



# **Results of the 2010 Treaty Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons In the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Minnesota**

by

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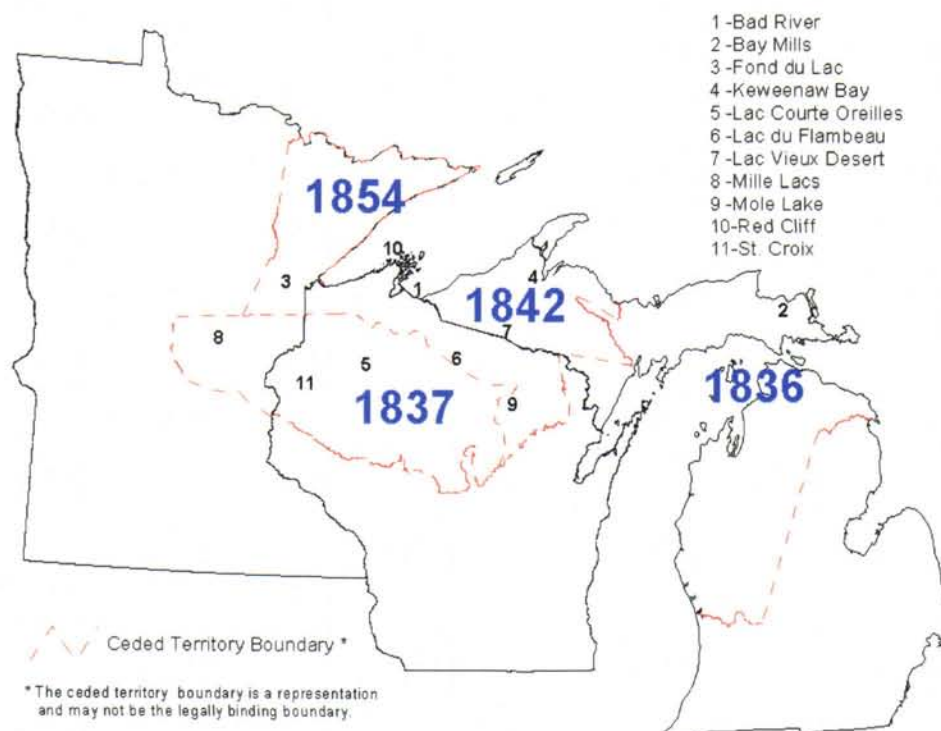
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## RESULTS OF THE 2010 TREATY WAAWAASHKESHI (DEER) AND MAKWA (BEAR) HUNTING SEASONS IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

### Introduction

This report presents the results of the 2010 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 (2011) reported details about other aspects of the FDL season. This report does not cover deer and bear hunting in Michigan. Harvest during the treaty hunting seasons in Michigan are reported by Falck (2011).



**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 117 days long starting September 7 and ending January 12, 2011. In Minnesota, hunting started on September 7 and ended on December 31, 2010. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2010, the registration system, first implemented in 1986 in Wisconsin, was continued in both the Wisconsin and Minnesota portions of the ceded territory. 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 additional carcass tags upon registration of any deer.

In the past years, in order to shoot an antlerless deer (e.g. a doe or a fawn) a hunter was required to obtain an antlerless deer permit that allowed the harvest of 2 antlerless deer. Permits were valid for any deer management unit where the quota of antlerless deer had not been filled. Permits expired on November 1, December 1 and the end of the season. This resulted in 3 permit periods. 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.

However, beginning in 2007 in Minnesota and in 2010 in Wisconsin a harvest threshold system was put into place that eliminated the need to establish tribal antlerless deer quotas as long as tribal harvest was below a predetermined threshold level. The threshold was a set number for deer permit areas in Minnesota and was a variable value based on a formula for deer management units in Wisconsin. The formula used to calculate the threshold value in Wisconsin was 15% of the antlerless gun harvest + bow antlerless harvest + sum of (youth, military, disabled and first-time hunter antlerless harvest).

Commercial harvest of deer was permitted when the hunter's tribal government specifically authorized such a harvest. 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 2010.

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 22

- 25) was for under-16 youth hunters, the second hunt was from November 13 through November 15 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 4 through December 7.



- ▲ Ceded Territory Boundary
- GLIFWC Member Tribe
- Deer Unit Boundaries
- County Boundaries

The ceded territory and tribal reservation boundaries are representations and may not be legally binding.

