

2018 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.

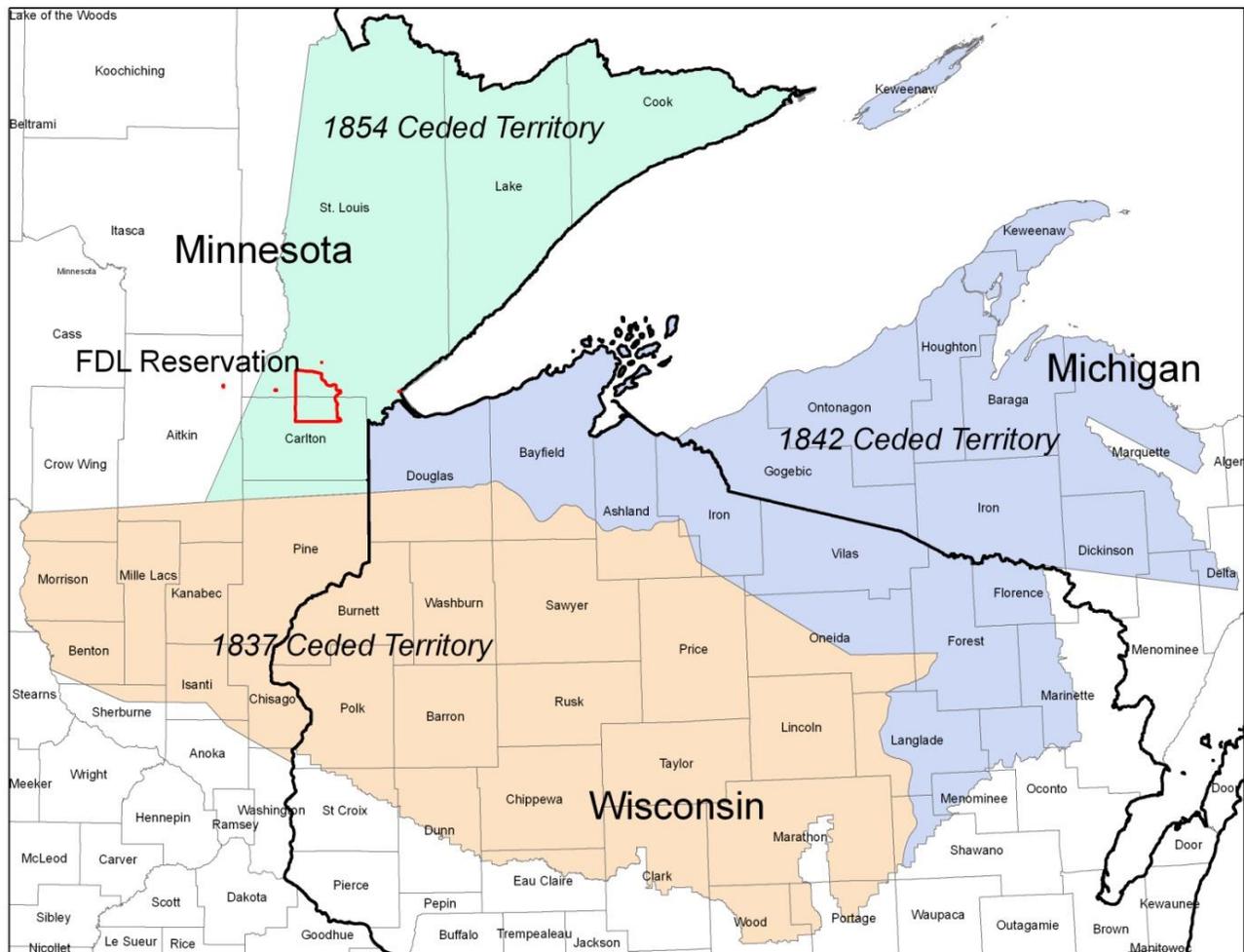


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and the 1837, 1842 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

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. Tags for hunting in the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota were tracked on a shared Excel® spreadsheet hosted by the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division (RMD) internal network. The Native American Game and Fish Applications® (NAGFA) program was utilized to record license and carcass tag information for FDL members hunting in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Michigan.

