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CHEROKEE NATION®
Wildlife Conservation

2025-2026 HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS



CHEROKEE NATION SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

BIG GAME

Species	Season	Dates	Bag Limit	Antlered Limit
Elk		Seasons Same as Deer	1 (Either Sex)	
Deer			6 Combined	2
	Archery	Oct. 1, 2025 - Jan. 15, 2026	6	2
	Youth Gun	Oct. 17, 2025 - Oct. 19, 2025	2	1
	Muzzleloader	Oct. 25, 2025 - Nov. 2, 2025	3	1
	Gun	Nov. 22, 2025 - Dec. 7, 2025	3	1
	Holiday Antlerless*	Dec. 18, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025	2 Antlerless	0
*Deer taken during Holiday Antlerless does not count towards the combined season limit.				

TURKEY

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	Oct. 1, 2025 - Jan. 15, 2026	1 Tom
Fall Shotgun*	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 21, 2025	1 Tom
*Closed to Tulsa, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Ottawa, Atoka, Choctaw, Coal, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha.		
Spring Youth	April 11, 2026 - April 12, 2026	1 Tom
Spring Gun	April 16, 2026 - May 16, 2026	1 Tom

SMALL GAME

Species	Dates	Daily Limit
Squirrel	May 15, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	25 fox and gray squirrels combined per day. 50 in possession after the first day.
Cottontail Rabbit	Oct. 1, 2025 - March 15, 2026	10 daily, 20 in possession after first day
Swamp & Jackrabbit	Oct. 1, 2025 - March 15, 2026	3 daily, 6 in possession after first day

FURBEARER/COYOTE

Species	Season Dates	Daily Limit
Coyote, Beaver, Nutria, Raccoon, Striped Skunk	Year-Round	No Limits
Badger, Mink, Muskrat, Opossum, Weasel	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	No Limits
Gray Fox/Red Fox	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	2 daily (max 1 red); 6 per season (max 2 red)
River Otter*	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	No daily limit; season limit 6
Bobcat*	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	No daily limit; season limit 20
*Bobcat and river otter pelts must be tagged within 10 working days after the close of furbearer season by an authorized Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation employee. To obtain tag, call 918-453-5333.		

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Season	Dates	Limits
Quail	Nov. 8, 2025 - Feb. 15, 2026	10 Daily, 20 in possession after first day
Pheasant	Dec. 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026	Only 2 cocks daily, 4 in possession after first day

CHEROKEE NATION SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

Season	Dates	Limit
Dove	Sept. 1, 2025 - Oct. 31, 2025 Dec. 1, 2025 - Dec. 29, 2025	Daily limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 on day 2 of hunting, 45 on day 3 of hunting.
Woodcock	Nov. 1, 2025 - Dec. 15, 2025	3
Wilson's (Common) Snipe	Sept. 27, 2025 - Jan. 11, 2026	8
Crow	Oct. 10, 2025 - Nov. 16, 2025 Dec. 9, 2025 - March 4, 2026	No daily or possession limit
Rail	Sept. 1, 2025 - Nov. 9, 2025	25
Gallinule	Sept. 1, 2025 - Nov. 9, 2025	15

WATERFOWL

Season	Dates	Daily Limit
Ducks & Mergansers*	Nov. 8, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Jan. 25, 2026	6
Coots	Nov. 8, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Jan. 25, 2026	15
Youth & Veteran*	Nov. 1, 2025 & Jan. 31, 2026	6
September Teal	Sept. 13, 2025 - Sept. 21, 2025	6
Special Resident Canada Goose	Sept. 13, 2025 - Sept. 22, 2025	8
Sandhill Crane-West of I-35 only	Oct. 18, 2025 - Jan. 18, 2026	3
Light Geese	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Feb. 8, 2026	50
White Fronted Geese	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Feb. 1, 2026	2
Dark Geese	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Feb. 8, 2026	8
Conservation Order Light Goose (COLGS)	Feb. 13, 2026 - March 30, 2026	No daily or possession limit

*The daily bag limit for ducks and mergansers is six, which may include no more than five mallards (only two hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two canvas backs, one scaup, and three northern pintail. Possession limit is twice the daily limit on day two of hunting, and three times on day 3 of hunting for ducks, mergansers, and coots. No more than three daily bag limits are allowed in possession at any time.

