

# *Keweenaw Bay*



## *Natural Resources Department*

### **Keweenaw Bay Tribal Wildlife Survey of Registered Community Hunters**

**Results For 2001**

**By**

**Gene Mensch**

 **Keweenaw Bay Indian Community**   
***Natural Resources Department***

**14359 Pequaming Road**

**L'Anse, MI 49946**

## INTRODUCTION

This report includes information summarizing the results of the 2001 wildlife survey circulated among licensed Tribal hunters and trappers of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) by the Keweenaw Bay Natural Resources Department (KBNRD). A KBIC hunting, fishing and trapping license allows the holder to harvest certain wildlife species within Michigan's 1842 treaty ceded territory (on and off reservation) (see Figure 1.). Surveys were mailed to 676 Tribal license holders in February 2002. A total of 233 were returned (34%) to the KBNRD.

Similar surveys were conducted in 1991, 1992, 1995 and 1998. Results of the 2001 survey are compared to past survey data when applicable. The 2001 KBNRD wildlife survey included questions pertaining to deer, bear, small game, waterfowl and furbearer harvest, as well as KBIC wildlife harvest regulations, rare and/ or sensitive species observations, and general wildlife management comments and concerns of hunters and trappers. As an incentive to encourage responses, we enclosed a raffle ticket with the survey. The raffle tickets became valid when a completed survey was returned to the tribal hatchery. The raffle prize drawings were for a hunting rifle, binoculars, and Ojibwa Resort and Bears Den Restaurant coupons. Raffle prizes were drawn in March of 2002.

Information derived from this report will give the KBIC Tribal Council and the Keweenaw Bay Natural Resources Committee (KBNRC) perspectives on wildlife harvest activities and attitudes of Tribal members regarding wildlife management issues of 2001.



**Figure 1.** 1842 Treaty area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (on and off the KBIC reservation).

## METHODS

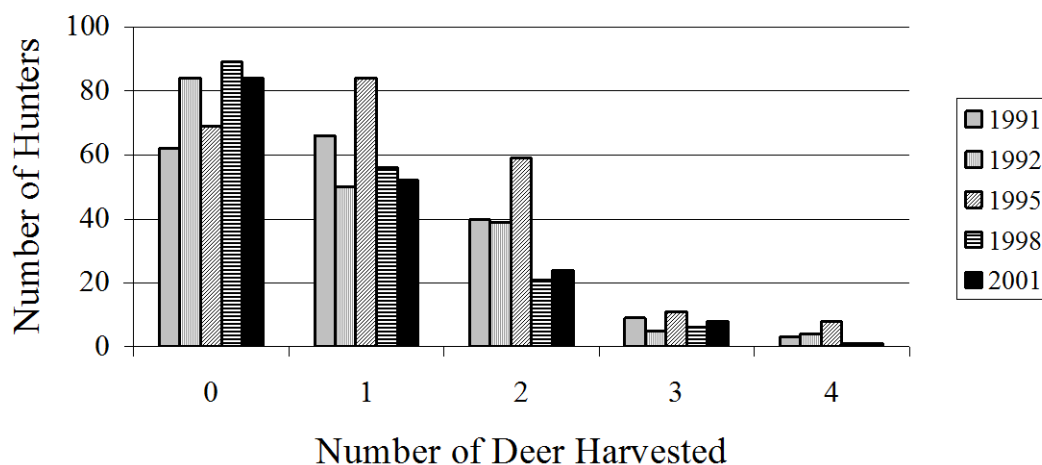
The 2001 Tribal Wildlife Survey was broadened to include questions pertaining to more than just deer hunting information.

## RESULTS

### Deer Hunting

KBIC members were subject to the following bag limits and regulations for the 2001 deer hunting season. The hunting season extended from September 1, 2001 to January 1, 2002. KBIC members were given 2 deer tags with their license. A tag was to be placed through the gambrel of the deer immediately upon the kill of the deer and prior to transportation from the area of the kill. Licensees could have picked up 2 additional tags after the first 2 tags had been utilized. The maximum harvest limit per hunter was four deer. A hunter could have taken deer of either sex. All deer were to be registered with the Tribal licensing clerk. A KBIC hunting, fishing, and trapping license allowed the holder to harvest deer within Michigan's 1842 treaty ceded territory (on and off reservation).

Of the 233 Tribal members who returned surveys, 169 (73%) reported spending time deer hunting. Of these, 50% (n=85) successfully harvested at least one deer; 52 hunters harvested one deer, 24 harvested two deer, 8 harvested three deer, and 1 harvested four deer (Figure 2, Table 1).

