



Results of the 1999 Treaty Deer (Waashkeshi) and Bear (Makwa) in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota

by

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RESULTS OF THE 1999 TREATY DEER (WAAWAASHKESHI) AND BEAR (MAKWA) HUNTING SEASONS IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

Introduction

This report presents the results of the 1999 off-reservation deer (waawaashkeshi) and bear (makwa) hunting in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin and Minnesota (Figure 1). Hunters were members of the six Wisconsin bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe (Minnesota) and the Fond du Lac Band (Minnesota). Harvest totals only are presented in this report for the Fond du Lac Band (FDL). Schrage (2000) reported details about other aspects of the FDL season. This report does not cover deer and bear hunting in Michigan. Harvest and regulations governing the 1999 Michigan treaty hunting seasons are reported by Falck (2000).

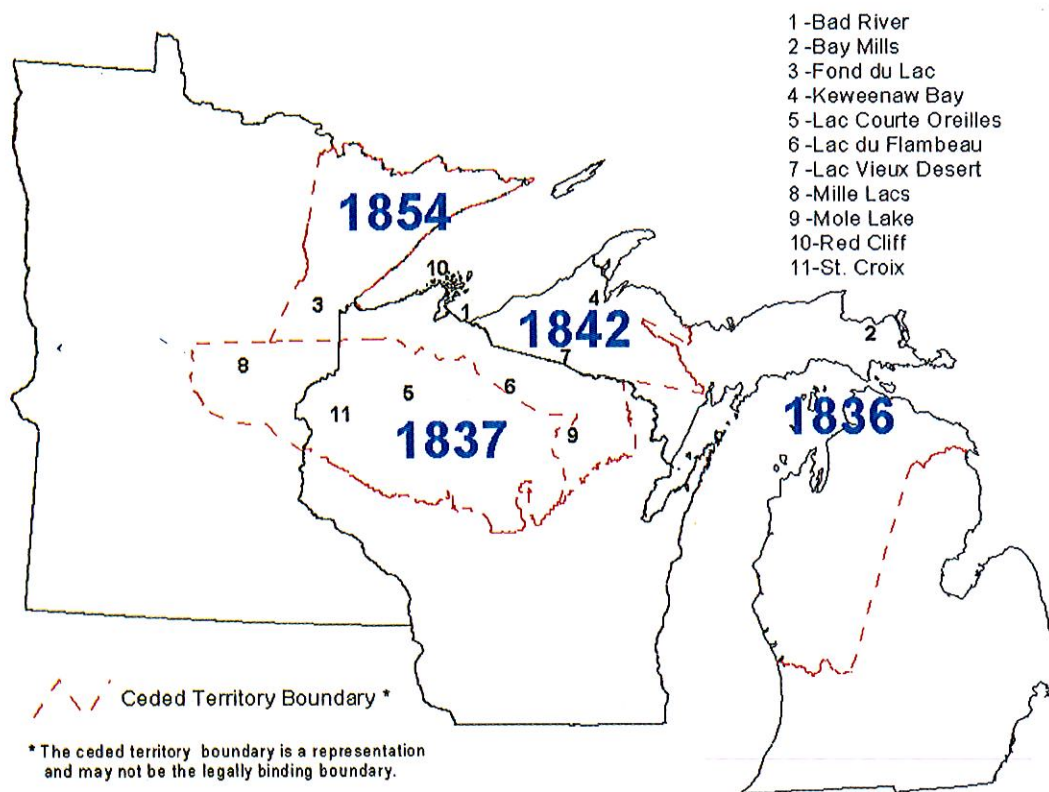


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

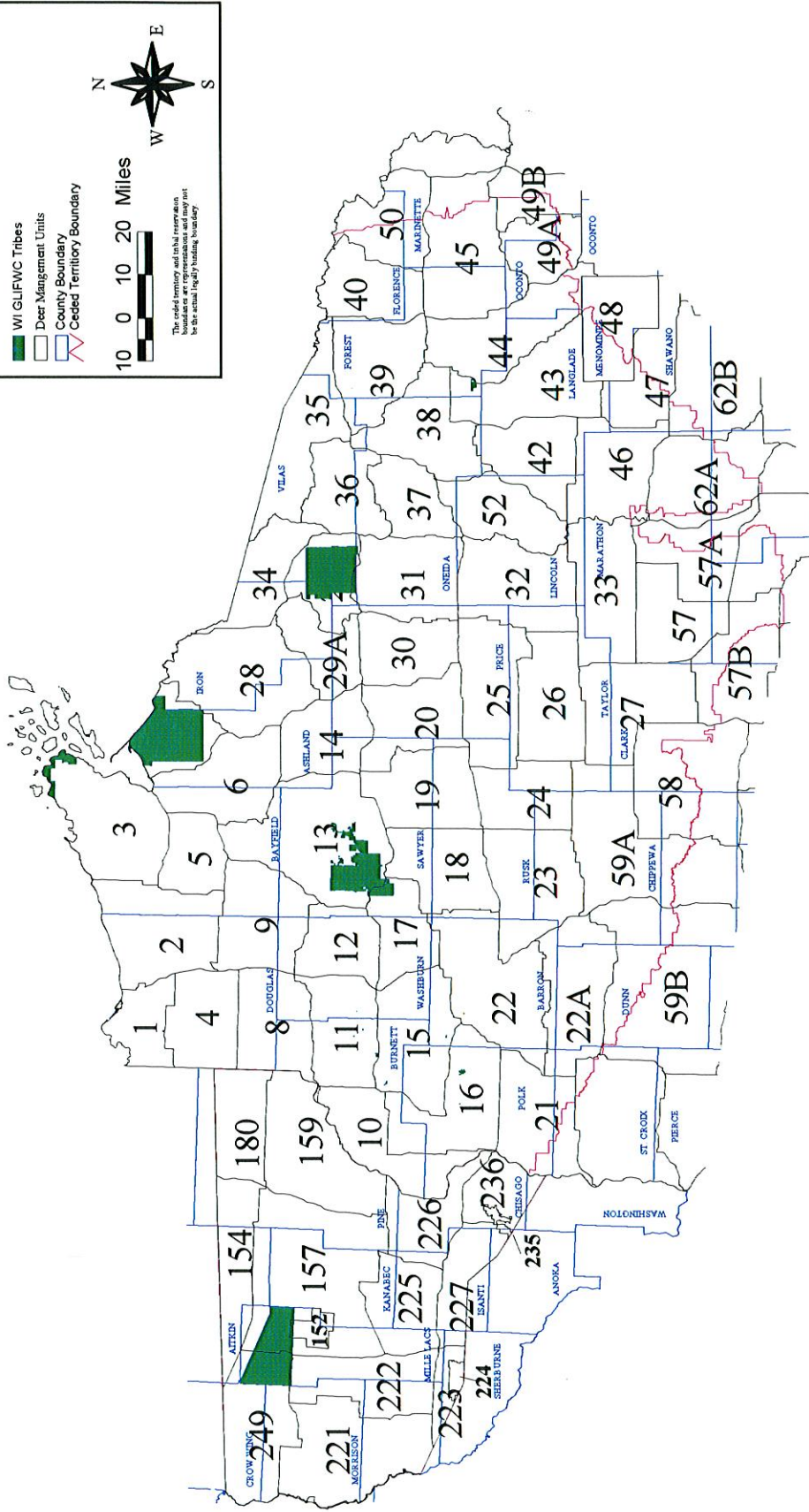
Tribal deer hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May, 1990 Federal Court (7th Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8th Circuit) decision. In both states, these rules resulted in a season which was 119 days long starting September 7 and ending December 31, 1999. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 1999, the permit and registration system, first implemented in 1986 in Wisconsin, was used in the 1837 ceded territory in both states and the Wisconsin portion of the 1842 ceded territory. Each hunter was provided with 2 carcass tags. Each deer, regardless of sex or age, was required to be tagged with a carcass tag and registered at a tribal registration station or with field wardens. Hunters could obtain an additional carcass tag upon registration of any deer. In order to shoot a doe or a fawn a hunter was required to obtain an antlerless deer permit that allowed the harvest of 2 deer of this type. Permits were valid for any deer management unit (Wisconsin) or permit area (Minnesota, Figure 2) where the quota of antlerless deer had not been filled. No hunter was allowed more than one antlerless permit at a time but there was no limit on the total number of antlerless permits issued for any unit as long as