



Results of the 2011 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 2011 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 2011 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 (2012) 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 (2012).

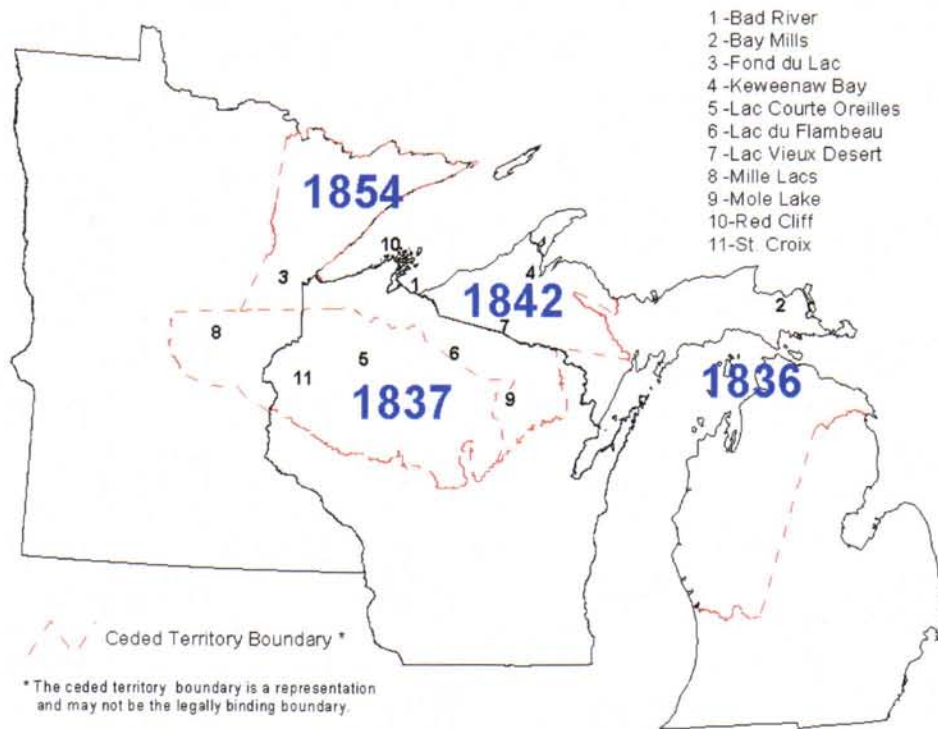


Figure 1. Location of the GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

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 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 (8th Circuit) decision and subsequent wildlife management plans. In Wisconsin, these rules resulted in a season which was 125 days long starting September 6 and ending January 8, 2012. In Minnesota, hunting started on September 7 and ended on December 31, 2011. Hunting was permitted with either a bow or a gun in both states.

In 2011, 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 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 (Figure 1) 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 2011.

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.