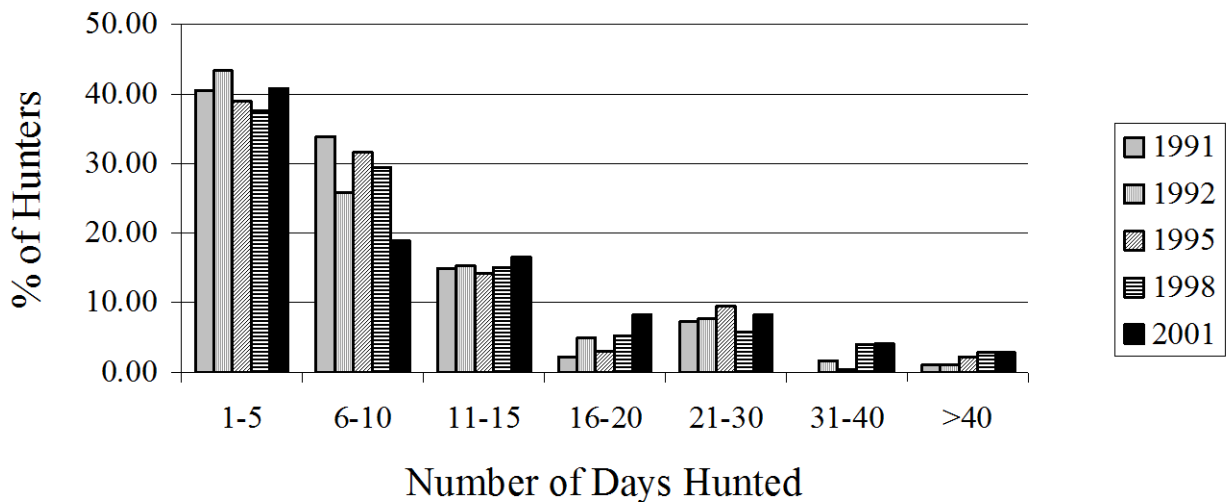


**Figure 2.** Comparison of reported 2001 deer harvest to survey results from 1991, 1992, 1995 and 1998.

**Table 1.** Number of deer harvested by tribal members who hunted in Michigan in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998, and 2001.

Deer	Hunters									
	1991		1992		1995		1998		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	62	34	84	46	69	30	89	51	84	49
1	66	37	50	27	84	36	56	32	52	31
2	40	22	39	21	59	26	21	12	24	14
3	9	5	5	3	11	5	6	4	8	5
4	3	2	3	2	8	3	1	1	1	1
5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Hunters</b>	180		182		231		173		169	

Survey respondents spent a total of 2,041 days hunting in Michigan. Hunters most frequently spent 1\_5 days afield (41%, n= 69), while 19% spent 6\_10 days (n= 32), 17% spent 11\_15 days (n= 28), >8% spent 16\_20 days (n= 14), and >8% spent 21\_30 days afield (n= 14). Over 6% (n=12) of the hunters spent 30 or more days hunting (Figure 3, Table 2).



**Figure 3.** Number of reported deer hunting days by Tribal members in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

**Table 2.** Summary of number of reported deer hunting days by Tribal members in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

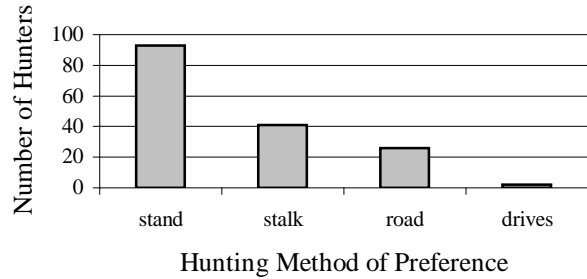
Days	Hunters									
	1991		1992		1995		1998		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-5	73	40.56	79	43.41	90	38.96	65	37.57	69	40.83
6-10	61	33.89	47	25.82	73	31.60	51	29.48	32	18.93
11-15	27	15.00	28	15.38	33	14.29	26	15.03	28	16.57
16-20	4	2.22	9	4.95	7	3.03	9	5.20	14	8.28
21-30	13	7.22	14	7.69	22	9.52	10	5.78	14	8.28
31-40	0	0.00	3	1.65	1	0.43	7	4.05	7	4.14
>40	2	1.11	2	1.10	5	2.16	5	2.89	5	2.96
<b>Total Hunters</b>	180		182		231		173		169	

Hunters were asked to indicate each method (e.g. stand hunting, stalking, road hunting, deer drives) they utilized in 2001. Survey results indicated that the hunting method most frequently used by Tribal members was stand hunting (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Deer hunting methods chosen by Tribal members in Michigan, 2001 and past surveys. (Note: A deer hunter may have indicated they used more than one method)

Methods	Hunters									
	1991		1992		1995		1998		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Stand	94	52.22	118	64.84	157	67.97	115	66.47	108	63.91
Stalking	71	39.44	72	39.56	103	44.59	76	43.93	77	45.56
Road	62	34.44	71	39.01	102	44.16	68	39.31	57	33.73
Drives	10	5.56	17	9.34	34	14.72	22	12.72	19	11.24
<b>Total Hunters</b>	180		182		231		173		169	

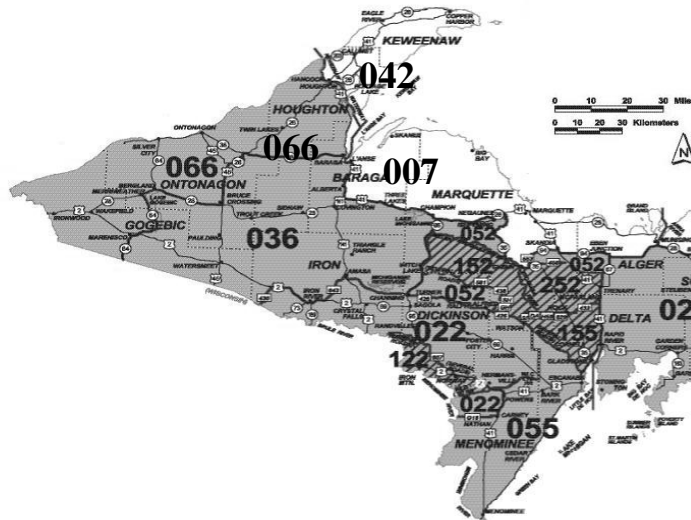
In 2001, 93 hunters (55%) indicated the hunting method they most preferred was stand hunting. A reported 41 hunters (24%) most preferred stalking deer, and 26 (15%) of the hunters returning surveys preferred road hunting. Only 2 (<2%) hunters indicated they preferred deer drives, and <5% did not indicate the method they most preferred (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Preference of deer hunting methods by Tribal members during 2001.

