

# 2014 WILDLIFE HARVEST RECORD FOR THE FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA

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## INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this report is to document seasons, limits and harvest of deer, bear, moose, turkey, sandhill cranes and furbearers by the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (FDL) on their Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota where FDL members do the majority of their hunting and trapping. Harvest data from the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan is provided in summary form. More detailed harvest information for the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories is provided by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

Under the Treaties of 1837, 1842 and 1854 the FDL Band retained hunting, fishing and gathering rights on approximately 28 million acres across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. In addition, FDL members hunt, fish and gather on their reservation of 100,000 acres near Cloquet, Minnesota (Fig. 1).

In 1977 the FDL Band developed and implemented the Reservation Conservation Code and in 1988 the Band implemented a conservation code that defined legal methods of take in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The Minnesota 1837 Conservation Code was first implemented in 1997. In 2012, the Band implemented conservation codes for the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan. Seasons and bag limits are determined on an annual basis.

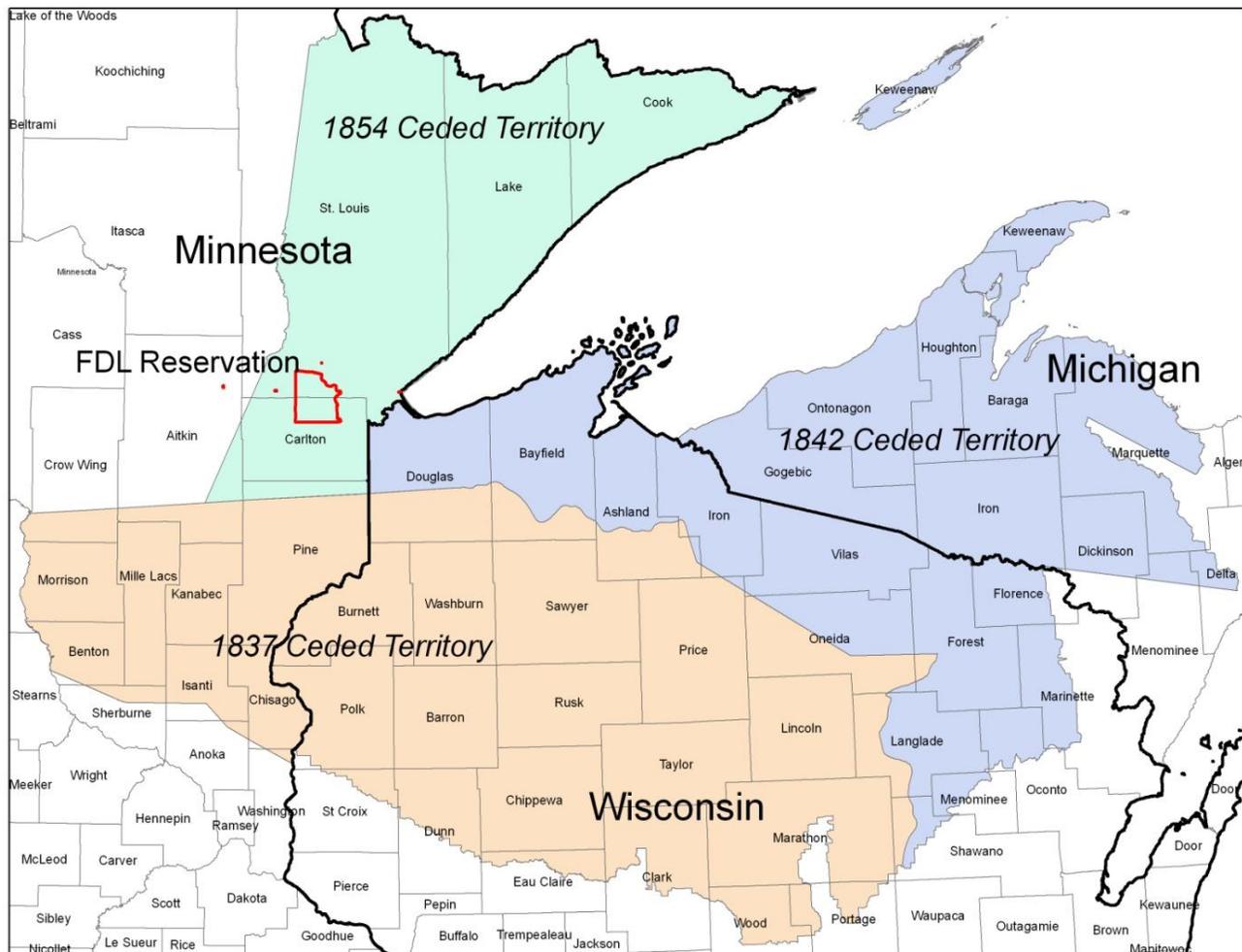


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and the 1837, 1842 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