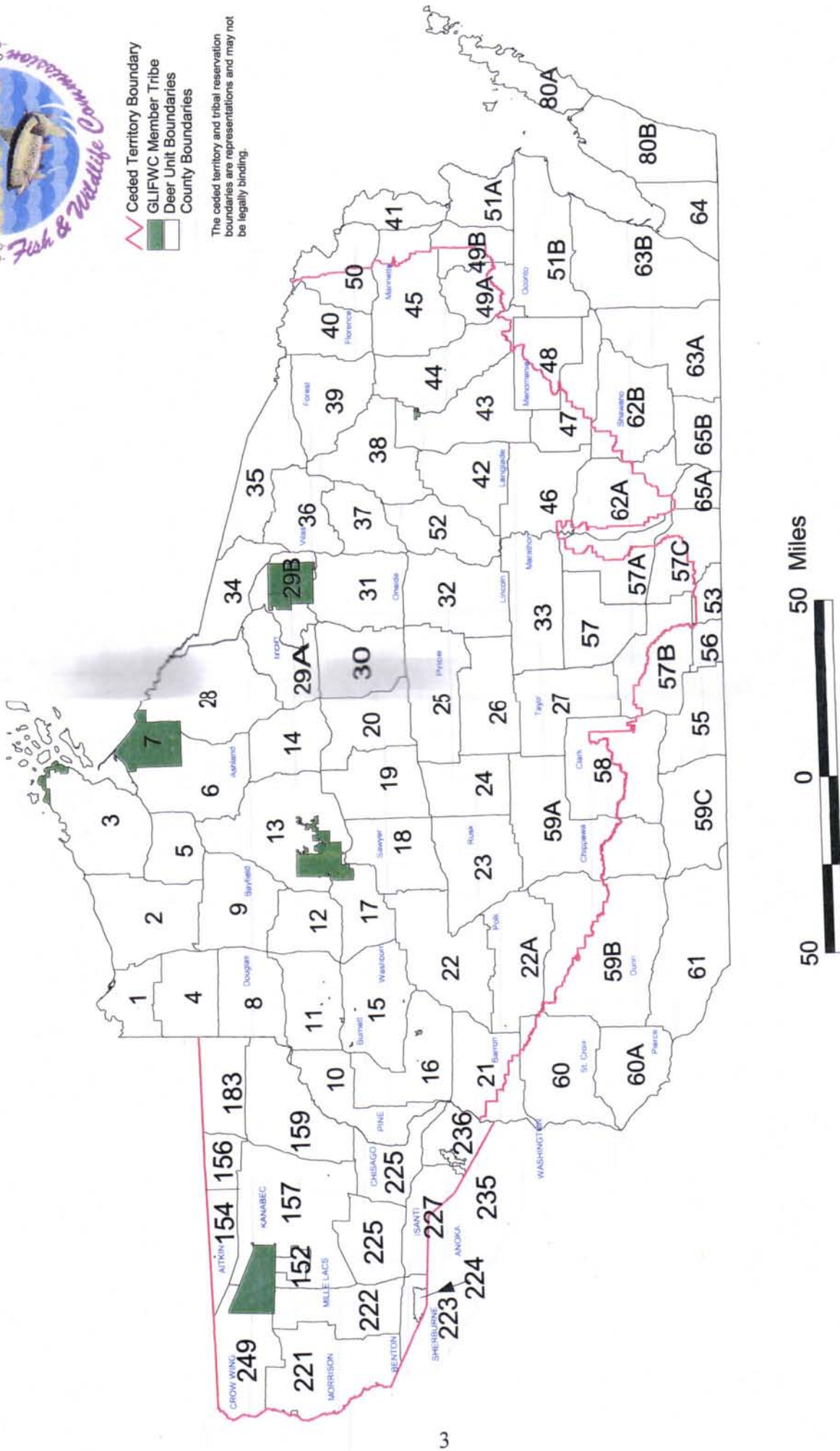


Figure 2. Location of Deer Management Units in the ceded territory of Wisconsin and Minnesota

Deer Hunting Results

Carcass tags were issued to 2,207 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 2011 (Table 1, Figure 3) was 233 more than the number of deer hunters in 2010 (1,974, Gilbert 2011). The number of successful hunters in 2011 (576) was 77 hunters fewer than in 2010 (653). The resulting harvest success rate declined from 33% in 2010 to 26% in 2011.

Table 1. The distribution of carcass tags and hunter success during the 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season.

TRIBE OF ENROLLMENT	DEER HUNTERS	SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL
Bad River	353	99	28.0
Lac Courte Oreilles	677	152	22.5
Lac du Flambeau	356	120	33.7
Mille Lacs	162	40	24.7
Mole Lake	156	35	22.4
Red Cliff	361	95	26.3
St. Croix	142	35	24.6
Totals	2,207	576	26.1

