

2017 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 1854 Code and associated protocols were finalized with the State of Minnesota in December, 2017. 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.

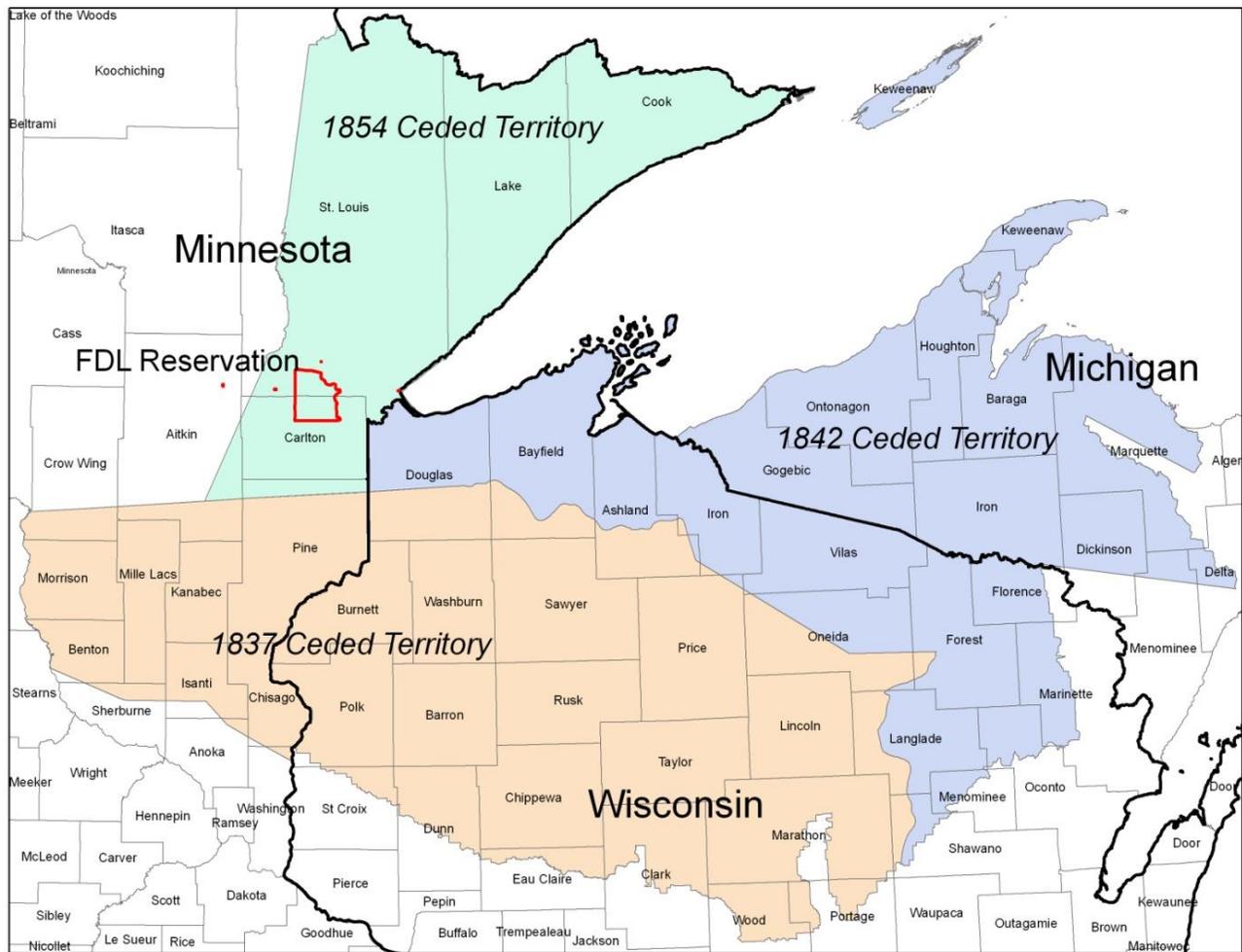


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and the 1837, 1842 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

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 Country Corner Tavern, 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 and moose in 2017 had to be registered by phone directly with the enforcement clerk. A breakdown of how FDL hunters registered other animals in 2017 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Stations and methods used by FDL hunters in 2017 to register deer, bear, crane and turkey.