less than 75% of the quota had been harvested. In Wisconsin, after 75% of the quota had been harvested, permits were issued based on demonstrated success rates for that unit. Antlerless permits were valid for up to 14 days. Upon shooting an antlerless deer the hunter was required to slit the permit to show the unit in which the deer was shot. The permit could be replaced upon registration.

Commercial harvest of deer was permitted when the hunter's tribal government specifically authorized such a harvest. Bad River, Mole Lake and Red Cliff authorized commercial hunting in Wisconsin in 1999. Persons wishing to hunt antlerless deer for commercial purposes were required to obtain a commercial antlerless deer permit. Level 1 commercial antlerless deer permits were valid for specific zones, based on the location of registration and enabled the holder to harvest up to a total of 10 deer. If a hunter wished to harvest more than 10 deer for commercial purposes a level 2 commercial permit was required to be issued by the tribal council. A total of 19 deer were registered in Wisconsin as commercial deer under Level 1 commercial harvest. No Level 2 commercial permits were issued.

In Minnesota there was a special 2 day deer hunt in the St. Croix State Park and in Crow Wing State Park. These hunts were held to reduce the damage caused by the large number of deer in the parks. The tribal hunts were concurrent with the State hunts and only a limited number of hunters could participate.

Location of Deer Management Units in the ceded territory of Wisconsin and Minnesota.



Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 2,338 deer hunters (Table 1). Tags were authorized to be issued to any member of the 6 Wisconsin bands and the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe. Members from FDL obtained tags from tribal offices. Registration stations were established at each of these 8 reservations for issuing tags and permits and registering deer. In 1995, an additional registration station was opened in St. Paul, MN to register deer from members living in or near the twin cities. Data from this station were combined with the LCO station information. In 1997, another station was opened in St. Paul, MN to serve the members of Mille Lacs Band. In 1998, FDL issued tags and registered deer to members from the Wisconsin and Mille Lacs bands from their offices.

