



**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter)  
AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat)  
HARVESTS DURING 2010 - 2011  
IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES  
IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA**

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Admin Report 11 - 08  
November 2011

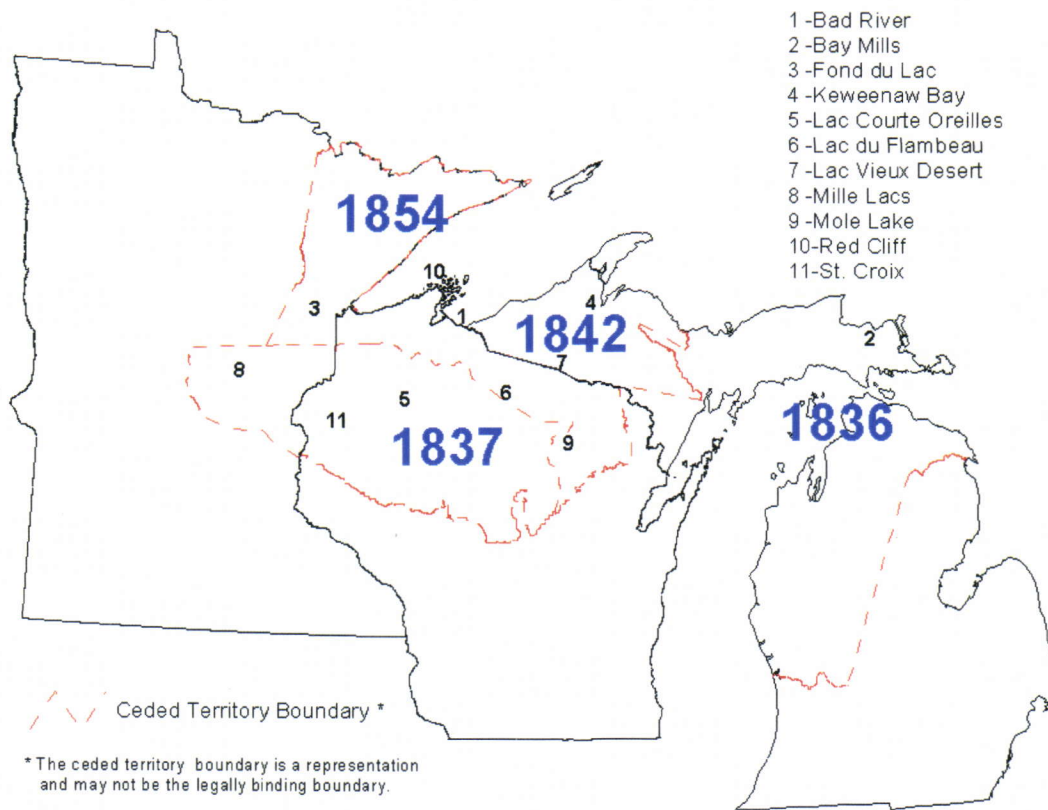
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**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter) AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat) HARVESTS  
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**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2010 - 2011 off-reservation treaty trapping seasons for ochig (fishers), nigig (otters) and gidagaa-bizhiw (bobcats) in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin and Minnesota (Figure 1). Hunters and trappers were members of the six Wisconsin Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe (Minnesota). Harvests by Fond du Lac trappers were reported by Schrage (2011) and are included in totals in this report.



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

## Regulations and Annual Summary

### Wisconsin

The trapping season began on October 1 for otters and bobcats and on November 1 for fishers. The bobcat hunting season began on September 7. Harvest records do not distinguish between bobcats trapped or shot. All seasons ended on March 31. Trappers (and hunters for bobcats) were required to obtain carcass tags for each species. Upon harvest the trapper or hunter was required to tag the animal and register it at a tribal registration station by 5:00 pm of the third working day after harvest. Fisher harvest was managed by zone, while otter and bobcat harvest limits applied throughout the ceded territories.

The number of tribal members validating their permits for trapping decreased to 758 trappers, 692 less than in 2010 (Table 1). Otter and bobcat harvests increased from the 2009 - 2010 levels, while fisher harvest declined (Figure 2).