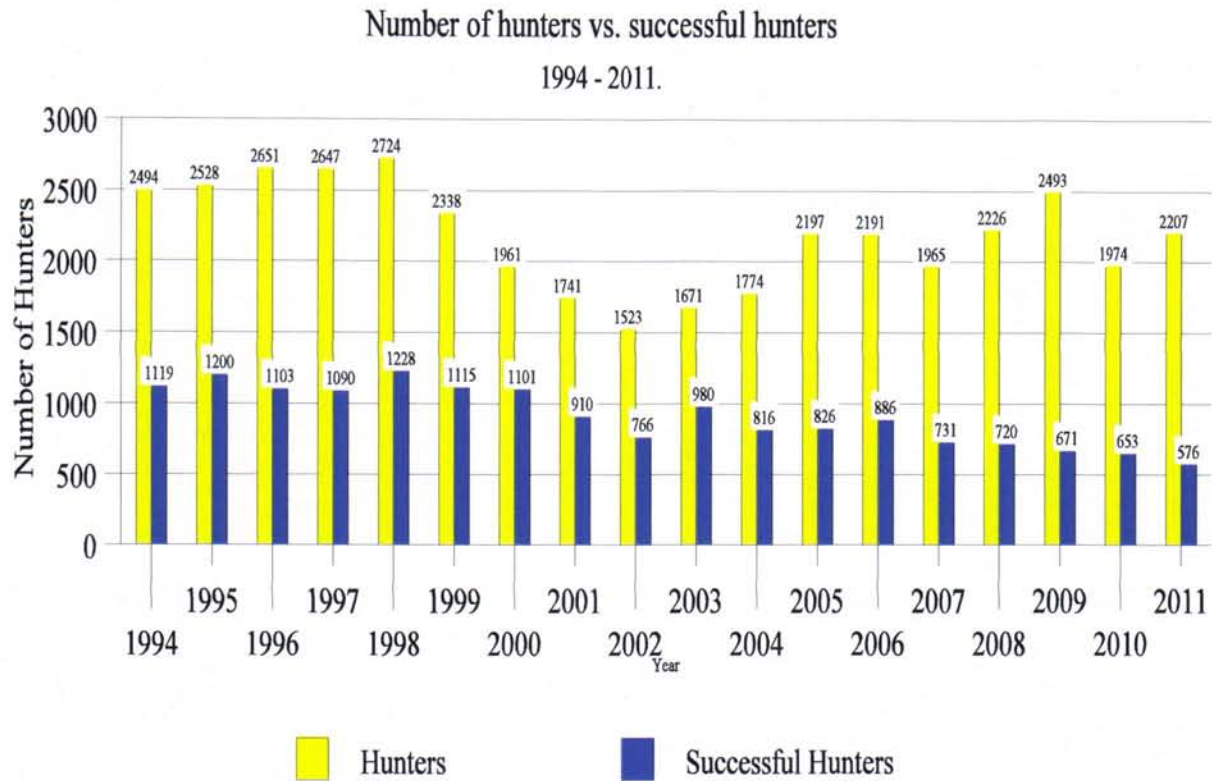


Figure 3. The number of hunters and successful hunters during off-reservation treaty deer hunting seasons from 1994 - 2011.

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 with 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 for 2011 as the 2010 tribal harvest fell below the harvest threshold value (see Table 9). Tribal hunters shot 512 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 874 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns) for a total harvest of 1,387 deer (Table 2a). This harvest represents a 10% decrease from the 2010 harvest of 1,440 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%. In 2011, the percent adult bucks declined to 37%.

Table 2a. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

STATION	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL
Bad River	57	49	0	106
Fond du Lac*	14	15	0	29
Lac Courte Oreilles	113	186	0	299
Lac du Flambeau	94	296	1	391
Lac Vieux Desert	0	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	5	2	0	7
Mole Lake	69	142	0	211
Red Cliff	71	77	0	148
St. Croix	84	100	0	184
Warden Registration	5	7	0	12
Totals	512	874	1	1,387

*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 90 deer harvested in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory were registered by tribal members at the Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Lac Courte Oreilles deer registration stations or by field wardens (Table 2b). This harvest was 69 deer fewer than harvest in 2010 (159 deer) in the 1837 ceded territory (Gilbert 2011).

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 2011, the threshold number was not exceeded for any permit area (see Table 8b for threshold analysis).

Table 2b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 2011 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	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Fond du Lac*	9	22	0	31
Mille Lacs	23	18	1	42
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	1	0	1
Warden Registration	4	12	0	16
Totals	36	53	1	90

* Harvest figures for Fond du Lac members were from Schrage (2012).

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

Wisconsin

Although deer harvest was distributed among 43 of the 65 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory of Wisconsin (Table 3a, Figure 4), 1,092 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 more than in 2010.