## LICENSES, TAGS AND CARCASS REGISTRATION

FDL members exercising their treaty rights are required to have a Hunting, Fishing and Gathering License and the proper permits and carcass tags in their possession while in the field. The FDL Band issues a single license to members which covers all hunting, fishing and gathering activities on the Reservation and in the ceded territories. The Native American Game and Fish Applications® (NAGFA) program was utilized to record license and carcass tag information for FDL members. This enabled license and tag information to be compatible with established GLIFWC procedures while enabling FDL members to cross borders with the same carcass tags.

### 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The Fond du Lac Resource Management Division (RMD) maintained registration stations at its office on the FDL Reservation, and locally with Chalstrom’s Bait and Tackle, Country Corner Tavern, FDL Gas and Grocery, Sawyer Store and with RMD wildlife and enforcement staff in the field. In addition, online and phone registration systems were available to FDL members. The phone system was maintained through the FDL MIS Division and the online system utilized Google Docs®. After testing these systems in 2011 with deer, the phone and online systems were expanded to include fall turkey, moose and bear in 2012 and spring turkey and sandhill cranes in 2013. The registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter – could only be registered at the RMD office. A breakdown of how FDL hunters registered animals in 2014 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Registration stations and methods used by FDL hunters for 2014.

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	<b>Total Registrations</b>	<b>Percentage of total</b>
<b>RMD Office</b>	41	27%
<b>Online</b>	72	47%
<b>Phone</b>	22	14%
<b>Sawyer Store</b>	8	5%
<b>RMD field staff</b>	0	0%
<b>FDL Gas and Grocery</b>	3	2%
<b>Country Corner Tavern</b>	4	3%
<b>Chalstroms Bait &amp; Tackle</b>	0	0%
<b>Conservation Officers</b>	4	3%
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### 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

Deer, bear, crane, turkey, fisher, bobcat and otter harvested by FDL members in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan were registered using the NAGFA system. Access to NAGFA was available at the RMD office and other tribal offices in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories.

## TURKEY

### 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2014 spring turkey season was April 12 - May 29 and the fall season September 2 - December 31 for the Reservation and open portions of the Minnesota 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories (Fig. 2). A single tag was available initially to each FDL member with additional tags possible following registration of a bird. The

tag could be used either in the ceded territories or on the Reservation. Birds of either sex could be taken, and all birds had to be registered with reference to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) turkey units or the FDL Reservation within 3 business days of harvest (Fig. 2).

