



Results of the 2006 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 2006 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 2006 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 (2007) 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 treaty hunting seasons in Michigan are reported by Falck.

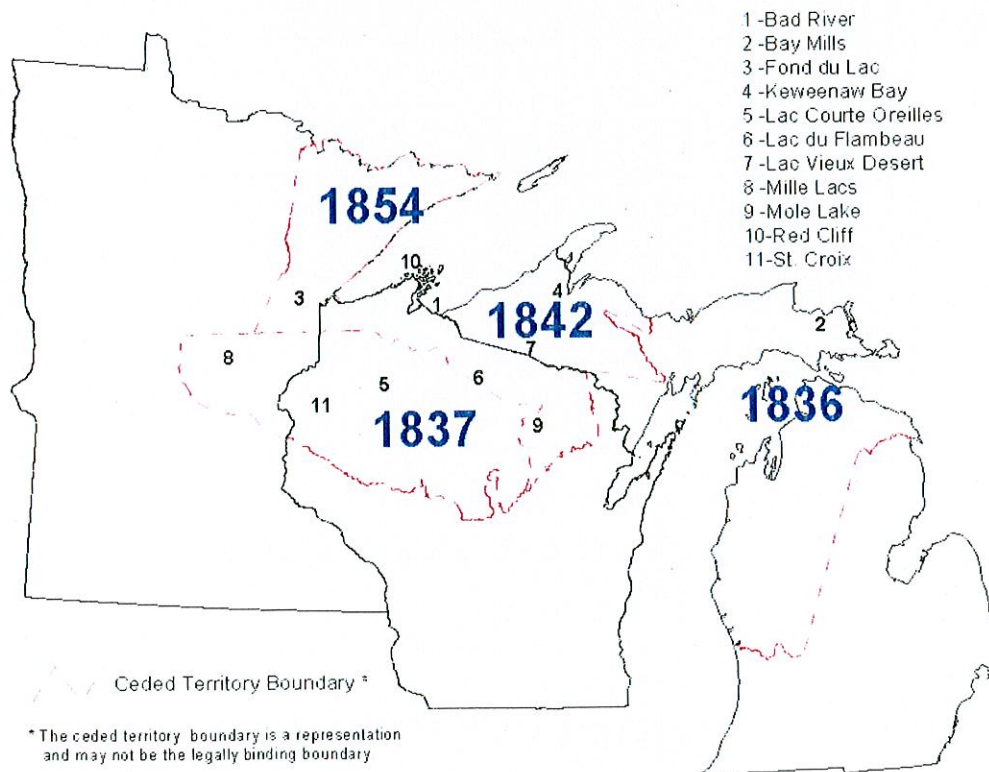


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Introduction (con't)