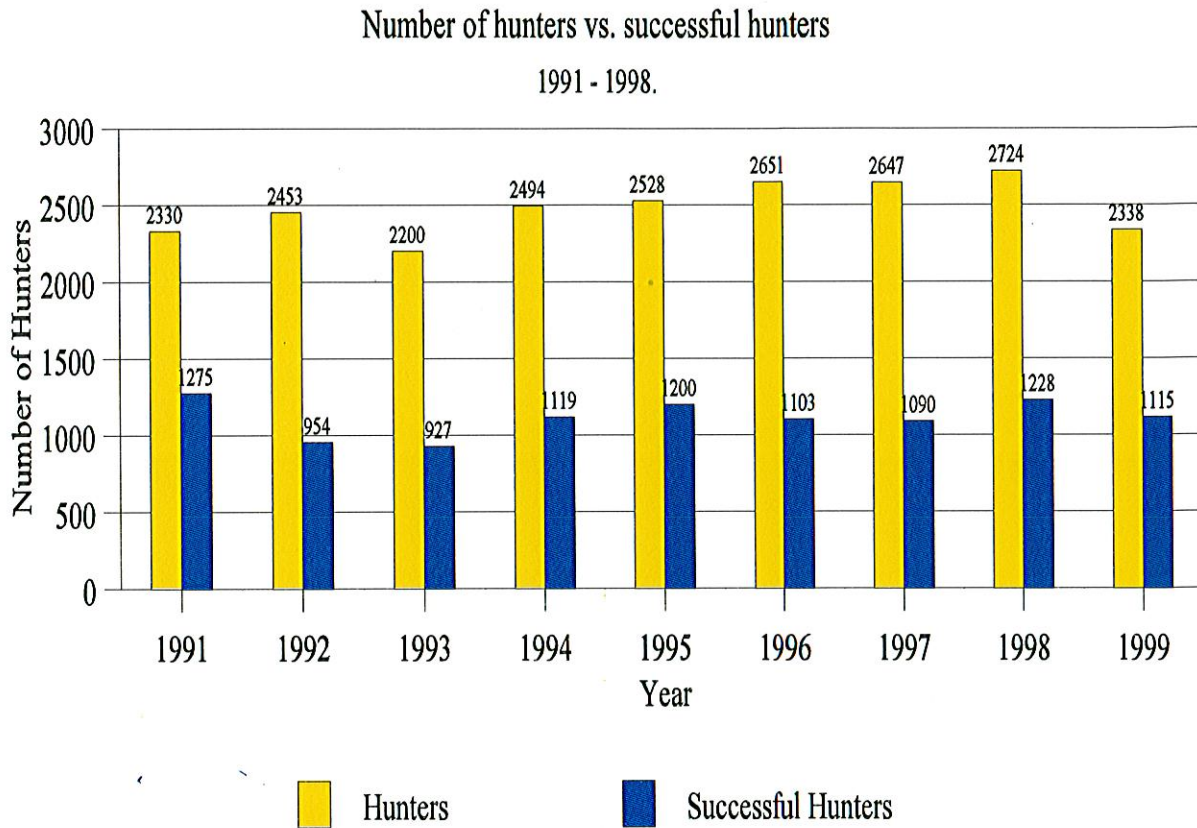
The number of hunters in 1999 (2,338) declined 14% from the number of deer hunters in 1998 (2,724, Gilbert 1998). The number of successful hunters declined by 9.2% (1,228 successful hunters in 1998 vs. 1,115 in 1999). The resulting success rate increased from 45% in 1998 to 48% in 1999 but remained below the highest success rate of 55% established in 1991 (Gilbert 1992), the year of the largest tribal off-reservation harvest (4,939 deer).

The number of hunters participating in the off-reservation treaty deer seasons in Wisconsin has remained relatively stable for the past 9 years (Figure 3). The decline in hunters in 1999 resulted from declines in Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau and St. Croix. These declines were slightly offset by increases in the number of hunters from Mille Lacs, Mole Lake and Red Cliff.

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season.

TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT	CARCASS TAGS ISSUED	DEER HUNTERS	SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL
Bad River	1,500	403	174	43.2
Lac Courte Oreilles	2,600	790	299	37.8
Lac du Flambeau	2,300	246	249	101.2
Mille Lacs	700	244	104	42.6
Mole Lake	1,200	151	59	39.1
Red Cliff	1,600	396	158	39.9
St. Croix	1,500	108	72	66.7
Totals	11,400	2,338	1,115	47.7

Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during each of the last 8 off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons in Wisconsin.



Deer Harvest by Registration Station

Wisconsin

The tribal deer hunt was an either sex hunt because all hunters could obtain antlerless deer permits and carcass tags throughout the season for all units. No units were closed early because tribal antlerless deer quotas were sufficient to meet tribal needs. Tribal hunters shot 1,364 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 1,932 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 3,303 deer (17 unknown deer, Table 2a). This harvest represents a 17% decline over the 1998 harvest (Gilbert 1999) of 3,967 deer. A decline in registration was observed at all stations.

Most years since 1983 around 30% of the deer harvested by tribal members during the off-reservation treaty deer hunting season have been antlered bucks. The antlered buck percent for the 1998 harvest was 38% (Gilbert 1999), which was a slight increase in the percent of harvest comprised of bucks from previous years. This number increased again in 1999 to 42%. This increase was most likely due to the increased over-winter survival of adult bucks due to the mild winter.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	139	163	0	302
Fond du Lac*	12	38	0	50
Lac Courte Oreilles	300	492	1	792
Lac du Flambeau	341	490	0	831
Mille Lacs	54	123	16	177
Mole Lake	102	208	0	310
Red Cliff	216	179	0	395
St. Croix	201	245	0	446
Totals	1,365	1,938	17	3,303

*Fond du Lac members did not hunt in Wisconsin, rather some members of Wisconsin bands or Mille Lacs, registered their deer at the Fond du Lac station.

Deer Harvest by Registration Station

Minnesota

This was the third year of off-reservation treaty deer hunting in the 1837 ceded territory since the Federal Court affirmed the Bands' rights to hunt there. There were 241 deer registered by tribal members at Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac and St. Croix stations (Table 2b). This harvest represents a 20% increase of the 1998 deer harvest (148 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 1999). Nearly one third of the Fond du Lac total ceded territory deer harvest was from the 1837 ceded territory, while 38% of the Mille Lacs ceded territory deer harvest came from this area.

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season in Minnesota by registration station. Deer registered at St. Croix State Park during the special hunt are included in the Fond du Lac or Mille Lacs totals, depending on who registered the deer.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Fond du Lac*	47 [#]	83	0	130
Mille Lacs	39	67	4	110
St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Totals	87	150	4	241

* Harvests figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2000) plus 4 deer registered by members of other bands.

[#] Harvests determined by prorating buck harvest in permit area by percent of permit area in 1837 ceded territory.

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

Wisconsin

Although deer harvest was distributed among 49 of the 63 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 3,053 deer were harvested from the 27 units in which harvest exceeded 30 deer. In 1999, there were the same number of units with 30 or more deer harvested than in 1998 (Gilbert 1999).

