



# **Results of the 2000 Treaty Waashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota**

by

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## RESULTS OF THE 2000 TREATY WAAWAASHKESHI (DEER) AND MAKWA (BEAR) HUNTING SEASONS IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

### Introduction

This report presents the results of the 2000 off-reservation waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) 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 (2001) 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 2000 Michigan treaty hunting seasons are reported by Falck (2001).

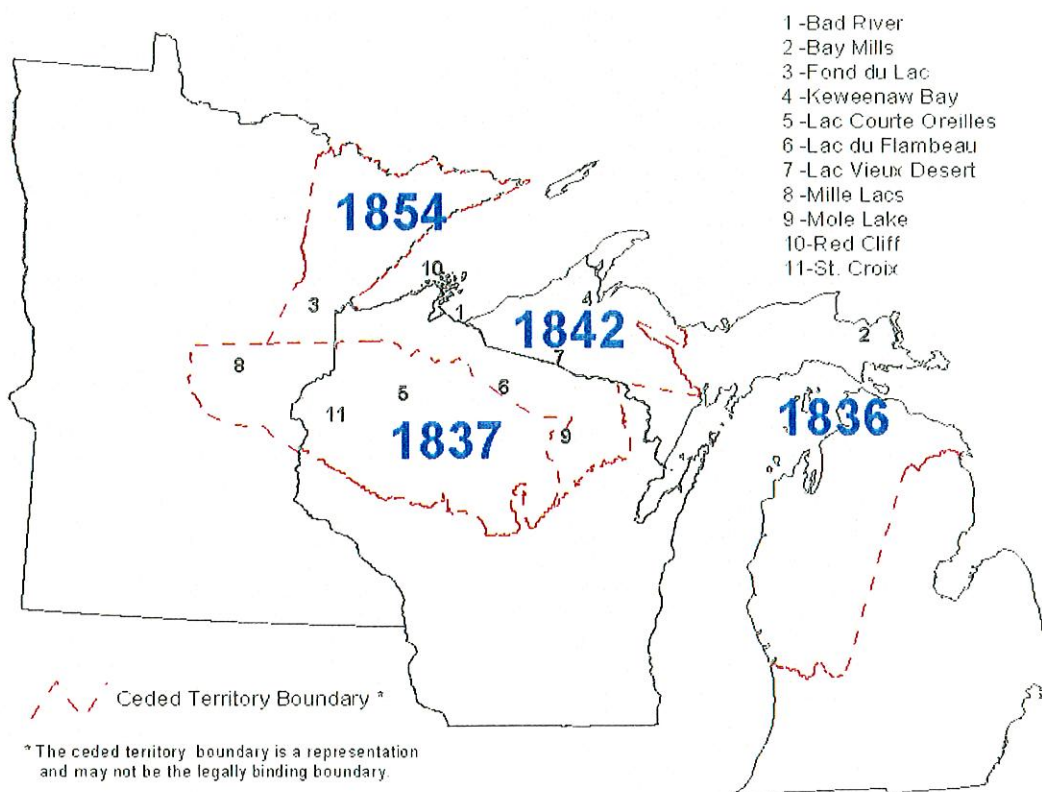


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

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 (7<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision. In both states, these rules resulted in a season which was 118 days long starting September 5 and ending December 31, 2000. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