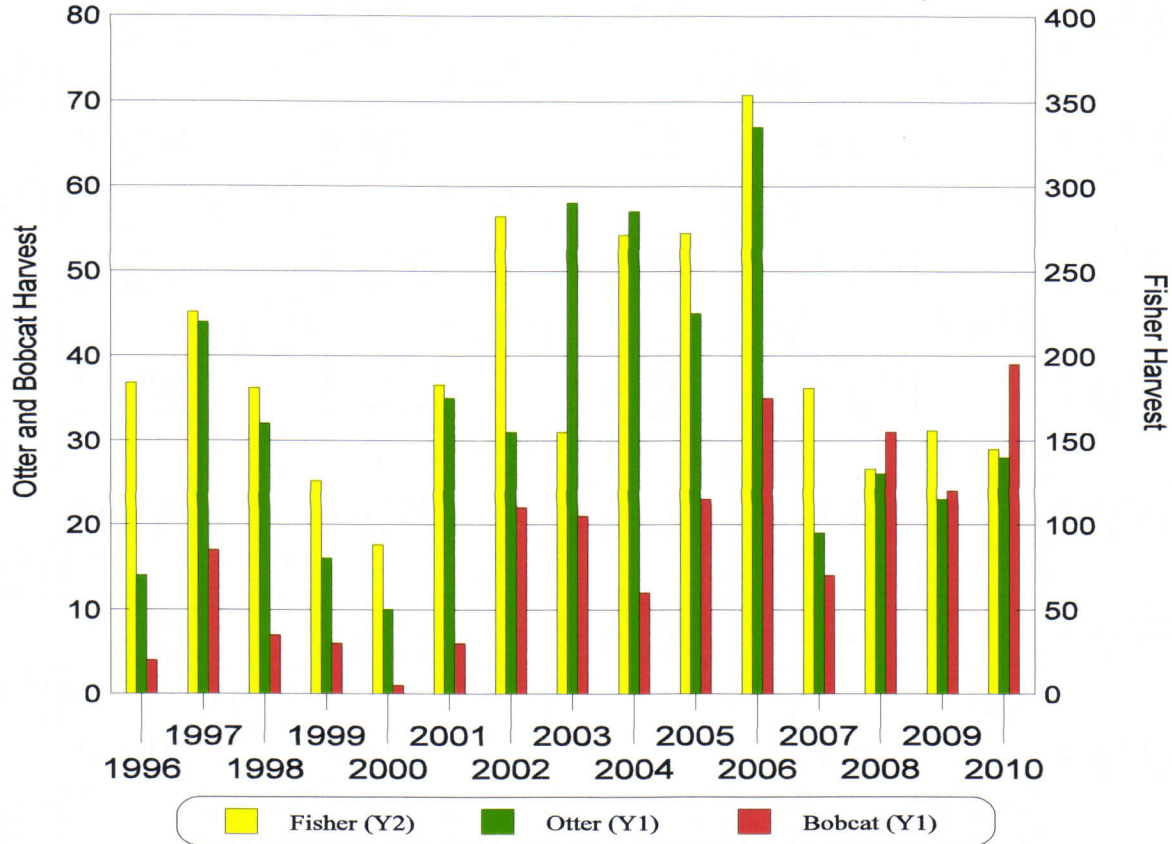
**Table 1.** Number of licensed trappers and numbers of fishers, otters, and bobcats harvested by tribal members in Wisconsin during off-reservation treaty trapping seasons from 1996 - 97 through 2010 - 2011.

Season	Licensed Trappers*	Fisher Harvest	Otter Harvest	Bobcat Harvest
1996 - 1997	1,125	184	14	4
1997-1998	1,449	226	44	17
1998-1999	1,570	181	32	7
1999 - 2000	1,539	126	16	6
2000 - 2001	1,125	88	10	1
2001 - 2002	1,065	182	35	6
2002 - 2003	1,013	282	31	22
2003 - 2004	1,047	155	58	21
2004 - 2005	943	271	57	12
2005 - 2006	1,467	272	45	23
2006 - 2007	1,265	354	65	35
2007 - 2008	1,032	181	19	14
2008 - 2009	1,241	133	26	31
2009 - 2010	1, 450	156	23	24
2010 - 2011	758	145	28	39

\* The number of licensed trappers reflects the number of tribal members validating their off-reservation treaty harvesting permit for trapping, whether or not they set any traps or received any trapping tags. From 1997 - 98 through 2010 - 2011 this number included Mille Lacs members trapping in Minnesota.