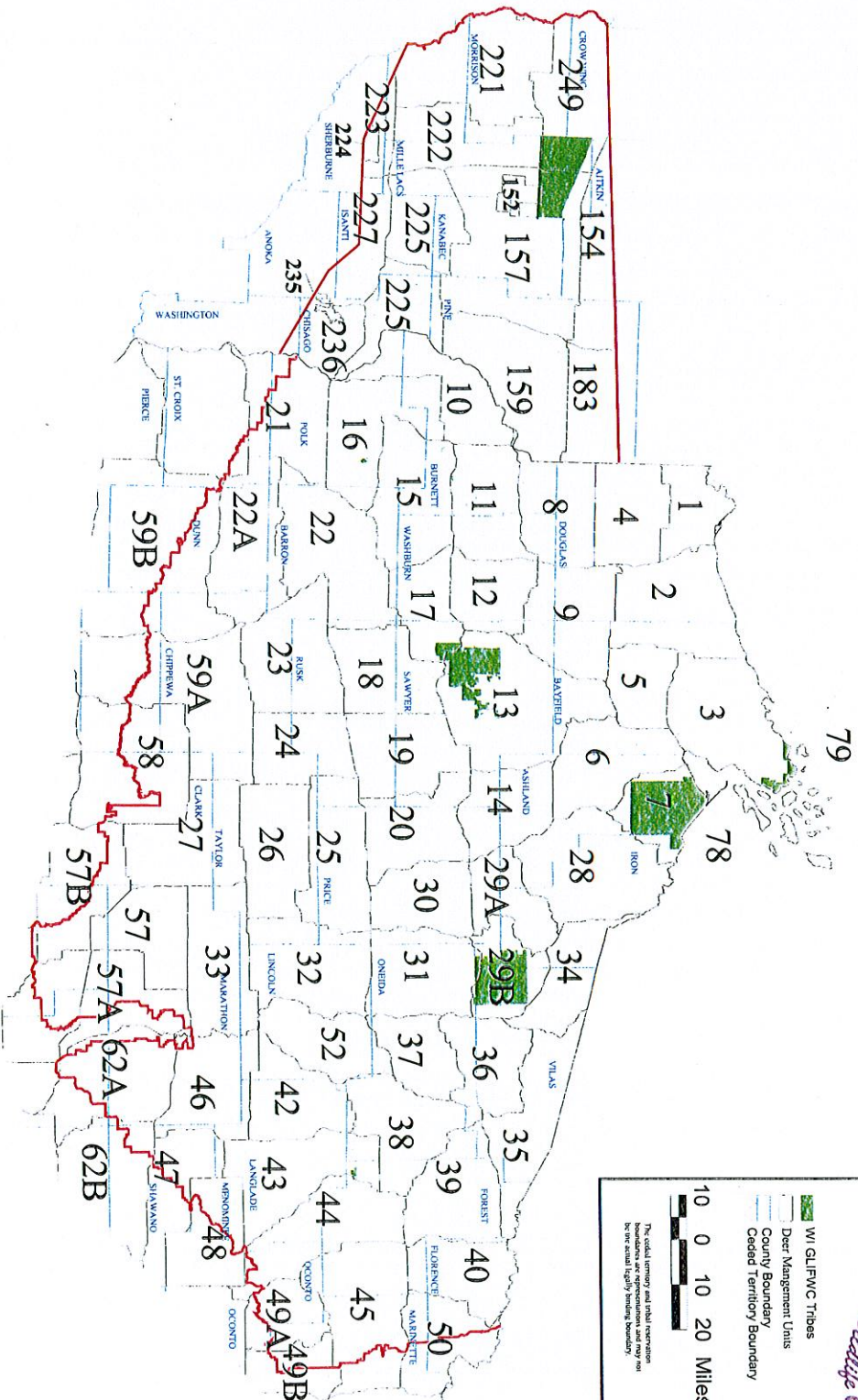
Tribal deer hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May 1990 Federal Court (7th Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8th Circuit) decision. In both states, these rules resulted in a season which was 120 days long starting September 1 and ending December 31, 2003. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2006, 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. Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake and St. Croix each authorized their members to receive 4 carcass tags at a time. The remaining tribes (i.e., Mille Lacs, Red Cliff, and Bad River) issued 2 tags at a time. 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 2006. 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 2006.

In Minnesota various State Parks hold special hunts to reduce deer populations and the associated browsing, inside the park. In St. Croix State Park there were two hunts: the first (October 28 - 29) was for under-16 youth hunters, the second hunt was from November 11 through November 14 for all ages. This hunt had earn-a-buck regulations where hunters were required to shoot an antlerless deer prior to shooting an antlered buck. At Wild River State Park the hunt ran from November 4 through 7 and also included an earn-a-buck regulation. Finally, Crow Wing State Park had a special hunt for muzzleloaders only from December 1 through December 3.

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



Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 2,191 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 their 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 2006 (2,191, Table 1) was nearly identical to the number of deer hunters in 2005 (2,197, Gilbert 2006). The number of successful hunters in 2006 (889) was more than in 2005 (826) (Figure 3). The resulting harvest success rate increased from 38% in 2005 to 41% in 2006. The number of hunters participating in the off-reservation treaty deer seasons in Wisconsin stabilized after reaching the lowest level in 2002 (Figure 3).

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season.

TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT	DEER HUNTERS	SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL
Bad River	323	144	44.6
Lac Courte Oreilles	670	261	39.0
Lac du Flambeau	422	156	37.0
Mille Lacs	80	77	96.3
Mole Lake	133	43	32.3
Red Cliff	412	144	35.0
St. Croix	151	64	42.4
Totals	2,191	889	40.6

