



**Results of the 2008 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 09 - 08  
July 2009

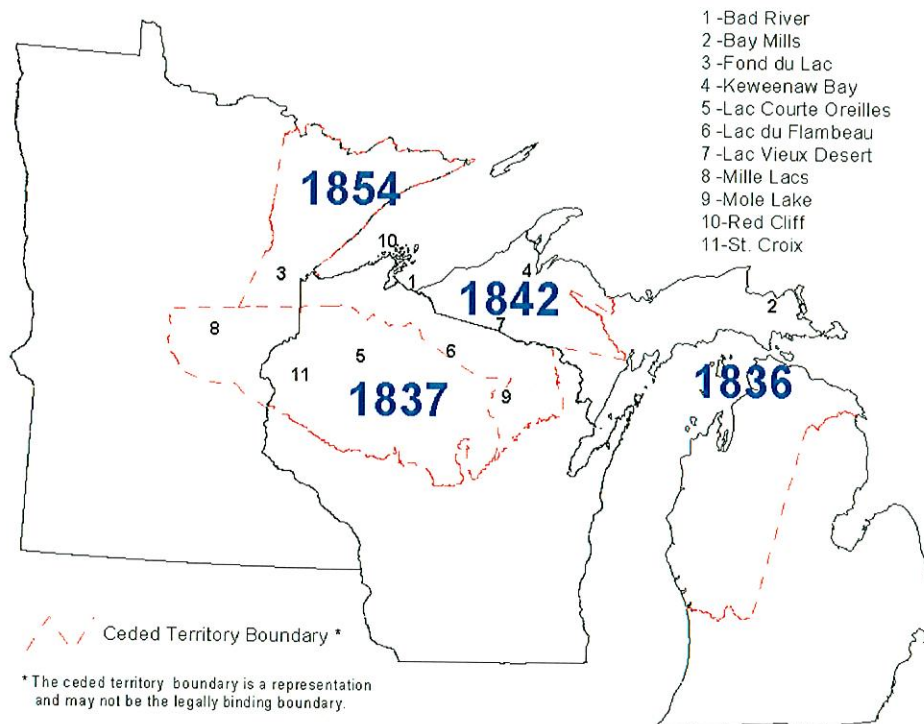
**Great Lakes Indian Fish  
& Wildlife Commission**  
P. O. Box 9  
Odanah, WI 54861  
(715) 682 - 6619



## RESULTS OF THE 2008 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 2008 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 (2009) 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 (7<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision as modified by the “*2009 Stipulation for technical, management, and other updates: first amendment of stipulations incorporated into final judgement*”. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision and subsequent wildlife management plans. In Wisconsin, these rules resulted in a season which was 124 days long starting September 2 and ending January 4, 2008. In Minnesota, hunting started on September 2 and ended on December 31. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2008, the permit and registration system, first implemented in 1986 in Wisconsin, was modified for use in both states. Some tribes authorized their members to receive up to 4 carcass tags at a time during specific portions of the season. Other 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 an antlerless deer (e.g. a doe or a fawn) in Wisconsin 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 in Wisconsin where the quota of antlerless deer had not been filled. Permits, that used to be valid for only two weeks now were set to expire on November 1, December 1 and the end of the season. This resulted in 3 permit periods as contrasted with 7 permit periods previously. No antlerless deer permits were required to hunt antlerless deer in Minnesota. No hunter was allowed more than two antlerless permits 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. 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 2008. 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 2008.

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 27 - 28) was for under-16 youth hunters, the second hunt was from November 10 through November 14 for all ages. This second hunt had an earn-a-buck regulation 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 Management Units in the ceded territory of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

