



GWYJ DBP

CHEROKEE NATION®
Wildlife Conservation

2026-2027 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)	
White Tail Deer			6 combined	2
	Archery	Oct 1, 2026 - Jan 15, 2027	6	2
	Youth Gun	Oct 16, 2026 - Oct 18, 2026	2	1
	Muzzleloader	Oct 24, 2026 - Nov 1, 2026	3	1
	Gun	Nov 21, 2026 - Dec 6, 2026	3	1
	Holiday Antlerless*	Dec 18, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026	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, 2026 - Jan 15, 2027	1 Tom
Fall Shotgun*	Oct 31, 2026 - Nov 20, 2026	1 Tom
*Closed to Tulsa, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Ottawa, Atoka, Choctaw, Coal, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha.		
Spring Youth	Apr 10, 2027 - Apr 11, 2027	1 Tom
Spring Gun	Apr 16, 2027 - May 16, 2027	1 Tom

SMALL GAME

Species	Dates	Daily Limit
Squirrel	May 15, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	25 fox and gray squirrels combined per day. 50 in possession after the first day.
Cottontail Rabbit	Oct 1, 2026 - Mar 15, 2027	10 daily, 20 in possession after first day
Swamp & Jackrabbit	Oct 1, 2026 - Mar 15, 2027	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, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	No Limits
Grey Fox/Red Fox	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	2 daily (max 1 red); 6 per season (max 2 red).
River Otter*	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	No daily limit; season limit 6.
Bobcat*	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	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 14, 2026 - Feb 15, 2027	10 Daily, 20 in possession after first day.
Pheasant	Dec 1, 2026 - Jan 31, 2027	Only 2 cocks daily, 4 in possession after first day.

CHEROKEE NATION SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

Season	Dates	Limit
Dove*	Sep 1, 2026 - Oct 31, 2026 Dec 1, 2026 - Dec 29, 2026	Daily limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 after day 1, 45 after second day combined.
Woodcock	Nov 7, 2026-Dec 21, 2026	Daily limit: 3 Possession limit: 6 after first day. 9 after second day.
Wilson's (Common) Snipe	Sep 26, 2026 - Jan 10, 2027	Daily limit: 8 Possession limit: 16 after first day. 24 after second day.
Crow	Oct 10, 2026 - Nov 16, 2026 Dec 9, 2026 - Mar 4, 2027	No daily or possession limit
Rail	Sep 1, 2026 - Nov 9, 2026	Daily limit: 25 Possession limit: 50 after first day. 75 after second day.
Gallinule	Sep 1, 2026 - Nov 9, 2026	Daily Limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 after first day, 45 after second day.
*Eurasian collared doves have no bag limit. However, while transporting harvested birds to their final destination, the head or one fully feathered wing must remain naturally attached to each carcass.		

WATERFOWL

Season	Dates	Daily Limit
Ducks & Mergansers*	Nov. 14, 2026 - Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027	Daily limit: 6 Possession limit: 12 on day two, 18 on day three. No more than three daily limits allowed in possession at any time.
Coots*	Nov. 14, 2026 - Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027	Daily limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 on day two, 45 on day three. No more than three daily limits allowed in possession at any time.
Youth & Veteran*	Nov. 7, 2026 & Feb. 6, 2027	Daily limit: 6 Possession limit: 12 on day two, 18 on day three. No more than three daily limits allowed in possession at any time.
September Teal	Sept. 12, 2026 - Sept. 20, 2026	Daily limit: 6 Possession limit: 12 after first day. 18 after second day.
Special Resident Canada Goose	Sept. 12, 2026 - Sept. 21, 2026	Daily limit: 8 Possession limit: 16 after first day. 24 after second day.
Sandhill Crane-West of I-35 only East of I-35 closed	Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 17, 2027	Daily limit: 3 Possession limit: three times the daily bag limit.
Light Geese	Nov. 7, 2026 - Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	Daily limit: 50 (No daily bag limit during COLGS) No possession limit for light geese (snow, blue, and Ross').
White Fronted Geese	Nov. 7, 2026 - Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Feb. 7, 2027	Daily limit: 2 Possession limit: 3 times the daily limit.
Dark Geese	Nov. 7, 2026 - Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	Daily limit: 8 Possession limit: 3 times the daily limit.
Conservation Order Light Goose (COLGS)	Feb 13, 2027- March 30, 2027	No daily or possession limit

*The daily bag limit for ducks and mergansers is six, which may include no more than five mallards (two hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two canvasbacks, one scaup, and three northern pintail. Possession limit is twice the daily limit after day one and three times after day two for ducks, mergansers, and coots.

