

**RESULTS OF THE 1991  
OFF-RESERVATION DEER  
AND  
BEAR HUNTING SEASONS**

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GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH  
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**Results of the 1991  
Off-Reservation Treaty Deer and Bear  
Hunting Seasons in Wisconsin**

**Introduction**

This report presents results of the 1991 off-reservation deer and bear hunting seasons in northern Wisconsin in the territories ceded by the Treaties of 1837 and 1842 (Figure 1). Hunters were members of the six Wisconsin bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe (Minnesota), the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (Michigan) and the Lac Vieux Desert Band (Michigan). This report does not cover deer and bear hunting in Minnesota or Michigan ceded territories.

In 1991 tribal regulations in Wisconsin were enacted to comply with the rulings and stipulations resulting from the May, 1990 Federal court decision. The season was 119 days long from September 3 to December 31, 1991 and included hunting with either bow or gun.

The permit and registration system first implemented in 1986 continued to be used in 1991. Each hunter was provided 2 carcass tags. 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 a GLIFWC field warden. Hunters could obtain additional carcass tags upon registration of deer.

In order to shoot a doe or a fawn a hunter was required to obtain an antlerless deer permit that allowed the harvest of 2 of this type of deer. Permits were valid for any deer management unit (Figure 2) where the quota of antlerless deer had not been filled. No hunter was allowed more than one antlerless permit 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. After 75% of the quota had been harvested, permits were issued based on demonstrated success rates for that unit. These permits were valid for 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. The permit was then replaced upon registration.