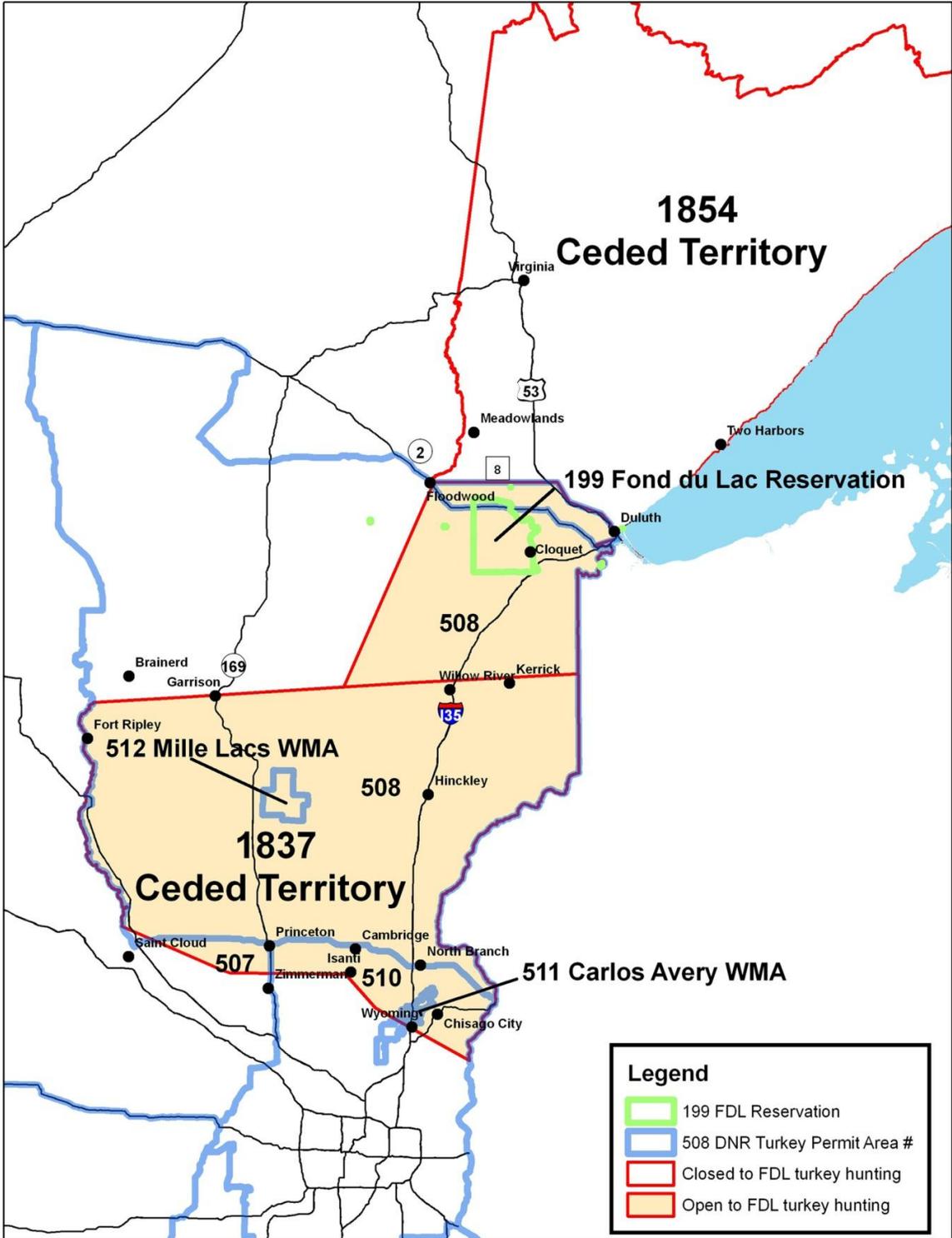


Figure 2. The FDL Reservation, DNR turkey units and areas open to FDL spring and fall turkey hunting.

Twenty-nine FDL members got tags for the spring season and 249 members got tags for the fall season. In addition, 14 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued licenses and turkey tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. Five hunters registered 6 birds in 2014; 3 gobblers and a hen from unit 508 and 1 gobbler and hen from the FDL Reservation. Three birds were taken in the spring and 3 in the fall.

### **1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan**

The spring season was April 16 - May 27 in Wisconsin and Michigan. The fall season was September 2 - December 31. One FDL member registered a turkey from Burnett County, Wisconsin during the fall season.

## **BEAR**

Two tags at a time were available to FDL members to hunt bear with additional tags possible after a bear was registered. Tags could be utilized either on the FDL Reservation or any of the ceded territories. An individual hunter's limit was 4 bears. A total of 181 FDL members requested bear tags. Cubs and sows with cubs were protected from harvest.

### **1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation**

The 2014 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation was August 30 – December 31. The Natural Resource Harvest Management Plan for the 1854 Ceded Territory allowed a fall bear season from the last Saturday in August through December 31. This option to open the season earlier was exercised in 2014. Baiting was legal from August 9 - December 31. The 1837 Ceded Territory season was September 1 - November 15. Bait stations were permissible August 15 - November 15. All harvested bears were required to be registered within 3 business days of harvest with reference to the DNR antlerless deer permit area (PA) of harvest (Fig. 3).

In addition to FDL members, 6 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued 7 licenses and bear tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. Four FDL hunters registered 4 bears. Two male bears were taken from the FDL Reservation (PA 199) one female from PA 127 and 1 male from PA 182. Bear harvest by state-licensed hunters on the Reservation was 3 males and 3 females.

