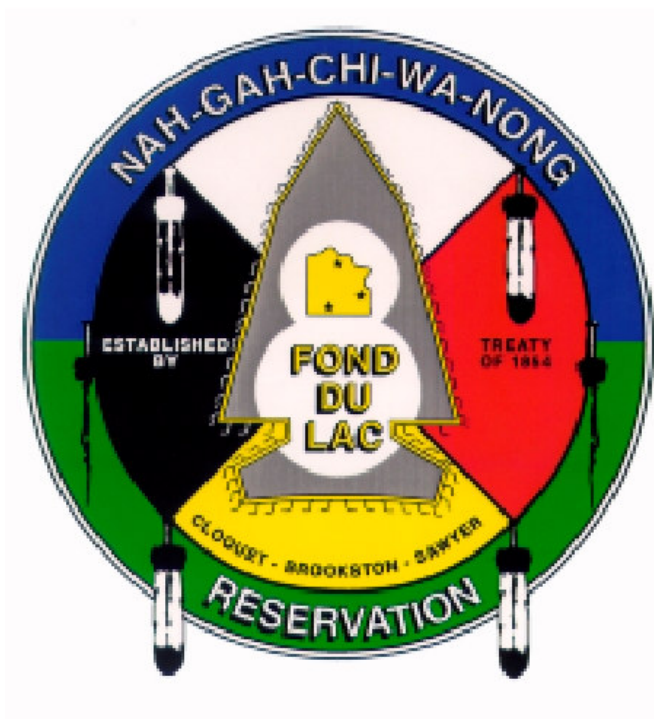


2011 WILDLIFE HARVEST RECORD FOR THE FOND DU LAC RESERVATION AND CEDED TERRITORIES

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INTRODUCTION

Under the Treaties of 1854 and 1837 the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (FDL) retains hunting, fishing and gathering rights on approximately 8,000,000 acres of northeastern and east-central Minnesota. In addition, FDL band members hunt, fish and gather on their reservation of 100,000 acres near Cloquet, Minnesota (Fig. 1). This report summarizes the FDL harvest of bear, turkey, deer, moose, sandhill cranes and furbearers in the 1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories of Minnesota and on the Fond du Lac Reservation.

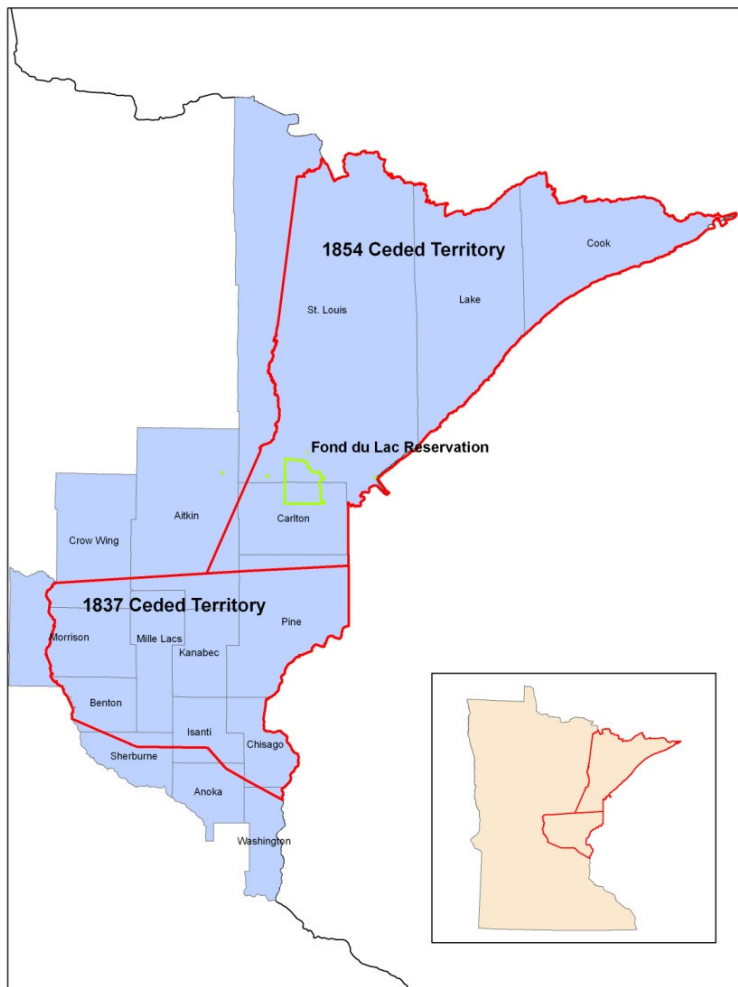


Figure 1. The Fond du Lac Reservation and 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota.

