



Results of the 2003 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 2003 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 2003 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 (2004) 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 2003 Michigan treaty hunting seasons are reported by Falck (in prep.).

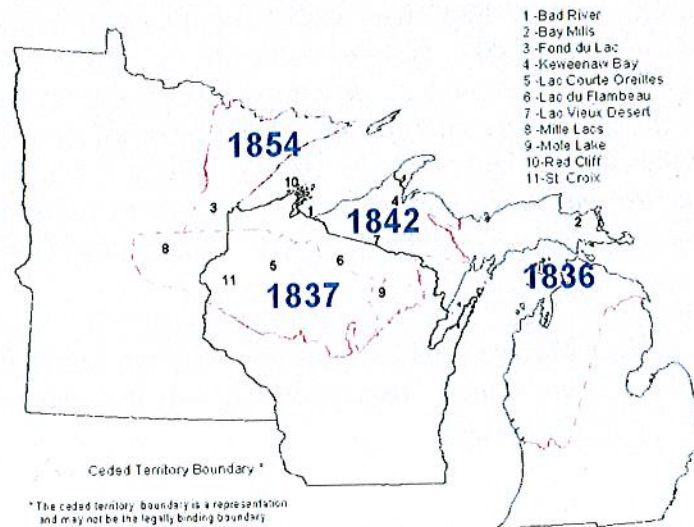


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

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 2 and ending December 31, 2003. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2003, 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.

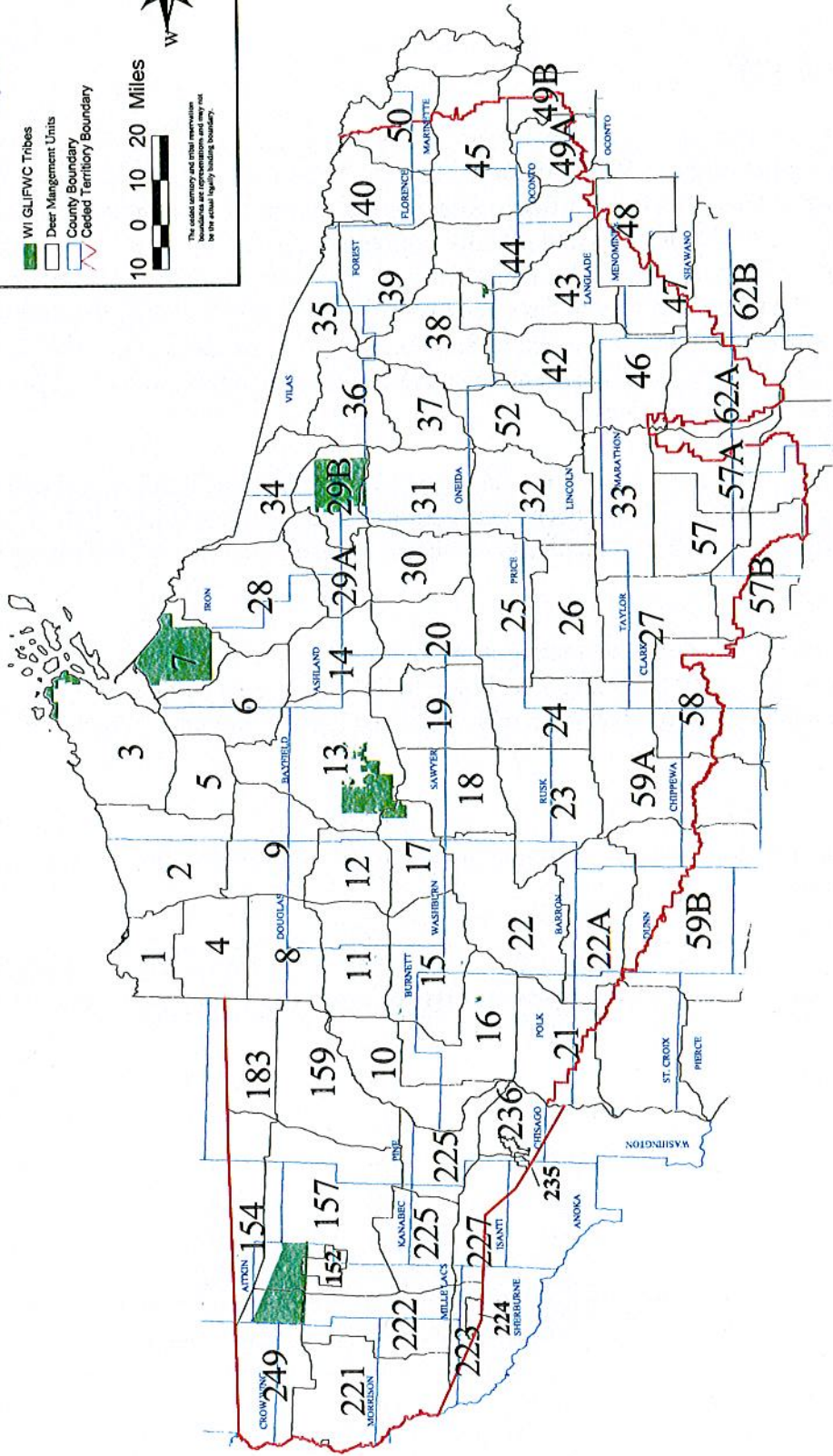
Commercial harvest of deer was permitted when the hunter's tribal government specifically authorized such a harvest. Bad River, Mole Lake and Red Cliff authorized commercial hunting in Wisconsin in 2003. Persons wishing to hunt antlerless deer for commercial purposes were required to obtain a commercial 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 2003.