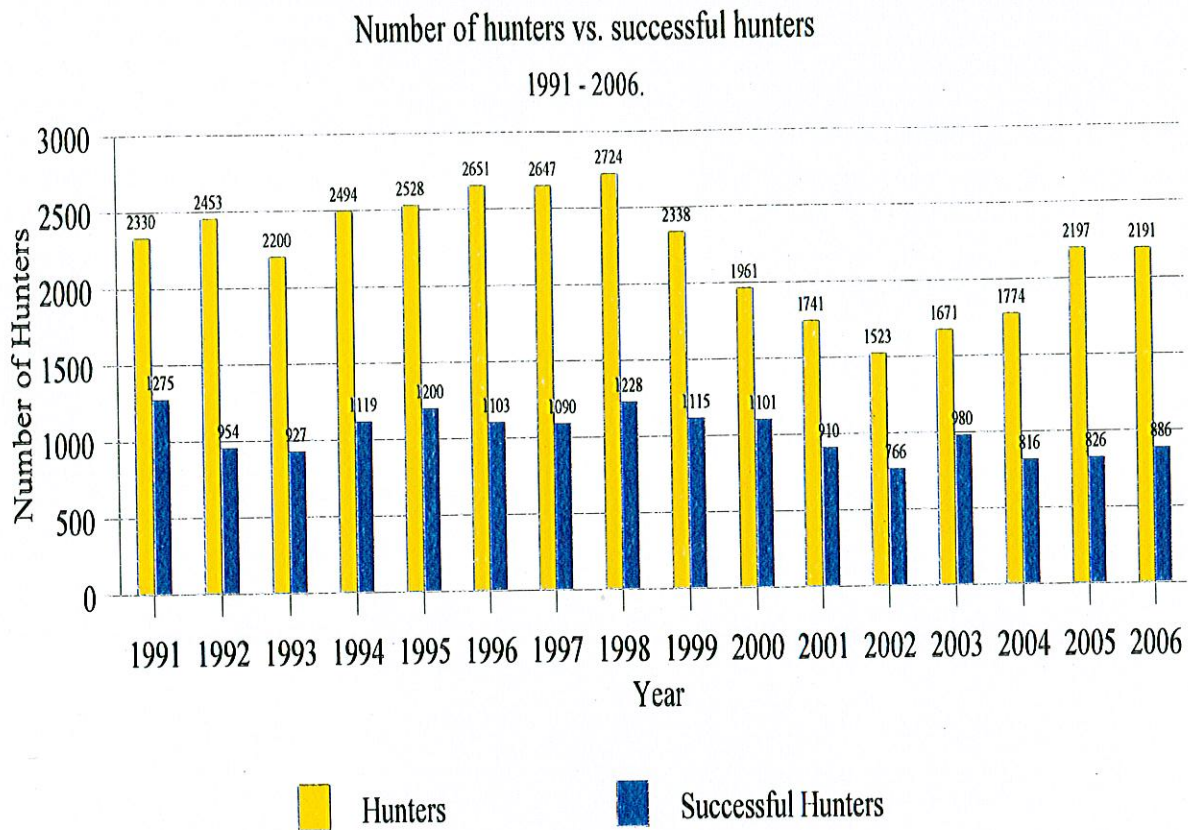


Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons from 1991 - 2006.

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 956 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 1,354 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) and 2 unknowns for a total harvest of 2,312 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 6% increase from the 2005 harvest of 2,177 deer (Gilbert 2006).

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. An increase began in 1999 and since then the antlered buck component of the harvest ranged between 40% and 47%. In 2006 the percent adult bucks was 41%.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	100	106	2	208
Fond du Lac*	32	34	0	66
Lac Courte Oreilles	190	324	0	514
Lac du Flambeau	162	298	0	460
Mille Lacs	10	28	0	38
Mole Lake	59	90	0	149
Red Cliff	125	178	0	303
St. Croix	278	296	0	574
Totals	956	1,354	2	2,312

*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 tenth 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 150 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 was slightly greater than deer harvest in 2005 (141 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2006).

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2006 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*	23 [#]	46	1	1	71
Mille Lacs	25	36	8	9	78
St. Croix	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	48	83	9	10	150

* Harvest figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2007).

[#] 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 46 of the 64 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 2,091 deer were harvested from the 20 units in which harvest exceeded 30 deer. The number of units with 30 or more deer harvested was the same as in 2005.

Since 1991, the number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has ranged between 6 and 12 units. In 2006 there were 8 units with greater than 100 deer harvested (an increase from 6 in 2005). The eight units were (in descending order): 3, 10, 11, 2, 13, 36, 9 and 8 (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 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	13	13	0	26
02	63	119	2	184
03	154	199	0	353
04	16	4	0	20
05	33	45	0	78
06	18	17	0	35
08	33	70	0	103
09	36	71	0	107
10	101	135	0	236
11	92	109	0	201
12	17	33	0	50
13	38	100	0	138
14	2	4	0	6
15	30	17	0	47
16	12	11	0	23
17	29	13	0	42
18	25	4	0	29
19	2	1	0	3
20	2	0	0	2
21	0	1	0	1
22	7	1	0	8
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	6	0	0	6
24	0	0	0	0
25	1	0	0	1
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0
28	5	4	0	9
29A	3	10	0	13

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UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
29B	8	12	0	20
30	17	13	0	30
31	24	32	0	56
32	6	2	0	8
33	2	3	0	5
34	17	55	0	72
35	30	63	0	93
36	38	78	0	116
37	7	11	0	18
38	4	7	0	11
39	9	13	0	22
40	8	6	0	14
42	3	4	0	7
43	3	3	0	6
44	29	46	0	75
45	9	18	0	27
46	0	1	0	1
47	0	1	0	1
48	0	0	0	0
49A	0	0	0	0
49B	0	0	0	0
50	0	1	0	1
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	0	1	0	1
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	4	2	0	6
Totals	956	1,354	2	2,312

