

**Results of the 2002 Treaty Waawaashkeshi
(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 2002 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 2002 off-reservation waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) hunting seasons 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 (2003) 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 2002 Michigan treaty hunting seasons are reported by Falck (2003).

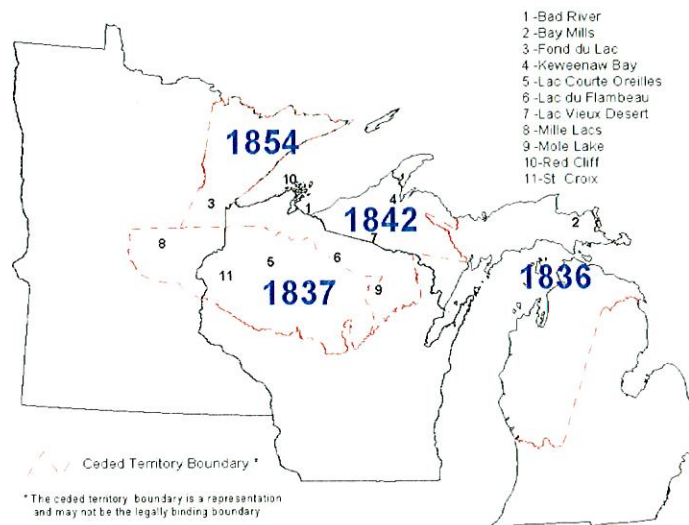


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

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 120 days long starting September 3 and ending December 31, 2002. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2002, 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 2002. 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. There were no deer registered for commercial purposes in 2002.

In Minnesota there was a special 2 day deer hunt in both the Wild River State Park and in the St. Croix 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.

Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 1,523 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. Since 1995, an additional registration station has been open in St. Paul, MN to register deer from members living in or near the twin cities. Data from this station have been recorded with the LCO station information. Since 1997, another station has been open in St. Paul, MN to serve members of the Mille Lacs Band. Since 1998, FDL has issued tags and registered deer to members from the Wisconsin and Mille Lacs bands from their offices.

The number of hunters in 2002 (1,523) declined 13% from the number of deer hunters in 2001 (1,741, Gilbert 2002). The number of successful hunters declined from 910 in 2001 to 766 in 2002 (Figure 3). The resulting harvest success rate remained similar in 2002 (50%) as in 2001 (52%).

The number of hunters participating in the off-reservation treaty deer seasons in Wisconsin has declined steadily for the past 4 years (Figure 3). All tribes, except LCO, showed a decline in 2002 compared to 2001 (Gilbert 2001).

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2001 off-reservation treaty deer season.

TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT	CARCASS TAGS ISSUED	DEER HUNTERS	SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL
Bad River	1,500	207	105	50.7
Lac Courte Oreilles	2,600	420	195	46.4
Lac du Flambeau	2,300	326	154	47.2
Mille Lacs	700	66	64	97.0
Mole Lake	1,200	133	47	35.3
Red Cliff	1,600	266	131	49.2
St. Croix	1,500	105	70	66.7
Totals	11,400	1,523	766	50.3

Number of hunters vs. successful hunters

1991 - 2002.