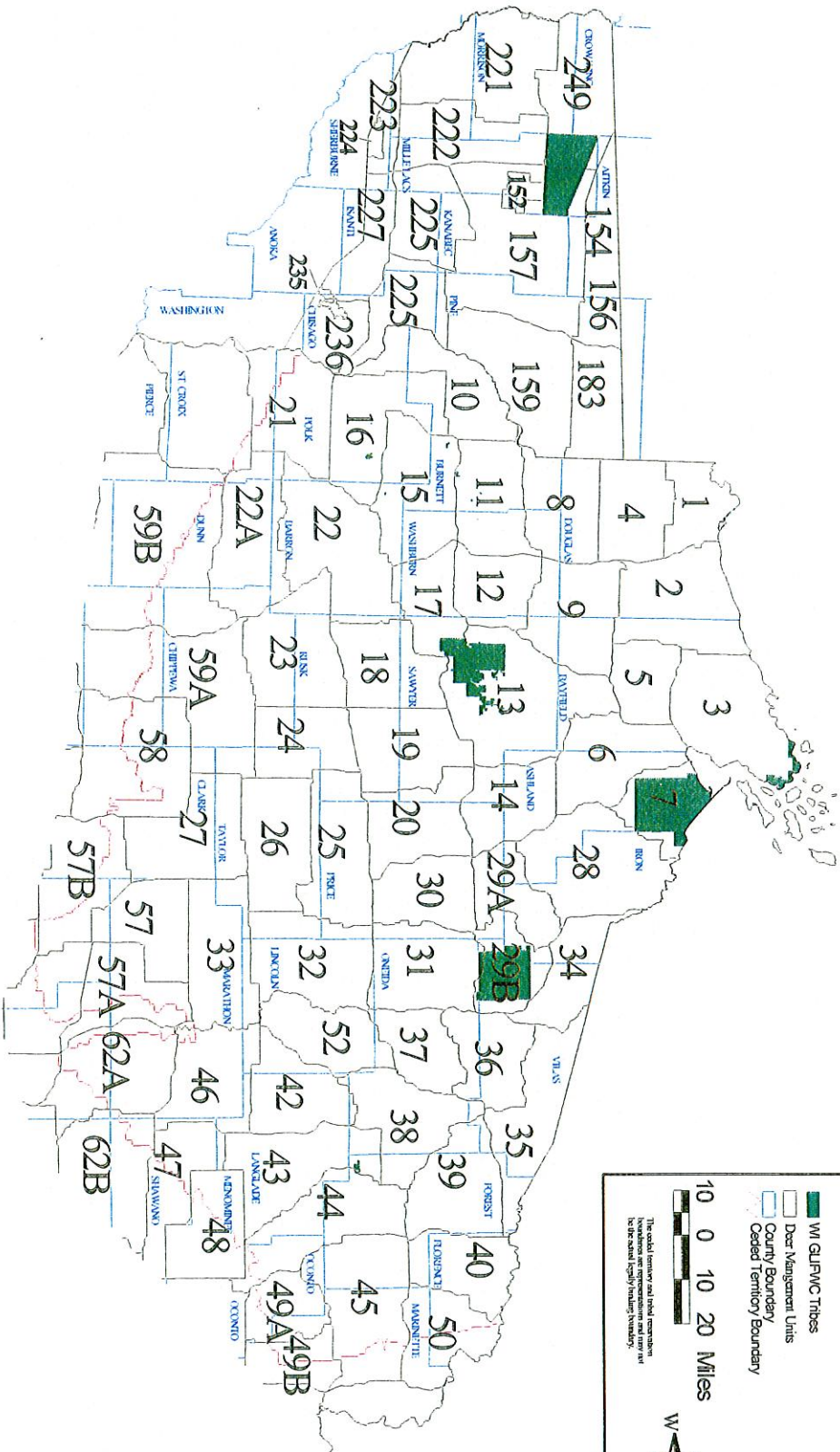
In 2000, the permit and registration system, first implemented in 1986 in Wisconsin, was used in the 1837 ceded territory in both states and the Wisconsin portion of the 1842 ceded territory. Each hunter was provided with 2 carcass tags. Each deer, regardless of sex or age, was required to be tagged 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 2000. 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 11 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 Wild River 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.



WI GULFWC Tribes

Deer Management Units

County Boundary

Ceded Territory Boundary

10 0 10 20 Miles

W N E S

The model boundaries and labels are approximate. No warranty is made by the Great Lakes Indian Waterfowl Commission for the actual legally binding boundaries.

## **Deer Hunting Results**

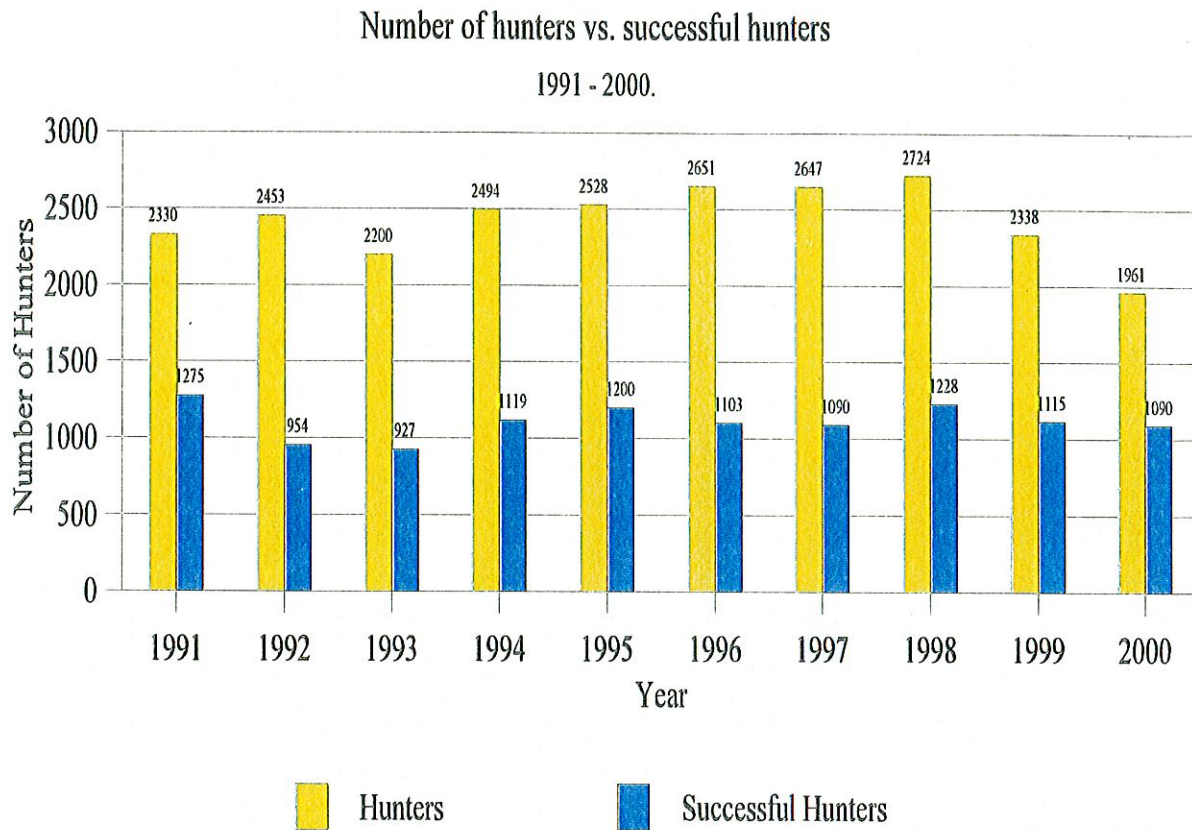
Carcass tags were issued to 1,961 deer hunters (Table 1). Tags were authorized to be issued to any member of the 6 Wisconsin bands and the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe. Members from FDL obtained tags from tribal offices. Registration stations were established at each of these 8 reservations for issuing 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 2000 (1,961) declined 16% from the number of deer hunters in 1999 (2,338, Gilbert 2000). The number of successful hunters declined by 2% (1,115 successful hunters in 1999 vs. 1,090 in 2000). The resulting success rate increased from 48% in 1999 to 56% in 2000 which is the highest success rate for tribal deer hunters recorded.

