

Wisconsin Black Bear Harvest Report 2007

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Abstract

Wisconsin bear hunters killed 2,797 black bears during the 2007 season. This was 9% lower than the 2006 kill of 3,068 bear. The 2007 kill was comprised of 55% males, and 45% females. The three leading counties of kill were Bayfield, Price, and Sawyer.

Background

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa hunters to obtain a kill permit to hunt bears in the state. The state was divided into four Bear Management Zones (BMZ, Fig. 1) in 2007, and hunters were required to apply for a permit within one of those zones. Kill permits were distributed through a preference point system giving unsuccessful applicants who applied but did not receive a permit in previous years the first chance to receive a kill permit the following year. Each kill permit allowed the taking of one adult bear not accompanied by a cub or cubs in the specified zone. A permit to pursue bear was available to all unsuccessful kill permit applicants who requested it; however this permit did not allow the killing of a bear.

Wisconsin's bear season has opened on the first Wednesday after Labor day since the 2000 season. The 2007 bear season ran from 5 September through 9 October (35 Days). In the northern 1/3rd of the state (BMZ A1, A, and B), hunting with the use of dogs was allowed during 5 September – 2 October while the use of bait was allowed 12 September-9 October. Hunters using neither dogs nor bait could hunt during the entire 35-day season statewide. Hunters in the southern 2/3rds of the state (BMZ C), could hunt the entire 35-day season but could not use dogs.

Methods

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa bear hunters to register all bear at a designated WDNR registration station. An upper first premolar is collected at the time of registration for age analysis. Data on bear harvested by Chippewa tribal members on ceded lands were obtained from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). All kill data is entered into the DNR-UNIX computer by district personnel and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

A total of 80,213 people applied for 4,405 Black Bear Kill Permits in 2007. The number of applicants increased by 17% and the number of permits increased 3% between 2006 and 2007 (Tables 1 and 10). A total of 4,405 permits were issued to hunters prior to the season.

During the 2007 season, 4,405 hunters killed 2,797 black bears (63.5% success rate), compared to 3,068 taken in 2006. Males comprised 55% (1,528), females 45% (1,261)

of the harvest (Table 2, Fig. 2). The sex was not reported for 8 (0.3%) of the bears killed.

The Northern Region had the highest bear kill (2,191) followed by Northeastern (358), and West Central (247) Regions (Table 2). Most bears were shot in Zone A (1,020) followed by Zones A1 (697), C (565), and B (513) (Table 3 and Figure 1). The four leading counties of kill were Bayfield (255), Price (233), Sawyer (199), and Rusk (193) (Table 4, Fig. 3). Black bear kill by deer management unit can be found in Table 5 and Figure 4. A significant number of hunters reported multiple sightings of bears, and several large bear of over 500 pounds were killed.

The number of bear taken over bait alone (1,672; Table 6) was greater than the number shot over dogs (998; includes bear shot over dogs and bait). Thirty-one bear were taken without the use of dogs or bait. Gun hunters took a total of 2,295 bear, whereas archers killed 393; 24 bear were killed with unreported weapon type (Table 6). Table 7 and Figure 5 summarize the historical Wisconsin black bear kill from 1957 to 2007.

Chippewa hunters killed 85 bear in 2007 (Tables 8 and 9); this was less than the 90 killed in 2006. More information on the Chippewa bear kill can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

A total of 1,156 black bear complaints were filed from April-October 2007. This was up 12% from the number of complaints (1,035) filed in 2006. As a result, 756 bear were captured and relocated from problem areas. This was more than the 693 that were moved in 2006

Eight nuisance bear kill permits were issued during the fall of 2007. Number of tags issued ranged from 1 to 8 for each permit holder. Thirty-two bears were killed under this permit system. Last year, thirteen nuisance bear kill permits were issued, with thirty-eight bears being killed.

