



Results of the 2004 Treaty Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota

by

Jonathan Gilbert
GLIFWC
Wildlife Section Leader

Admin Report 05 - 04
May 2005

**Great Lakes Indian Fish
& Wildlife Commission**

P. O. Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682 - 6619

RESULTS OF THE 2004 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 2004 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 (2005) 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 2004 Michigan treaty hunting seasons are reported by Falck (in prep.).

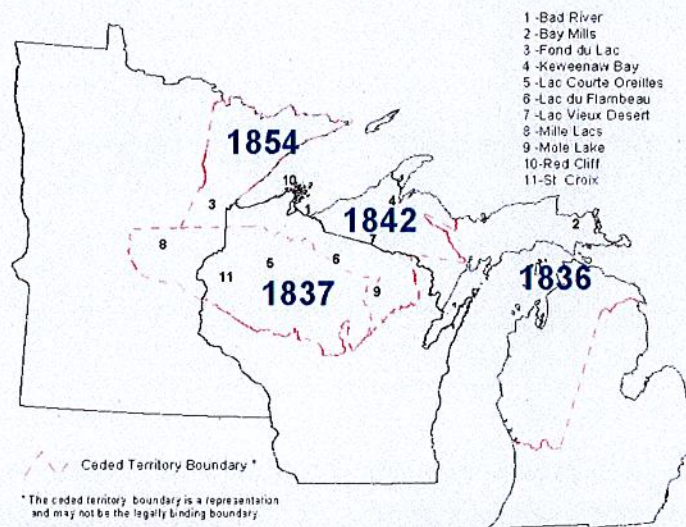


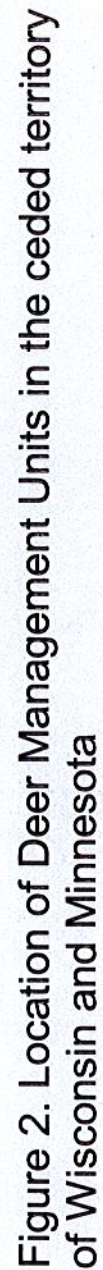
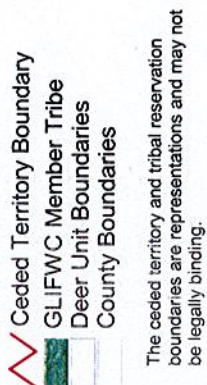
Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

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 121 days long starting September 1 and ending December 31, 2003. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2004, 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. Initially in the season each hunter was provided with 2 carcass tags but as the season progressed some tribes changed these regulations, hunters from those tribes received 4 carcass tags. Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake and St. Croix each authorized their members to receive 4 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 2004. 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 2004.

In Minnesota there was a special 2-day deer hunt (1 weekend) in Wild River State Park and a 4-day hunt (two weekends) in 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. In addition to these special hunts, St. Croix State Park hosted a youth-only hunt for October 30 and 31. The purpose of this hunt was to provide a hunting opportunity for young hunters.



Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 1,774 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 2004 (1,774, Table 1) increased 8% from the number of deer hunters in 2003 (1671, Gilbert 2004). The number of successful hunters increased from 766 in 2002 to 980 in 2003 and declined to 816 in 2004 (Figure 3). The resulting harvest success rate increased from 2002 (50%) to 2003 (60%) and declined to 46% in 2004.

The number of hunters participating in the off-reservation treaty deer seasons in Wisconsin continued to increase in 2004 after reaching the lowest level in 2002 (Figure 3). The number of deer hunters increased for each tribe with the exception of Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix (Gilbert 2004).

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season.

TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT	DEER HUNTERS	SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL
Bad River	295	114	38.6
Lac Courte Oreilles	519	207	39.9
Lac du Flambeau	363	167	46.0
Mille Lacs	163	84	51.5
Mole Lake	132	35	26.5
Red Cliff	200	130	65.0
St. Croix	102	79	77.5
Totals	1,774	816	46.0

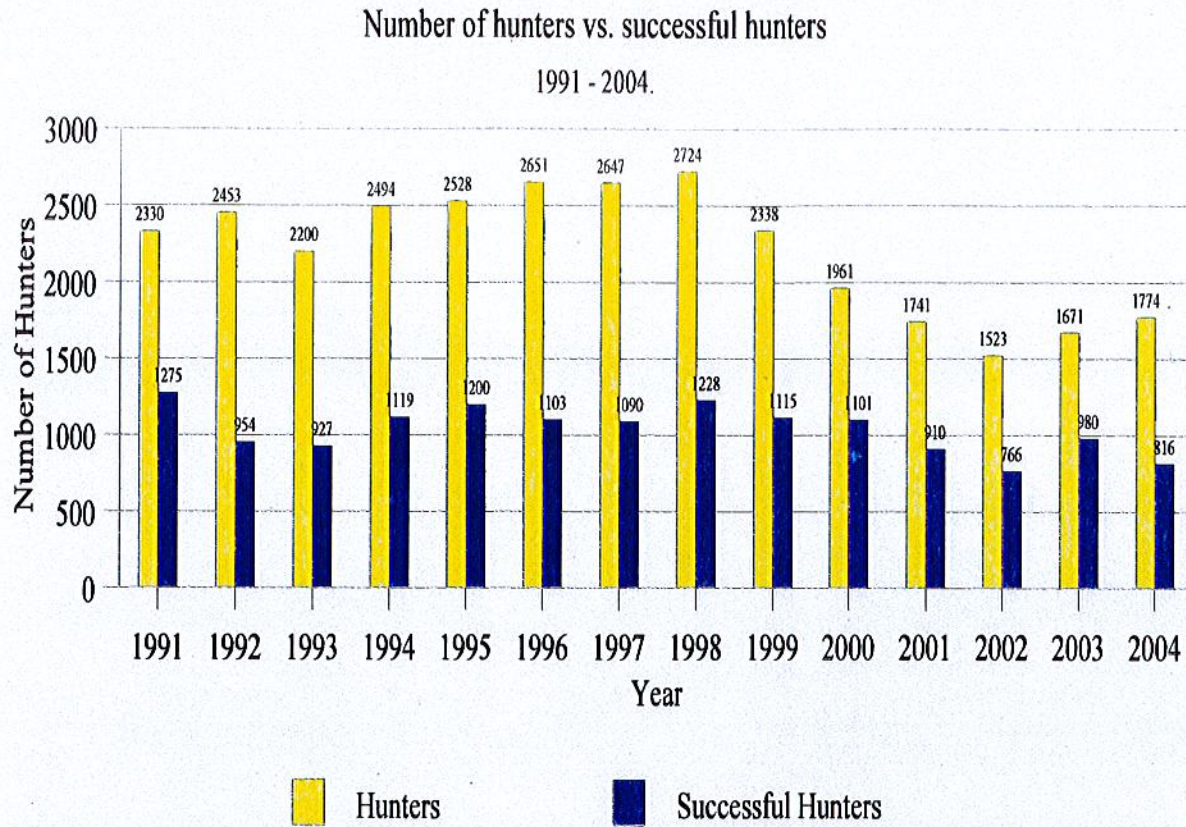


Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons in Wisconsin from 1991 - 2004.

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 954 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 1,067 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 2,021 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 28% decline from the 2003 harvest of 2,793 deer (Gilbert 2004). A decline in registration was observed at all tribal stations, except for Mille Lacs where registration remained unchanged.

The percent of the harvest comprised of antlered bucks has increased in recent years. From 1983 through 1998 around 30% of the deer harvested by tribal members during the off-reservation hunting season were antlered bucks. In increase began in 1999 and since then the antlered buck component of the harvest ranged between 40% and 45%. In 2004 the percent adult bucks was 47% of the harvest higher than the range observed between 1999 - 2003.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	92	99	0	191
Fond du Lac*	25	24	0	49
Lac Courte Oreilles	176	224	0	400
Lac du Flambeau	153	296	0	449
Mille Lacs	15	25	0	40
Mole Lake	58	76	0	134
Red Cliff	156	104	0	260
St. Croix	279	219	0	498
Totals	954	1,067	0	2,021

*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 eighth 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. A total of 143 deer harvested in Minnesota were registered by tribal members at the Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac and St. Croix deer registration stations (Table 2b). This harvest represented a 14% decline from the 2003 deer harvest (160 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2004).

