partially within the ceded territories. A total of 1,156 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested from 23 counties in 2014 (Table 3). An additional 27 *waawaashkeshiwag* were harvested with no county recorded (Table 3). Antlerless *waawaashkeshi* accounted for 62% of the harvest. The antlerless thresholds were calculated as the sum of the state antlerless harvest for counties with antlerless quotas = 0. For counties with antlerless quotas > 0, the thresholds were estimated as 15% of the total state antlerless harvest. Antlerless harvest did not exceed the threshold value for any county in 2014, thus there was no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota in 2015 (Table 6).

Table 6. Off-reservation tribal antlerless *waawaashkeshi* harvest and antlerless threshold by county during the 2014 tribal *waawaashkeshi* season in Wisconsin.

County	Total Antlerless Harvest		Threshold ^a
	State	Tribal	
Ashland ^b	135	1	135
Barron	3,666	1	550
Bayfield ^b	252	76	252
Burnett ^b	447	119	447
Chippewa	3,774	0	566
Clark	4,396	1	659
Douglas ^b	415	55	415
Dunn	4,473	0	671
Eau Claire	2,309	0	346
Florence ^b	322	11	322
Forest ^b	340	76	340
Iron ^b	49	13	49
Langlade ^b	442	12	442
Lincoln ^b	420	3	420
Marathon	6,770	2	1,016
Marinette	3,302	5	495
Menominee ^b	0	0	0
Oconto ^b	3,280	0	3,280
Oneida ^b	465	27	465
Polk	5,251	3	788
Portage	3,404	0	511
Price ^b	379	20	379
Rusk ^b	448	4	448
Sawyer ^b	304	45	304
Shawano	5,965	0	895
St. Croix	0	0	0
Taylor ^b	810	0	810
Vilas ^b	381	205	381
Washburn ^b	380	26	380
Wood	2,477	0	372

^a The threshold for counties with antlerless quotas = 0 were calculated as the sum of state antlerless harvest. The threshold for counties with antlerless quotas > 0 were estimated as 15% of the state antlerless harvest.

^b County with antlerless quota = 0.

MAKWA

Regulation Summary

Michigan

1836 Ceded Territory – In the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan, season regulations were enacted to be consistent with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree (*United States v. Michigan* (2007)) signed by five tribes and the State of Michigan. The Bay Mills Indian Community is the only GLIFWC member tribe that is signatory to the treaty of 1836 and the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. The 2007 Inland Consent Decree limits tribal *makwa* harvest to 10% of available harvest in each *makwa* management unit, provided that, if tribal members harvest 10% of available harvest in any unit, the tribe may authorize take of 12.5% of available harvest for that unit in subsequent years.

1842 Ceded Territory – Five tribes have enacted regulations on harvesting in this area: Keweenaw Bay, Lac Vieux Desert, Lac du Flambeau, Sokaogon, and Fond du Lac. Tribal wardens and GLIFWC Conservation Enforcement wardens enforce tribal regulations, with hearings on alleged violations held in tribal court.

Minnesota

In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to be consistent with *Minnesota v. Mille Lacs* (1999) and the wildlife management plans which have been developed by tribal and state officials following the Supreme Court’s affirmation of the tribes’ reserved rights. GLIFWC member tribes with treaty reserved rights in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota have enacted regulations at least as restrictive as the Model Off-Reservation Conservation Code for the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory (“Minnesota Model Code”).

A harvest threshold system precludes the need to establish tribal *makwa* quotas in Minnesota as long as tribal *makwa* harvest is below a threshold level. Under this system, if the tribal *makwa* harvest surpasses the threshold established for that permit area, then a declaration process is required for that permit area in the subsequent year. Because no *makwa* thresholds were exceeded in 2013, no declarations were required for the 2014 season.

Wisconsin

Tribal *makwa* hunting regulations for members hunting in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin were enacted to be consistent with the rulings and stipulations related to *Lac Courte Oreilles v. Voigt* (1983). GLIFWC member tribes with treaty reserved rights in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin have adopted codes at least as restrictive as the Voigt Treaty Off-Reservation Conservation Code (“Voigt Model Code”). Currently, the Voigt Model Code can change through a technical amendment process, which allows for nearly automatic updates when state law, hunting, fishing, or harvesting regulations are liberalized. The Voigt Model Code can also be updated with more restrictive provisions as needed for conservation.