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

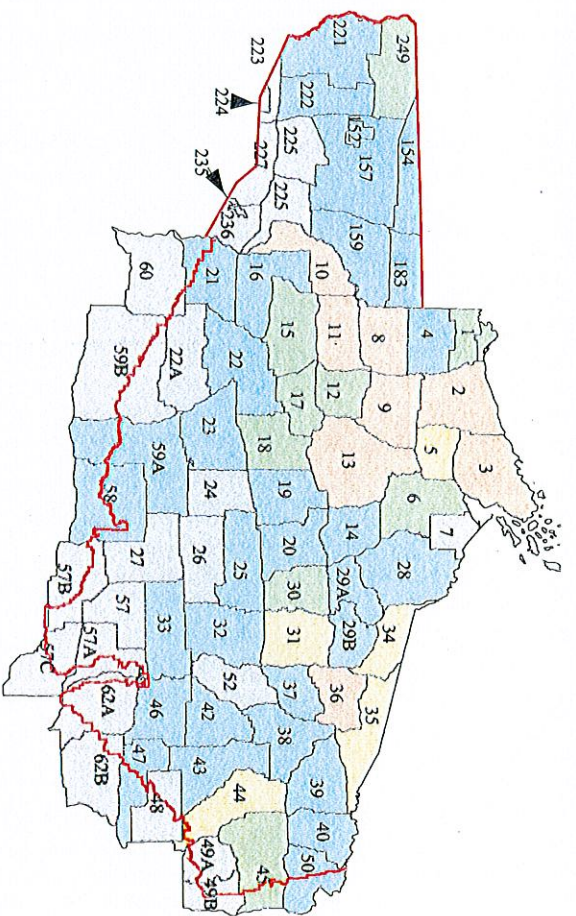
Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. A total of 150 deer were harvested by tribal members from 9 of those permit areas and in 2 state parks in 2006 (Table 3b, Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (95 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 37% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (55 deer).

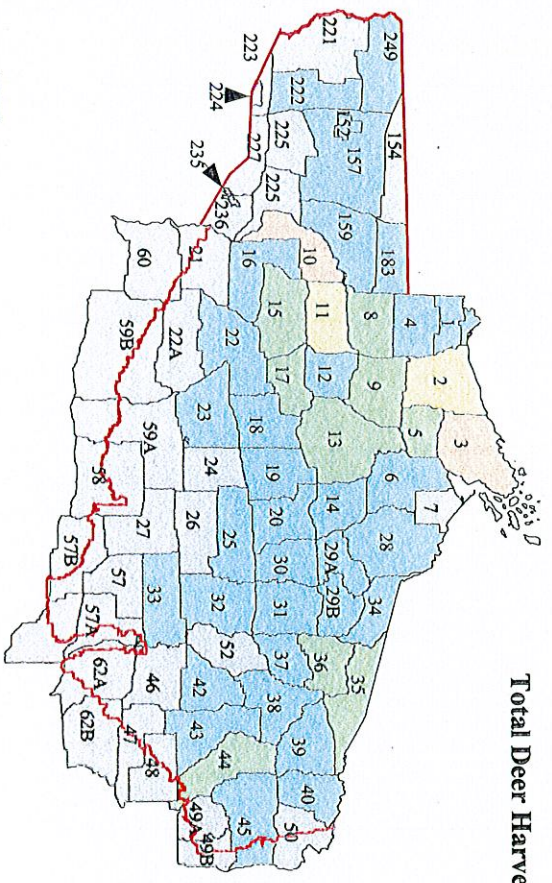
Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	2	2	1	0	5
154	0	2	0	0	2
156	2	1	0	0	3
157	1	0	0	0	1
159	2	2	3	1	8
183	10	7	2	0	19
221	0	0	0	1	1
222	9	11	2	3	25
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	12	20	4	5	41
St. Croix S. P.	4	7	2	3	16
Wild River S. P.	5	18	2	4	29
Totals	47	70	16	17	150

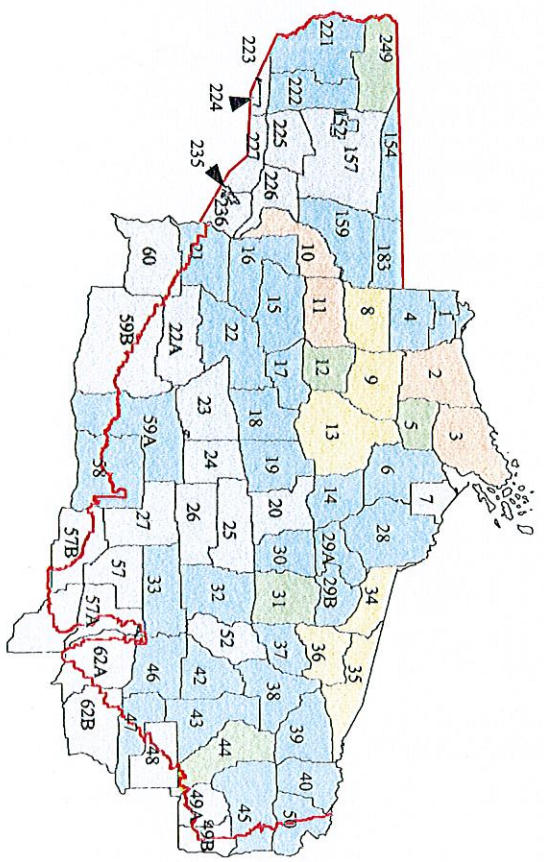
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.