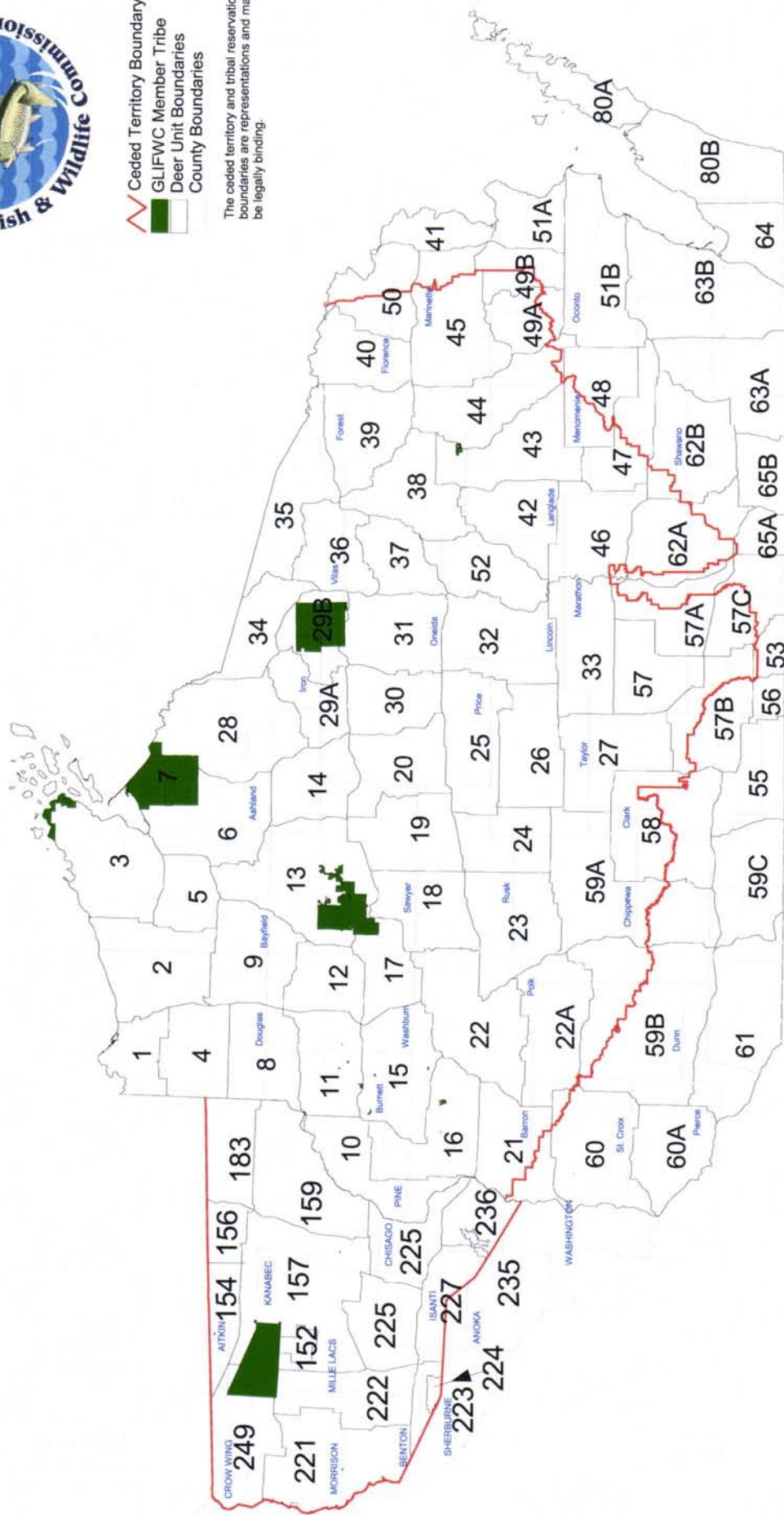


Figure 2. Location of Deer Management Units in the ceded territory of Wisconsin and Minnesota



