



**Results of the 1990 Off-Reservation
Treaty Deer and Bear
Hunting Seasons in Wisconsin**

by

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Introduction

This report presents the results of the 1990 off-reservation treaty hunting seasons for deer and bears in northern Wisconsin in the territories ceded in the Treaties of 1837 and 1842 (Fig. 1). Hunters were members of the six Wisconsin bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe and the Lac Vieux Desert Band. This report does not cover treaty deer and bear hunting in the Minnesota or Michigan ceded territories.

In 1990 tribal regulations in Wisconsin were enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May, 1990 Federal court decision. The season was 116 days long from September 6 to December 31, 1990. The treaty bow hunting season coincided with the treaty gun season.

The permit and registration system first implemented in 1986 was continued in 1990. Each hunter was provided 2 carcass tags and 1 antlerless deer permit with space on the permit to mark off 2 antlerless deer. Each deer killed, regardless of sex or age, was required to be tagged with the carcass tag and registered at a tribal registration station or with a GLIFWC field warden. Hunters could obtain additional carcass tags and antlerless deer permits upon registration of a deer.

In order to shoot an antlerless deer a hunter was required to obtain an antlerless deer permit. Permits were valid for any deer management unit (Fig. 2) which the quota of antlerless deer had not been filled. There was no limit on the number of antlerless permits issued for any unit where less than 75% of the quota had been harvested. After 75% of the quota had been harvested, permits were issued based on demonstrated success rates for that unit. Antlerless deer permits were valid up to 14 days. Upon shooting an antlerless deer the hunter was required to slit the permit to show the unit in which the deer was shot. Antlerless deer permits were surrendered upon registration of an antlerless deer.

