

2019 WILDLIFE HARVEST RECORD FOR THE FOND DU LAC BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA

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INTRODUCTION

This report documents the seasons, limits and harvest of deer, bear, moose, turkey, sandhill cranes, swans 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.

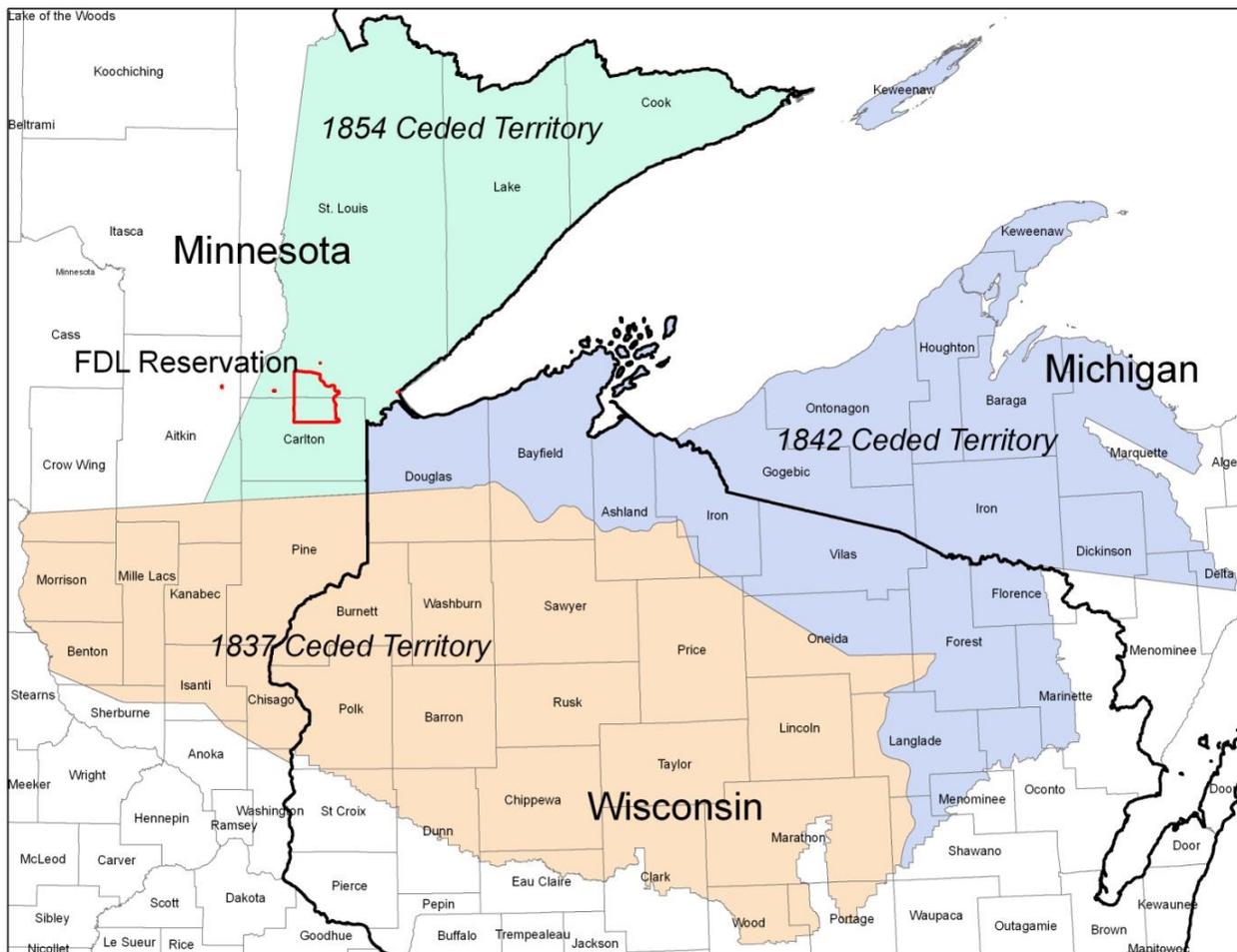


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and the 1837, 1842 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

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 remaining brick and mortar registration stations were discontinued by 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 IT Division and the online system utilized Google Docs®. The registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter – could only be registered at the RMD office and moose in 2019 had to be registered by phone directly with the enforcement clerk. A breakdown of how FDL hunters registered other animals in 2019 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Stations and methods used by FDL hunters in 2019 to register deer, bear, crane and turkey.