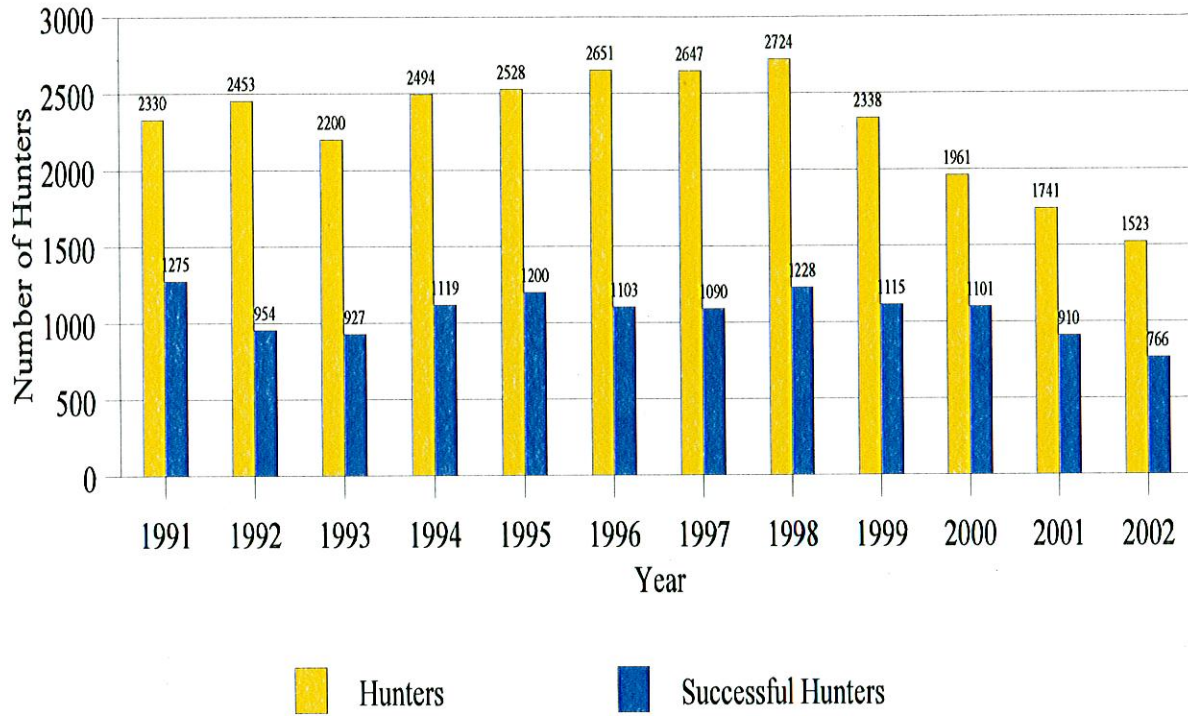


Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during each of the last 12 off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons in Wisconsin.

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. Beginning in the 2001 season, unit 7 was closed to off-reservation treaty hunting because the unit boundaries were changed to match boundaries of the Bad River Reservation. Thus, all areas of unit 7 were on-reservation and under the jurisdiction of the Bad River Tribe. Tribal antlerless deer quotas in all units were sufficient to meet demonstrated tribal needs. Tribal hunters shot 855 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 1,049 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 1,906 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 25% decline from the 2001 harvest of 2,552 deer (Gilbert 2002). A decline in registration was observed at all tribal stations except St. Croix.

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 - 2001 harvest has ranged between 40% and 45%, which was an increase in the percent of harvest comprised of bucks from previous years. In 2002 the percent adult bucks remained consistent at 45% of the harvest.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	79	122	0	201
Fond du Lac*	24	20	0	44
Lac Courte Oreilles	157	219	0	376
Lac du Flambeau	187	234	2	423
Mille Lacs	12	18	0	30
Mole Lake	72	117	0	189
Red Cliff	132	93	0	225
St. Croix	192	226	0	418
Totals	855	1,049	2	1,906

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

Deer Harvest by Registration Station

Minnesota

This was the sixth year of off-reservation treaty deer hunting in the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory since the Federal Court affirmed the Bands' rights to hunt there. There were 132 deer registered by tribal members at Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac (Table 2b). This harvest represented a 43% decline from the 2001 deer harvest (242 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2002).

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season in Minnesota by registration station. Deer registered at St. Croix and Wild River State Parks during the special hunt are included in the Fond du Lac or Mille Lacs totals.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWNS	DOE FAWNS	TOTAL
Fond du Lac*	24 [#]	17	11	3	55
Mille Lacs	34	20	11	8	73
St. Croix	2	2	0	0	4
Totals	60	39	22	11	132

* Harvests figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2003).

[#] 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 44 of the 63 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 1,604 deer were harvested from the 17 units in which harvest exceeded 30 deer. In 2002, there was one fewer unit with 30 or more deer harvested than in 2001 (Gilbert 2002).

The number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has declined in each of the past 2 years (from 12 in 2000, to 8 in 2001 to 6 in 2002). In 2002 the 6 units with a harvest of greater than 100 deer were (in descending order): 3, 5, 11, 10, 13, and 2 (Figure 4). These are 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 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	12	9	0	21
02	39	61	0	100
03	144	101	0	245
04	6	5	0	11
05	55	100	0	155
06	14	13	0	27
07	1	2	0	3
08	34	30	0	64
09	21	35	0	56
10	53	91	0	144
11	85	96	0	181
12	22	24	0	46
13	47	86	0	133
14	5	5	0	10
15	23	25	0	48
16	9	5	0	14
17	3	6	0	9
18	13	7	0	20
19	2	0	0	2
20	6	8	0	14
21	0	0	0	0
22	0	1	0	1
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	9	0	0	9
24	0	0	0	0
25	2	3	0	5
26	0	1	0	1
27	0	0	0	0