The number of hunters participating in the off-reservation treaty deer seasons in Wisconsin has remained relatively stable for the past 10 years (Figure 3). The decline in hunters in 2000 resulted from declines at Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Mille Lacs. These declines were slightly offset by an increase in the number of hunters from Lac du Flambeau.

**Table 1.** The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season.

<b>TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>CARCASS TAGS ISSUED</b>	<b>DEER HUNTERS</b>	<b>SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS</b>	<b>PERCENT SUCCESSFUL</b>
Bad River	1,500	368	146	39.7
Lac Courte Oreilles	2,600	523	326	62.3
Lac du Flambeau	2,300	282	216	76.6
Mille Lacs	700	124	99	79.8
Mole Lake	1,200	151	62	41.1
Red Cliff	1,600	396	202	51.0
St. Croix	1,500	117	39	33.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>55.6</b>



**Figure 3.** The number of hunters and successful hunters during each of the last 10 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. Only unit 7 was closed early because the declaration in that unit was 1 antlerless deer. Tribal antlerless deer quotas in all other units were sufficient to meet tribal needs. Tribal hunters shot 1,377 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 1,624 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 3,004 deer (3 unknown deer, Table 2a). This harvest represents a 10% decline over the 1999 harvest (Gilbert 2000) of 3,303 deer. A decline in registration was observed at all stations, except Red Cliff and Mole Lake.

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 1999 harvest was 42% (Gilbert 2000), which was an increase in the percent of harvest comprised of bucks from previous years. This number increased again in 2000 to 46%. 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 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	133	105	0	238
Fond du Lac*	19	18	0	37
Lac Courte Oreilles	374	481	1	856
Lac du Flambeau	345	416	2	763
Mille Lacs	28	63	0	91
Mole Lake	121	208	0	329
Red Cliff	243	185	0	428
St. Croix	114	148	0	262
Totals	1,377	1,624	3	3,004

\*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 fourth 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 199 deer registered by tribal members at Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac (Table 2b). This harvest represented a 22% decline from the 1999 deer harvest (241 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2000). A little more than one quarter of the Fond du Lac total ceded territory deer harvest was from the 1837 ceded territory, while 47% of the Mille Lacs ceded territory deer harvest came from this area.

**Table 2b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2000 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	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWNS	DOE FAWNS	TOTAL
Fond du Lac*	26 <sup>#</sup>	59	15	17	117
Mille Lacs	39	18	14	11	82
Totals	65	77	29	28	199

\* Harvests figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2001).

<sup>#</sup> 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 46 of the 63 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 2,728 deer were harvested from the 25 units in which harvest exceeded 30 deer. In 2000, there were two less units with 30 or more deer harvested than in 1999 (Gilbert 1999).