2026 - 2027 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

BIG GAME

Species	Season	Dates	Bag Limit	Antlered Limit
Elk		Seasons Same as Deer	1 either-Sex	
Deer			6 combined	2
	Archery	Oct 1, 2026 - Jan 15, 2027	6	2
	Youth Gun	Oct 16, 2026 - Oct 18, 2026	2	1
	Muzzleloader	Oct 24, 2026 - Nov 1, 2026	3	1
	Gun	Nov 21, 2026 - Dec 6, 2026	3	1
	Holiday Antlerless*	Dec 18, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026	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 Jan 1-15, 2027, apply to the 2026 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.



2026 - 2027 HUNTING REGULATIONS

TURKEY

Season	Dates	Season Limit
Fall Archery	Oct 1, 2026 - Jan 15, 2027	1 Tom
Fall Shotgun*	Oct. 31, 2026 - Nov. 20, 2026	1 Tom
*Closed to Tulsa, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Ottawa, Atoka, Choctaw, Coal, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha.		
Spring Youth	April 10, 2027 - April 11, 2027	1 Tom
Spring Gun	April 16, 2027 - May 16, 2027	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 REGULATIONS

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.



FERAL SWINE

Feral swine, also known as wild pigs, wild boars, wild hogs, and razorbacks are an invasive species causing danger 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 with hounds is prohibited on Cherokee Nation-managed lands during deer and turkey seasons. Nighttime hog pursuit is also prohibited from October 1 through January 15 and during any spring turkey season.

2026 - 2027 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 rimfire rifle while hunting furbearers with hounds.



TRAPPING REGULATIONS

LEGAL TRAPS:

- Allowed: Box, colony, enclosed trigger (dog-proof), submerged body-gripping max 12" in diameter (private land only), and offset foot-hold traps (No less than 1/8" foot-hold, with outer diameter jaw spread 8" for land and 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	Year-Round
Badger, Mink, Muskrat, Opossum, Weasel	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	No limits
Grey Fox/Red Fox	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	2 daily (max 1 red); 6 per season (max 2 red)
River Otter*	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	No daily limit; season limit 6
Bobcat*	Dec 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	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 and 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 2026, Cherokee Nation will host its 6th Annual Controlled Deer Hunts at the Cherokee Nation Sequoyah Hunting Preserve in Sequoyah County, just north of Sallisaw, Oklahoma. These hunts continue to provide meaningful opportunities for Cherokee citizens to participate in traditional hunting practices while promoting conservation and cultural stewardship. As in previous years, 10 hunt spots will be reserved for youth, Cherokee language speakers, elders, and veterans, with one hunt open to all Cherokee Nation citizens. Participants will be selected through a random drawing to ensure fairness and equal opportunity.

Cherokee Nation remains committed to advancing food sovereignty by expanding access to traditional hunting opportunities that support self-reliance, cultural preservation, and the responsible use of natural resources. These hunts provide more than an opportunity to harvest deer. They allow citizens to reconnect with ancestral traditions, strengthen community ties, and help ensure these practices are carried forward for future generations through ethical and sustainable wildlife management.

The hunts are coordinated by Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation and are carefully managed to balance recreational opportunity with sound conservation practices. To support ongoing wildlife health monitoring, all deer harvested during the controlled hunts will be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). This surveillance plays an important role in monitoring the health of the deer herd within the Cherokee Nation Reservation and helps guide long-term wildlife management decisions that benefit both the resource and Cherokee citizens.