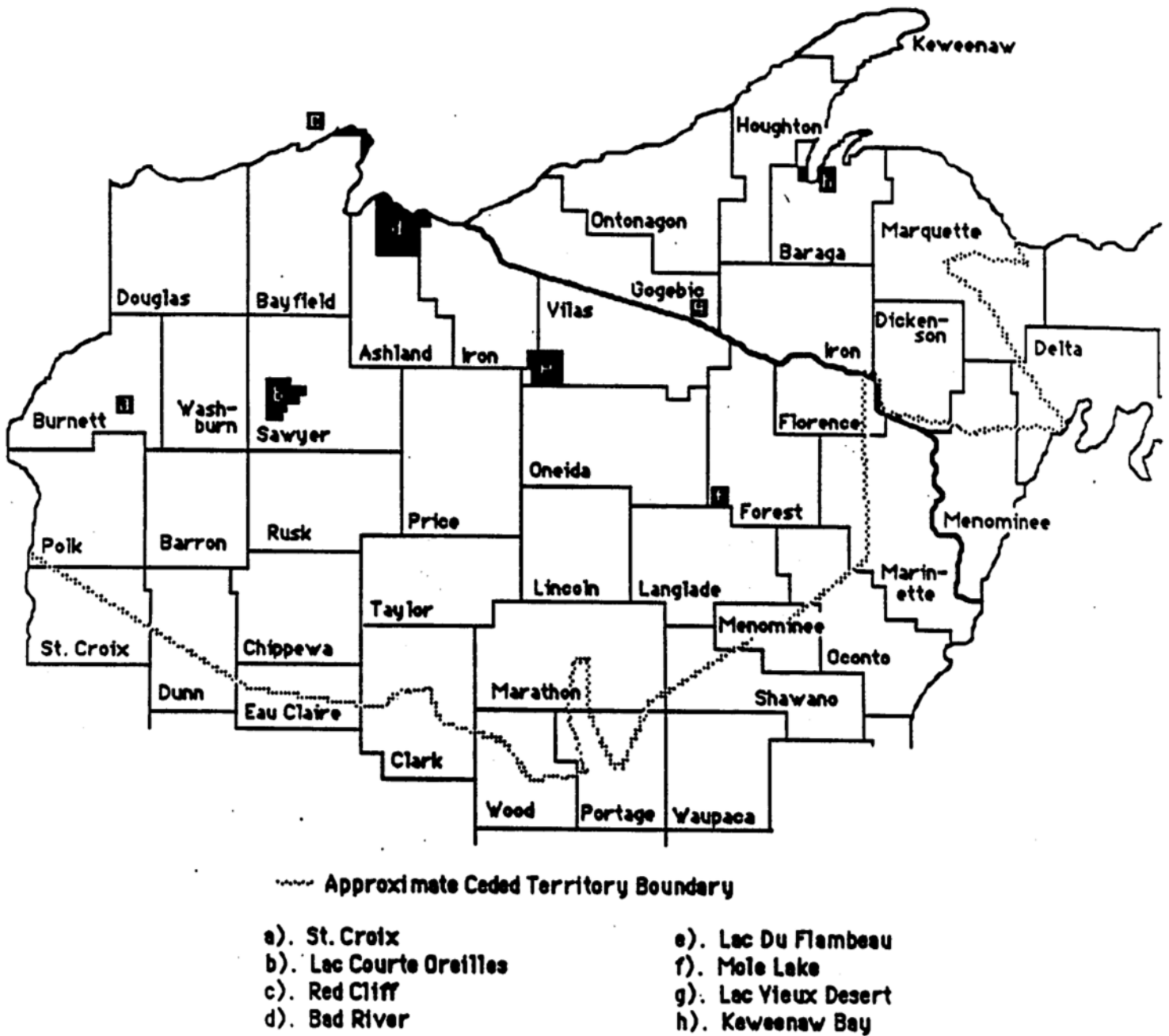


Figure 1. Location of the ceded territory boundary in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin and the location of the Chippewa Indian Reservations and counties within these territories.