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UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
28	15	6	0	21
29A	8	12	2	22
29B	9	14	0	23
30	7	8	0	15
31	16	32	0	48
32	1	1	0	2
33	0	3	0	3
34	36	40	0	76
35	39	37	0	76
36	34	51	0	85
37	4	4	0	8
38	6	8	0	14
39	25	44	0	69
40	11	11	0	22
42	0	2	0	2
43	10	6	0	16
44	12	32	0	44
45	12	22	0	34
46	0	0	0	0
47	0	0	0	0
48	0	0	0	0
49A	0	0	0	0
49B	0	0	0	0
50	0	0	0	0
52	1	0	0	1
57	0	0	0	0
57A	0	0	0	0
57B	0	0	0	0
57C	0	0	0	0
58	0	0	0	0
59A	1	2	0	3
59B	0	0	0	0
62A	0	0	0	0
62B	0	0	0	0
78	0	0	0	0
79	2	0	0	2
Unknown	1	0	0	1
Totals	855	1,049	2	1,906

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

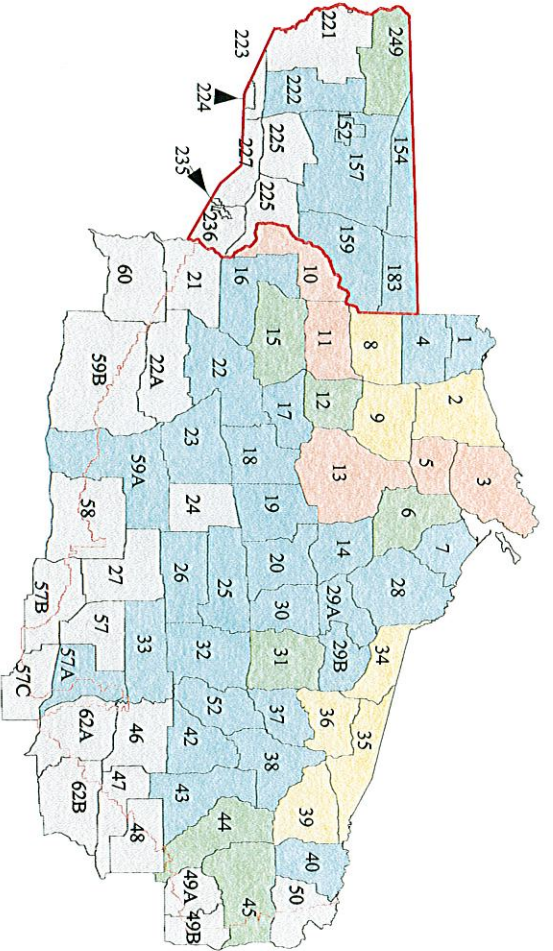
Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. Tribal deer harvest occurred in 8 of those permit areas and in 2 state parks in 2002 (Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (98 deer) came from the tier of permit areas along the northern border of the ceded territory (Permit areas 152 through 183, plus area 249 and St. Croix State Park). 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. About 26% of the harvested deer came from more southern permit areas (34 deer).