2025 - 2026 HUNTING REGULATIONS

All wildlife harvested by Cherokee Nation citizens within the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee, and Seminole Nations are required to report their harvest on the Gadugi Portal within 24 hours of leaving the hunt area.

- Harvests must be reported under the Gadugi Portal account of the individual who harvested the animal, including youth.
- After reporting, hunters will receive a confirmation number that must accompany the carcass throughout the processing process or until it reaches its final destination.

BIG GAME DEER

Species	Season	Dates	Bag Limit	Antlered Limit
Elk		Seasons Same as Deer	1 (Either sex)	
Deer			6 Combined	2
	Archery	Oct. 1, 2025 - Jan. 15, 2026	6	2
	Youth Gun	Oct. 17, 2025 - Oct. 19, 2025	2	1
	Muzzleloader	Oct. 25, 2025 - Nov. 2, 2025	3	1
	Gun	Nov. 22, 2025 - Dec. 7, 2025	3	1
	Holiday Antlerless*	Dec. 18, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025	2 Antlerless	0

*Deer taken during Holiday Antlerless does not count towards the combined season limit.

UNDERSTANDING THE COMBINED DEER SEASON RULES

Hunters are allowed to harvest a total of six deer during the combined deer seasons, which include archery, youth gun, muzzleloader, and regular gun season. Of those six, no more than two may be antlered bucks.

- Deer harvested between January 1-15, 2026, apply to the 2025 season limit.
- Deer harvested during controlled hunts or the holiday antlerless gun season do not count toward combined season total.

WHAT COUNTS AS AN ANTLERED DEER?

An antlered deer is defined as any deer, male or female, that has at least three inches of antler growth above the natural hairline on either side of its head.



2025 - 2026 HUNTING REGULATIONS

TURKEY

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	Oct. 1, 2025 - Jan. 15, 2026	1 Tom
Fall Shotgun*	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 21, 2025	1 Tom
*Closed to Tulsa, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Ottawa, Atoka, Choctaw, Coal, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha.		
Spring Youth	April 11, 2026 - April 12, 2026	1 Tom
Spring Gun	April 16, 2026 - May 16, 2026	1 Tom

UNDERSTANDING HARVEST LIMITS

A turkey harvested during the youth spring season counts toward the spring season limit of one tom turkey.

Hunters are allowed to harvest only one tom turkey per season, regardless of the method of take.

TURKEY HUNTING AND BAITING REGULATION

Turkeys may not be hunted or taken within 100 yards of any bait. Baiting is defined as placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering corn (shelled, shucked, or unshocked), wheat, other grains, or feed to attract turkeys for hunting. Hunting turkeys over standing crops, properly shucked grain in the field where grown, or grain scattered as a result of normal agricultural operations is permitted.



Travis Snyder-
Natural Resources
Land Management
Supervisor and his
Spring 2025
turkey harvest.

FERAL SWINE

Feral swine, also known as wild pigs, wild boars, wild hogs, and razorbacks are an invasive species causing damage and destruction across the Cherokee Nation Reservation and the United States. Their populations have spread widely. There are no restrictions on the method of take or bag limits on private property.

Pursuing hogs is prohibited on Cherokee Nation-managed lands during deer and turkey seasons from October 1 through January 15, and during spring turkey season.

2025 - 2026 HUNTING REGULATIONS

FURBEARER/COYOTE

LEGAL METHODS FOR TAKING FURBEARERS

FIREARMS & ARCHERY

- Daylight: Any legal firearm or archery equipment allowed.
- Nighttime: Only a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol and a hand-carried light may be used when hunting furbearers with hounds. Use of lights or night vision from public roads is prohibited.
- Laser Sights: Permitted with .22 caliber rimfire rifle or pistol while hunting furbearers with hounds.



