

# 2013 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. Data from the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan is provided in summary form. Complete 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.

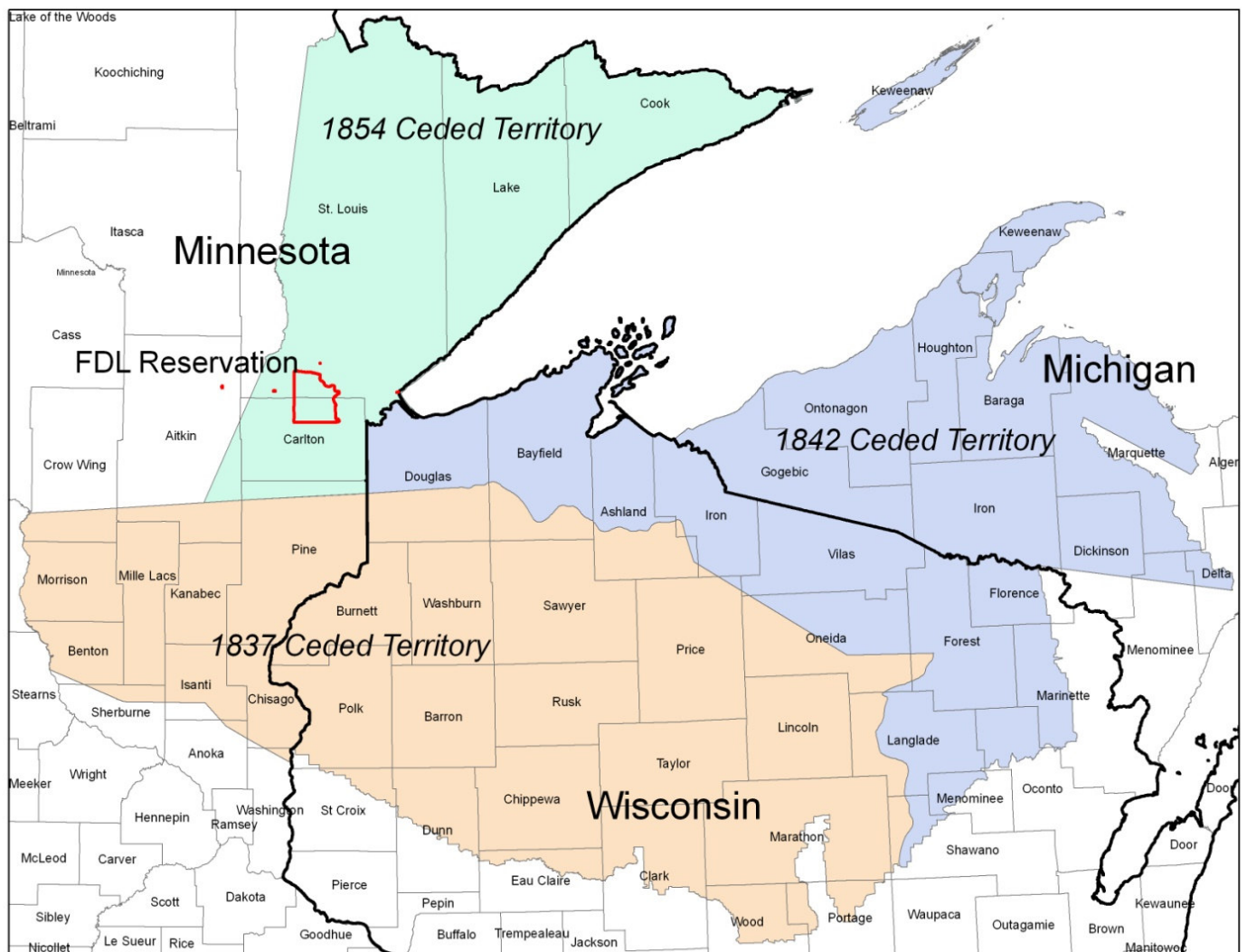


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and the 1837, 1842 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

## 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 utilizes 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 is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Registration stations and methods used by FDL hunters for 2013.