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

RMD maintained a registration station at its office on the FDL Reservation. The other remaining brick and mortar registration stations were discontinued in 2018 due to lack of use. Online and phone registration systems were available to FDL members hunting on the FDL Reservation and in Minnesota 1854 and 1837. The phone system was maintained through the FDL MIS Division and the online system utilized Google Docs®. In addition, FDL Conservation Enforcement officers could register animals in the field. The registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter – could only be registered at the RMD office and moose in 2018 had to be registered by phone directly with the enforcement clerk. A breakdown of how FDL hunters registered other animals in 2018 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Stations and methods used by FDL hunters in 2018 to register deer, bear, crane and turkey.

	Total Registrations	Percentage of total
RMD Office	66	33%
Online	99	50%
Phone	33	17%
	<hr/> 198	

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 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 2018 spring turkey season was April 14 - May 31 and the fall season September 4 - 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).

In 2018, 267 FDL Band members requested tags for the spring and/or fall seasons. In addition, 26 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued licenses and turkey tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. One hunter registered 2 gobblers during the spring season from DPA 156. Six hunters registered 8 hens in the fall season. Two hens came from DPA 182 and the remaining 6 were from the FDL Reservation (DPA 199).

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 4 - December 31. Two FDL members got spring tags and 35 FDL members got fall tags for turkeys; One FDL member registered 4 gobblers from Douglas County during the spring season and one hen was taken during the fall season from Douglas County.

BEAR

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2018 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation was August 25 – 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).

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 177 FDL members requested bear tags. Cubs and sows with cubs were protected from harvest. In addition to FDL members, 12 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 DPA 181 and another hunter took a male bear from DPA 131. State-licensed hunters took 4 female bears from the FDL Reservation (DPA 199).

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2018 bear season was September 4 - October 31 and 19 FDL members received bear tags for Wisconsin and Michigan; however, no bears were registered by FDL members.