Weather conditions in the primary bear range (BMZ A, A1, and B) were dry in the NW to very dry in the NE during the 2007 bear season. Little or no acorn crops occurred in some areas of the bear range and increased bear visits to bait stations during the season. The central part of the state had better rainfall during the summer and average conditions for the season and a normal mast crop. The dry conditions may have hindered hunter's pursuing bears with dogs in some areas of the state. The 2007 bear kill of 2,797 was 6% above the WDNR harvest goal of 2,650 bears. Weather conditions for hunting were good during the season and hunter success was above average.

WDNR established a harvest goal of 2,950 bears for the 2008 season. A total of 4,660 Black Bear harvest permits will be available to hunters to achieve this goal.

Table 1. *Harvest goal, number of permits issued, bear kill and percent success, by zone for the 2007 black bear season.*

Zone	Harvest Goal	Permits Issued	Black Bear Kill	Permit Success
A1	550	550	697	127%
A	1,000	1,680	1,020	61%
B	500	615	513	83%
C	600	1,560	565	36%
Unknown			2	
Total	2,650	4,405	2,797	63%

Table 2. *Black bear kill by WDNR region, 2007.*

Region	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
Northeastern	187	169	2	358
Northern	1,198	990	3	2,191
West Central	143	102	2	247
Unknown	0	0	1	0
Total	1,528	1,261	8	2,797

Table 3. *Black bear kill by zone, 2007.*

Zone	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
A1	395	301	1	697
A	560	458	2	1,020
B	245	266	2	513
C	328	235	2	565
Unknown	0	1	1	2
Total	1,528	1,261	8	2,797

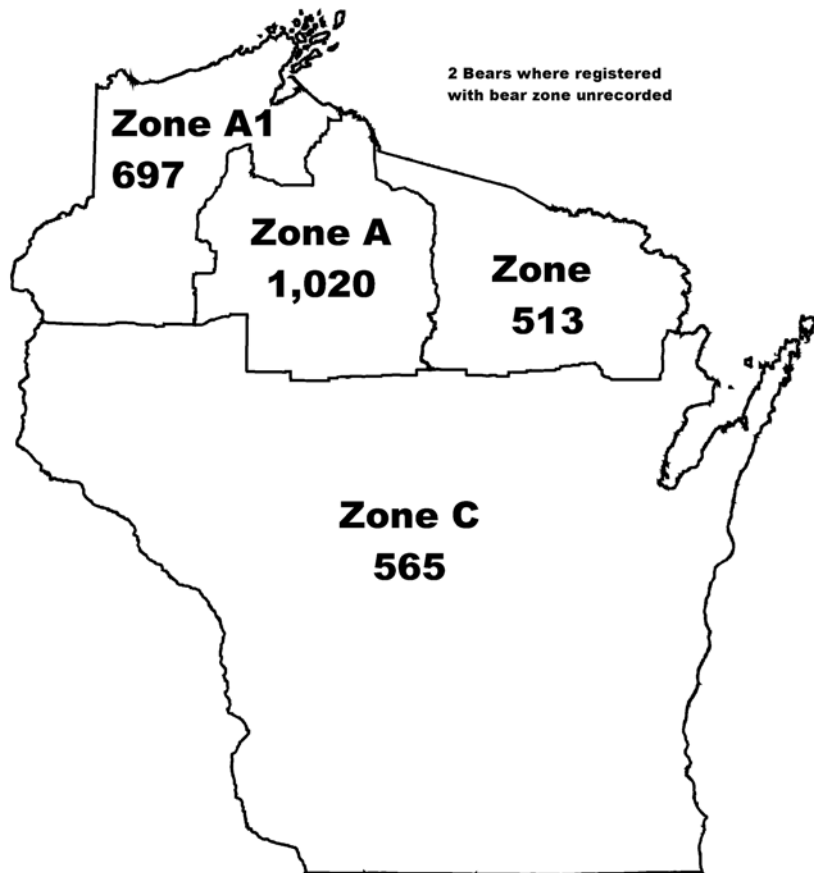


Figure 1. The 2007 black bear kill by zone.