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2004 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*	26 [#]	23	15	9	73
Mille Lacs	39	16	7	10	72
St. Croix	2	1	1	0	4
Totals	67	40	23	19	149

* Harvest figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2005).

[#] Harvest 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 43 of the 64 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 1,648 deer were harvested from the 15 units in which harvest exceeded 30 deer. In 2003, there were an additional seven units with 30 or more deer harvested than in 2004 (Gilbert 2003).

The number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) declined from 2000 to 2002 (from 12 in 2000, to 8 in 2001 to 6 in 2002), then increased in 2003 to 9 units. In 2004 the number of units with a harvest of greater than 100 deer decreased to 7. The seven units were (in descending order): 3, 11, 10, 2, 13, 35, and 5 (Table 3a, 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, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	14	12	0	26
02	61	80	0	141
03	167	112	0	279
04	12	7	0	19
05	32	69	0	101
06	15	14	0	29
08	49	39	0	88
09	20	35	0	55
10	81	83	0	164
11	97	84	0	181
12	23	31	0	54
13	53	71	0	124
14	3	6	0	9
15	43	23	0	66
16	14	14	0	28
17	18	2	0	20
18	13	9	0	22
19	2	2	0	4
20	1	0	0	1
21	0	0	0	0
22	5	0	0	5
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	8	0	0	8
24	0	0	0	0
25	6	0	0	6
26	0	0	0	0

2004 Treaty Deer and Bear Harvest
1837 & 1842 Ceded Territories
in Minnesota and Wisconsin
Admin Report 05 - 04

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
27	0	0	0	0
28	8	18	0	26
29A	3	10	0	13
29B	8	20	0	28
30	6	16	0	22
31	20	41	0	61
32	6	1	0	7
33	2	4	0	6
34	25	58	0	83
35	42	71	0	113
36	31	43	0	74
37	7	6	0	13
38	8	13	0	21
39	8	5	0	13
40	6	3	0	9
42	0	1	0	1
43	3	7	0	10
44	26	38	0	64
45	3	15	0	18
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	0	0	0
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	1	0	0	1
59A	0	0	0	0
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	2	2	0	4
Totals	954	1,067	0	2,021

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

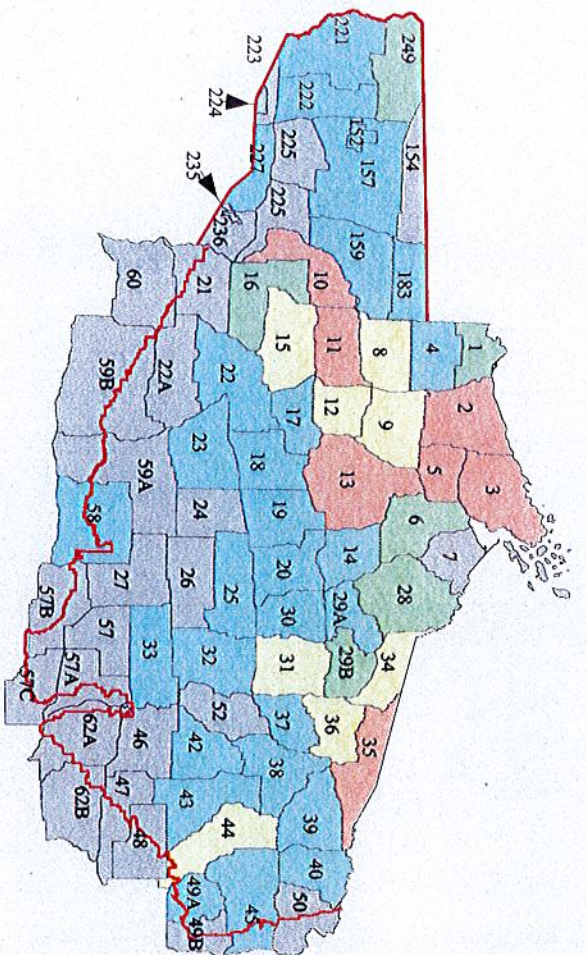
Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. A total of 149 deer were harvested by tribal members from 9 of those permit areas and in 2 state parks in 2004 (Table 3b, Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (99 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 34% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (50 deer).