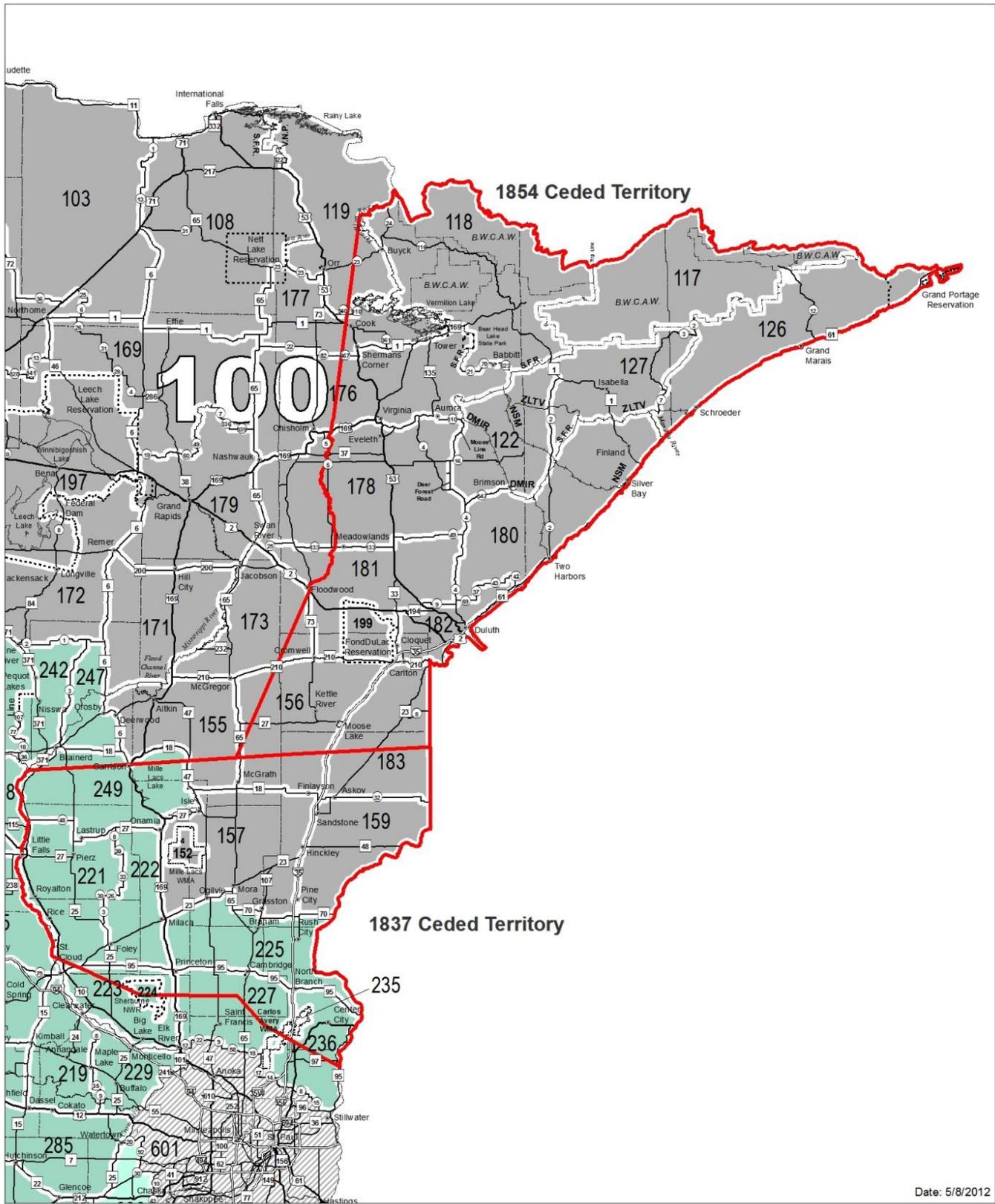


Figure 2. Minnesota deer permit areas and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota. Permit area 199 is the FDL Reservation.

DEER

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

Four tags at a time were available to FDL members to deer hunt 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. As deer populations had sufficiently recovered by 2018 from the winter of 2013-14, there were no separate deer tags for hunting on the FDL Reservation. Three hundred seventy-seven FDL members requested 1594 deer tags. In addition to FDL members, 30 members of other recognized tribes residing on the FDL Reservation were issued tags to deer hunt on the Reservation.

The 2018 deer season was September 4 – 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 82 FDL and 5 members of another band registered 176 deer from the Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota (av. =2 deer/hunter, range = 1-6). Of successful hunters 48% registered only 1 deer with another 24% of hunters registering 2 deer. The remaining 28% of hunters took 3-6 deer apiece. Method of take was recorded as 7 deer taken with a bow and one with a muzzleloader. The rest were taken with a regular firearm. In addition to tribal hunter harvest, RMD conservation officers harvested 7 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. 2018 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	0	0	0	0	1
126	2	0	0	0	0	2
131	1	0	0	0	0	1
132	0	1	0	0	0	1
133	0	0	1	0	0	1
156	6	7	1	1	0	15
176	3	5	0	0	0	8
177	0	1	1	0	0	2
178	1	0	0	1	0	2
181	24	17	5	2	0	48
182	6	3	0	1	0	10
183	6	1	0	0	0	7
199 (FDL Reservation)	25	24	5	2	0	56
St. Croix State Park	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wild River State Park	12	5	2	3	0	22
Total Harvest	89	68	14	11	0	183

Table 3. FDL deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	5
October	33
November	121
December	19
subsistence/ceremonial*	5
total	183

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

In 2018 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 2018 season formats for state park hunts are in Table 4. Harvest details from state parks are found in Table 2.

Table 4. 2018 Minnesota state park hunt declarations and participation by the FDL Band.