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.

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



- WI GLIFWC Tribes
- Deer Management Units
- County Boundary
- Ceded Territory Boundary



Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 1,646 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 2003 (1,646) increased 8% from the number of deer hunters in 2002 (1,523, Gilbert 2003). The number of successful hunters increased from 766 in 2002 to 980 in 2003 (Figure 3). The resulting harvest success rate increased from 2002 (50%) to 2003 (60%).

The number of hunters participating in the off-reservation treaty deer seasons in Wisconsin increased in 2003 reversing a declining trend observed since 1999 (Figure 3). The number of deer hunters increased for each tribe with Red Cliff posting the largest increase (29 hunters).

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season.

| TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT | CARCASS TAGS ISSUED | DEER HUNTERS | SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS | PERCENT SUCCESSFUL |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bad River | 1,500 | 216 | 133 | 61.6 |
| Lac Courte Oreilles | 2,600 | 435 | 238 | 54.7 |
| Lac du Flambeau | 2,300 | 352 | 191 | 54.3 |
| Mille Lacs | 700 | 85 | 78 | 91.8 |
| Mole Lake | 1,200 | 148 | 48 | 32.4 |
| Red Cliff | 1,600 | 295 | 212 | 71.9 |
| St. Croix | 1,500 | 115 | 80 | 69.6 |
| Totals | 11,400 | 1,646 | 980 | 59.5 |

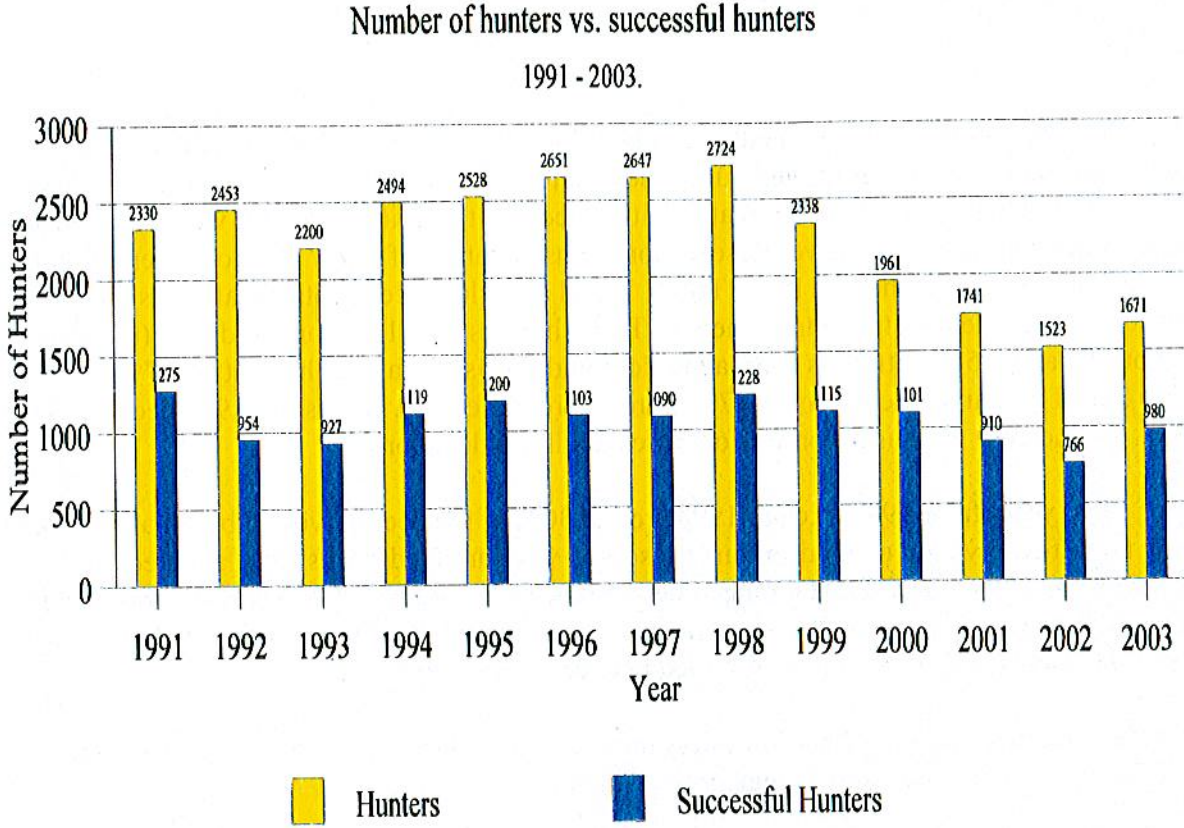


Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons in Wisconsin from 1991 - 2003.

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 1,208 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 1,585 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 2,793 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 47% increase from the 2002 harvest of 1,906 deer (Gilbert 2003). An increase in registration was observed at all tribal stations.