	Total Registrations	Percentage of total
RMD Office	71	28%
Online	120	48%
Phone	49	20%
Sawyer Store	4	2%
RMD field staff	0	0%
Country Corner Tavern	4	2%
Conservation Officers	3	1%
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1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

Deer, bear, turkey, fisher, marten, bobcat and otter harvested by FDL members in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan were primarily 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. Cranes were registered by phone and hunters harvesting deer in Wisconsin were encouraged to register by phone in an effort to slow the transport of carcasses potentially infected with CWD.

TURKEY

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2017 spring turkey season was April 8 - May 31 and the fall season September 5 - December 31. All areas of the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories were open for turkey hunting (Fig. 2) except for DPA 224. Two tags were available initially to each FDL member with additional tags possible following registration of a bird. The tags could be used either in the ceded territories or on the Reservation and birds of either sex could be taken. In an effort to better identify the locations of harvest and the expansion of turkey populations in the 1854 Ceded Territory, birds were registered with reference to the DNR's deer permit areas (DPA) within 3 business days of harvest (Fig. 2).

Twenty-eight FDL members got tags for the spring season and approximately 248 members got tags for the fall season. In addition, 15 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued licenses and turkey tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. Four hunters registered a total 3 gobblers and one hen turkey during the spring season. The hen and one gobbler came from DPA 199 and the other two from DPAs 183 and 156. Six hunters registered a total of 4 hens, 3 gobblers 2 birds of unknown sex in the fall season. Two gobblers and 2 hens came from DPA 156, one gobbler from the FDL Reservation (DPA 199) and one hen each from 181 and 183. The 2 unknown birds came from an unrecorded unit.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The spring season was mid-April – late May in Wisconsin and Michigan. The fall season was September 5 - December 31. Four FDL members got spring tags and 44 FDL members got fall tags for turkeys; however, no FDL members registered any birds from these Ceded Territories in 2017.

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 173 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 2017 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation was August 26 – December 31. Baiting was legal from August 4 - December 31. The 1837 Ceded Territory season was September 1 - November 15. Bait stations were permissible August 11 - 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 (DPA) of harvest (Fig. 2).

In addition to FDL members, 6 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued licenses and bear tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. One FDL hunter registered one male bear from the FDL Reservation (DPA 199) and another hunter took a male bear from DPA 131. State-licensed hunters took one male and 5 female bears from the FDL Reservation.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2017 bear season was September 5 - October 31; however, no bears were registered by FDL members.