The distribution of tribal harvest among deer management units has remained relatively consistent from year to year. The 11 units with a harvest of greater than 100 antlerless deer in 1999 were (in descending order); 3, 35, 10, 2, 5, 11, 36, 13, 34, 8 and 9 (Figure 4). These units where tribal members prefer to hunt, are close to reservations, have a large amount of public land, and have adequate antlerless deer quotas to meet tribal needs.

Table 3a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	18	18	0	36
02	104	128	0	232
03	211	182	0	393
04	9	29	0	38
05	64	154	0	218
06	21	13	0	34
07	4	5	0	9
08	56	76	2	132
09	34	81	0	115
10	94	147	12	241
11	88	111	2	199
12	25	36	0	61
13	86	95	0	181
14	11	34	0	45
15	25	36	0	61
16	5	7	0	12
17	16	39	0	55
18	28	37	0	65
19	10	4	0	14
20	1	0	0	1
21	2	0	0	2
22	1	1	1	2
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	6	0	0	6
24	0	2	0	2

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UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
25	0	2	0	2
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0
28	9	9	0	18
29A	8	11	0	19
29B	13	16	0	29
30	18	28	0	46
31	38	51	0	89
32	4	6	0	10
33	3	8	0	11
34	54	78	0	132
35	94	143	0	237
36	66	117	0	183
37	17	15	0	32
38	24	43	0	67
39	41	58	0	99
40	18	13	0	31
42	2	6	0	8
43	10	24	0	34
44	15	42	0	57
45	5	24	0	29
46	0	0	0	0
47	0	0	0	0
48	0	0	0	0
49A	2	2	0	4
49B	0	0	0	0
50	0	3	0	3
52	0	2	0	2
57	0	0	0	0
57A	1	0	0	1
57B	0	0	0	0
57C	0	0	0	0
58	0	0	0	0
59A	1	0	0	1
59B	0	0	0	0
62A	0	0	0	0
62B	0	0	0	0
78	2	1	0	3
Unknown	1	1	0	2
Totals	1,365	1,938	17	3,303

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

Minnesota

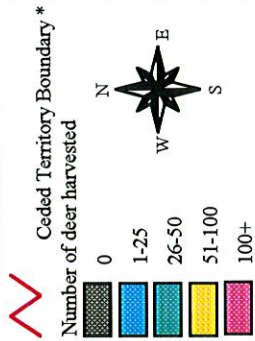
Fifteen deer permit areas are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. Tribal deer harvest occurred in 7 of those permit areas and in 1 state park in 1999. The majority of the deer harvested (173 deer) came from the tier of permit areas along the northern border of the ceded territory (Table 3b and Figure 4). These northern most areas are closer to reservations and have relatively large amounts of public land open to hunting, factors which have been observed to influence tribal harvest patterns in Wisconsin and now in Minnesota. Only a few deer came from more southern permit areas (6 deer).

Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

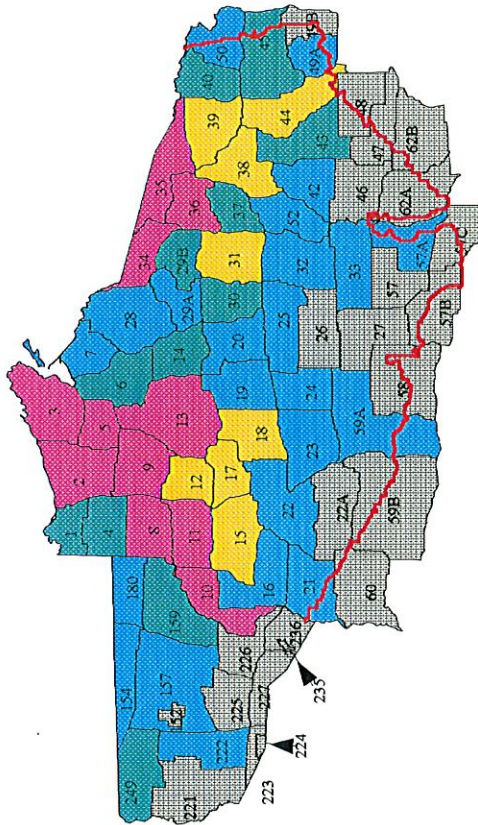
UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
152	0	0	0	0
154	0	4	0	4
156	4	4	0	8
157	8	8	0	16
159	35	46	0	81
183	6	15	0	21
221	0	0	0	0
222	0	3	3	6
223	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0
227	0	0	0	0
235	0	0	0	0
236	0	0	0	0
249	10	34	1	45
St. Croix S. P.	23	36	0	59
Crow Wing S. P.	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0	0
Totals	87	150	4	241

* Harvests figures for Fond du Lac from these units were from Schrage (2000).

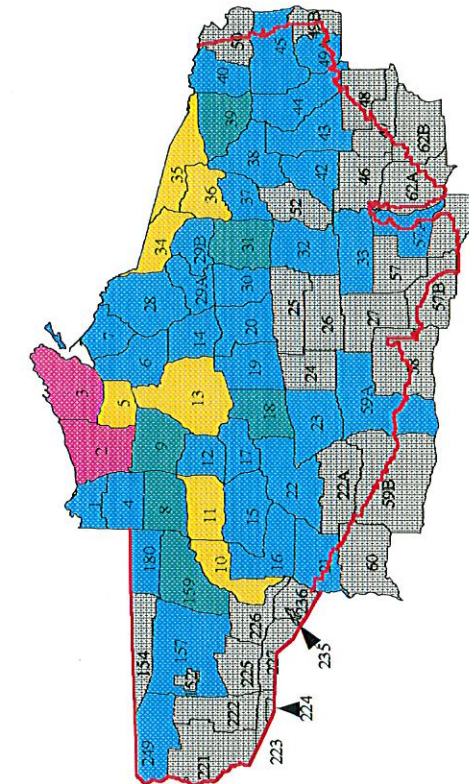
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are in the southern part of the ceded territory.