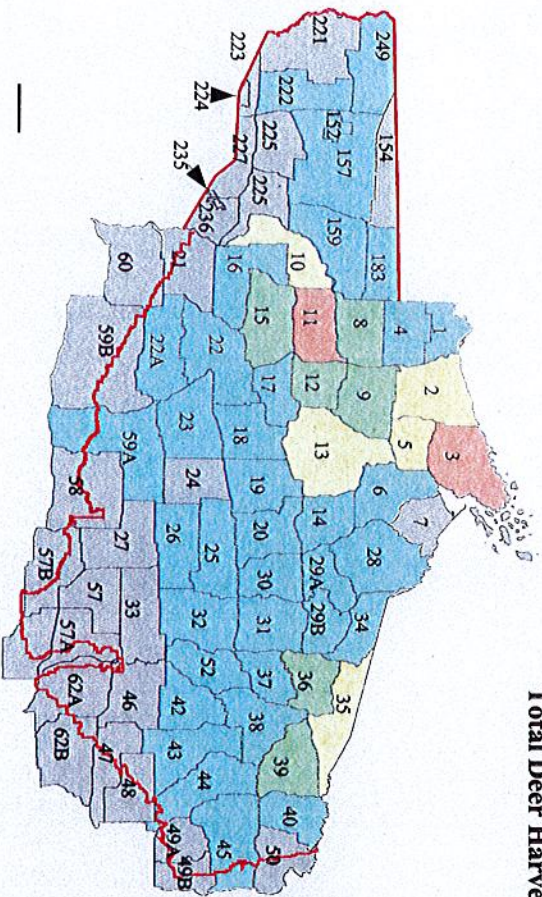
Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	0	0	0	1	1
154	0	0	0	0	0
156	7	4	0	0	11
157	1	1	0	0	2
159	16	5	1	3	25
183	8	2	2	0	12
221	0	1	2	0	3
222	3	3	3	2	11
223	0	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0	0
227	2	0	1	1	4
235	0	0	0	0	0
236	0	0	0	0	0
249	19	9	3	3	34
St. Croix S. P.	4	4	2	4	14
Wild River S. P.	7	11	9	5	32
Totals	67	40	23	19	149

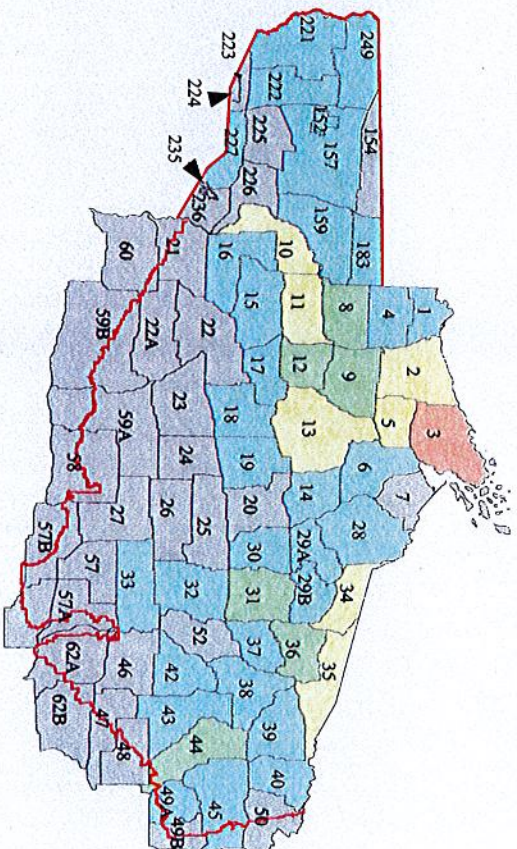
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.