### **1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan**

The 2014 bear season was September 2 - October 31. One FDL member registered a male from Burnett County and another member registered a female from Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

## **DEER**

Four tags at a time were available to FDL members to hunt deer in the ceded territories with additional tags possible after a deer was registered. Tags could be utilized in any of the ceded territories. There was no individual limit and no restrictions on the harvest of antlered or antlerless deer. A total of 435 FDL members requested 1827 ceded territory deer tags. In an effort to recover the Reservation deer population, band members were limited to only 2 Reservation deer tags with no restrictions on age or sex of deer harvested. A total of 370 FDL members requested Reservation deer tags. In addition to FDL members, 18 members of other recognized tribes residing on the FDL Reservation were issued tags to deer hunt on the Reservation.

### **1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation**

The 2014 deer season was September 2 – December 31 for both ceded territories and the Reservation. Deer were required to be registered within 3 business days of harvest with reference to the DNR antlerless

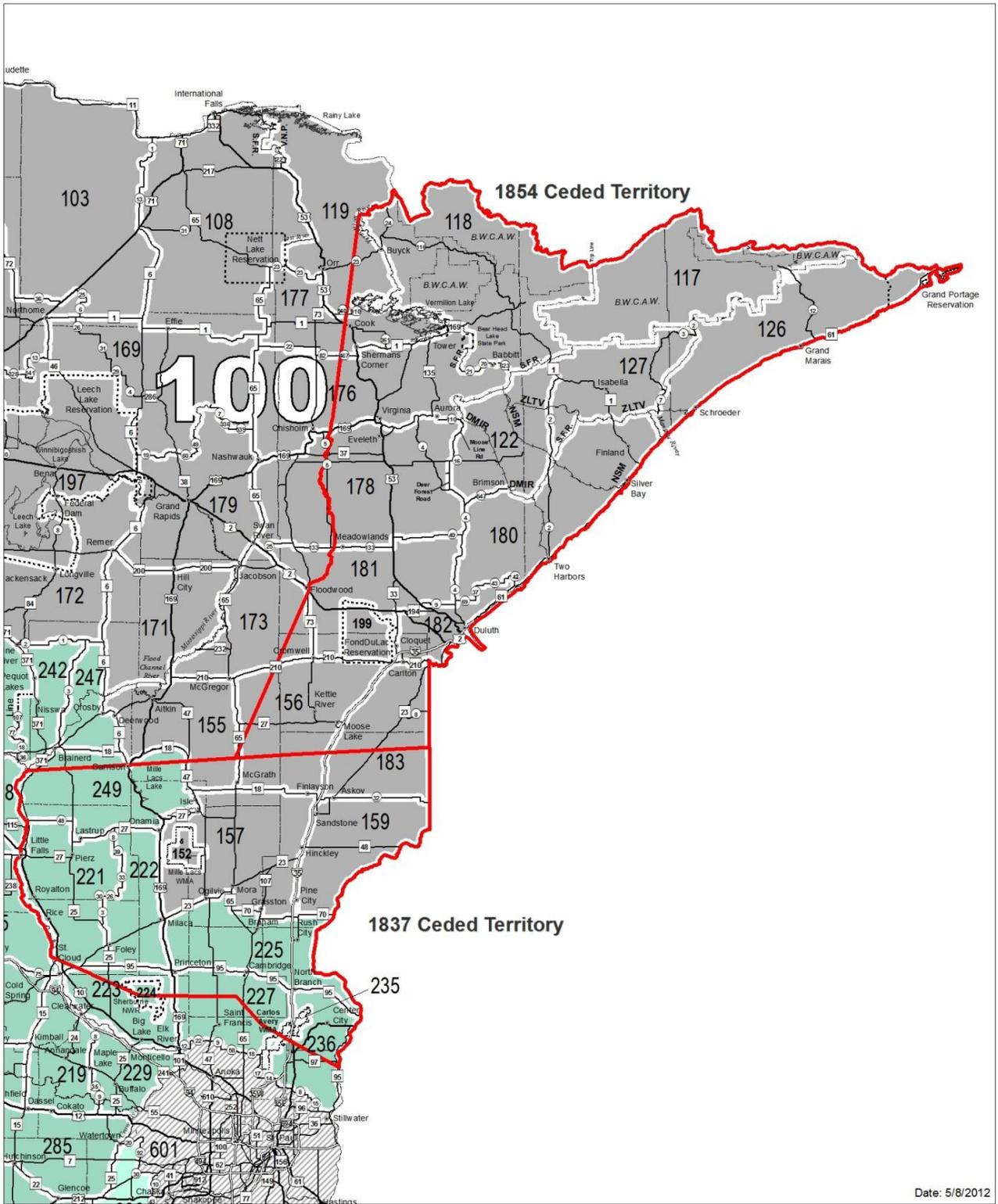


Figure 3. Minnesota antlerless deer permit areas and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota. Permit area 199 is the FDL Reservation.