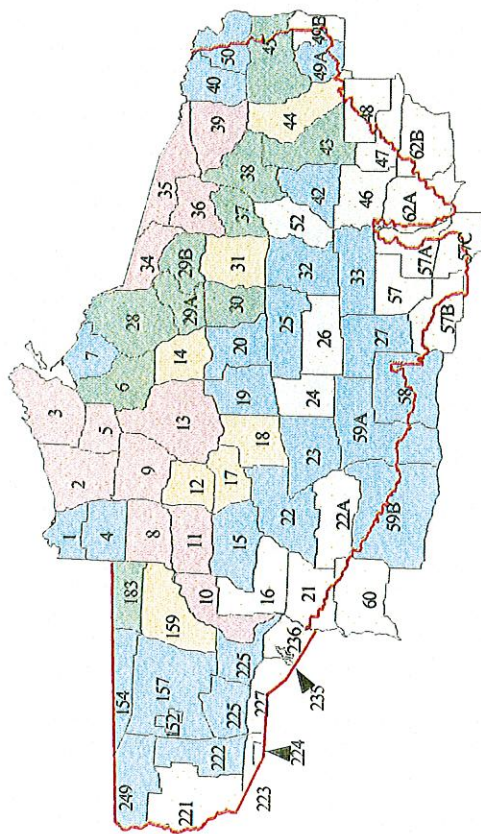
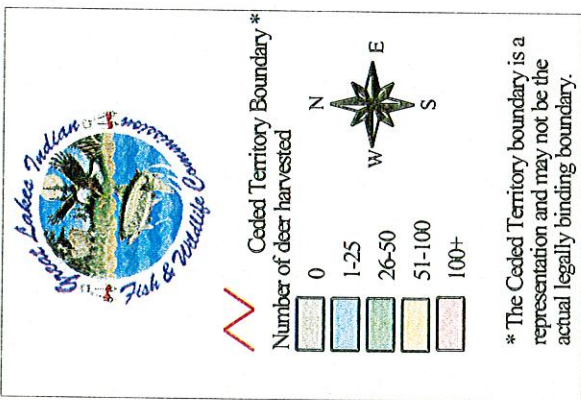
The distribution of tribal harvest among deer management units has remained relatively consistent from year to year. The 12 units with a harvest of greater than 100 antlerless deer in 2000 were (in descending order); 3, 2, 13, 35, 36, 5, 34, 11, 10, 8, 9, and 39 (Figure 4). These units where tribal members 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 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

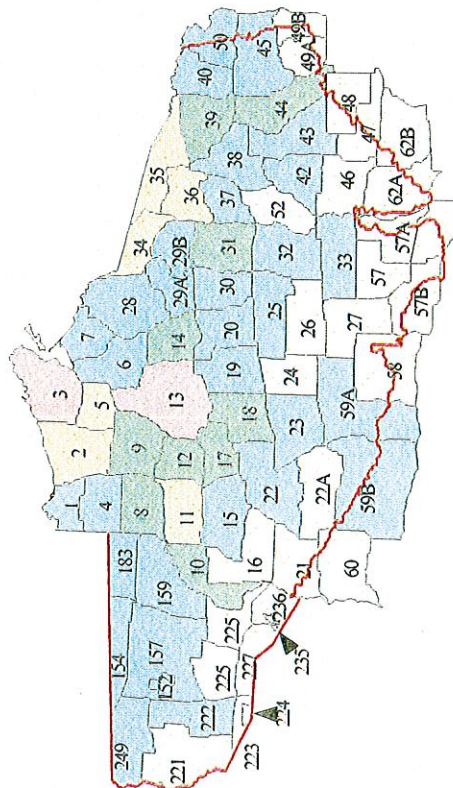
UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	8	11	0	19
02	93	134	0	227
03	252	166	0	418
04	17	6	0	23
05	65	89	0	154
06	14	12	0	26
07	4	5	0	9
08	50	64	0	114
09	33	78	0	111
10	50	70	0	120
11	52	78	0	130
12	38	44	0	82
13	103	111	1	215
14	28	65	0	93
15	9	14	0	23
16	0	0	0	0
17	32	25	0	57
18	35	22	0	57
19	8	2	0	10
20	2	0	0	2
21	0	0	0	0
22	7	2	0	9
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	7	0	0	7

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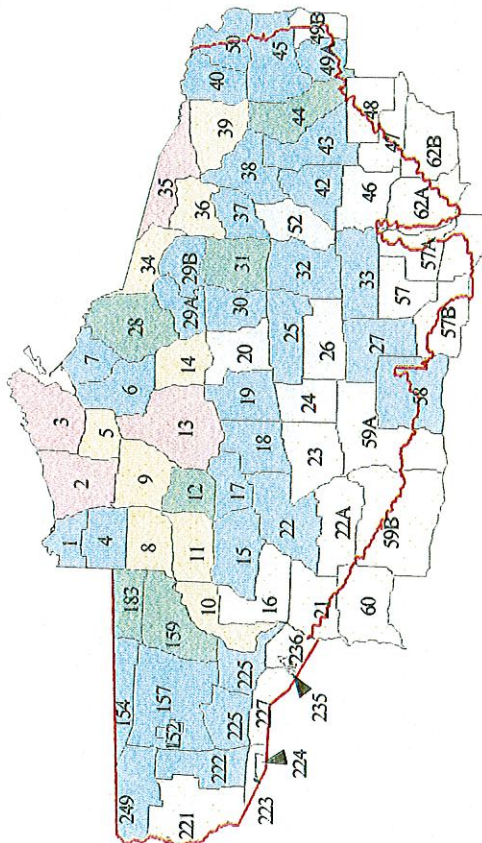
UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
24	0	0	0	0
25	1	1	0	2
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	1	0	1
28	16	34	0	50
29A	14	20	1	35
29B	19	21	0	40
30	20	15	0	35
31	28	37	0	65
32	4	8	0	12
33	4	4	0	8
34	60	77	0	137
35	88	104	1	193
36	78	84	0	162
37	23	15	0	38
38	11	25	0	36
39	41	62	0	103
40	11	14	0	25
42	2	6	0	8
43	11	20	0	31
44	30	48	0	78
45	3	25	0	28
46	0	0	0	0
47	0	0	0	0
48	0	0	0	0
49A	0	1	0	1
49B	0	0	0	0
50	3	3	0	6
52	0	0	0	0
57	0	0	0	0
57A	0	0	0	0
57B	0	0	0	0
57C	0	0	0	0
58	0	1	0	1
59A	2	0	0	2
59B	1	0	0	1
62A	0	0	0	0
62B	0	0	0	0
78	0	0	0	0
Totals	1,377	1,624	3	3,004



**Total Deer Harvest, 2000**



**Antlered Deer Harvest, 2000**



**Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2000**

## 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 9 of those permit areas and in 2 state parks in 2000. 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 (26 deer).