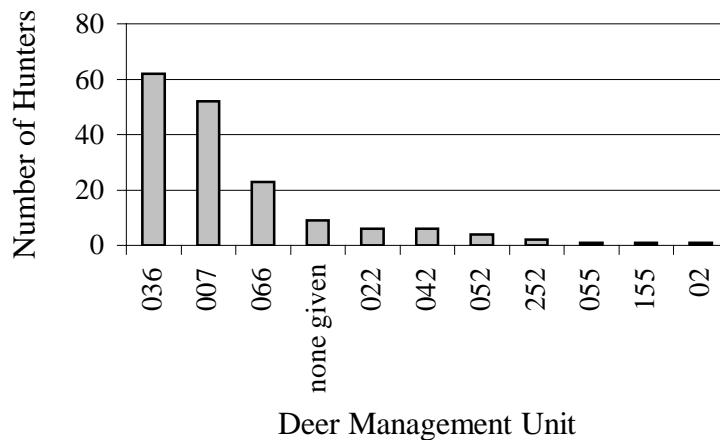
Tribal hunters were asked in the 2001 survey whether they baited while deer hunting. Baiting was practiced by 50% of those Tribal members who indicated they deer hunted (n=85). The majority of hunters who most frequently stand hunted also baited (67 of 93: 72%). Only 1 of the 26 hunters (<4%) who spent most of their hunting time road hunting also practiced baiting. Thirteen of the 41 hunters (32%) who preferred stalking also practiced baiting.

Tribal hunters were asked to reference a provided map and to indicate which management unit they harvested deer from. The management units used for the survey were based upon those used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 2001 (Figure 5).



**Figure 5.** Michigan DNR Deer Management Units (DMU's) used in the 2001 KBIC Wildlife Survey.

In 2001, KBIC members concentrated most of their deer hunting effort in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan from Marquette to Ontonagon. The deer management units most frequented by Tribal hunters in 2001 included zone 036 (nearly 40%; n=62) and 007 (nearly 31%; n=52). Approximately 14% (n=23) of hunters responding to the survey indicated hunting most often in unit 066. The remaining >18% (n=32) of Tribal hunters indicated they most frequented other zones, or did not specify a zone (see Figure 6 for a summary of 2001 hunting zone preference by Tribal members. Note: Management Unit boundaries were redefined in 2001 by Michigan DNR, and hunting zone preference data from past surveys could not be directly compared to 2001 survey results. Please refer to Administrative Report 99-3: *Keweenaw Bay Tribal Deer Hunting Survey Results For 1998.*, for details regarding past Management Unit data).



**Figure 6.** Deer Management Unit preference by Tribal hunters in 2001.

The reported buck: doe harvest ratio for 2001 was approximately 1:1, with 69 bucks and 56 does being taken (the sex of 3 harvested animals was not indicated on surveys). Survey respondents reported harvesting 120 deer in 1998 (72 bucks and 48 does); 267 deer in 1995 (162 bucks and 68 does); 160 deer in 1992 (98 bucks and 62 does); and 190 deer in 1991 (122 bucks and 68 does). In 2001, a reported 51 deer were harvested in Deer Management Unit 036 (29 bucks and 22 does), 48 (25 bucks and 23 does) in DMU 007, and 18 (13 bucks; 5 does) in DMU 066. Eleven deer (2 bucks; 6 does; 3 unreported sex) were harvested in other areas by Tribal members in 2001 (See Table 4 for a summary of deer harvest by sex and Management Unit for 2001 and past surveys).

**Table 4.** Number of deer harvested by sex and Management Unit during the Tribal deer hunting season, September- December, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

1991		Michigan Deer Hunting Zones													
Zone	9	10	11	188	214	215	288	313	314	318	388	415	488	L.P.	Total
Buck	6	6	0	83	7	1	3	3	0	1	7	3	1	1	122
Doe	0	3	1	40	4	0	2	3	1	1	3	10	0	0	68
Total	6	9	1	123	11	1	5	6	1	2	10	13	1	1	190

1992											
Zone	9	10	11	188	214	288	313	322	388	415	Total
Buck	1	4	3	76	2	0	2	0	5	5	98
Doe	0	4	1	38	2	3	1	1	7	5	62
Total	1	8	4	114	4	3	3	1	12	10	160