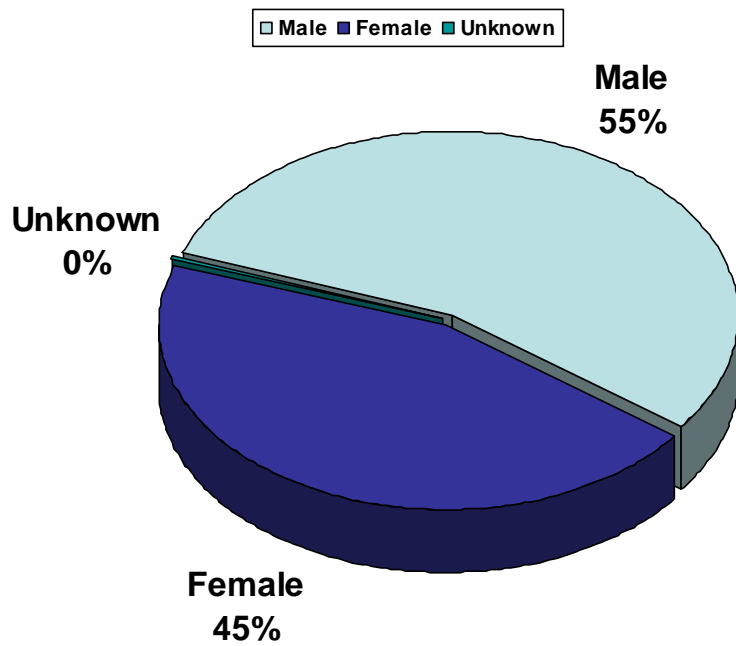


Figure 2. The 2007 black bear harvest by sex.