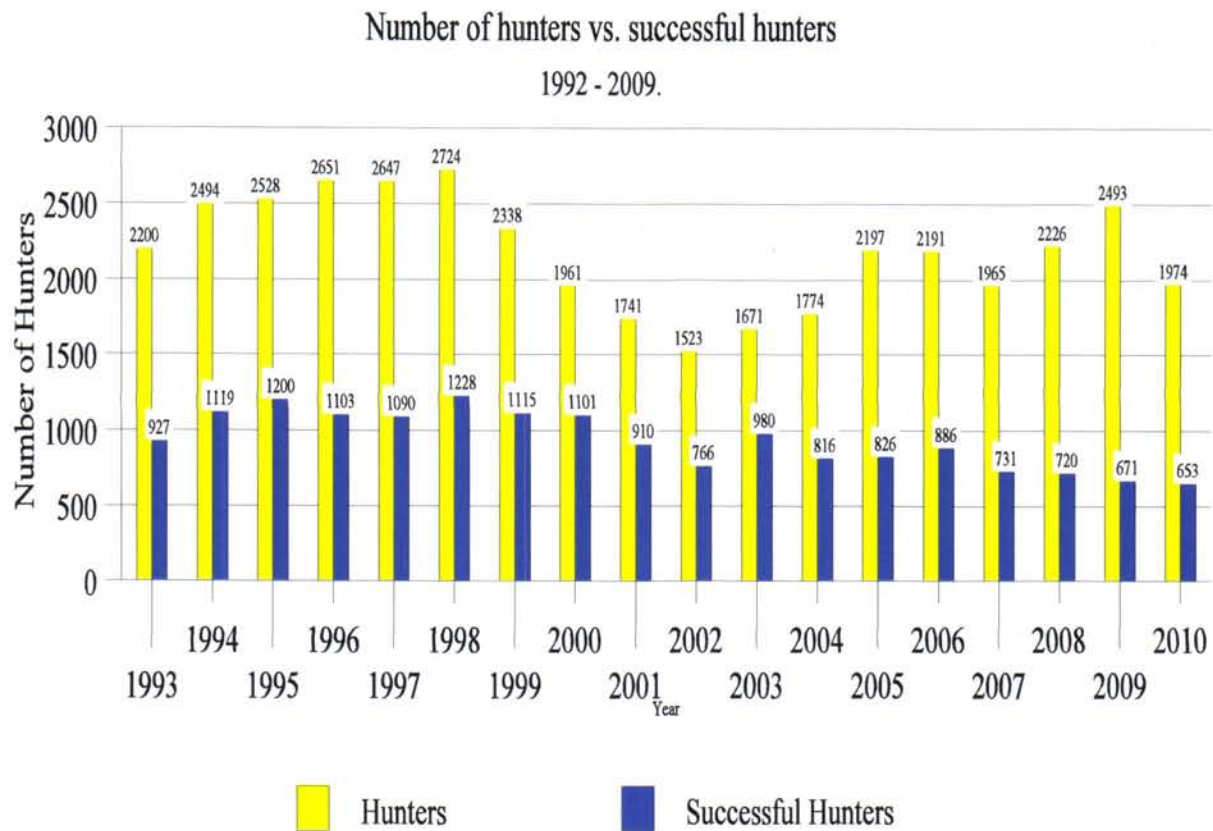
## Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 1,974 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 2010 ( Table 1, Figure 3) was 519 fewer than the number of deer hunters in 2009 (2,493, Gilbert 2010). The number of successful hunters in 2010 (653) was 18 hunters fewer than in 2009 (671). The resulting harvest success rate increased from 27% in 2009 to 33% in 2010.

**Table 1.** The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season.

<b>TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>DEER HUNTERS</b>	<b>SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS</b>	<b>PERCENT SUCCESSFUL</b>
Bad River	312	113	36.2
Lac Courte Oreilles	675	179	26.5
Lac du Flambeau	390	121	31.0
Mille Lacs	105	76	72.4
Mole Lake	180	35	19.4
Red Cliff	191	90	47.1
St. Croix	121	39	32.2
Totals	1,974	653	33.1



**Figure 3.** The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons from 1993 - 2010.

## Deer Harvest by Registration Station

### Wisconsin

The tribal deer hunt was an either sex hunt because all hunters could harvest either an antlered buck or antlerless deer 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. There were no tribal antlerless deer quotas in any deer management unit in 2010 as the 2009 tribal harvest fell below the harvest threshold value (see Table 8). Tribal hunters shot 634 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 806 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 1,440 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 4% increase from the 2009 harvest of 1,386 deer (Gilbert 2010).

From 1983 through 1998 around 30% of the deer harvested by tribal members during the off-reservation hunting season were antlered bucks. An increase in the antlered buck percents began in 1999 and since then until 2008 the antlered buck component of the harvest ranged between 40% and 47%. In 2009 the percent adult bucks declined to 39%. In 2010 the antlered buck percent returned to 44%.

**Table 2a.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2010 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	81	75	0	156
Fond du Lac*	15	19	0	34
Lac Courte Oreilles	166	188	0	354
Lac du Flambeau	115	197	0	312
Lac Vieux Desert	0	1	0	1
Mille Lacs	10	23	0	33
Mole Lake	39	95	0	134
Red Cliff	53	64	0	117
St. Croix	155	144	0	299
<b>Totals</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,440</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 159 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 5 deer fewer than harvest in 2009 (164 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2010).

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 2010, the threshold number was not exceeded for any permit area (see Table 8 for threshold analysis).

**Table 2b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2010 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*	3	3	4	1	11
Mille Lacs	54	61	17	13	145
St. Croix	2	1	0	0	3
Totals	59	65	21	14	159

\* Harvest figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2011).

## Deer Harvest by Management Unit

### Wisconsin

Although deer harvest was distributed among 39 of the 65 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a), 1,103 deer were harvested from the 15 units in which harvest equaled or exceeded 30 deer. The number of units with 30 or more deer harvested was two more than in 2009.