**Table 3b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	2	0	2	1	5
154	2	2	0	0	4
156	5	3	1	3	12
157	3	4	2	2	11
159	20	21	10	7	58
183	12	27	3	5	47
221	0	0	0	0	0
222	7	5	3	3	18
223	0	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0	0
225	0	1	0	0	1
227	0	0	0	0	0
235	0	0	0	0	0
236	0	0	0	0	0
249	12	5	3	2	22
St. Croix S. P.	0	6	3	5	14
Wild River S. P.	0	4	2	1	7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	63	78	29	29	199

\* Harvests figures for Fond du Lac from these units were from Schrage (2001).

\*\* 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.



**Deer Harvest by County**  
Wisconsin

Harvest during the 2000 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, Sawyer, Douglas, Forest, Washburn, Oneida and Ashland (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 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	43	72	0	115
Barron	3	3	0	6
Bayfield	360	321	0	681
Burnett	122	194	0	316
Chippewa	4	0	0	4
Douglas	118	160	0	278
Dunn	1	2	0	3
Eau Claire	0	1	0	1
Florence	13	15	0	28
Forest	74	125	0	199
Iron	27	57	0	84
Langlade	12	28	0	40
Lincoln	4	8	0	12
Marathon	4	4	0	8
Marinette	3	16	0	19
Oconto	0	1	0	1
Oneida	61	70	0	131
Polk	3	2	0	5
Price	30	24	1	55
Rusk	35	20	0	55
Sawyer	144	141	1	286
Vilas	241	280	1	522
Washburn	75	80	0	155
Totals	1,377	1,624	3	3,004

## Deer Harvest by County

### Minnesota

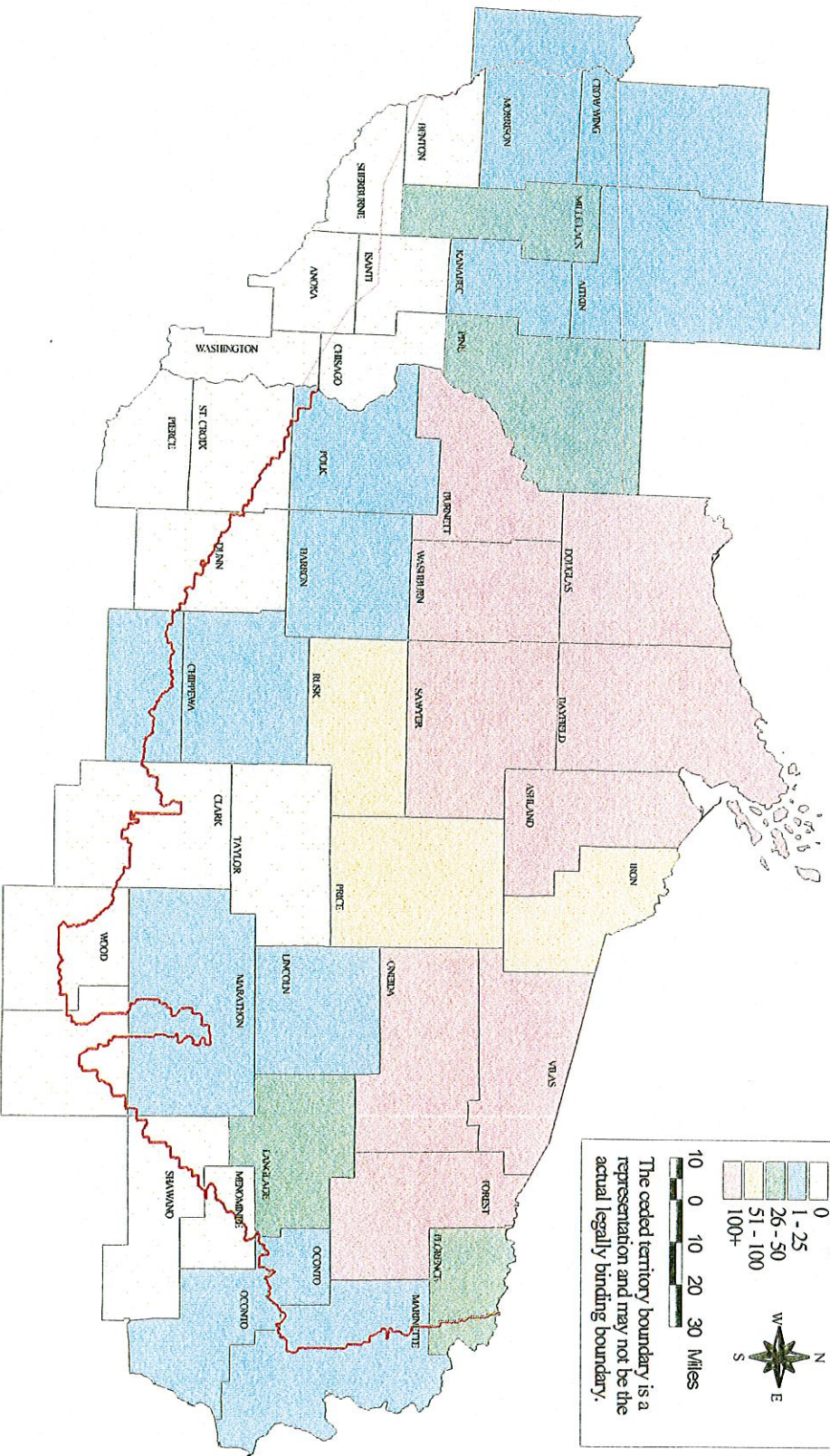
Most of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota for which a county was reported came from Pine County (Table 4b). This county contains the St. Croix State Park and much other public and tribal land.