TRAPPING REGULATIONS

LEGAL TRAPS

- Allowed: Box, colony, enclosed trigger (dog-proof), submerged body-gripping (private land only), and offset foot-hold traps (max 8" for land, 8.5" for water sets).
- Traps must not be set on commonly used trails or roads.

TRAP CHECKS & ID

- Traps must be checked daily.
- All traps must be marked with the trapper's name and tribal ID number (unless on land owned/leased by trapper).
- Cherokee Nation issued tribal ID is required on Cherokee Nation tribal lands.

SIGNAGE

- If using offset foot-hold traps, post signs at entrances from public roads (unless on personal property with landowner approval).
- Signs must read "TRAPS" in 2" letters, minimum size 5"x8".

PERMISSION

- Permission is required before trapping on land occupied by others.

BOBCAT & RIVER OTTER TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

- All bobcat and river otter pelts must be tagged within 10 business days after the close of furbearer season.
- No untagged pelts may be possessed, sold, purchased, bartered, or transported out of Oklahoma.
- Pelts must be tagged by an authorized employee or designated tagging agent of Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation.
- The tag serves as an export tag, and it is the possessor's responsibility to ensure the pelt is legally tagged.
- Pelts must be tagged in the state in which it was harvested before entering Oklahoma.

Species	Season Dates	Daily Limit
Coyote, Beaver, Nutria, Raccoon, Striped Skunk	Year-Round	No limits
Badger, Mink, Muskrat, Opossum, Weasel	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	No limits
Gray Fox/Red Fox	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	2 daily (max 1 red); 6 per season (max 2 red)
River Otter*	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	No daily limit; season limit 6
Bobcat*	Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026	No daily limit; season limit 20

*Bobcat and river otter pelts must be tagged within 10 working days after the close of furbearer season by an authorized Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation employee.



Bobcat and otter tags are free of cost and may be obtained by contacting: Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation: 918-453-5333.

CHEROKEE NATION CONTROLLED HUNTS

In 2025, Cherokee Nation will host its 5th annual Controlled Deer Hunts at the Cherokee Nation Sequoyah Hunting Preserve in Sequoyah County, just north of Sallisaw, Oklahoma. This year's hunts will once again provide meaningful opportunities for Cherokee citizens, with 10 reserved spots each for youth, Cherokee language speakers, elders, veterans, and one hunt open to all Cherokee Nation citizens. As in previous years, participants will be selected through a random drawing to ensure fairness and equal access.

Cherokee Nation continues its strong commitment to food sovereignty by providing access to traditional hunting practices that support cultural preservation and self-reliance. These hunts offer more than a chance to harvest deer—they help citizens reconnect with ancestral traditions and strengthen ties within the community. By supporting responsible hunting, Cherokee Nation ensures that these practices are carried forward to future generations in a sustainable and respectful manner.

The hunts are managed by Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation and are designed to protect natural resources while maintaining healthy wildlife populations. As part of these efforts, the department will conduct Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing on all deer harvested during the hunts. This proactive testing helps monitor herd health within the reservation and supports the long-term sustainability of deer populations.

Applications for the 2025 Controlled Deer Hunts can be submitted through the Gadugi portal at gadugiportal.cherokee.org. The application is open from August 5 to September 5, 2025.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

WATERFOWL HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

If you plan to hunt migratory birds within the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee, and Seminole Nation Reservations, please be aware of the following:

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

Hunters age 16 and older must carry a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called the Federal Duck Stamp) when hunting ducks, mergansers, or geese. The stamp must be signed in ink across the front and is valid July 1 through June 30 each year.