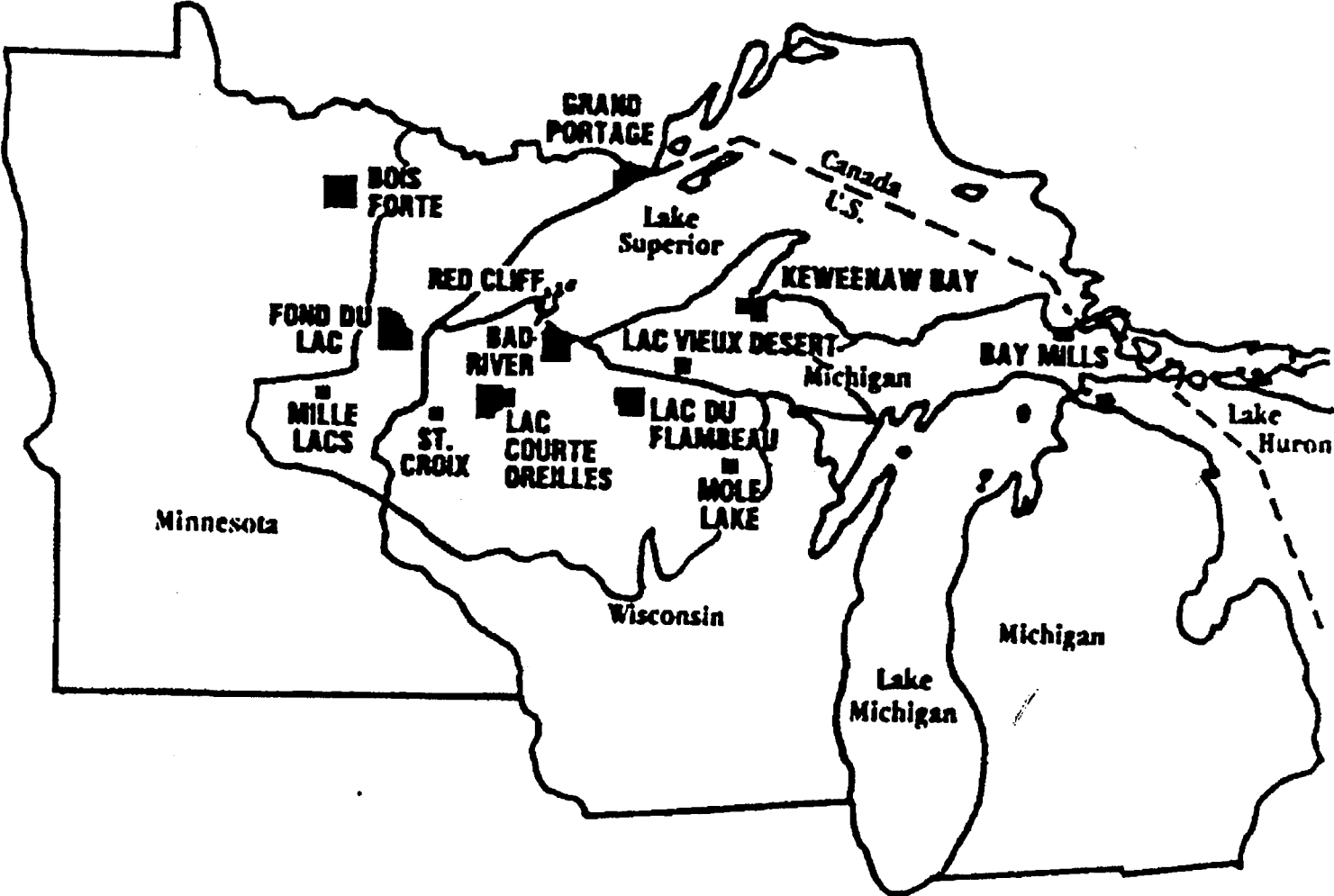


Figure 1. Location of the member tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota.