Most years from 1983 through 1998 around 30% of the deer harvested by tribal members during the off-reservation treaty deer hunting season were antlered bucks. The antlered buck percent for the 1999 - 2002 harvest ranged between 40% and 45%, which was an increase in the percent of harvest comprised of bucks from previous years. In 2003 the percent adult bucks was 43% of the harvest within the range observed between 1999 - 2002.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

| STATION | ANTLERED DEER | ANTLERLESS DEER | UNKNOWN DEER | TOTAL |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Bad River | 108 | 118 | 0 | 226 |
| Fond du Lac* | 36 | 41 | 0 | 77 |
| Lac Courte Oreilles | 246 | 332 | 0 | 578 |
| Lac du Flambeau | 214 | 351 | 0 | 565 |
| Mille Lacs | 12 | 28 | 0 | 40 |
| Mole Lake | 80 | 120 | 0 | 200 |
| Red Cliff | 239 | 225 | 0 | 464 |
| St. Croix | 273 | 370 | 0 | 643 |
| Totals | 1,208 | 1,585 | 0 | 2,793 |

*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 seventh 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 160 deer harvested in Minnesota that were registered by tribal members at Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac and the St. Croix deer registration stations (Table 2b). This harvest represented a 21% increase from the 2002 deer harvest (132 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2003).

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2003 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* | 32 [#] | 14 | 8 | 9 | 63 |
| Mille Lacs | 38 | 30 | 12 | 9 | 89 |
| St. Croix | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| Totals | 72 | 48 | 22 | 18 | 160 |

* Harvests figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2004).

[#] 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 47 of the 64 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 2,554 deer were harvested from the 22 units in which harvest exceeded 30 deer. In 2003, there were an additional five units with 30 or more deer harvested than in 2002 (Gilbert 2003).

The number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has declined in recent years (from 12 in 2000, to 8 in 2001 to 6 in 2002). In 2003 the number of units with a harvest of greater than 100 deer increased to 9. They were (in descending order): 3, 11, 10, 35, 5, 2, 13, 36 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 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

| UNIT | ANTLERED DEER | ANTLERLESS DEER | UNKNOWN DEER | TOTAL DEER |
|------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 01 | 23 | 25 | 0 | 48 |
| 02 | 62 | 95 | 0 | 157 |
| 03 | 242 | 206 | 0 | 448 |
| 04 | 23 | 11 | 0 | 34 |
| 05 | 61 | 97 | 0 | 158 |
| 06 | 15 | 23 | 0 | 38 |
| 08 | 43 | 103 | 0 | 146 |
| 09 | 34 | 64 | 0 | 98 |
| 10 | 66 | 128 | 0 | 194 |
| 11 | 118 | 110 | 0 | 228 |
| 12 | 37 | 58 | 0 | 95 |
| 13 | 66 | 91 | 0 | 157 |
| 14 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 16 |
| 15 | 37 | 54 | 0 | 91 |
| 16 | 10 | 12 | 0 | 22 |
| 17 | 21 | 15 | 0 | 36 |
| 18 | 20 | 5 | 0 | 25 |
| 19 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| 20 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 21 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 22 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 22 A | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 23 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| 26 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

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| UNIT | ANTLERED DEER | ANTLERLESS DEER | UNKNOWN DEER | TOTAL DEER |
|---------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 27 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 28 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 17 |
| 29A | 24 | 30 | 0 | 54 |
| 29B | 6 | 18 | 0 | 24 |
| 30 | 15 | 23 | 0 | 38 |
| 31 | 20 | 18 | 0 | 38 |
| 32 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| 33 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 34 | 24 | 43 | 0 | 67 |
| 35 | 73 | 113 | 0 | 186 |
| 36 | 39 | 75 | 0 | 114 |
| 37 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |
| 38 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 12 |
| 39 | 31 | 43 | 0 | 74 |
| 40 | 6 | 16 | 0 | 22 |
| 42 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 43 | 9 | 10 | 0 | 19 |
| 44 | 23 | 35 | 0 | 58 |
| 45 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 16 |
| 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 52 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 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 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 59B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 62A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 62B | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 79 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | | | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 1,208 | 1,585 | 0 | 2,793 |