Total Deer Harvest, 2006



Antlered Deer Harvest, 2006



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2006



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

Ceded Territory Boundary *

Number of deer harvested

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




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 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 23 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,998 deer or 86% 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, Vilas, Sawyer, Washburn, and Forest (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 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	19	16	0	35
Barron	15	9	0	24
Bayfield	205	274	2	481
Burnett	206	267	0	473
Chippewa	2	1	0	3
Douglas	124	211	0	335
Eau Claire	0	1	0	1
Florence	7	6	0	13
Forest	43	69	0	112
Iron	7	8	0	15
Langlade	6	6	0	12
Lincoln	6	1	0	7
Marathon	2	3	0	5
Marinette	5	10	0	15
Oneida	35	55	0	90
Polk	29	18	0	47
Price	17	9	0	26
Rusk	18	1	0	19
Sawyer	59	113	0	172
St. Croix	0	1	0	1
Shawano	0	1	0	1
Vilas	96	214	0	310
Washburn	55	60	0	115
Totals	956	1,354	2	2,312

Deer Harvest by County

Minnesota

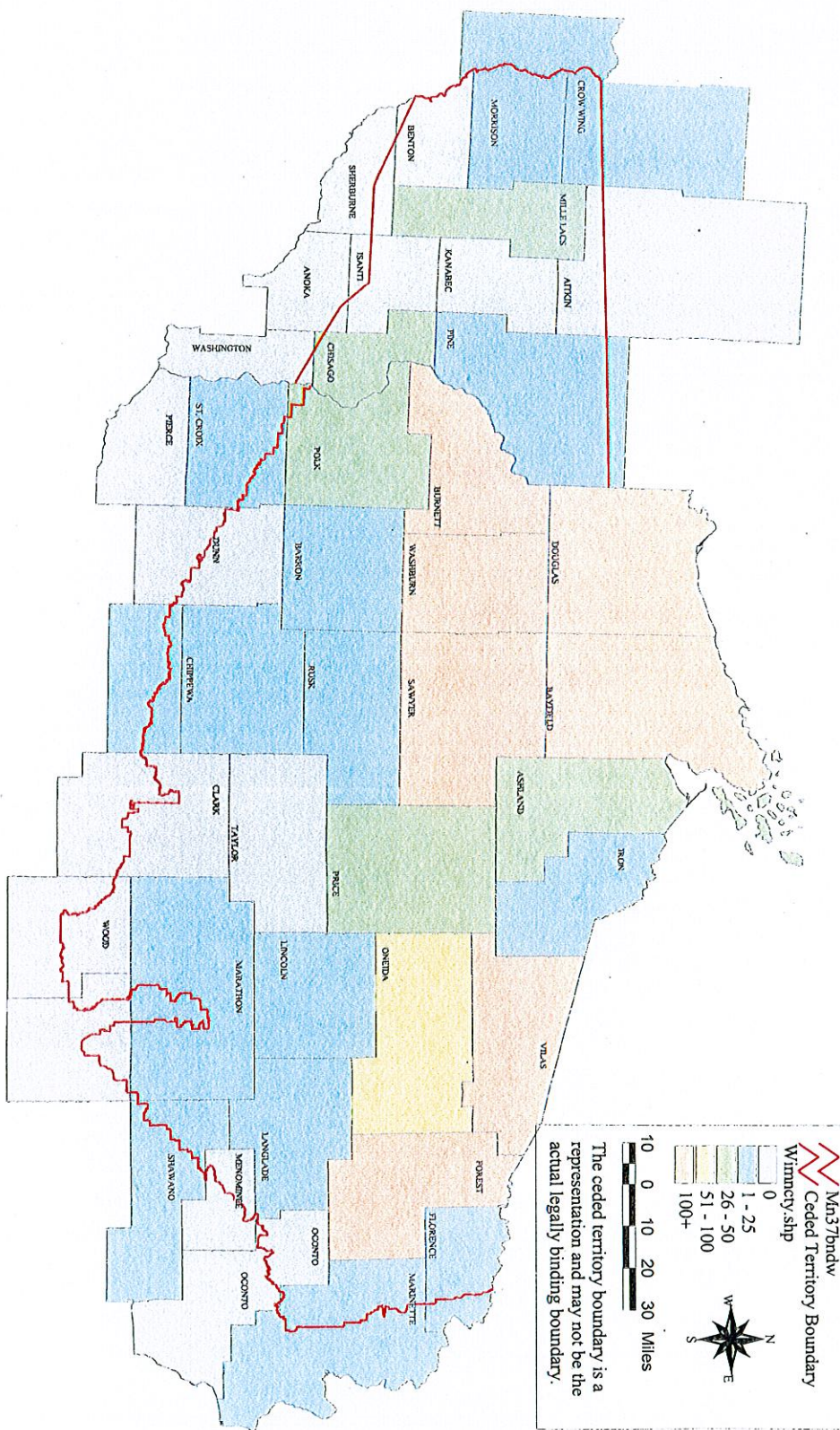
For about 17% of the deer harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, no county of harvest was reported. When the county of harvest was noted, Mille Lacs County had the most deer registered (Table 4b, Figure 5) followed by Chisago County. These counties are close to reservations contain much 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 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWN	DOE FAWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	0	0	0	0	0
Chisago	5	18	2	4	29
Crow Wing	0	1	1	0	2
Kanabec	0	0	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	15	24	4	5	48
Morrison	9	10	2	4	25
Pine	5	9	3	3	20
Unknown*	13	8	4	1	26
Totals	47	70	16	17	150