Total Deer Harvest, 2004



Antlered Deer Harvest, 2004



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2004



Figure 4. Harvest patterns of antlerless deer, antlered bucks and total deer harvest in deer management units in the Wisconsin and Minnesota 1837 and 1842 ceded territories.

Deer Harvest by County

Wisconsin

Harvest during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 22 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,585 deer or 78% 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 Washburn (Figure 5). The list of more heavily harvested counties remained similar to previous years.

Table 4a. Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	18	12	0	30
Barron	16	3	0	19
Bayfield	226	224	0	450
Burnett	226	199	0	425
Chippewa	8	0	0	8
Douglas	80	83	0	163
Dunn	0	0	0	0
Eau Claire	1	0	0	1
Florence	6	3	0	9
Forest	38	54	0	92
Iron	12	34	0	46
Langlade	4	5	0	9
Lincoln	6	1	0	7
Marathon	1	4	0	5
Marinette	2	9	0	11
Oconto	1	2	0	3
Oneida	35	64	0	99
Polk	34	25	0	59
Price	13	18	0	31
Rusk	3	4	0	7
Sawyer	69	79	0	148
St. Croix	0	0	0	0
Taylor	0	0	0	0
Vilas	101	180	0	281
Washburn	54	64	0	118
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Totals	954	1,067	0	2,021

Deer Harvest by County

Minnesota

For about 18% of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, no county of harvest was reported. When the county of harvest was noted, Pine County had the most deer registered (Table 4b, Figure 5). These counties are close to the Mille Lacs reservation and contain 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 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWN	DOE FAWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	0	0	0	0	0
Chisago	7	11	9	5	32
Crow Wing	0	0	0	0	0
Kanabec	2	1	0	0	3
Mille Lacs	19	11	3	4	37
Morrison	2	3	4	2	11
Pine	22	7	3	7	39
Unknown*	15	7	4	1	27
Totals	67	40	23	19	149

* Schrage (2005) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County).