Since 1991, the number of deer management units with large harvests (>100 deer) has ranged between 4 and 12 units. In 2011 there was only 1 unit with greater than 100 deer harvested (Unit 3). Typically the units with harvests greater than 100 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 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
01	4	3	0	7
02	21	45	0	66
03	85	89	0	174
04	6	2	0	8
05	23	26	0	49
06	15	7	0	22
08	20	30	0	50
09	13	43	0	56
10	24	20	0	44
11	29	47	0	76
12	12	18	0	30
13	39	58	0	97
14	2	4	0	6
15	13	11	0	24
16	2	0	0	2
17	4	6	0	10
18	17	12	0	29
19	2	1	0	3
20	1	0	0	1
21	1	0	0	1
22	1	1	0	2
22 A	0	0	0	0
23	9	4	0	13
24	0	0	0	0
25	0	7	0	7
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0
28	7	6	0	13
29A	3	8	0	11
29B	13	33	0	46
30	6	21	0	27

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UNIT	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTAL DEER
31	10	22	0	32
32	0	5	0	5
33	0	3	0	3
34	8	35	0	43
35	20	65	0	85
36	21	55	0	76
37	6	22	0	28
38	4	13	0	17
39	12	24	0	36
40	3	29	0	32
42	3	11	0	14
43	4	6	0	10
44	38	62	0	100
45	10	17	0	27
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	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	2	0	2
59B	0	0	0	0
60	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	1	0	1	2
Totals	512	874	1	1,387

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

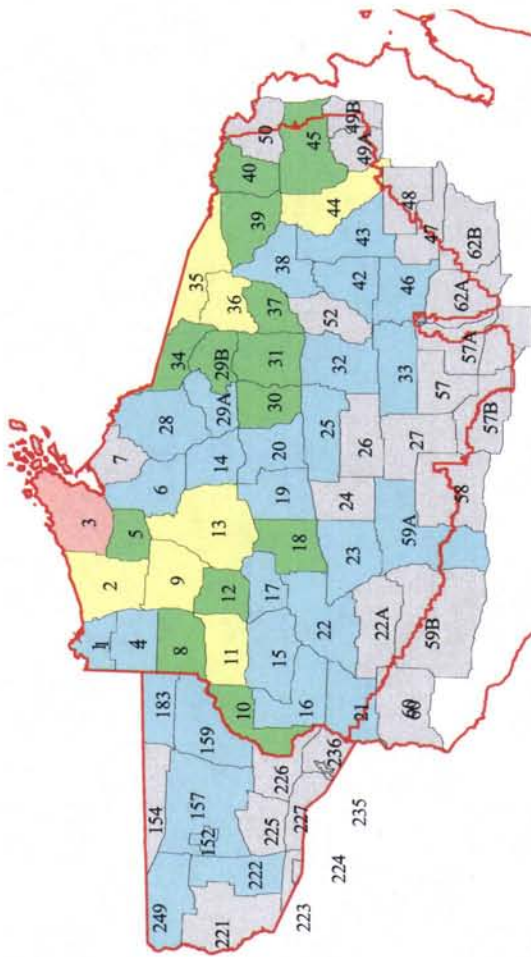
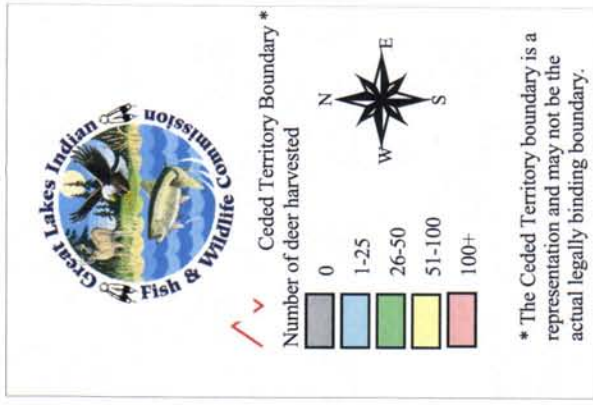
Minnesota

Fifteen deer permit areas, and two state parks, are either partially or entirely in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. A total of 90 deer were harvested by tribal members from 7 of those permit areas and in 1 state park in 2011 (Table 3b, Figure 4). The majority of the deer harvested (57 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 30% of the harvested deer came from the more southern permit areas (30 deer).