Figure 2. Tribal fisher, otter and bobcat harvests in Wisconsin, 1996-2010.



## Minnesota

The 2010 - 2011 treaty trapping seasons in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory were concurrent with those in Wisconsin. In 2010 - 2011 there were no fishers, otters, bobcats or martens registered at the Mille Lacs registration station or at the Fond du Lac station (see Schrage 2011 for details) for the 1837 ceded territory.

## CITES Program

In 2010 GLIFWC received authority to operate a furbearer export program on behalf of its member tribes (except for Fond du Lac) related to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) from the Division of Management Authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This program requires that all otters and bobcats that are to be exported be registered and tagged using a CITES tag. Those otters and bobcats not exported, but rather used for personal purposes (e.g., ceremonies) were to be registered but did not require a CITES tag. A unique feature of this program is that it applies to both on reservation as well as off reservation harvests. A table is provided in the otter and bobcat sections showing the CITES tagging information.

## FISHER HARVEST

### Wisconsin

The off-reservation treaty fisher season began on November 1, 2010 and extended to March 31, 2011. During this 151 day period a total of 145 fishers were harvested off-reservation by tribal members (Table 2). This represented a decline of 11 fishers from the 2009 - 2010 harvest (156) (Table 1).

Fisher populations in the ceded territory are healthy and have stabilized at about 10,000 - 11,000 fishers (population modeling, WDNR). Research indicates that when the sex ratio of the harvest is in favor of females, the population is likely being over-exploited. The sex ratio of the harvest was 65:78 in favor of females in 2010 and 98:58 in favor of males in 2009.

**Table 2.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest as reported by registration station for the 2010 - 2011 season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bad River	0	2	0	2
Fond du Lac	0	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	23	31	2	56
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	2	0	2
Red Cliff	0	0	0	0
St. Croix	42	43	0	85
In Field Registration	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	65	78	2	145

Tribal trappers in Wisconsin harvested fisher in 4 of the 6 fisher trapping zones (Table 3, Figures 3 and 4). Tribal members harvested 100 fishers in Zone A, 38 fishers in Zone B, and 145 of the overall quota of 1,100 fishers. Tribal harvest was concentrated in a few management units in each zone.