A harvest threshold system precludes the need to establish tribal *makwa* quotas in Wisconsin as long as tribal *makwa* harvest is below a threshold level (15% of state harvest). Under this system, if the tribal *makwa* harvest surpasses the threshold established for that zone, then a declaration process is required for that zone in the subsequent year. Because no *makwa* thresholds were exceeded in 2013, no declarations were required for the 2014 season.

Special Regulations

Some tribes have enacted more restrictive harvest regulations to acknowledge the relationship with *makwa*:

- Lac Courte Oreilles prohibits its members from harvesting *makwa*.
- Sokaogon's registration station is only authorized to register *makwa* for its own members, but Sokaogon members may register *makwa* at other tribal registration stations.

Harvest

Makwa harvest data were collected at tribal registration stations. Tribal registration stations were located on each of GLIFWC's 11 member tribe's reservations in addition to two stations in St. Paul, MN. GLIFWC conservation wardens also registered harvest in the field. With the exception of permits issued by Fond du Lac and Keweenaw Bay, all tribal permits and harvest registrations were entered into GLIFWC's online permit system. Keweenaw Bay provided tribal off-reservation harvest data by county upon the season's closure. Fond du Lac provided a summary of harvest by permit area upon the season's closure.

Total Harvest

A total of 39 *makwag* were harvested off-reservation in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2014 tribal *makwa* season (Tables 7 and 8, Figure 4).

Michigan

A total of 2 *makwag* were harvested off-reservation in Michigan during the 2014 tribal *makwa* season (Table 8, Figure 4).

Minnesota

No *makwag* were harvested off-reservation in Minnesota during the 2014 tribal *makwa* season.

Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, a total of 37 *makwag* were harvested off-reservation during the 2014 tribal *makwa* season (Table 8, Figure 4).

Table 7. Harvest summary for the 2014 off-reservation tribal *makwa* season by registration station.

Station	Boar	Sow	Total
Bad River	3	3	6
Bay Mills	1	1	2
Fond du Lac	3	2	5
Lac du Flambeau	3	2	5
Red Cliff	5	9	14
Sokaogon	2	2	4
St. Croix	3	0	3
Total	20	19	39

Table 8. Harvest summary for the 2014 off-reservation tribal *makwa* season by by state, county and sex.

State	County	Boar	Sow	Total
Michigan	Chippewa	0	1	1
	Marquette	1	0	1
	Subtotal	1	1	2
Wisconsin	Ashland	2	0	2
	Bayfield	5	12	17
	Burnett	4	0	4
	Douglas	3	2	5
	Forest	1	2	3
	Oneida	4	0	4
	Price	0	1	1
	Taylor	0	1	1
Subtotal	19	18	37	
Total		20	19	39

