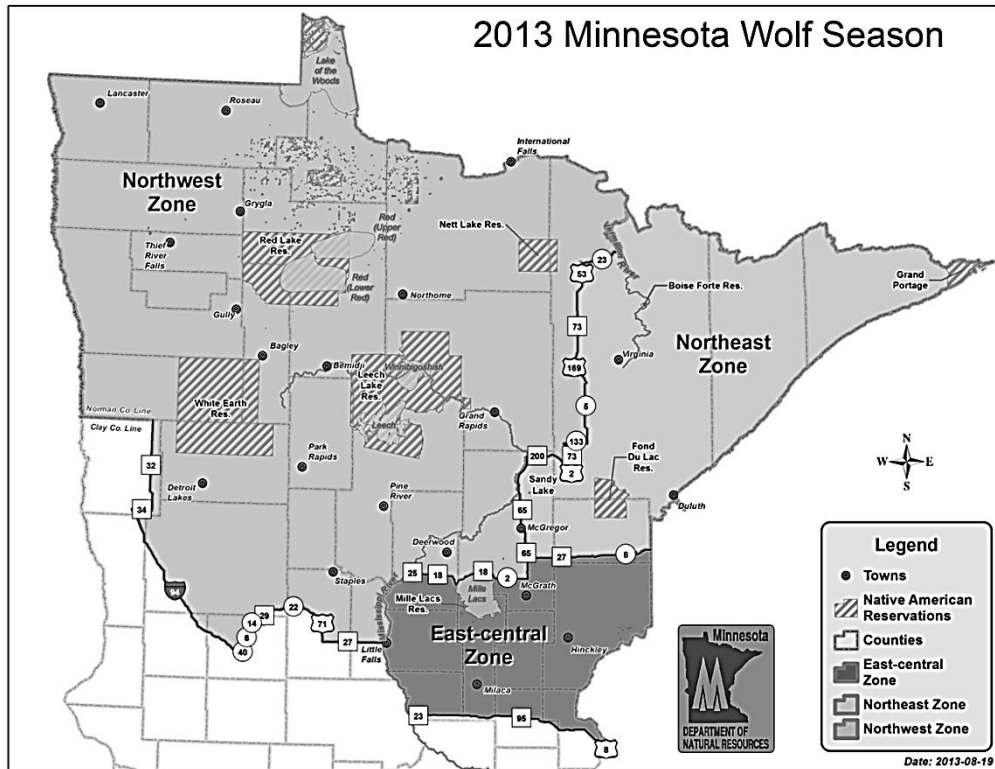


# 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Report



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June 5, 2014

All data contained herein are subject to revision, due to updated information, improved analysis techniques, and/or regrouping of data for analysis.

# 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Report

## **Minnesota Wolf Season Summary**

In 2011, the Minnesota Legislature authorized the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a wolf season following the removal of wolves from the federal Endangered Species Act and classified wolves as small game in state statute. In anticipation of delisting in January of 2012, DNR first began discussing the design of a potential regulated public hunting and trapping season for wolves late in 2011. The 2012 Legislature established wolf hunting and trapping licenses, further clarified authority for DNR to implement a wolf season and required the start of the season to be no later than the start of firearms deer season each year.

Wolf season licenses were offered through a lottery application and a deadline was established for purchase of licenses awarded through the lottery. Unsold licenses were available at a later date for purchase by unsuccessful lottery applicants.

The wolf season harvest was divided into three segments; an early hunting season that coincided with the firearms deer season, a late hunting season, and a concurrent late trapping season. The wolf range was divided into three zones to facilitate management discussions with tribal governments and natural resource agencies based on ceded territories in northeastern and east central Minnesota (Figure 1). A total target harvest of 220 wolves was established to limit total potential take of wolves through the season and to initiate the close of the season. Each of the 3 zones had independent target harvests for early and late seasons (Table 1). For 2013, hunting in the east central zone was only open for two days and closed regardless of wolf harvest.

Hunters and trappers were required to register wolves harvested by 10 PM the day of harvest and were also required to monitor by phone or internet the season progress and check for an announcement of season closure when the target harvest by zone or season was reached.

Successful hunters and trappers also had to bring harvested wolves to DNR offices for pelt tagging, collection of additional harvest information, and to allow for collection of biological samples. Information was collected from hunters about the location of harvest and biological samples were collected from wolves including a tooth, tissue samples, and female reproductive tracts for characterizing demographics of wolves taken during the season.

This report attempts to communicate the outcome of the 2013 wolf season by presenting information about the harvest in the tables and figures below.

# 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Report

**Table 1.** 2013 Minnesota wolf season zone target harvest.

WOLF SEASON ZONE	HARVEST TARGET	Early season harvest target
East Central	10	NA*
Northeast	65	33
Northwest	145	73
Total	220	106*

\* The early season did not include a target harvest, but was only open for two days (Nov. 9 and 10).