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	<b>Total Registrations</b>	<b>Percentage of total</b>
<b>RMD Office</b>	47	22%
<b>Online</b>	109	50%
<b>Phone</b>	28	13%
<b>Sawyer Store</b>	6	3%
<b>RMD field staff</b>	0	0%
<b>FDL Gas and Grocery</b>	9	4%
<b>Country Corner Tavern</b>	10	5%
<b>Chalstroms Bait &amp; Tackle</b>	0	0%
<b>Conservation Officers</b>	7	3%
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### 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan

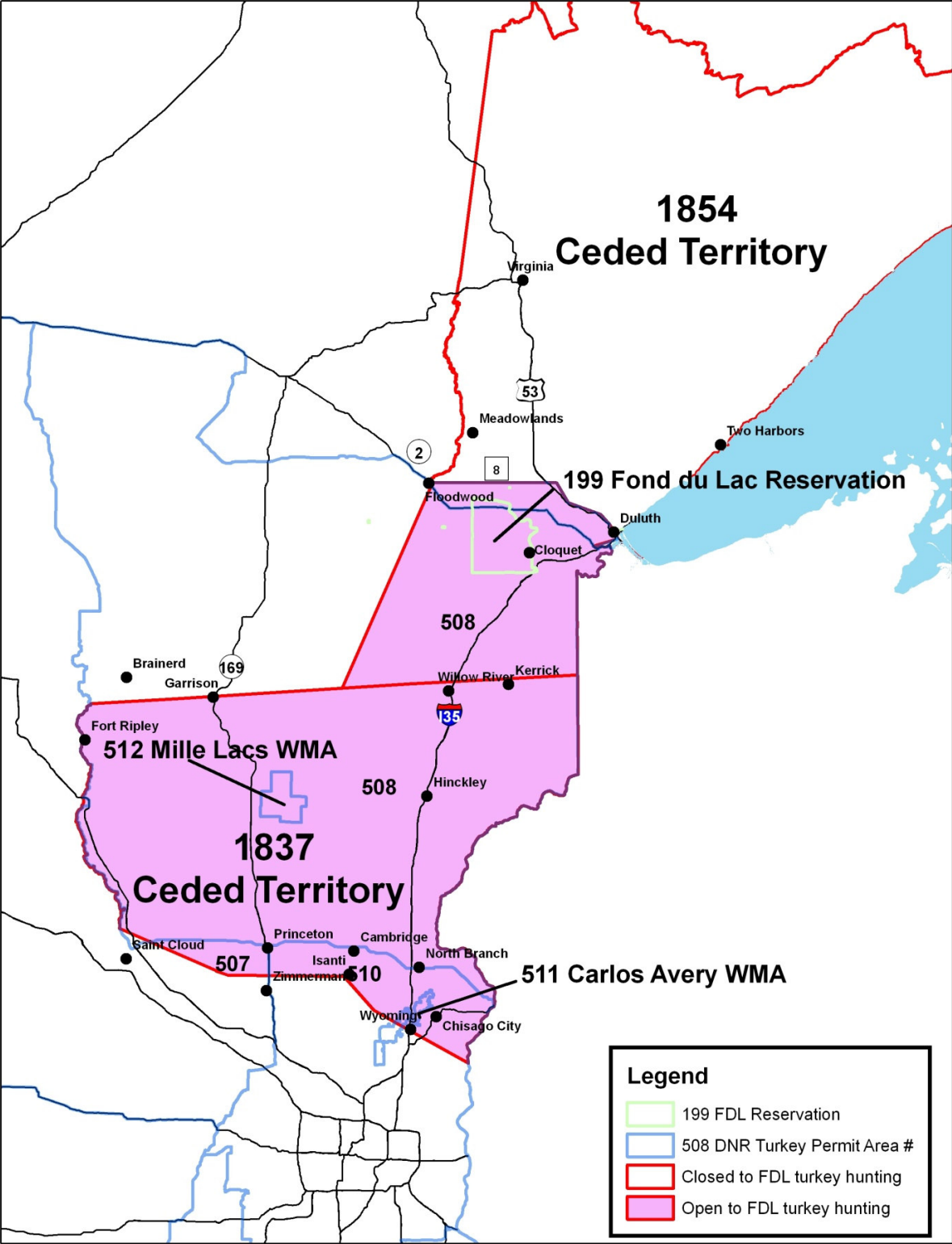
Deer, bear, turkey, fisher, bobcat and otter harvested by FDL members in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Wisconsin and Michigan were registered using the NAGFA system. Access to NAGFA was available at the RMD office and other tribal offices in the 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories.