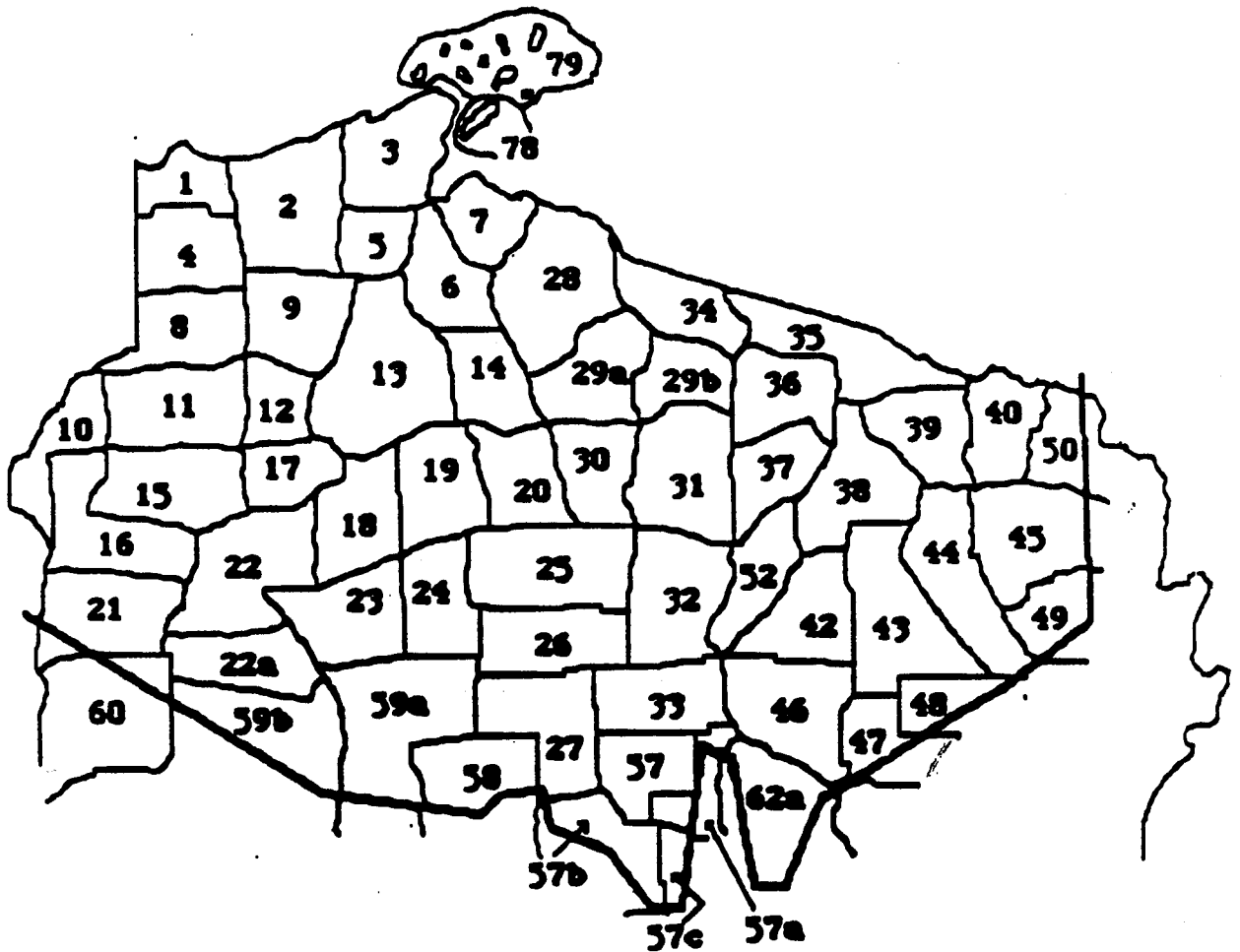


Figure 2. Map of deer management units in the Wisconsin portion of the Ceded Territory.

**Deer Hunting Results**

Carcass tags were issued to 2330 deer hunters (Table 1). Tags were authorized to be issued to any member of the 6 Wisconsin Bands, the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe, and the Lac Vieux Desert Band. Registration stations were established at each of these 8 reservations for issuing tags and permits and registering deer. The number of hunters in Table 1 refers to the number enrolled in each Band who obtained a permit for hunting in Wisconsin, regardless of residence or where the tags were obtained.

The number of hunters increased by nearly 500 people or 27.3% from 1990 . The number of carcass tags issued (12,512) increased proportionately from 1990 (9,908 tags). However, the number of successful hunters (1,275) increased moderately from the 1990 level (1,158). The increase in number of hunters discontinued a leveling off trend that developed in recent years.

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Table 1. Distribution of carcass tags and hunter success in Wisconsin during the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer hunting season.  
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Station	Carcass Tags Distributed	Carcass Tags Issued	Number of Hunters	Number (%) Successful Hunters
Bad River	1,600	1,584	422	234 (55.5)
Lac Courte Oreilles	3,900	3,480	680	365 (53.7)
Lac du Flambeau	3,000	2,928	419	242 (57.8)
Lac Vieux Desert	300	272	66	0
Mille Lacs	500	408	125	78 (62.4)
Mole Lake	1,000	744	125	66 (52.8)
Red Cliff	1,700	1,656	361	221 (61.2)
St. Croix	1,500	1,440	132	69 (52.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>12,512</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>1,275 (54.7)</b>

Deer Harvest by Registration Station

The tribal deer hunt was an either sex hunt because all hunters could obtain antlerless deer permits and carcass tags throughout the season. Tribal hunters shot 1,095 antlered deer (mostly adult bucks) and 3,844 antlerless deer (adult does and fawns of either sex) for a total of 4,939 deer (Table 2).

Prior to 1991 between 25% and 30% of the deer harvested by tribal members have been antlered deer. Although it varies from unit to unit, approximately 25% of the deer herd is antlered deer. In 1991, however, 22.2% of the deer harvest was antlered deer. It appears that this year tribal deer hunters were taking both antlered and antlerless deer nearly in proportion to their abundance.

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Table 2. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested during the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin by registration station.  
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Registration Station	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
Bad River	116	430	0	546
Lac Courte Oreilles	344	1,069	0	1,413
Lac du Flambeau	230	1,015	0	1,245
Mille Lacs Band	38	106	0	144
Mole Lake	60	316	0	376
Red Cliff	143	456	0	599
St. Croix	164	452	0	616
Totals	1,095 (22.2%)	3,844 (77.8%)	0	4,939

Deer Harvest by Management Unit

Treaty harvest was 30 deer or more in 31 of the 65 deer management units either entirely or partially within the ceded territory (Table 3). These units produced 4763 deer, 96.4% of the total.