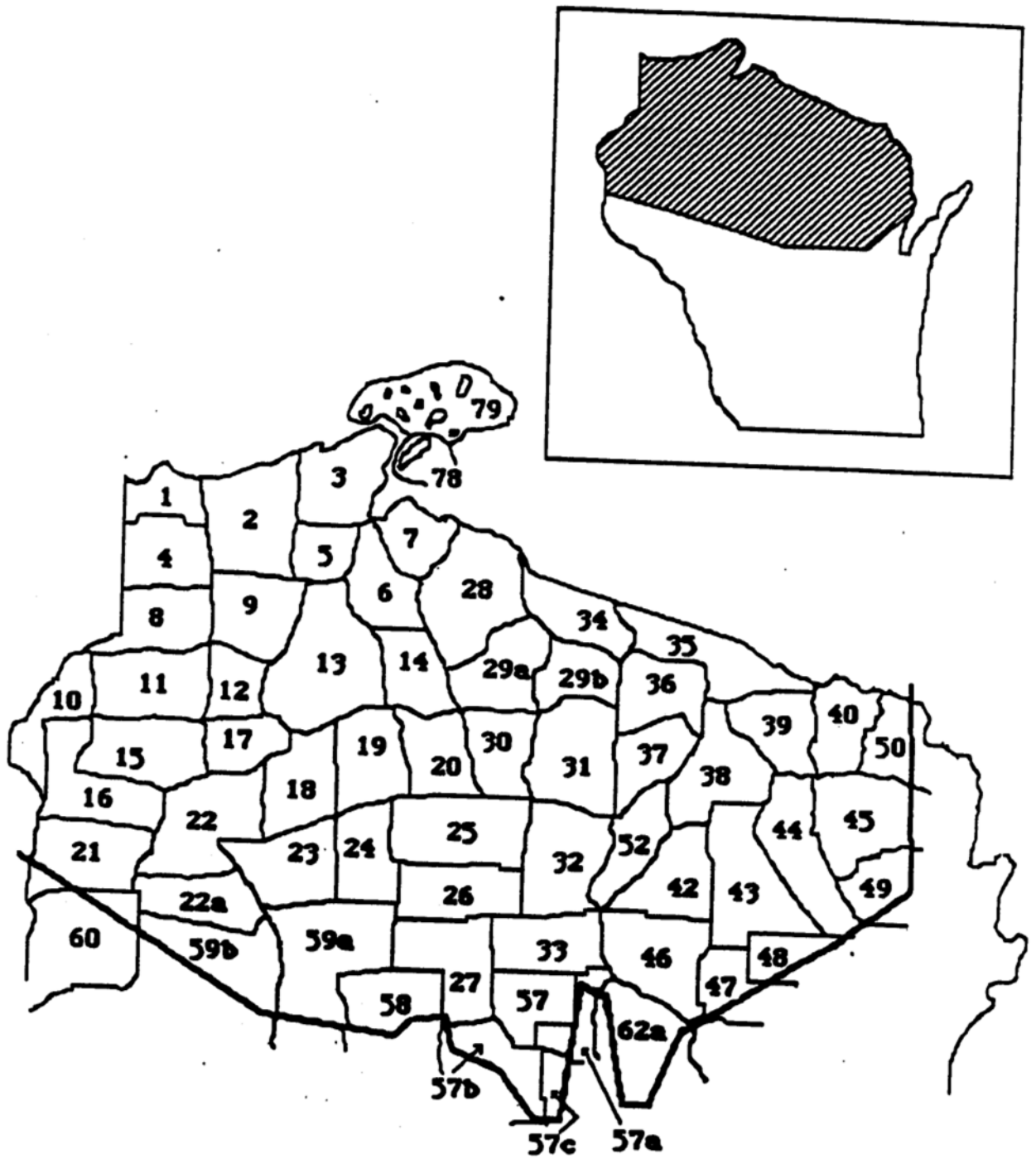


Figure 2. Deer management units within the ceded territory of Wisconsin.

Deer Hunting Results

A total of 9908 carcass tags were issued to 1833 deer hunters (Table 1). Tags were authorized to be issued to any member of the 6 Wisconsin Bands, Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe, and the Lac Vieux Desert Band. The number of hunters in Table 1 indicates the number enrolled in each Band who obtained hunting permits for Wisconsin, regardless of their residence or where the tags were obtained. Tags and permits were issued from the 6 Wisconsin reservations as well as Mille Lacs and Lac Vieux Desert deer registration stations.

The number of hunters declined from 1989 but the number of carcass tags issued and number of successful hunters increased slightly from their 1989 levels. Although it is difficult to predict future trends, it appears as if participation in off-reservation treaty deer hunting has nearly leveled off.

 Table 1. Distribution of carcass tags and hunter success in Wisconsin during the 1989 off-reservation treaty deer hunting season.

Station	Carcass Tags Distributed	Carcass Tags Issued	Number of Hunters	Number (%) Successful Hunters
Bad River	1500	1368	381	182 (47.8)
Lac Courte Oreilles	3000	2472	461	332 (72.0)
Lac du Flambeau	3200	2808	471	290 (61.7)
Lac Vieux Desert	100	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	500	408	38	76 (51.8)
Mole Lake	1500	600	120	54 (45.0)
Red Cliff	1200	1172	268	156 (60.8)
St. Croix	900	1080	94	68 (72.3)
Total	11,900	9908	1833	1158 (63.2)

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Deer Harvest by Registration Station

The tribal deer hunt was an either sex hunt because all hunters could obtain antlerless deer permits. Tribal hunters shot 1101 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 2739 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns of either sex) for a total of 3842 deer (Table 2).

Since 1984, between 25% and 30% of the deer harvested have been antlered deer. Although it varies from unit to unit, approximately 25% of the deer herd is antlered deer. Therefore, tribal members are selecting for bucks slightly above their proportion of abundance.

 Table 2. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 1990 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.

Registration Station	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
Bad River	117	280	0	397
Lac Courte Oreilles	278	652	0	930
Lac du Flambeau	278	929	0	1207
Mille Lacs Band	69	118	0	187
Mole Lake	94	238	0	332
Red Cliff	128	235	1	364
St. Croix	137	287	1	425
Totals	1101 (28.7%)	2739 (71.3%)	2	3842

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Deer Harvest by Management Unit

Treaty harvest exceeded 30 deer in 27 of the 65 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory (Table 3). These heavily harvested units produced 3982 deer, 98.4% of the total. Two units (1 and 18) declined from a total above 30 in 1989 to below 30 in 1990. Three units (17, 28 and 44) increased to above 30 deer in 1990 from below 30 in 1989. Thirteen units sustained a harvest of greater than 100 deer in 1990 (2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 31, 34, 35, 36, and 39). The same units produced more than 100 deer in 1989. The units which sustained the largest harvest were, in declining order, units 2, 5, 3, 35 and 13.

During the past 4 years there have been only minor shifts in the deer harvest pattern between deer management units. The favorite hunting units and the units which sustain the largest harvests remain relatively fixed.

Because harvest patterns are relatively constant, and the number of hunters and the number of deer they shoot are stabilizing, there should be a greater ability to predict the location and level of harvest in future years. This should facilitate the declaration of antlerless deer quotas which are close to the harvest ability of tribal members.

 Table 3. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 1989 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.