deer permit areas of harvest (Fig. 3). A total of 83 FDL and 2 members of other bands registered 143 deer from the Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota (av. = 1.7, range = 1-6). Most hunters (56%) registered only 1 deer with another 26% of hunters registering 2 deer. The remaining 18% of hunters took 3-6 deer apiece. Of the 139 deer where method of take was recorded, 9 deer were taken with a bow, 3 with a muzzleloader and 127 with a regular firearm. In addition to tribal hunter harvest, RMD conservation officers harvested 20 deer for subsistence/ceremonial purposes. The 2014 FDL deer harvest was down substantially from 2013 (Fig. 4), likely the harsh winter of 2012-13 with its associated deer mortality and past DNR efforts to decrease deer populations were significant factors. A breakdown of total FDL Reservation and Minnesota 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territory deer harvest by permit area, age and sex is provided in Table 2. The majority of animals were taken from the Fond du Lac Reservation and neighboring permit areas. As in past years, the majority of deer were harvested in November (Table 3).

Table 2. 2014 FDL deer harvest by DNR antlerless deer permit area, age and sex.

<b>DNR Antlerless Deer Permit Area</b>	<b>Adult Buck</b>	<b>Adult Doe</b>	<b>Buck Fawn</b>	<b>Doe Fawn</b>	<b>Total Harvest by PA</b>
<b>118</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>122</b>	1	0	0	0	1
<b>156</b>	1	10	1	2	14
<b>157</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>159</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>173</b>	1	2	0	0	3
<b>177</b>	1	0	0	0	1
<b>178</b>	2	12	0	3	17
<b>180</b>	4	2	0	0	6
<b>181</b>	15	21	2	5	43
<b>182</b>	4	9	3	2	18
<b>183</b>	2	2	1	1	6
<b>199 (FDL Reservation)</b>	16	19	3	6	44
<b>221</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>St. Croix State Park</b>	0	3	1	1	5
<b>Jay Cooke State Park</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Harvest</b>	47	85	11	20	163

Table 3. FDL deer harvest by month.

<b>Registration Period</b>	<b>Deer Harvest</b>
<b>September</b>	9
<b>October</b>	22
<b>November</b>	90
<b>December</b>	22
<b>subsistence/ceremonial*</b>	20
<b>total</b>	163

\*Subsistence/ceremonial deer are taken as needed throughout the year

Again in 2014 FDL hunters participated in state park deer hunts in the 1837 Ceded Territory and for the first time participated in state park hunts in the 1854 Ceded Territory. These hunts are held to reduce deer numbers and impacts to vegetation inside park boundaries. Details of 2014 season formats for state park hunts are in Table 4. FDL harvest data from state parks is in Table 2.

Table 4. 2014 Minnesota state park hunt participation by the FDL Band

<b>Park</b>	<b>Hunt Type</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Avail. FDL Permits</b>	<b>Permits Claimed</b>
St. Croix	Archery	Pine	Sept, 29-Oct. 31 & Nov. 3-7	10	8
St. Croix	Youth Only, Regular Firearms	Pine	Nov. 1-2	5	0
St. Croix	Regular Firearms	Pine	Nov. 20-23	25	11
Tettegouche	Youth Only, Regular Firearms	Lake	Oct. 18-19	5	0
combined Tettegouche, Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock Lighthouse	Regular Firearms	Lake	Nov. 8-23	10	5
Cascade River	Regular Firearms	Cook	Nov. 8-23	None required	-
Judge Magney	Regular Firearms	Cook	Nov. 8-23	None required	-
Jay Cooke	Muzzleloader	Carlton	Dec. 6-10	5	3