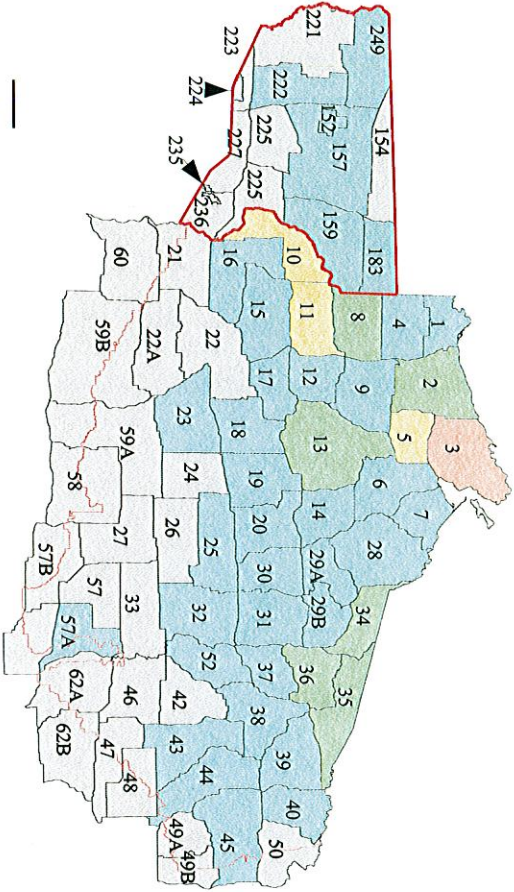
Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2001 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	2	5	1	3	11
154	0	1	0	0	1
156	10	5	1	0	16
157	1	0	1	0	2
159	3	2	0	0	5
183	5	5	1	0	11
221	0	0	0	0	0
222	6	7	1	0	14
223	0	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0	0
227	0	0	0	0	0
235	0	0	0	0	0
236	0	0	0	0	0
249	24	7	5	6	42
St. Croix S. P.	1	3	6	0	10
Wild River S. P.	8	4	6	2	20
Totals	60	39	22	11	132

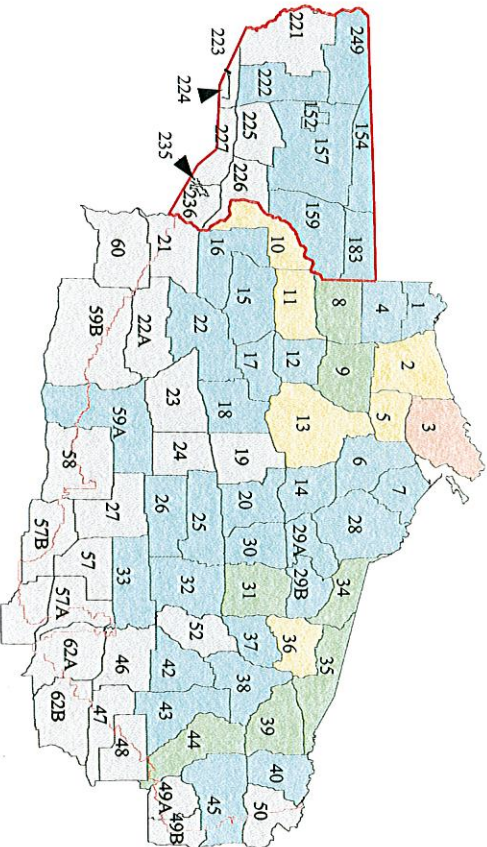
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.




Total Deer Harvest, 2002



Antlered Deer Harvest, 2002



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2002




Ceded Territory Boundary *

Number of deer harvested

- 0
- 1-25
- 26-50
- 51-100
- 100+

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



Deer Harvest by County

Wisconsin

Harvest during the 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 21 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,550 deer or 81% of the total Wisconsin tribal harvest occurred in the 6 counties where harvest was greater than 100 deer. These counties were in declining order of harvest: Bayfield, Burnett, Vilas, Douglas, Sawyer and Forest (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 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	14	8	0	22
Barron	7	6	0	13
Bayfield	210	230	0	440
Burnett	170	220	0	390
Chippewa	3	2	0	5
Douglas	77	83	0	160
Florence	12	12	0	24
Forest	46	88	0	134
Iron	15	6	0	21
Langlade	7	5	0	12
Lincoln	2	2	0	4
Marathon	0	2	0	2
Marinette	5	8	0	13
Oneida	25	46	0	71
Polk	22	14	0	36
Price	16	26	0	42
Rusk	13	2	0	15
Sawyer	62	97	0	159
Taylor	0	1	0	1
Vilas	120	147	0	267
Washburn	27	44	0	71
Unknown	2	0	2	4
Totals	855	1,049	2	1,906

Deer Harvest by County

Minnesota

For many of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, no county of harvest was reported. When the county of harvest was noted, Mille Lacs County had the most deer registered (Table 4b). This county is close to the Mille Lacs reservation and contains much public land. These same factors have been noted in Wisconsin as important in influencing the level of tribal harvest.

Table 4b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWN	DOE FAWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	1	0	1	0	2
Chisago	0	0	0	0	0
Crow Wing	0	1	0	0	1
Mille Lacs	27	11	7	9	54
Morrison	6	7	1	0	14
Pine	3	6	7	0	16
Unknown*	23	14	6	2	45
Totals	60	39	22	11	132

* Schrage (2003) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County).