In 1977 the Fond du Lac 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 1837 Conservation Code was first implemented in 1997. Seasons and bag limits are determined on an annual basis. Band members exercising their right to hunt are required to have a Hunting, Fishing and Gathering License and the proper permits and carcass tags in their possession while in the field.

To facilitate sharing of data with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and to assist the management and enforcement efforts of the FDL Resource Management Division (Division), the location of harvested animals in the ceded territories are referenced using DNR deer permit areas. For moose; however, FDL has developed their own zone system for the purpose of distributing harvest.

TURKEY

The 2011 spring turkey season was April 9 - May 26 and the fall season September 6 - December 31 for the Reservation and open portions of the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories (Fig. 2). Units 152 and 154 were closed for fall hunting. The 1837 Wildlife Management Plan for 2007-2011 provides for tribal harvest thresholds for each state permit area. If the bands stay below the threshold they do not need to declare a turkey harvest quota. There are no threshold levels established for the Reservation or units in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

A single tag was available initially to each FDL member, with additional tags possible following registration of a bird. The turkey tag could be used either in the ceded territories or on the Reservation. Twenty-four members requested a total of 26 tags in the spring and 86 members requested 88 fall tags. All birds had to be registered at the Division office. Two birds were taken in the spring from unit 156. Two birds were taken in the fall. One each from units 183 and 156. The threshold level for Units 183 and 156 was 5 birds each.