HIP PERMIT

All hunters, unless otherwise exempt, must have a current HIP (Harvest Information Program) permit to hunt any migratory bird, including dove, duck, goose, merganser, coot, sandhill crane, woodcock, snipe, rail, and gallinule. This permit helps with conservation efforts by tracking harvest data and must be renewed annually.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

Season	Dates	Limit
Dove	Sept. 1, 2025 - Oct. 31, 2025 Dec. 1, 2025 - Dec. 29, 2025	Daily limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 on day 2 of hunting, 45 on day 3 of hunting.
Woodcock	Nov. 1, 2025 - Dec. 15, 2025	3
Wilson's (Common) Snipe	Sept. 27, 2025 - Jan. 11, 2026	8
Crow	Oct. 10, 2025 - Nov. 16, 2025 Dec. 9, 2025 - March 4, 2026	No daily or possession limit
Rail	Sept. 1, 2025 - Nov. 9, 2025	25
Gallinule	Sept. 1, 2025 - Nov. 9, 2025	15

WATERFOWL

Season	Dates	Daily Limit
Ducks & Mergansers*	Nov. 8, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Jan. 25, 2026	6
Coots	Nov. 8, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Jan. 25, 2026	15
Youth & Veteran*	Nov. 1, 2025 & Jan. 31, 2026	6
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Special Resident Canada Goose	Sept. 13, 2025 - Sept. 22, 2025	8
Sandhill Crane-West of I-35, only.	Oct. 18, 2025 - Jan. 18, 2026	3
Light Geese	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Feb. 8, 2026	50
White Fronted Geese	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Feb. 1, 2026	2
Dark Geese	Nov. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025 Dec. 6, 2025 - Feb. 8, 2026	8
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Banded birds: Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to report banded birds to the United States Geological Survey's bird band report website reportband.gov

FISHING REGULATIONS

Cherokee Nation is blessed with rich waterways and thriving fish populations. Fishing is a treasured tradition for Cherokee families and a way to feed our people and connect with the natural world. To preserve these resources for future generations, Cherokee Nation has established the following fishing regulations.

These rules promote responsible fishing practices, ensure healthy fish populations, and protect access for all tribal citizens.

TRIBAL ID IN PLACE OF A STATE LICENSE

Cherokee Nation citizens may use their tribal citizenship card (tribal ID) in place of a state fishing license when fishing within the boundaries of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nation Reservations.

No separate state license is required when fishing inside these reservations.

Outside these tribal reservations, Cherokee Nation citizens must obtain state licenses and permits as required by state law.

JURISDICTION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Tribal citizens are responsible for obtaining permission from private landowners when fishing on private lands. All trespassing laws will be enforced.

When fishing within the boundaries of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee, or Seminole Nations, Cherokee Nation citizens must abide by the respective tribe's wildlife regulations.

It is each citizen's personal responsibility to know and follow all laws of the nation whose reservation they are fishing within.

DAILY LIMITS

Species		Daily Limit	Size Limit
Bass	Largemouth and/or Smallmouth	6 (combined)	1 over 16"
	Spotted	None	None
	Striped	5	None
	Striped Hybrid	20	Only 5 fish over 20"
	White	None	None
Catfish	Channel and/or Blue	15 (Combined)	Only 1 Blue over 30"
	Flathead Catfish	5	None
Crappie	White and/or Black	37 (Combined)	None
Walleye, Sauger and/or Saugeye		6 (Combined)	14" minimum
Trout (Lower Illinois River)*	Rainbow and/or Brown	3 (Only 1 Brown)	See Trout Regulations
Paddlefish		1	None
Alligator Gar		1	None

*Daily limit on trout is three, only one of which may be a brown trout no less than 20" long. Special regulations for daily and size limits apply to specific areas.



FISHING REGULATIONS

GENERAL EQUIPMENT RULES

All unattended fishing gear, including stringers, creels, and baskets, must display the angler's tribal ID number. Any equipment used to store live fish must be checked every 24 hours.

APPROVED FISHING METHODS

ROD AND REEL

- Up to seven rods per person may be used unless otherwise posted.

TROT LINES AND THROW LINES

- Maximum three lines per angler, with no more than 100 hooks per person.
- Hooks must be spaced at least 24" apart.
- Lines must be non-metallic, labeled with tribal ID number, and checked daily.

JUG LINES

- Maximum of 20 juglines per person.
- No more than five hooks per jugline.
- Juglines must be labeled with tribal ID number and checked daily.