Unit	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
1	7	4	4	11
2	99	256	0	355
3	110	156	0	266
4	13	47	0	60
5	64	212	0	276
6	13	13	0	26
7	4	5	0	9
8	54	156	0	210
9	48	129	0	177
10	51	95	0	224
11	92	132	0	224
12	21	56	0	77
13	90	173	0	263
14	5	13	0	18
15	22	48	0	70
16	4	9	0	13
17	8	25	0	33
18	11	15	0	26
19	7	16	0	23

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Table 3. Continued

Unit	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
20	5	14	0	19
21	0	1	0	1
22	0	2	0	2
23	1	5	0	6
25	1	2	0	3
26	2	3	0	5
27	1	0	0	1
28	11	19	0	30
29a	12	24	0	36
29b	14	31	0	45
30	19	80	0	99
31	45	163	0	208
32	8	18	0	26
34	28	70	0	198
35	52	213	0	265
36	41	116	0	157
37	10	48	0	58
38	11	43	0	54
39	40	137	0	177
40	11	38	0	49
42	1	0	0	11
43	5	19	0	24
44	25	59	0	84
45	12	39	0	51
46	0	3	0	3
49A	5	10	0	15
49B	2	1	0	3
50	2	4	0	36
52	0	8	0	8
57a	1	1	0	2
59a	5	3	0	8
78	2	4	0	6
Unknown	0	0	2	2
Total	1101	2739	2	3842

1990 Deer/Bear Harvest Report

Deer Harvest by County

The harvest during the 1989 deer season was distributed among 25 counties of the ceded territory, 1 more than in 1989 (Table 4). However, 3462 deer, or 90.1% of the harvest occurred in 9 counties with a harvest of greater than 100 deer (Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Forest, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Vilas and Washburn). This list of popular harvest counties remains very similar to the list described in past harvest reports and is identical to the 1989 list.

 Table 4. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 1988 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.

County	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
Ashland	21	25	0	46
Barron	12	18	0	30
Bayfield	212	454	0	666
Burnett	179	341	0	520
Chippewa	4	3	0	7
Douglas	134	351	0	485
Eau Claire	1	1	0	1
Florence	12	43	0	55
Forest	67	206	0	273
Iron	17	29	0	46
Langlade	6	7	0	13
Lincoln	7	25	0	32
Marathon	7	4	0	11
Marinette	14	43	0	57
Oconoto	5	7	0	12
Oneida	68	253	0	321
Polk	6	29	0	35
Price	35	121	0	156
Rusk	10	9	0	19
Sawyer	98	207	0	305
St. Croix	0	1	0	1
Taylor	3	3	0	6
Vilas	129	420	0	549
Washburn	53	134	0	187
Unknown	1	5	2	8
Totals	1101	2739	2	3842

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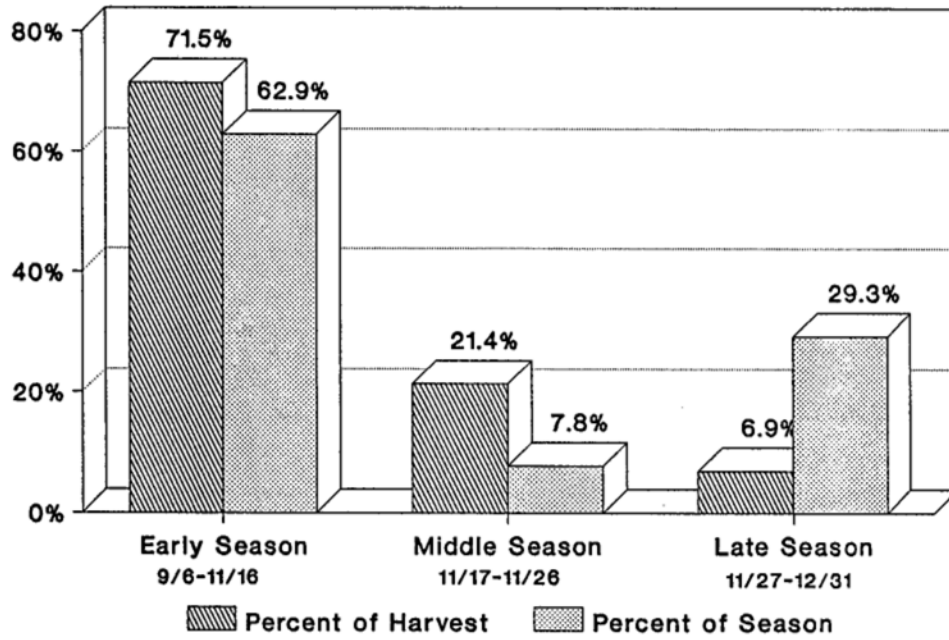
Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful deer hunters increased in 1990 reversing a trend started in 1989. However, those hunters who were successful tended to shoot more deer than in previous years. The number of hunters who shot more than one deer increased from 691 in 1989 to 728 in 1990 (Table 5). However, because fewer hunters shot many deer, the average number of deer shot per successful hunter declined slightly from 3.5 in 1989 to 3.3 in 1990.