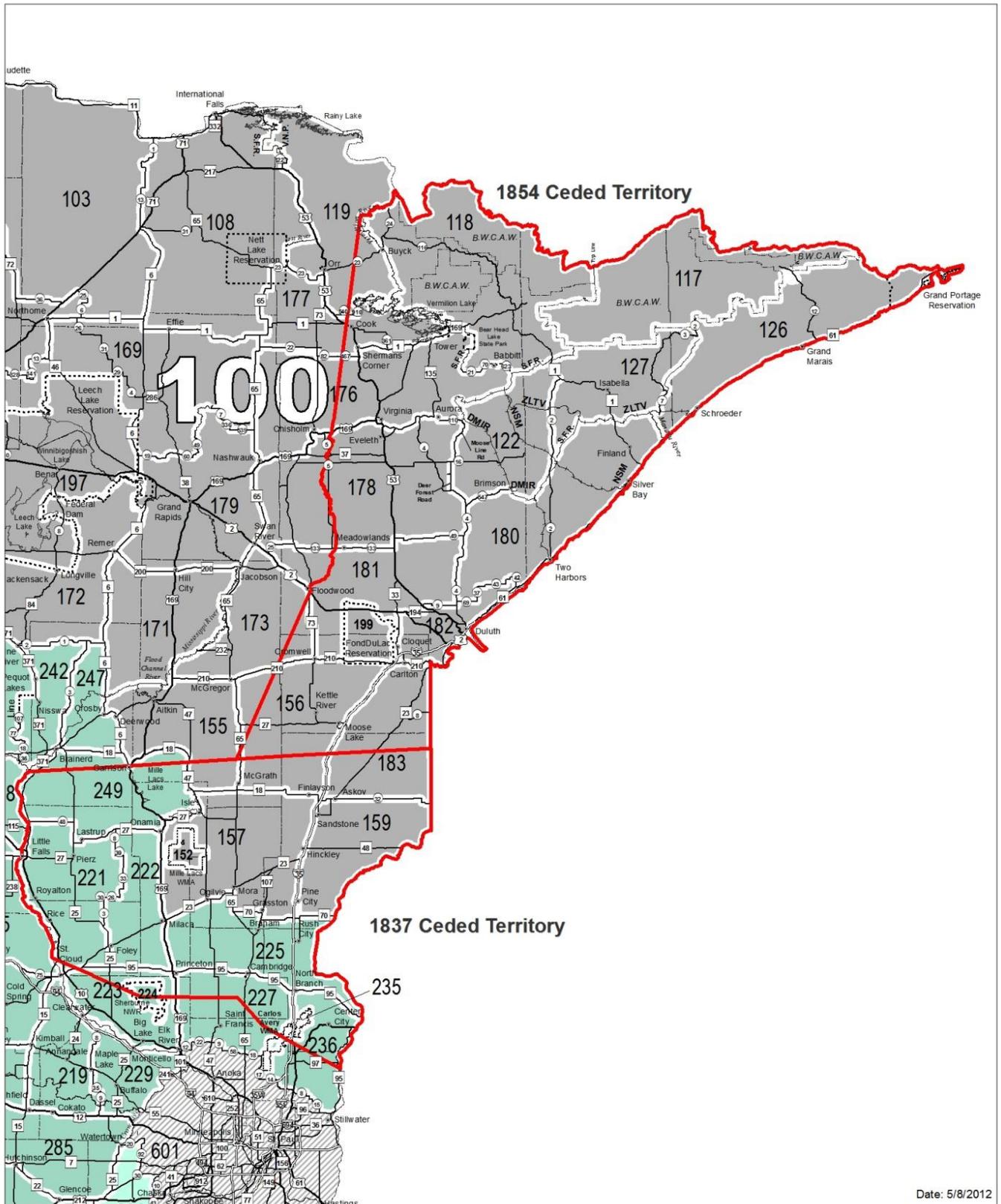


Figure 2. Minnesota deer permit areas and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota. Permit area 199 is the FDL Reservation.

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. The numbers of FDL hunters requesting Ceded Territory tags was not calculated. In an effort to recover the Reservation deer population, band members were limited to 2 initial Reservation deer tags with a third tag possible following registration of a deer. Reservation tags could be used on any age or sex of deer. Approximately 376 FDL members requested 829 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 2017 deer season was September 5 – 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’s deer permit areas (Fig. 2). A total of 105 FDL and 4 members of another band registered 238 deer from the Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota (av. =2.2 deer/hunter, range = 1-11). Of successful hunters 34% registered only 1 deer with another 41% of hunters registering 2 deer. The remaining 25% of hunters took 3-11 deer apiece. Method of take was recorded as 12 deer taken with a bow and the rest with a regular firearm. In addition to tribal hunter harvest, RMD conservation officers harvested 5 deer for subsistence/ceremonial purposes. 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. 2017 FDL total deer harvest by DNR antlerless deer permit area, age and sex.

DNR Antlerless Deer Permit Area	Adult Buck	Adult Doe	Buck Fawn	Doe Fawn	unknown	Total Harvest by Permit Area
118	1	1	0	0	0	2
126	1	0	0	0	0	1
130	1	0	0	0	0	1
131	0	0	1	0	0	1
132	4	9	0	1	0	14
133	0	2	0	0	0	2
156	9	14	2	1	0	26
173	0	1	0	0	0	1
176	5	0	0	0	0	5
177	2	2	0	0	0	4
178	2	4	0	0	0	6
181	24	24	14	3	0	65
182	7	9	0	0	0	16
183	10	5	4	4	0	23
199 (FDL Reservation)	31	31	5	3	2	72
St. Croix State Park	2	0	0	2	0	4
Total Harvest	98	103	26	14	2	243

Table 3. FDL deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	9
October	17
November	196
December	16
subsistence/ceremonial*	5
total	243

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

In 2017 FDL hunters participated in state park deer hunts in the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories. These hunts are held to reduce deer numbers and impacts to vegetation inside park boundaries. Details of 2017 season formats for state park hunts are in Table 4. Harvest details from state parks are found in Table 2.

Table 4. 2017 Minnesota state park hunt declarations and participation by the FDL Band.