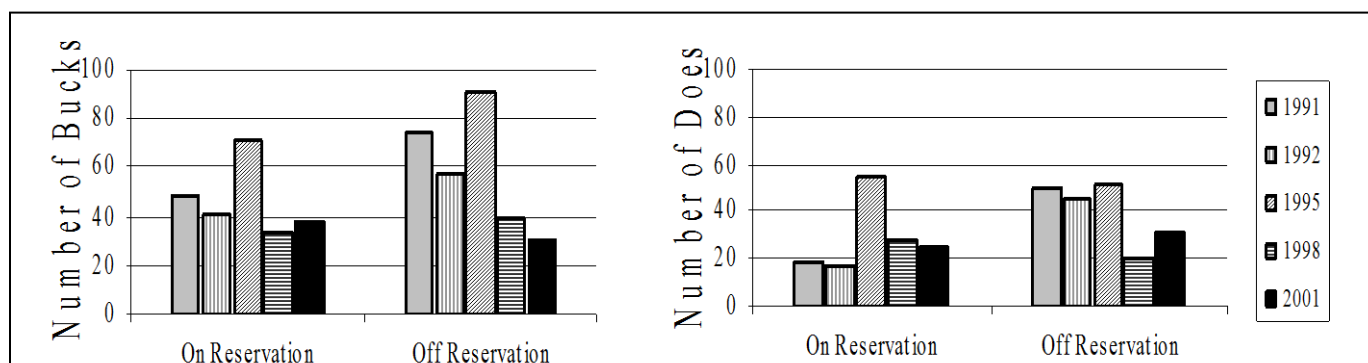
1995											
Zone	9	10	11	188	214	288	312	322	388	415	Total
Buck	4	6	1	129	4	1	0	3	6	8	162
Doe	2	2	5	78	2	1	4	1	7	3	105
Total	6	8	6	207	6	2	4	4	13	11	267

1998												
Zone	10	12	13	188	214	313	317	318	322	388	415	Total
Buck	3	2	28	24	5	0	1	2	1	5	1	72
Doe	0	2	22	19	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	48
Total	3	4	50	43	5	1	3	2	2	6	1	120

2001												
Zone	036	007	066	022	042	052	252	055	155	02	Other	Total
Buck	29	25	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	69
Doe	22	23	5	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	56
Total	51	48	18	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	*128

\* 3 deer with sex unreported

The 2001 On-Reservation deer harvest totaled 63 deer (38 bucks and 25 does). Of the 65 deer harvested Off-Reservation, 31 were bucks, 31 were does, and 3 were unknown. These data are similar to results of past surveys (Figure 7, Table 5).





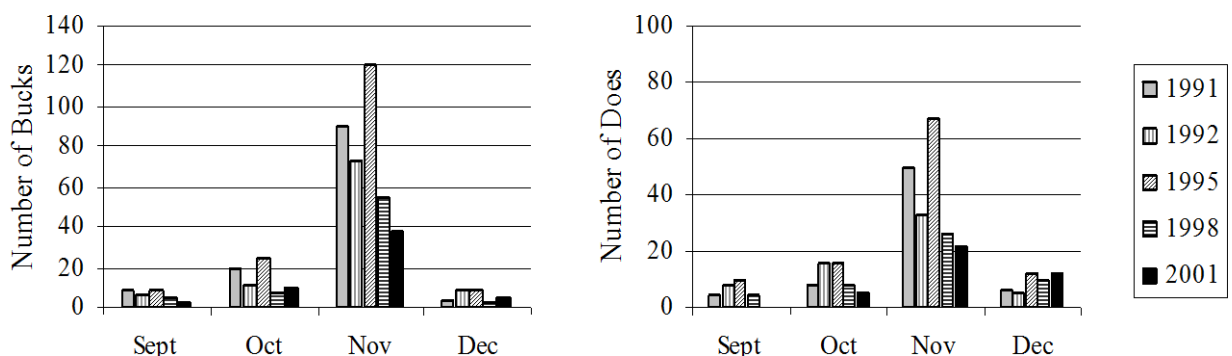
**Figure 7.** Buck and doe harvest (On and Off-Reservation) by Tribal members in Michigan for 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

**Table 5.** Deer harvest (On and Off-Reservation) by Tribal members in Michigan for 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

Harvest	Deer									
	1991		1992		1995		1998		2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Bucks</b>										
<b>On Reservation</b>	48	39.34	41	41.84	71	43.83	33	45.83	38	55.07
<b>Off Reservation</b>	74	60.66	57	58.16	91	56.17	39	54.17	31	44.93
<b>Total Bucks</b>	122		98		162		72		69	
<b>Does</b>										
<b>On Reservation</b>	18	26.47	17	27.42	54	51.43	28	58.33	25	44.64
<b>Off Reservation</b>	50	73.53	45	72.58	51	48.57	20	41.67	31	55.36
<b>Total Does</b>	68		62		105		48		56	
<b>Total</b>	190		160		267		120		*128	

\* 3 deer with unreported sex

Based on data derived from 2001 survey responses that indicated date of hunting success, most deer harvest occurred during the month of November (63%), followed by 18% in December, 16% in October and 3% in September. Thirty-eight of the 60 deer taken in November were bucks. Nearly 67% of the reported October harvest consisted of bucks; 29% in December; 100% in September. These monthly harvest estimates were similar to past survey figures (see Figure 8 and Table 6).



**Figure 8.** Reported buck and doe harvest (by month) for Tribal members in Michigan for 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

**Table 6.** Reported deer harvest (by month) for Tribal members in Michigan for 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.

		<b>Deer</b>									
		<b>1991</b>		<b>1992</b>		<b>1995</b>		<b>1998</b>		<b>1998</b>	
<b>Harvest</b>		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Bucks</b>											
<b>Sept</b>		9	7.38	6	6.12	8	4.94	5	7.25	3	5.36
<b>Oct</b>		19	15.57	11	11.22	24	14.81	7	10.14	10	17.85
<b>Nov</b>		90	73.77	73	74.49	121	74.69	55	79.71	38	67.86
<b>Dec</b>		4	3.28	8	8.16	9	5.56	2	2.90	5	8.93
<b>Total Bucks</b>		122		98		162		69		56	
<b>Does</b>											
<b>September</b>		4	5.88	8	12.90	10	38.46	4	8.33	0	0.00
<b>October</b>		8	11.76	16	25.81	16	61.54	8	16.67	5	12.82
<b>November</b>		50	73.53	33	53.23	67	257.69	26	54.17	22	56.41
<b>December</b>		6	8.82	5	8.06	12	46.15	10	20.83	12	30.77
<b>Total Does</b>		68		62		26		48		39	
<b>Total</b>		190		160		188		117		95	

Note: In 1998, 3 bucks were hunted out of legal deer season and not included.