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

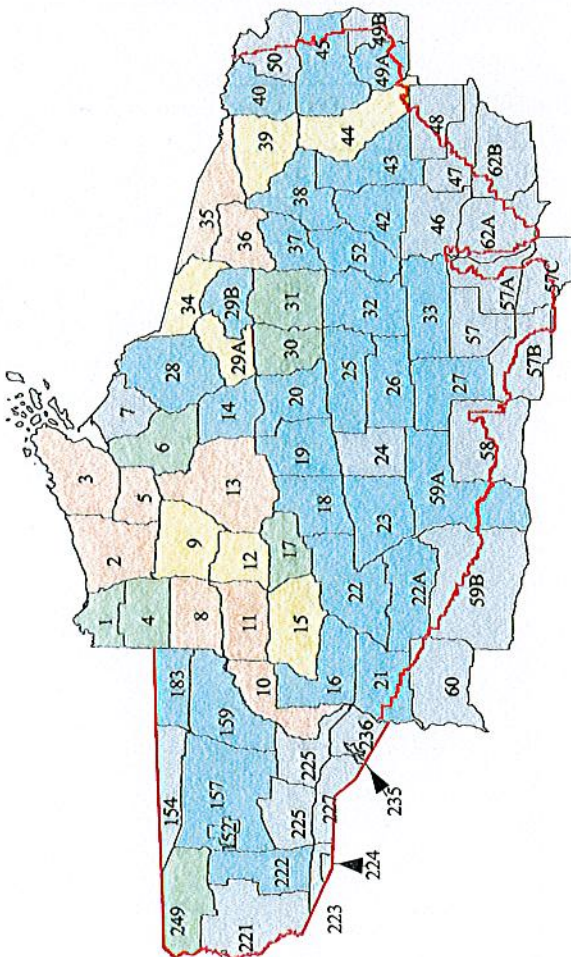
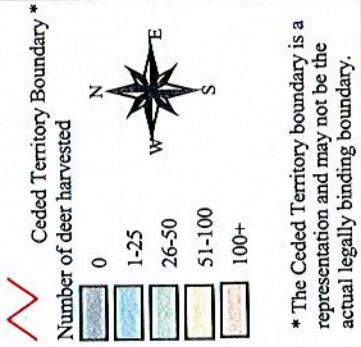
Minnesota

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 2 state parks in 2003 (Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (107 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 33% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (53 deer).

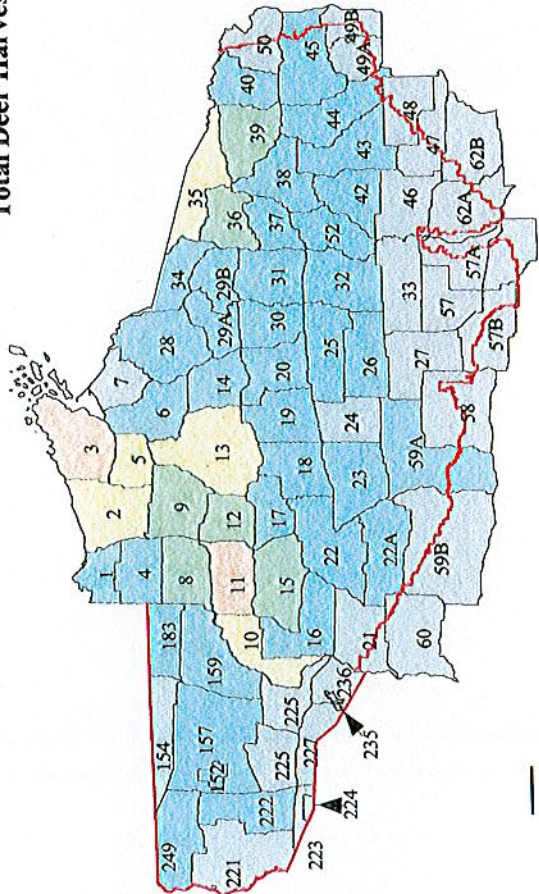
Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

| UNIT** | ANTLERED DEER | ADULT DOES | FAWN BUCK | FAWN DOE | TOTAL |
|------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| 152 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 154 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 156 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 157 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 159 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 14 |
| 183 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 24 |
| 221 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 222 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 18 |
| 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 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 44 |
| St. Croix S. P. | 9 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 15 |
| Wild River S. P. | 11 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 30 |
| Totals | 72 | 48 | 22 | 18 | 160 |

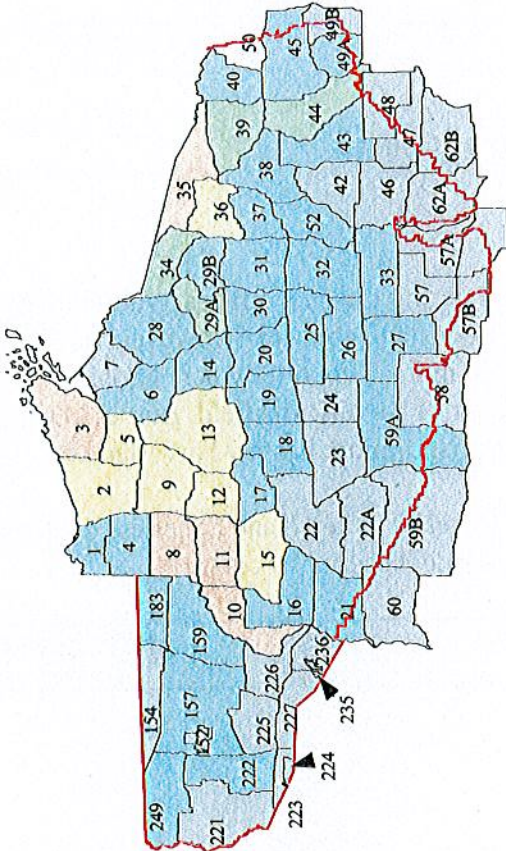
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.