**Table 2.** License, season, and season dates for 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season

LICENSE	SEASON	DATES
A	Early Hunting	Nov. 9 – 24, 100 Series Deer Permit Areas Nov. 9 – 17, 200 Series Deer Permit Areas
B	Late Hunting	Nov. 30 – Jan. 31, 2014
C	Late Trapping	Nov. 30 – Jan. 31, 2014

**Table 3.** 2013 Minnesota wolf season application and lottery information.

Season	Licenses available	Res. applicants	Non-res. applicants	Res. win	Non-res. win	% Draw success
Early Hunting	2,000	6,306	76	1,967	33	31
Late Hunting	1,300	3,474	96	682	29	20
Late Trapping		2,978	19	595	0 <sup>a</sup>	20
Totals	3,300	12,758	191	3244	56	

<sup>a</sup> Non-residents are not eligible to trap wolves in Minnesota.

**Table 4.** 2013 Minnesota wolf season licenses issued.

Season	Lottery licenses	Unsold lottery licenses	Military licenses	Total
Early Hunting	1,581	410	92	2,083
Late Hunting	606	100	39	745
Late Trapping	504	91	8	603
Totals	2,691	601	139	3,431

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**Table 5.** Hunter and trapper success, 2013 Minnesota wolf season.

Season	Licenses issued	Total harvest	Success rate <sup>a</sup>
Early Hunting	2,083	88	4.2%
Late Hunting	745	31	4.2%
Late Trapping	603	119	19.7%

<sup>a</sup> Harvest success calculated based on license sales and total harvest for season.

**Table 6.** Zone specific closure dates for 2013 Minnesota wolf season.

Season	Zone		
	NW	NE	EC
Early Hunting	11/24/2013	11/17/2013	11/10/2013
Late Hunting	12/27/2013	12/18/2013	12/28/2013
Late Trapping	12/27/2013	12/18/2013	12/28/2013

**Table 7.** Zone and season specific harvest of wolves in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season.

Season	Zone			
	NW	NE	EC	All
Early Hunting	61	27	0	88
Late Hunting	18	10	3	31
Late Trapping	86	27	6	119
<b>All</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>238</b>

**Table 8.** Comparison of 2012 and 2013 wolf season.

Year	Season	Licenses issued	Season length (days)	Target Harvest	Harvest	Success rate
2012	early hunting	3,670	16	200	147	4.6 <sup>a</sup>
	late hunting	1,656	41	253 <sup>b</sup>	67	5.1 <sup>a</sup>
	late trapping	797			199	29.4 <sup>a</sup>
	<b>2012 totals</b>	<b>6,123</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>6.7</b>
2013	early hunting	2,083	16	110	88	4.2
	late hunting	745	29	132 <sup>b</sup>	31	4.2
	late trapping	603			119	19.7
	<b>2013 totals</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>6.9</b>

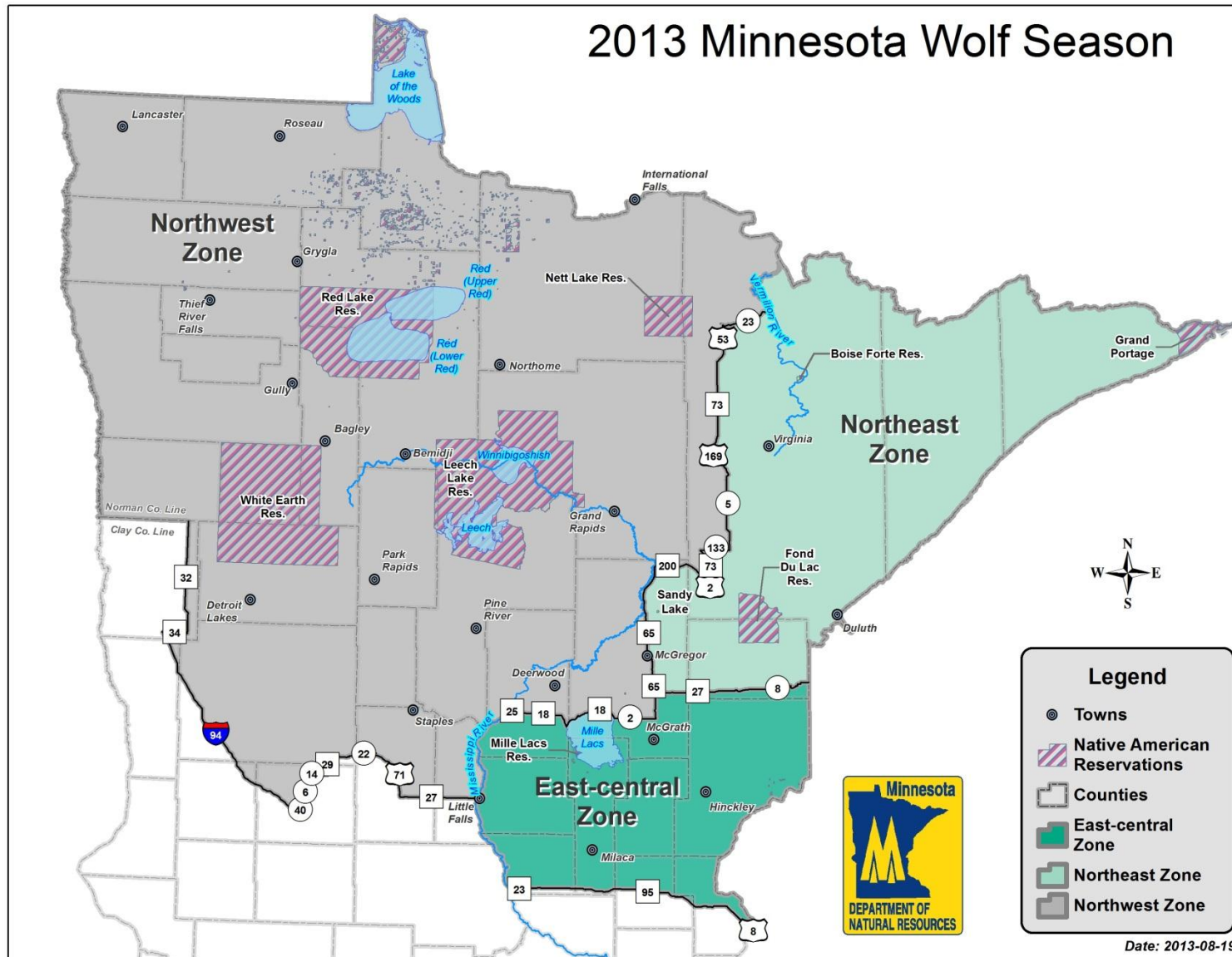
# 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Report