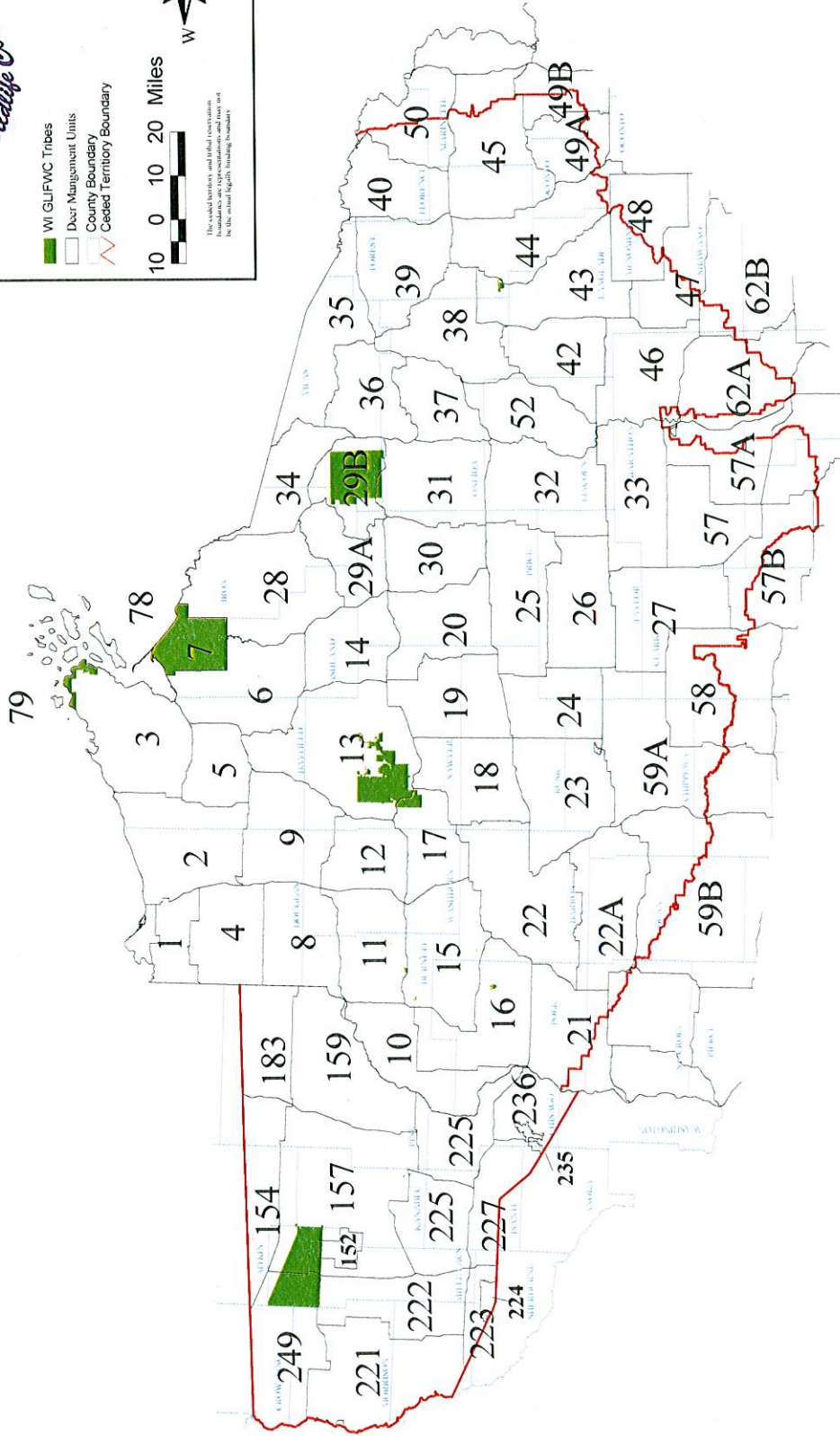


- WI DNR Tribes
- Deer Management Units
- County Boundary
- Ceded Territory Boundary

10 0 10 20 Miles



The shaded territories and tribal reservations boundaries are representations and have not been legally surveyed boundaries.



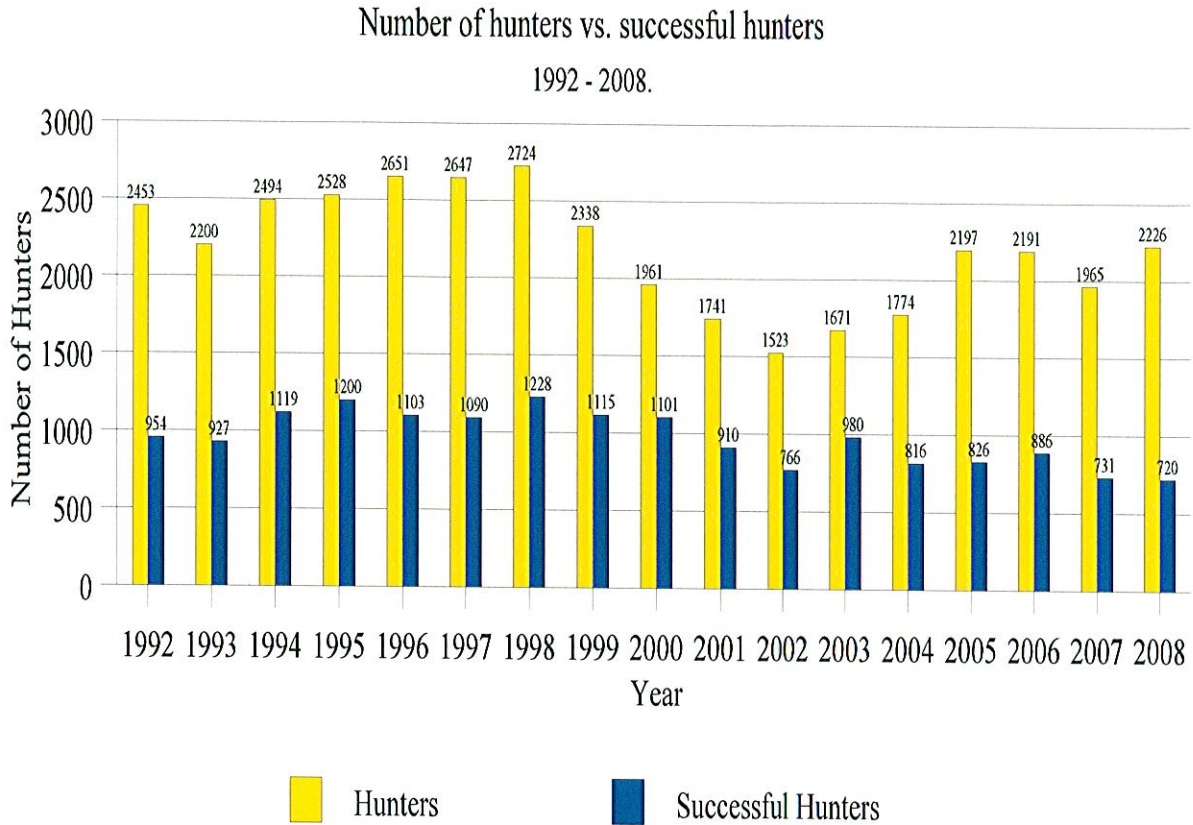
## Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 2,226 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 2008 ( Table 1, Figure 3) was about 260 more than the number of deer hunters in 2007 (1,965, Gilbert 2008). The number of successful hunters in 2008 (720) was nearly the same as in 2007 (731). The resulting harvest success rate declined from 37% in 2007 to 32% in 2008.