State Park	Hunt Type	County	Hunt Dates	Available FDL Permits	Permits Claimed
Banning	Firearm -Youth Only	Pine	Oct. 27 - 28	1	0
St. Croix	Firearm-Youth Only	Pine	Oct. 27 - 28	3	0
Tettegouche	Firearm-Youth Only	Lake	Oct. 27 - 28	2	0
“North Shore Parks” - Cascade, Judge Magney, Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock, and Tettegouche combined	Regular Firearm	Lake & Cook	Nov. 3 - 18	10	1
Wild River	Regular Firearm	Chisago	Nov. 10 - 11	15	12
St. Croix	Regular Firearm	Pine	Nov. 15 - 18	15	11
Soudan/Lake Vermillion	Muzzleloader	St. Louis	Nov. 24 - Dec. 9	2	0
St. Croix	Muzzleloader	Pine	Nov. 29 – Dec. 2	5	0
Crow Wing	Muzzleloader	Crow Wing	Dec. 1 - 2	2	0
Jay Cooke	Muzzleloader	Carlton	Dec. 1 - 5	5	1

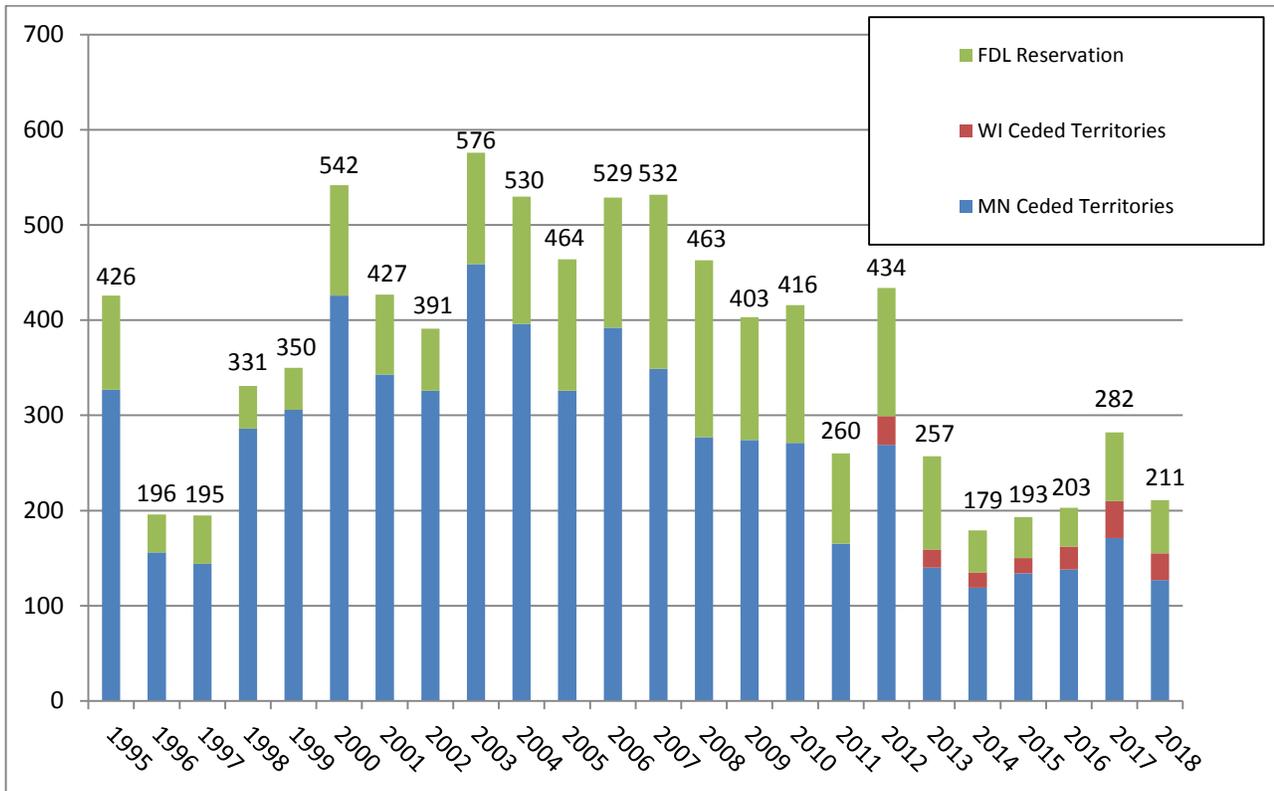


Figure 3. Fond du Lac Reservation and Ceded Territory deer harvests 1995-2018.