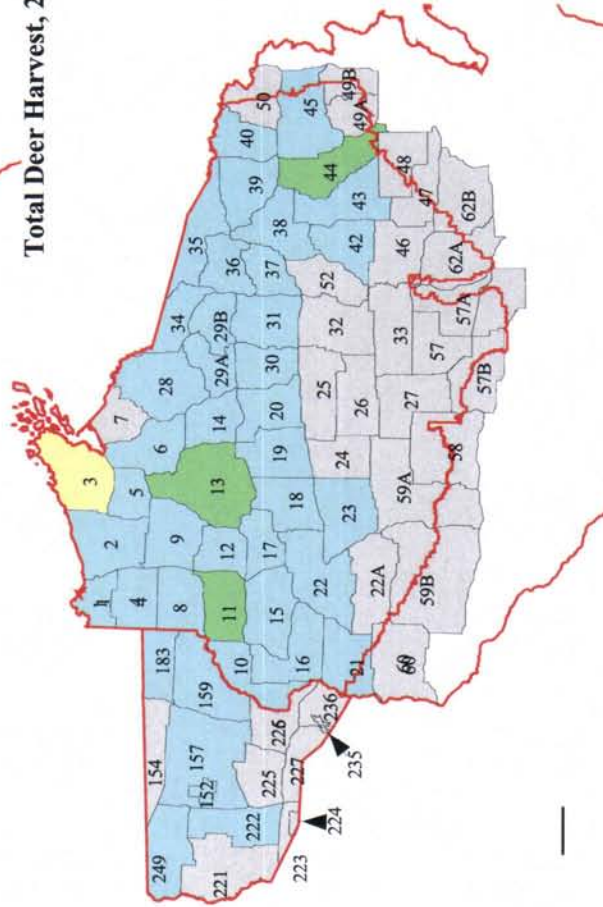
Table 3b. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Minnesota during the 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer permit area.

UNIT**	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
152	2	4	0	6
154	0	0	0	0
156	2	6	0	8
157	5	3	0	8
159	1	1	0	2
183	3	8	0	11
221	0	0	0	0
222	8	10	0	18
223	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0
227	0	0	0	0
235	0	0	0	0
236	0	0	0	0
249	10	11	1	22
St. Croix S. P.	0	0	0	0
Wild River S. P.	4	8	0	12
Unknown	1	2	0	3
Totals	36	53	1	90

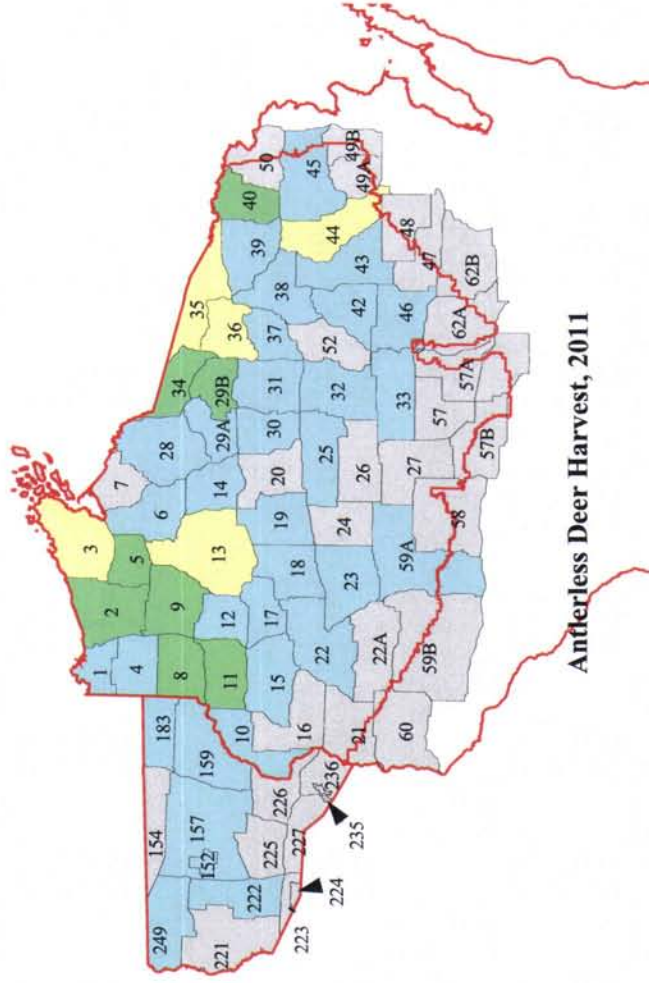
** Unit numbers starting with the digit 1 are in the northern part of the ceded territory while those starting with the digit 2 are mostly in the southern part of the ceded territory.