Applications for the 2026 Controlled Deer Hunts can be submitted through the Gadugi portal at gadugiportal.cherokee.org. The application is open from August 4 to September 8, 2026

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

WATERFOWL HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

If you plan to hunt migratory birds in within the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, or Muscogee Creek 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, 2026 - Oct 31, 2026 Dec 1, 2026 - Dec 29, 2026	Daily limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 after first day combined. 45 after second day combined.
Woodcock	Nov 7, 2026 - Dec 21, 2026	Daily limit: 3 Possession limit: 6 after first day. 9 after second day
Wilson's (Common) Snipe	Sep 26, 2026 - Jan 10, 2027	Daily limit: 8 Possession limit: 16 after first day, 24 after second day
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Rail	Sep 1, 2026 - Nov 9, 2026	Daily limit: 25 Possession limit: 50 after first day, 75 after second day.
Gallinule	Sep 1, 2026 - Nov 9, 2026	Daily limit: 15 Possession limit: 30 after first day, 45 after second day.

*Eurasian collared doves have no bag limit. However, while transporting harvested birds to their final destination, the head or one fully feathered wing must remain naturally attached to each carcass.



MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

WATERFOWL

Season	Dates	Daily Limit
Ducks & Mergansers*	Nov. 14, 2026 – Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027	Daily limit: 6 Possession limit: 12 on day two, 18 on day three. No more than three daily limits allowed in possession at any time.
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September Teal	Sept. 12, 2026 - Sept. 20, 2026	Daily limit: 6 Possession limit: 12 after first day. 18 after second day.
Special Resident Canada Goose	Sept. 12, 2026 - Sept. 21, 2026	Daily limit: 8 Possession limit: 16 after first day. 24 after second day.
Sandhill Crane-West of I-35, only East of I-35 closed	Oct. 17, 2026 - Jan. 17, 2027	Daily limit: 3 Possession limit: 6 after first day. 9 after second day.
Light Geese	Nov. 7, 2026 – Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	Daily limit: 50 (No daily bag limit during COLGS) No possession limit for light geese (snow, blue, and Ross')
White Fronted Geese	Nov. 7, 2026 – Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Feb. 7, 2027	Daily limit: 2 Possession limit: 4 after first day. 6 after second day
Dark Geese	Nov. 7, 2026 – Dec. 6, 2026 Dec. 12, 2026 - Feb. 14, 2027	Daily limit: 8 Possession limit: 16 after first day. 24 after second day.
Conservation Order Light Goose (COLGS)	Feb 13, 2027- Mar 30, 2027	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 three of hunting for ducks, mergansers, and coots. No more than three daily bag limits are allowed in possession at any time.

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 abundant waterways and diverse, thriving fish populations that have sustained Cherokee people for generations. Fishing remains a cherished tradition that provides opportunities to feed our families, strengthen our connection to the natural world, and pass on cultural knowledge. To ensure these valuable resources remain healthy and accessible for future generations, Cherokee Nation has established the following fishing regulations based on responsible stewardship and sustainable fisheries management.

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 SIZE LIMITS

Species		Daily Limit (For areas without special regulations)	Size Limit (For areas without special regulations)
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 below
Paddlefish		1	None (See paddlefish regulations on page 10)
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 inches 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.
- Checked every six hours.
- Use of non-metallic line, maximum 50 feet 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.

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.

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.

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 on 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 including shad. Sale or transport of shad for sale is prohibited. 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.
- No culling allowed 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 Limits: 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.

IMPORTANT PADDLEFISH REGULATIONS

- Barbless hooks only
- One rod and reel per angler
- Daily Limit: 1 paddlefish
- Annual Limit: 2 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, and Muscogee Creek Reservations.

74TH CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY FISHING EVENTS

Join Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation for two fun-filled fishing events during the 74th 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: Sept. 5, 2026

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 - come 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: Sept. 12, 2026

Time: Honor start by assigned flight | Weigh-in begins at 1p.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. 10 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?

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 2026 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, 2026.

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 Bear Hunting page at:

[HTTPS://WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM/SERVICES/WILDLIFE-CONSERVATION/](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