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 150 lottery antlerless permits for the Reservation – which the DNR agreed to. This strategy allowed 150 successful state licensed hunters to take one deer of either sex with remaining hunters limited to a single antlered buck. Total 2018 deer harvest by state-licensed hunters on the FDL Reservation was 151 deer; 113 antlered and 38 antlerless deer.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2018 deer season was September 4 – January 6. Thirty-seven FDL members were issued tags through the NAGFA system and 10 FDL members registered 28 deer from Wisconsin; 21 from Douglas County, three from Lincoln County and one each from Bayfield, Burnett and Washburn Counties and one from an unknown county (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3).

REGISTERED FURBEARERS

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2018-19 hunting and trapping season for registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter - was September 4 - 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. One FDL member registered three fisher, one registered three marten and a third registered a bobcat that had been hit by a vehicle. 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. In addition, it may be 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 2018 state-licensed harvest on the FDL Reservation was four bobcat, one fisher 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	3	0	0	0	0	3
Fisher	0	0	3	0	0	3
Bobcat	0	0	0	0	1	1
Otter	0	0	0	0	0	0

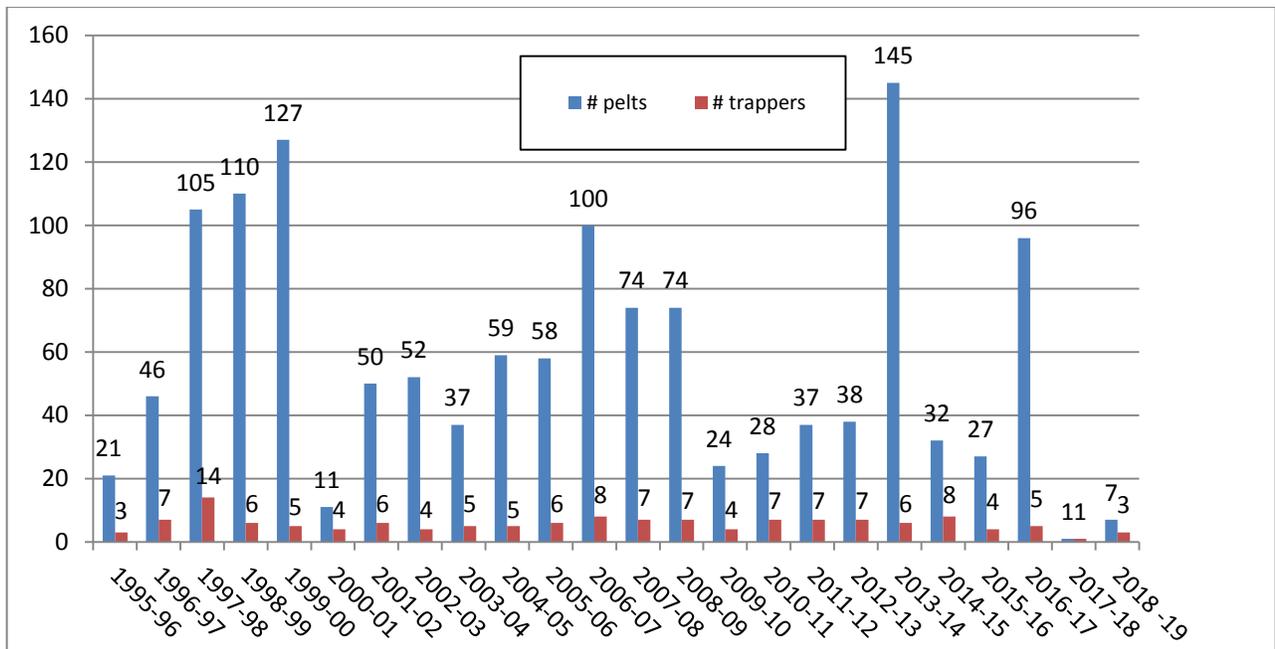


Figure 4. Total numbers of FDL trappers registering furs and their registered furbearer harvest from the FDL Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota from the 1995-96 to the 2018-19 season.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

In 2018-19 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, three got fisher tags, one got marten tags and two got otter tags, but no animals were registered.