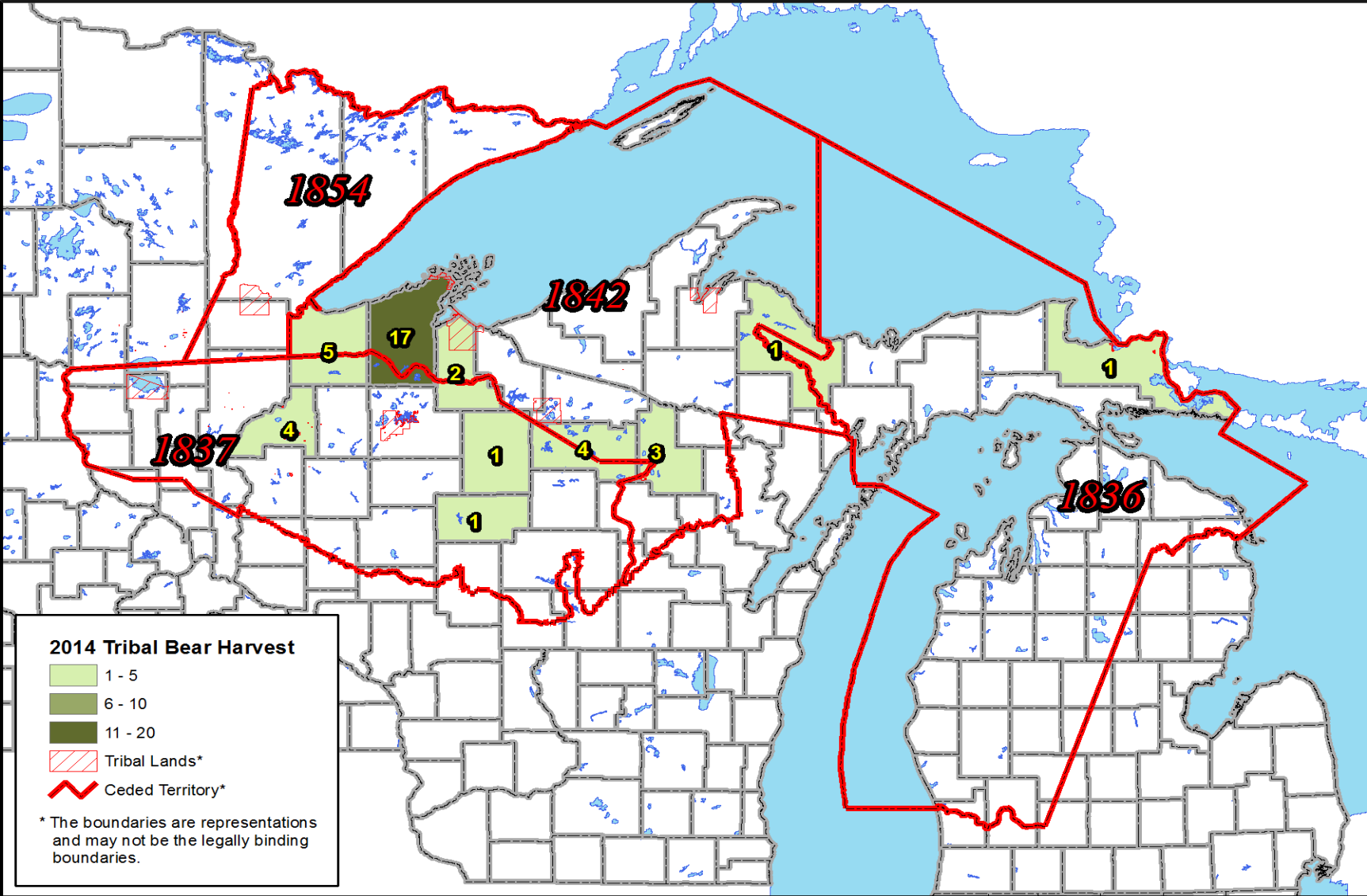


Figure 4. Distribution of off-reservation tribal *makwa* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes in 2014. See Table 8 to match harvest by county and state.

There were 36 successful *makwa* hunters in 2014 (Figure 5, Table 9). The average number of *makwag* harvested per hunter in 2014 was 1.1 (Figure 5). During the 2014 off-reservation tribal *makwa* season 3 hunters shot more than 1 *makwa* (Figure 5, Table 9).