**Table 9.** Harvest of wolves in Minnesota by county during the 2013 wolf season.

COUNTY	Early Hunting	Late Hunting	Late Trapping	Total
St. Louis	27	9	30	66
Itasca	16	2	13	31
Koochiching	8	1	11	20
Lake	10	2	5	17
Roseau	2	1	9	12
Beltrami	3	2	7	12
Cass	5	0	3	8
Aitkin	1	0	6	7
Becker	1	0	6	7
Clearwater	3	0	4	7
Polk	0	3	4	7
Cook	3	0	2	6
Crow Wing	2	1	3	6
Marshall	0	3	3	6
Hubbard	2	0	2	4
Lake of the Woods	2	0	2	4
Pine	0	0	4	4
Carlton	1	0	2	3
Pennington	0	2	1	3
Benton	0	2	0	2
Morrison	1	0	1	2
Kanabec	0	1	0	1
Kittson	1	0	0	1
Norman	0	1	0	1
Otter Tail	0	0	1	1
Red Lake	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>238</b>

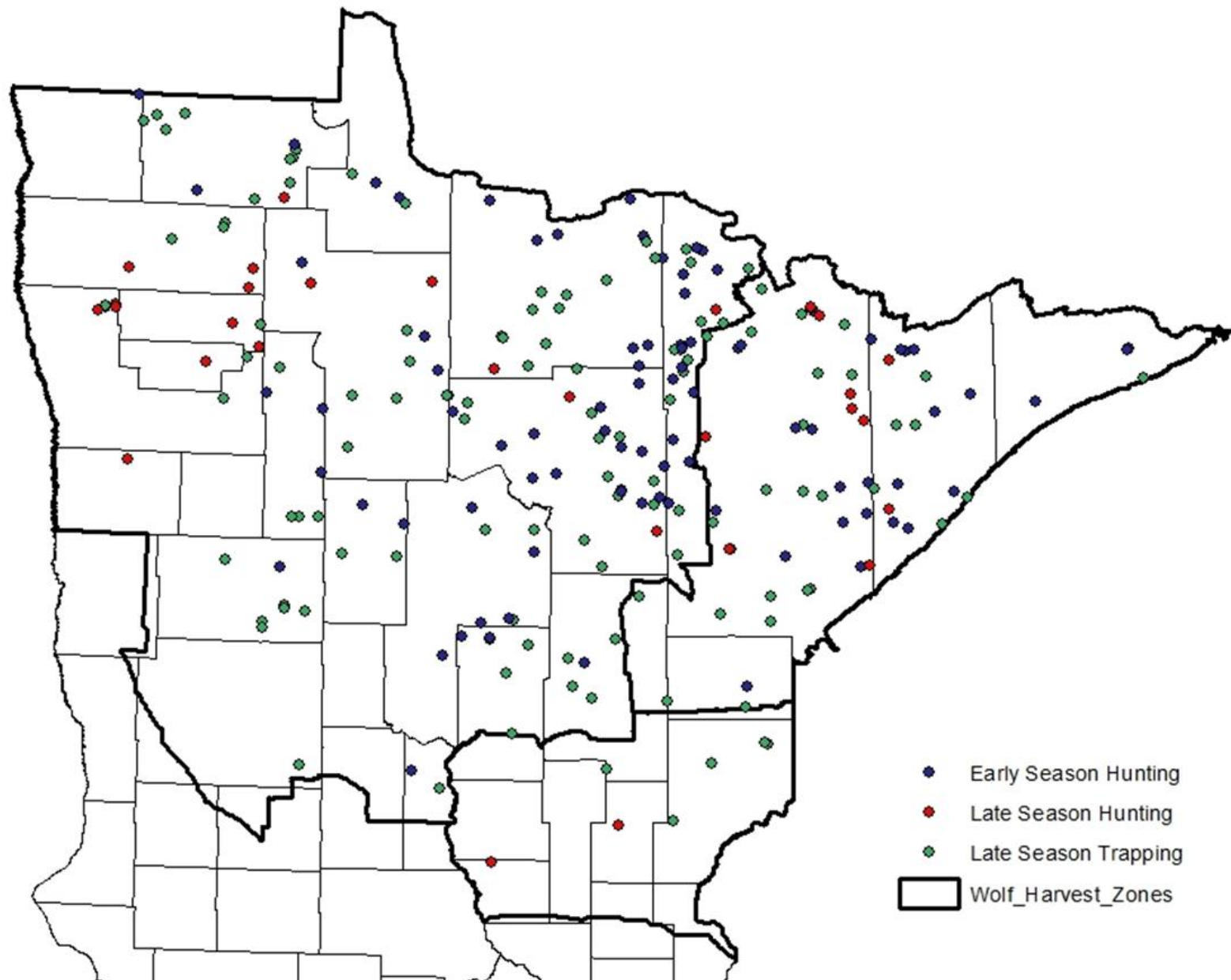
# 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Report