Note: In 1995 only 188 of the 267 deer reported harvested had dates of harvest indicated

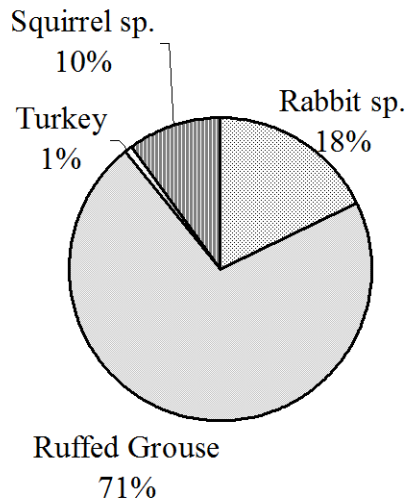
Note: In 2001 only 95 of the 128 deer reported harvested had dates of harvest indicated

## **Bear Harvest**

Five of the 233 survey respondents (<3%) indicated they spent time hunting black bear. Each survey respondent who indicated they were a Tribal bear hunter harvested a bear (3 males, 1 female and 1 with sex not specified on survey).

## Small Game and Waterfowl Harvest

Approximately 28% (n=66) of Tribal members who completed the wildlife survey indicated they had harvested small game species in 2001. A reported 512 ruffed grouse, 128 rabbits, 72 squirrels and 5 turkeys were taken (Figure 9).



**Figure 9.** Percentages of total small game harvest reported by KBIC Tribal hunters in 2001 for 4 game animals.

Twenty Tribal hunters (<9%) stated in returned surveys that they pursued waterfowl during 2001. Of these, only 8 hunters reported success in harvesting ducks, geese and woodcock, with 12, 46 and 18 being taken respectively.

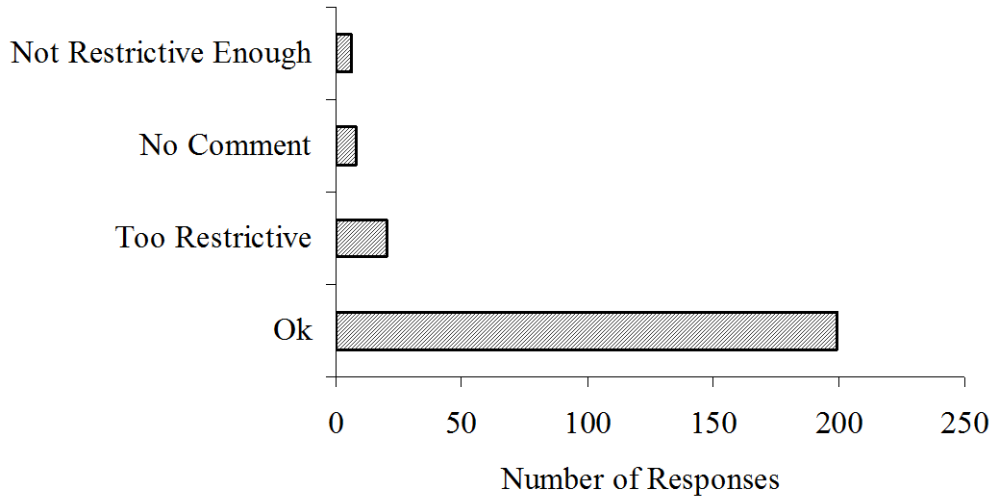
## Furbearer Trapping

Only 2 KBIC members indicated in returned surveys that they had attempted to trap in 2001. Beaver, otter, muskrat, fisher, bobcat, and raccoon were listed as target species. One Tribal trapper reported capturing 1 raccoon, 1 otter, 2 bobcats and 4 fishers, and harvest numbers were not given on the other survey return.

## Regulations

Tribal hunters were asked how they felt about the tribal hunting regulations. They were asked to choose one of three responses: not restrictive enough, Ok, or too restrictive. The

majority of Tribal members participating in the survey felt that the rules and regulations governing KBIC hunting and trapping in the State of Michigan 1842 Ceded Territory were acceptable (>85%, n=199) (Figure 10). Approximately 11% thought the regulations were "not restrictive enough", and 4% stated the regulations were "too restrictive". If tribal hunters thought the regulations were "too restrictive" or "not restrictive enough", they were asked to comment (see Table 8 for summary of comments).



**Figure 10.** Attitudes of Tribal hunters regarding KBIC hunting and trapping regulations in 2001.

### Rare and/ or Sensitive Species Observations

Several (approximately 50%, n=116) of the survey respondents conveyed that they had observed species such as badger, bald eagle, bobcat, cougar, golden eagle, moose, owls, pine martins, trumpeter swans and gray wolves on and near reservation lands (Table 7 includes summary of rare and sensitive species sightings as reported in 2001 survey).

### Comments

Over one third of survey returns (n=79) included a variety of general comments. Many comments included rare and/ or sensitive species concerns, while others included various feelings regarding hunting and trapping regulations, Ceded Territory boundary questions, concerns regarding restrictions and/ or loss of Tribal hunting and trapping rights, etc.