**Table 4b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTALS
Aitkin	1	1	0	0	2
Crow Wing	2	0	0	1	3
Kanabec	1	0	0	0	1
Mille Lacs	15	5	6	3	29
Morrison	5	5	2	2	14
Pine	16	12	9	8	45
Unknown*	24	54	12	15	105
Totals	64	77	29	29	199

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

# Number of deer harvested during the 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota



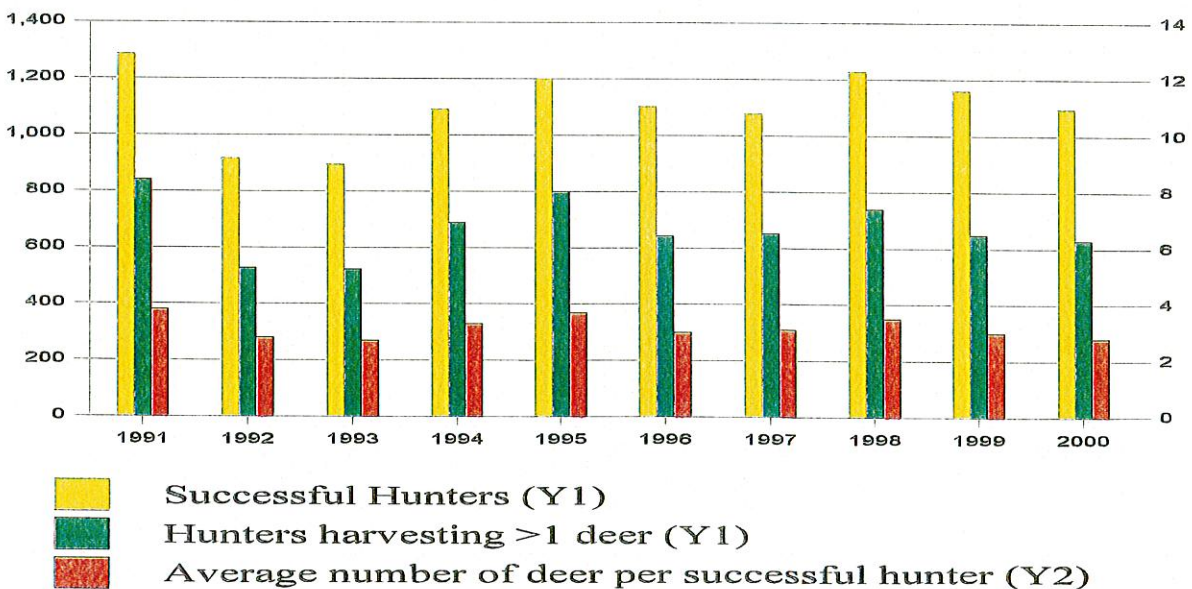


  
 Minn./Indiv.  
 Ceded Territory Boundary  
 Winnebago  
 0 1-25 26-50 51-100 100+  
 10 0 10 20 30 Miles  
 N  
 W E  
 S  
 The ceded territory boundary is a representation and may not be the actual legally binding boundary.

## Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful hunters decreased from 1,115 in 1999 to 1,096 in 2000 (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 1999 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 1991 through 2000

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Number of Successful Hunters	1,286	917	895	1,092	1,200	1,103	1,090	1,228	1,115	1,096
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	842	527	523	689	797	643	657	740	649	629
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.8	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.7	3	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.8





During the 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season the majority of hunters (57%) shot more than 1 deer while 39 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 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	467	42.6%	467
2	259	23.6%	518
3	133	12.1%	399
4	72	6.6%	288
5	46	4.2%	230
6	33	3.0%	198
7	22	2.0%	154
8	20	1.8%	160
9	5	0.5%	45
10	7	0.6%	70
11	6	0.5%	66
12	4	0.4%	48
13	5	0.5%	65
14	3	0.3%	42
15	2	0.2%	30
16	3	0.3%	48
17	2	0.2%	34
18	1	0.1%	18
26	1	0.1%	26
30	2	0.2%	60
33	1	0.1%	33
38	1	0.1%	38
42	1	0.1%	42
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,079</b>