**Table 1.** The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season.

<b>TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>DEER HUNTERS</b>	<b>SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS</b>	<b>PERCENT SUCCESSFUL</b>
Bad River	398	111	27.9
Lac Courte Oreilles	630	188	29.8
Lac du Flambeau	407	122	30.0
Mille Lacs	119	81	68.1
Mole Lake	138	37	26.8
Red Cliff	387	121	31.3
St. Croix	147	60	40.8
Totals	2,226	720	32.3



**Figure 3.** The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons from 1992 - 2008.

**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 harvest capacity. Tribal hunters shot 695 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 900 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 1,595 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 13% decline from the 2007 harvest of 1,845 deer (Gilbert 2008).

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 2008 the percent adult bucks was 43%.

**Table 2a.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

<b>STATION</b>	<b>ANTLERED DEER</b>	<b>ANTLERLESS DEER</b>	<b>UNKNOWN DEER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bad River	72	52	0	124
Fond du Lac*	29	15	0	44
Lac Courte Oreilles	166	209	0	375
Lac du Flambeau	98	195	0	293
Mille Lacs	19	23	0	42
Mole Lake	60	95	0	155
Red Cliff	68	89	0	157
St. Croix	183	222	0	405
<b>Totals</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,595</b>

\*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

A total of 111 deer harvested in Minnesota were registered by tribal members at the Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac or St. Croix deer registration stations (Table 2b). This harvest was 43 deer fewer than harvest in 2007 (154 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2008).

In December 2006 the Bands party to the Mille Lacs case updated their Treaty Wildlife Management Plan for the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory for the Years 2007 - 2011. One provision of this update was the implementation of a harvest threshold system for antlerless deer. Under this system there is no requirement for a tribal antlerless deer declaration and there is no limit on the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested. However, if in any year the antlerless deer harvest surpasses the threshold number established for that permit area, then in the subsequent year a declaration process is required for that permit area. In 2008, the threshold number was not exceeded for any permit area.

**Table 2b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2008 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.

<b>STATION</b>	<b>ANTLERED DEER</b>	<b>ADULT DOES</b>	<b>BUCK FAWNS</b>	<b>DOE FAWNS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Fond du Lac*	7	14	4	3	28
Mille Lacs	37	30	6	7	80
St. Croix	3	0	0	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>111</b>

\* Harvest figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2009).

**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), 1,254 deer were harvested from the 17 units in which harvest equaled or exceeded 30 deer. The number of units with 30 or more deer harvested was two less than in 2007.

Since 1991, the number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has ranged between 4 and 12 units. In 2008 there were 5 units with greater than 100 deer harvested (a increase from 4 in 2007). The five units were (in descending order): 3, 11, 13, 10 and 2 (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 2007 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	10	2	0	12
02	48	64	0	112
03	98	105	0	203
04	8	8	0	16
05	26	19	0	45
06	12	15	0	27
08	30	37	0	67
09	23	31	0	54
10	44	88	0	132
11	72	91	0	163
12	14	23	0	37
13	53	84	0	137
14	6	11	0	17
15	19	9	0	28
16	26	8	0	34
17	18	12	0	30
18	15	3	0	18
19	0	1	0	1
20	4	1	0	5
21	0	2	0	2
22	3	0	0	3
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	3	0	0	3
24	0	0	0	0
25	2	0	0	2
26	1	0	0	1
27	0	0	0	0
28	9	12	0	21
29A	2	6	0	8

2008 Treaty Deer and Bear Harvest  
 1837 & 1842 Ceded Territories  
 in Minnesota and Wisconsin  
 Admin Report 09 - 08

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
29B	4	8	0	12
30	9	6	0	15
31	9	33	0	42
32	5	2	0	7
33	3	1	0	4
34	11	28	0	39
35	15	24	0	39
36	22	43	0	65
37	5	8	0	13
38	11	14	0	25
39	6	11	0	17
40	3	3	0	6
42	1	0	0	1
43	5	9	0	14
44	19	36	0	55
45	18	36	0	54
46	0	1	0	1
47	0	0	0	0
48	0	0	0	0
49A	0	0	0	0
49B	0	0	0	0
50	1	3	0	4
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	1	1	0	2
59B	0	0	0	0
62A	0	0	0	0
62B	0	0	0	0
78	0	0	0	0
79	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Totals	695	900	0	1,595