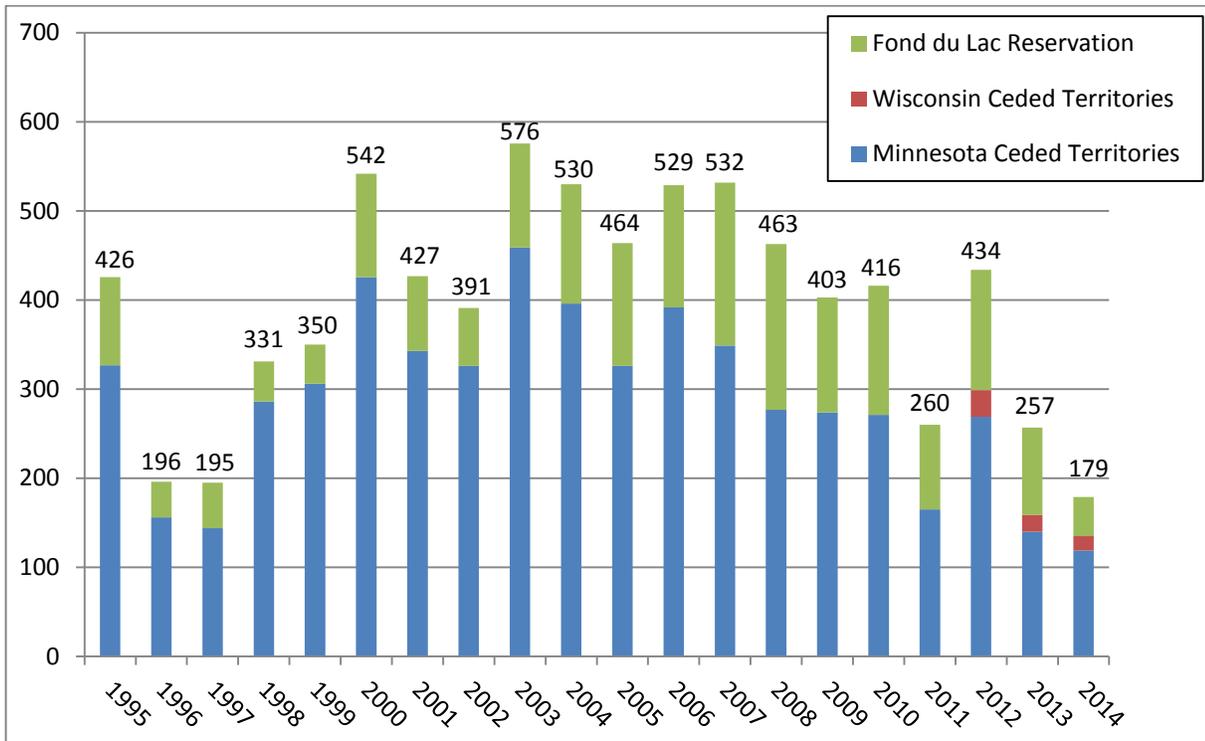


Figure 4. Fond du Lac Reservation and Ceded Territory deer harvests 1995-2014.

The RMD and the Cloquet DNR office continued their cooperation on deer harvest strategies for the Reservation. Predictive models and anecdotal information indicated local deer numbers remained below desired levels so the RMD requested and the DNR agreed to implement their “bucks only” strategy for state-licensed hunters on the Reservation. This strategy allows a state-licensed hunter to take 1 antlered deer. Total 2014 deer harvest by state-licensed hunters on the FDL Reservation was 84 deer; 79 antlered and 5 antlerless deer. It was not clear if the 5 antlerless deer were the result of registration errors or illegal hunting.

**1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan**

The 2014 deer season was September 2 – January 4. Five FDL members registered 16 deer from Wisconsin; 14 from Douglas County and 2 from Lincoln County (Fig. 1 and Fig. 4).

**MOOSE**

**1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota**

Due to continued low moose numbers the Fond du Lac Band elected not to hold a moose hunt in 2014. The State of Minnesota and the 1854 Treaty Authority also elected not to hold moose hunts.

**REGISTERED FURBEARERS**

**1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation**

The 2014-15 hunting and trapping season for registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter - was September 2 - March 31 on the FDL Reservation and the 1854 Ceded Territory. It was October 1 - March 1 in the 1837 Ceded Territory. All 4 species were required to be registered at the RMD office. For the season, 7

FDL members and 1 member from another band registered 32 bobcat, marten and fisher (Table 5 and Fig. 5). No otter were registered. For the 2014-15 season, all registered furbearers were taken by trapping. Fluctuations in FDL's fur harvest are as likely due to fur prices and the small number of trappers involved as to changes in furbearer populations. One individual accounted for 63% of FDL's total registered furbearer harvest. The RMD registers furbearers with reference to the DNR's antlerless deer PAs (Fig. 3).