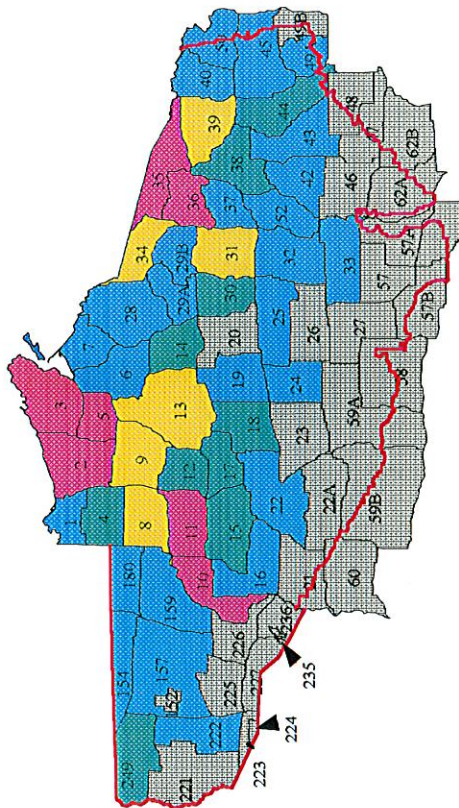
* The Ceded Territory boundary is a representation and may not be the actual legally binding boundary.



Total Deer Harvest, 1999



Antlered Deer Harvest, 1999



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 1999

Deer Harvest by County
Wisconsin

Harvest during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 23 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 3,645 deer or 91% of the total Wisconsin tribal harvest occurred in the 9 counties where harvest was greater than 100 deer. These counties were in declining order of harvest: Bayfield, Vilas, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer, Forest, Washburn, Oneida and Price (Figure 5). The list of more heavily harvested counties remained similar to previous years.

Table 4a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	33	45	0	78
Barron	1	3	1	4
Bayfield	334	391	0	725
Burnett	227	320	16	547
Chippewa	2	0	0	2
Douglas	109	182	0	291
Florence	17	14	0	31
Forest	58	112	0	170
Iron	14	19	0	33
Langladé	11	29	0	40
Lincoln	4	8	0	12
Marathon	4	8	0	12
Marinette	5	16	0	21
Oconto	1	1	0	2
Oneida	77	105	0	182
Polk	21	26	0	47
Price	24	39	0	63
Rusk	25	31	0	56
Sawyer	120	143	0	263
St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Taylor	0	2	0	2
Vilas	228	354	0	582
Washburn	48	81	0	129
Unknown	1	9	0	10
Totals	1,365	1,938	17	3,303

Deer Harvest by County

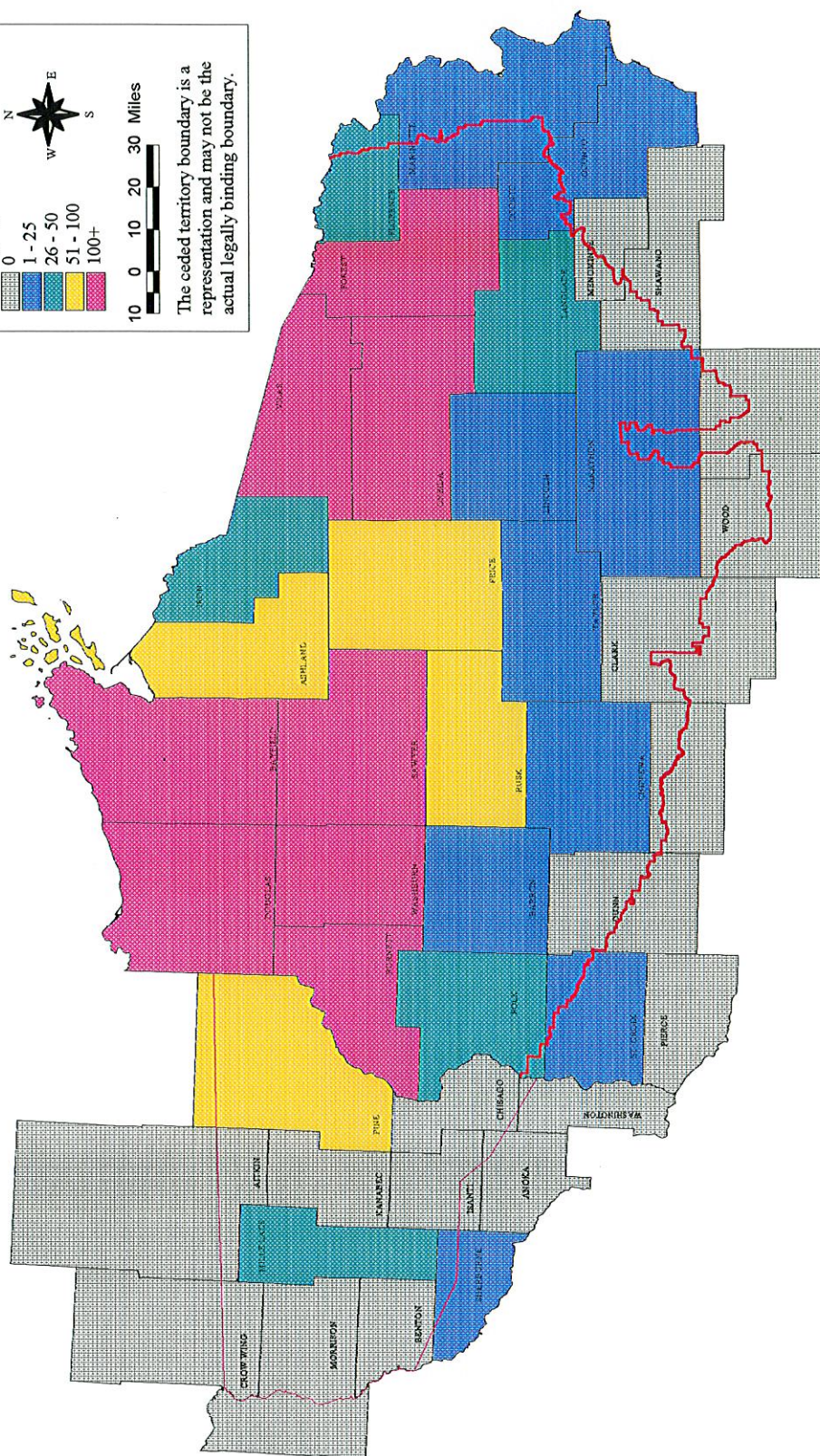
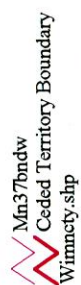
Minnesota