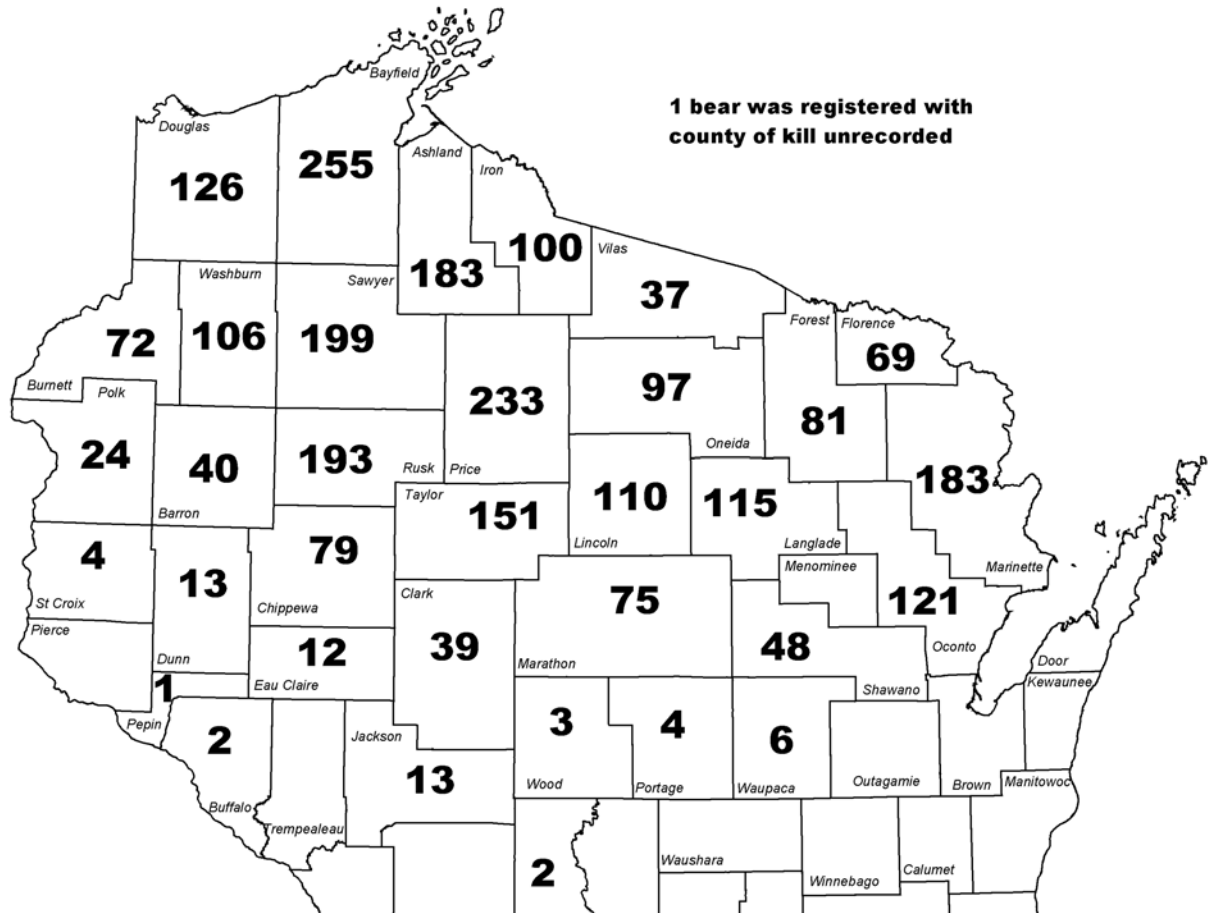


Figure 3. The 2007 black bear kill by county.

Table 4. The 2007 black bear kill by county and sex.

County	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total	County	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total
Ashland	107	76	0	183	Marinette	87	95	1	183
Barron	26	14	0	40	Oconto	63	57	1	121
Bayfield	140	115	0	255	Oneida	54	43	0	97
Buffalo	2	0	0	2	Pepin	0	1	0	1
Burnett	47	25	0	72	Polk	11	13	0	24
Chippewa	45	33	1	79	Portage	3	1	0	4
Clark	27	12	0	39	Price	135	97	1	233
Douglas	61	65	0	126	Rusk	111	81	1	193
Dunn	7	6	0	13	St. Croix	3	1	0	4
Eau Claire	3	9	0	12	Sawyer	95	103	1	199
Florence	31	38	0	69	Shawano	33	15	0	48
Forest	38	43	0	81	Taylor	78	73	0	151
Iron	61	39	0	100	Vilas	19	18	0	37
Jackson	10	2	1	13	Washburn	69	37	0	106
Juneau	2	0	0	2	Waupaca	4	2	0	6
Langlade	66	49	0	115	Wood	3	0	0	3
Lincoln	49	61	0	110	Unknown	0	0	1	1
Marathon	38	37	0	75	Total	1,528	1,261	8	2,797