During the past 5 years there have been only minor shifts in the deer harvest pattern between deer management units. For example, between 1990 and 1991 harvest shifted above and below 30 deer in only a few units. In one unit (38) harvest declined from a total above 30 in 1990 to below 30 in 1991. In six units (1, 6, 14, 18, 19, and 20) harvest increased to above 30 deer in 1991 from below 30 in 1990.

The favorite hunting units and the units which sustain large harvests remain relatively fixed. For example, fifteen units sustained a harvest of greater than 100 deer (2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, and 39). The units which were among the most heavily harvested were, in declining order, units 2, 13, 3, 5, and 8.

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Table 3. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer season by deer management unit.  
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Unit	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
1	10	20	0	30
2	109	422	0	531
3	99	301	0	400
4	27	54	0	81
5	76	299	0	375
6	16	31	0	47
7	7	18	0	25
8	88	241	0	329
9	38	155	0	193
10	61	182	0	243
11	69	188	0	257
12	21	100	0	121
13	113	319	0	432
14	13	50	0	63
15	5	25	0	30
16	7	12	0	19
17	20	30	0	50
18	14	35	0	49
19	6	29	0	35
20	8	30	0	38
21	0	0	0	0
22	0	0	0	0

Deer/Bear Harvest Report  
Admin. Report 92 - 2

Table 3. Continued

Unit	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
23	3	4	0	7
25	0	3	0	3
26	0	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0
28	18	22	0	30
29a	16	55	0	71
29b	10	50	0	60
30	23	88	0	111
31	26	163	0	189
32	1	23	0	24
34	25	126	0	151
35	73	214	0	287
36	21	154	0	175
37	9	22	0	31
38	2	25	0	27
39	27	129	0	156
40	5	27	0	32
42	1	4	0	5
43	6	13	0	19
44	17	75	0	92
45	6	68	0	74
46	1	0	0	1
49A	0	11	0	11
49B	0	2	0	2
50	1	1	0	2
52	1	12	0	13
57a	1	2	0	3
59a	2	5	0	7
78	1	3	0	4
Unknown	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,939</b>



Deer Harvest by County

Harvest during the 1991 deer season was distributed among 22 counties of the ceded territory, 3 less than in 1990 (Table 4). However, 4648 deer, or 94.1% of the harvest occurred in the 10 counties where harvest was greater than 100 deer (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Forest, Oneida, Price, Sawyer, Vilas and Washburn). This list of popular harvest counties remained very similar to the list described in past harvest reports.

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Table 4. Number of antlered and antlerless deer harvested in Wisconsin during the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer season by county.  
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County	Antlered Deer	Antlerless Deer	Unknown Deer	Total
Ashland	31	89	0	120
Barron	1	11	0	12
Bayfield	227	786	0	1,013
Burnett	161	472	0	633
Chippewa	1	5	0	6
Douglas	176	538	0	714
Eau Claire	2	0	0	2
Florence	8	35	0	43
Forest	44	229	0	273
Iron	15	41	0	56
Langlade	6	12	0	18
Lincoln	3	35	0	38
Marathon	3	43	0	47
Marinette	4	43	0	47
Oconto	1	10	0	11
Oneida	35	215	0	250
Polk	6	14	0	20
Price	39	153	0	192
Rusk	6	17	0	23
Sawyer	138	838	0	521
St. Croix	0	0	0	0
Taylor	0	0	0	0
Vilas	131	544	0	675
Washburn	54	203	0	257
Unknown	3	6	0	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>3844</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4939</b>

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Deer Harvested per Successful Hunter

The number of successful hunters increased 11.1% from 1158 in 1990 to 1286 in 1991, continuing the trend of recent years. The number of hunters who shot more than one deer increased 15.7% from 728 in 1990 to 842 in 1991 (Table 5). The average number of deer shot per successful hunter increased 15.1% from 3.3 in 1990 to 3.8 in 1991.