2011 Turkey Season

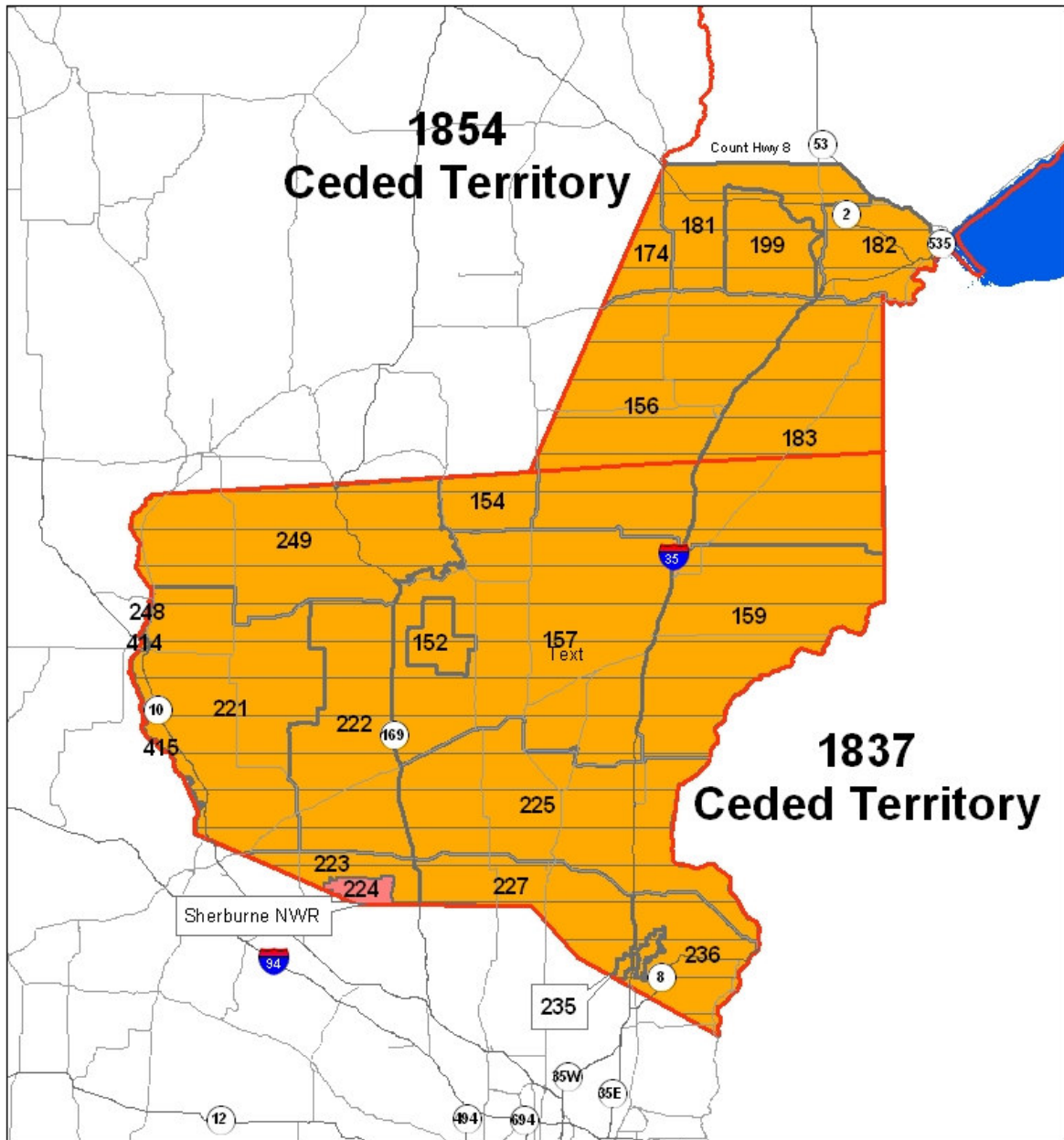


Figure 2. Areas open to Fond du Lac spring turkey hunting.

BEAR

Ceded Territories

A single bear tag was available to band members to hunt in the ceded territories. Following registration of an animal, a second tag could be obtained. Cubs and sows with cubs were protected from harvest. All harvested bears were required to be registered at 1 of 7 big game registration stations or with a Division wildlife or conservation officer staff member. The 2011 bear season in the 1854 Ceded Territory was September 1 - November 27. Baiting was legal from August 12 - November 27. The 1837 Ceded Territory season was September 1 - November 15. Bait stations were permissible August 12 - November 15. A total threshold of 35 bears from 2 state bear management units and an unlimited number of bears from the state's no-quota area were available for harvest without declaring a quota under the 1837 Conservation Code. There were no thresholds or quotas under the 1854 Conservation Code.

Band members requested 163 initial bear tags for hunting in their ceded territories. There was no registered bear harvest in 2011 and therefore no second tags issued.

Reservation

The Reservation bear season was September 1 - November 28. Baiting was allowed August 14 - November 28. Band members received one tag initially with a second tag possible upon registration of an animal. Band members requested 131 initial tags. There was no registered bear harvest and therefore no second tags were requested. State bear harvest from the Reservation was 5 males and 1 female.

It's generally accepted that many bear tags are requested by members because they are free and easily obtained from the Division office. Very few members are believed to actively pursue bears. In addition, many band members are members of the Bear Clan and some feel a spiritual affinity to bears and therefore an unwillingness to hunt them.

DEER

All deer were required to be registered within 3 business days of harvest at 1 of 7 registration stations or with a Division wildlife or conservation officer staff member. In addition, self-registration via phone or online was made available for deer in 2011. Approximately 56% of all deer taken were registered via Division staff or brick and mortar stations. Phone registrations accounted for 12% of the total and online registrations for 32%. Because of the availability of phone and online registration and growing band member discontent with the practice, the cash prize drawings previously used to encourage registration were discontinued in 2011.

Ceded Territories

The 2011 firearms and archery deer season for the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota was September 6 - December 31. There were no restrictions on the harvest of antlered or antlerless deer in either Ceded Territory. Deer were required to be registered with

reference to a DNR antlerless deer permit area of harvest (Fig. 3).

A total of 465 band members requested 1458 ceded territory deer tags. Members received the first 1-3 tags at the Division office and subsequent 1-3 tags at the office upon registering 1-3 deer. The majority of members requested only 3 tags. Forty-two members requested a fourth tag, and no one requested more than 8 tags.