**Deer Harvest by Management Unit**

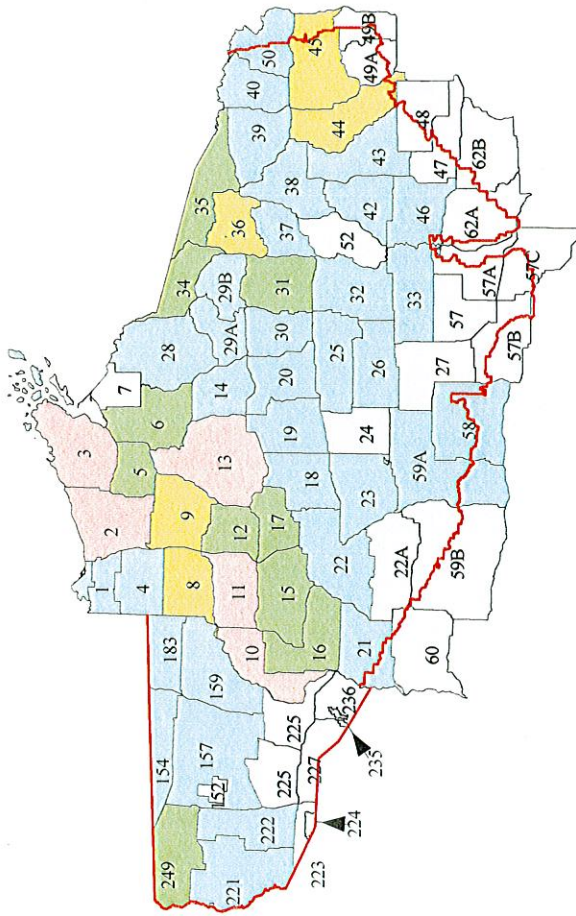
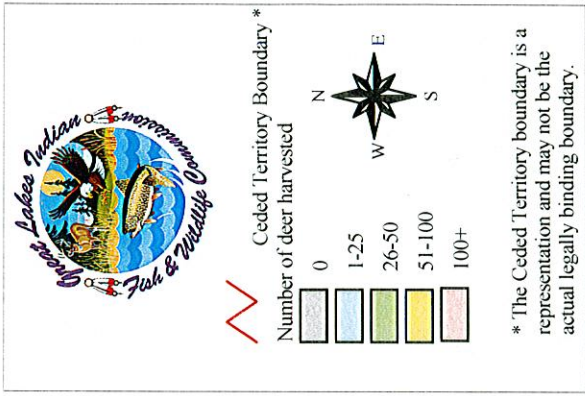
Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas, and two state parks, are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. A total of 111 deer were harvested by tribal members from 8 of those permit areas and in 2 state parks in 2008 (Table 3b, Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (84 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 northernmost 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 24% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (27 deer).

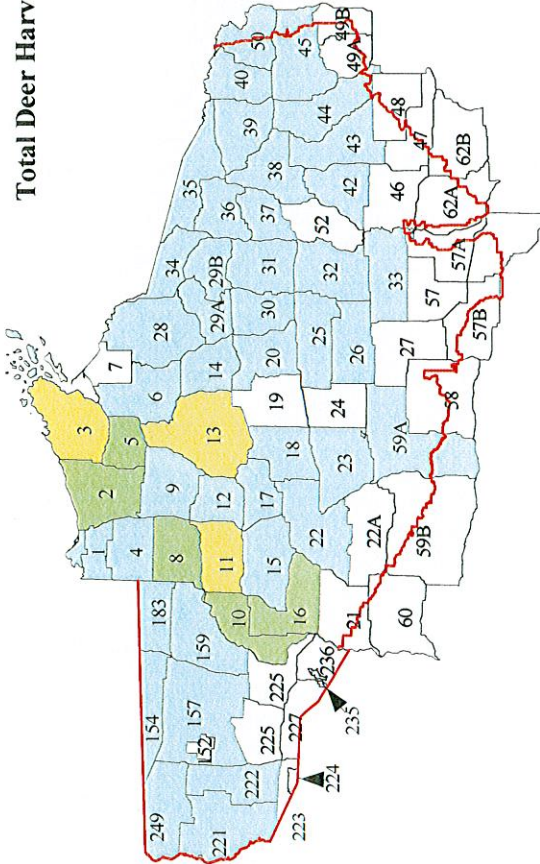
**Table 3b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	0	0	0	0	0
154	7	2	0	1	10
156	2	0	0	0	2
157	1	3	0	1	5
159	11	7	0	1	19
183	4	5	1	1	11
221	1	0	0	0	1
222	8	7	2	1	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	12	12	4	3	31
St. Croix S. P.	0	5	1	0	6
Wild River S. P.	1	3	2	2	8
Totals	47	44	10	10	111