* Schrage (2007) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County) and Wild River State Park (Chisago County).

Figure 5. Number of deer harvested during the 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota

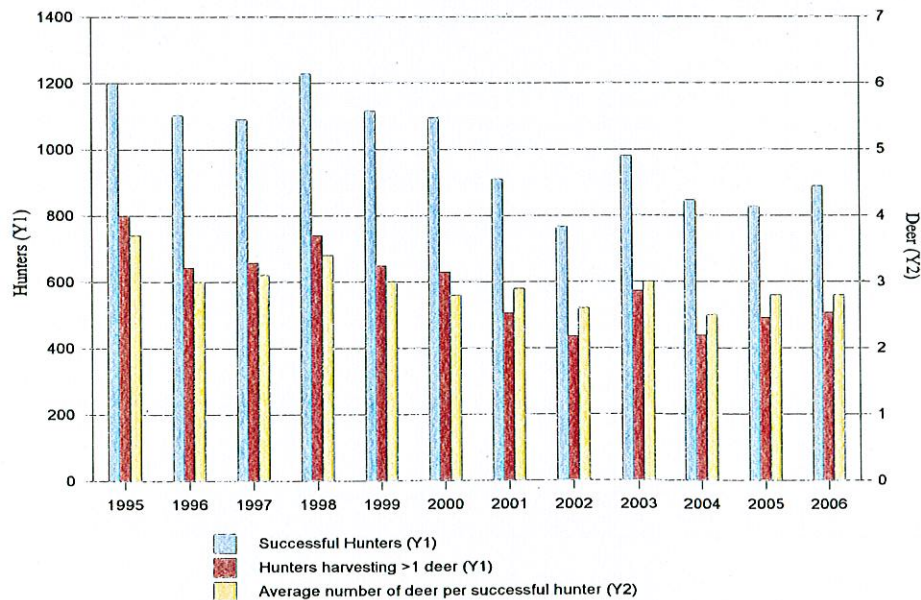


Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

Registration data permitted the analysis of the number of deer harvested by each tribal member for all tribes except Fond du Lac. The number of successful hunters increased from 826 in 2005 to 889 in 2006 (Table 5 and Figure 6). The number of hunters who shot more than 1 deer increased from 2005 (491) to 2006 (507). The mean number of deer shot per successful hunter remained the same in 2005 and 2006 (2.8) levels. 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 1995 through 2006.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Successful Hunters	1,200	1,103	1,090	1,228	1,115	1,101	910	766	980	847	826	889
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	797	643	657	740	649	629	513	435	572	438	491	507
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.7	3	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8



During the 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season 57% of successful hunters shot more than 1 deer while 35 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 members hunting in Minnesota.

Table 6. Number of successful hunters and the number of deer they harvested during the 2006 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	382	43.0%	382
2	210	23.6%	420
3	107	12.0%	321
4	64	7.2%	256
5	40	4.5%	200
6	20	2.3%	120
7	10	1.1%	70
8	12	1.4%	96
9	9	1.0%	81
10	4	0.5%	40
11	5	0.6%	55
12	6	0.7%	72
13	3	0.3%	39
14	2	0.2%	28
15	3	0.3%	45
16	3	0.3%	48
19	2	0.2%	38
20	1	0.1%	20
21	1	0.1%	21
22	1	0.1%	22
24	1	0.1%	24
25	1	0.1%	25
26	1	0.1%	26
41	1	0.1%	41
TOTALS	889	100%	2,490

Deer Harvest by Season

The percent of total harvest that occurred during the early and middle seasons was greater than the percent of the days available to hunting during those seasons (Table 7), the pattern observed since 1984, except in 2004. 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 11% in 2005 to 7% in 2006. The majority of harvest typically occurs during the early season and in 2006, 76% 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 2006 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	1,747	76%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 18 - Nov. 26	396	17%	8%
Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	156	7%	25%

* Total number of deer on this table may not equal the total deer harvest because 1 or more deer may not have had the date of harvest noted.