LIMBLINES

- Maximum of 20 limblines per person.
- No more than two hooks per line.
- Limblines must be labeled with tribal ID number and checked daily.

YO-YOS

- Maximum of 20 yo-yos per person.
- Must be labeled with tribal ID number.
- Must be checked every six hours.
- Use of non-metallic line, maximum 50' in length. No more than 10 yo-yos per support.
- Yo-yos must not cross waterways or block boat traffic.

NONGAME FISHING METHODS

BOWFISHING

- Legal year round for nongame fish.
- Barbed arrow with retrieval line required.
- Fish remains must be properly disposed of.

GIGS, SPEARS, AND SPEARGUNS

- Permitted for nongame fish and white bass. Spearguns used by scuba divers may also be used to take blue and channel catfish.
- Gigs are limited to three points with no more than two barbs per point.
- Legal in all rivers and streams from Dec. 1 through March 31, and year-round in all reservoirs, unless restricted under special regulations.
- Gigs shall be lawful year-round in rivers and streams in Delaware and Mayes counties, unless restricted.

SNAGGING

- Legal year-round for nongame fish only unless restricted.
- One rod or pole per angler.
- Certain areas may be restricted from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

NOODLING

- No hooks, gaff hooks, spears, poles with hooks attached or ropes with hooks attached allowed.
- Legal year-round during daylight hours for nongame fish and catfish by use of hands only.
- Legal year-round in all waters during daylight hours only unless restricted.

NONCOMMERCIAL BAIT COLLECTION

Gill nets, trammel nets, and haul seines are prohibited statewide.

APPROVED PERSONAL USE METHODS

- Seining, cast netting, trawling, and dip netting for personal bait use are permitted year-round unless restricted.
- Cast nets may be used on the Lower Illinois River only from the south boundary of the Lower Illinois River Public Fishing Area ("Simp and Helen Watts Area") downstream to the Highway 64 bridge.
- Cast nets are prohibited on all other Oklahoma Scenic Rivers. Seines,

maximum 20', one half inch mesh.

- Up to 3 minnow traps per angler allowed; each must be checked daily and labeled with tribal ID. Traps must have max 1/2" mesh, be ≤3 ft long, ≤18" in diameter or side, with a throat opening ≤2".
- Cast nets, maximum 3/8" square mesh.
- Trawl nets, maximum three feet diameter and 3/8" square mesh.
- Dip nets, handheld only.

FISHING REGULATIONS

IMPORTANT FISH HANDLING & POSSESSION RULES

- Special daily and size limits may apply in certain areas.
- Anglers are responsible for knowing size and daily limits for areas with special regulations.
- No limits apply to fish taken from privately owned ponds or lakes.
- Culling prohibited for:
 - Paddlefish
 - Trout
 - Striped Bass
 - Striped Bass Hybrids
- Once one of these fish is placed on a stringer, in a livewell, or otherwise kept, it cannot be released.
- Bait Fish: Max 25 nongame bait fish per person from rivers/streams.
 - Exception: Up to 200 shad may be taken or possessed. Max 200 total bait fish (including shad) may be transported.
 - Sale or transport of shad for sale is prohibited.
 - Shad may not be transported from Grand Lake O' the Cherokees or the Neosho River from Grand Lake to the Kansas state line. If collected for bait, they must be used only in the water body where they were caught.

IMPORTANT PADDLEFISH REGULATIONS

- Barbless hooks only.
- One rod and reel per angler.
- Daily limit: one paddlefish.
- Annual limit: two paddlefish.
- Harvested fish must be reported within 24 hours via the Gadugi Portal at gadugiportal.cherokee.org.
- Kept fish must be tagged immediately with the angler's tribal ID number.
- No culling: Once a paddlefish is placed on a stringer, in a livewell, or otherwise kept, it cannot be released.
- Fishing must stop for the day once a paddlefish is kept.
- Snagging is prohibited from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. in areas east of I-35 and north of I-40.
- Paddlefish permits are not required for Cherokee Nation citizens fishing within the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee, and Seminole Reservations.