### Deer Harvest by Season

The harvest that occurred during the early and middle seasons was disproportionately larger than the percent of the days available to hunting during those seasons (Table 7). This pattern has been observed in previous years. From 1994 to 1999 an average of 22% of the harvest came during the middle season (Gilbert 1995, Gilbert 1996, Gilbert 1997, Gilbert 1998, Gilbert 1999, Gilbert 2000). In 2000, the percent of the harvest occurring during the early season increased from 67% to 77% while the middle season percent declined to 19% (Table 7). The late season typically has a low harvest (especially compared to the length of time available). In 2000 the percent of the harvest occurring during the late season returned from 10% in 1999 to 5%, a value more similar to previous years..

**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 2000 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.

Portion of Season	Number of Deer Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Season
Early Season Sept. 6 - Nov. 17	2,356	77%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 18 - Nov. 26	571	19%	8%
Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	139	5%	25%

## Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

### Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 27% of the declared tribal deer quota (5,961 antlerless deer) in 2000 (Table 8). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 87% in Unit 14 to 0% in some of the ceded territory southern fringe units. Unit 7 was closed early and this unit's harvest exceeded the quota (but only by 4 deer). Two 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 2000 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 2000 treaty deer season in Wisconsin for all units.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	11	50	22.0%
02	134	400	33.5%
03	166	400	41.5%
04	6	75	8.0%
05	89	500	17.8%
06	12	50	24.0%
07	5	1	500.0%
08	64	300	21.3%
09	78	200	39.0%
10	70	300	23.3%
11	78	200	39.0%
12	44	150	29.3%
13	111	250	44.4%
14	65	75	86.7%
15	14	150	9.3%
16	0	50	0.0%
17	25	75	33.3%
18	22	75	29.3%
19	2	25	8.0%
20	0	25	0.0%
21	0	50	0.0%
22	2	50	4.0%
22A	0	25	0.0%
23	0	25	0.0%
24	0	25	0.0%

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Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
25	1	25	4.0%
26	0	25	0.0%
27	1	25	4.0%
28	34	75	45.3%
29A	20	75	26.7%
29B	21	75	28.0%
30	15	75	20.0%
31	37	150	24.7%
32	8	25	32.0%
33	4	25	16.0%
34	77	200	38.5%
35	104	250	41.6%
36	84	250	33.6%
37	15	50	30.0%
38	25	100	25.0%
39	62	150	41.3%
40	14	100	14.0%
42	6	25	24.0%
43	20	75	26.7%
44	48	150	32.0%
45	25	100	25.0%
46	0	25	0.0%
47	0	10	0.0%
48	0	25	0.0%
49A	1	25	4.0%
49B	0	25	0.0%
50	3	25	12.0%
52	0	25	0.0%
57	0	25	0.0%
57A	0	25	0.0%
57B	0	25	0.0%
57C	0	25	0.0%
58	1	25	4.0%
59A	0	25	0.0%
59B	0	25	0.0%
62A	0	25	0.0%
62B	0	25	0.0%
78	0	25	0.0%
Totals	1,624	5,961	27.2%



## Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

### Minnesota

The 2000 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 2000 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 Permit Area 183 followed by permit areas 159 and 222 (Table 8b). Harvest in each of the other permit areas with harvest was below 20% of the declaration, six permit areas had zero harvest.

**Table 8b.** The tribal antlerless deer quota and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2000 treaty deer season in Minnesota for all permit areas. Includes harvests from Fond du Lac, taken from Schrage 2001.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
152	3	40	7.5%
154	2	40	5.0%
156	7	40	17.5%
157	8	60	13.3%
159	38	100	38.0%
183	35	60	58.3%
221	0	25	0.0%
222	11	25	44.0%
223	0	25	0.0%
224	0	25	0.0%
225	1	25	4.0%
227	0	25	0.0%
235	0	10	0.0%
236	0	25	0.0%
249	10	70	14.3%
St. Croix State Park	14	100	14.0%
Wild River State Park	7	25	28.0%
Totals	136	720	18.9%