Number of deer harvested during the 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota

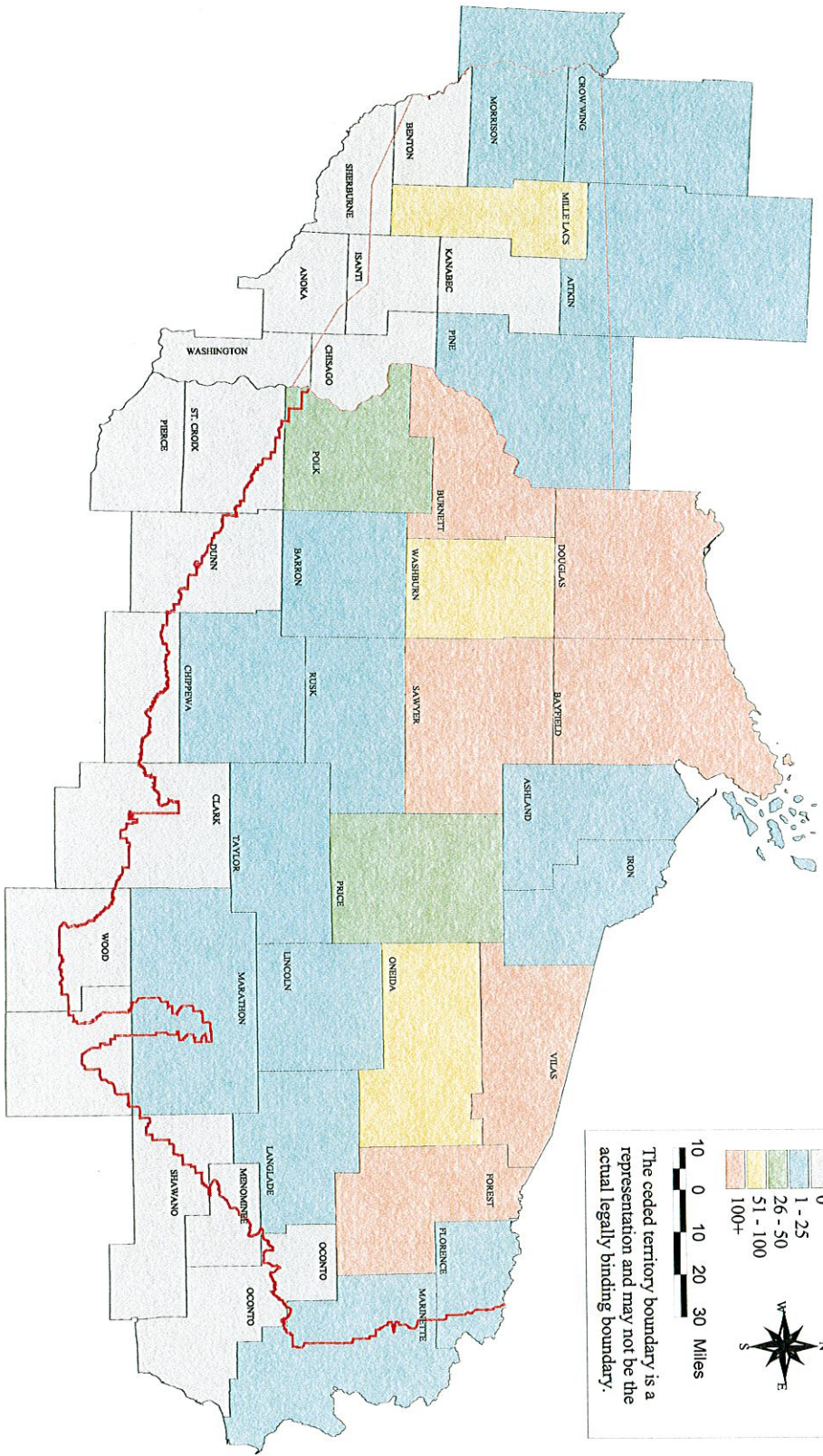


Mn37bndw
Ceded Territory Boundary
Winncy/shp

0	1 - 25
26 - 50	51 - 100
100+	

10 0 10 20 30 Miles

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

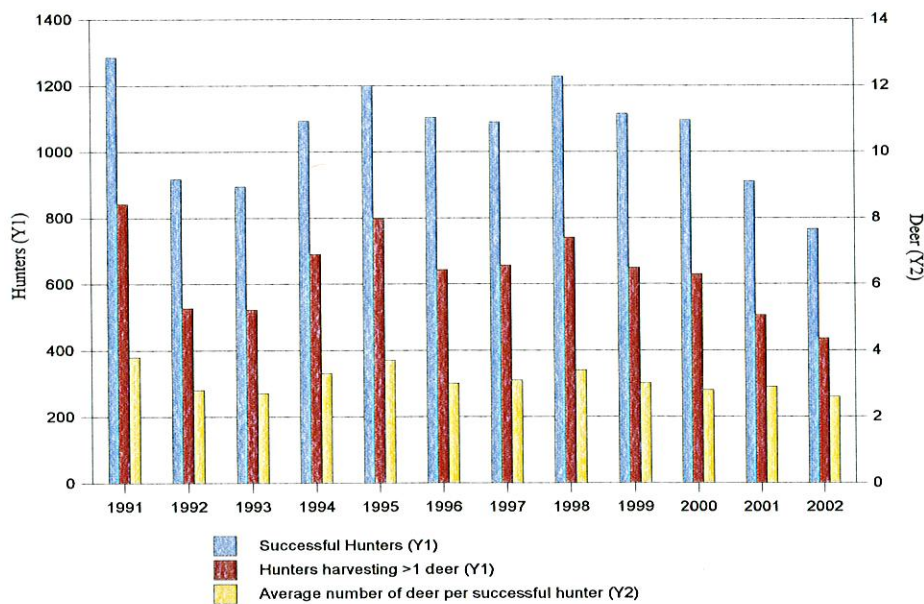


Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful hunters decreased from 910 in 2001 to 766 in 2002 (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 also declined from 2001 levels (Gilbert 2000). 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 1992 through 2002

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of Successful Hunters	917	895	1,092	1,200	1,103	1,090	1,228	1,115	1,101	910	766
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	527	523	689	797	643	657	740	649	629	513	435
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.7	3	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6



During the 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season the majority of hunters (57%) shot more than 1 deer while 18 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 2002 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	331	43.2%	331
2	203	26.5%	406
3	88	11.5%	264
4	49	6.4%	196
5	22	2.9%	110
6	17	2.2%	102
7	19	2.5%	133
8	6	0.8%	48
9	13	1.7%	117
10	3	0.4%	30
11	4	0.5%	44
12	1	0.1%	12
13	1	0.1%	13
14	5	0.7%	70
15	1	0.1%	15
27	1	0.1%	27
31	1	0.1%	31
34	1	0.1%	34
TOTALS	766	100%	1,983