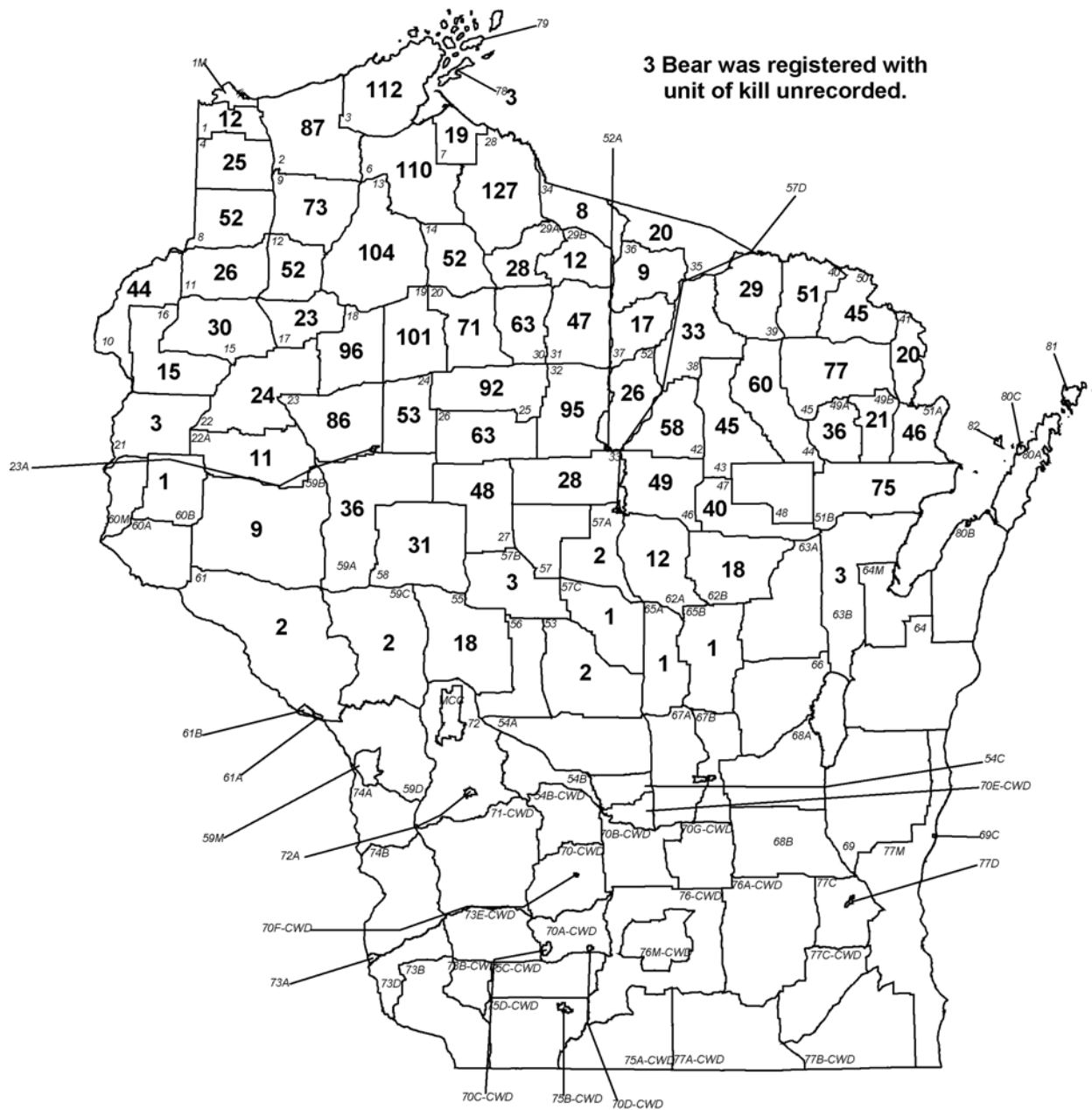


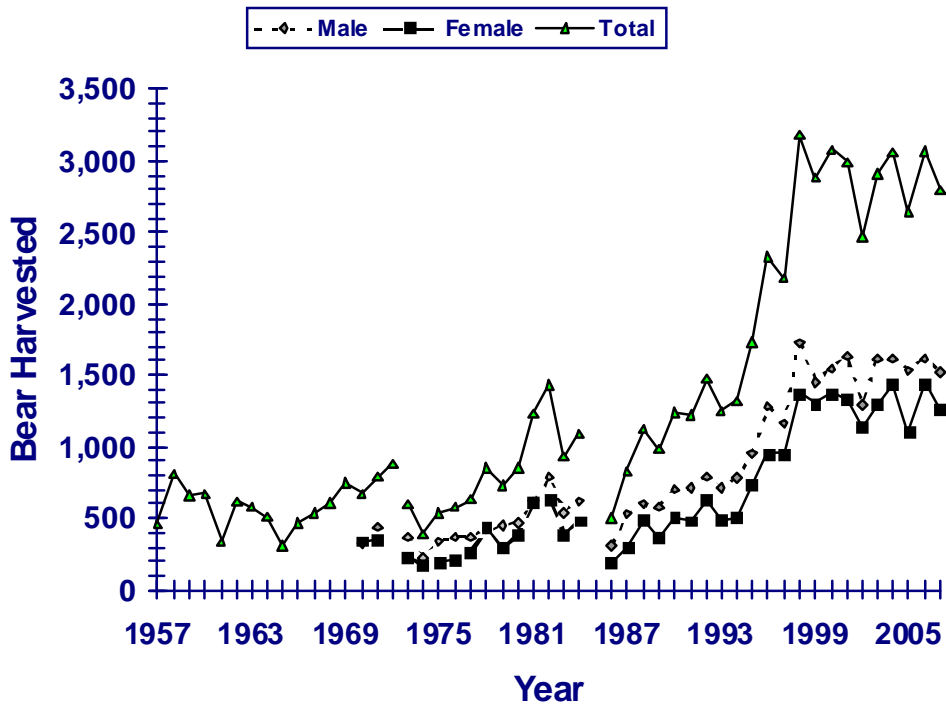
Figure 4. The 2007 black bear kill by deer management unit.

Table 5. *The 2007 black bear kill by deer management unit and sex.*

Deer Unit	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total	Deer Unit	Males	Females	Un-reported	Total
01	1	11	0	12	37	9	8	0	17
02	60	27	0	87	38	19	14	0	33
03	53	59	0	112	39	18	11	0	29
04	10	15	0	25	40	23	28	0	51
06	66	44	0	110	41	8	12	0	20
07	11	8	0	19	42	31	27	0	58
08	31	21	0	52	43	25	20	0	45
09	37	36	0	73	44	21	38	1	60
10	27	17	0	44	45	33	44	0	77
11	21	5	0	26	46	26	23	0	49
12	31	20	1	52	47	27	13	0	40
13	53	51	0	104	49A	16	19	1	36
14	23	29	0	52	49B	11	10	0	21
15	15	15	0	30	50	21	24	0	45
16	8	7	0	15	51A	24	22	0	46
17	14	9	0	23	51B	46	29	0	75
18	55	41	0	96	52	12	14	0	26
19	56	45	0	101	53	2	0	0	2
20	38	32	1	71	55	13	4	1	18