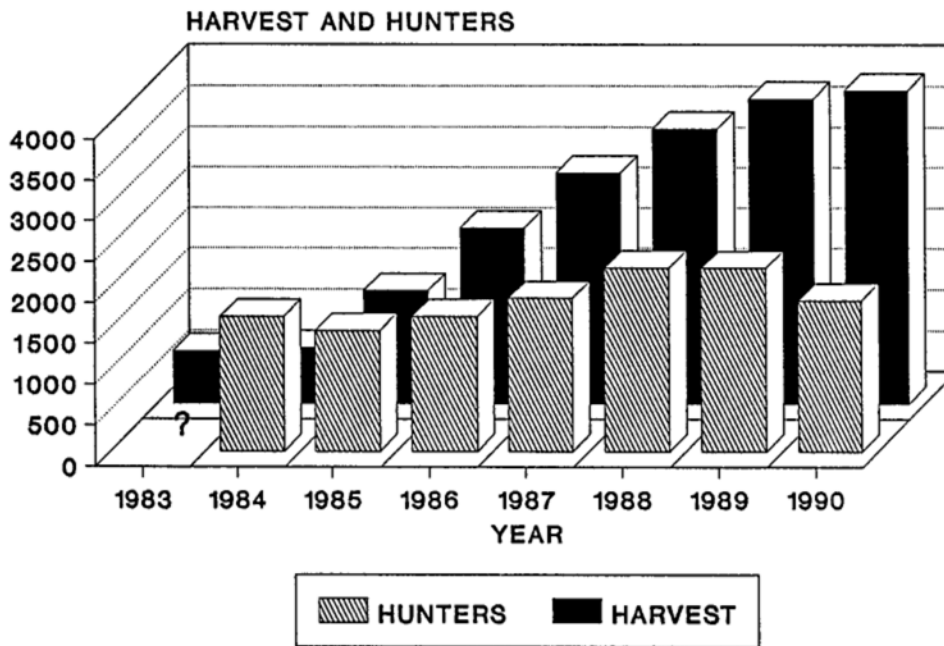
 Table 5. Number of successful hunters and the number of deer they harvested during the 1989 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.

Number of Deer Harvested	Number of Hunters	Percent of Successful Hunters	Total Number of Deer Harvested
1	430	37.1	430
2	246	21.2	492
3	121	10.4	363
4	118	10.2	472
5	59	5.1	295
6	42	3.6	252
7	34	2.9	238
8	24	2.1	192
9	20	1.7	180
10	19	1.6	190
11	8	0.7	88
12	8	0.7	96
14	2	0.2	28
15	3	0.3	45
16	10	0.9	160
17	2	0.2	34
18	1	0.1	18
19	3	0.3	57
21	1	0.1	21
22	1	0.1	22
23	2	0.2	46
24	1	0.1	24
26	1	0.1	26
29	1	0.1	29
44	1	0.1	44
Totals	1158	100.0	3842

1990 Deer Harvest By Season



Tribal Deer Hunters and Deer Harvest Northern Wisconsin 1983-1990



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Deer Harvest by Season

As in the past years, the harvest that occurred during the early and middle portions of the season was disproportionately greater than the amount of hunting time during that portion of the season (Table 6).

The treaty harvest during the middle season was less than in past years in absolute numbers and in percent of total harvest. Conversely, hunters licensed by Wisconsin DNR shot a record number of deer during this time period.

 Table 6. The number of deer harvested, percent of harvest and percent of the season occurring during the early, middle and late portions of the 1990 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.