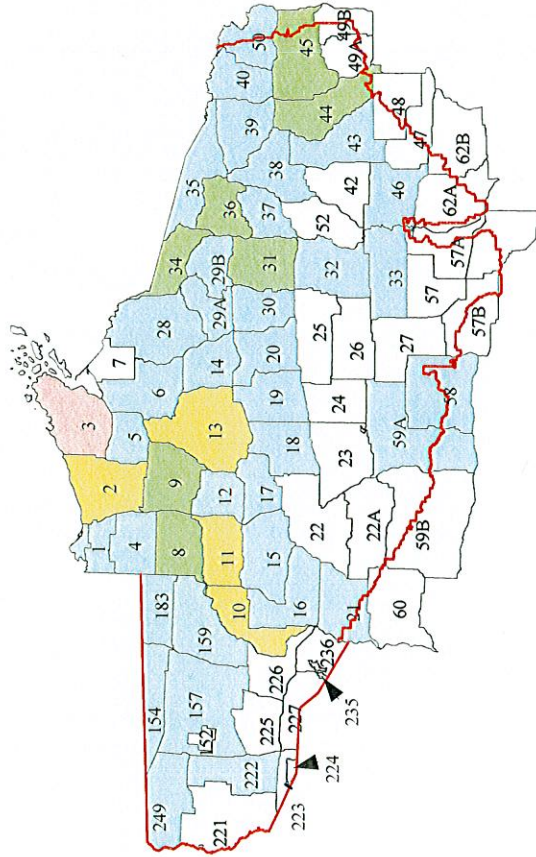
\*\* Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.



**Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2008**



**Total Deer Harvest, 2008**



**Antlered Deer Harvest, 2008**

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 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 23 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,227 deer or 77% 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: Burnett, Bayfield, Douglas, Sawyer, Vilas and Forest (Figure 5). The list of more heavily harvested counties was 2 less than in 2007.

**Table 4a.** Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	15	12	0	27
Barron	1	0	0	1
Bayfield	137	135	0	272
Burnett	143	212	0	355
Chippewa	2	1	0	3
Douglas	78	84	0	162
Eau Claire	0	1	0	1
Florence	3	4	0	7
Forest	49	87	0	136
Iron	13	17	0	30
Langlade	4	5	0	9
Lincoln	3	2	0	5
Marathon	3	2	0	5
Marinette	1	2	0	3
Oneida	27	54	0	81
Polk	34	9	0	43
Price	17	16	0	33
Rusk	17	3	0	20
Sawyer	60	92	0	152
St. Croix	1	2	0	3
Taylor	1	0	0	1
Vilas	45	105	0	150
Washburn	41	55	0	96
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Totals	695	900	0	1,595

**Deer Harvest by County**

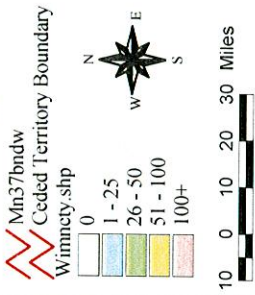
Minnesota

For about 12% 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 Pine County. These counties are close to reservations 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 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWN	DOE FAWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	8	1	0	1	10
Chisago	1	3	2	2	8
Mille Lacs	15	17	5	4	41
Morrison	6	6	1	1	14
Pine	11	11	1	1	24
Unknown*	6	6	1	1	14
Totals	47	44	10	10	111

\* Schrage (2009) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County) and Wild River State Park (Chisago County).