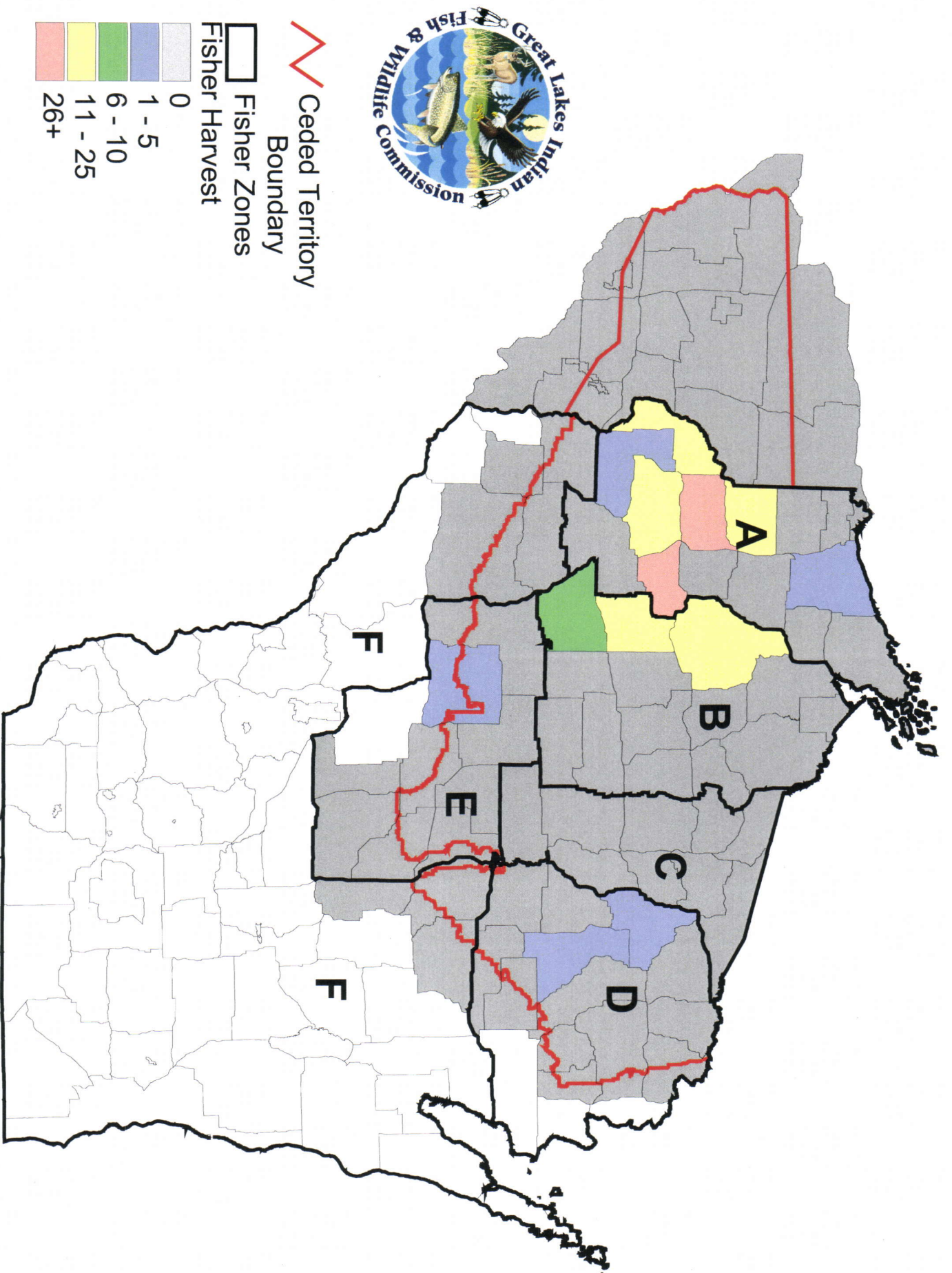


Figure 4. Distribution of tribal off-reservation treaty fisher harvest in the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories during the 2010 - 2011 trapping season.

**Table 3.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest and quota levels reported by deer management unit (DMU) and fisher zone for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

FISHER ZONE	DMU	TRIBAL QUOTA	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
A	2	300	0	2	0	2
	8		9	7	0	16
	10		7	6	0	13
	11		17	19	0	36
	15		5	10	0	15
	16		4	1	0	5
	17		5	8	0	13
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		47	53	0	100
B	13	250	8	7	0	15
	18		6	11	0	17
	23		1	5	0	6
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		15	23	0	38
C	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	200	0	0	0	0
D	38	175	0	1	0	1
	43		0	1	0	1
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		0	2	0	2
E	58	100	3	0	0	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		3	0	0	3
F	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	75	0	0	0	0
Unknown			0	0	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		1100	65	78	2	145

**Table 4.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest totals reported by county for the 2009 - 2010 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Barron	3	1	0	4
Bayfield	0	2	0	2
Burnett	38	42	0	80
Eau Claire	3	0	0	3
Forest	0	1	0	1
Oneida	0	1	0	1
Polk	1	0	0	1
Rusk	6	14	0	20
Sawyer	14	17	0	31
Unknown	0	0	2	2
<b>Totals</b>	65	78	2	145

Tribal harvest of fisher was distributed among 9 counties (Table 4) a decline of 1 county from 2009 - 2010. In both 2009 - 2010 and in 2010 - 2011 more fishers were harvested in Burnett county, followed by Sawyer county.

#### Minnesota

No fishers were harvested by tribal members in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory.