Since 1991, the number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has ranged between 4 and 12 units. In 2010 there were 5 units with greater than 100 deer harvested (an increase of 1 from 2009). The five units were (in descending order): 3, 11, 10, 13 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 had adequate antlerless deer quotas to meet tribal needs in the past.

**Table 3a.** Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	4	3	0	7
02	48	59	0	107
03	63	69	0	132
04	19	7	0	26
05	11	16	0	27
06	15	25	0	40
08	47	33	0	80
09	24	54	0	78
10	48	61	0	109
11	55	67	0	122
12	22	25	0	47
13	53	54	0	107
14	1	4	0	5
15	4	9	0	13
16	5	2	0	7
17	13	8	0	21
18	26	8	0	34
19	6	10	0	16
20	4	5	0	9
21	0	0	0	0
22	6	1	0	7
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	8	2	0	10
24	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0
28	7	5	0	12
29A	5	9	0	14

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UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
29B	8	8	0	16
30	7	14	0	21
31	23	38	0	61
32	2	6	0	8
33	0	0	0	0
34	11	30	0	41
35	17	35	0	52
36	20	26	0	46
37	11	12	0	23
38	6	12	0	18
39	4	11	0	15
40	2	18	0	20
42	0	0	0	0
43	2	14	0	16
44	17	30	0	47
45	9	15	0	24
46	0	0	0	0
47	0	0	0	0
48	0	0	0	0
49A	0	0	0	0
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	0	0	0	0
59A	0	1	0	1
59B	0	0	0	0
60	1	0	0	1
62A	0	0	0	0
62B	0	0	0	0
78	0	0	0	0
79	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Totals	634	806	0	1,440



## Deer Harvest by Management Unit

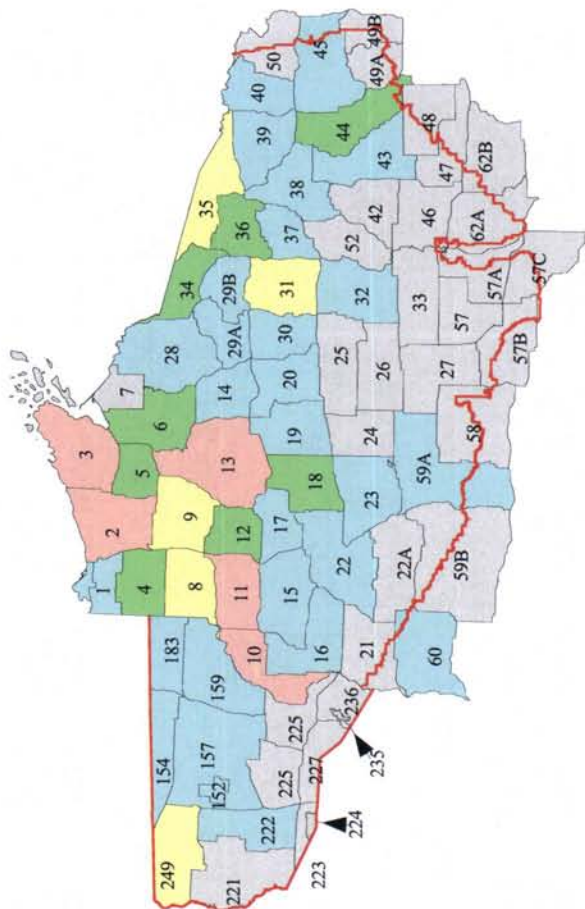
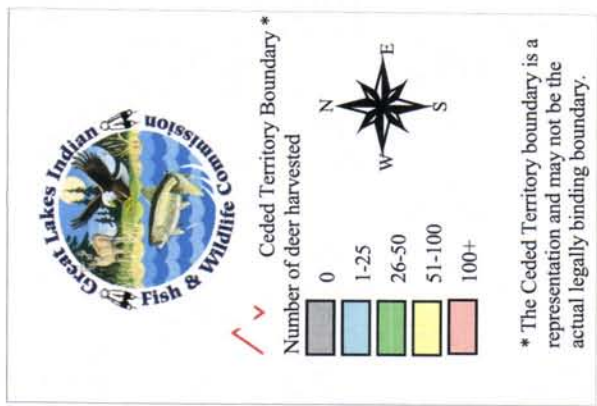
### Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas, and two state parks, are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. A total of 159 deer were harvested by tribal members from 8 of those permit areas and in 1 state park in 2010 (Table 3b, Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (145 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 9% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (14 deer).