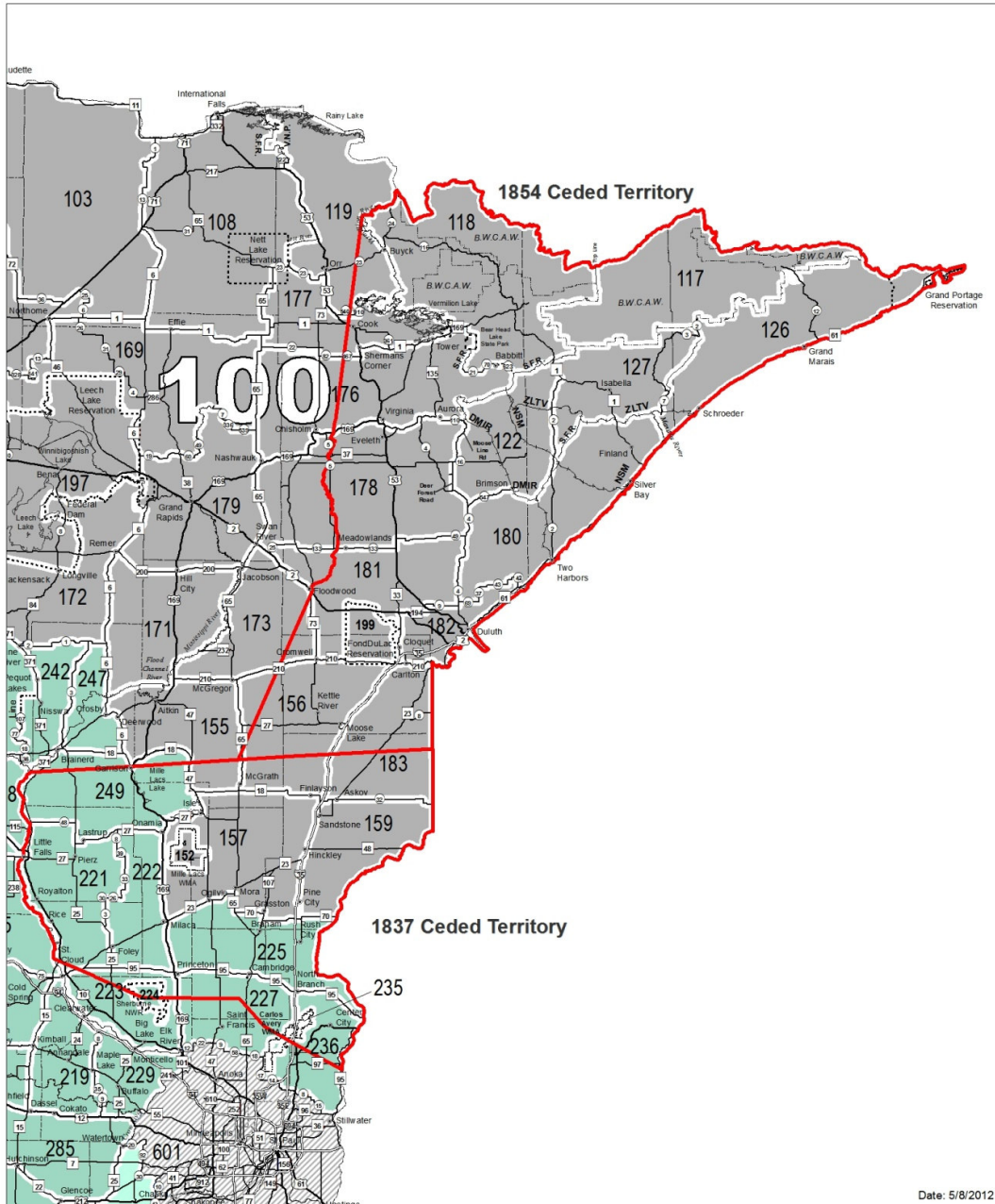


Figure 3. Minnesota antlerless deer permit areas and the 1837 and 1854 Ceded Territories of Minnesota.

The majority of animals were taken from permit areas near the Fond du Lac Reservation. Band member harvest for 2011 was 155 animals. In addition, 10 deer were harvested for subsistence/ceremonial purposes by Division conservation officers for a total of 165 deer (Table 1). The previous 5 years' average harvest was 313 deer and the 2010 harvest was 271 deer (Fig. 4). Method of take is not differentiated at registration; however, the percentage of members who actively pursue deer with a bow is believed to be quite small. As in past years, the majority of deer were harvested in November (Table 2).

FDL hunters participated in 2 state park deer hunts in the 1837 Ceded Territory in 2011. These hunts were held to reduce deer numbers and impacts to vegetation inside park boundaries. Wild River State Park held a regular firearms deer hunt from November 5-8. Eighteen FDL members requested permits to hunt there. Approximately 12 hunters participated, and 5 deer were harvested. St. Croix State Park held a regular firearms deer hunt from November 11-14. Sixteen FDL members requested permits to hunt there. Participation was limited, and no deer were harvested by FDL members. St. Croix State Park also hosted a youth hunt from October 29-30; however, no FDL members requested permits to hunt there. Crow Wing State Park in the 1837 Ceded Territory held a muzzleloader hunt; however, FDL members have not previously expressed interest in this kind of hunting and so no declaration of tribal hunter numbers was made to the DNR. FDL did not pursue participation in any special hunts in the 1854 Ceded Territory in 2011.

Table 1. 2011 ceded territory Fond du Lac deer harvest breakdown by sex, age class, and DNR antlerless permit area.