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

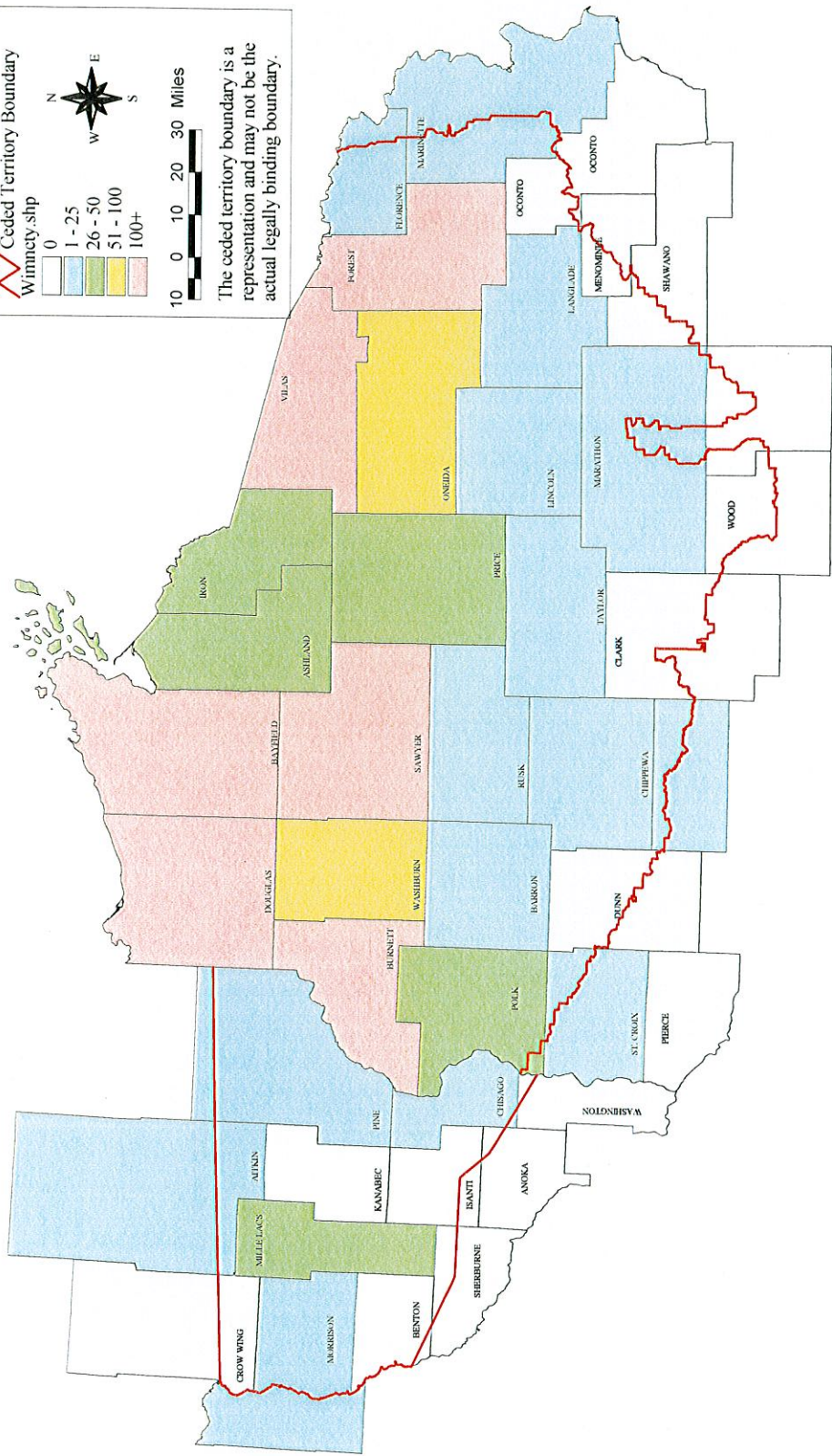


Figure 5. Number of deer harvested during the 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota

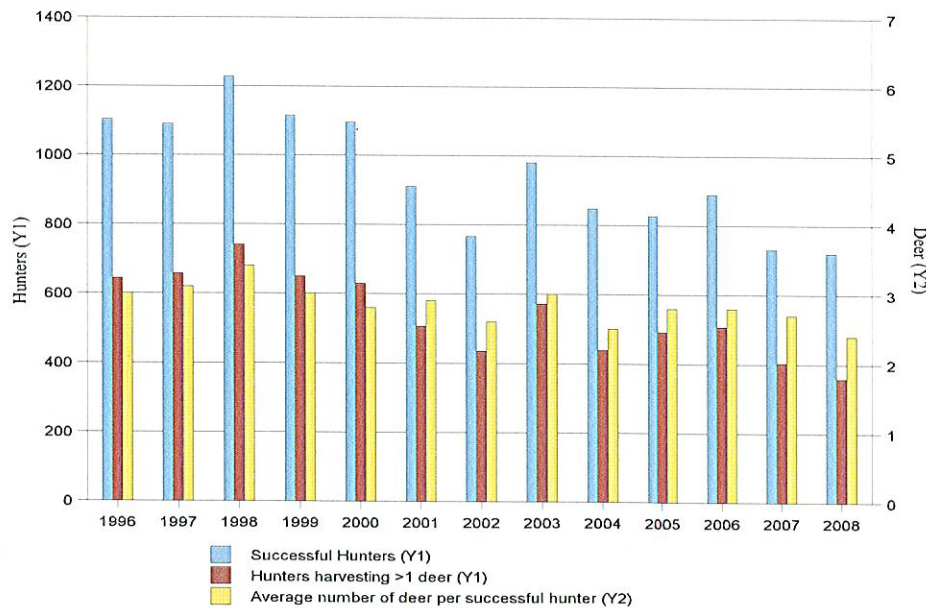


## Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

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 decreased from 731 in 2007 to 720 in 2008 (Table 5 and Figure 6). The number of hunters who shot more than 1 deer declined from 2007 (402) to 2008 (358). The mean number of deer shot per successful hunter declined from 2007 (2.7) to 2008 (2.4). 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 1997 through 2008.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Successful Hunters	1,090	1,228	1,115	1,101	910	766	980	847	826	889	731	720
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	657	740	649	629	513	435	572	438	491	507	402	358
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4



During the 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season 50% of successful hunters shot more than 1 deer while 15 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 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	358	49.7%	358
2	184	25.6%	368
3	68	9.4%	204
4	36	5.0%	144
5	22	3.1%	110
6	12	1.7%	72
7	12	1.7%	84
8	7	1.0%	56
9	6	0.8%	54
10	7	1.0%	70
11	3	0.4%	33
12	1	0.1%	12
16	1	0.1%	16
24	1	0.1%	24
25	1	0.1%	25
49	1	0.1%	49
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,679</b>