## BEAR HUNTING RESULTS

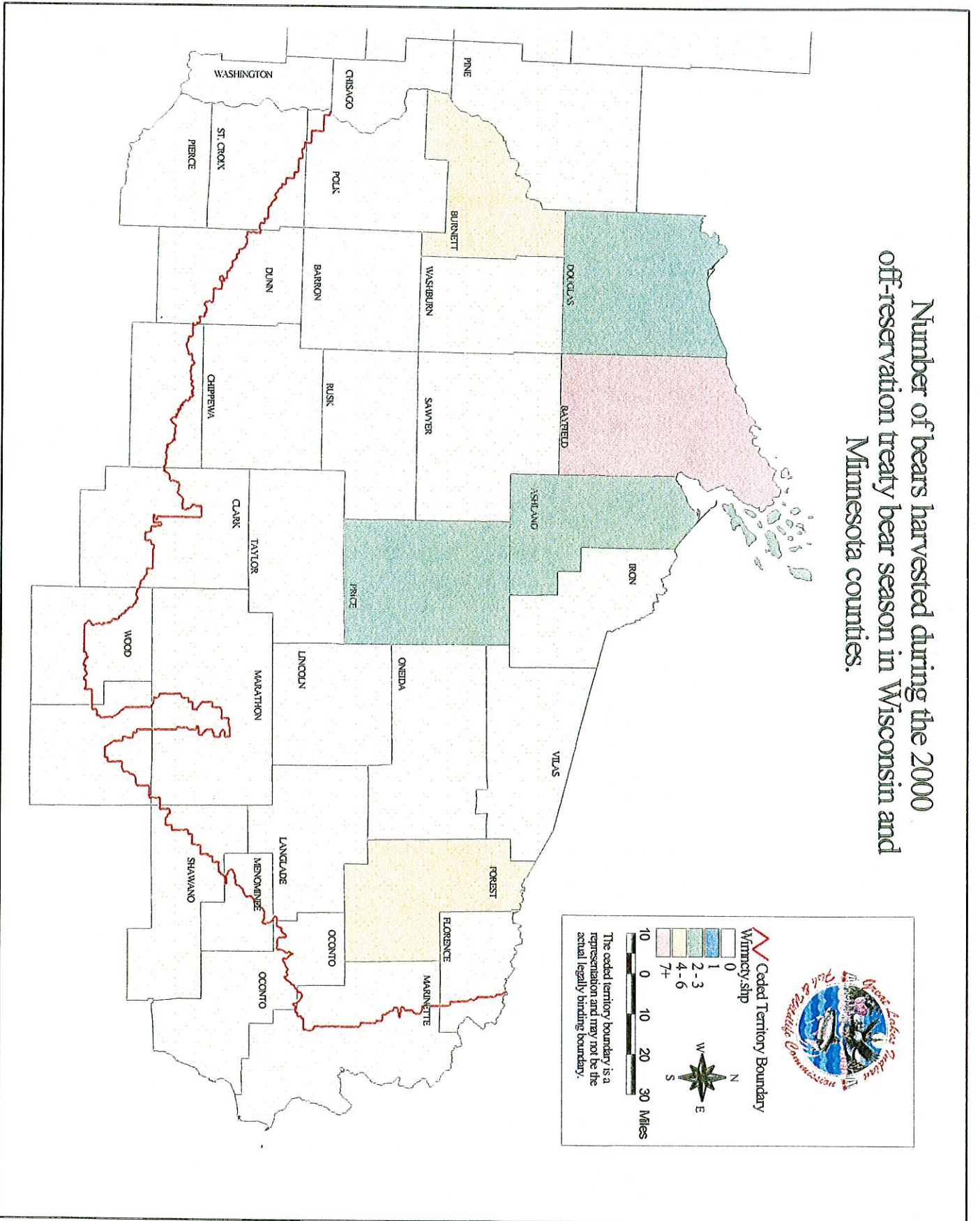
Tribal bear hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were previously enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May, 1990 Federal Court (7<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8<sup>th</sup> 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; 110 in zone A, 40 in zone B and 20 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 686 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2000 (Table 9), a decline of 341 hunters from the 1999 level. There were 15 successful bear hunters in 2000 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 and has remained at 2% since. 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 2000 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	300	198	4	2%
Lac Courte Oreilles				
Lac du Flambeau	300	176	1	1%
Mille Lacs	150	109	0	0%
Mole Lake	200	45	3	7%
Red Cliff	200	46	5	11%
St. Croix	200	112	2	2%
Totals	1,350	686	15	2%

# Number of bears harvested during the 2000 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.



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

## Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 26 bears were harvested during the 2000 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), an increase of 8 bears from 1999 (Gilbert 2000). During each of the 8 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 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 2000. 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 2000 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	2	2	4
Lac Courte Oreilles*	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	2	0	2
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	4	2	6
Red Cliff	3	6	9
St. Croix	4	1	5
Totals	15	11	26

\* The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board elected not to authorize bear hunting by LCO members in 2000

## Harvest by Zone and Management Unit

A total of 20 bears (11 males, 9 females) were harvested in zone A plus 6 bears (4 males, 1 female) were harvested in zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 18% and 15% 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 unit 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 2000 off-reservation treaty bear season by management zones and deer units.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
<b>A</b> <b>Quota 110</b>	3	3	6	9
	6	2	0	2
	7	0	1	1
	8	2	0	2
	10	2	2	4
	30	1	0	1
	31	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>		11	9	20
<b>Zone B</b> <b>Quota 40</b>	39	1	1	2
	44	3	1	4
	<b>Total</b>	4	2	6
<b>Grand Total</b>		15	11	26

## Harvest by County

The 2000 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 6 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County except in 1998. Bayfield County has annually provided the largest tribal bear harvest in the ceded territory.

**Table 12.** The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2000 off-reservation treaty bear season by county.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	2	1	3
Bayfield	3	6	9
Burnett	2	2	4
Douglas	2	0	2
Forest	4	2	6
Price	2	0	2
Totals	15	11	26



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