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Table 5. Number of successful hunters and the number of deer they harvested during the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.  
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Number of Deer Harvested	Number of Hunters	Percent of Successful Hunters	Total Number of Deer Harvested
1	444	34.5	444
2	280	21.8	560
3	147	11.4	441
4	89	6.9	356
5	70	5.4	350
6	51	4.0	306
7	41	3.2	287
8	33	2.6	264
9	24	1.9	216
10	25	1.9	250
11	13	1.0	143
12	15	1.2	180
13	5	0.4	65
14	7	0.5	98
15	8	0.2	120
16	3	0.2	148
17	1	0.1	17
18	2	0.2	36
19	5	0.4	95
20	1	0.1	20
21	3	0.2	63
22	3	0.2	66
23	2	0.2	46
24	3	0.2	72
27	2	0.2	54
29	1	0.1	29
31	1	0.1	31
34	1	0.1	34
36	1	0.1	36
38	2	0.2	76
41	1	0.1	41
44	1	0.1	44
51	1	0.1	51
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1286</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4939</b>

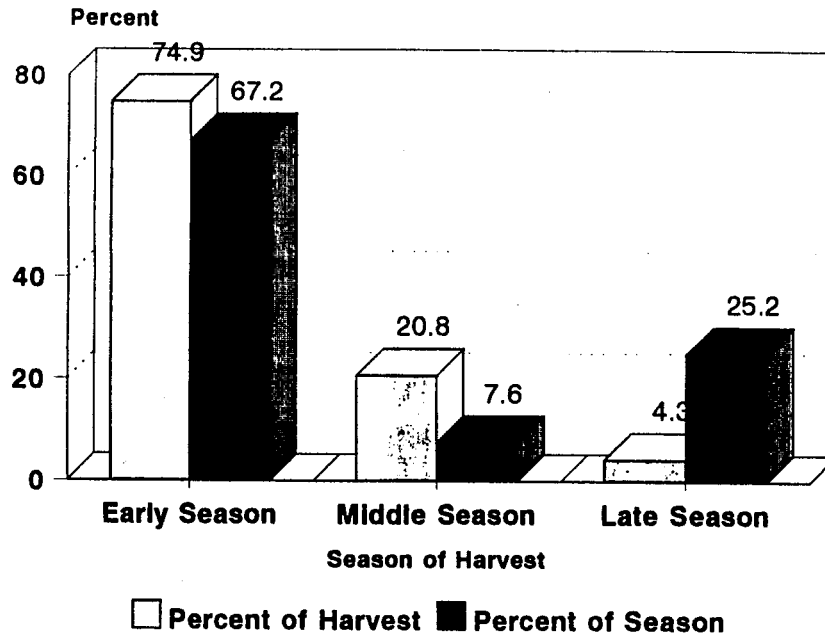
Deer Harvest by Season

The harvest that occurred during the early and middle portions of the season was disproportionately greater than the number of hunting days during that portion of the season (Table 6). The preponderance of the tribal deer harvest during the early and middle seasons has occurred in each of the past off-reservation deer hunting seasons. There are two possible reasons for this. Either deer are more vulnerable during the early and middle seasons or tribal hunting effort is greater then. I suspect that the combination of these reasons is the cause. Deer are more vulnerable and hunting pressure is greater resulting in the disproportionate harvest.