## Deer Harvest by Season

The percent of the 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 decreased from 9% in 2007 to 5% in 2008. The majority of harvest typically occurs during the early season and in 2008, 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 2008 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Portion of Season	Number of Deer Harvested*	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Season
Early Season Sept. 4 - Nov. 16	1,276	76%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 17 - Nov. 26	311	19%	8%
Late Season Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	86	5%	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 14% of the declared tribal deer quota (6,283 antlerless deer) in 2008 (Table 8a). The percent of the quota harvested ranged from a high of 41% 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 2008 treaty deer season in Wisconsin by unit and overall.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
01	2	55	3.6%
02	64	440	14.5%
03	105	440	23.9%
04	8	83	9.6%
05	19	550	3.5%
06	15	55	27.3%
08	37	330	11.2%
09	31	220	14.1%
10	88	330	26.7%
11	91	220	41.4%
12	23	165	13.9%
13	84	275	30.5%
14	11	83	13.3%
15	9	165	5.5%
16	8	55	14.5%
17	12	83	14.5%
18	3	83	3.6%
19	1	28	3.6%
20	1	28	3.6%
21	2	55	3.6%
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%

2008 Treaty Deer and Bear Harvest  
 1837 & 1842 Ceded Territories  
 in Minnesota and Wisconsin  
 Admin Report 09 - 08

Unit	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Antlerless Deer Quota	Percent Quota Harvested
28	12	83	14.5%
29A	6	83	7.2%
29B	8	50	16.0%
30	6	83	7.2%
31	33	165	20.0%
32	2	28	7.1%
33	1	28	3.6%
34	28	162	17.3%
35	24	150	16.0%
36	43	275	15.6%
37	8	55	14.5%
38	14	110	12.7%
39	11	75	14.7%
40	3	110	2.7%
42	0	28	0.0%
43	9	83	10.8%
44	36	165	21.8%
45	36	110	32.7%
46	1	28	3.6%
47	0	28	0.0%
48	0	11	0.0%
49A	0	28	0.0%
49B	0	28	0.0%
50	3	28	10.7%
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	900	6,283	14.3%

## Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

### Minnesota

In 2007 a harvest threshold system was put into place in the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory. Under this system there is no harvest quota established and no declaration submitted to MNDNR as in Wisconsin. Rather the harvest is monitored and a decision is made each year if the harvest in the previous year was high enough to warrant a declaration and tribal quota. This decision was based on the comparison of harvest to a threshold level established by the Wildlife Management Plan for the MN Portion of the 1837 Ceded Territory (Table 8b).

The tribal harvest in all permit areas was below the threshold level and thus there will be no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota for 2009. Permit areas 249 and 222 had the highest antlerless deer harvest in 2008. However, a declaration is still required for participation in State Park special hunts (i.e., St. Croix State Park and Wild River State Park). These declarations are for a number of hunters, not number of antlerless deer. In these state park special hunts hunting opportunity is limited by hunter density and not by desired harvest.

**Table 8b.** The tribal antlerless deer quota, the number of antlerless deer harvested and the percent of quota harvested during the 2008 treaty deer season in Minnesota by permit area.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest*	Antlerless Deer Threshold
152	0	25
154	3	100
156	0	100
157	4	100
159	8	100
183	7	100
221	0	100
222	10	100
223	0	100
224	0	25
225	0	100
227	0	100
235	0	25
236	0	100
249	19	100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1275</b>

\* Includes harvest by Fond du Lac, reported by Schrage (2009).

## BEAR HUNTING RESULTS

Tribal bear hunting regulations for members hunting in Wisconsin were previously enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May 1990 Federal Court (7<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision. In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, season regulations were enacted to comply with the March 1997 Federal Court (8<sup>th</sup> Circuit) decision and the Treaty Wildlife Management Plan for the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory. 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. Lac Courte Oreilles prohibited its members from hunting bears in 2008 and did not issue permits or register bears harvested by members of other tribes. Mole Lake only issued permits to Mole Lake members. Mille Lacs did not issue any bear tags to any tribal member in Minnesota. 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. A threshold system, similar for antlerless deer, was employed for bear hunting in Minnesota and thus, no quotas were established. 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 828 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2008 (Table 9), a decline of 341 hunters from the 2007 level (Gilbert 2008). There were 38 successful bear hunters in 2008 or 5% 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 2008 off-reservation treaty bear hunting season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Number of Hunters	Number of Successful Hunters	Percent Successful Hunters
Bad River	201	17	8%
Lac Courte Oreilles	30	0	0%
Lac du Flambeau	244	2	1%
Mille Lacs	16	0	0%
Mole Lake	41	4	10%
Red Cliff	207	14	7%
St. Croix	89	1	1%
Totals	828	38	5%

### Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 42 bears were harvested during the 2008 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), a decline of 43 bears from 2007 (Gilbert 2008). During each of the 12 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 2008.

**Table 10.** The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2008 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	5	4	9
Fond du Lac	3	2	5
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	4	0	4
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	4	0	4
Red Cliff	10	4	14
St. Croix	3	3	6
Totals	29	13	42

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



### Harvest by Zone and Deer Management Unit

A total of 37 bears (23 males, 14 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 5 bears (all males) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). This harvest represented 32% of the tribal quota for Zone A and 11% of the quota for Zone B.

**Table 11.** The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2008 off-reservation treaty bear season in bear Zones A and B and in deer management units within these zones.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
Zone A Quota 115	1	1	0	1
	2	3	1	4
	3	12	5	17
	4	1	2	3
	6	1	2	3
	8	0	1	1
	10	1	0	1
	11	0	2	2
	12	0	1	1
	15	1	0	1
	28	1	0	1
	29B	1	0	1
	31	1	0	1
	<b>Total</b>	23	14	37
Zone B Quota 45	37	1	0	1
	38	1	0	1
	43	1	0	1
	44	1	0	1
	45	1	0	1
	<b>Total</b>	5	0	5
	Unknown	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>		28	14	42

Mn37bndw  
 Ceded Territory Boundary  
 Winnetry-shp

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.