## TURKEY

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

The 2013 spring turkey season was April 13 - May 30 and the fall season September 3 - 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-two FDL members got tags for the spring season and 224 members got tags for the fall season. In addition, 11 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 5 gobblers; 4 from unit 508 and 1 from the FDL Reservation. Two 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 10 – May 21 in Wisconsin and April 10 – May 19 in Michigan. The fall season was September 3 - December 31. One FDL member registered a turkey from Polk County, Wisconsin during the spring 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 185 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 2013 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation was September 1 - November 24. Baiting was legal from August 11 - November 24. The 1837 Ceded Territory season was September 1 - November 15. Bait stations were permissible August 17 - 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, 3 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued 4 licenses and bear tags to hunt on the FDL Reservation. Four FDL hunters registered 5 bears. Two male bears were taken from the FDL Reservation (PA 199) two females from PA 127 and 1 female from PA 156. Bear harvest by state-licensed hunters on the Reservation was 3 males and 2 females.

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

The 2013 bear season was September 3 – October 31. One FDL member registered a bear from Wisconsin.

## **DEER**

Four tags at a time were available to FDL members to hunt deer with additional tags possible after a deer was registered. Tags could be utilized either on the FDL Reservation or any of the ceded territories. There was no individual limit and no restrictions on the harvest of antlered or antlerless deer. A total of 442 FDL members requested 1955 deer tags. On average, hunters requested 4.4 deer tags apiece. In addition to FDL members, 14 members of other recognized tribes who reside on the FDL Reservation were issued 60 tags to deer hunt on the FDL Reservation.

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

The 2013 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 antlerless deer permit areas of harvest (Fig. 3). A total of 111 members registered 202 deer (av. = 1.8, range = 1-5). Most members (54%) registered only 1 deer with 3 hunters registering 5 deer. Of the 196 deer where method of take was recorded, 8 deer were taken with a bow and the rest with a firearm. In addition to tribal hunter harvest, RMD conservation officers harvested 36 deer for subsistence/ceremonial purposes. The 2013 FDL deer harvest was down substantially from 2012 and the 5 year average harvest (Fig. 4). Likely the extended

winter of 2012-13 and 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).