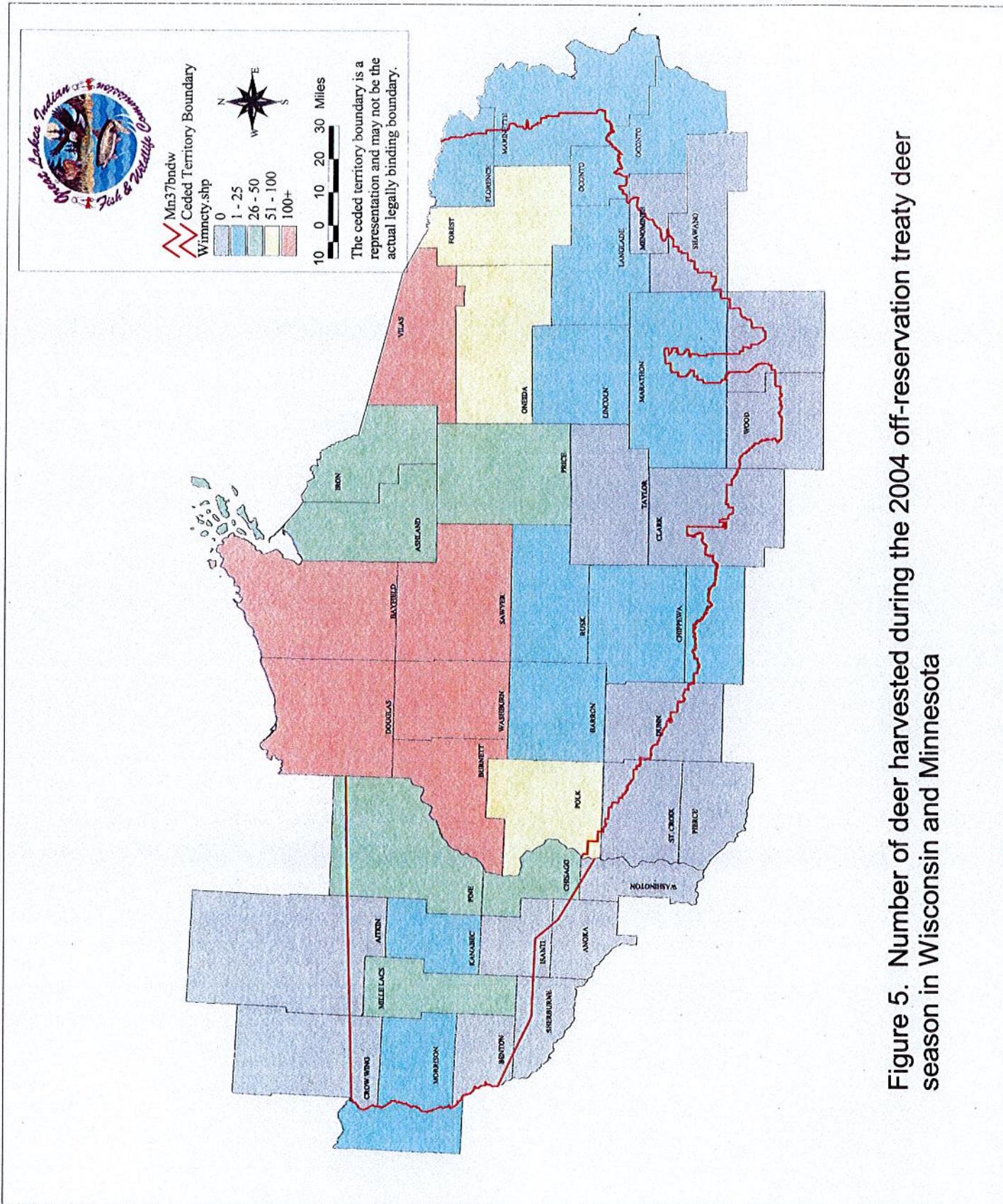


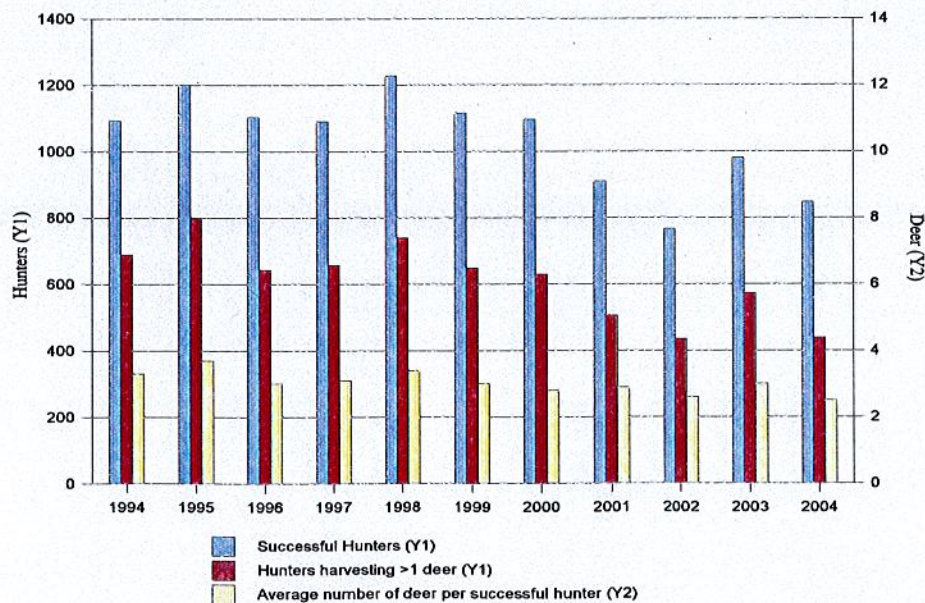
Figure 5. Number of deer harvested during the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota

Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful hunters decreased from 980 in 2003 to 847 in 2004 (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 2003 levels (Gilbert 2004). It is unknown why these measures of success declined. 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 1994 through 2004

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of Successful Hunters	1,092	1,200	1,103	1,090	1,228	1,115	1,101	910	766	980	847
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	689	797	643	657	740	649	629	513	435	572	438
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.3	3.7	3	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.5



During the 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season 52% of successful hunters shot more than 1 deer while 20 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 2004 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	409	48.3%	409
2	176	20.8%	352
3	100	11.8%	300
4	53	6.3%	212
5	39	4.6%	195
6	19	2.2%	114
7	13	1.5%	91
8	11	1.3%	88
9	7	0.8%	63
10	6	0.7%	60
11	3	0.4%	33
12	3	0.4%	36
13	1	0.1%	13
14	1	0.1%	14
15	1	0.1%	15
20	1	0.1%	20
23	1	0.1%	23
30	1	0.1%	30
37	1	0.1%	37
41	1	0.1%	41
TOTALS	847	100%	2,146

Deer Harvest by Season

The percent of total harvest that occurred during the middle season was smaller than the percent of the days available to hunting during that season for the first time since 1984 when records were begun (Table 7). From 1994 to 2003 an average of 22% of the harvest came during the middle season. In 2004 this middle season percentage declined to 5%. The reason for this change is unknown. 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 declined from 9% in 2003 to 3% in 2004. The majority of harvest typically occurs during the early season and in 2004 92% of the total harvest was taken then.

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 2004 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	1,855	92%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 18 - Nov. 26	103	5%	8%
Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	63	3%	25%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 16% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,589 antlerless deer) in 2004 (Table 8a). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 38% 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, the number of antlerless deer harvested, and the percent of the quota harvested during the 2004 treaty deer season in Wisconsin by unit and overall.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	12	55	21.8%
02	80	440	18.2%
03	112	440	25.5%
04	7	83	8.4%
05	69	550	12.5%
06	14	55	25.5%
08	39	330	11.8%
09	35	220	15.9%
10	83	330	25.2%
11	84	220	38.2%
12	31	165	18.8%
13	71	275	25.8%
14	6	83	7.2%
15	23	165	13.9%
16	14	55	25.5%
17	2	83	2.4%
18	9	83	10.8%
19	2	28	7.1%
20	0	28	0.0%
21	0	55	0.0%
22	0	55	0.0%
22A	0	28	0.0%
23	0	28	0.0%
24	0	28	0.0%
25	0	28	0.0%
26	0	28	0.0%
27	0	28	0.0%
28	18	83	21.7%
29A	10	83	12.0%
29B	20	83	24.1%
30	16	83	19.3%
31	41	165	24.8%
32	1	28	3.6%

2004 Treaty Deer and Bear Harvest
1837 & 1842 Ceded Territories
in Minnesota and Wisconsin
Admin Report 05 - 04

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
33	4	28	14.3%
34	58	220	26.4%
35	71	275	25.8%
36	43	275	15.6%
37	6	55	10.9%
38	13	110	11.8%
39	5	165	3.0%
40	3	110	2.7%
42	1	28	3.6%
43	7	83	8.4%
44	38	165	23.0%
45	15	110	13.6%
46	0	28	0.0%
47	0	28	0.0%
48	0	11	0.0%
49A	2	28	7.1%
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	0	28	0.0%
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	1,065	6,589	16.2%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Minnesota

The 2004 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 2004. 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; six permit areas had zero antlerless harvest.

Table 8b. The tribal antlerless deer quota, the number of antlerless deer harvested and the percent of quota harvested during the 2004 treaty deer season in Minnesota by permit area; and overall includes harvest by Fond du Lac, reported by Schrage (2004).