SANDHILL CRANES

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

The FDL Band's 2018 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 thirty-two FDL members requested crane tags. One member registered two cranes from permit area 183 (Fig. 2).

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2018 sandhill crane season was September 1 - December 31 with a daily limit of 2. No carcass tags or registration of harvest apparently were required and it wasn't clear from the data if any FDL members hunted cranes from either ceded territory.

MOOSE

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

Fond du Lac's 2018 moose hunt was limited to 18 bull moose based on the estimated moose population size and protocols agreed to with the Minnesota DNR. Season dates were Sept. 22 to Dec. 31 or until FDL's harvest limit of 18 bull moose was reached. The RMD did not retain any moose in 2018 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.

Fifty-nine parties of 3-4 individuals applied for the 60 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 2018. The 1854 Treaty Authority also held a moose hunt in 2018, but the State of Minnesota did not.

FDL's moose season closed after five days when 18 bull moose were taken. A breakdown of FDL's 2018 moose harvest by zone and historic moose harvests are below (Table 6 and Fig. 6).

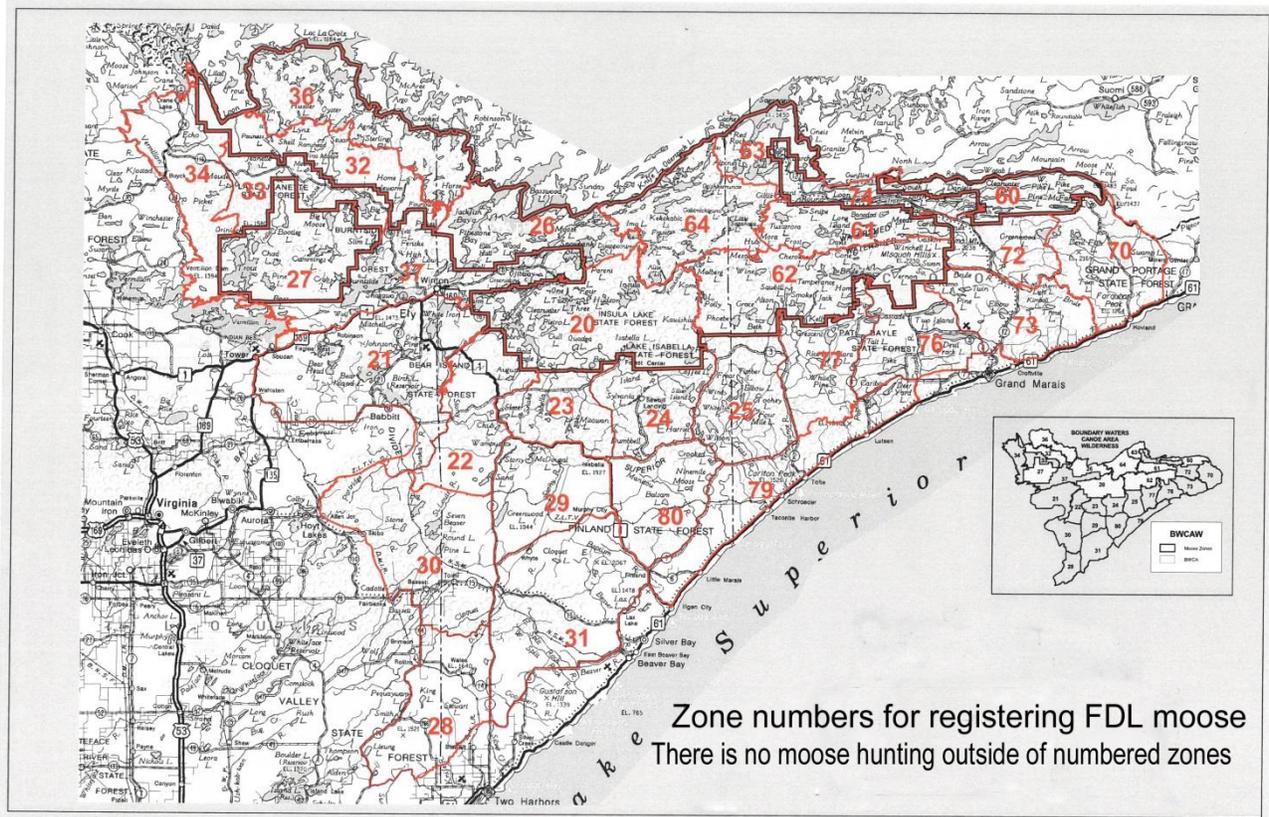


Figure 5. Area opened for 2018 FDL moose hunting in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

Table 6. Fond du Lac 2018 moose harvest by DNR moose zone

	Zone 24	Zone 25	Zone 29	Zone 31	Zone 70	Zone 72	Zone 76	Zone 77	Total Harvest
Bull									
Moose	3	1	3	3	1	4	2	1	18

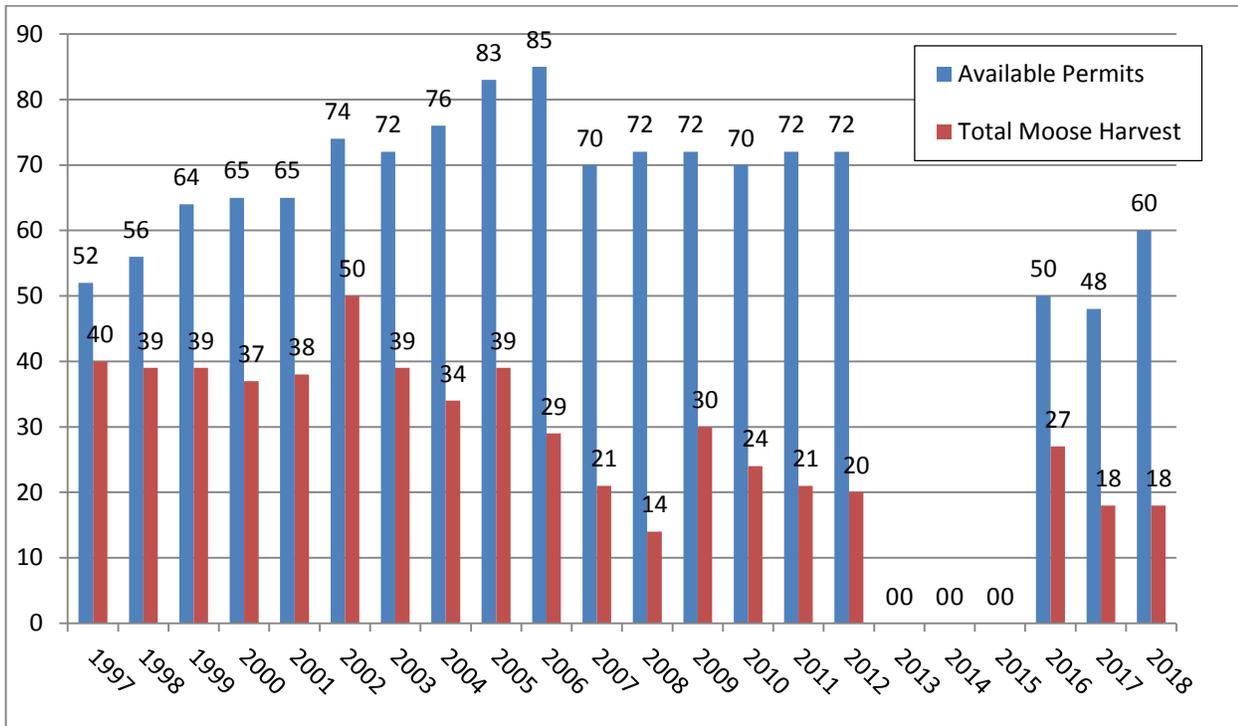


Figure 6. Fond du Lac total moose harvest and number of permits available 1997-2018.

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