State Park	Hunt Type	County	Hunt Dates	Available FDL Permits	Permits Claimed
Banning	Firearms-Youth Only	Pine	Oct. 28 - 29	1	0
St. Croix	Firearms-Youth Only	Pine	Oct. 28 - 29	3	0
Tettegouche	Firearms-Youth Only	Lake	Oct. 28 - 29	2	0
Cascade, Judge Magney, Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock, and Tettegouche combined	Firearms	Lake & Cook	Nov. 4 - 19	10	1
St. Croix	Firearms	Pine	Nov. 16 - 19	20	11
Soudan/Lake Vermillion	Muzzleloader	St. Louis	Nov. 25 - Dec. 10	2	1
St. Croix	Muzzleloader	Pine	Nov. 30 – Dec. 3	3	3
Crow Wing	Muzzleloader	Crow Wing	Dec. 2 - 3	2	1
Jay Cooke	Muzzleloader	Carlton	Dec. 2 - 6	3	3

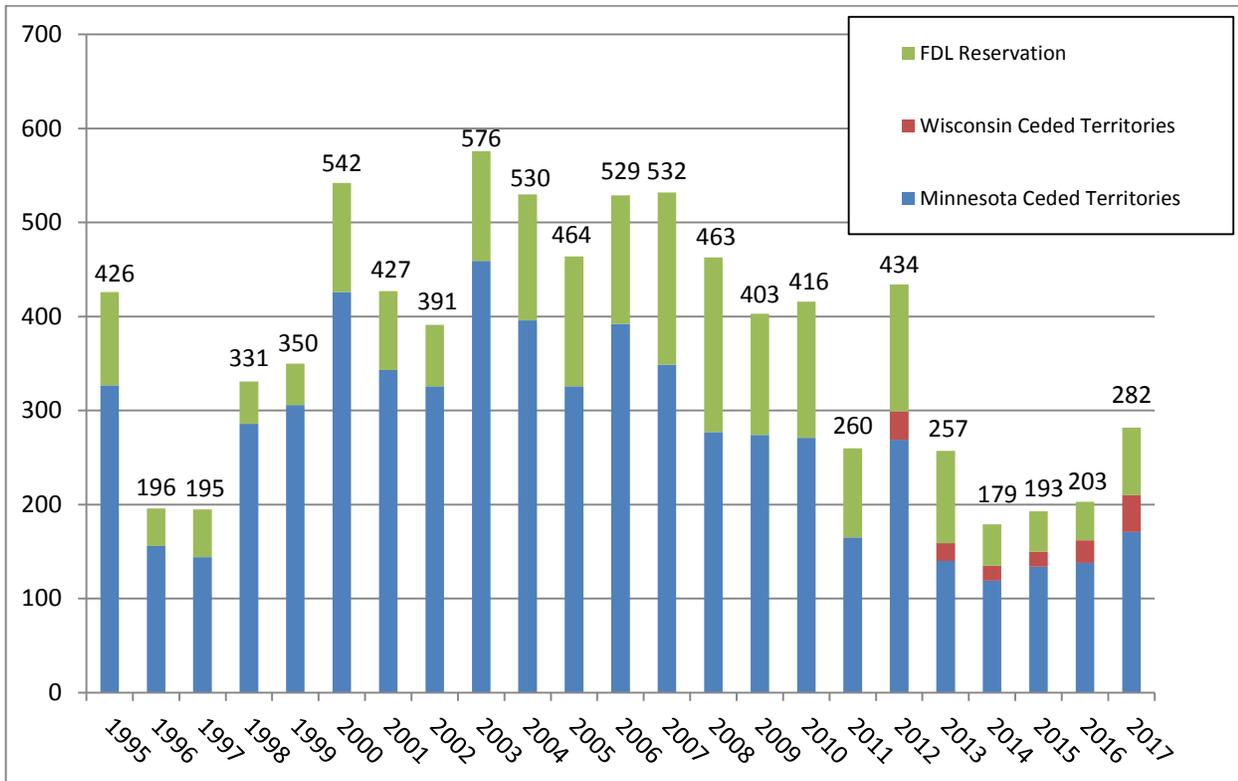


Figure 3. Fond du Lac Reservation and Ceded Territory deer harvests 1995-2017.

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 had begun to climb again so the RMD requested the DNR issue 75 lottery antlerless permits for the Reservation. The DNR agreed to 100 antlerless permits for state-licensed hunters on the Reservation after initially listing 150 permits in error. This strategy allowed 100 successful state licensed hunters to take one deer of either sex with remaining hunters limited to a single antlered buck. Total 2017 deer harvest by state-licensed hunters on the FDL Reservation was 174 deer; 132 antlered and 42 antlerless deer.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2017 deer season was September 6 – January 7. Six FDL members registered 39 deer from Wisconsin; 33 from Douglas County, 1 each from Bayfield, Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer Counties and 2 from Chippewa County (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3).