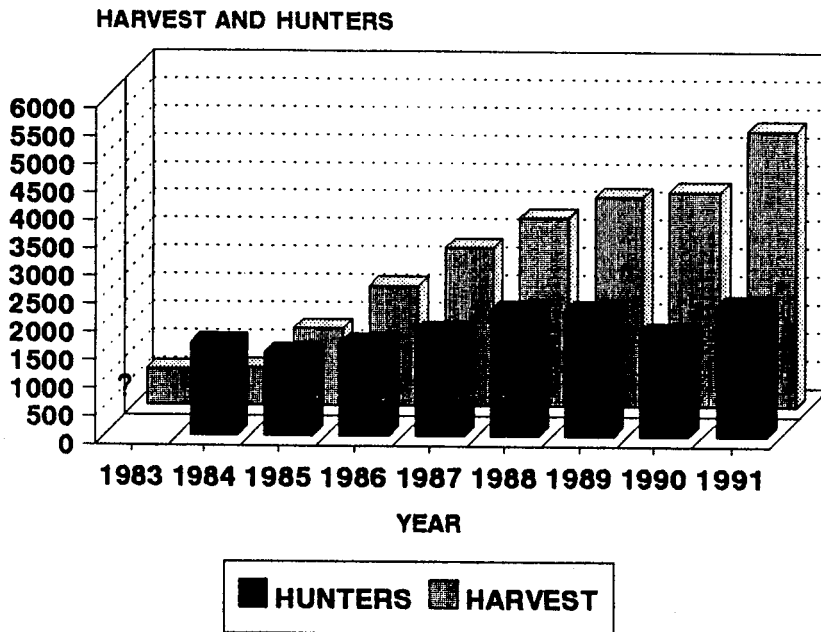
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 Table 6. The number of deer harvested, percent of harvest and percent of the season occurring during the early, middle and late portions of the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.  
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Portion of Season	Number of Deer Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Season
<b>Early Season</b>			
Sept. 3 - Nov. 22	3,698	74.9	67.2
<b>Middle Season</b>			
Nov. 23 - Dec. 1	1,029	20.8	7.6
<b>Late Season</b>			
Dec. 2 - Dec. 31	212	4.3	25.2
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Totals	4,939	100.0	100.0
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# Tribal Deer Harvest by Season



## Tribal Deer Hunters and Deer Harvest Northern Wisconsin 1983-1990



Summary of Quota Harvest by Unit

Slightly more than 60 % of the tribal quota was harvested in 1991 (Table 7) as compared with 55% in 1990. Generally 1991 tribal quotas provided adequate hunting opportunity to tribal members. Twenty nine units with quotas over 25 did not sustain a harvest of 80% of the quota. Conversely, four units were either closed early or exceeded 100% of the quota.

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Table 7. Antlerless deer quotas and harvest levels during the 1991 off-reservation treaty deer season in Wisconsin.  
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Unit	Antlerless Deer Quota	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Percent of Quota
1	65	20	30.77
2	425	422	99.29
3	325	301	92.62
4	75	54	72.00
5	350	299	85.43
6	50	31	62.00
7	25	18	72.00
8	225	241	107.11
9	250	155	62.00
10	150	182	121.33
11	175	188	107.43
12	100	100	100.00
13	350	319	91.14
14	75	50	66.67
15	125	25	20.00
16	50	12	24.00
17	100	30	130.00
18	75	35	46.67
19	35	25	82.86
20	50	30	60.00
21	25	0	0.00
22	25	0	0.00
23	25	4	16.00
24	25	0	0.00
25	25	3	12.00
26	25	0	0.00
28	50	22	44.00
29a	75	55	73.33
29b	75	50	66.67
30	100	88	88.00
31	250	161	65.20
32	50	23	46.00
34	150	126	84.00
35	325	214	65.85
36	275	154	56.00
37	100	22	22.00
38	150	25	16.67

Deer/Bear Harvest Report  
Admin. Report 92 - 2

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Table 7. Continued.

Unit	Antlerless Deer Quota	Antlerless Deer Harvest	Percent of Quota
39	250	129	51.60
40	140	27	19.29
42	50	4	8.00
43	125	13	10.40
44	175	75	42.86
45	150	68	45.33
46	25	0	0.00
47	25	0	0.00
48	1	0	0.00
49A	110	11	10.00
49B	25	2	8.00
50	135	1	0.74
52	40	12	30.00
57	25	0	0.00
57a	25	2	8.00
57b	25	0	0.00
58	25	0	0.00
59a	25	5	20.00
59b	25	0	0.00
62a	25	0	0.00
78	25	3	6.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,351</b>	<b>3,843</b>	<b>60.51</b>

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**Bear Hunting Results**

In 1991 bear hunting regulations for the Wisconsin ceded territories were enacted by Tribal governments based on the May 1990 decision from the Federal Court. The bear season opened concurrent with the deer season on September 6 and closed on October 31, 1991. 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 tribal quota assigned to each of the 3 bear zones in the ceded territory (Fig. 3): 100 bears in Zone A, 25 bears in Zone B and 10 bears in Zone C.