Portion of Season	Number of Deer Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Season
Early Season			
Sept. 6 - Nov. 16	2749	71.5	62.9
Middle Season			
Nov. 17 - Nov. 26	822	21.4	7.8
Late Season			
Nov. 27 - Dec. 31	266	6.9	29.3
Unknown date	5		
Totals	3842	100.0	100.0

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Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

More than 55 % of the tribal quota was harvested in 1990 (Table 7) as compared with 61 % in 1989. Generally the tribal quotas provided adequate hunting opportunity to tribal members. Four units were either closed early or exceeded 100% of the quota. Increases in quotas should be considered for these units. Thirty units with quotas over 25 did not sustain a harvest of 80% of the quota. Quotas in these units should be reduced to bring them in line with demonstrated harvest capabilities.

 Table 7. Antlerless deer quotas and harvest levels during the 1988 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Quota	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Percent of Quota
1	65	4	6.1
2	375	256	68.2
3	250	156	62.4
4	50	47	94.0
5	300	212	70.7
6	50	13	26.0
7	25	5	20.0
8	225	156	69.3
9	250	129	51.6
10	100	96	96.0
11	125	132	105.6
12	100	56	56.0
13	175	173	98.8
14	50	13	26.0
15	125	48	38.4
16	50	9	18.0
17	25	25	100.0
18	75	15	20.0
19	35	16	45.7
20	25	14	56.0
21	25	1	4.0
22	25	2	4.0
23	25	5	20.0
24	25	0	0.0
25	25	2	4.0
26	25	3	12.0
28	75	19	25.5
29a	60	24	40.0
29b	60	31	51.7
30	75	80	106.7
31	250	163	65.2
32	50	18	36.0
34	150	70	46.7
35	250	213	85.2

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Table 7. Continued.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Quota	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Percent of Quota
36	275	116	42.2
37	100	48	48.0
38	75	43	57.3
39	150	137	91.3
40	65	38	58.5
42	50	0	0.0
43	50	19	38.0
44	100	59	59.0
45	75	39	52.0
46	25	3	12.0
47	25	0	0.0
48	1	0	0.0
49A	35	10	28.6
49B	25	1	4.0
50	60	4	6.7
52	40	8	20.0
57	25	0	0.0
57a	25	1	4.0
57b	25	0	0.0
58	25	0	0.0
59a	25	3	12.0
59b	25	0	0.0
62a	25	0	0.0
78	25	4	16.0
Total	4946	2739	55.3

Bear Hunting Results

In 1990 bear hunting regulations for the Wisconsin ceded territories were enacted by Tribal governments based on the May 1990 decision from the Federal Courts. The bear season opened concurrent with the deer season on September 6 and closed on October 31, 1990. 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 by 5:00 pm of the following working day. There was a quota assigned to each of the 3 bear zones in the ceded territory (Fig. 3): 25 bears in zone A, 15 bears in zone B and 5 bears in zone C.

A total of 740 bear carcass tags were issued to tribal members (Table 10). More people checked bear hunting on the harvest permit than obtained carcass tags indicating that they had no intention of hunting bears. This pattern has been consistently observed in previous bear hunting seasons. However, both the number of people who checked bear hunting on the harvest permit and the number of carcass tags issued increased over 1989. There was nearly a 13% increase in the number of carcass tags issued from 1989 to 1990.

 Table 10. Number of carcass tags, hunters and successful hunters during the 1990 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Carcass Tags Distributed	Carcass Tags Issued	Number of Hunters
Bad River	150	120	192
Lac Courte Oreilles	150	126	102
Lac du Flambeau	200	160	179
Mille Lacs	50	10	21
Mole Lake	50	28	57
Red Cliff	150	140	158
St. Croix	200	156	57
Totals	950	740	766

One note of caution when reading the above table - comparisons should not be made between the carcass tags issued and number of hunters columns. The number of bear hunters indicates the number of enrolled tribal members who checked bear hunting on the harvesting permit, regardless of where they obtained their carcass tags. The number of carcass tags issued indicates the number issued by that registration station regardless of the members tribe of enrollment.

