

Fig. 2. Bear management units (BMUs) within quota (white) and no-quota (gray) zones. Hunters in the quota zone are restricted to a single BMU. In 2016, BMU 26 was divided into 27 and 28, and BMU 44 was split into 46 and 47 (BMUs 28 and 47 comprise the Leech Lake Reservation). BMU 14 was split from BMU 12 in 2022. No-quota hunters can hunt anywhere within the gray-colored zone, including the southeast corner of Minnesota (not shown; designated area 60). In 2020, zone 451 was split from 3 deer permit areas of 45 to relieve crop damage in the area. This area is in the quota-zone, but with an unlimited number of participants.

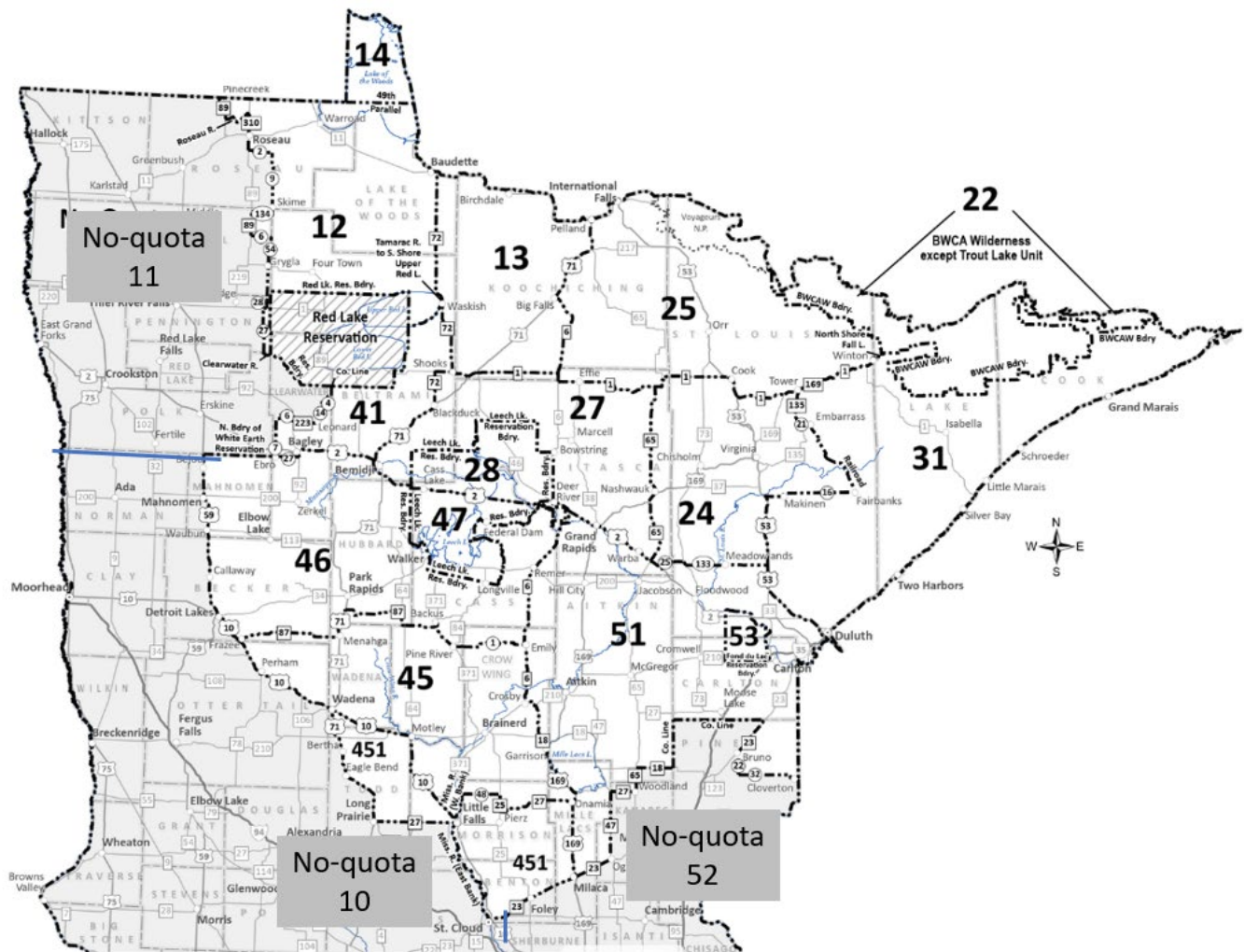


Table 3. Number of quota BMU permit applicants (Apps), licenses bought (after permits drawn) and surplus licenses bought, 2019–2024^a.