Permit Area ¹	Adult Buck	Adult Doe	Fawn Buck	Fawn Doe	Total
117	0	0	0	0	0
118	3	0	0	0	3
119	1	1	0	0	2
122	2	3	0	0	5
126	0	0	0	0	0
127	1	1	0	0	2
152	0	0	0	0	0
155	0	0	0	0	0
156²	2	5	0	0	7
157	0	0	1	0	1
159	0	0	0	0	0
173	0	0	0	0	0
176	0	0	0	0	0
177	0	0	0	0	0
178	2	4	1	1	8
180	7	5	1	2	15
181	33	31	9	13	86

182	3	5	1	0	9
183³	3	8	0	0	11
221	0	0	0	0	0
222	0	0	0	0	0
223	0	0	0	0	0
224	0	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0	0
225	0	0	0	0	0
227	0	0	0	0	0
235	0	0	0	0	0
236	0	0	0	0	0
249	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	2	2	0	0	4
St. Croix State Park	0	0	0	0	0
St. Croix State Park Youth Hunt	0	0	0	0	0
Wild River State Park	4	5	0	3	12
Total	63	70	13	19	165

¹ Boldfaced permit areas are in or partially in the 1837 Ceded Territory (Fig. 3).

² Part of Permit Area 156 is outside of either Ceded Territory. Of that portion within one or the other of the ceded territories, 22% is the 1837 Ceded Territory and 78% in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

³ Permit Area 183 is 42% in the 1837 Ceded Territory and 58% in the 1854 Ceded Territory.

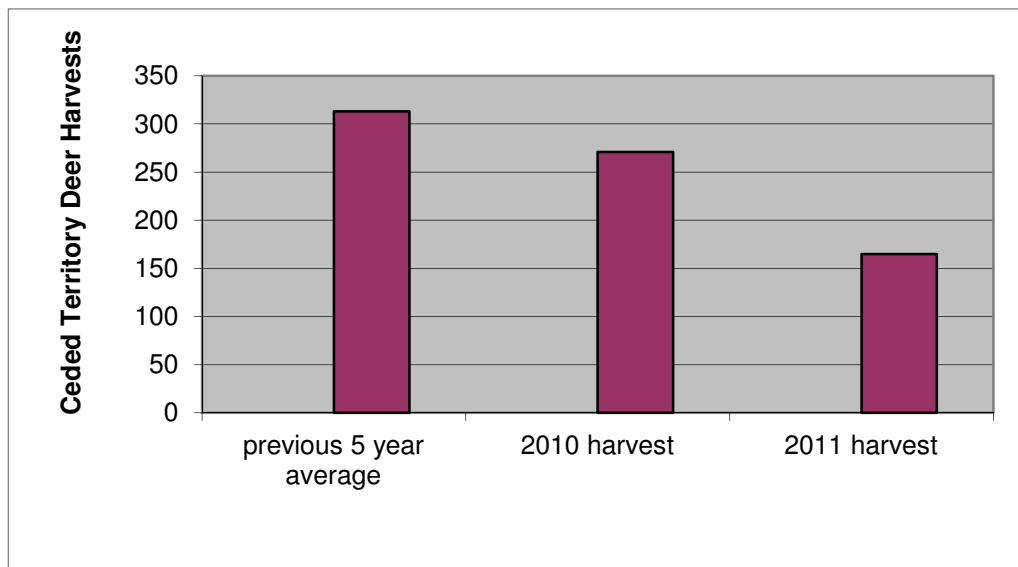


Figure 4. Recent Fond du Lac Ceded Territory deer harvests.

Table 2. Fond du Lac Ceded Territory deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	6
October	29
November	111
December	9
Subsistence/Ceremonial*	<u>10</u>
Total	165

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

Reservation

The Reservation archery and firearms deer season was September 6 - December 31. FDL members and members of other federally recognized bands who reside on the FDL Reservation, were allowed up to 6 deer tags valid for either sex and either firearms or archery. Two tags were granted initially with additional tags after an animal was registered. Three hundred ninety-six FDL band members and 25 members of other bands requested a total of 905 tags. Most requested only 2 tags. Four hunters requested all 6 tags.

The 2011 band member harvest was 93 animals. In addition, Division conservation officers harvested 2 deer for subsistence/ceremonial purposes for a total of 95 deer (Table 3). The previous 5 years' harvest was 156 deer and the 2010 harvest was 145 deer (Fig. 5). The majority of the harvest occurred in November (Table 4). The Division and the DNR continued cooperation on deer management strategies on the Reservation. As deer numbers were believed to be in decline, the Division requested and the DNR agreed to implement their "hunter's choice" strategy for state-licensed hunters on the Reservation. This strategy allows a state-licensed hunter to take 1 deer of either sex. Total deer harvest by state-licensed hunters was 184 deer (Table 3).