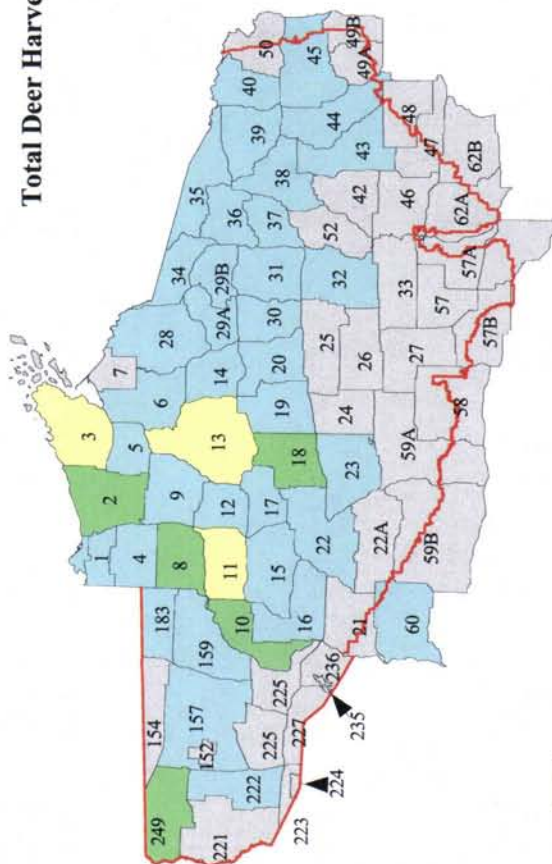
**Table 3b.** Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	FAWN BUCK	FAWN DOE	TOTAL
152	0	0	0	1	1
154	0	0	1	0	1
156	3	3	1	1	8
157	6	6	2	1	15
159	12	5	3	2	22
183	3	3	1	0	7
221	0	0	0	0	0
222	7	5	1	1	14
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	27	40	9	7	83
St. Croix S. P.	1	3	3	1	8
Wild River S. P.	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	59	65	21	14	159

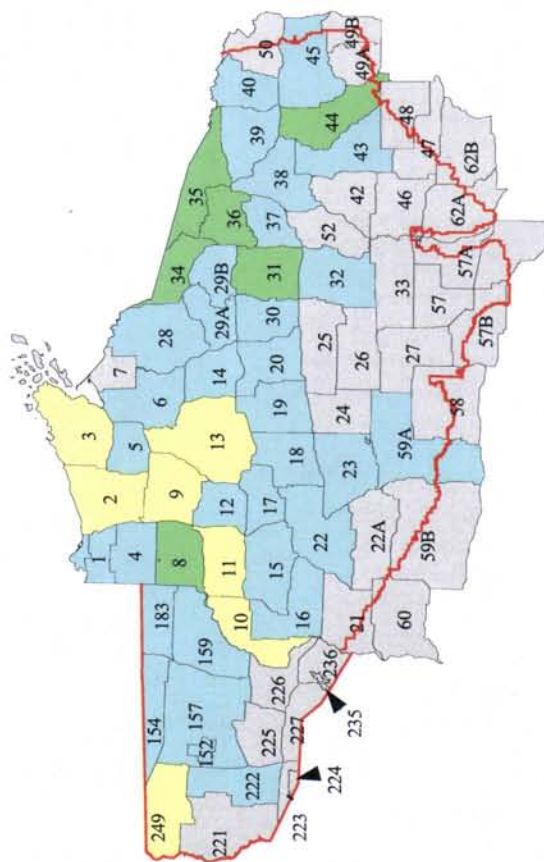
\*\* Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.



**Total Deer Harvest, 2010**



**Antlered Deer Harvest, 2010**



**Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2010**

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 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 21 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,152 deer or 80% 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: Burnett, Bayfield, Douglas, Sawyer, Vilas, Washburn and Oneida (Figure 5). The list of more heavily harvested counties was 1 more than in 2009.

**Table 4a.** Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	11	25	0	36
Barron	4	2	0	6
Bayfield	90	109	0	199
Burnett	147	154	0	301
Chippewa	3	1	0	4
Douglas	77	82	0	159
Eau Claire	0	0	0	0
Florence	1	15	0	16
Forest	31	61	0	92
Iron	11	18	0	29
Langlade	1	8	0	9
Lincoln	2	6	0	8
Marathon	0	1	0	1
Marinette	1	2	0	3
Oneida	40	60	0	100
Polk	7	2	0	9
Price	16	23	0	39
Rusk	25	10	0	35
Sawyer	74	71	0	145
St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Vilas	51	94	0	145
Washburn	41	62	0	103
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Totals	634	806	0	1,440



## Deer Harvest by County

### Minnesota

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 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ADULT DOES	BUCK FAWN	DOE FAWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	4	6	3	1	14
Chisago	0	0	0	0	0
Crow Wing	0	2	0	0	2
Mille Lacs	30	44	10	8	92
Morrison	10	5	1	2	18
Pine	13	8	6	3	30
Unknown*	2	0	1	0	3
Totals	59	65	21	14	159

\* Schrage (2010) did not report county of harvest, except for St. Croix State Park (Pine County).