Most of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota for which a county was reported came from Pine County (Table 4b). This county contains the St. Croix State Park and much other public and tribal land.

Table 4b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Aitkin	0	1	0	1
Kanabek	1	1	0	2
Mille Lacs	14	36	4	54
Pine	37	58	0	95
Sherburne	1	0	0	1
Unknown*	34	54	0	88
Totals	87	150	4	241

* Schrage (1998) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park.



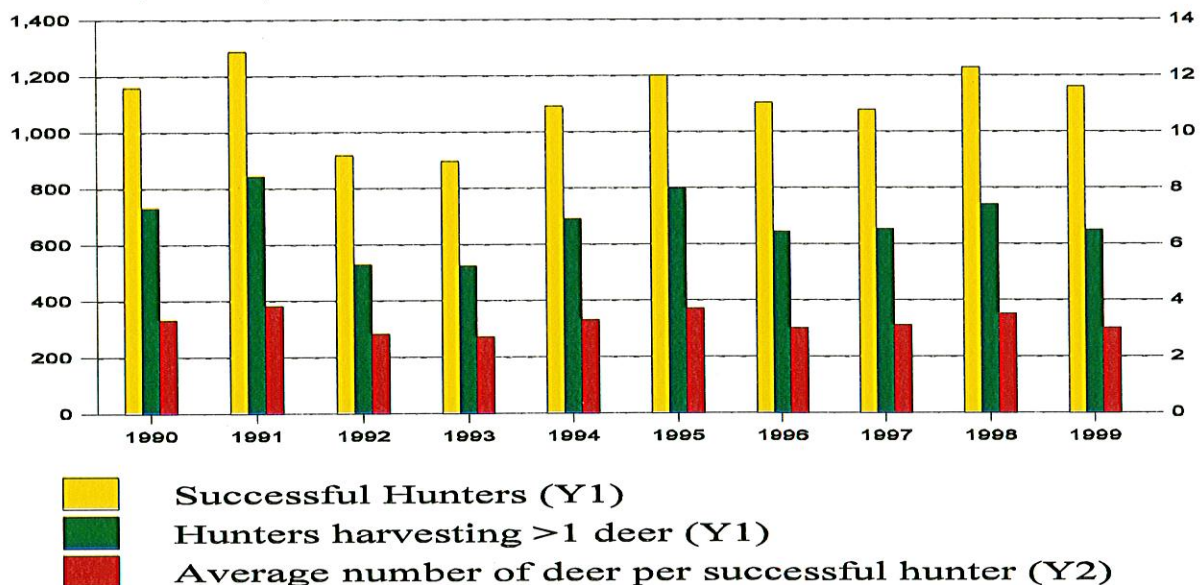
The ceded territory boundary is a representation and may not be the actual legally binding boundary.

Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful hunters decreased from 1,228 in 1998 to 1,115 in 1999 (Table 5 and Figure 6). The number of hunters who shot more than 1 deer and the mean number of deer shot per successful hunter (Gilbert 1998) also declined from 1998 levels, despite the apparent increase in deer populations. These figures do not include information for Fond du Lac hunters.

Table 5 and Figure 6. Trends for 3 measures of deer hunting success from 1990 through 1999.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of Successful Hunters	1,158	1,286	917	895	1,092	1,200	1,103	1,090	1,228	1,115
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	728	842	527	523	689	797	643	657	740	649
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.3	3.8	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.7	3	3.1	3.4	3.0



During the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season the majority of hunters (62%) shot more than 1 deer while 78 hunters shot 10 or more deer (Table 6). Many tribal hunters provide meat to an extended family and thus, preserving the ability to harvest multiple deer has been an on-going goal of the off-reservation deer season structure. The table below includes Mille Lacs hunters, whether hunting in Minnesota or Wisconsin; it does not include Fond du Lac hunters.

Table 6. Number of successful hunters and the number of deer they harvested during the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	461	41.3%	461
2	263	23.6%	526
3	123	11.0%	369
4	72	6.5%	288
5	52	4.7%	260
6	32	2.9%	192
7	26	2.3%	182
8	18	1.6%	144
9	16	1.4%	144
10	10	0.9%	100
11	5	0.4%	55
12	8	0.7%	96
13	6	0.5%	78
14	3	0.3%	42
15	2	0.2%	30
16	2	0.2%	32
17	4	0.4%	68
18	3	0.3%	54
19	3	0.3%	57
20	3	0.3%	60
27	2	0.2%	54
33	1	0.1%	33
TOTALS	1,115	100%	3,292

Deer Harvest by Season

The harvest that occurred during the middle season was disproportionately larger than the percent of the days available to hunting during that season (Table 7). This pattern has been observed in previous years. From 1994 to 1998 an average of 22% of the harvest came during the middle season (Gilbert 1995, Gilbert 1996, Gilbert 1997, Gilbert 1998, Gilbert 1999), in 1999 this pattern continued with 23% of the harvest coming during the middle season (Table 7). The late season typically has a low harvest (especially compared to the length of time available). However, in 1999 10% of the harvest occurred during the late season, a figure which is larger than usual (<5%).