Table 3. 2011 Fond du Lac Reservation deer harvest breakdown by age and sex.

	Adult Buck Harvest	Buck Fawn Harvest	Adult Doe Harvest	Doe Fawn Harvest	Total
Tribal Hunters	46	11	29	9	95
State Hunters	101	12	65	6	184

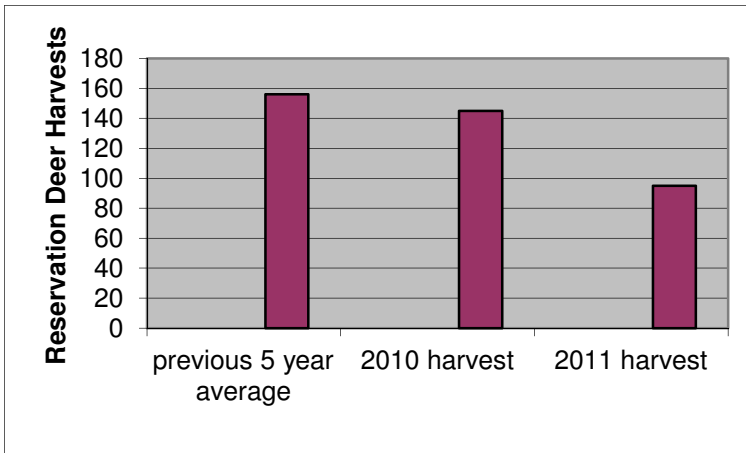


Figure 5. Recent Fond du Lac Reservation deer harvests.

Table 4. Fond du Lac Reservation deer harvest by month.

Registration Period	Deer Harvest
September	9
October	14
November	60
December	10
Subsistence/Ceremonial*	2
Total =	95

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

MOOSE

The 1854 Ceded Territory moose season was September 24 – December 31. Seventy-two either sex moose permits were available through a drawing process to parties of 3-4 hunters for the 1854 Ceded Territory. A total of 76 parties applied for the permits and 69 permits were eventually claimed. A \$20 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 refunded upon the registration of a moose or the return of an unused carcass tag. Each permit was valid in 1 of 5 FDL Moose Hunt Zones established by the Division. Each FDL zone conforms to from 4 to 8 state moose zones (Fig. 6 and Table 5).

The 1837 Ceded Territory moose season opened was September 6 - December 31. A tribal quota of 5 moose was available for harvest under the 1837 Conservation Code. Fond du

Lac made 5 permits available to band members; however, no permits were requested. The lack of interest in 1837 moose permits probably reflects the very low numbers of moose present there.

All moose were required to be registered within 3 business days of harvest at 1 of 7 registration stations or with a Division wildlife or conservation officer staff member. Sex, antler spread, and the FDL and DNR moose zones were recorded. In addition, the hunter was required to present an incisor tooth for ageing. Hunters were asked to collect tissue samples from their moose for a moose health assessment project conducted by the DNR in cooperation with the bands. Many band members returned complete or partial health kits.

A total of 17 moose - 4 cows and 13 bulls were registered by Fond du Lac hunters for a harvest success rate of 25%. In addition, 1 bull was taken out of zone and confiscated. One cow, one calf and one bull were taken for subsistence and ceremonial purposes in 2011 by Division conservation officers (Table 5).