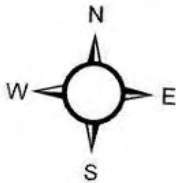
CNRANGERS@CHICKASAW.NET

SEMINOLE NATION WILDLIFE, PARK & RECREATION

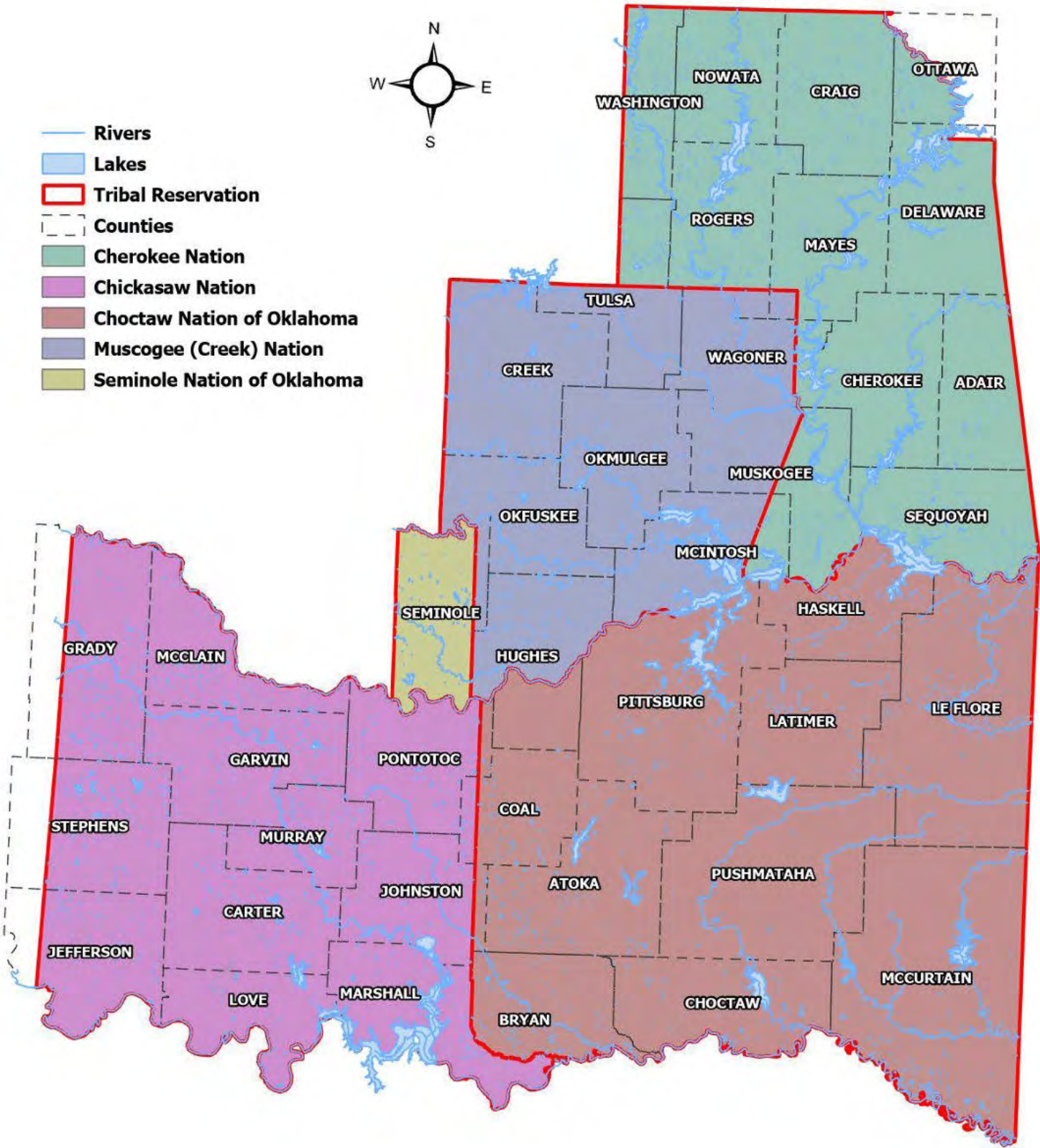
405-666-0620

WPR@SNO-NSN.GOV

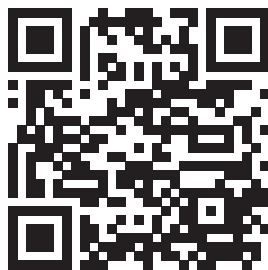
Cherokee Nation
Fish and Wildlife
Online Map:



- Rivers
- Lakes
- Tribal Reservation
- Counties
- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma



CHEROKEE NATION
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



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Wildlife Conservation

918-453-5333
wildlife@cherokee.org
wildlife.cherokee.org