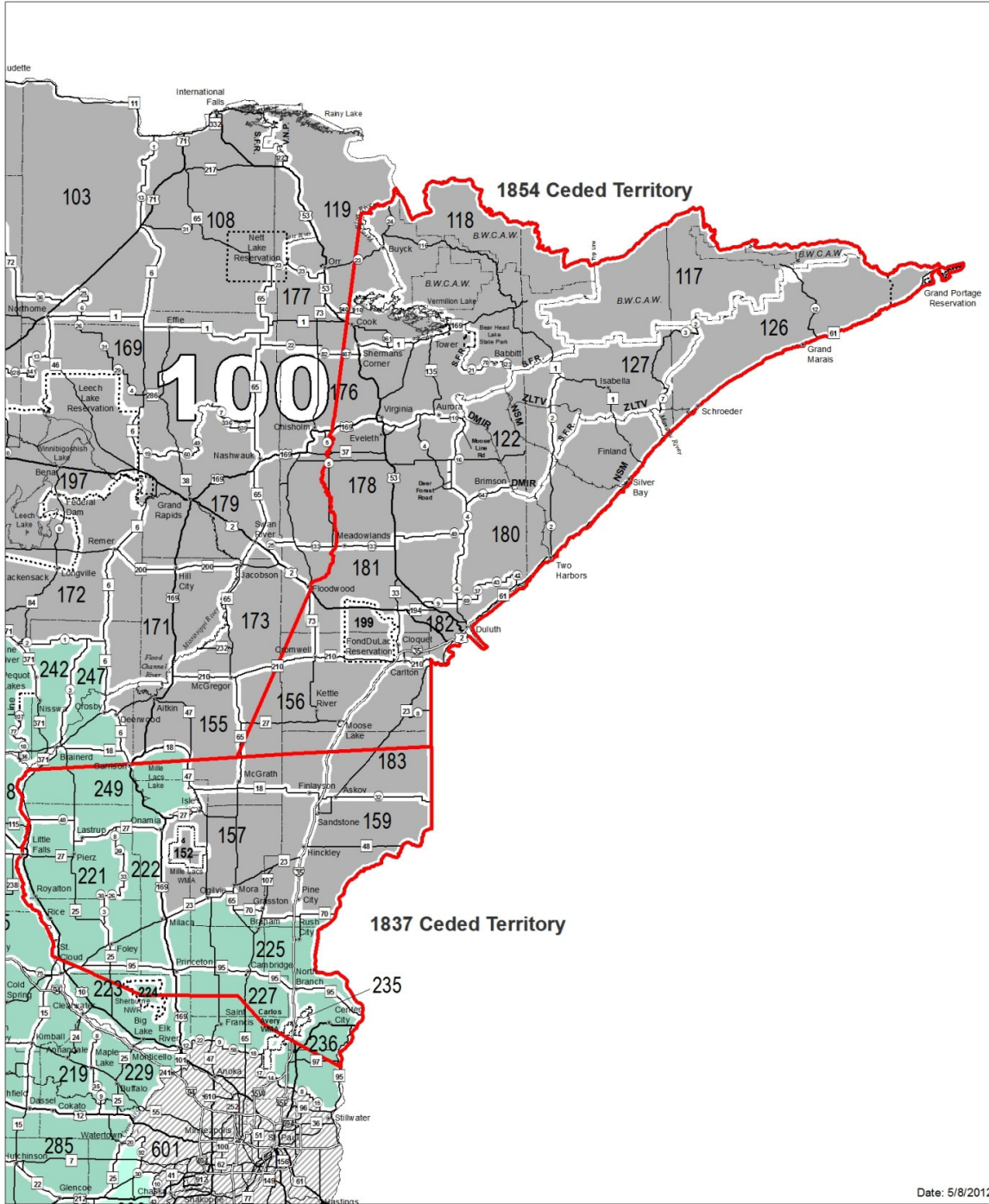


Figure 3. Minnesota antlerless deer permit areas and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota. Permit area 199 is the FDL Reservation.