	Total Registrations	Percentage of total
RMD Office	45	27%
Online	99	59%
Phone	23	14%
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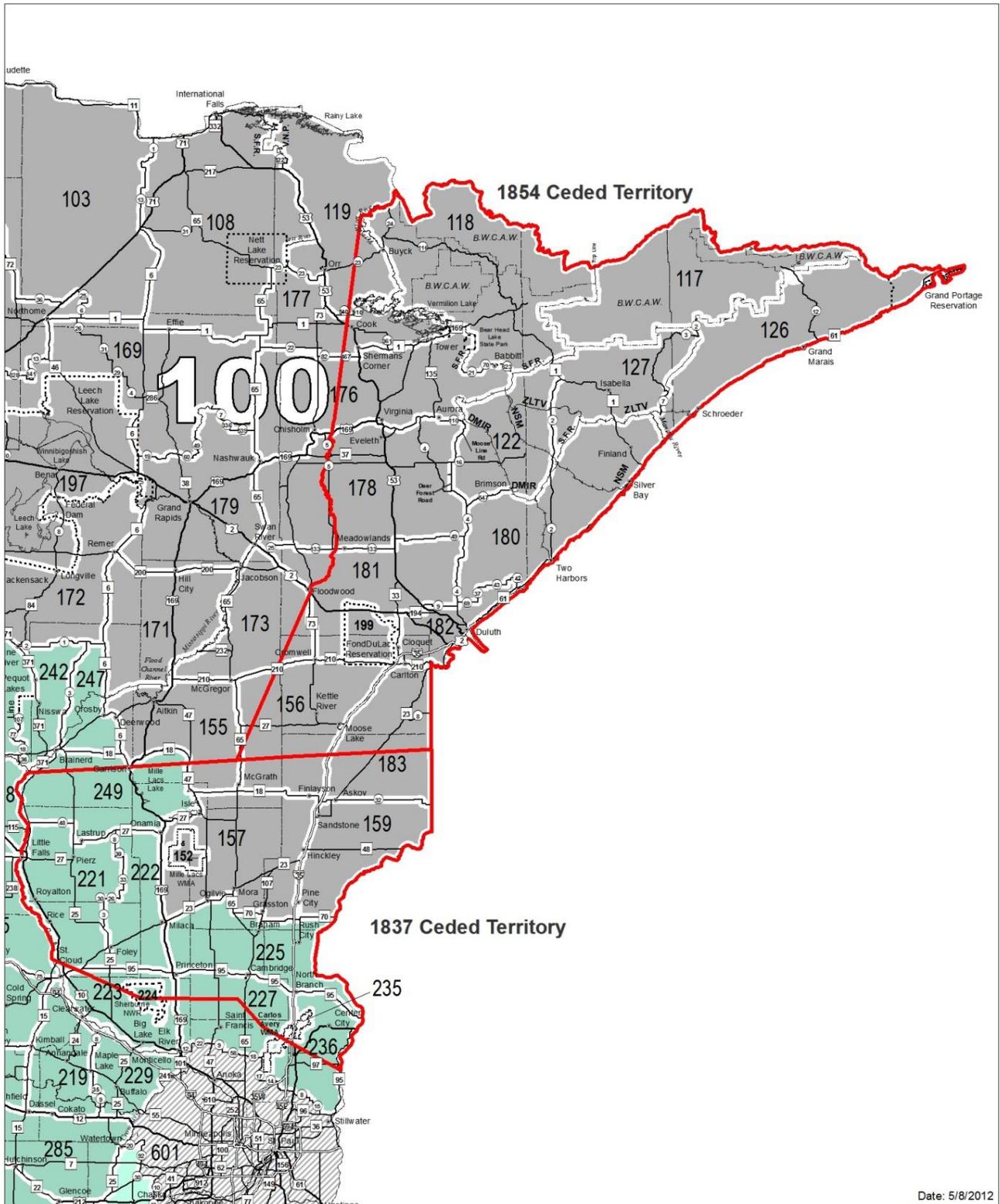
1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

Animals 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 or online by individual hunters. Hunters harvesting deer in Wisconsin were encouraged to register by phone or online 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 2019 spring turkey season was April 13 - May 31 and the fall season September 3 - December 31. All areas of the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories were open for turkey hunting (Fig. 2) except for the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (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).