**Figure 1.** 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Map



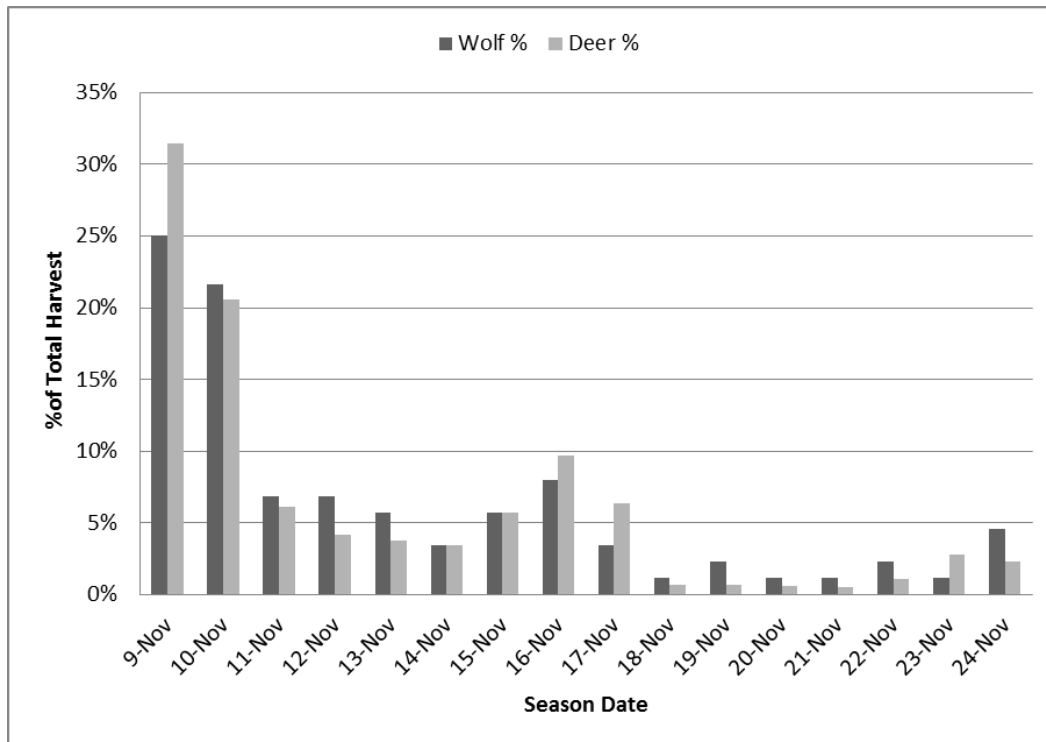
## 2013 Minnesota Wolf Season Report

**Figure 2.** Wolf harvest locations (n=238) in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season.

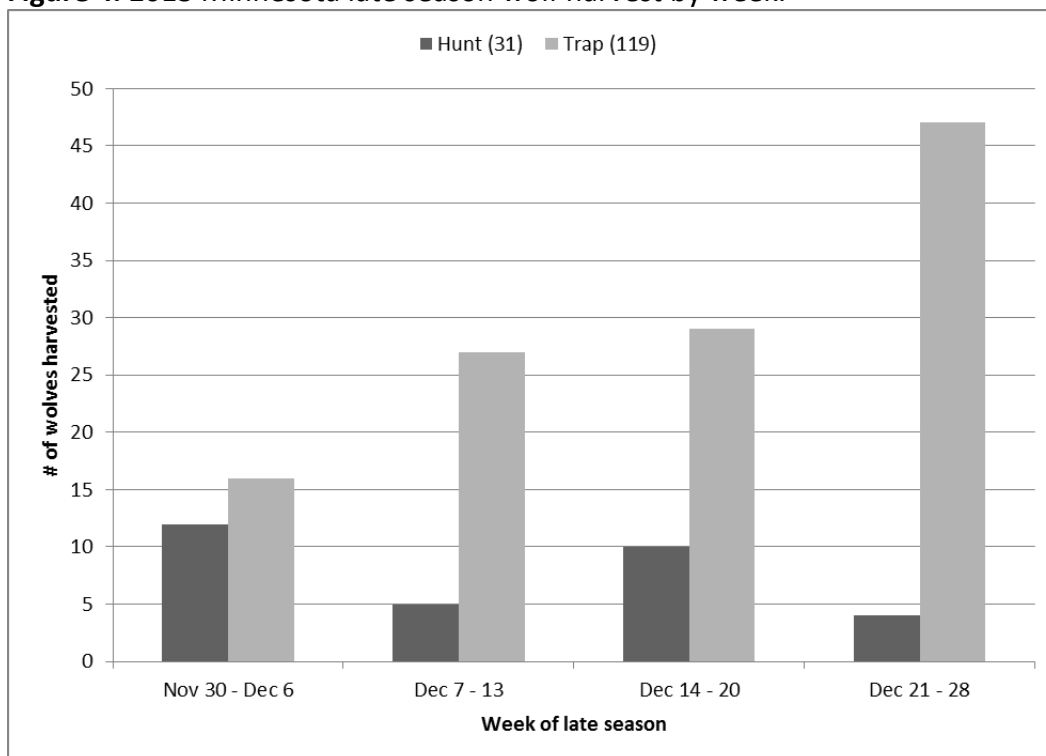


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**Figure 3.