73RD CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY FISHING EVENTS

Join Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation for two fun-filled fishing events during the 73rd Cherokee National Holiday! Whether you're a pro or just learning to cast, come out, enjoy the outdoors, and be part of the celebration!

JASON CHRISTIE CHILDREN'S FISHING DAY

Date: August 30, 2025

Time: 7- 9 a.m.

Location: Pond behind Cherokee Casino Tahlequah

Parking available on the east end of the casino parking lot. Open to children - enjoy a morning of fun and fishing with pro angler Jason Christie! Children 12 and under receive a free fishing pole and Cherokee National Holiday Jason Christie t-shirt while supplies last.

4TH ANNUAL CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY FISHING TOURNAMENT

Date: September 6, 2025

Time: Honor start by assigned flight | Weigh-in begins at 1 p.m.

Location: Chicken Creek Boat Ramp on Lake Tenkiller

Open to youth and adults - bring your best and compete for cash prizes!

Registration begins Aug. 11 at thecherokeeholiday.com

CHEROKEE NATION WILDLIFE CONSERVATION HUNTING & FISHING FAQ

WHAT IS THE CHEROKEE NATION WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT'S ROLE?

The department focuses on preserving wildlife across the Cherokee Nation Reservation and manages programs that encourage hunting and fishing among tribal citizens, including annual draw hunts at the Sequoyah Hunting Preserve.

WHAT IS THE HUNTING AND FISHING RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT?

On July 12, 2024, a reciprocal agreement was signed among the Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nations. This allows citizens of these Nations to hunt and fish within the Cherokee Nation Reservation, and vice versa. Cherokee citizens can hunt and fish in the other nations' reservations with their tribal citizenship card.

WHAT DOCUMENTATION DOES A CHEROKEE NATION CITIZEN NEED TO HUNT/FISH WITHIN THE RESERVATION?

Cherokee Nation citizens may use their tribal citizenship card as a valid license within the Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nation Reservations. Outside these reservations, Cherokee Nation citizens must obtain the necessary state licenses and tags for hunting and fishing. Additional forms of identification may be requested to confirm a citizen's identity. Furthermore, completion of a Hunter Safety course is required unless exempt.

HOW DOES A CHEROKEE NATION CITIZEN GET A TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP CARD?

Contact Cherokee Nation Registration at:

- Website: Cherokee Nation Registration
- Email: registration@cherokee.org
- Phone: 918-453-5058

CAN A CHEROKEE NATION CITIZEN HUNT/FISH IF THEIR CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION IS STILL BEING PROCESSED?

No, only fully registered Cherokee citizens can hunt and fish using their tribal ID within the reservation. Non-citizens or those with pending applications need a state-issued hunting or fishing license unless they are also members of the Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, or Seminole Nations.

WHAT IF A CHEROKEE CITIZEN ALREADY HAS A VALID OKLAHOMA HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE?

If a Cherokee citizen holds a valid Oklahoma hunting/fishing license, they can continue hunting or fishing in accordance with state law. However, when accessing Cherokee Nation lands designated for tribal citizens, they must carry and present their tribal ID card.

WHERE CAN CHEROKEE NATION CITIZENS HUNT AND FISH?

Cherokee citizens may hunt and fish within Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nation Reservation boundaries, on any lands they would otherwise be able to hunt/fish on. All applicable trespassing laws apply and will be enforced. Additionally, designated lands within Cherokee Nation Reservation boundaries are available only for Cherokee Nation citizens to hunt and fish. Maps of designated lands are available on the Cherokee Nation Fish and Wildlife Map which can be found by scanning the QR code on Page 14.

WHERE CAN CHEROKEE CITIZENS GET DEER OR TURKEY TAGS?

No pre-purchase of deer or turkey tags is required. However, Cherokee citizens must report their harvest via the Harvest Reporting System located under "Applications" on the Gadugi Portal.