REGISTERED FURBEARERS

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2017-18 hunting and trapping season for registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter - was September 5 - March 31 on the FDL Reservation and the 1854 Ceded Territory and October 1 - March 1 in the 1837 Ceded Territory. All 4 species were required to be registered at the RMD office. Only one FDL member registered one fisher. 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. Increasingly, it appears that interest in trapping is fading amongst FDL members as well. The RMD registers furbearers with reference to the DNR’s antlerless DPAs (Fig. 2).

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 2017 state-licensed harvest on the FDL Reservation was 6 bobcats, and one otter, but the actual harvest may be different.

Table 5. FDL 2017-18 registered furbearer harvest for the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation.

Species	FDL Reservation					Total
	PA 118	PA 127	PA 156	PA 181	(PA 199)	
Marten	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fisher	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bobcat	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otter	0	0	0	0	0	0

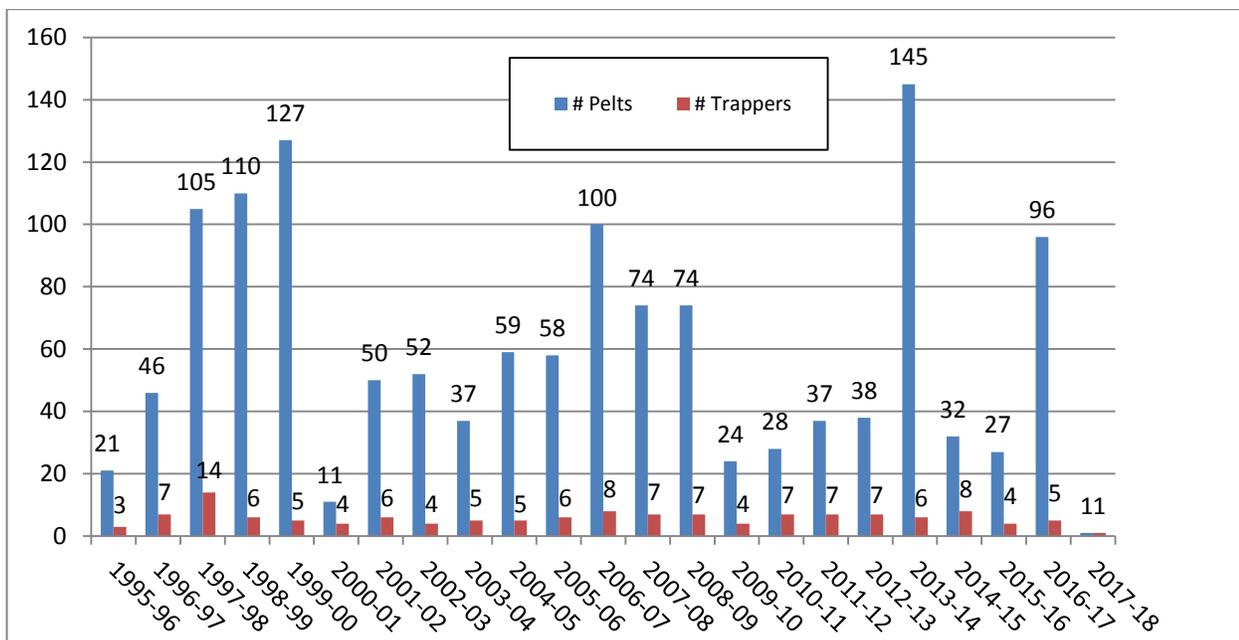


Figure 4. Total numbers of FDL trappers registering furs and their registered furbearer harvest from the FDL Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota from the 1995-96 to the 2017-18 season.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

In 2017-18 there were various open and closing dates for the harvest of registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter. Five FDL members got carcass tags for bobcat and registered 2 cats from Douglas County. Two got fisher tags and 3 got otter tags, but no animals were registered.

SANDHILL CRANES

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

The FDL Band's 2016 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 2 cranes with no season or possession limit. Carcass tags were required before hunting and additional tags were possible following registration of a bird. One hundred twenty-seven FDL members requested crane tags. Two cranes were registered from permit area 183 (Fig. 2).