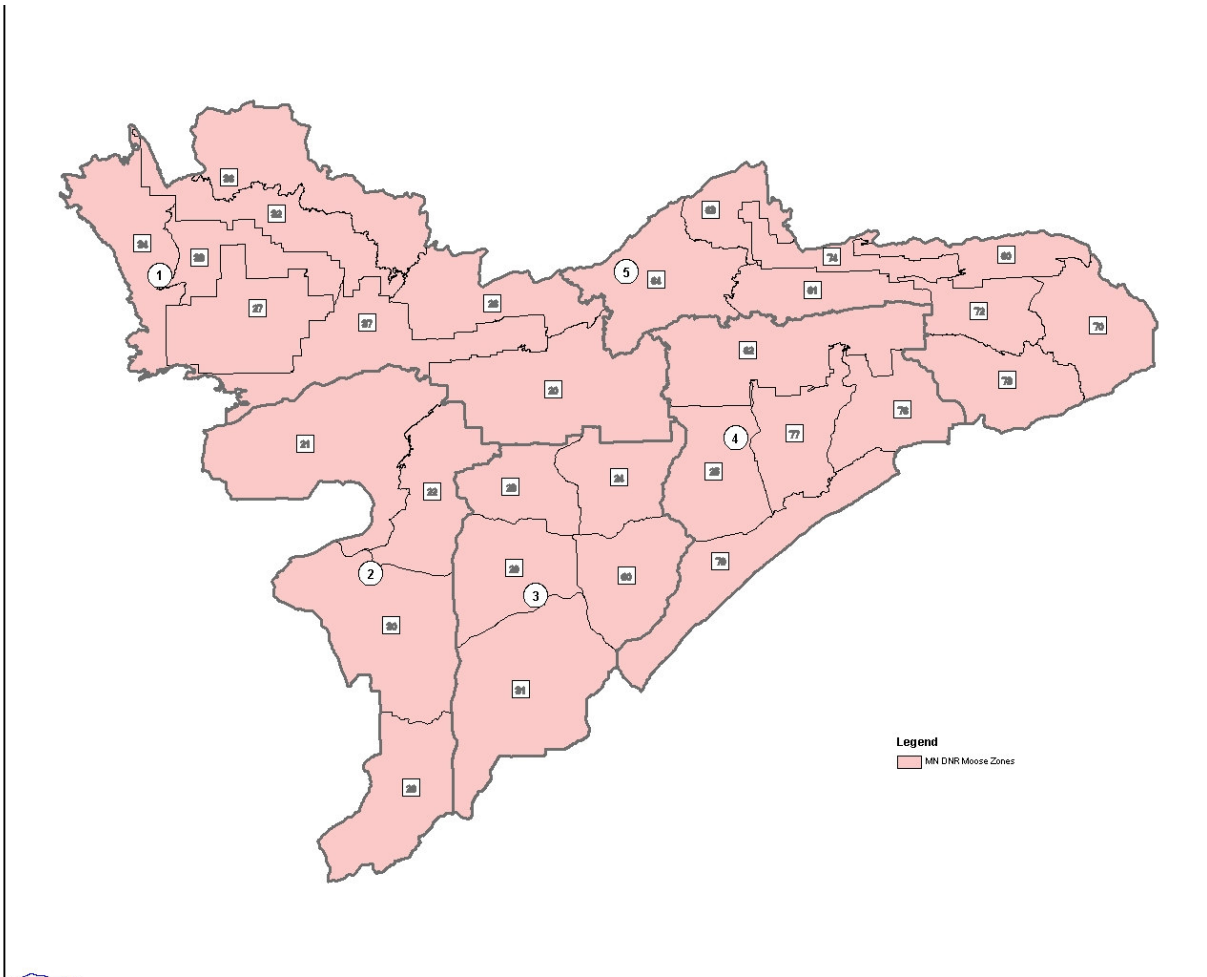


Figure 6. Fond du Lac and corresponding State Moose Harvest Zones.

Table 5. 2011 Fond du Lac moose harvest breakdown by FDL and state zone.

Fond du Lac Zones	Corresponding State Zones	Permits Available	Adult Bulls	Adults Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Harvest
1	20	5					
	26						
	27						
	32						
	33				1		1
	34						
	36						
	37						
2	21	11					
	22						
	28			1			1
	30						
3	23	18					
	24						
	29						
	31			3			3
	80			1	1		2
4	25	18	4				4
	62						
	77			1			1
	76			1			1
	79						
5	60	20					
	61						
	63						
	64						
	70			1	2		3
	72			1			1
	73			2	1	1	4
	74						
Total		72	15*	5	1	0	21

*One bull was harvested outside of the zone the party was permitted for.

The previous 5 years' harvest was 24 moose and the 2010 harvest was 24 moose (Fig. 7). The average age of adult bulls harvested was 3.8 years (N=15, Range = 1-9). Rounded to the nearest inch, the average antler spread was 38" (N = 14, Range = 20-57"). The average of adult cows was 4 years (N=5, Range = 1-8).