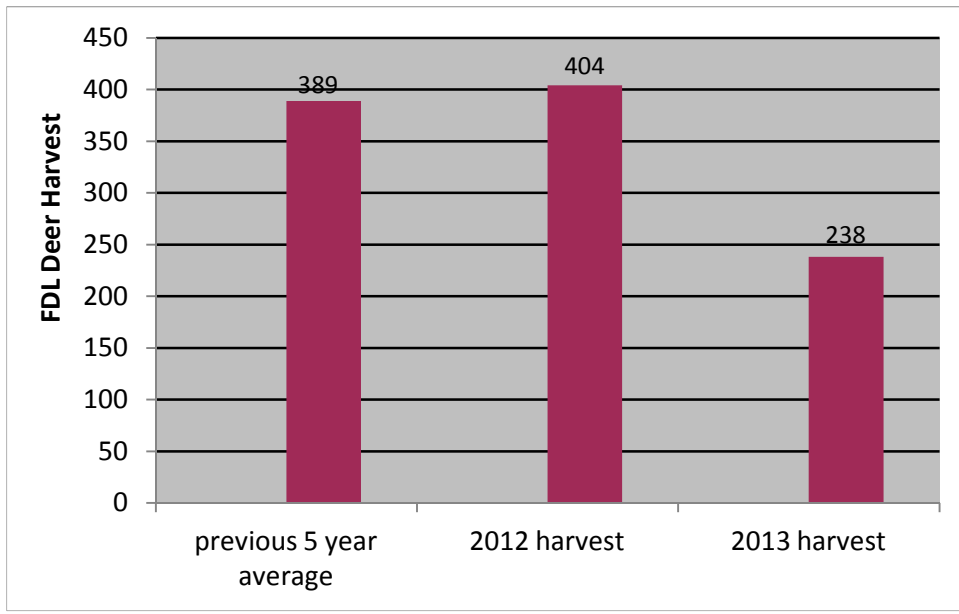


Figure 4. Recent FDL deer harvests.

Table 2. FDL deer harvest by DNR antlerless deer permit area, age and sex. 199 is the FDL Reservation.

DNR Antlerless Deer Permit Area	Adult Buck	Adult Doe	Buck Fawn	Doe Fawn	Total Harvest
					by Permit Area
118	1	0	0	0	1
122	0	2	1	0	3
156	2	8	0	1	11
159	1	5	1	0	7
173	2	0	0	0	2
176	2	4	0	0	6
177	0	1	1	1	3
178	1	7	0	1	9
180	5	3	1	0	9
181	13	36	5	7	61
182	2	5	0	0	7
183	5	6	4	2	17
199 (FDL Reservation)	36	43	12	7	98
St. Croix State Park	1	2	0	1	4
<b>Total Harvest</b>	71	122	25	20	238

Table 3. FDL deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	17
October	24
November	148
December	13
subsistence/ceremonial*	36
<b>total</b>	<b>238</b>

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

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 “lottery” strategy for state-licensed hunters on the Reservation. This strategy allows a state-licensed hunter to take 1 antlered deer. If a hunter draws an antlerless permit for PA 199 in the lottery, they may take either 1 antlered or 1 antlerless deer. In 2013, 150 antlerless permits were available for PA 199. Total 2013 deer harvest by state-licensed hunters on the FDL Reservation was 140 deer – 92 antlered and 48 antlerless deer.

FDL hunters participated in 1 state park deer hunt in the 1837 Ceded Territory in 2013. These hunts are held to reduce deer numbers and impacts to vegetation inside park boundaries. St. Croix State Park held a regular firearms deer hunt from November 15-18. Seventeen FDL members requested permits to hunt there and approximately 10 hunters participated. FDL harvest at St. Croix State Park is recorded in Table 2. FDL did not pursue participation in any other special hunts in the 1837 or 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota in 2013.

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

The 2013 deer season was September 3 – January 5. Ten FDL members harvested 19 deer from Wisconsin; 15 from Douglas County, 2 from Lincoln County and 2 from Burnett County (Fig. 1).

## **MOOSE**

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

Due to declining moose numbers the Fond du Lac Band elected not to hold a moose hunt in 2013 in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The State of Minnesota and the 1854 Treaty Authority also elected not to hold moose hunts.

The Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory moose season was September 3 - December 31. An 1837 Ceded Territory tribal quota of 5 moose was available for harvest under the 1837 Conservation Code. FDL made 5 permits available to FDL members; however, no permits were requested. The lack of interest in 1837 moose permits probably reflects the very low numbers of moose present there.