A total of 786 bear carcass tags were issued to tribal members (Table 10). The number of people who checked bear hunting on the harvest permit increased 2.6% over 1990. More people checked bear hunting on the harvest permit than obtained carcass tags indicating that they had did not hunt bears. This pattern has been consistently observed in previous bear hunting seasons, although these numbers were much closer than in previous years. The number of carcass tags issued increased nearly 21% from 1990 to 1991.

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Table 10. Number of carcass tags, hunters and successful hunters during the 1991 off-reservation treaty bear season in Wisconsin.  
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Registration Station	Carcass Tags Distributed	Carcass Tags Issued	Number of Hunters
Bad River	150	135	249
Lac Courte Oreilles	200	163	168
Lac du Flambeau	200	153	141
Mille Lacs	50	11	11
Mole Lake	100	52	31
Red Cliff	250	203	191
St. Croix	200	69	70
Totals	1,150	786	861

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The following should be kept in mind when interpreting 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 their harvesting permit. These persons may not have hunted at all. If they did hunt then they could have obtained a carcass tag from any registration station. The number of carcass tags issued indicates the number of tags issued by that registration station regardless of the members' tribe of enrollment.  
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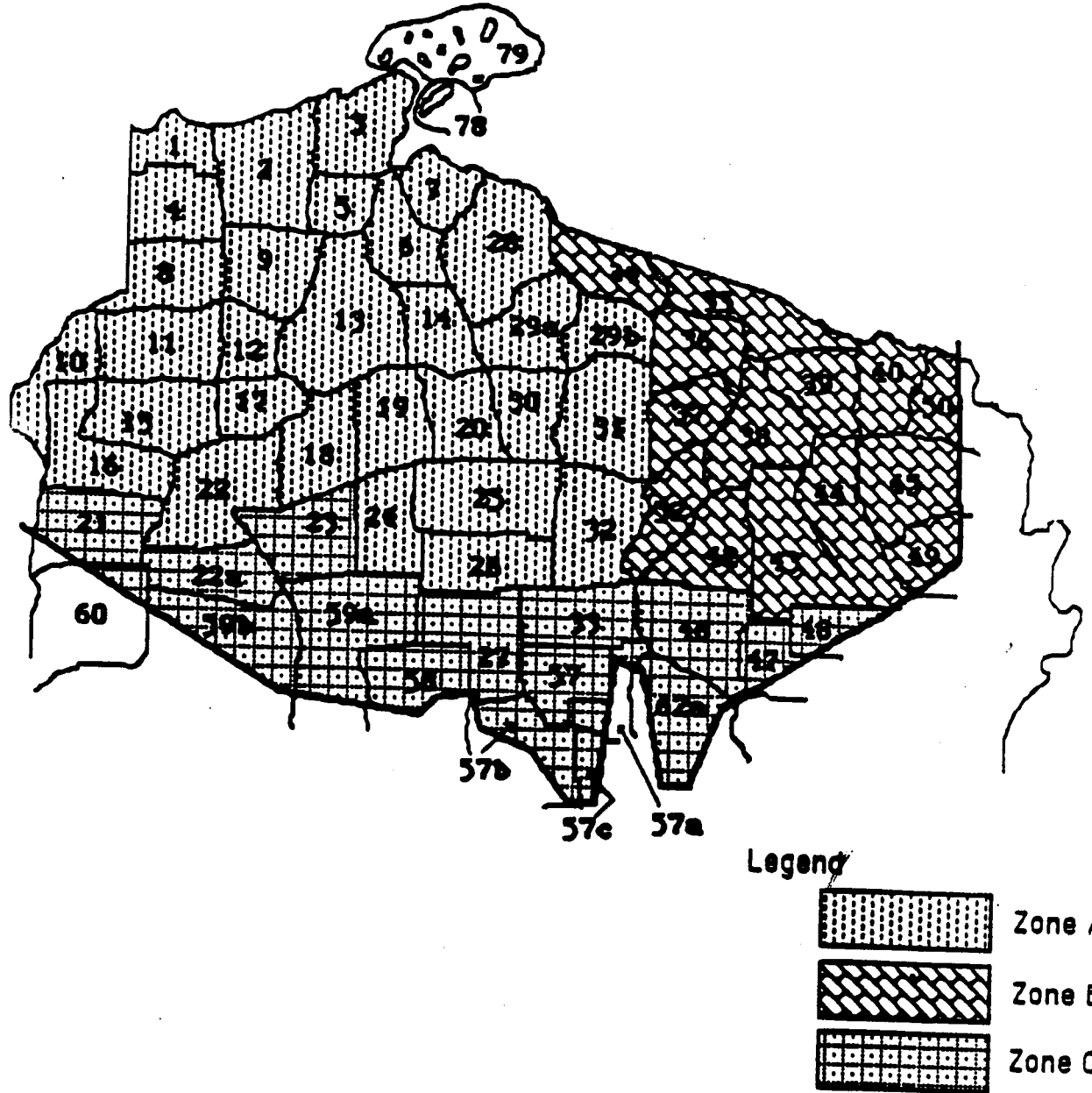