Date: 5/8/2012

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

In 2019, 255 FDL Band members requested tags for the spring and/or fall seasons. 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 4 gobblers during the spring season; 2 from the FDL Reservation (DPA 199) and 2 from DPA 156. Four hunters registered 6 birds in the fall season. Four hens came from the FDL Reservation, one gobbler from DPA 181 and one hen from DPA 156.

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 3 - December 31. Six FDL members got spring tags and 40 FDL members got fall tags for turkeys. No birds were registered during the spring season and one gobbler was taken during the fall season from Douglas County (Fig. 1).

BEAR

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2019 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation was August 31 – December 31. Baiting was legal from August 10 - December 31. The 1837 Ceded Territory season was September 1 - November 15. Bait stations were permissible August 17 - November 15. 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. Cubs and sows with cubs were protected from harvest. A total of 168 FDL members requested bear tags. In addition to FDL members, 11 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued licenses and bear tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. 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).

Three FDL hunters registered four male bears in 2019; one each from the FDL Reservation and DPA 181 and 2 bears from DPA 131. State-licensed hunters took 4 female and 4 male bears from the FDL Reservation.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2019 bear season was September 3 - October 31 and 22 FDL members received bear tags for Wisconsin and Michigan; however, no bears were registered by FDL members.

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. Deer tags could be utilized in either of the Minnesota ceded territories or on the FDL Reservation. There was no individual limit and no restrictions on the harvest of antlered or antlerless deer. Three hundred forty-nine FDL members requested 1428 deer tags. In addition to FDL members, 21 members of other recognized tribes residing on the FDL Reservation were issued tags to deer hunt on the Reservation.

The 2019 deer season was September 3 – 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 DPAs (Fig.

2). A total of 70 FDL and 2 members of another band registered 153 deer from the Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota (av. =2.1 deer/hunter, range = 1-9). Of successful hunters 38% registered 1 deer with another 22% of hunters registering 2 deer. The remaining 32% of hunters registered 3-9 deer apiece. Method of take was recorded as 3 deer taken with a bow, 3 with a muzzleloader and the remainder with regular firearms. Method of take was not recorded for 2 deer. RMD conservation officers did not harvest any deer for subsistence/ceremonial purposes in 2019. A breakdown of FDL Reservation and Minnesota 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territory deer harvest by DPA, 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). Historic FDL deer harvests are provided in Figure 3.

Table 2. 2019 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
132	0	2	0	0	0	2
133	2	1	0	0	0	3
156	14	2	1	0	0	17
176	1	2	0	0	0	3
177	0	1	1	0	0	2
178	2	1	0	0	0	3
181	14	15	3	2	0	34
182	3	3	0	0	0	6
183	3	4	1	0	0	8
FDL Reservation (199)	20	18	9	3	0	50
225	0	0	1	0	0	1
St. Croix State Park	0	0	2	0	0	2
Wild River State Park	7	6	6	1	0	20
Total Harvest	67	56	24	6	0	153

Table 3. FDL deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	4
October	12
November	122
December	15
subsistence/ceremonial*	0
total	153