Comments regarding rare and sensitive species varied, and included concerns regarding potential overabundance of predators, optimism about increased sightings of bald eagles,

interest in seeing possible future Tribal hunting seasons for moose, wolves etc., and feelings that rare and/ or sensitive species should be protected as much as possible. Table 8 summarizes comments submitted by survey respondents.

**Table 7.** Summary of rare and/or sensitive species observations as reported in 2001 KBIC Tribal Wildlife Survey.

Species	# of Survey Respondents Indicating Observations	Location(s) of Sighting(s)
Bald Eagle	86	Several, On and Off-Reservation
Bobcat	2	Near Baraga Bishop Shrine
Cougar	5	Aura, Baraga Plains, Bond Falls, Haataja Rd.
Eagle species	23	Several, On and Off-Reservation
Golden Eagle	1	Beartown
Moose	11	Canyon Falls, Covington, Craig Lake, Huron Mtns, Gogebic Cty, Sand Lake
Owls	1	Bruce Crossing
Pine Martin	1	Pike's Peak
Swan species	18	Head of K.B., Huron Bay, Sand Lake
Trumpeter Swan	2	Head of K.B., Prickett Dam
Wolf	39	Several. Huron Mtns, Pelkie, Baraga Plains, Sturgeon Gorge, Marquette area, Gogebic Cty, Misery Bay.

**Table 8.** The 2001 Tribal Wildlife Survey Comments.

1	Hunting at night should be stopped. To many big bucks are taken at night. Not enough game wardens to watch at night.
2	Every law we have is a copy from the State.
3	I did however have a difficult time getting info on reservation boundaries & and GLIFIC count help.
4	I believe that on the whole, your dept. does a very good job.
5	Some people just shoot to kill something.
6	I would like to see spouses of tribal members that are non-native to be able to have the rights as long as you are legally married.
7	I hope they have 2002 bear hunting visitors pass. I am from Oneida tribe Green Bay. We don't have Bears to hunt. I really enjoyed myself when I was there to hunt last year, you people are very helpful.
8	I don't feel that its right that I have to go get permission to hunt in Gogebic County from the Lac Vieux desert tribe in Watersmeet. Don't our treaty cover this?
9	Number allowed to harvest is to high.
10	I enjoyed the days that I hunted on your reservation and I would like to see the return of bear permits.
11	I think we should close off bear town to tribal or locals. I see so many downstate and out of toners hunting on tribal land. There is so many other places they can hunt. I also think we should hunt all year round and have more tags.
12	I hope to see the bear tags become available to tribal affiliates.

13	Need access to Iron, parts of Ontonagon & Gogbic CO.
14	Requirements from other tribes to hunt in one ceded territories, as L.V.D These are just further restrictions on members who are entitled to hunt.
15	we didn't hunt this year. I think you are doing a good job with the regulations and the protection of all species.
16	I think the laws should be more enforced.
17	should have higher has limits on waterfowl.
18	There should be a separate season for bow season for bow hunting of big game-"Maybe sept.& oct. only bow hunting allowed"-It is to dangerous to have tribal members with guns when is many bow hunters at this time. bow hunters don't wear blaze orange)
19	It would be nice to the tribe put aside sand pt. And other sensitive wetlands as refuge.
20	Might try to update the tribal maps, most of them are out of date.
21	Would like to see a map available of lands to hunt on.
22	To gain permission from LVD to hunt in our treaty area.
23	I would also like to see more enforcement of the regulations
24	Regulations seem appropriate.
25	I would like to see some Boundaries set up on the res. Mainly around the projects guys are shooting with high powered rifles within a 1\4 mile of the projects.
26	The large predators belong here- help the wolves, big cats etc. Many complain about wolves, cats etc. poachers do much more damage to deer herds- put the blame where the real problem lie. ENFORCE THE LAW!!!!!!
27	Bait should be used for people 62 or older and one deer per house hold.
28	Why cant the tribes get together so one license can be used in all areas of the ceded territory?
29	I like to hunt in an area where Houghton, Ontonagon, Gogebic, and Iron counties are in close proximity of each other. Do I need to get license from both to be on the safe side?
30	Protection for Moose, Wolves and certain furbearers UNTIL harvestable populations are reached. Natives given 1st harvest opportunities.
31	Ceded Territory should mean exactly that. Signed treaties should recognize land. Not Michigan or Wisconsin, but ceded land. We also need copies of accurate, exact maps showing our boundaries of land (ceded).
32	The regulations are too restrictive for nonmembers of your tribe. I can buy a visitors permit, but this past year I only had 1 deer tag. As a landowner in Keweenaw Bay reservation, I feel I should have the rights as tribal members.
33	I think the tribe is allowing the state of Mich. To control tribal regulations. We have lost more rights in the last 2 years then we gained in 30yrs.
34	I would like to see a more detailed map of ceded land to ensure lawful hunting when near land not ceded.
35	need better map on boundaries for hunting lands.
36	I hunt the Baraga Plains area and I've witnessed Native Americans shining deer on private land, I've heard of and witnessed Indians using their tags over and over, the tag should be changed so that they can only be used once.
37	One buck should be enough and hunter would undoubtedly, try for another larger animal.
38	A Game warden for Marq. People question on visitors hunting.
39	Same as Michigan's. We (tribal) should not be so restricted.
40	People shouldn't be allowed to use bait, it throws off natural habits of the animals it is feeding.
41	Hunting regulations give away treaty rights! Treaty says we can hunt on all ceded land, no exceptions. But we do from what the state tells us.
42	Rare species should be protected
43	<b>THESE RARE &amp; SENSITIVE SPECIES MUST BE PROTECTED (MOTHER EARTH)</b>
44	Its important to protect endangered species but, I believe the introduction of the pine marten, fisher & Timber wolves is getting out of hand.
45	I have heard there are cougars in Herman hills, by Keweenaw Bay, and possible by Dynamite Hill area. What kind of danger does this pose for humans?
46	The tribe should have management plans for sensitive species also should let the tribal members know what the plans are.