Harvest by state-licensed trappers on the FDL Reservation can only be estimated. State-licensed trappers are required to report harvest with reference to township and then a harvest location is randomly assigned within the township. The Reservation touches 11 different townships; however, only 1 township is entirely enclosed by Reservation boundaries. On this basis, the estimated 2014 state-licensed harvest on the FDL Reservation is 10 bobcat, 8 otter and no fisher or marten, but the actual harvest may be different.

Table 5. FDL 2014-15 registered furbearer harvest for the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation.

Species	FDL Reservation					Total
	PA 118	PA 156	PA 173	PA 181	(PA 199)	
Marten	0	1	1	0	0	2
Fisher	1	3	8	1	8	21
Bobcat	0	4	1	1	3	9
Otter	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>

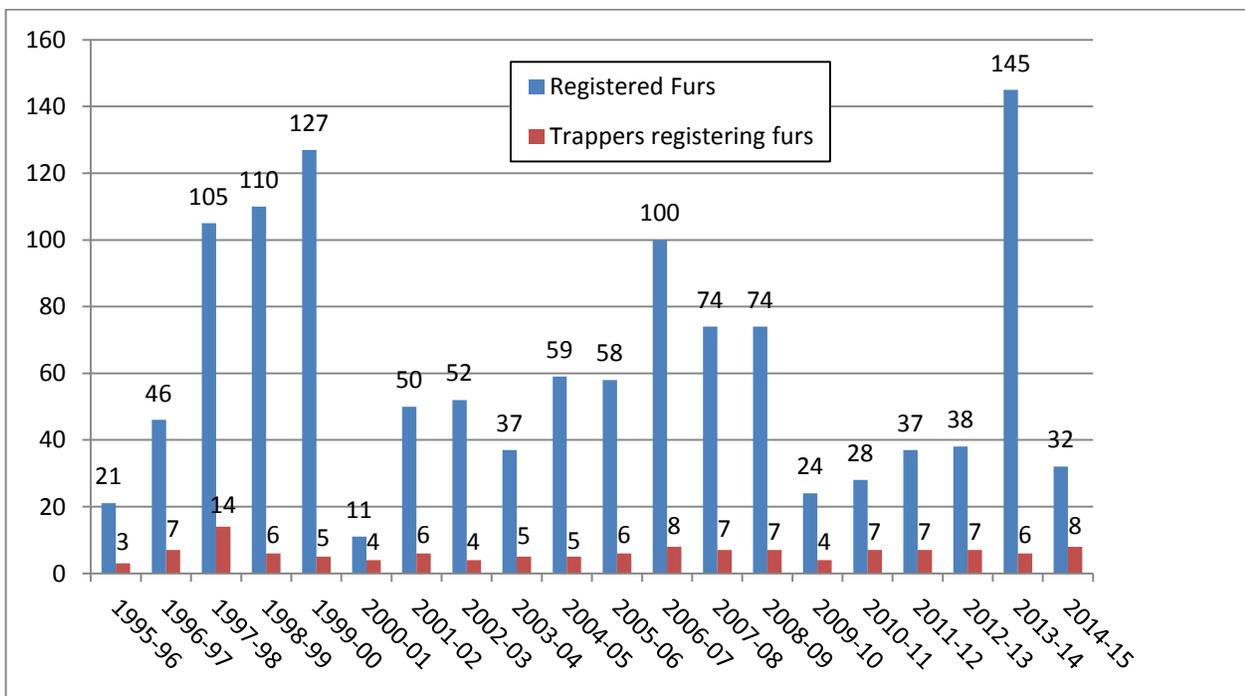


Figure 5. Total numbers of trappers registering furs and registered furbearer harvest from the FDL Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota.

### **1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan**

In 2014-15 there were various open and closing dates for the harvest of registered furbearers. There was no marten season in the 1837 or 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin. One FDL member got carcass tags for bobcat, fisher and otter, but no animals were registered.

### **SANDHILL CRANES**

#### **1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota**

The FDL Band's 2014 sandhill crane season was September 1 - November 30 in the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota. There was no season on the FDL Reservation. The daily limit was 1 crane with no season or possession limit. A carcass tag was required before hunting and additional tags were possible following registration of a bird. Ninety-two FDL members requested crane tags. One crane was registered from permit area 183 (Fig. 3).

#### **1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan**

The 2014 sandhill crane season was September 1 - December 31. No carcass tags were required for cranes, but any birds harvested had to be registered. No FDL members registered cranes from either ceded territory.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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