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

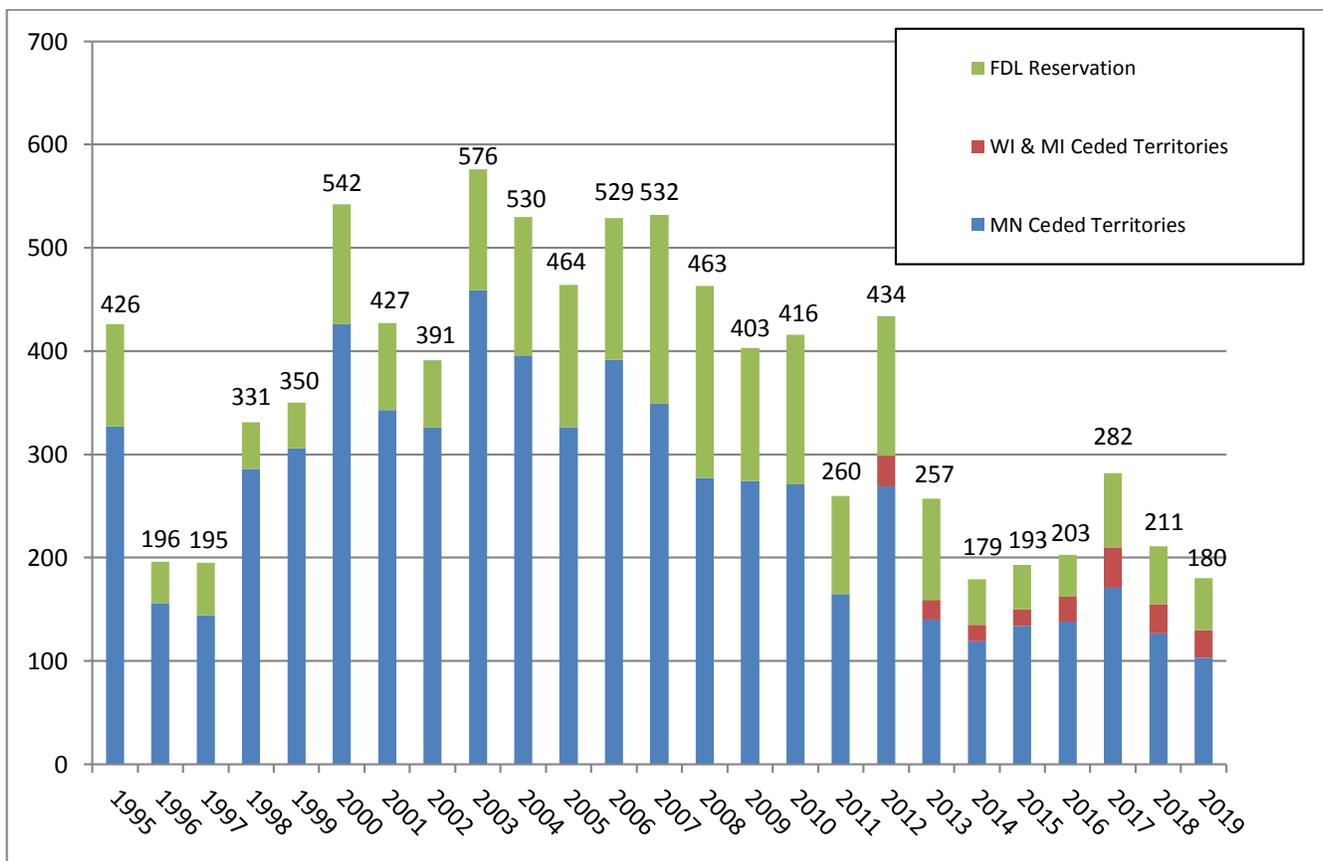


Figure 3. Fond du Lac Reservation and Ceded Territory deer harvests 1995-2019.

In 2019 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 2019 season formats for state park hunts are in Table 4. Harvest details from state parks are in Table 2.

Table 4. 2019 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	Nov. 2 - 3	1	0
St. Croix	Firearm - Youth Only	Pine	Nov. 2 - 3	2	0
Tettegouche	Firearm - Youth Only	Lake	Nov. 2 - 3	1	0
“North Shore Parks” - Cascade, Judge Magney, Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock, and Tettegouche combined	Regular Firearm	Lake & Cook	Nov. 9 - 24	10	0
Wild River	Regular Firearm	Chisago	Nov. 9 - 10	15	15
St. Croix	Regular Firearm	Pine	Nov. 21 - 24	15	17
Soudan/Lake Vermillion	Muzzleloader	St. Louis	Nov. 30 - Dec. 15	2	1
St. Croix	Muzzleloader	Pine	Dec. 4 - 8	5	0
Crow Wing	Muzzleloader	Crow Wing	Dec. 7 - 11	2	0
Jay Cooke	Muzzleloader	Carlton	Dec. 7 - 13	5	2

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 might be down from 2018 so the RMD requested the DNR issue 100 lottery antlerless permits for the Reservation – which the DNR agreed to. 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 2019 deer harvest by state-licensed hunters on the FDL Reservation was 142 deer; 105 antlered and 37 antlerless deer.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2019 deer season was September 3 – January 5. In order to encourage FDL hunters to keep deer harvested in Wisconsin or Michigan ceded territories in those states, FDL RMD issued carcass tags marked as “FDL WI&MI Deer” These tags were not available at other GLIFWC stations in Wisconsin or Michigan. Fifty-two FDL members were issued tags either by FDL or other GLIFWC stations. One FDL member registered 4 deer from Dickinson County, Michigan and 9 FDL members registered 23 deer from Wisconsin; 21 from Douglas County and 2 from an unknown county (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3).

REGISTERED FURBEARERS

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2019-20 hunting and trapping season for registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter - was September 3 - 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 one male bobcat from DPA 156 (Fig 2). 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, its likely interest in trapping is fading amongst FDL members as well. Historic FDL registered fur harvest is in Figure 4.

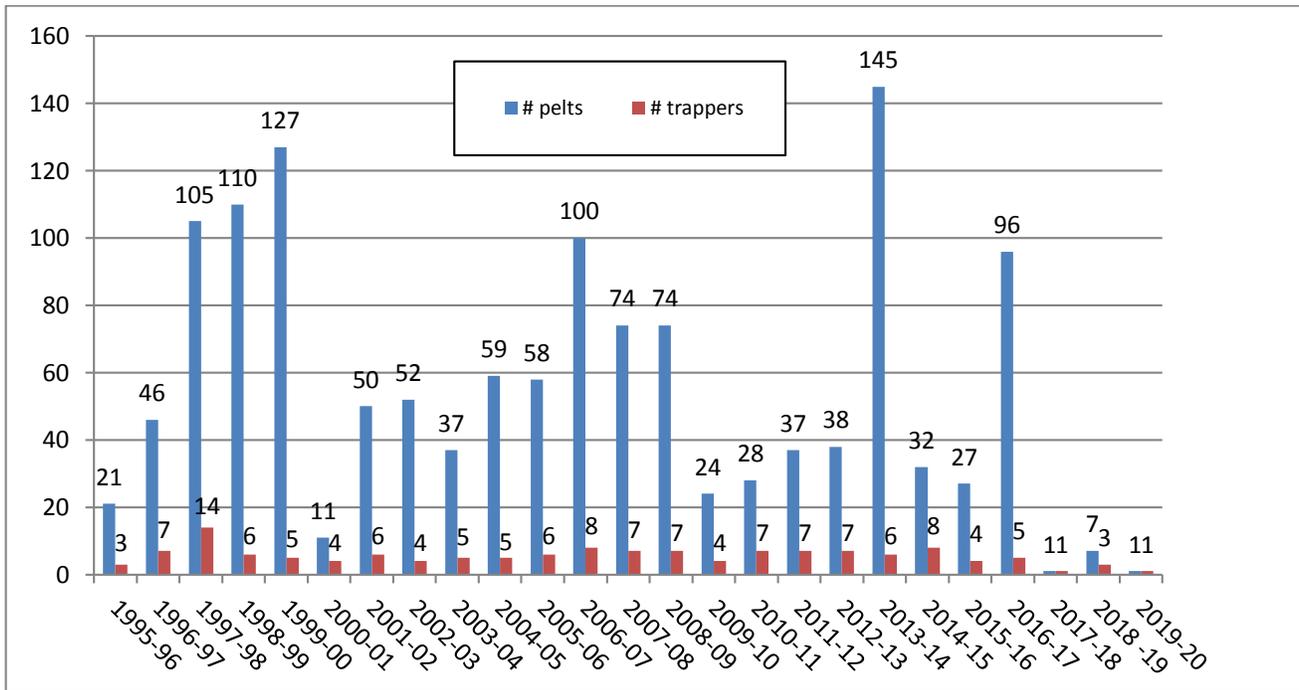


Figure 4. Total numbers of FDL trappers registering furs and their registered furbearer harvest from the FDL Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota from the 1995-96 to the 2019-20 season.

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 2019 state-licensed harvest on the FDL Reservation was four bobcat, one fisher and three otter, but the actual harvest may be different.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

In 2019-20 there were various open and closing dates for the harvest of registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter. Four FDL members got carcass tags for bobcat, 3 got fisher tags, no one got marten tags and 4 got otter tags, but no animals were registered.

SANDHILL CRANES AND SWANS

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

The FDL Band's 2019 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 five FDL members requested crane tags. Two members registered three cranes from DPA 183 (Fig. 2).

In 2019 the Band opened a harvest season on the FDL Reservation for swans. Although either trumpeter or tundra swans could be taken, the objective of the season was to reduce local trumpeter swan numbers as part of a larger effort to reduce swan damage to wild rice crops on Reservation Lakes. The 2019

season was September 1 – November 30 and only the FDL Reservation was open to swan harvest. Band members could receive one carcass tag at a time with additional tags possible following registration of each bird. One hundred ten FDL members and 6 members of other bands requested at least one swan tag. Seven trumpeter swans were registered by 4 tribal hunters.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

Swans and sandhill cranes were available for harvest in the ceded territories of Wisconsin and Michigan; however, no harvest of either was reported by FDL band members.

MOOSE

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

Fond du Lac’s 2019 moose hunt was limited to 24 bull moose based on the estimated moose population size and protocols agreed to with the Minnesota DNR. Season dates were Sept. 21 to Dec. 31 or until FDL’s harvest limit of 24 bull moose was reached. The RMD did not retain any moose in 2019 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.

Sixty-two 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 2019. The 1854 Treaty Authority also held a moose hunt in 2018, but the State of Minnesota did not.

FDL band members harvested 21 bull moose. A breakdown of FDL’s 2019 moose harvest by zone and historic moose harvests are below (Table 6 and Fig. 6).

Table 6. Fond du Lac 2019 moose harvest by DNR moose zone

	Zone 24	Zone 25	Zone 30	Zone 31	Zone 72	Zone 77	Zone 80	Total Harvest
Bull Moose	3	7	1	1	5	2	2	21

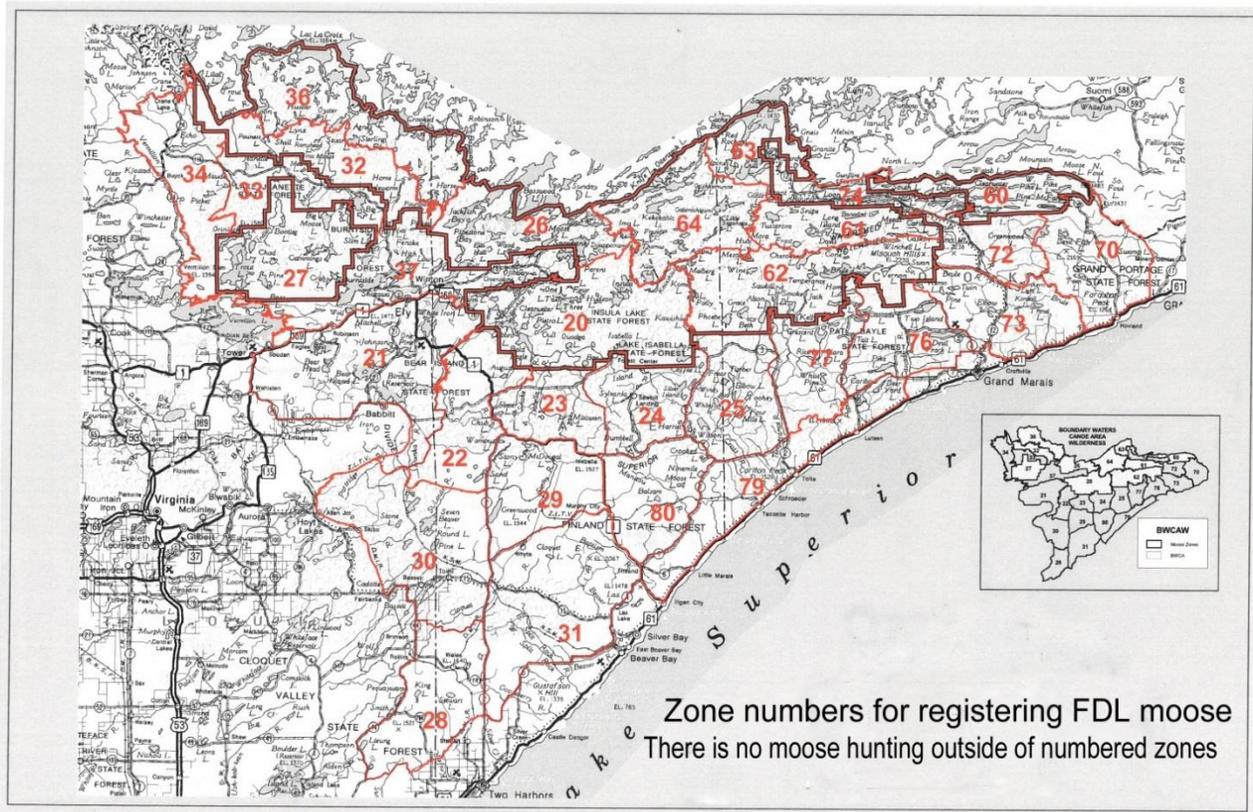


Figure 5. Area opened for 2019 FDL moose hunting in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

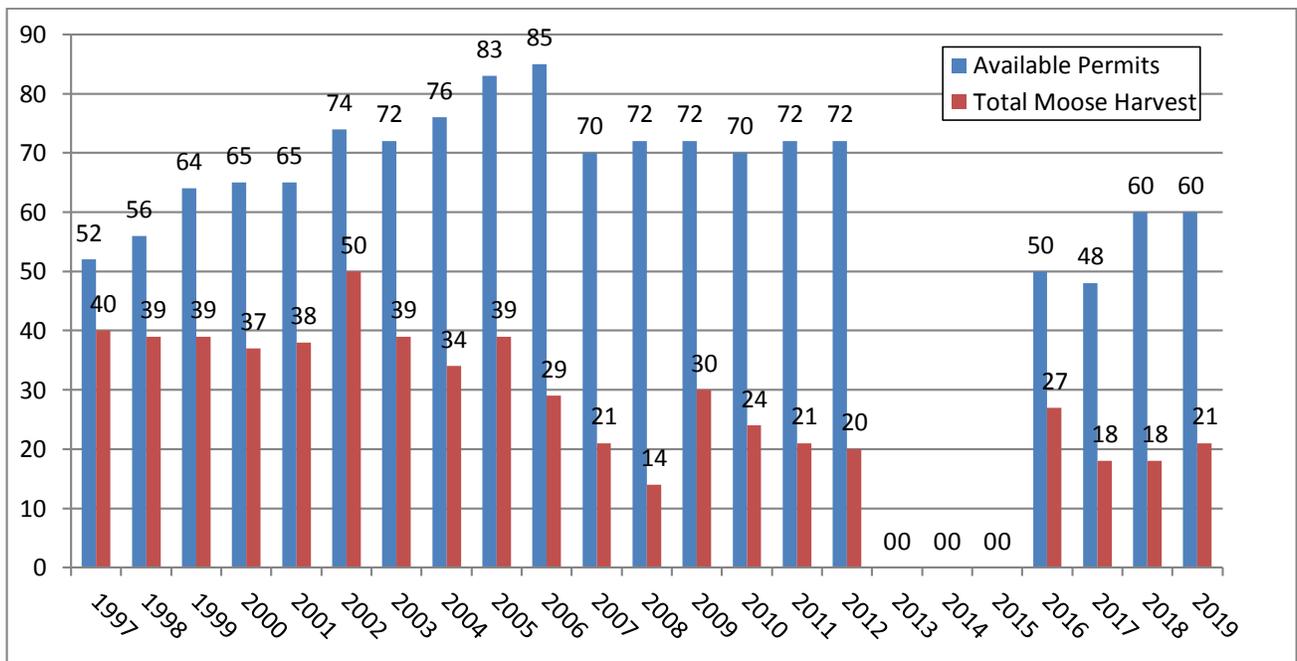


Figure 6. Fond du Lac total moose harvest and number of permits available 1997-2019.

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