Figure 3. Map of the bear management zones within the ceded territory in Wisconsin.



Harvest by Registration Station

There were a total of 39 bears harvested during the 1991 off-reservation treaty bear season, a 34.5% increase over the 1990 level. In 1990, 38% of the bears harvested were males and 62% were females. These percentages were reversed in 1991.

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 Table 11. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1991 off-reservation treaty bear season by registration station.  
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Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	5	4	9
Lac Courte Oreilles	7	1	8
Lac du Flambeau	2	1	3
Lac Vieux Desert	1	0	1
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	3	3	6
Red Cliff	6	5	11
St. Croix	0	1	1
Totals	24 (61.5%)	15 (38.5%)	39

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Deer/Bear Harvest Report  
Admin. Report 92 - 2

Harvest by Zone and Management Unit

Zone A sustained a tribal harvest of 32 bears, or 32% of the quota while zone B had a tribal harvest of 7 bears, or 28% of the quota (Table 12). In 1990 the entire treaty bear harvest came out of Zone A.

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Table 12. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1991 off-reservation treaty bear season by bear management zone and deer management unit.  
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Zone	Unit	Male	Female	Total
A	2	3	1	4
	3	6	4	10
	4	1	2	3
	5	1	0	1
	6	1	0	1
	7	1	0	1
	8	0	1	1
	9	1	1	2
	13	1	0	1
	17	2	0	2
	18	1	0	1
	28	1	2	3
	29a	0	1	1
	30	1	0	1
Quota 100	Total	20	12	32
B	35	1	0	1
	38	1	1	2
	39	1	1	2
	43	1	0	1
	44	0	1	1
Quota 25	Total	4	3	7
Grand Total		24	15	39

Harvest by County

The 1991 tribal bear harvest was distributed among 12 counties in northern Wisconsin (Table 13). This represents an increase of 4 counties over 1990. The three most heavily harvested counties (Bayfield, Douglas and Washburn) accounted for 56.4% of the total bear harvest.

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 Table 13. The sex distribution of bears harvested in Wisconsin during the 1991 off-reservation treaty bear season by County.  
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County	Male	Female	Total
Ashland	2	0	2
Bayfield	7	4	11
Burnett	0	1	1
Douglas	4	3	7
Forest	1	2	3
Langlade	1	0	1
Iron	1	2	3
Oneida	1	1	2
Price	1	1	2
Sawyer	2	0	2
Vilas	1	0	1
Washburn	3	1	4
Totals	24	15	39