Total Deer Harvest, 2011



Antlered Deer Harvest, 2011



Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2011

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 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season was distributed among 19 counties in Wisconsin (Table 4a). However, 1,015 deer or 73% of the total Wisconsin tribal harvest occurred in the 6 counties where harvest was greater than 100 deer. These counties were in declining order of harvest: Bayfield, Vilas, Burnett, Forest, Douglas/Sawyer (Figure 5). The list of more heavily harvested counties was 1 less than in 2010.

Table 4a. Number of antlered, antlerless and total deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN DEER	TOTALS
Ashland	11	6	0	17
Barron	1	2	0	3
Bayfield	128	135	0	263
Burnett	79	81	0	160
Chippewa	6	3	0	9
Douglas	32	72	0	104
Florence	3	25	0	28
Forest	56	102	0	158
Iron	13	31	0	44
Langlade	8	18	0	26
Lincoln	0	7	0	7
Marinette	3	7	0	10
Oneida	20	57	0	77
Polk	7	3	0	10
Price	11	30	0	41
Rusk	18	16	0	34
Sawyer	40	64	0	104
Vilas	56	169	1	226
Washburn	20	46	0	66
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Totals	512	874	1	1,387

Deer Harvest by County

Minnesota

Mille Lacs County had the most deer registered (Table 4b, Figure 5) followed by Morrison 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 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

COUNTY	ANTLERED DEER	ANTLERLESS DEER	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
Aitkin	1	2	0	3
Mille Lacs	17	18	1	36
Morrison	8	9	0	17
Pine	1	2	0	3
Unknown*	9	22	0	31
Totals	36	53	1	90

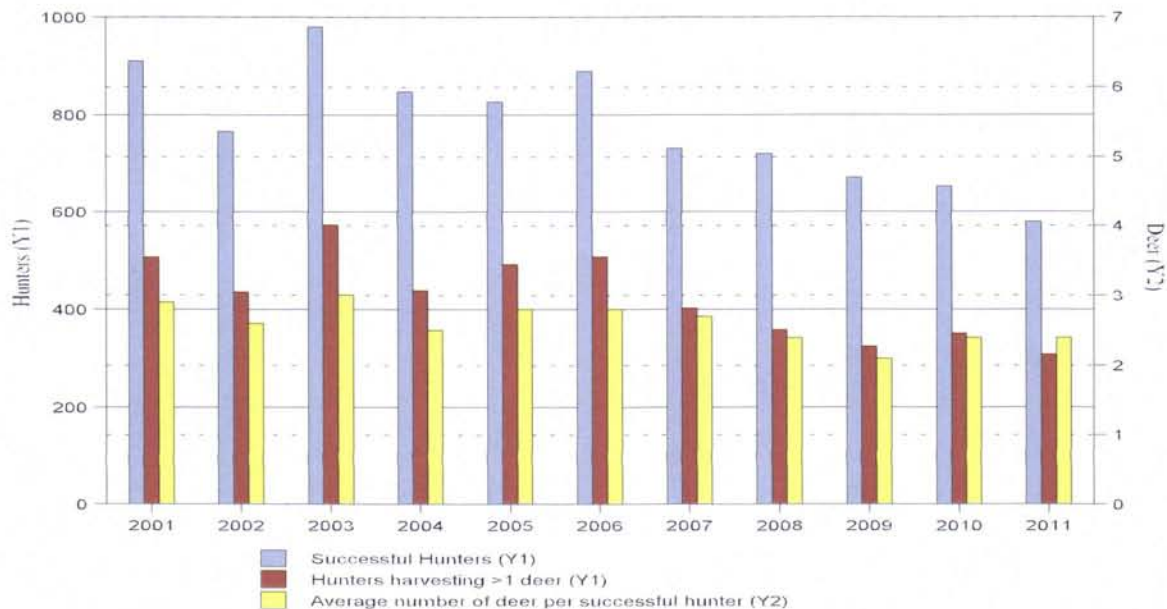
* Schrage (2010) did not report county of harvest.