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
152	1	60	1.7%
154	0	40	0.0%
156	4	60	6.7%
157	1	60	1.7%
159	9	100	9.0%
183	4	100	4.0%
221	3	50	6.0%
222	8	100	8.0%
223	0	25	0.0%
224	0	25	0.0%
225	0	70	0.0%
227	2	25	8.0%
235	0	10	0.0%
236	0	25	0.0%
249	15	100	15.0%
Totals	47	850	5.5%

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, harvest data in the remainder of this report are for Zones A and B in Wisconsin only.

A total of 998 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2004 (Table 9), an increase of 144 hunters from the 2003 level. There were 65 successful bear hunters in 2003 or 7% of the number of bear hunters. Bear hunter success has fluctuated between 2% and 4%, the percent of successful hunters in 2004 was greater than any past year. 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 2004 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	146	6	4%
Lac Courte Oreilles	300	327	29	
Lac du Flambeau	300	261	13	5%
Mille Lacs	200	23	1	4%
Mole Lake	200	86	0	0%
Red Cliff	200	46	14	30%
St. Croix	200	109	2	2%
Totals	1,700	998	65	7%

Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 79 bears were harvested during the 2004 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), an increase of 22 bears from 2003 (Gilbert 2004). 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 2004.

Table 10. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2004 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	2	2	4
Fond du Lac	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	18	9	27
Lac du Flambeau	7	2	9
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	6	7
Red Cliff	6	5	11
St. Croix	14	7	21
Totals	48	31	79

Harvest by Zone and Deer Management Unit

A total of 69 bears (45 males, 24 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 9 bears (3 males, 6 females) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 53% of the tribal quotas for Zones A and B. As was the case in 2003, more bears were harvested in deer management units 3 and 11 than in the other units.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2004 off-reservation treaty bear season in bear Zones A and B and in deer management units within these zones.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
A	1	1	0	1
	2	2	0	2
	3	5	5	10
	4	4	0	4
	5	1	0	1
	6	1	2	3
	8	6	1	7
	9	3	1	4
	11	6	3	9
	12	2	4	6
	13	4	2	6
	15	0	2	2
	17	2	1	3
	18	1	2	3
	19	1	0	1
	20	2	0	2
	22	1	0	1
	29B	1	0	1
	30	1	1	2
	31	1	0	1
Total		45	24	69
Zone B	36	1	1	2

2004 Treaty Deer and Bear Harvest
1837 & 1842 Ceded Territories
in Minnesota and Wisconsin
Admin Report 05 - 04

Quota 40	38	1	0	1
	39	0	2	2
	40	0	2	2
	42	0	1	1
	44	1	0	1
Totals		3	6	9
Unknown		0	1	1
Grand Total		48	31	79

Harvest by County

The 2004 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 15 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12, Figure 6). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County followed by Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer counties.

Table 12. The sex distribution and total number of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2004 off-reservation treaty bear season by county.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	1	1	2
Barron	2	0	2
Bayfield	8	6	14
Burnett	9	4	13
Douglas	8	0	8
Florence	0	2	2
Forest	1	2	3
Langlade	0	1	1
Marinette	0	1	1
Oneida	1	0	1
Polk	0	1	1
Price	4	1	5
Sawyer	6	4	10
Vilas	2	1	3
Washburn	6	7	13
Totals	48	31	79

Literature Cited

- Falck, M. in prep Results of the 2004 Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) hunting seasons in the ceded territories of Michigan. GLIFWC Administrative Report Number 05-03 Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI
- Gilbert, J. H. 2004 Results of the 2003 treaty deer (wawashkishi) and bear (makwa) hunting seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota. GLIFWC Administrative Report Number 04 - 03. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI. 26 pp.
- Gilbert, J. H. 2003 Results of the 2002 treaty deer (wawashkishi) and bear (makwa) hunting seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota. GLIFWC Administrative Report Number 03 - 07. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI. 26 pp.
- Schrage M. 2005. 2004 big game harvest record for the Fond du Lac Reservation and the ceded territories. FDL Technical Report. Fond du Lac Resource Management Division, Cloquet, MN. 12 pp.