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 is a different pattern than has been observed during previous years. From 1994 to 1999 an average of 22% of the harvest came during the middle season (Gilbert 1997, Gilbert 1998, Gilbert 1999, Gilbert 2000, Gilbert 2001, Gilbert 2002). In 2000 and again in 2001, the percent of the harvest occurring during the middle season declined to 19% and 18%, respectively (Gilbert 2001, Gilbert 2002). In 2002 the middle season harvest increased to 34% (Table 7). The late season typically has a low harvest (especially compared to the length of time available). In 2002 the percent of the harvest occurring during the late season decreased from 10% in 2001 to 4% in 2002.

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 2002 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	1,176	62%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 18 - Nov. 26	655	34%	8%
Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	75	4%	25%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 16% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,580 antlerless deer) in 2002 (Table 8a). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 43% in Unit 11 to 0% in some of the ceded territory southern fringe units. The boundaries of Unit 7 were changed to correspond to the reservation boundaries and thus no section of Unit 7 was off-reservation. Two deer were registered in unit 7. It is unknown if the deer were harvested off-reservation and mistakenly registered in the wrong unit, or if the deer were harvested on-reservation and mistakenly registered as being harvested off-reservation. No units surpassed 75% of the quota, the harvest level which triggers a limitation on the number of antlerless deer permits available.