** Percentage of wolf harvest by day during the early hunting season compared to percentage of deer harvest over same period during the 2013 firearms deer season.



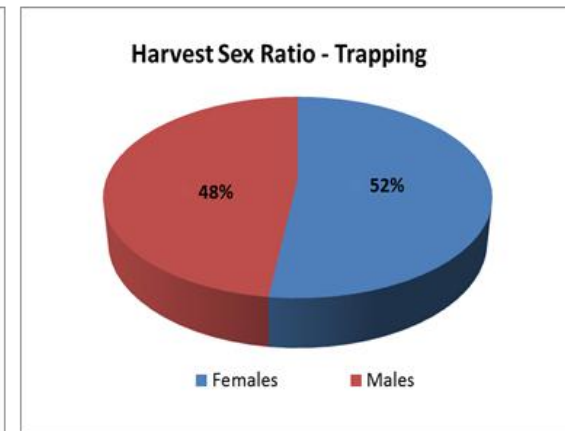
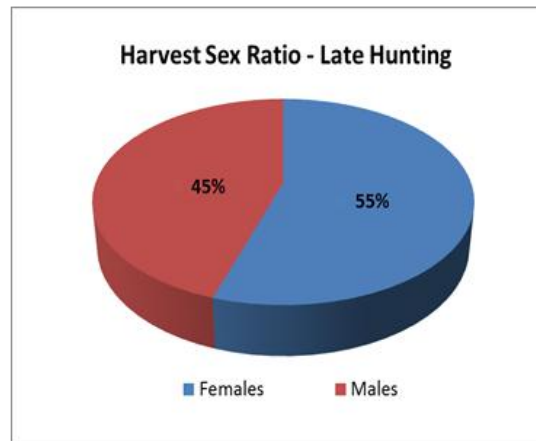
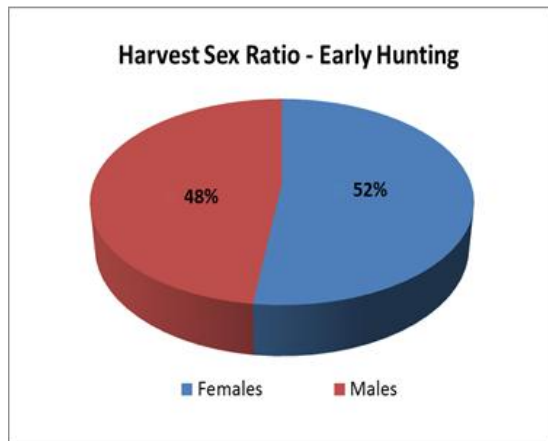
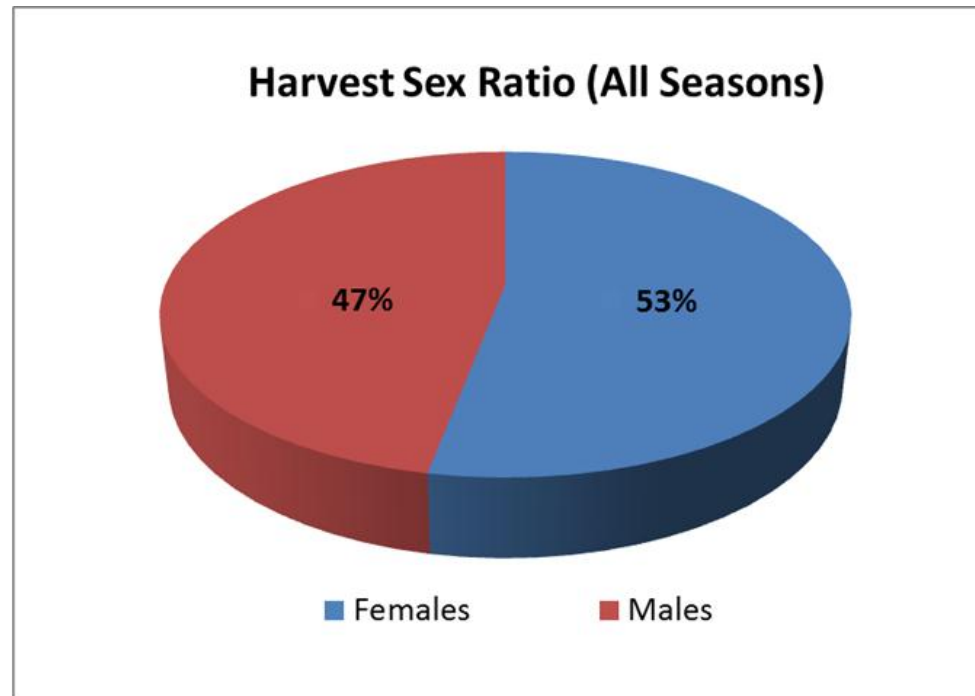
**Figure 4.** 2013 Minnesota late season wolf harvest by week.