Total Deer Harvest, 2003



Antlered Deer Harvest, 2003



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2003

Deer Harvest by County

Wisconsin

Harvest during the 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 25 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 2,438 deer or 87% of the total Wisconsin tribal harvest occurred in the 7 counties where harvest was greater than 100 deer. These counties were in declining order of harvest: Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Forest, Sawyer, Vilas and Washburn (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 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

| COUNTY | ANTLERED DEER | ANTLERLESS DEER | UNKNOWN DEER | TOTALS |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ashland | 21 | 26 | 0 | 47 |
| Barron | 7 | 7 | 0 | 14 |
| Bayfield | 348 | 366 | 0 | 714 |
| Burnett | 239 | 361 | 0 | 600 |
| Chippewa | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Douglas | 83 | 113 | 0 | 196 |
| Dunn | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Eau Claire | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Florence | 6 | 12 | 0 | 18 |
| Forest | 56 | 89 | 0 | 145 |
| Iron | 14 | 17 | 0 | 31 |
| Langlade | 8 | 9 | 0 | 17 |
| Lincoln | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Marathon | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Marinette | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Oconto | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Oneida | 37 | 36 | 0 | 73 |
| Polk | 27 | 22 | 0 | 49 |
| Price | 29 | 30 | 0 | 59 |
| Rusk | 20 | 2 | 0 | 22 |
| Sawyer | 90 | 105 | 0 | 195 |
| St. Croix | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Taylor | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Vilas | 148 | 269 | 0 | 417 |
| Washburn | 64 | 107 | 0 | 171 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 1,208 | 1,585 | 0 | 2,793 |

Deer Harvest by County

Minnesota

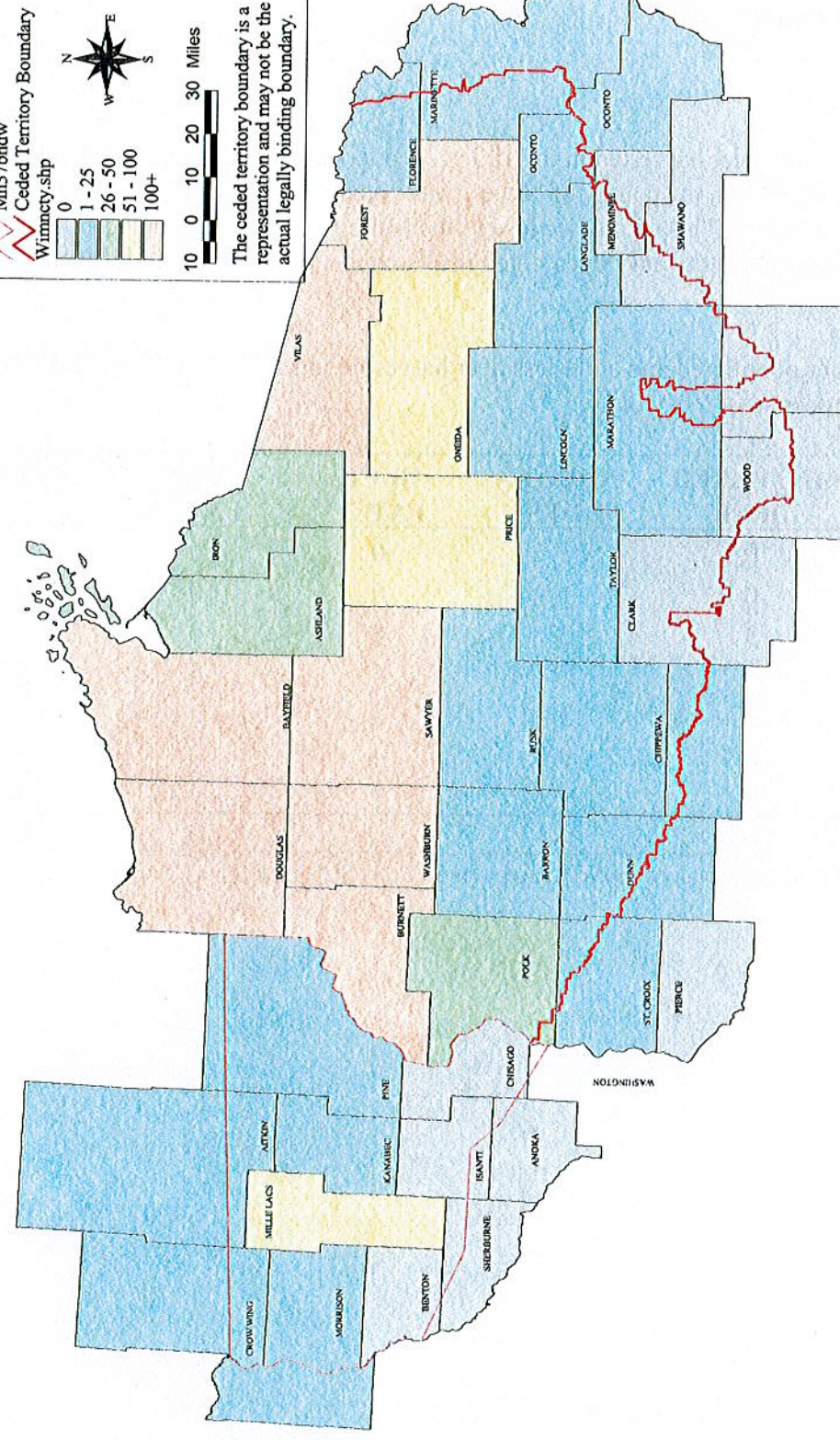
For many of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, no county of harvest was reported. When the county of harvest was noted, Mille Lacs County had the most deer registered (Table 4b). This county is close to the Mille Lacs reservation and contains much public land. These same factors 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 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

| COUNTY | ANTLERED DEER | ADULT DOES | BUCK FAWN | DOE FAWN | TOTALS |
|------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| Aitkin | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Crow Wing | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Kanabec | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Mille Lacs | 25 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 52 |
| Morrison | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 14 |
| Pine | 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 23 |
| Unknown* | 32 | 15 | 8 | 9 | 64 |
| Totals | 72 | 48 | 22 | 18 | 160 |

* Schrage (2004) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County).