47	Rare species should remain protected.
48	All rare & sensitive species must be protected at all cost to insure their survival for future generation to enjoy.
49	kill fishers, have a hunting season on them. To many rabbits,grouse being killed by these fishers.
50	open season on fishers.
51	haven't seen any cougars but three people told me about foot prints they believed were cougars around Keweenaw bay.
52	To many bobcats on the reservation.
53	Have not seen any Wolves, Cougars, or other large animals.
54	I think there are too many wolves, chasing off deer from area where I hunt. Also, have seen bobcat tracks in the woods.
55	I have been seeing entirely too much wolf & coyote signs and way to little sign of deer.
56	I don't care for the artificial efforts of returning any rare species to this habitat, ie wolves.
57	It seems that there have been a lot of wolves sighting.
58	I feel that the wolves are taking many deer during hard winters.
59	The wolves seem to be doing good, maybe too good. I saw 7 wolves this past year, over 20 coyotes, and heard a cougar. There has been a decrease in deer along with a increase in predators.
60	Tribal members should be able to harvest a wolf per season. The population has reached a harvestable number.
61	Abundance of timber wolves seem to be taking many deer.
62	Would favor a limited hunt/trap season on timber wolves.
63	I'm concerned about the rising wolf population because of deer hunting & Being able to hunt with dogs without worrying about them getting hurt.
64	I've noticed more wolves and badger in area 052 & 022. Not sure if they have an impact on smaller game.
65	Need to eliminate Timber Wolves. There is a lot of Wolves we should start to harvest them, each wolf eats 15-20 deer/year, they travel in packs and stay in a small area.
66	The Timber Wolves seem to be moving into town (L'Anse) is there a reason for that? I've heard people say they are going to shoot them.
67	Have you seen 11 wolves, 3 golden eagles, 5 Bald Eagles. The wolves concern me very much.
68	Wolves should be taken off the endangered species list and put on the threatened.
69	Too many wolves coyotes in my area. As tribal members we should be able to take one wolf/season.
70	I have seen more wolves each year for the last 7yrs. The wolves near my camp have come back very strong. I observed a pack of 4 all in good shape this summer, no mange
71	We don't need any more predators. Why spend tax dollars on animals "most" of us don't want.
72	Pleased to see the wolf population increase.
73	They should protect the wolf & the Eagle because there very rare, here in the U.P. Its just nice to see those wolves & other species back again, it doesn't concern me. I'm not afraid of large animals.
74	I never trapped furbearers but I am interested in doing so in the future. Wolf tracks are common in southern Marquette county.
75	Let it be known that we don't need more predators such as Wolves, fishers, pine martins, etc.
76	I would like to see all the wolves taken from the area as they are a threat to Adults and dangerous to children and domestic animals.
77	I have not seen wolves or cougars but have heard on 2 occasions a cougars has been seen on 41 going to Marquette. I have no concerns regarding cougars & wolves. Let them be.
78	Timber Wolves... You don't want to many because their going to start after domestic animals, and humans.
79	Have not seen, but heard many rumors about wolves coming close to residential areas.
80	To many wolves that scare deer away In my area.
81	never seen any wolves, cougars, or predatory animals.
82	I think it was a mistake to bring t. wolves back to the UP.

83	Wolves should be hunted. Increase in wolves, there taking care of the deer population. Last year I was feeding 20 this year only about 5. Not good.
84	We have a great number of wolves in the Alston/Nisula/Gorge area.
85	I believe it is possible I saw 1 wolf on Co. Rd. 510 near AAA road in Feb 2002. I hoped for a better moose population for the day for a possible hunt. Otherwise, I havnt seen sign or sightings of cougar, but imagine they are residents/ neighbors.
86	I LOVE THE BALD EAGLE.
87	I HAVE A HOME BEHIND DOLLAR BAY ON PORTAGE LAKE, I NEARLY SEE BALD EAGLES EVERY DAY THAT I AM THERE. (SUMMER)
88	I travel great deal and seen more Eagles away from our reservation area, mostly in the Bruce crossing area.
89	Nesting area of eagles vs. the waterfront snowmobile nice thing.
90	I would like to know the eagles are safe and hope to continue seeing them. I have hopes to see more.
91	I had a great time, beautiful rez & beautiful people much thanks
92	Only message is to update the maps
93	I had an excellent time hunting the land.
94	My Family have been coming to your rez to hunt over the last 3 yrs and enjoy it very much. The tribal wildlife dept. staff is always helpful and courteous.
95	What is being done is good for me.
96	Listening to WJR radio in Detroit while driving back home after the hunt, and I heard a number of negative comment. About Indian hunting. We need to do a better job of educating and communicating with much sportsman.
97	To much paper work.
98	Eagle feathers shoudnt be restriced for Tribal Members.
99	I feel quite strongly of habitat conservation, protection and feel tribal authoritys should purchase more lands for these reasons.
100	*NEED COMMERCIAL WALLEYE QUOTA*
101	No commercial fishing Quotas open it up KB members.
102	I would like to see the spring spearing increased.
103	I enjoy my license for fishing purposes.
104	To many restrications on commercial fishing.
105	Havent been hunting in while. When I am on the rsevation iam mostly fishing.