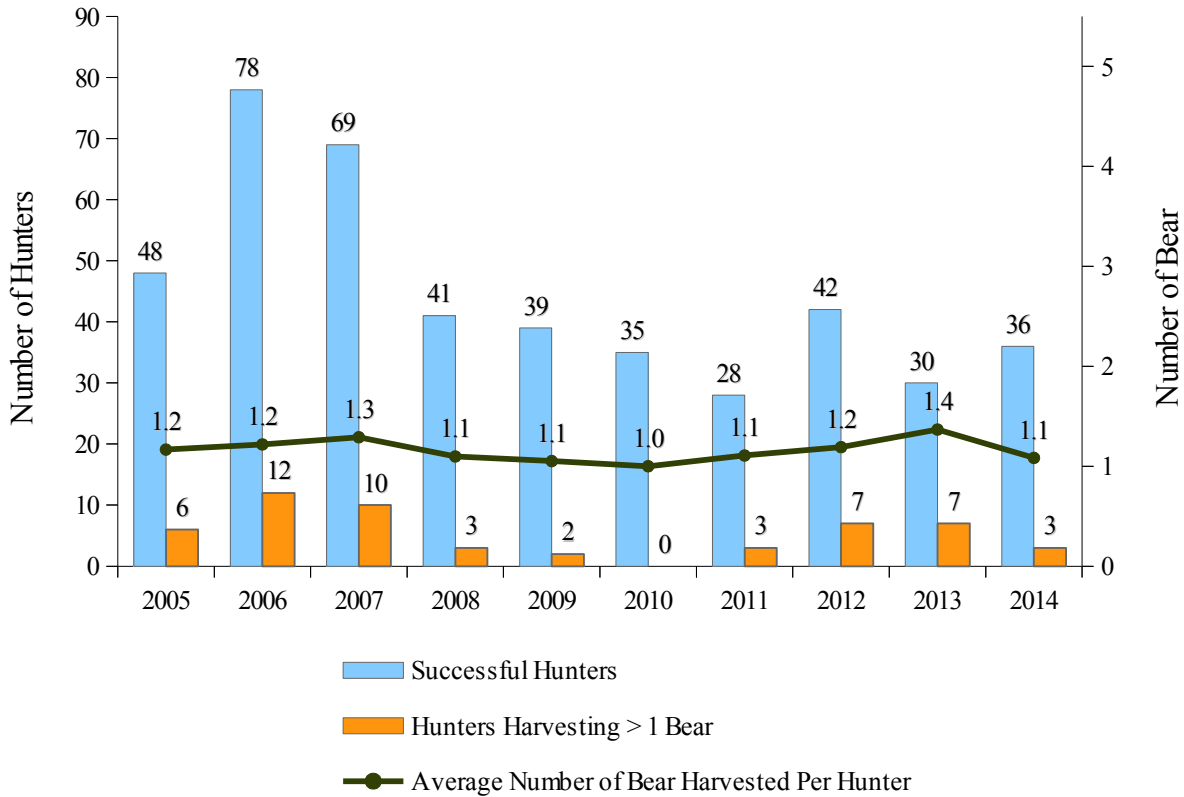


Figure 5. Trends for number of successful hunters, hunters harvesting multiple *makwag*, and average number of *makwag* harvested per hunter from 2005-2014. *Makwag* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 9. Number of successful hunters and the number of *makwag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2014 tribal *makwa* season.

Number of Bear	Number of Hunters	Percent of Hunters	Total Number of Bear
1	33	92%	33
2	3	8%	6
Totals	36	100%	39

***Makwa* Thresholds**

Wisconsin

A total of 31 *makwag* (15 boars and 16 sows) were harvested in Zone A plus 6 *makwag* (4 boars and 2 sows) were harvested in Zone B (Table 10). The threshold was calculated as 15% of the total state bear harvest in units comprising tribal zones A and B. No tribal harvest exceeded the threshold value for any *makwa* management zone, thus no tribal quota was required for the 2015 season.

Table 10. Off-reservation tribal *makwa* harvest and threshold by zone during the 2014 tribal *makwa* season in Wisconsin.

Zone	Total Bear Harvest		Threshold
	State	Tribal	
A	2,759	31	414
B	738	6	111
Total	3,497	37	

OMASHKOOZ

Regulation Summary

In 2014, *omashkooz* were only available for tribal harvest in lower Michigan by tribes signatory to the treaty of 1836. Season regulations were enacted to be consistent with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree (*United States v. Michigan* (2007)) signed by five tribes and the State of Michigan. The Bay Mills Indian Community is the only GLIFWC member tribe that is signatory to the treaty of 1836 and the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. *Omashkooz* permits are tied to specific hunt periods (Table 11), but unfilled tags may be filled during the tribal season. The 2007 Inland Consent Decree limits tribal *omashkooz* harvest to 10% of state-issued either-sex permits and cow *omashkooz* harvest is limited to 10% of state-issued cow-only permits.

Table 11. Michigan *omashkooz* hunt periods.

Hunt Period	Dates	Management Units
1	Aug. 26-29 Sept. 12-15 Sept. 26-29	L
2	Dec. 6-14	F, G, X
Tribal	Dec. 15-30	

Harvest

In 2014, the Bay Mills Indian Community issued 2 *omashkooz* cow-only permits to tribal hunters. A total of 1 *omashkoozoog* was harvested off-reservation in the 1836 ceded territory of Michigan by members of the Bay Mills Indian Community during the 2014 *omashkooz* season (BMIC 2015). All animals were checked in at Michigan DNR check stations for disease testing and a tooth was taken for aging.

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