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2017 sandhill crane season was September 1 - December 31 with a daily limit of 2. No carcass tags were required for cranes, but any birds harvested had to be registered. No FDL members registered cranes from either ceded territory.

MOOSE

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

In 2017 the Fond du Lac Band finalized the 1854 Treaty case with the State of Minnesota. Protocols agreed to between the two entities allowed for FDL to hold a moose hunt again in 2017. The 1854 Treaty Authority also held a moose hunt, but the State of Minnesota did not.

Fond du Lac's 2017 moose hunt was limited to 24 bull moose. Season dates were Sept. 23 to Dec. 31 or until FDL's harvest limit of 24 bull moose was reached. The RMD did not retain any moose in 2017 for subsistence or ceremonial purposes. Hunters were required to provide mobile phone contact information to the RMD and moose were required to be registered within 24 hours of harvest by calling a phone number provided by the RMD.

Approximately 60 parties of 3-4 individuals applied for the 48 available permits. Permits were not restricted by area or zone; however, only those portions of the 1854 Ceded Territory previously zoned by the DNR for moose hunting were open (Fig. 5). A \$25 nonrefundable fee was required to enter the drawing and a \$50.00 deposit was required for each permit. The fee is intended to encourage only serious moose hunters to apply for a permit and to generate funding for moose related projects. The deposit was returned following registration of a moose or the return of an unused tag. FDL did not make any 1837 moose permits available in 2017.

FDL's moose season did not close until Dec. 31st as only 18 bull moose were taken. A breakdown of FDL's 2017 moose harvest by zone and historic moose harvests are below (Table 6 and Fig. 6).