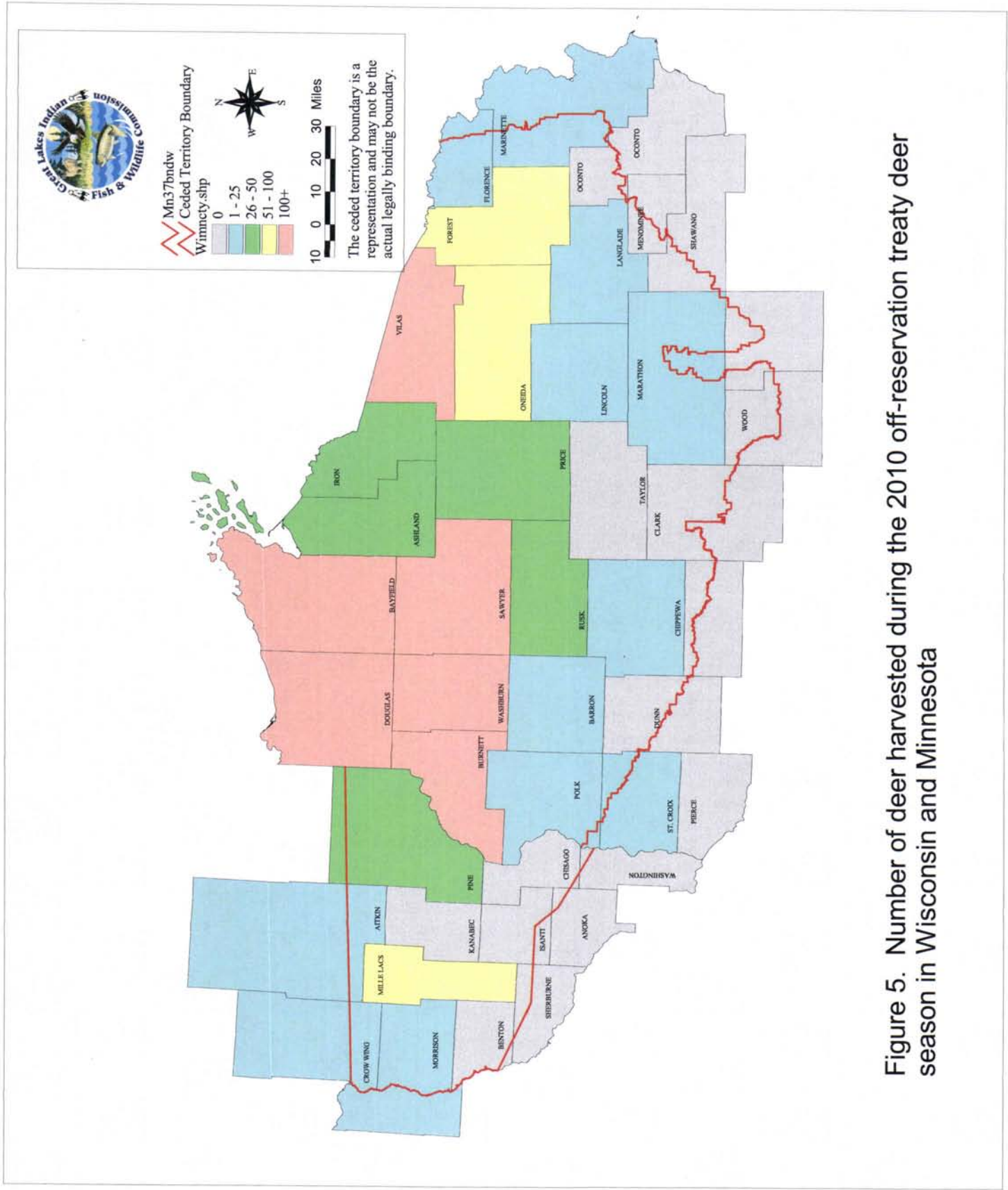


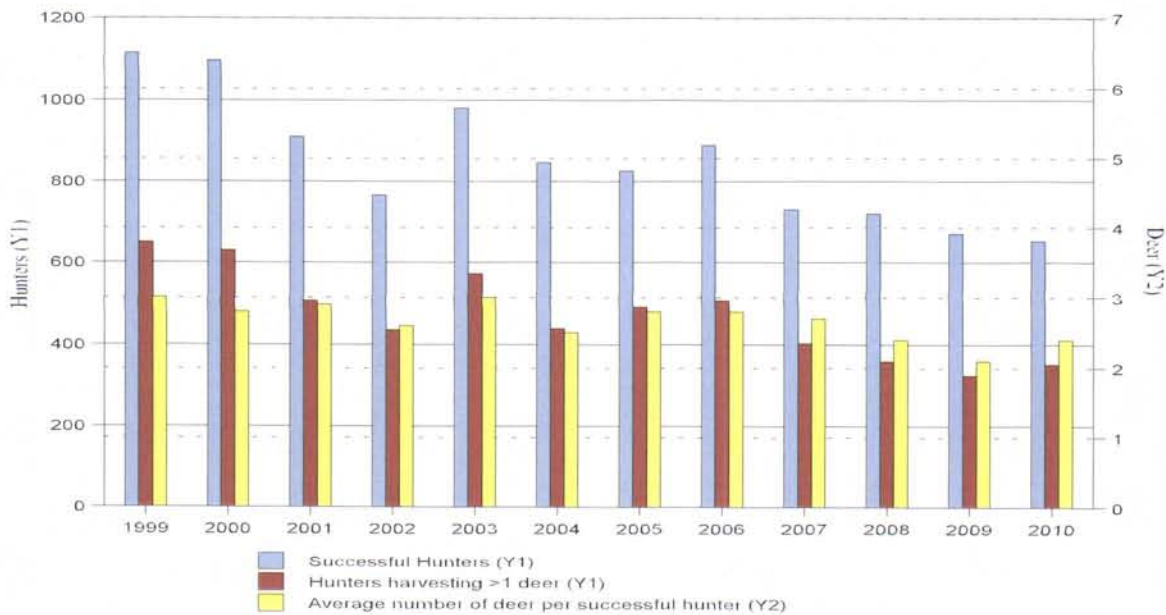
Figure 5. Number of deer harvested during the 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin and Minnesota

## 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 671 in 2009 to 653 in 2010 (Table 5 and Figure 6). The number of hunters who shot more than 1 deer increased from 324 (2009 ) to 351 in 2010. The mean number of deer shot per successful hunter increased from 2.1 (2009) to 2.4 in 2010. Two of the three measures of success improved in 2010 over the 2009 season.

**Table 5 and Figure 6.** Trends for 3 measures of deer hunting success from 1999 through 2010.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of Successful Hunters	1,115	1,101	910	766	980	847	826	889	731	720	671	653
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	649	629	513	435	572	438	491	507	402	358	324	351
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.4





During the 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season 53% 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 2010 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	308	47.2%	308
2	157	24.0%	314
3	64	9.8%	192
4	59	9.0%	236
5	26	4.0%	130
6	9	1.4%	54
7	7	1.1%	49
8	7	1.1%	56
9	4	0.6%	36
10	3	0.5%	30
11	2	0.3%	22
13	1	0.2%	13
14	2	0.3%	28
15	1	0.2%	15
17	1	0.2%	17
18	1	0.2%	18
20	1	0.2%	20
22	1	0.2%	22
30	1	0.2%	30
TOTALS	653	100%	1,590