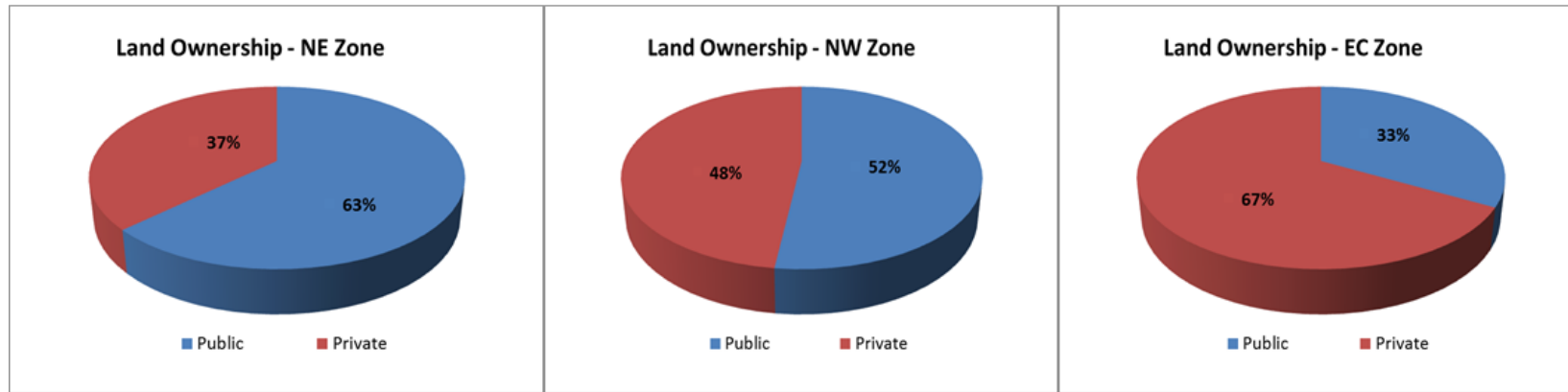
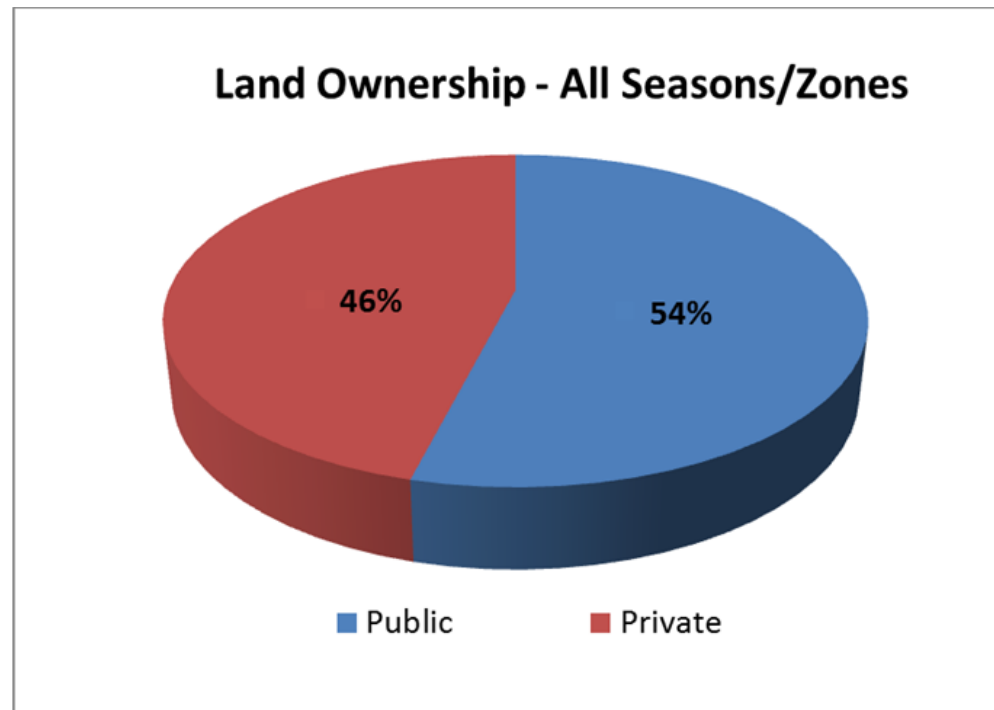
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**Figure 5.** Sex ratio of wolves harvested in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season.