BMU	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	Apps	Bought license	Surplus bought	Apps	Bought license	Surplus bought	Apps	Bought license	Surplus bought	Apps	Bought license	Surplus bought	Apps	Bought license	Surplus bought	Apps	Bought license	Surplus bought
12	711	104	21	751	107	18	891	110	15	931	82	18	923	112	13	934	93	7
13	712	199	26	734	195	30	944	198	27	939	192	33	996	208	42	930	212	38
14										51	7	3	20	8	2	20	7	3
22	61	35	14	69	32	18	73	40	10	51	38	12	99	36	14	82	38	12
24	840	153	22	909	155	20	1072	157	18	1144	122	13	1158	86	14	1198	84	16
25	1520	348	52	1627	367	33	1806	356	44	1836	313	47	1904	291	34	1833	276	50
27	1280	200	25	1338	207	18	1532	200	25	1675	203	22	1634	240	35	1537	236	40
28	318	51	9	312	49	11	358	59	1	351	55	5	326	52	7	316	51	9
31	1907	432	67	2022	444	57	2297	428	72	2222	351	74	2125	342	55	2084	335	65
41	661	143	7	663	154	21	841	155	20	848	167	33	831	169	31	850	182	18
45	2351	178	22	1978	186	14	2241	190	10	2308	222	28	2436	306	43	2424	299	51
451^d						1038			769			595			548			603
46	2662	313	37	2853	364	36	3340	364	36	3596	391	59	3527	515	83	3479	519	81
47	198	34	6	216	33	7	244	33	7	263	34	6	240	34	4	244	31	9
51	3956	798	102	4058	885	115	4766	897	105	5106	926	149	4991	1046	204	4674	1023	227
53																70	17	3
Total^c	17177	2988	410	18577	3178	1454	20405	3187	1158	21343	31460	1097	21343	3532	1134	20675	3403	1232

^a Beginning in 2011, all licenses not purchased by permittees were sold as “surplus”. In all cases (see footnote b), all the surplus licenses were purchased. Surplus = Permits available (Table 2) minus Bought licenses.

^b Beginning in 2008, applicants could apply for area 99 in order to increase future preference, but not buy a license; these are not included in the total number of applications (unlike Table 1, where they are included). This number also includes the permits sold in area 451.

^c Beginning in 2020, applicants could buy a license over the counter for area 451. This was an area in the quota zone with no limit on the quota and all licenses are considered surplus licenses. This is not an area for lottery or applications; only surplus licenses could be purchased.

Table 5. The upper table indicates the percent of quota BMU lottery applicants with preference levels 1 (1st-year applicants), 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 or more who were drawn for a bear permit during 2024 (upper table). An asterisk “*” in the table denotes that veteran preference was included in the highest preference levels. Green cells indicate 100% of applicants were drawn, and yellow cells indicate the lowest preference level in which hunters were drawn. The bottom table indicates the distribution of preference levels for all lottery applicants by BMU. Applicants with veterans preference are included in the 6+ category.

Success percentage by preference level						
BMU	1	2	3	4	5	6+*
12	0%	0%	0%	0%	63%	100%
13	0%	0%	12%	100%	100%	100%
14	0%	0%	40%	100%	100%	100%
22	41%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
24	0%	0%	0%	0%	28%	100%
25	0%	0%	0%	40%	100%	100%
27	0%	0%	0%	0%	79%	100%
28	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	100%
31	0%	0%	0%	37%	100%	100%
41	0%	0%	8%	100%	100%	100%
45	0%	0%	0%	0%	35%	100%
46	0%	0%	0%	0%	65%	100%
47	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	100%
51	0%	0%	27%	100%	100%	100%
53	0%	0%	38%	100%	100%	100%

Total applicants with following preference level							Total applicants
BMU	1	2	3	4	5	6+*	
12	228	180	205	178	114	28	933
13	258	229	219	190	23	11	930
14	2	2	10	2	4	0	20
22	54	24	2	1	0	1	82
24	268	224	258	212	188	48	1,198
25	444	415	387	438	127	22	1,833
27	349	293	279	287	262	67	1,537
28	58	66	50	45	55	42	316
31	538	409	447	458	187	45	2,084
41	286	193	186	153	18	14	850
45	647	445	424	379	275	254	2,424
46	890	661	628	529	493	278	3,479
47	53	47	32	44	32	36	244
51	1,467	1,159	1,086	829	64	69	4,674
53	30	10	16	11	1	2	70
99	1,189	995	1,047	891	501	703	5,326

Table 6. Minnesota bear harvest tally for 2024 by Bear Management Unit (BMU)^a and sex^b compared to harvests during 2019–2023 and record high and low harvests (since establishment of each BMU, not counting current year).