## Deer Harvest by Season

The percent of the harvest that occurred during the middle season was greater than the percent of the days available to hunting during that season (Table 7), the pattern observed since 1984 for both the early and middle seasons, except in 2004. In 2010 the percent of the harvest and percent of the season were equal for the early season. The late season typically has a low harvest (especially compared to the length of time available). The percent of the harvest occurring during the late season increased from 5% in 2008 to 9% in 2009 and remained at 9% for 2010. The majority of harvest typically occurs during the early season and in 2010, 67% 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 2010 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. 7 - Nov. 19	1070	67%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 20 - Nov. 28	376	24%	8%
Late Season Nov. 29 - Jan 12	143	9%	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 Threshold Calculation by Deer Management Unit Wisconsin

Table 8a shows the calculation of the tribal threshold value based on the 2010 harvests by both state and tribal hunters. In those cases with a zero gun quota established for 2010 the Youth, Military and First-Time hunter antlerless deer harvests were added. For those units with a state gun harvest, it was impossible to separate out those special license types, thus they were included in the State-Gun Harvest total. For those units with no bow antlerless deer harvest, the predicted bow-antlerless harvest was used. If the tribal harvest exceeds the threshold value then a harvest declaration is required for that unit in 2011. No tribal harvest exceeded the threshold value and thus no tribal declaration is needed for 2011.