DO HARVEST REPORTED WITHIN THE CHEROKEE NATION RESERVATION COUNT TOWARD TOTAL COMBINED LIMIT?

Yes, the harvest limit per person for applicable wildlife counts towards the combined season total. The limit applies to harvest taken from both tribal and state lands. Harvest total must remain within the single combined limit.

CHEROKEE NATION WILDLIFE CONSERVATION HUNTING & FISHING FAQ

DO CHEROKEE CITIZENS NEED A PADDLEFISH PERMIT?

No, Cherokee citizens do not need a paddlefish permit, but paddlefish must be reported through the Harvest Reporting System located under "Applications" on the Gadugi Portal. The daily limit is one fish, and the annual limit is two.

HOW DOES A CHEROKEE NATION CITIZEN REPORT THEIR WILDLIFE HARVEST?

Cherokee Nation citizens are required to report their harvest on the Gadugi Portal within 24 hours of leaving the hunt area. All wildlife harvests must be reported under the Gadugi account of the individual who harvested the animal, including minors.

Children cannot report their harvest under their parent or guardian's account. Once reported, hunters will receive a confirmation number that must accompany the carcass throughout processing or until it reaches its final destination.

DO CHEROKEE CITIZENS NEED A HIP PERMIT OR DUCK STAMP?

Yes, Cherokee Nation citizens must adhere to federal regulations for migratory birds. This includes having a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp and a valid Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit, unless exempt.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHEROKEE NATION CITIZEN IS TICKETED FOR NOT HAVING A STATE HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE?

If ticketed by an Oklahoma game warden while hunting or fishing within the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee, or Seminole Reservations, Cherokee citizens should immediately contact the Cherokee Nation Wildlife Department at wildlife@cherokee.org or by calling 918-453-5333 for assistance. Be sure to keep all paperwork and records.

CAN NON-CHEROKEE NATION CITIZENS HUNT OR FISH WITHIN THE CHEROKEE NATION RESERVATION?

Yes, non-Cherokee citizens with a valid state-issued hunting and/or fishing license may hunt and fish within the Cherokee Nation Reservation, respecting private property rights and applicable laws. Citizens from the Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nations may also hunt and fish in the Cherokee Nation Reservation under the terms of the reciprocal agreement.

HOW CAN CHEROKEE CITIZENS HUNT BEAR?

Following the Hunting and Fishing Reciprocal Agreement, Cherokee Nation is working closely with Choctaw Nation regarding bear harvest and reporting. Cherokee citizens who wish to harvest a bear during the 2025 archery or muzzleloader season must create an account with Choctaw Nation through the Chahta Achvffa Portal. Cherokee citizens must abide by the laws, including season dates and bag limits, set by Choctaw Nation when hunting bear within any reservation.

Tribal citizens may not hunt or harvest black bear without receiving a permit from Choctaw Nation no later than September 30, 2025.

Bear season is only open to:

- Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties.
- Portion of McIntosh, Muskogee and Sequoyah counties south of Interstate 40.
- Portion of Atoka, Bryan, McIntosh and Pittsburg counties east of U.S. Highway 69.

For more details on bear hunting, please visit the Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation page at:

<https://www.choctawnation.com/services/wildlife-conservation/>.



TRIBAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CHOCTAW NATION WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