## OTTER HARVEST

### Wisconsin

Twenty eight(28) otters were harvested off-reservation by tribal members during the 2010 - 2011 trapping season (Tables 5, 7 and 8), which ran concurrent with the fisher trapping season. This harvest represented an increase of 5 otters from 2009 - 2010 (Table 1). Most otters were registered at St. Croix.

**Table 5.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by registration station for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	4	1	5
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	13	10	23
Totals	17	11	28

There were 20 otters registered with the Tribal CITES program in the 2010 - 2011 harvest season (Table 6). This represents 12 of the 28 otters (43%) harvested off-reservation. The additional otters were harvested on reservation at Bad River and Lac du Flambeau.

**Table 6.** Summary of otters registered with the Tribal CITES program for the 2010 - 2011 harvest season.

Registration Station	On-Reservation	Off-reservation	Totals
Bad River	2	0	2
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	5	5
Lac du Flambeau	6	0	6
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	0	7	7
<b>Totals</b>	8	12	20

**Table 7.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Totals
8	2	1	3
10	3	2	5
11	6	6	12
15	1	0	1
16	1	1	2
17	1	0	1
18	1	1	2
23	1	0	1
58	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	17	11	28

**Table 8.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by county for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Totals
Burnett	11	9	20
Eau Claire	1	0	1
Polk	2	1	3
Rusk	1	1	2
Sawyer	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	17	11	28

#### Minnesota

There were no otters registered in the 1837 ceded territory.



## BOBCAT HARVEST

### Wisconsin

The bobcat hunting season opened on September 6, 2010 while the bobcat trapping season opened on October 1, 2010. Both seasons closed on March 31, 2011. Harvest results are presented for both seasons combined because method of harvest is not collected at registration. There were 39 bobcats harvested during the 2010 - 2011 off-reservation treaty harvest seasons (Tables 9, 11 and 12). This was a increase of 15 bobcats from the 2009 - 2010 off-reservation bobcat harvest (Table 1).

**Table 9.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by registration station for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	2	1	3
Fond du Lac	1	0	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	11	9	20
Lac du Flambeau	1	2	3
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	1	2
Red Cliff	1	3	4
St. Croix	2	4	6
In Field	0	0	0
Total	19	20	39

There were 21 bobcats tagged with Tribal CITES tags in 2010 - 2011 (Table 10). Of these, 17 were harvested off-reservation and this represents 44% of the registered off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest. The additional bobcats were harvested on reservation at St. Croix, Bad River and Lac Courte Oreilles.

**Table 10.** Summary of bobcats registered with the Tribal CITES program for the 2010 - 2011 harvest season.

<b>Registration Station</b>	<b>On-Reservation</b>	<b>Off-Reservation</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bad River</b>	1	3	4
<b>Fond du Lac</b>	0	0	0
<b>Lac Courte Oreilles</b>	1	7	8
<b>Lac du Flambeau</b>	0	0	0
<b>Mille Lacs</b>	0	0	0
<b>Mole Lake</b>	0	0	0
<b>Red Cliff</b>	0	4	4
<b>St. Croix</b>	2	3	5
<b>In Field</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	4	17	21

**Table 11.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

<b>Deer Management Unit</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>3</b>	1	3	4
<b>4</b>	1	0	1
<b>6</b>	1	1	2
<b>8</b>	1	1	2
<b>9</b>	1	0	1
<b>10</b>	1	3	4
<b>13</b>	5	2	7
<b>14</b>	0	2	2
<b>17</b>	1	0	1
<b>18</b>	2	6	8
<b>22</b>	2	0	2
<b>32</b>	1	0	1
<b>38</b>	1	2	3
<b>43</b>	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	18	21	39



**Table 12.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by county for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Total
Ashland	0	1	1
Bayfield	5	3	8
Burnett	2	4	6
Douglas	2	0	2
Forest	0	1	1
Lincoln	1	0	1
Oneida	1	2	3
Rusk	1	2	3
Sawyer	7	7	14
<b>Total</b>	19	20	39

#### Minnesota

No bobcats were harvested in 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory.