

2021 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 FDL 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 FDL developed and implemented the Reservation Conservation Code and in 1988 FDL 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, FDL implemented conservation codes for the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan. Seasons and bag limits are determined on an annual basis.

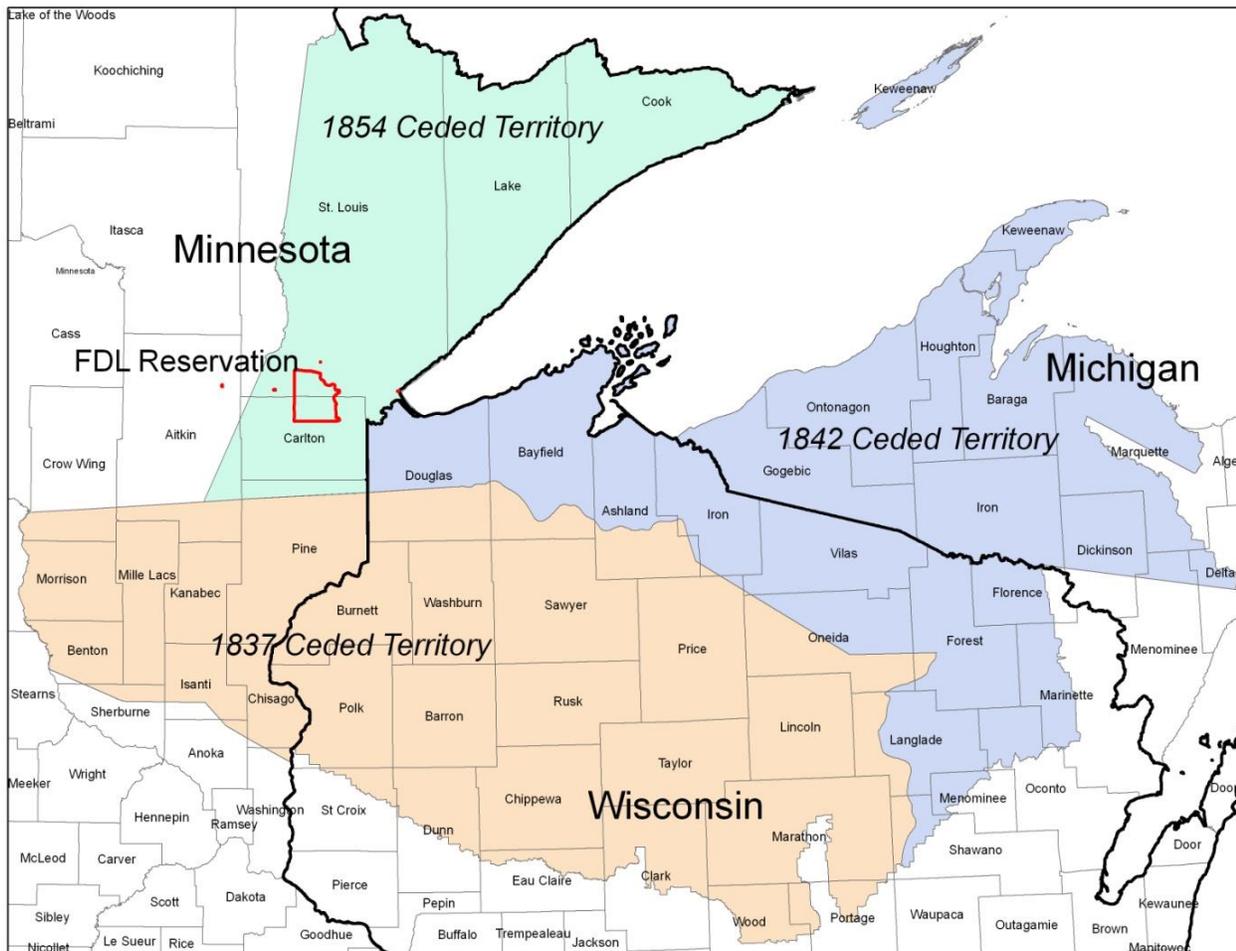


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and the 1837, 1842 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

LICENSES, TAGS AND CARCASS REGISTRATION

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

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 FDL Resource Management Division (RMD) internal network.

RMD maintained a registration station at its office on the FDL Reservation. 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 Information Technology Division and the online system utilized Google Docs® accessed through links on various FDL webpages. The registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter – could only be registered at the RMD office and moose in 2021 had to be registered by phone directly with the enforcement clerk. A breakdown of how FDL hunters registered other animals in 2021 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Stations and methods used by FDL hunters in 2021 to register deer, bear, crane, swan and turkey.

	Total Registrations	Percentage of total
RMD Office	33	24%
Online	85	61%
Phone	21	15%
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1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The Native American Game and Fish Applications® (NAGFA) program was utilized to record harvest, license and carcass tag information for FDL members hunting in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Michigan. Access to NAGFA was available at the RMD office and other tribal offices in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories or phone 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 Chronic Wasting Disease.

TURKEY

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2021 spring turkey season was April 10 - May 31 and the fall season September 7 - 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).

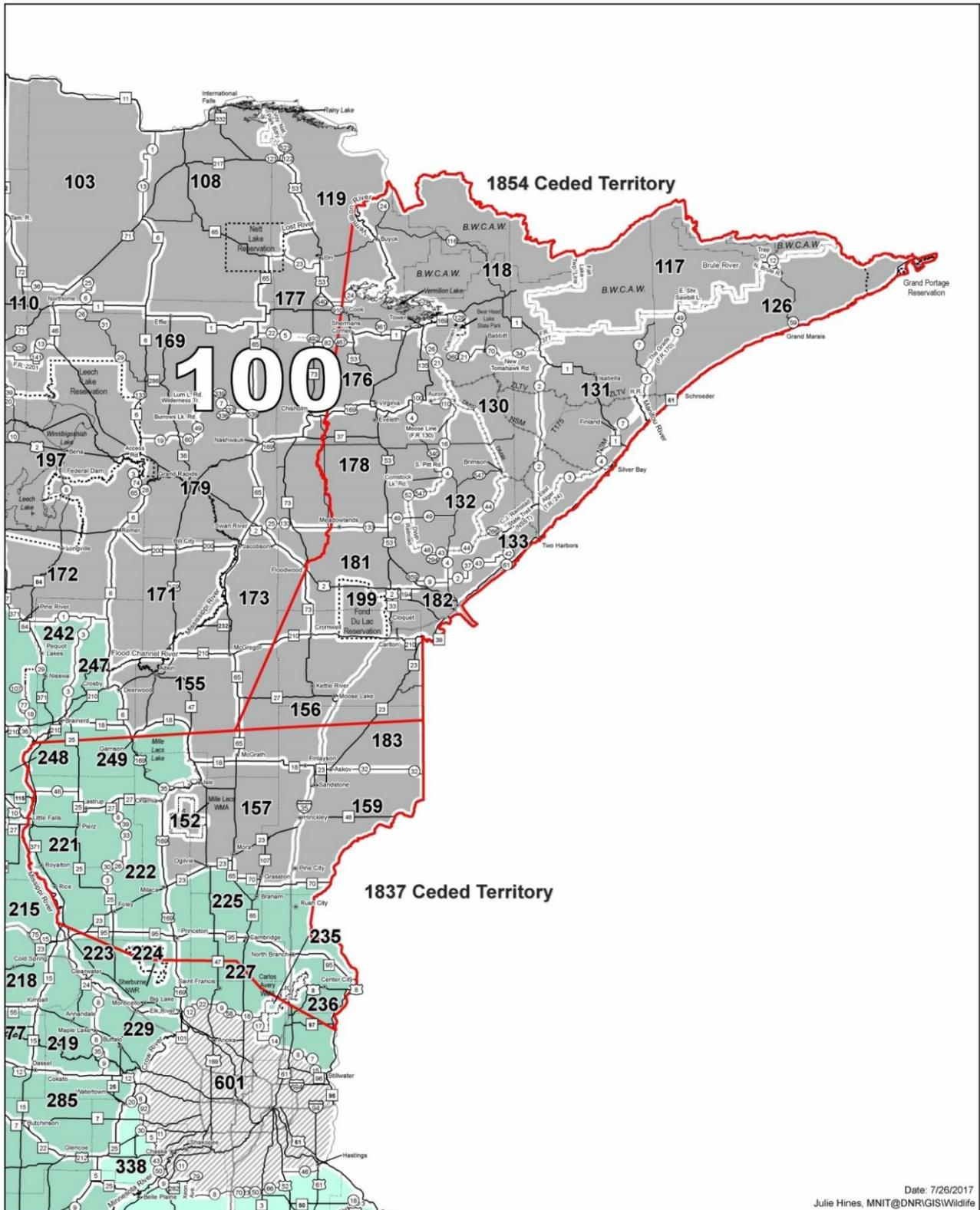


Figure 2. Minnesota antlerless deer permit areas (DPAs) and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota. Permit area 199 is the FDL Reservation.

In 2021, 229 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. Six birds were registered by two hunters during the spring season; and five birds were registered by three hunters during the fall season. Four were registered from DPA 156, two each from 181 and 183 and three from the FDL Reservation (DPA 199, Fig. 2)

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 7 - December 31. One FDL member registered two birds in the spring season from Douglas County (Fig. 1).

BEAR

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2021 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation was August 28 – December 31. Baiting was legal from August 7 - December 31. The 1837 Ceded Territory season was September 1 - November 15. Bait stations were permissible August 13 - 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 172 FDL members requested bear tags. 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. 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).

Five FDL hunters registered two male and four female bears in 2021; one each from DPAs 131, 132, 156 and an unknown DPA and two from the FDL Reservation. State-licensed hunters took four female and two male bears from the FDL Reservation.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2021 bear season was September 7 - October 31. One bear from Bayfield County (Fig. 1) was registered by a FDL band member.

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 eight FDL members requested deer tags. In addition to FDL members, 17 members of other recognized tribes residing on the FDL Reservation were issued tags to deer hunt on the Reservation.

The 2021 deer season was September 7 – December 31 for both Minnesota 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 69 FDL and one member of another band registered 127 deer from the Reservation and the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota (av. =1.9 deer/hunter, range = 1-8). Of successful hunters 57% registered 1 deer with another 25% of hunters registering 2 deer. The remaining 19%

of hunters registered 3-8 deer apiece. Method of take was recorded as nine deer taken with a bow, one with a muzzleloader and the remainder with regular firearms. RMD conservation officers took and additional two deer for subsistence/ceremonial purposes in 2021. 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. 2021 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	0	0	0	2	0	2
130	1	0	0	0	0	1
132	2	3	1	0	0	5
133	1	2	0	0	0	3
156	5	6	1	1	0	13
157	0	1	0	0	0	1
159	2	0	0	0	0	2
173	1	0	0	0	0	1
176	1	0	0	0	0	1
177	1	1	0	0	0	2
178	0	1	0	0	0	1
181	7	14	0	0	0	21
182	3	4	0	1	0	8
183	3	5	1	0	0	9
FDL Reservation (199)	19	19	6	0	0	44
225	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mille Lacs Kathio State Park	3	8	1	2	0	14
Total Harvest	50	64	9	6	0	129

Table 3. Fond du Lac deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	9
October	16
November	96
December	6
subsistence/ceremonial*	2
total	129

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

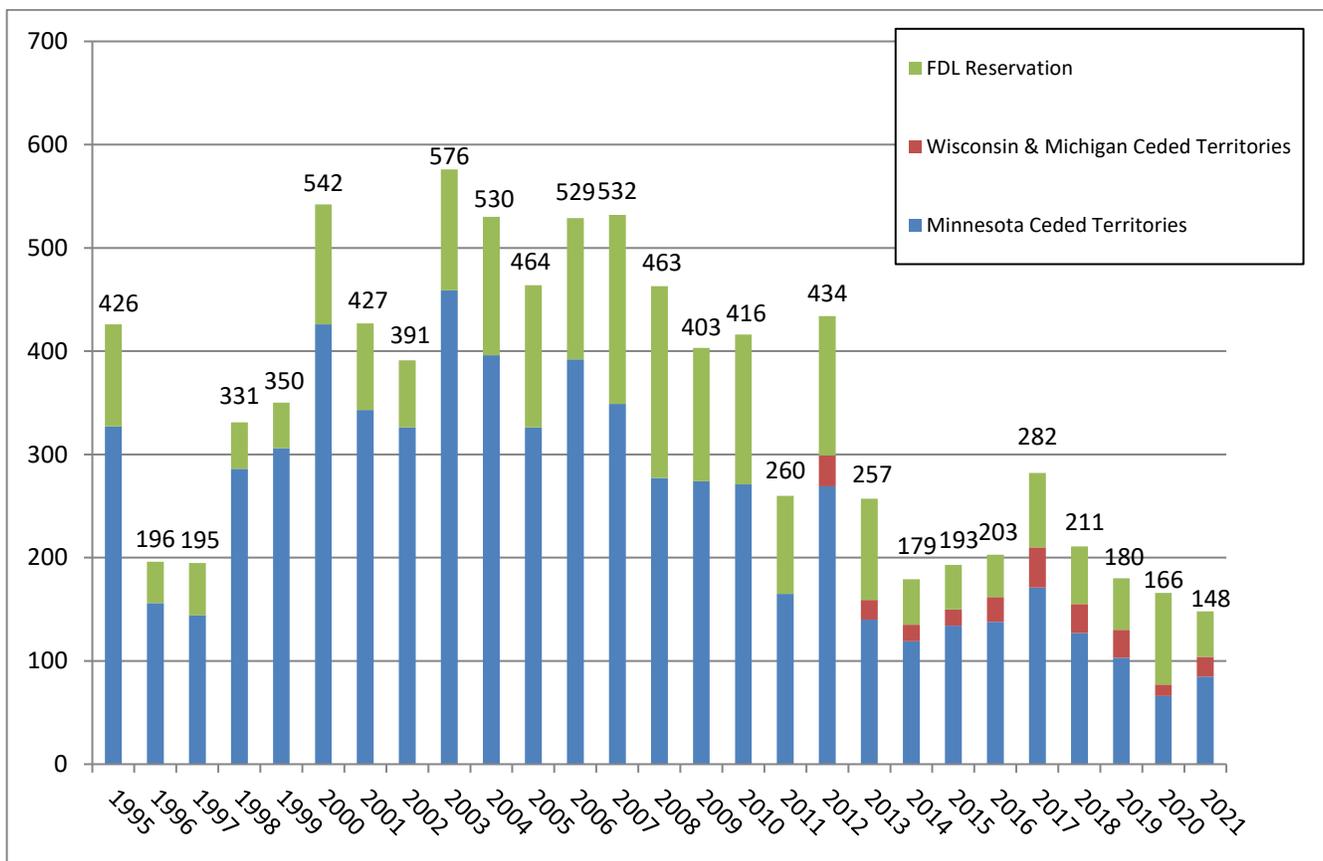


Figure 3. Fond du Lac Reservation and Ceded Territory deer harvests 1995-2021.

In 2021 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 2021 season formats for state park hunts are in Table 4. Harvest details from state parks are in Table 2.

Table 4. 2021 Minnesota state park hunt declarations and participation by Fond du Lac.

State Park	Hunt Type	County	Hunt Dates	Available FDL Permits	Permits Claimed
Banning	Firearm - Youth Only	Pine	Oct. 30-31	1	0
St. Croix	Firearm - Youth Only	Pine	Oct. 30-31	2	0
Mille Lacs Kathio	Regular Firearm	Mille Lacs	Nov. 6-8	10	10
“North Shore Parks” - Cascade, Judge Magney, Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock, and Tettegouche combined	Regular Firearm	Lake & Cook	Nov. 6 - 21	5	6
St. Croix	Regular Firearm	Pine	Nov. 18 - 21	20	12
Soudan/Lake Vermillion	Muzzleloader	St. Louis	Nov. 27-Dec. 12	2	0
St. Croix	Muzzleloader	Pine	Dec. 1 - 5	2	0
Jay Cooke	Muzzleloader	Carlton	Dec. 4 - 8	3	0

The FDL Reservation Business Committee, with input from the RMD and the Conservation Committee recommended the Reservation have a lottery designation with 100 antlerless permits for state-licensed hunters in 2021. The DNR agreed to implement this strategy. Total 2021 deer harvest by state-licensed hunters on the FDL Reservation was 122 deer; 94 antlered and 28 antlerless deer.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

The 2021 deer season was September 7 – January 2. 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. Sixty-five FDL members were issued tags either by FDL or other GLIFWC stations. Eight FDL members registered 19 deer from Wisconsin; 15 from Douglas County and one each from Bayfield, Burnett, Rusk and Washburn Counties (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3).

REGISTERED FURBEARERS

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and the FDL Reservation

The 2021-22 hunting and trapping season for registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter - was September 7 - March 31 on the FDL Reservation and the 1854 Ceded Territory and October 1 - March 31 in the 1837 Ceded Territory. All 4 species were required to be registered at the RMD office. One FDL member registered 1 female fisher from the FDL Reservation (Fig 2). Fluctuations in FDL’s fur harvest are more likely due to fur prices and the small number of trappers involved than to changes in furbearer populations. However, harvest information and anecdotal reports suggest fur trapping is evidently fading amongst FDL members. From the 1995-96 season through 2016-17 an average of 6 FDL members registered a yearly average 61 pelts every season. Since that time fur harvest has averaged fewer than 2 FDL members registering less than 3 pelts a year. 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 one township is entirely enclosed by Reservation boundaries. On this basis, the estimated 2021-22 state-licensed harvest on the FDL Reservation was five bobcat and four otter, but the actual harvest may have been different.

1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

In 2021-22 there were various open and closing dates for the harvest of registered furbearers – marten, fisher, bobcat and otter. No animals were registered by FDL members though.

SANDHILL CRANES AND SWANS

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

The FDL 2021 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 raised to three 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 nineteen FDL members requested crane tags; however, no cranes were registered.

The 2021 swan season was September 1 – November 30 and only the FDL Reservation was open to their harvest. Band members could receive two carcass tags at a time with additional tags possible following registration of each bird. Either trumpeter or tundra swans could be taken. One hundred three FDL members and seven members of other bands requested at least one swan tag; however, no swans were registered.

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 was reported by FDL members.

MOOSE

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota

Fond du Lac's 2021 moose hunt was limited to 30 bull moose based on the estimated moose population size and protocols agreed to with the Minnesota DNR. Season dates were Sept. 25 to Dec. 31 or until FDL's harvest limit of 30 bull moose was reached. The RMD did not retain any moose in 2021 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-eight 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. 4). 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 2021. The 1854 Treaty Authority also held a moose hunt in 2021, but the State of Minnesota did not. Twenty-three bull moose were taken by FDL parties in 2021. A breakdown of FDL's 2021 moose harvest by zone and historic moose harvests are below (Table 5 and Fig. 5).

Table 5. Fond du Lac 2021 moose harvest by DNR moose zone

	Zone 23	Zone 24	Zone 25	Zone 30	Zone 31	Zone 62	Zone 70	Zone 77	Zone 80	Total Harvest
Bull										
Moose	2	6	5	1	1	1	2	1	4	23

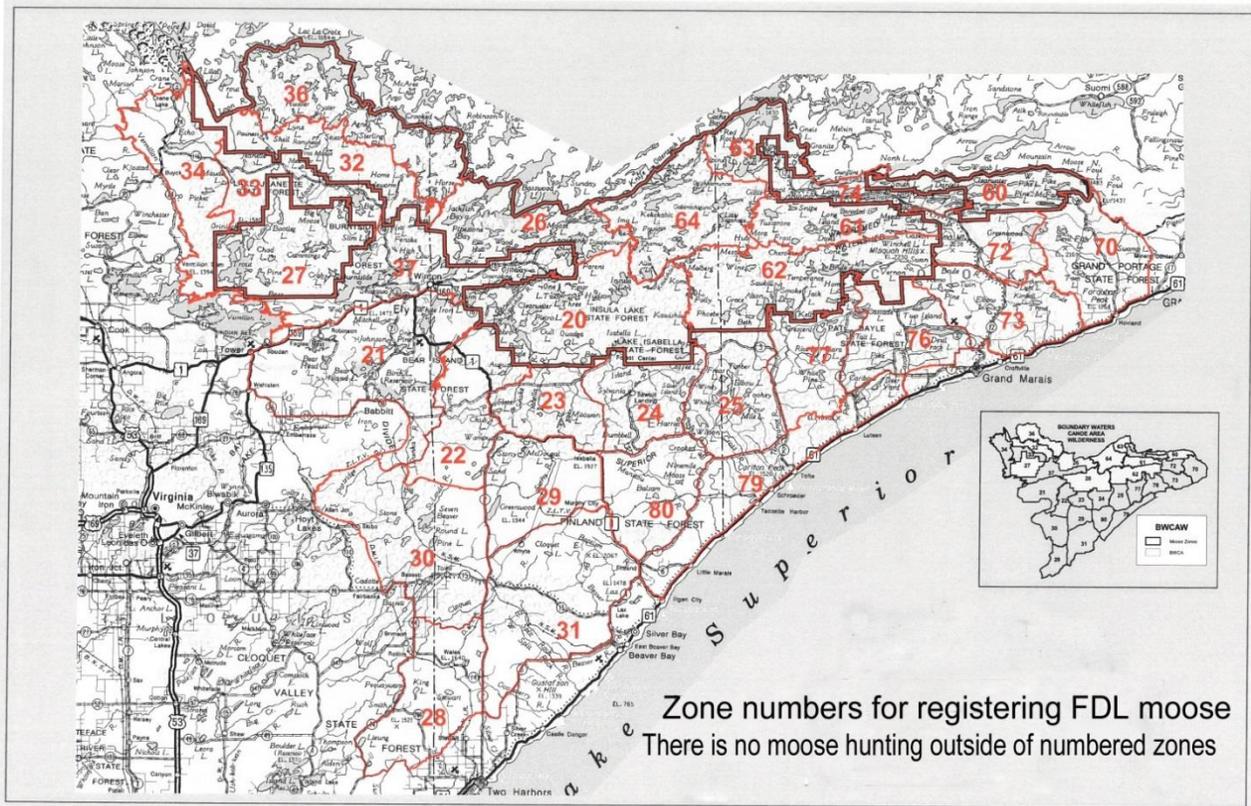


Figure 4. Area opened for 2021 FDL moose hunting in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

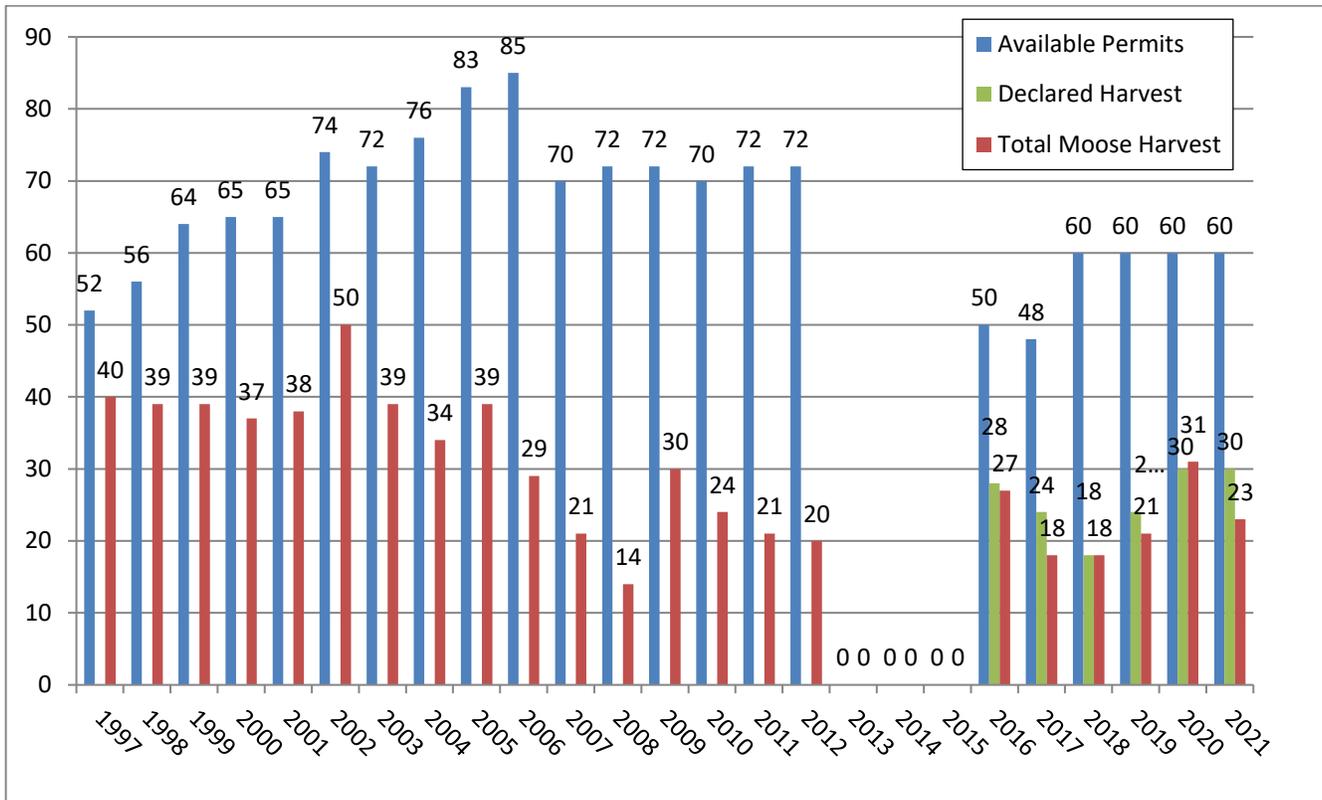


Figure 5. Fond du Lac total moose harvest, declared harvest and number of permits available 1997-2021.

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