Number of deer harvested during the 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota

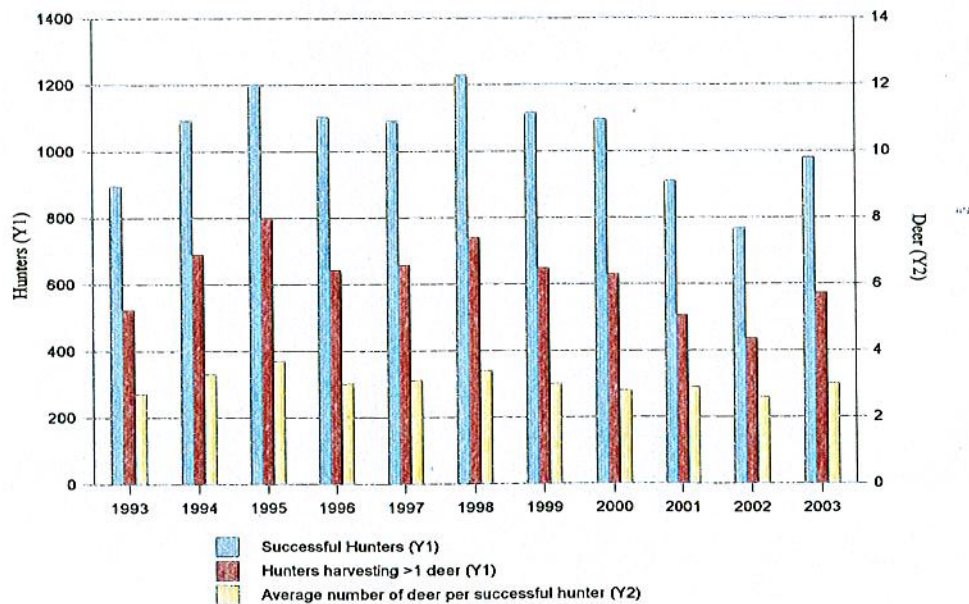


Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful hunters increased from 766 in 2002 to 980 in 2003 (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 increased from 2002 levels (Gilbert 2003). 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 1993 through 2003

| | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|--|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Number of Successful Hunters | 895 | 1,092 | 1,200 | 1,103 | 1,090 | 1,228 | 1,115 | 1,101 | 910 | 766 | 980 |
| Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer | 523 | 689 | 797 | 643 | 657 | 740 | 649 | 629 | 513 | 435 | 572 |
| Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter | 2.7 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 3.0 |



During the 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season 58% of successful hunters 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 2003 off-reservation treaty deer season.

| NUMBER OF DEER | NUMBER OF HUNTERS | PERCENT OF HUNTERS | TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 408 | 41.6% | 408 |
| 2 | 247 | 25.2% | 494 |
| 3 | 93 | 9.5% | 279 |
| 4 | 73 | 7.4% | 292 |
| 5 | 45 | 4.6% | 225 |
| 6 | 41 | 4.2% | 246 |
| 7 | 13 | 1.3% | 91 |
| 8 | 15 | 1.5% | 120 |
| 9 | 6 | 0.6% | 54 |
| 10 | 8 | 0.8% | 80 |
| 11 | 5 | 0.5% | 55 |
| 12 | 7 | 0.7% | 84 |
| 13 | 8 | 0.8% | 104 |
| 14 | 1 | 0.1% | 14 |
| 17 | 2 | 0.2% | 34 |
| 18 | 1 | 0.1% | 18 |
| 19 | 1 | 0.1% | 19 |
| 21 | 1 | 0.1% | 21 |
| 23 | 1 | 0.1% | 23 |
| 29 | 1 | 0.1% | 29 |
| 40 | 1 | 0.1% | 40 |
| 71 | 1 | 0.1% | 71 |
| 83 | 1 | 0.1% | 83 |
| TOTALS | 980 | 100% | 2,884 |

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). From 1994 to 1999 an average of 22% of the harvest came during the middle season. 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%. In 2003 the percent of the harvest during the middle season returned to the average observed from 1994 - 1999. The late season typically has a low harvest (especially compared to the length of time available). The percent of the harvest occurring during the late season increased from 4% in 2002 to 9% in 2003.

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 2003 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 | 2,028 | 71% | 67% |
| Middle Season Nov. 18 - Nov. 26 | 596 | 21% | 8% |
| Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31 | 250 | 9% | 25% |

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 24% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,589 antlerless deer) in 2003 (Table 8a). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 50% in Unit 11 to 0% in some of the ceded territory southern fringe units. 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 2003 treaty deer season in Wisconsin for all units.

| Unit | Antlerless Deer Harvest | Antlerless Deer Quota | Percent Quota Harvested |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 | 25 | 55 | 45.5% |
| 02 | 95 | 440 | 21.6% |
| 03 | 206 | 440 | 46.8% |
| 04 | 11 | 83 | 13.3% |
| 05 | 97 | 550 | 17.6% |
| 06 | 23 | 55 | 41.8% |
| 08 | 103 | 330 | 31.2% |
| 09 | 64 | 220 | 29.1% |
| 10 | 128 | 330 | 38.8% |
| 11 | 110 | 220 | 50.0% |
| 12 | 58 | 165 | 35.2% |
| 13 | 91 | 275 | 33.1% |
| 14 | 7 | 83 | 8.4% |
| 15 | 54 | 165 | 32.7% |
| 16 | 12 | 55 | 21.8% |
| 17 | 15 | 83 | 18.1% |
| 18 | 5 | 83 | 6.0% |
| 19 | 5 | 28 | 17.9% |
| 20 | 3 | 28 | 10.7% |
| 21 | 1 | 55 | 1.8% |
| 22 | 0 | 55 | 0.0% |
| 22A | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 23 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 24 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 25 | 1 | 28 | 3.6% |
| 26 | 1 | 28 | 3.6% |
| 27 | 2 | 28 | 7.1% |
| 28 | 8 | 83 | 9.6% |
| 29A | 30 | 83 | 36.1% |
| 29B | 18 | 83 | 21.7% |
| 30 | 23 | 83 | 27.7% |
| 31 | 18 | 165 | 10.9% |
| 32 | 3 | 28 | 10.7% |

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| Unit | Antlerless Deer Harvest | Antlerless Deer Quota | Percent Quota Harvested |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 33 | 2 | 28 | 7.1% |
| 34 | 43 | 220 | 19.5% |
| 35 | 113 | 275 | 41.1% |
| 36 | 75 | 275 | 27.3% |
| 37 | 7 | 55 | 12.7% |
| 38 | 6 | 110 | 5.5% |
| 39 | 43 | 165 | 26.1% |
| 40 | 16 | 110 | 14.5% |
| 42 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 43 | 10 | 83 | 12.0% |
| 44 | 35 | 165 | 21.2% |
| 45 | 13 | 110 | 11.8% |
| 46 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 47 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 48 | 0 | 11 | 0.0% |
| 49A | 1 | 28 | 3.6% |
| 49B | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 50 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 52 | 1 | 28 | 3.6% |
| 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 | 3 | 28 | 10.7% |
| 59B | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 62A | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 62B | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 78 | 0 | 28 | 0.0% |
| 79 | 0 | 15 | NA |
| Totals | 1,585 | 6,589 | 24.1% |

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Minnesota

The 2003 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 2003. No declaration approached 50% of the quota for any unit and the total declaration was 850 (Table 8b). Antlerless deer harvest was highest in Permit Area 249. Harvest in each of the other permit areas with harvest was less than 15% of the declaration; nine permit areas had zero antlerless harvest.

Table 8b. The tribal antlerless deer quota and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2003 treaty deer season in Minnesota for all permit areas; includes harvest by Fond du Lac, taken from Schrage 2004.

| Permit Area | Antlerless Deer Harvest | Antlerless Deer Quota | Percent Quota Harvested |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 152 | 0 | 60 | 0.0% |
| 154 | 0 | 40 | 0.0% |
| 156 | 5 | 60 | 8.3% |
| 157 | 2 | 60 | 3.3% |
| 159 | 8 | 100 | 8.0% |
| 183 | 10 | 100 | 10.0% |
| 221 | 0 | 50 | 0.0% |
| 222 | 14 | 100 | 14.0% |
| 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 | 24 | 100 | 24.0% |
| St. Croix State Park | 6 | none | |
| Wild River State Park | 19 | none | |
| Totals | 88 | 850 | 10.4% |

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 nor in Zone C of Wisconsin, thus, the remainder of this report is for Zone A and B in Wisconsin only.

A total of 854 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2003 (Table 9), a decline of 16 hunters from the 2002 level. There were 47 successful bear hunters in 2003 or 6% 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 2003 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 | 126 | 11 | 9% |
| Lac Courte Oreilles | 300 | 187 | 7 | |
| Lac du Flambeau | 300 | 181 | 7 | 4% |
| Mille Lacs | 200 | 11 | 1 | 9% |
| Mole Lake | 200 | 92 | 5 | 5% |
| Red Cliff | 200 | 131 | 13 | 10% |
| St. Croix | 200 | 126 | 3 | 2% |
| Totals | 1,700 | 854 | 47 | 6% |

Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 57 bears were harvested during the 2003 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), an increase of 41 bears from 2002 (Gilbert 2003). During each of the 10 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 2003.