1-800-522-6170

WILDLIFE@CHOCTAWNATION.COM

MUSCOGEE-CREEK NATION WILDLIFE PROGRAM

918-490-7074

WILDLIFE@MUSCOGEENATION.COM

CHICKASAW NATION FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

580-310-6466

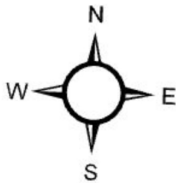
CNRANGERS@CHICKASAW.NET

SEMINOLE NATION WILDLIFE, PARK & RECREATION

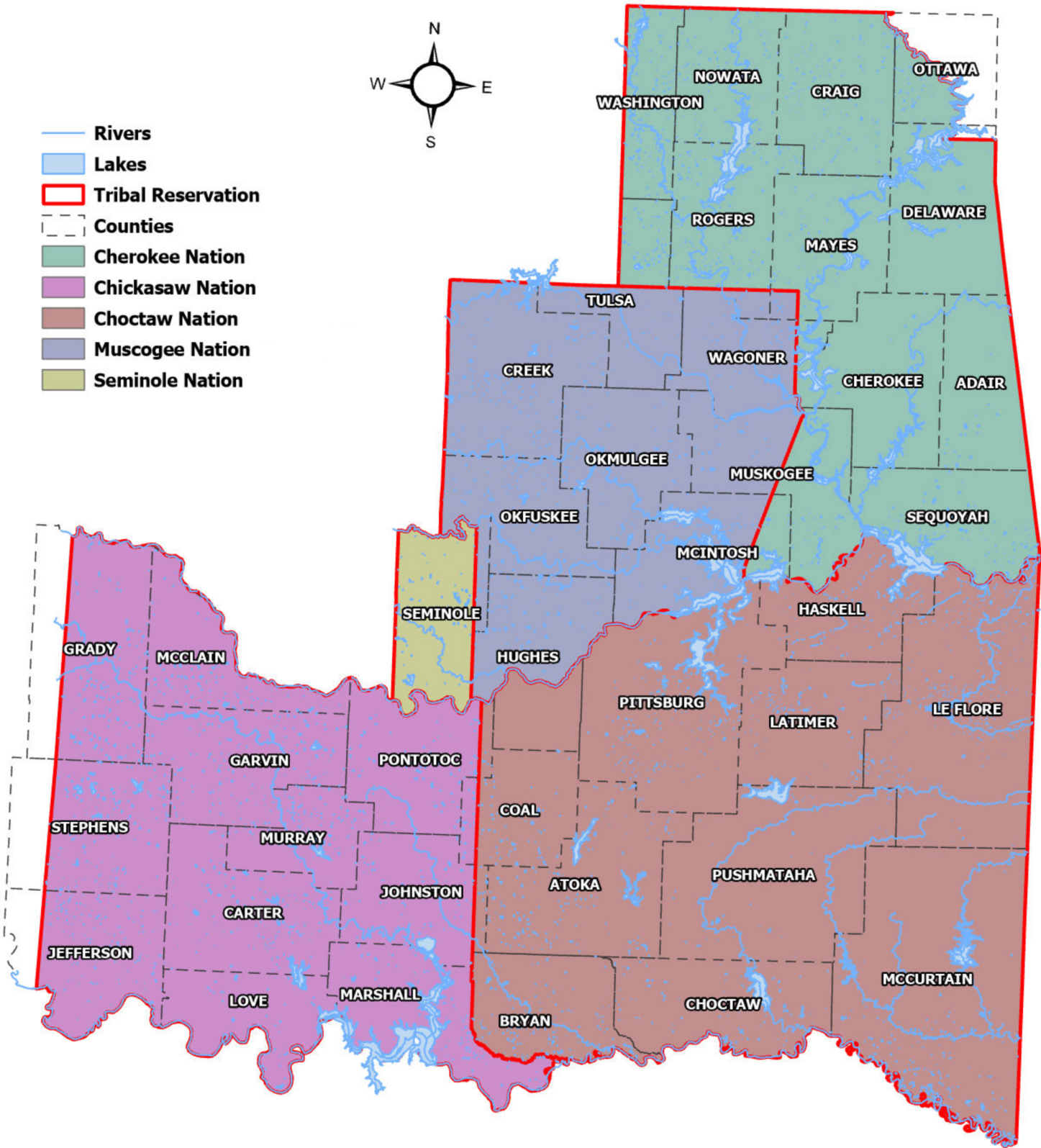
405-666-0620

WPR@SNO-NSN.GOV

Cherokee Nation
Fish and Wildlife
Online Map:



- Rivers
- Lakes
- ▭ Tribal Reservation
- - - Counties
- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Choctaw Nation
- Muscogee Nation
- Seminole Nation



CHEROKEE NATION
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



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CHEROKEE NATION®
Wildlife Conservation

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