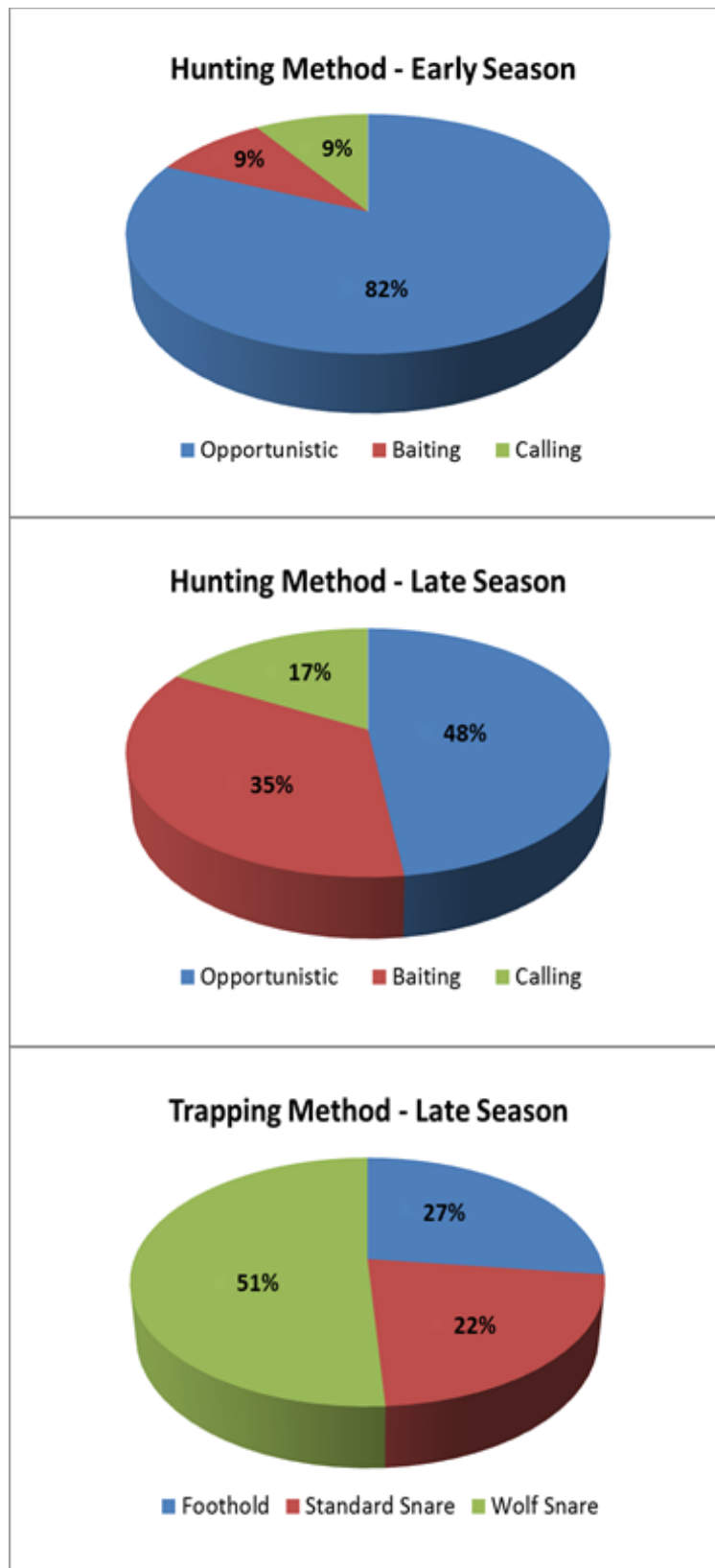
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**Figure 6.** Land ownership for locations where wolves were harvested in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season.



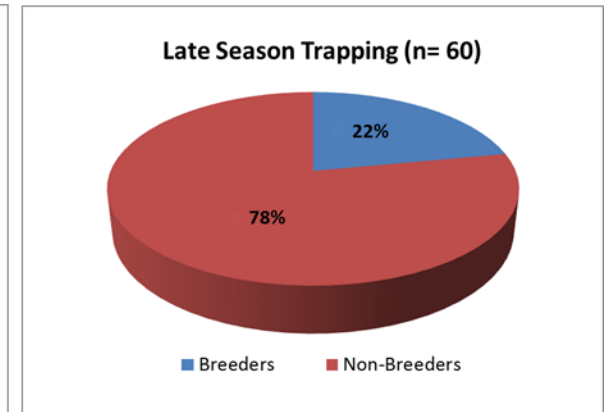
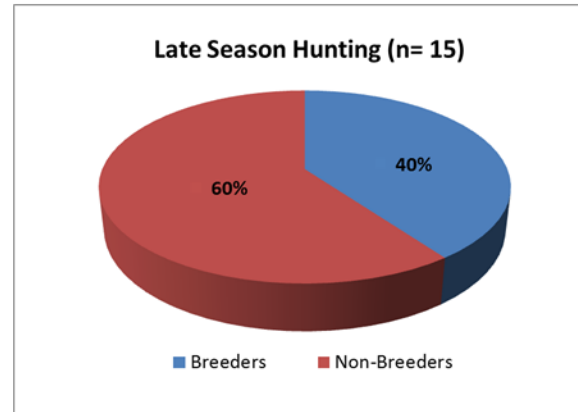
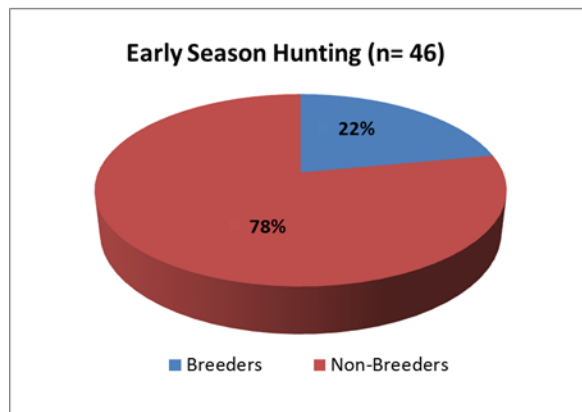
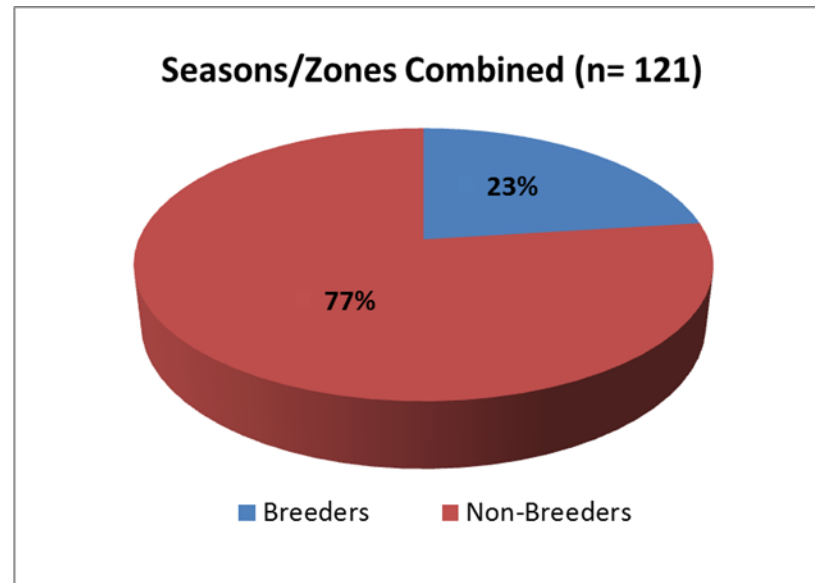
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**Figure 7.** Method of take for wolves harvested in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season.