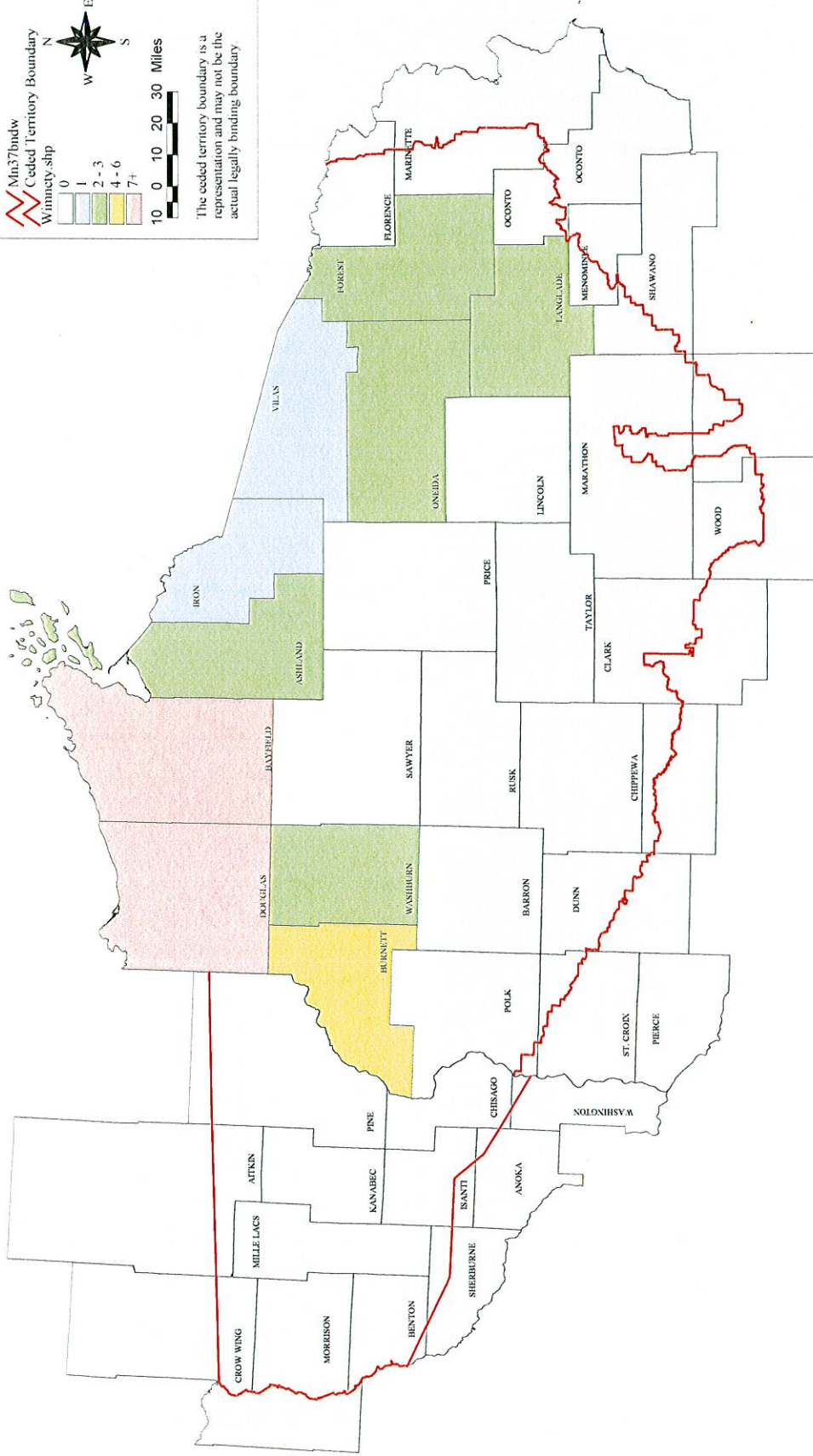


Figure 6. Number of bears harvested during the 2007 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin and Minnesota counties.

## Harvest by County

The 2008 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 10 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12, Figure 6). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County followed by Douglas, Burnett and Ashland.

**Table 12.** The sex distribution and total number of bears harvested by County in Wisconsin during the 2008 off-reservation treaty bear season.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	2	1	3
Bayfield	12	6	18
Burnett	2	2	4
Douglas	4	3	7
Forest	2	0	2
Iron	1	0	1
Langlade	2	0	2
Oneida	2	0	2
Vilas	1	0	1
Washburn	1	1	2
Totals	29	13	42

## **Literature Cited**

- Gilbert, J. H. 2008 Results of the 2007 treaty wawashkishi (deer) and makwa (bear) hunting seasons in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota. GLIFWC Administrative Report Number 08 - 11. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI. 26 pp.
- Schrage M. 2009. 2008 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.