BMU	2024				2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	5-year mean	Record low harvest (yr)	Record high harvest (yr)
	M	(%M)	F	Total								
Quota												
12	27	43	36	63	41	48	71	84	62	61	38 (14)	263 (01)
13	90	58	64	154	111	110	110	126	105	112	71 (88)	258 (95)
14	1	33	2	3	1 ^d	0						
22	2	100	0	2	2	1 ^d	3	7	3	3	1 (22)	41 (89)
24	40	62	25	65	40	58	81	97	86	72	40 (23)	288 (95)
25	126	58	92	218	185	176	215	251	224	210	149 (96)	584 (01)
27	108	58	77	185	133	101	140	148	128	130	101 (22)	148 (20)
28	31	70	13	44	29	32	34	38	41	35	29 (23)	42 (20)
31	151	61	98	249	143	197	296	325	212	235	143 (23)	697 (01)
41	69	59	49	118	58	85	75	74	76	73	35 (15)	201 (01)
45	104	52	95	199	90	121	108	85	108	102	32 (11)	178 (01)
451	74	57	56	130	49	74	110	168				
46	193	54	166	359	182	211	201	231	181	201	139 (18)	211 (22)
47	16	59	11	27	22	16	27	25	22	22	15 (18)	27(21)
51	376	56	293	669	313	350	477	511	411	412	185 (18)	895 (01)
53	7	54	6	13								
Total	1432	57	1093	2498	1401	1578	1948	2210	1659	1748	1192 (88)	4288 (01)
No-Quota												
11	328	60	217	545	188	268	386	487 ^f	269	319	38 (87)	487 (20)
10	41	67	20	61	73	44	50	29 ^f	26	44	15 (16)	73 (23)
52	226	58	165	391	138	351	587	476 ^f	386	387	105 (02)	587 (21)
60 ^c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
88 ^g	17	63	10	27	2	9						
Total	612	60	412	1024	401	672	1023	993 ^e	681	754	198 (87)	1023 (21)
State	2027	58	1495	3530	1818	2251	2971	3203	2340	2516	1509 (88)	4956 (95)

^a Some tooth envelopes were received from hunters who did not register their bear. These were added to the harvest tally: 2019:18; 2020:8; 2021:4; 2022:10; 2023:16; 2024:8. Some hunters with no-quota licenses hunted in the quota zone, and their kills were assigned to the BMU where they apparently hunted: 2019:4; 2020:6; 2021:11; 2022:10; 2023:2 *None were authorized NQ license-holders hunting in quota zone. Some quota area hunters also apparently hunted in the wrong BMU, based on the block where they said they killed a bear, but these were recorded in the BMU where they were assigned (presuming most were misreported kill locations).

^b Sex recorded on tooth envelopes may differ from the registered sex. Sex shown on table is the registered sex.

^c BMU 60 designates SE Minnesota, which is within No-quota zone. Only two bears have been harvested in this zone in our records dating back to 1980.

^g BMU 888 designates NQ hunters authorized to remove a conflict bear (typically prior to the hunting season).

Notable harvests:

^d Tie for record low harvest.

^e Highest harvest since 2007.

^f Record high harvest for these no-quota zones.

Table 7. Bear hunting success (%) by BMU, measured as the registered harvest divided by the number of licenses sold^a, 2019–2024.

BMU	Max success prior to 2024	Year	5 year average success (pre-2024)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
12	67	20	50	63	32	45	55	67	50
13	59	95,16	48	62	43	47	49	56	46
14				30	10	0			
22	18	92	6	4	4	2	6	14	6
24	55	20	47	65	40	43	46	55	49
25	63	20	55	66	55	49	54	63	56
26	65	20	56	68	48	46	61	65	59
27	66	20	53	67	48	44	62	66	47
28	70	18	56	73	46	53	57	63	60
31	65	20	49	62	35	35	59	65	51
41	63	20	43	59	29	29	43	63	52
44	65	20	46	60	31	31	52	65	53
46	58	20	45	60	30	46	50	58	39
47	68	17	45	68	54	40	50	43	38
45	54	22	40	57	25	48	54	42	29
451				21	9	14	16		
51	51	21	42	54	24	33	47	58	46
Quota ^e	57	20	44	60	30	42	51	57	38
11 ^f			24	36	18	21	24	34	23
10 ^f			12	14	14	12	12	8	12
52 ^f			17	20	7	15	23	20	19
No Quota	32	95	19	27	12	17	22	24	20
Statewide	40	95	31	44	21	28	35	38	34

^a Registered harvest/licenses instead of harvest/hunters because BMU-year-specific estimates for the proportion of license-holders that hunted are unreliable. Statewide estimates of harvest/hunters are presented in Table 1.

^b Record high (or tied record high) success.

^c Highest success ever for any BMU.

^e In 2020, BMU 451 was broken out of BMU 45 and was an area in the quota zone with an unlimited number of licenses. The quota success rate is calculated without BMU 451 in it to make hunting success estimates comparable across years. The success rate for BMU 451 is listed on its own line in the table.

^f Since 2013, an attempt was made to differentiate the number of no-quota (NQ) hunters by BMU in order to estimate success rates. When no-quota hunters bought licenses, they recorded the deer block where they anticipated hunting. A few chose BMU 60 (SE Minnesota); the first bear was harvested there in 2017, 1 more was killed there in 2020. Of these BMU 60 hunters, most seem to have indicated this in error and registered a bear elsewhere in the no-quota. Table shows % indicating where they planned to hunt (number of hunters in parentheses for BMU 60 and Quota zone):

BMU	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
11	39.3	30.1	32.4	34.7	34.3	30.9
10	11.0	14.9	9.1	9.3	8.6	14.3
52	49.3	54.5	58.3	56.0	56.8	52.0
60 (n)	0.2 (8)	0.5 (18)	0.3 (10)	0	0.3 (13)	0.3 (11)