Table 7. The number of deer harvested, percent of the harvest and percent of the season occurring the early, middle and late portions of the 1999 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.

Portion of Season	Number of Deer Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Season
Early Season Sept. 7 - Nov. 19	2,166	67%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 20 - Nov. 28	727	23%	8%
Late Season Nov. 29 - Dec. 31	317	10%	25

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 31% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,200 antlerless deer) in 1999 (Table 8). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 68% in Unit 14 to 0% in some of the ceded territory southern fringe units. No units were closed early and no unit's harvest exceeded the quota. No units surpassed 75% of the quota, the harvest level which triggers a limitation on the number of antlerless deer permits available. This limitation was not imposed during the 1999 season because the limitation was not reached until the final permit period.

Table 8a. The tribal antlerless deer quota and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 1999 treaty deer season in Wisconsin for all units.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	18	50	36.0%
02	128	450	28.4%
03	182	400	45.5%
04	29	50	58.0%
05	154	400	38.5%
06	13	50	26.0%
07	5	50	10.0%
08	76	200	38.0%
09	81	200	40.5%
10	147	350	42.0%
11	111	200	55.5%
12	36	150	24.0%
13	95	300	31.7%
14	34	50	68.0%
15	36	100	36.0%
16	7	50	14.0%
17	39	100	39.0%
18	37	100	37.0%
19	4	50	8.0%
20	0	25	0.0%
21	0	50	0.0%
22	1	50	2.0%
22A	0	25	0.0%
23	0	25	0.0%

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Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
24	2	25	8.0%
25	2	25	8.0%
26	0	25	0.0%
27	0	25	0.0%
28	9	50	18.0%
29A	11	75	14.7%
29B	16	75	21.3%
30	28	75	37.3%
31	51	200	25.5%
32	6	25	24.0%
33	8	25	32.0%
34	78	200	39.0%
35	143	250	57.2%
36	117	300	39.0%
37	15	75	20.0%
38	43	100	43.0%
39	58	200	29.0%
40	13	100	13.0%
42	6	25	24.0%
43	24	75	32.0%
44	42	200	21.0%
45	24	150	16.0%
46	0	25	0.0%
47	0	25	0.0%
48	0	10	0.0%
49A	2	25	8.0%
49B	0	25	0.0%
50	3	25	12.0%
52	2	25	8.0%
57	0	25	0.0%
57A	0	25	0.0%
57B	0	25	0.0%
57C	0	25	0.0%
58	0	25	0.0%
59A	0	25	0.0%
59B	0	25	0.0%
62A	0	25	0.0%
62B	0	25	0.0%
78	1	40	2.5%
Totals	1,937	6,200	31.2%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Minnesota

The 1999 tribal harvest declaration was transmitted to the Minnesota DNR and indicated the number of antlerless deer (does and fawns) which could be harvested from each permit area as agreed to by stipulation. No more than 900 antlerless deer could be declared for 1999 with no more than 50% of the quota in any deer permit area. No declaration approached 50% of the quota for any unit. Antlerless deer harvest was highest in St. Croix State Park followed by permit area 249 and 159 (Table 8b). Harvest in each of the other 4 permit areas with harvest was below 10% of the declaration.

Table 8b. The tribal antlerless deer quota and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 1999 treaty deer season in Minnesota for all permit areas. Includes harvests from Fond du Lac, taken from Schrage 2000.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
152	0	40	0.0%
154	4	50	8.0%
156	4	50	8.0%
157	7	100	7.0%
159	24	100	24.0%
183	15	95	15.8%
221	0	25	0.0%
222	3	100	3.0%
223	0	25	0.0%
224	0	25	0.0%
225	0	25	0.0%
227	0	25	0.0%
235	0	15	0.0%
236	0	25	0.0%
249	34	100	34.0%
St. Croix State Park	36	100	36.0%
Crow Wing State Park	0	0	----
Totals	127	900	14.1%