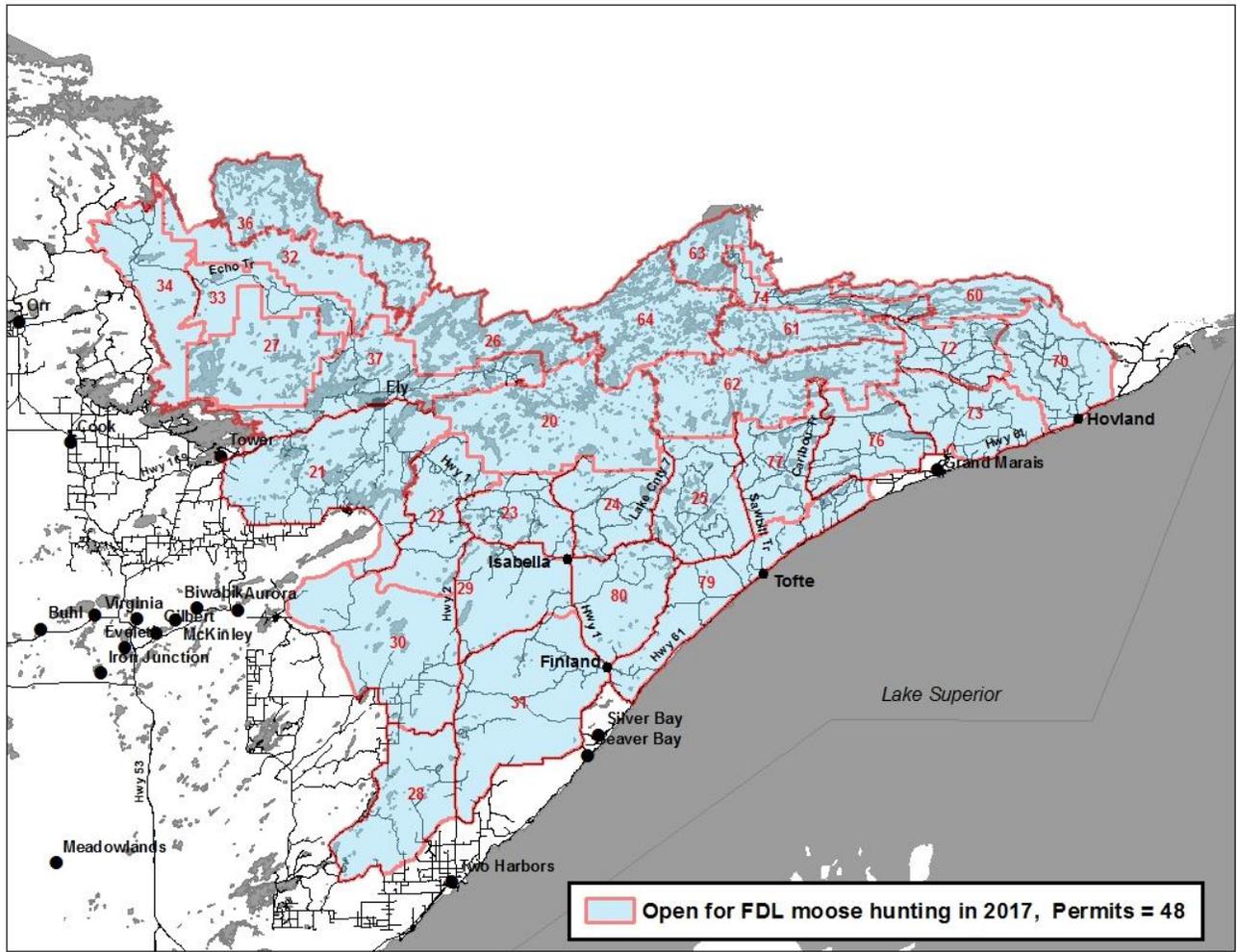


Figure 5. Area opened for 2017 FDL moose hunting in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

Table 6. Fond du Lac 2017 moose harvest by DNR moose zone

	Zone 24	Zone 25	Zone 29	Zone 73	Zone 76	Zone 77	Zone 80	Total Harvest
Bull								
Moose	8	1	1	2	2	2	2	18

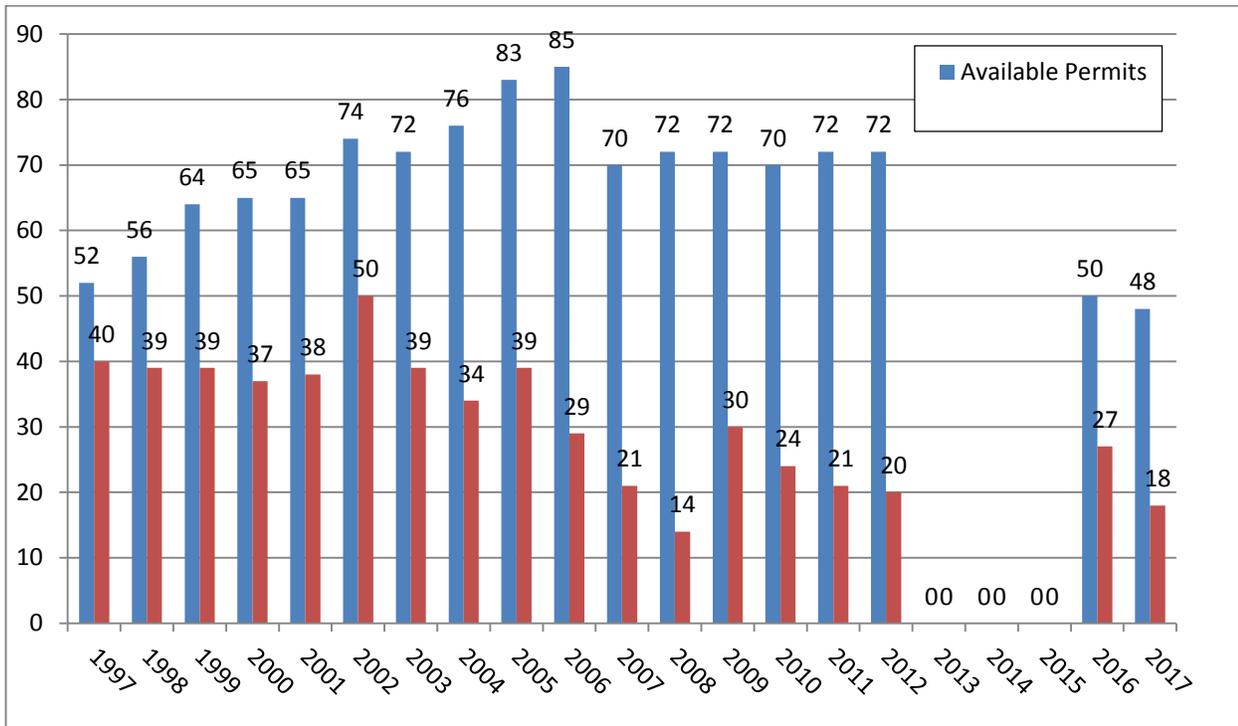


Figure 6. Fond du Lac total moose harvest and number of permits available 1997-2017.

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