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 653 in 2010 to 579 in 2011 (Table 5 and Figure 6). The number of hunters who shot more than 1 deer decreased from 351 (2010) to 308 in 2011. The mean number of deer shot per successful hunter remained the same at 2.4 in 2010 and 2011. Two of the three measures of success declined in 2011 over the 2010 season.

Table 5 and Figure 6. Trends for 3 measures of deer hunting success from 2001 through 2011.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012
Number of Successful Hunters	910	766	980	847	826	889	731	720	671	653	579
Number of Hunters who Shot > 1 Deer	513	435	572	438	491	507	402	358	324	351	308
Mean Number of Deer Shot per Successful Hunter	2.9	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.4



During the 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season 53% of successful hunters shot more than 1 deer while 18 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 2011 off-reservation treaty deer season.

NUMBER OF DEER	NUMBER OF HUNTERS	PERCENT OF HUNTERS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEER
1	271	46.8%	271
2	129	22.3%	258
3	81	14.0%	243
4	31	5.4%	124
5	27	4.7%	135
6	7	1.2%	42
7	6	1.0%	42
8	5	0.9%	40
9	4	0.7%	36
10	2	0.3%	20
11	7	1.2%	77
12	1	0.2%	12
13	5	0.9%	65
16	2	0.3%	32
21	1	0.2%	21
TOTALS	579	100%	1,418

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 that season (Table 7), the pattern observed since 1984, except in 2004 and in 2010. 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 9% in 2010 to 13% in 2011. The majority of harvest typically occurs during the early season and in 2011, 71% 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 2011 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	1,077	71%	67%
Middle Season Nov. 20 - Nov. 28	240	16%	8%
Late Season Nov. 29 - Jan 12	198	13%	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 2011 harvests by both state and tribal hunters. The threshold value is calculated by taking 15% of the state 9 day gun antlerless harvest plus the bow antlerless harvest (or the predicted bow antlerless harvest in the case where the state restricted bow hunting to bucks only) plus any other antlerless harvest not restricted by a quota, such as youth hunt or military. The state tracks the number of deer shot in youth hunts, but does not separate military or disabled permits from other gun harvests. In those cases where there was a zero gun quota, all of the gun harvest would be attributed to either youth, military or disabled hunters and was thus added in the column so designated. For all other units it was not possible to separate these harvests. But this had no impact on the conclusions of the threshold analysis.

If the tribal harvest exceeds the threshold value then a harvest declaration is required for that unit in 2012. For 2011 no unit surpassed the calculated threshold value and thus there will be no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota in 2012.

Table 8a. Calculation of threshold value for the 2012 tribal deer season.

Unit	2011 Tribal Harvest	2011 State-Gun Antlerless Harvest	2011 State-Bow(or predicted bow)	2011 Youth, Military and Other	Threshold Value for 2012
01	3	232	112	1	148
02	45	1,404	401	35	647
03	89	0	180	113	293
04	2	522	213	10	301
05	26	0	0	0	0
06	7	764	293	20	428
08	30	777	348	17	482
09	43	807	322	21	464
10	20	1,354	540	31	774
11	47	1,002	380	25	555
12	18	754	198	6	317
13	58	705	268	11	385
14	4	280	144	15	201
15	11	2,393	596	48	1,003
16	0	1,774	478	23	767
17	6	778	161	15	293
18	12	1,176	304	19	499
19	1	931	326	37	503
20	0	673	308	31	440
21	0	1,346	448	36	686
22	1	1,750	428	44	735
22A	0	2,371	453	59	868