21	3	0	0	3	57A	1	1	0	2
22	15	9	0	24	57B	2	1	0	3
22A	5	6	0	11	57C	1	0	0	1
23	50	35	1	86	58	14	17	0	31
24	30	22	1	53	59A	19	17	0	36
25	46	46	0	92	59B	5	4	0	9
26	41	22	0	63	59C	2	0	0	2
27	31	17	0	48	60B	1	0	0	1
28	75	52	0	127	61	2	0	0	2
29A	18	10	0	28	62A	5	7	0	12
29B	7	5	0	12	62B	11	7	0	18
30	39	24	0	63	63B	3	0	0	3
31	28	19	0	47	65A	1	0	0	1
32	42	53	0	95	65B	1	0	0	1
33	14	14	0	28	78	1	2	0	3
34	5	3	0	8	Unk	1	1	1	3
35	8	12	0	20	Total	1,528	1,261	8	2,797
36	6	3	0	9					

Table 6. *The 2007 black bear kill by hunting method and weapon type (does not include Chippewa harvest of 85 bear).*

Method	Weapon			Total
	Bow	Gun	Unreported	
Dogs	27	533	6	566
Bait	350	1,315	7	1,672
Dogs and Bait	12	415	5	432
None	3	27	1	31
Total	393	2,295	24	2,712



Figure

5. Black bear kill, 1957-2007.

Table 7. Black bear kill by sex, 1957-2007.

Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total	Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total
1957	---	---		460	1982	797	636		1,433
1958	---	---		811	1983	539	395		934
1959	---	---		665	1984	617	480		1,097
1960	---	---		675	1985	No Season			
1961	---	---		337	1986	308	195		503
1962	---	---		617	1987	533	304		837
1963	---	---		579	1988	601	494	30	1,125
1964	---	---		511	1989	584	375	19	978
1965	---	---		308	1990	705	501	41	1,247
1966	---	---		475	1991	715	480	24	1,219
1967	---	---		541	1992	789	631	54	1,474
1968	---	---		613	1993	715	494	49	1,258
1969	---	---		752	1994	781	513	34	1,328
1970	331	341		672	1995	953	735	49	1,737
1971	444	347		791	1996	1,288	955	82	2,325
1972	---	---		878	1997	1,165	950	63	2,178
1973	376	230		606	1998	1,727	1,378	79	3,184
1974	224	166		390	1999	1,456	1,301	124	2,881
1975	344	195		539	2000	1,543	1,376	156	3,075
1976	373	206		579	2001	1,632	1,336	18	2,986
1977	375	256		631	2002	1,290	1,143	38	2,471
1978	426	436	10	872	2003	1,613	1,288	4	2,905
1979	449	288		737	2004	1,618	1,433	12	3,063
1980	469	386		855	2005	1,537	1,107	1	2,645
1981	624	610		1,234	2006	1,615	1,448	5	3,068

Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total
2007	1,528	1,261	8	2,797

Table 8. *The 2007 Chippewa black bear kill by deer management unit and sex¹.*

Deer Unit	Males	Females	Total
01	0	4	4
02	3	0	3
03	4	6	10
04	0	1	1
06	3	2	5
08	6	0	6
09	3	3	6
10	1	0	1
11	2	1	3
12	0	1	1
13	1	3	4
14	1	1	2
15	1	0	1
17	0	1	1
18	1	4	5
30	1	3	4
31	2	0	2
36	0	1	1
37	4	0	4
38	2	1	3
39	3	1	4
43	1	0	1
44	3	4	7
45	2	2	4
49A	1	0	1
Unk	1	0	1
Total	46	39	85

¹ These data are included in the statewide totals.

Table 9. *The 2007 Chippewa black bear kill by county and sex¹.*

County	Males	Females	Totals
Ashland	4	3	7
Bayfield	5	7	12
Burnett	8	1	9
Douglas	4	7	11
Forest	7	8	15
Langlade	3	0	3
Oneida	8	2	10
Price	2	2	4
Sawyer	2	7	9
Washburn	3	2	5
Totals	46	39	85

¹ These data are included in the statewide totals.

Table 10. *The number of black bear harvest permits issued and the number of applicants, 1974-2008.*

Year	Residents	Non-residents	No. Permits Issued	No. of Applicants
1974	3,459		3,459	3,459
1975	4,116		4,116	4,116
1976	4,899		4,899	4,899
1977	5,025		5,025	5,025
1978	6,283		6,283	6,283
1979	5,612	179	5,791	5,791
1980	6,352	171	6,523	6,523
1981	7,247	241	7,488	7,488
1982	8,142	224	8,366	8,366
1983	7,077	218	7,295	7,295
1984	6,439	320	6,759	6,759
1985		Season	Closed	
1986			840	8,289
1987			1,730	10,203
1988			1,663	10,208
1989			2,020	13,734
1990			2,825	15,988
1991			2,560	17,668
1992			2,620	19,415
1993			2,110	22,555
1994			2,175	25,799
1995			2,710	30,086
1996			4,570	35,356
1997			4,700	41,969
1998			5,860	44,928
1999			6,014	50,938
2000			6,598	50,601
2001			5,681	53,508
2002			4,985	54,879
2003			4,710	56,944
2004			4,741	61,726
2005			4,549	66,777
2006			4,277	68,821
2007			4,405	80,213
2008			4,660	86,138