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Wisconsin

The tribes harvested 20% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,589 antlerless deer) in 2006 (Table 8a). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 49% 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 2006 treaty deer season in Wisconsin by unit and overall.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	13	55	23.6%
02	119	440	27.0%
03	199	440	45.2%
04	4	83	4.8%
05	45	550	8.2%
06	17	55	30.9%
08	70	330	21.2%
09	71	220	32.3%
10	135	330	40.9%
11	109	220	49.5%
12	33	165	20.0%
13	100	275	36.4%
14	4	83	4.8%
15	17	165	10.3%
16	11	55	20.0%
17	13	83	15.7%
18	4	83	4.8%
19	1	28	3.6%
20	0	28	0.0%
21	1	55	1.8%
22	1	55	1.8%
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	4	83	4.8%
29A	10	83	12.0%
29B	12	83	14.5%
30	13	83	15.7%
31	32	165	19.4%
32	2	28	7.1%
33	3	28	10.7%

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Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
34	55	220	25.0%
35	63	275	22.9%
36	78	275	28.4%
37	11	55	20.0%
38	7	110	6.4%
39	13	165	7.9%
40	6	110	5.5%
42	4	28	14.3%
43	3	83	3.6%
44	46	165	27.9%
45	18	110	16.4%
46	1	28	3.6%
47	1	28	3.6%
48	0	11	0.0%
49A	0	28	0.0%
49B	0	28	0.0%
50	1	28	3.6%
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	1	28	3.6%
59A	1	28	3.6%
59B	0	28	0.0%
62A	0	28	0.0%
62B	0	28	0.0%
78	0	28	0.0%
79	0	15	0.0%
Totals	1,352	6,589	20.5%

Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Minnesota

The 2006 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 2006. 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 20% of the declaration; nine 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 2006 treaty deer season in Minnesota by permit area.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest*	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
152	3	60	5.0%
154	2	40	5.0%
156	1	60	1.7%
157	0	60	0.0%
159	6	100	6.0%
183	9	100	9.0%
221	1	50	2.0%
222	16	100	16.0%
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	29	100	29.0%
Totals	67	850	7.9%

* Includes harvest by Fond du Lac, reported by Schrage (2007).

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; 115 in zone A, 45 in zone B and 25 in zone C. No quotas were established for the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory. 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 1,253 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2006 (Table 9), an increase of 124 hunters from the 2005 level (Gilbert 2006). There were 73 successful bear hunters in 2006 or 6% of the number of bear hunters. Bear hunter success has fluctuated between 2% and 7%. 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 2006 off-reservation treaty bear hunting season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Number of Hunters	Number of Successful Hunters	Percent Successful Hunters
Bad River	186	12	6%
Lac Courte Oreilles	330	22	7%
Lac du Flambeau	308	6	2%
Mille Lacs	36	1	3%
Mole Lake	69	8	12%
Red Cliff	216	21	10%
St. Croix	108	3	3%
Totals	1,253	73	6%

Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 90 bears were harvested during the 2006 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), an increase of 36 bears from 2005 (Gilbert 2006). 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 2006.

Table 10. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2006 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	5	7	12
Fond du Lac	2	3	5
Lac Courte Oreilles	17	4	21
Lac du Flambeau	4	4	8
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	5	5	10
Red Cliff	10	8	18
St. Croix	11	5	16
Totals	54	36	90

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

Harvest by Zone and Deer Management Unit

A total of 78 bears (48 males, 30 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 12 bears (6 males, 6 females) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 71% of the tribal quota for Zone A and 30% of the quota for Zone B.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2006 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 Quota 110	1	2	1	3
	2	4	5	9
	3	9	5	14
	4	0	2	2
	6	4	3	7
	9	4	0	4
	10	5	1	6
	11	3	3	6
	12	2	0	2
	13	5	2	7
	14	0	1	1
	15	1	1	2
	17	2	1	3
	18	3	0	3
	22	0	1	1
	25	1	0	1
	28	1	0	1
	29A	0	1	1
	30	1	1	2
	31	1	2	3
Total		48	30	78

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Zone B	38	1	1	2
Quota 40	39	0	2	2
	40	1	0	1
	42	1	0	1
	43	1	1	2
	44	1	1	2
	45	1	1	2
Total		6	6	12
Unknown		0	0	0
Grand Total		54	36	90