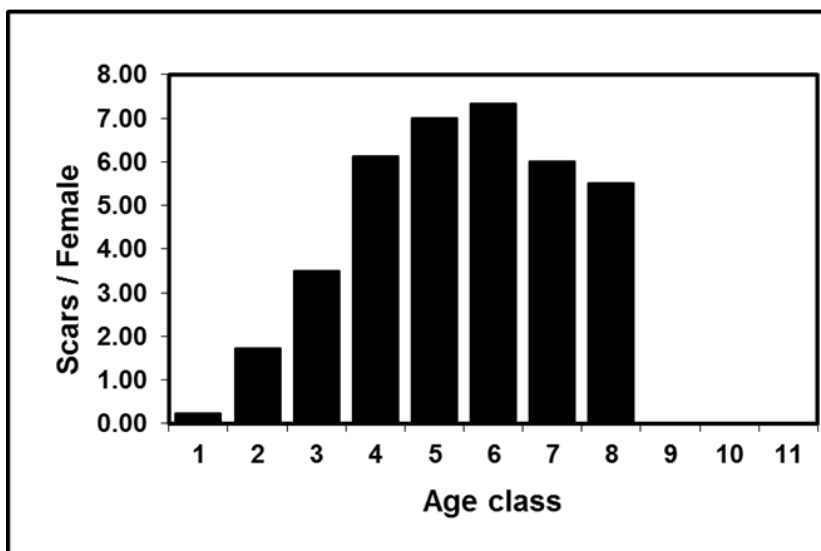
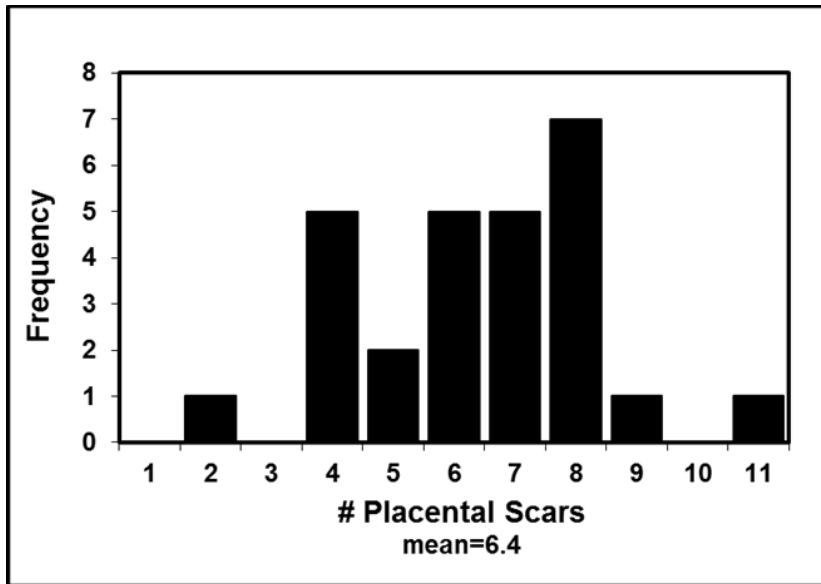
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**Figure 8.** Percentage of female wolves taken in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season that were breeders the previous summer.



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**Figure 9.** Placental scar counts for female wolves harvested in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season. Sample sizes for age-specific graphs are shown above the horizontal bars.



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**Figure 10.** Ages of wolves taken in Minnesota during the 2013 wolf season.