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 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Fond du Lac | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Lac Courte Oreilles* | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Lac du Flambeau | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Mille Lacs | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mole Lake | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Red Cliff | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| St. Croix | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Totals | 35 | 22 | 57 |

Harvest by Zone and Management Unit

A total of 43 bears (27 males, 16 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 13 bears (8 males, 5 female) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 10% of the tribal quota in Zones A and B. Few bears were harvested from any of the units.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2003 off-reservation treaty bear season by management zones and deer units.

| Zone | Unit | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A Quota 110 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 10 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 11 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| | 12 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| | 13 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | 28 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 30 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 31 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| | Total | 27 | 16 | 43 |
| Zone B Quota 40 | 37 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | 38 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 39 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | 40 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 43 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 44 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | 45 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 46 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | 49A | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Totals | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| | Unknown | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Grand Total | | 35 | 22 | 57 |


Harvest by County

The 2003 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 11 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12). The leading county of harvest was Burnett County. Burnett County surpassed Bayfield County as the county with the largest tribal bear harvest for the first time in 2003.



Table 12. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2003 off-reservation treaty bear season by county.



| County | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Ashland | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Bayfield | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Burnett | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Forest | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Iron | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Marathon | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Oconto | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Oneida | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Price | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Saywer | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Washburn | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Unknown | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Totals | 35 | 22 | 57 |

Number of bears harvested during the 2003 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.

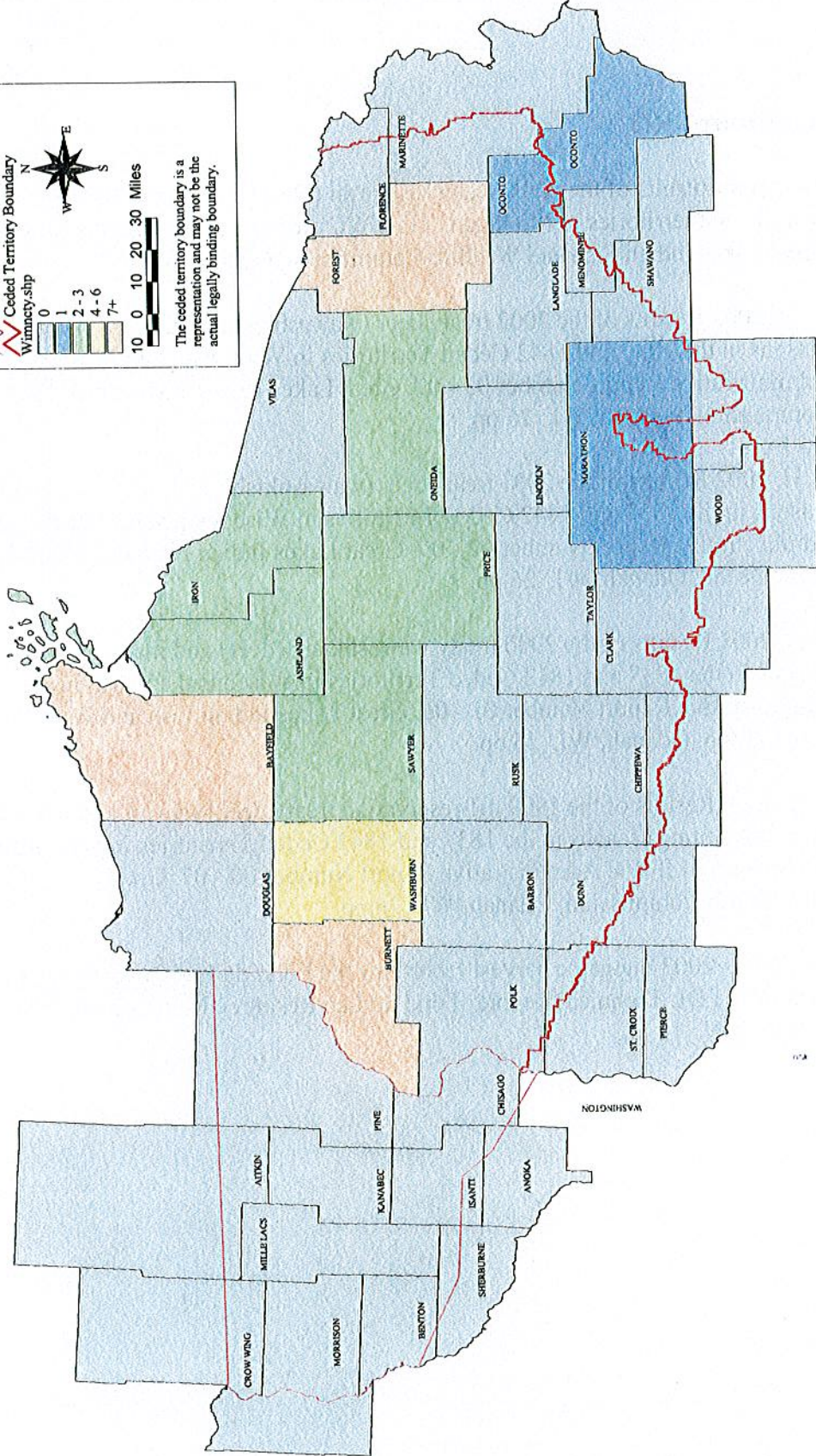


Mn37bndw
Wimney,slp


 Ceded Territory Boundary

 0
 1
 2-3
 4-6
 7+

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



Literature Cited

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