Table 8a. The tribal antlerless deer quota and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2002 treaty deer season in Wisconsin for all units.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	9	55	16.4%
02	61	440	13.9%
03	101	440	23.0%
04	5	83	6.0%
05	100	550	18.2%
06	13	55	23.6%
07	2	0	N/A
08	30	330	9.1%
09	35	220	15.9%
10	91	330	27.6%
11	96	220	43.6%
12	24	165	14.5%
13	86	275	31.3%
14	5	83	6.0%
15	25	165	15.2%
16	5	55	9.1%
17	6	83	7.2%
18	7	83	8.4%
19	0	28	0.0%
20	8	28	28.6%
21	0	55	0.0%
22	1	55	1.8%
22A	0	28	0.0%
23	0	28	0.0%
24	0	28	0.0%
25	3	28	10.7%
26	1	28	3.6%
27	0	28	0.0%

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Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
28	6	83	7.2%
29A	12	83	14.5%
29B	14	83	16.9%
30	8	83	9.6%
31	32	165	19.4%
32	1	28	3.6%
33	3	28	10.7%
34	40	220	18.2%
35	37	275	13.5%
36	51	275	18.5%
37	4	55	7.3%
38	8	110	7.3%
39	44	165	26.7%
40	11	110	10.0%
42	2	28	7.1%
43	6	83	7.2%
44	32	165	19.4%
45	22	110	20.0%
46	0	28	0.0%
47	0	28	0.0%
48	0	11	0.0%
49A	0	28	0.0%
49B	0	28	0.0%
50	0	28	0.0%
52	0	28	0.0%
57	0	28	0.0%
57A	0	28	0.0%
57B	0	28	0.0%
57C	0	28	0.0%
58	0	28	0.0%
59A	2	28	7.1%
59B	0	28	0.0%
62A	0	28	0.0%
62B	0	28	0.0%
78	0	28	0.0%
79	0	6+	NA
Totals	1,049	6,580	15.9%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Minnesota

The 2002 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 and no more than 50% of the quota in any deer permit area could be declared for 2002. No declaration approached 50% of the quota for any unit and the total declaration was 785 (Table 8b). Antlerless deer harvest was highest in Permit Area 152. Harvest in each of the other permit areas with harvest was 30% or less of the declaration; seven permit areas had zero antlerless harvest.

Table 8b. The tribal antlerless deer quota and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2002 treaty deer season in Minnesota for all permit areas; includes harvest by Fond du Lac, taken from Schrage 2003.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
152	9	40	22.5%
154	1	40	2.5%
156	6	40	15.0%
157	1	60	1.7%
159	2	100	2.0%
183	6	100	6.0%
221	0	25	0.0%
222	8	100	8.0%
223	0	25	0.0%
224	0	25	0.0%
225	0	70	0.0%
227	0	25	0.0%
235	0	10	0.0%
236	0	25	0.0%
249	18	100	18.0%
St. Croix State Park	9	none	
Wild River State Park	12	none	
Totals	72	785	9.2%