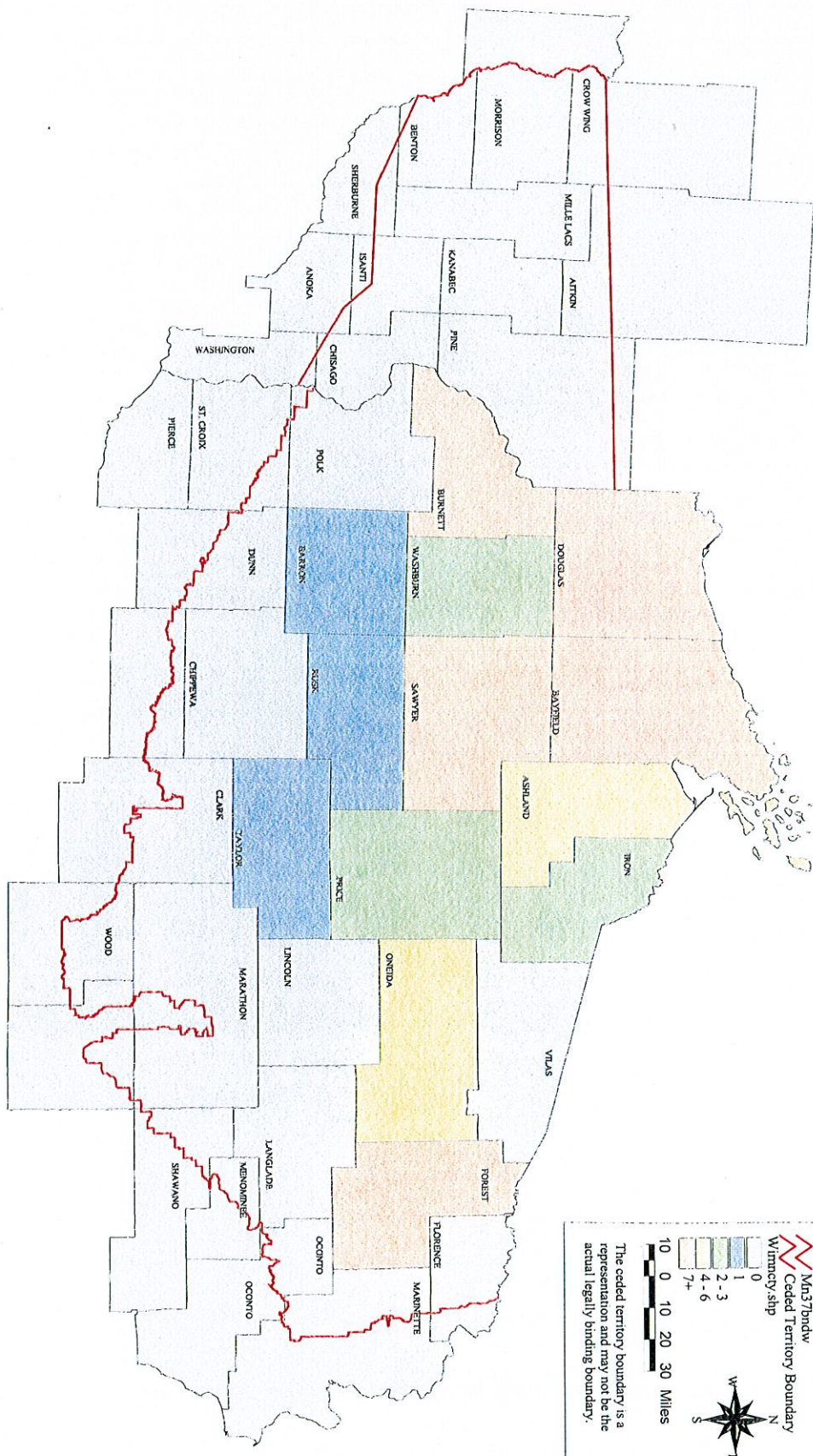
Harvest by County

The 2006 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 14 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12, Figure 6). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County followed by Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer and Forest counties.

Table 12. The sex distribution and total number of bears harvested by County in Wisconsin during the 2006 off-reservation treaty bear season.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	2	3	5
Barron	0	1	1
Bayfield	14	7	21
Burnett	10	5	15
Douglas	6	7	13
Forest	3	4	7
Langlade	1	1	2
Iron	1	1	2
Oneida	3	3	6
Price	1	1	2
Rusk	1	0	1
Sawyer	8	3	11
Taylor	1	0	1
Washburn	3	0	3
Totals	54	36	90

Figure 6. Number of bears harvested during the 2005 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.



Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Mn37bndw

Ceded Territory Boundary

Winemey, ship

0 1 2-3 4-6 7+

10 0 10 20 30 Miles

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

N S E W

Literature Cited

- Gilbert, J. H. 2006 Results of the 2005 treaty deer (wawashkishi) and bear (makwa) hunting seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota. GLIFWC Administrative Report Number 06 - 08. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI. 26 pp.
- Schrage M. 2007. 2006 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.