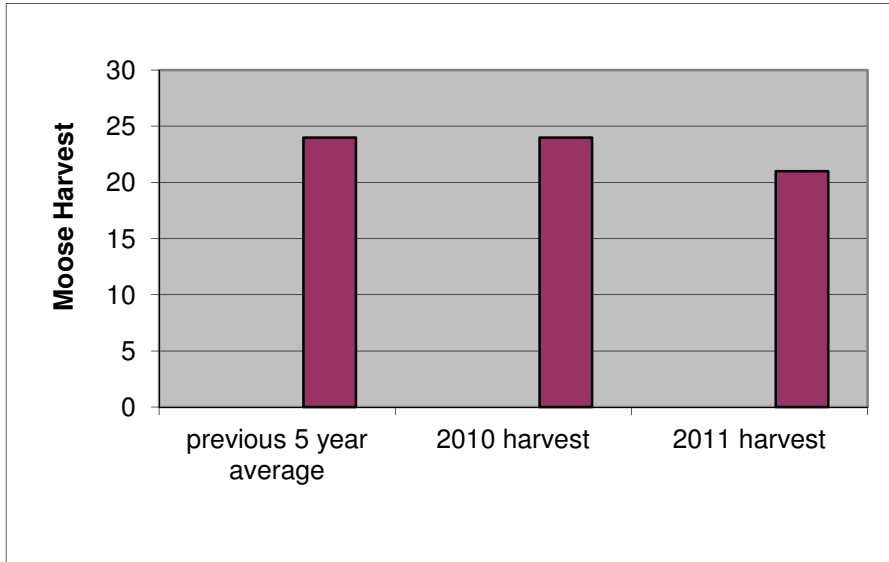


Figure 7. Recent Fond du Lac moose harvests

FURBEARERS

The 2011- 12 hunting and trapping season for furbearers was September 6 - March 31 in the 1854 Ceded Territory and the FDL Reservation and October 1 - March 31 in the 1837 Ceded Territory. Bobcat, marten, fisher and otter were required to be registered at the Division's office. For the season, 7 FDL band members registered 37 bobcat, marten, fisher and otter pelts (Table 6). The previous 5 years' average registered furbearer harvest was 60 and the 2010 registered fur harvest was 28 (Fig. 8). Two cats were harvested by firearms this past season. All other animals were taken by trapping. Fluctuations in FDL's fur harvest are as likely due to fur prices and the small number of trappers involved as in furbearer populations. The Division registers furbearers using the DNR's antlerless deer permit (Fig. 3).

Table 6. Fond du Lac registered furbearer harvest for the 2011-2012 season.

Harvest Unit	Female Fisher	Male Fisher	Female Marten	Male Marten	Male Otter	Female Otter	Female Bobcat	Male Bobcat	Total
156	2	2	2	4					10
173	1			1			3	2	7
176		5							5
181	2		1	1	2		3		9
199	2	1		1				2	6
Total	7	8	3	7	2	0	6	4	37

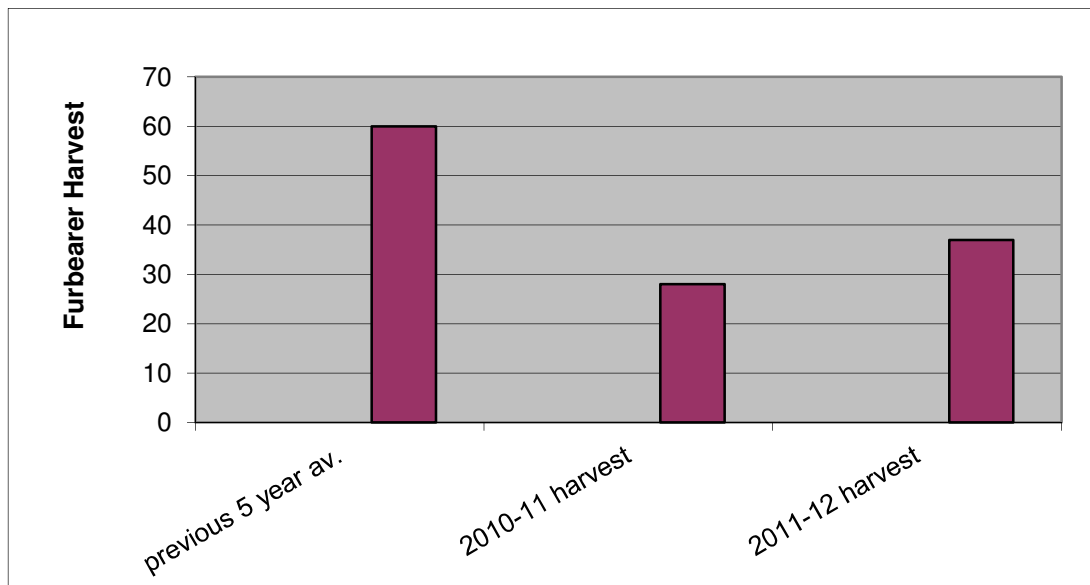


Figure 8. Recent Fond du Lac furbearer harvests.

Sandhill Cranes

In FDL's initial crane season in 2011 a total of 20 members requested a crane tag. The daily, season and possession limit was one crane and only the 1854 Ceded Territory was open to harvest. Following the conclusion of the 2011 season, 14 of the 20 tag holders were contacted by phone. Ten members reported they didn't actively hunt cranes after receiving tags. Four members reported actively hunting cranes. A total of two cranes were harvested in conjunction with goose hunting during September. There was no reported wounding loss.