BEAR HUNTING RESULTS

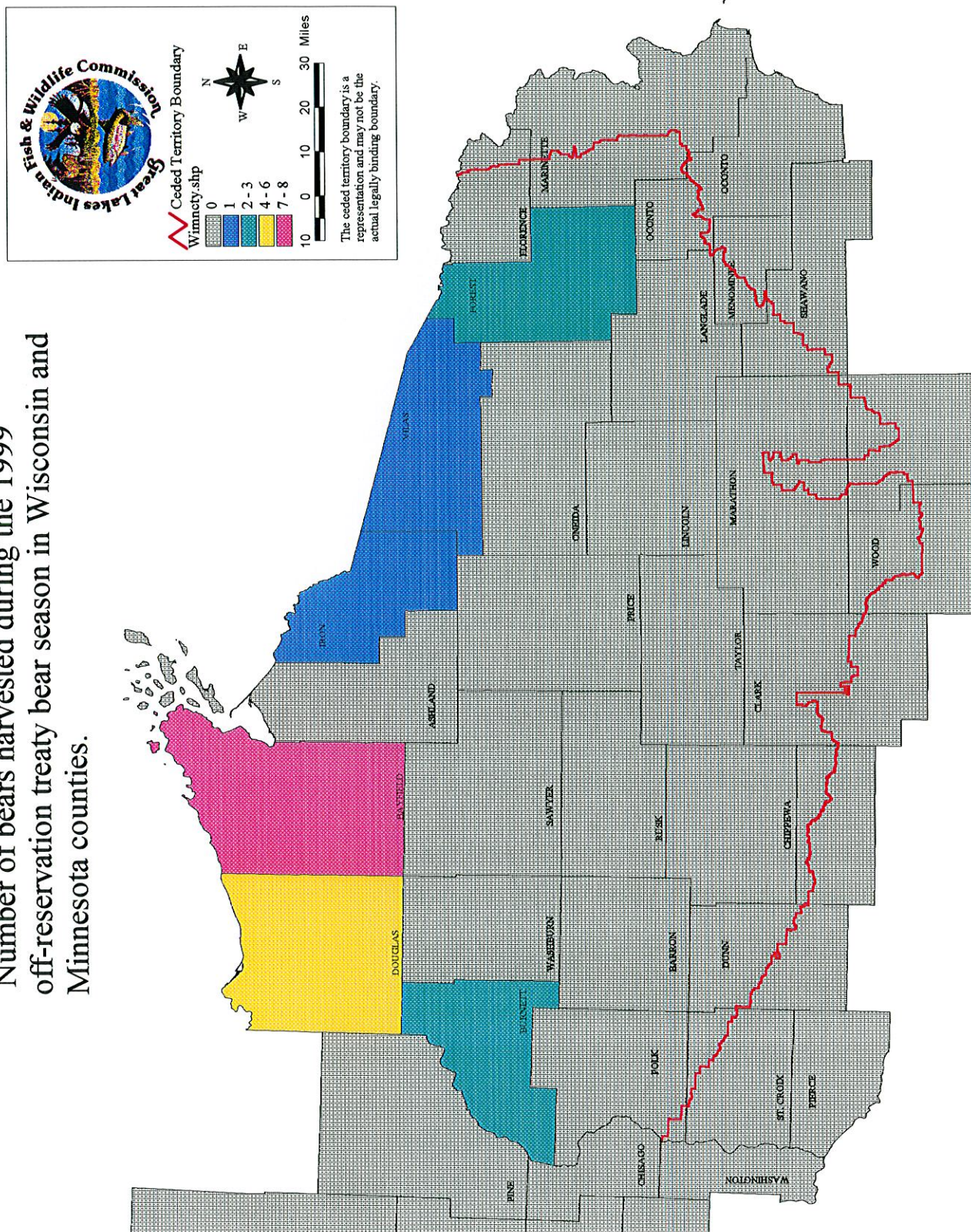
Tribal bear hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were previously enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May, 1990 Federal Court (7th Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8th Circuit) decision. Bear hunting permits were required for all persons engaged in hunting bears. All bears killed were required to be tagged using a tribal carcass tag and registered at a tribal registration station. A tribal quota was declared for each of the 3 bear zones (Figure 8) in the Wisconsin ceded territory; 100 in zone A, 30 in zone B and 10 in zone C, and for the two zones in Minnesota; 25 in zone 51 and 10 bears in zone 45. No bears were harvested in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota, thus, the remainder of this report is for Wisconsin only.

A total of 1,027 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 1999 (Table 9), a increase of 38 hunters over the 1998 level. There were 17 successful bear hunters in 1999 or 2% of the number of bear hunters. This was the third year that successful bear hunters was quantified; hunter success declined from 4% in 1996 to 2% in 1997, 2% for 1998 and remained at 2% in 1999. More people checked bear hunting on the harvest permit than obtained carcass tags indicating that they did not hunt bears. This pattern has been consistently observed in previous bear hunting seasons.

Table 9. Number of carcass tags and hunters during the 1999 off-reservation treaty bear hunting season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Carcass Tags Distributed	Number of Hunters	Number of Successful Hunters	Percent Successful Hunters
Bad River	250	208	5	2%
Lac Courte Oreilles				
Lac du Flambeau	220	246	1	0%
Mille Lacs	50	94	0	0%
Mole Lake	150	138	2	1%
Red Cliff	275	252	7	3%
St. Croix	200	89	2	2%
Totals	1,145	1,027	17	2%

Number of bears harvested during the 1999 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.



Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 18 bears were harvested during the 1999 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), the same number as in 1998 (Gilbert 1999). During each of the 7 previous years, except in 1995, tribal members harvested more males than females particularly in 1997 when 3 times as many males as females were taken. In 1999 tribal members harvested the same number of males and females.

In 1993 the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board (LCO) passed a motion to close bear hunting for their tribal members for the off-reservation treaty bear season. This closure continued in 1999. The reason for this closure was based on the recognition of the cultural and spiritual importance that black bears have to members of the bear clan at LCO.

Table 10. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1999 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	1	3	4
Lac Courte Oreilles*	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	2	0	2
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	2	0	2
Red Cliff	3	5	8
St. Croix	1	1	2
Totals	9	9	18

* The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board elected not to authorize bear hunting by LCO members in 1999.

Harvest by Zone and Management Unit

A total of 14 bears (6 males, 8 females) were harvested in zone A plus 4 bears (3 males, 1 female) were harvested in zone B (Table 11). This represents 14% and 13% of the tribal quota in zones A and B, respectively. The deer management unit with the greatest tribal bear harvest was unit 3, in Bayfield County. This has consistently sustained the largest bear harvest except for 1998 when unit 44 in Forest County had the largest bear harvest. Few bears were harvested from any of the units.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1999 off-reservation treaty bear season by management zones and deer units.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
Zone A Quota 100	1	0	1	1
	2	1	0	1
	3	3	5	8
	4	0	1	1
	11	1	1	2
	29B	1	0	1
Total		6	8	14
Zone B Quota 30	34	0	1	1
	39	3	0	3
	Total	3	1	4
Grand Total		9	9	18

Harvest by County

The 1999 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 6 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County. Bayfield County had consistently provided the largest tribal bear harvest in the ceded territory in the past.

Table 12. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1999 off-reservation treaty bear season by county.

County	Male	Female	Total
Bayfield	3	5	8
Burnett	1	1	2
Douglas	1	2	6
Forest	3	0	3
Iron	0	1	1
Vilas	1	0	1
Totals	9	9	18

Literature Cited

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