**Table 8a.** Calculation of threshold value for the 2011 tribal deer season.

Unit	Tribal Harvest	State-Gun Harvest	State-Bow(or predicted bow)	Youth, Military and Other	Threshold Value
01	3	438	126		192
02	59	2225	424		758
03	69	139	121		142
04	7	126	113		132
05	16	na	na	na	0
06	25	126	270		289
08	33	2177	417		744
09	54	1010	239		391
10	61	1932	497		787
11	67	2174	411		737
12	25	1568	250		485
13	54	24	281	30	315
14	4	101	137		152
15	9	4412	695		1,357
16	2	3421	604		1,117
17	8	949	134		276
18	8	552	225		308
19	10	313	207		254
20	5	219	226		259
21	0	2010	451		753
22	1	1950	449		742
22A	0	3498	402		927
23	2	1512	403		630
24	0	740	323		434
25	0	1040	308		464
26	0	1227	542		726



Unit	Tribal Harvest	State-Gun Harvest	State-Bow(or predicted bow)	Youth, Military and Other	Threshold Value
27	0	1835	434		709
28	5	0	148	25	173
29A	9	0	95	12	107
29B	8	0	48	8	56
30	14	123	150		168
31	38	493	423		497
32	6	307	387		433
33	0	1151	344		517
34	30	0	96	8	104
35	35	0	231	36	267
36	26	0	374	31	405
37	12	0	218	35	253
38	12	0	289	35	324
39	11	0	95	16	111
40	18	143	229		250
42	0	0	214	34	248
43	14	0	177	30	207
44	30	0	159	42	201
45	15	0	283	62	345
46	0	469	385		455
47	0	1466	611		831
48	0	na	na	na	0
49A	0	0	151	33	184
49B	0	703	271		376
50	0	1766	314		579
52	0	0	237	40	277
57	0	980	375		522
57A	0	1932	439		729
57B	0	2321	503		851
57C	0	2362	570		924
58	0	2897	688		1,123
59A	1	2187	687		1,015
59B	0	2485	771		1,144
62A	0	713	471		578
62B	0	3458	1298		1,817
78	0	38	8		14
79	0	0	0	0	0

## Summary of Threshold Comparison 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 long as tribal harvest remains below the threshold value. 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). 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.

The tribal harvest in all permit areas was below the threshold level and thus there is no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota for 2011. Permit area 249 had the highest antlerless deer harvest in 2010 followed by permit area 159.

**Table 8b.** The tribal antlerless deer threshold and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2010 treaty deer season in Minnesota by permit area.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest*	Antlerless Deer Threshold
152	1	25
154	1	100
156	5	100
157	9	100
159	10	100
183	4	100
221	0	100
222	7	100
223	0	100
224	0	25
225	0	100
227	0	100
235	0	25
236	0	100
249	56	100
Totals	93	1275

\* Includes harvest by Fond du Lac, reported by Schrage (2010).

## 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 2010 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 587 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2010 (Table 9), a decline of 172 hunters from the 2009 level (Gilbert 2010). There were 33 successful bear hunters in 2009 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 hunters during the 2010 off-reservation treaty bear hunting season in Wisconsin.

<b>Tribe of Enrollement</b>	<b>Number of Hunters</b>	<b>Number of Successful Hunters</b>	<b>Percent Successful Hunters</b>
Bad River	158	10	6%
Lac Courte Oreilles	8	0	0%
Lac du Flambeau	230	5	2%
Mille Lacs	8	0	0%
Mole Lake	48	2	4%
Red Cliff	59	15	25%
St. Croix	76	1	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6%</b>



## Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 33 bears were harvested during the 2010 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), a decline of 6 bears from 2009 (Gilbert 2010). During each of the 14 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 2010.

**Table 10.** The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2010 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	8	2	10
Fond du Lac*	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	2	3	5
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	2	0	2
Red Cliff	8	7	15
St. Croix	0	1	1
Totals	20	13	33

\*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 25 bears (15 males, 10 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 7 bears (5 males, 2 females) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). As with deer, the need for harvest quotas is obviated if the harvest level was below the established threshold value (15% of state harvest). No tribal harvest exceeded the threshold value for any bear management zone, thus no tribal quota will be required for the 2011 season.

**Table 11.** The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2010 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	2	2	1	3
	3	5	4	9
	5	0	1	1
	6	1	0	1
	8	2	1	3
	11	1	1	2
	13	1	1	2
	28	1	1	2
	30	1	0	1
	Unknown	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>		15	10	25
Zone B	38	1	1	2
	39	2	0	2
	40	0	1	1
	44	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>		5	2	7
Unknown		0	1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		20	13	33





## Harvest by County

The 2010 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.

**Table 12.** The sex distribution and total number of bears harvested by County in Wisconsin during the 2010 off-reservation treaty bear season.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	2	0	2
Bayfield	6	5	11
Burnett	1	1	2
Douglas	3	2	5
Florence	0	1	1
Forest	4	0	4
Iron	2	1	3
Oneida	1	1	2
Price	1	0	1
Sawyer	1	1	2
Totals	21	12	33

### **Literature Cited**

- Falck, M. 2011. Results of the off reservation treaty wawashkishi (deer) and makwa (bear) hunting seasons in Michigan. Administrative Report Number 11-5. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI.
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