BEAR HUNTING RESULTS

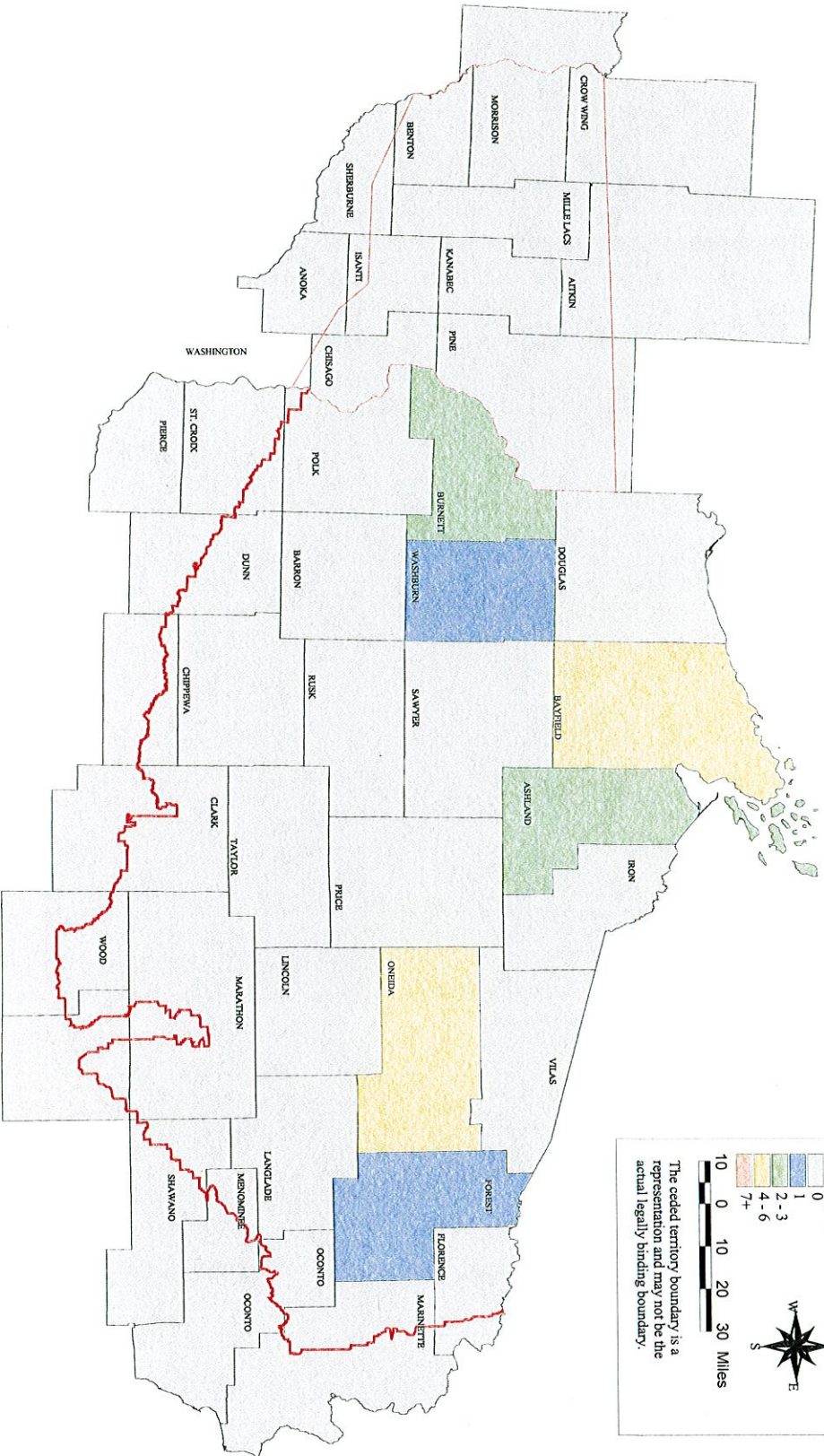
Tribal bear hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were previously enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May 1990 Federal Court (7th Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 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; 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 870 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2002 (Table 9), an increase of 221 hunters from the 2001 level. There were 14 successful bear hunters in 2002 or 2% of the number of bear hunters. Bear hunter success has fluctuated between 2% and 4% for several years. 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 2002 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	134	5	4%
Lac Courte Oreilles				
Lac du Flambeau	300	155	2	1%
Mille Lacs	200	186	0	0%
Mole Lake	200	127	1	1%
Red Cliff	200	171	6	4%
St. Croix	200	97	0	0%
Totals	1,400	870	14	2%

Number of bears harvested during the 2002 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.



Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 16 bears were harvested during the 2002 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), a decline of 13 bears from 2001 (Gilbert 2002). During each of the 9 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. This trend continued in 2002.

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 2001. 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 2002 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	3	1	4
Lac Courte Oreilles*	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	2	3	5
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	0	1
Red Cliff	3	1	4
St. Croix	2	0	2
Totals	11	5	16

* The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board elected not to authorize bear hunting by LCO members in 2002

Harvest by Zone and Management Unit

A total of 11 bears (7 males, 4 females) were harvested in zone A plus 4 bears (3 males, 1 female) were harvested in zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 10% of the tribal quota in zones A and B. No deer management unit had a high tribal bear harvest. Few bears were harvested from any of the units.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2002 off-reservation treaty bear season by management zones and deer units.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total	
Zone A Quota 110	1	0	0	0	
	2	2	0	2	
	3	1	1	2	
	5	0	1	1	
	6	2	0	2	
	11	2	0	2	
	12	0	1	1	
	31	0	1	1	
	Total		7	4	11
	Zone B Quota 40	37	1	0	1
38		1	1	2	
39		1	0	1	
	Total	3	1	4	
	Unknown	1	0	1	
Grand Total		11	5	16	

Harvest by County

The 2002 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 6 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County. 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 2002 off-reservation treaty bear season by county.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	2	0	2
Bayfield	3	2	5
Burnett	2	0	2
Forest	1	0	1
Oneida	2	2	4
Washburn	0	1	1
Unknown	1	0	1
Totals	11	5	16

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