## **REGISTERED FURBEARERS**

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

The 2013-14 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. It was October 1 - March



31 in the 1837 Ceded Territory. All 4 species were required to be registered at the RMD office. For the season, 6 FDL members registered 145 bobcat, marten, fisher and otter pelts (Table 5). The previous 5 years' average harvest was 40 and the 2012-13 harvest was 38 (Fig. 7). For the 2013-14 season, all registered furbearers were taken by trapping except 1 bobcat was shot. 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 88% of FDL's total registered furbearer harvest. The RMD registers furbearers using 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 2013 state-licensed harvest on the FDL Reservation is 2 bobcat, 5 fisher and 8 otter, but the true number may be lower or higher.

Table 5. FDL 2013-14 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 181	(PA 199)	
Marten	100	1	0	1	102
Fisher	24	3	4	3	34
Bobcat	3	3	1	1	8
Otter	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>145</b>

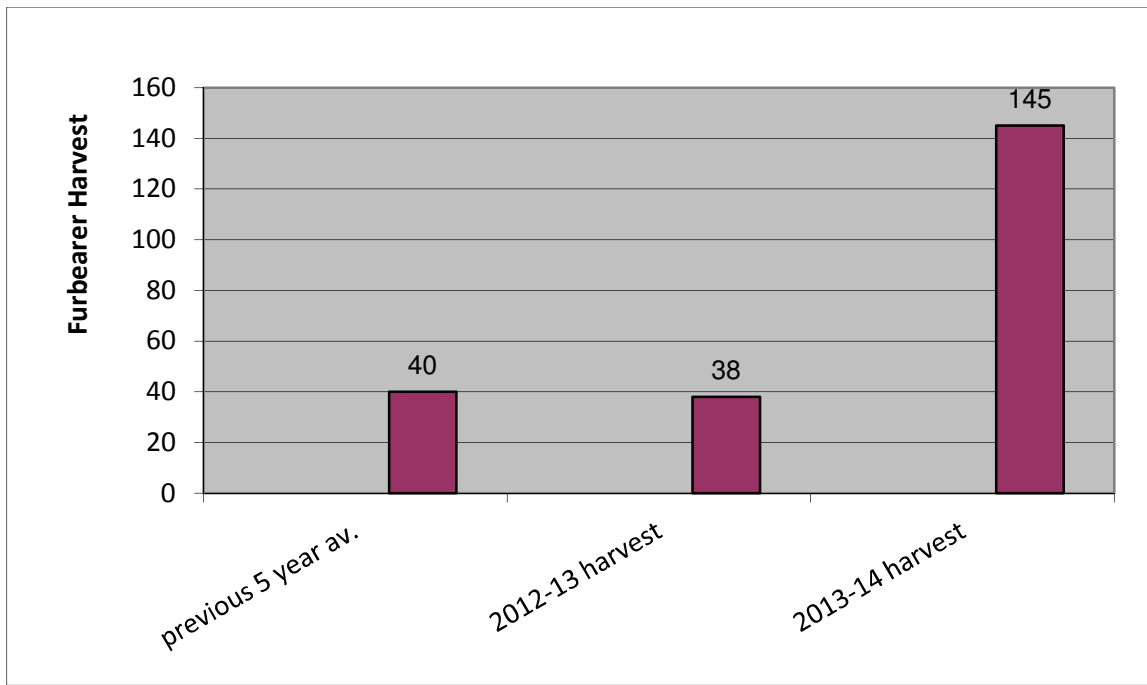


Figure 8. Recent FDL registered furbearer harvests.

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

In 2013-14 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. Three FDL members got carcass tags for bobcat, fisher and otter and one fisher was registered from Douglas County, Wisconsin.

### **SANDHILL CRANES**

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

FDL's 2013 sandhill crane season was September 1 – November 24 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. Eighty-six FDL members requested crane tags. Three cranes were harvested from permit area 235 and 1 from 183 (Fig. 3).

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

The 2013 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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