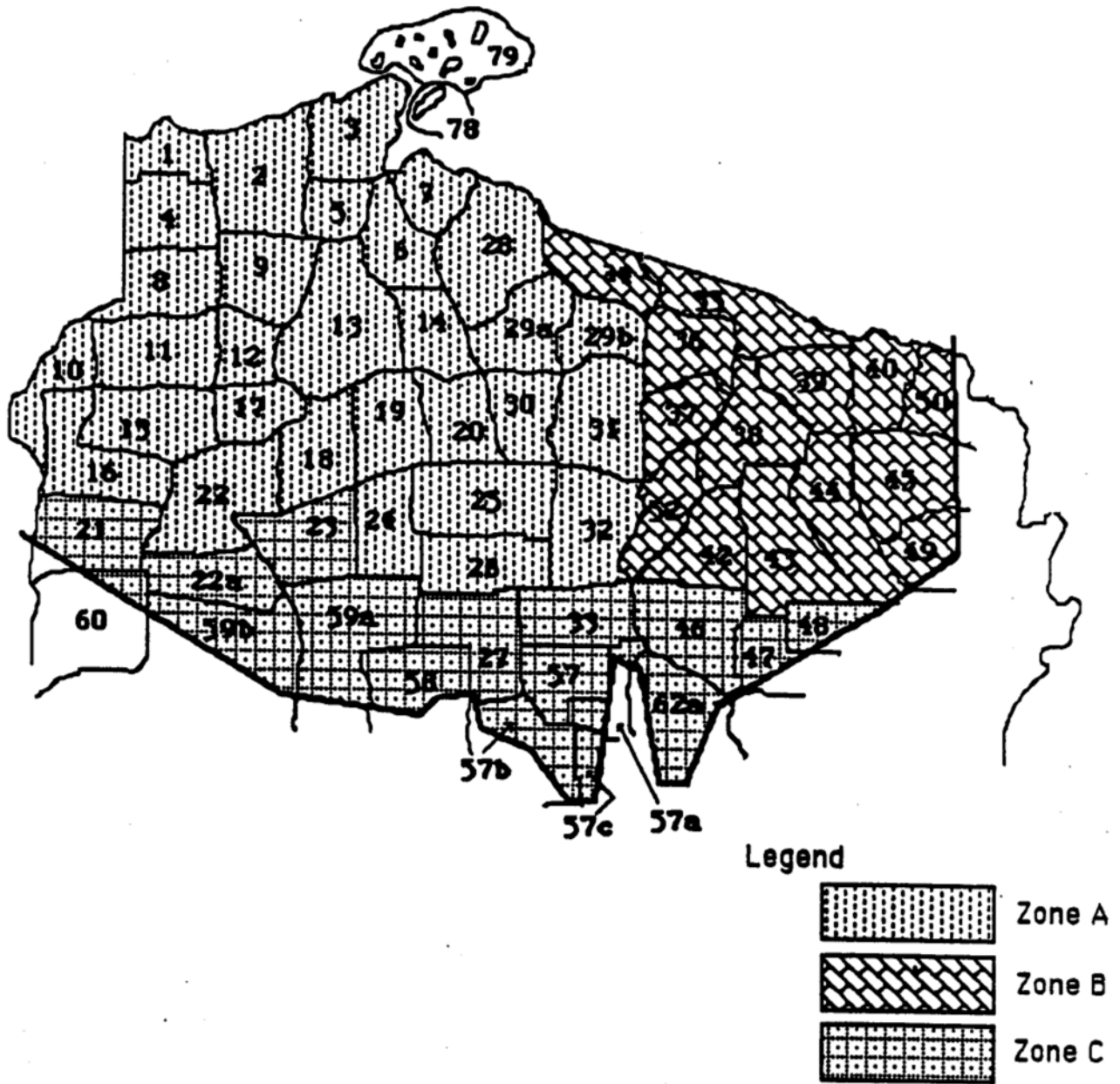


Figure 3. Map of the bear management zones within the ceded territory in Wisconsin.

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 Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1990 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	1	5	6
Lac Courte Oreilles	1	2	3
Lac du Flambeau	3	1	4
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	3	5	8
St. Croix	3	5	8
Totals	11	18	29

 Table 12. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1990 off-reservation treaty bear season by bear management zone and deer management unit.

Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
A	1	0	1	1
	2	0	3	3
	3	2	3	5
	4	1	0	1
	6	0	1	1
	7	0	2	2
	8	3	2	5
	11	2	0	2
	13	1	1	2
	17	0	1	1
	28	0	1	1
	29B	1	0	1
	30	1	1	2
	Unknown	0	2	2
Totals		11	18	29

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 Table 13. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1990 off-reservation treaty bear season by County.

County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	0	3	3
Bayfield	2	3	5
Douglas	1	2	3
Iron	0	1	1
Price	1	1	2
Sawyer	1	2	3
Taylor	1	0	1
Vilas	2	0	2
Unknown	3	6	9
Totals	11	18	29