Unit	2011 Tribal Harvest	2011 State-Gun Antlerless Harvest	2011 State-Bow(or predicted bow)	2011 Youth, Military and Other	Threshold Value for 2012
23	4	1,549	542	49	823
24	0	705	246	39	391
25	7	917	408	43	589
26	0	1,004	574	46	771
27	0	1,572	472	33	741
28	6	461	149	19	237
29A	8	244	128	6	171
29B	33	0	68	39	107
30	21	297	177	12	234
31	22	504	391	16	483
32	5	617	451	28	572
33	3	1,569	589	55	879
34	35	0	98	434	532
35	65	0	558	118	676
36	55	0	442	836	1,278
37	22	665	513	14	627
38	13	774	520	27	663
39	24	0	108	78	186
40	29	787	433	25	576
42	11	613	290	39	421
43	6	552	309	22	414
44	62	148	30	10	62
45	17	190	32	31	92
46	1	1,427	612	49	875
47	0	1,168	506	43	724
48	0	0	0	0	0
49A	0	260	310	19	368
49B	0	629	277	10	381
50	0	1,286	512	40	745
52	0	618	330	22	445
57	0	1,019	278	31	462
57A	0	1,588	498	40	776
57B	0	1,899	573	52	910
57C	0	1,594	569	46	854
58	0	2,771	817	56	1,289
59A	2	1,563	590	53	877
59B	0	3,406	970	45	1,526
62A	0	2,496	844	73	1,291
62B	0	3,270	1,509	80	2,080
78	0	23	13	0	16
79	0	0	0	0	0

Summary of Threshold Comparison by Permit Area

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 was no need for a tribal declaration or tribal quota for 2012. Permit area 249 had the highest antlerless deer harvest in 2011 followed by permit area 183.

Table 8b. The tribal antlerless deer threshold and the number of antlerless deer harvested during the 2011 treaty deer season in Minnesota by permit area.

Permit Area	Antlerless Deer Harvest*	Antlerless Deer Threshold
152	4	25
154	0	100
156	6	100
157	3	100
159	1	100
183	8	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	11	100
Totals	43	1275

* Includes harvest by Fond du Lac, reported by Schrage (2011).

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 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 2011 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 586 tribal members obtained a permit to hunt bears in 2011 (Table 9), a decline of 1 hunter from the 2010 level (Gilbert 2011). There were 22 successful bear hunters in 2011 or 4% 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 2011 off-reservation treaty bear hunting season in Wisconsin.

Tribe of Enrollement	Number of Hunters	Number of Successful Hunters	Percent Successful Hunters
Bay Mills	1	1	100%
Bad River	169	6	4%
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	0	--
Lac du Flambeau	126	1	1%
Mille Lacs	7	0	0%
Mole Lake	44	4	9%
Red Cliff	184	8	4%
St. Croix	56	3	5%
Totals	586	22	4%

Harvest by Registration Station

A total of 26 bears were harvested during the 2011 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin (Table 10), a decline of 7 bears from 2010 (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 2011.

Table 10. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2011 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

STATION	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	0	2	2
Fond du Lac*	2	2	4
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	0	0
Lac du Flambeau	3	3	6
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	2	2	4
Red Cliff	5	0	5
St. Croix	2	3	5
Totals	14	12	26

*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 18 bears (9 males, 9 females) were harvested in Zone A plus 8 bears (5 males, 3 females) were harvested in Zone B (Table 11). As with deer, the need for harvest quotas is obviated if the harvest level is 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 2012 season.

Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 2011 off-reservation treaty bear season in bear Zones A and B and in deer management units within these zones.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
A	1	0	1	1
	2	1	1	2
	3	4	1	5
	4	1	0	1
	5	1	0	1
	6	0	1	1
	11	2	3	5
	30	0	1	1
	32	0	1	1
	Unknown	0	0	0
Total		9	9	18
Zone B	37	0	2	2
	38	2	0	2
	39	1	0	1
	42	1	1	2
	44	1	0	1
Total		5	3	8
Unknown		0	0	0
Grand Total		14	12	26

Harvest by County

The 2011 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 8 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 12). The leading county of harvest was Bayfield County followed by Burnett.

Table 12. The sex distribution and total number of bears harvested by County in Wisconsin during the 2011 off-reservation treaty bear season.

County	Male	Female	Total
Bayfield	5	2	7
Burnett	2	3	5
Douglas	2	2	4
Forest	2	0	2
Langlade	2	1	3
Lincoln	0	1	1
Oneida	1	2	3
Price	0	1	1
Totals	14	12	26

Literature Cited

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