## DISCUSSION

In 2001, 676 fishing, hunting and trapping licenses were issued, compared to 708 licenses issued in the 1998 license year, 678 in 1995, 572 in 1992, 508 in 1991, 416 in 1990 and 401 licenses in 1989. Increased interest in exercising treaty rights, and an increase in the number of registered Tribal members, has seemingly led to the heightened numbers of license holders in the late 1990's to present. There are currently over 5000 registered Tribal members (all ages), most of which are eligible to obtain hunting, fishing, and trapping cards. MDNR estimates over 100,000 state licensees hunt deer in the Upper Peninsula. The state of Michigan has been recently divided into several Eco-Regions, with nested management units in each Eco-Region (Figure 5 illustrates management units contained entirely within the Western Upper Peninsula Eco-Region). The Michigan 1842



Ceded Territory lies within the western U.P. Eco-Region. MDNR estimates 23,581 deer were harvested from the western U.P. Eco-Region in 2001 by state licensees (MDNR Wildlife Report No. 3371, 2002). Table 9 summarizes deer harvest by state licensees, 1990-2001.

**Table 9.** Deer Harvest reported by MDNR for the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, 1990-2001

<b>MDNR</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>
<b>District 1</b>	10700	16782	12389	10051	16699	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>District 2</b>	37336	42766	19805	10805	13444	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>District 3</b>	15906	21817	43799	43799	36056	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>Total</b>	63942	81365	75993	64655	66199	95000	55000	29471	41000	20746	30914	23581

Note: 1995-2001 deer harvest estimated. District 1 included Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon Counties. District 2 included Iron, Dickinson and Menominee Counties. District 3 included Delta, Marquette and a portion of Alger Counties. The Districts were slightly redefined in 1992. The Districts are presently combined to constitute the western Upper Peninsula Eco-Region.

Actual KBIC Tribal deer harvest may be substantially higher than survey data indicates. However, even if KBIC harvest was triple reported numbers, that harvest would be <2% of the estimated state deer harvest in Michigan's western Upper Peninsula in 2001.

KBNRD questioned hunters about small game and waterfowl hunting in the 2001 survey, and hopes to continue in future surveys. Ruffed grouse hunting was popular with survey respondents, and KBNRD anticipates initiating future management practices On and Near-Reservation which will enhance grouse hunting opportunities for Tribal members.

Tribal bear hunting and furbearer trapping activities were reportedly limited in 2001. Wild fur markets have struggled in recent years, arguably due to anti-fur campaigns, a warming global climate, and saturation of the fur market by large fur farms. Non-the-less, KBNRD will continue to monitor fur harvest by Tribal members if the future, and hopes that this tradition will survive as a sound resource management practice. Reported 2001 black bear harvest by Tribal members is similar to the results of past surveys.

Of the 233 survey respondents, 79 tribal hunters wrote comments on various issues (Table 8). Respondents had approximately 40 comments on rules and regulations. Several comments included concerns about lack of enforcement of Tribal Laws. There were comments

regarding the want of additional Tribal Warden patrols and/or staff in the Marquette area as well. In the past, there has been reported very little warden activity from the Bureau of Indian Affairs warden or Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission staff. It is hoped that as more Tribal members exercise their Treaty Rights, and voice the need to better protect and enforce the laws that are instilled to assure those rights, the resources that the Ojibwa People cherish will ultimately be better managed, utilized and protected.

Many Tribal comments were in regard to rare and/ or sensitive species. In particular, the gray wolf was a species that concerned many Tribal members. Approximately 50% of the wolf related comments were interpreted as being negative toward wolves. Negative Tribal member comments ranged from concern about wolf predation on deer, to human safety and increased encounters with wolves near urban areas. Roughly 13% (4) of wolf related comments were interpreted as positive toward wolves. The remaining 37% of wolf related comments were considered to be neutral. Many of the neutral comments expressed desire to control wolf numbers with a limited Tribal hunting and/ or trapping season.

The KBIC Licensing Clerk indicated 104 deer (50 bucks, 54 does) were registered by Tribal hunters in 2001, compared to 115 in 1995 and 138 in 1992. Survey respondents, 34% of the hunters, reported harvesting 128 deer. Obviously, deer hunters did not fully utilize the current deer registration system. Some hunters are probably not aware of the Tribal registration program and may be reporting their harvested deer to the Michigan DNR. As stated in the Tribal Code, all deer must be registered with the Tribal Licensing Clerk. KBNRD continues to recommend that the Tribal Council promote an active publicity program during the fall of each year. The Licensing Clerk should remind all hunters to register their deer, have posters distributed about the registration program, and have a deer weigh\_in station on the Reservation.

KBNRD anticipates conducting a similar survey in 2004. Most of the 2001 data was similar to past survey data, although there were differences in the number of hunters, deer harvested, and days spent hunting in ceded territory. Through a hunter/wildlife surveys in 1991, 1992, 1995 and 1998, KBNRD was able to obtain valuable information pertaining to the hunting activity of KBIC hunters, and attitudes towards regulations, non-game species, etc. By continuing this survey, we can establish a database of hunter activities and attitudes. An established database will demonstrate to state and federal natural resource agencies KBIC's ability to manage and regulate deer hunter harvest in Michigan's 1842 treaty ceded territory.

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