



Chickasaw Nation Fish and Wildlife Service Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Hunting and Fishing within the Chickasaw Nation and the Five Tribes Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement

Information concerning the Chickasaw Nation's Hunting and Fishing Programs can be found on-line at: <https://www.chickasaw.net/Services/Community-Services/Chickasaw-Nation-Fish-Wildlife-Service-Hunting-Program>. At this site, you can find links to the Chickasaw Nation wildlife code and implementing regulations as well as helpful materials regarding this season's hunts and fishing parameters, including those areas of Chickasaw Nation Lands within the Chickasaw Nation Reservation that are managed specifically for limited hunts.

This FAQ document supplements that on-line resource and is intended to help Chickasaw citizens and others understand our program as well as the recently formed Five Tribes Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement.

1. What wildlife activities does the Chickasaw Nation regulate?

- As a Tribal sovereign with an affirmed reservation that is recognized as Indian country under Federal law, the Chickasaw Nation has a governing obligation to work to ensure safe and abundant opportunities for its citizens to be able to enjoy wildlife harvesting and related activities. The Chickasaw Nation is party to treaties that recognize and affirm our rights to a permanent homeland, which includes rights and responsibilities relating to the wildlife resources of that homeland.
- Of course, we are not the only government that manages wildlife harvesting activities within our reservation. For example, the United States regulates the taking of migratory birds and waterfowl, and as property owner and manager of various tracts of lands, it has direct responsibility for hunting and fishing activities that occur on those lands. Similarly, Oklahoma regulates through the exercise of its criminal jurisdiction and the enactment of specific prohibitions in title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes the taking of wildlife throughout its borders. However, Oklahoma does not have criminal jurisdiction over Indians in Indian country, nor may it exercise its jurisdiction in any manner that would interfere with Chickasaw sovereignty and self-government. Only the Chickasaw Nation and potentially the United States would have jurisdiction in those instances. Accordingly, each of these

governments has a role to play in the management of wildlife harvesting activities within the Chickasaw Nation.

- Under the Chickasaw Nation Wildlife Code, it is illegal for any person subject to the Nation's criminal jurisdiction to hunt or fish without a license. The Chickasaw Nation issues hunting and fishing licenses to its citizens who apply to our Fish and Wildlife Service for one. But our code also allows individuals to rely on, for example, a license issued by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for purposes of compliance with Chickasaw Nation law. In this manner, our law is designed to work cooperatively with Oklahoma's to ensure a safe opportunity for everyone to lawfully enjoy these activities.

2. *What does the Five Tribes Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement ("Agreement") do?*

- In July 2024, the Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma each signed an agreement under which each Tribe recognizes and gives legal effect to the authorization each other Tribe grants its own members or citizens for purposes of hunting and fishing within each Tribe's reservation. In other words, if a Chickasaw Nation citizen has a Chickasaw Hunting and Fishing License, the Choctaw Nation will accept that as valid for purposes of Choctaw Nation law—meaning, that a Chickasaw Nation citizen may hunt or fish within the Choctaw Nation without an additional license.
- While the Agreement provides for the recognition of each Tribe's authorizations to hunt and fish, any Tribal member or citizen hunting or fishing within another Tribe's reservation or jurisdiction must follow the laws of that Tribe. Likewise, any Tribal member or citizen hunting or fishing within any of the Tribes' reservations or jurisdictions, including within the Chickasaw Nation, must also follow applicable federal law requirements.
- While each Tribe that is party to the Agreement provides authorizations for its citizens or members to hunt or fish, each Tribal member or citizen still has the personal and independent legal obligation to obtain appropriate permission to hunt on anyone's land other than their own, which would include Oklahoma Wildlife Management Areas. Before going on anyone else's land, citizens should contact the owner or land manager to obtain appropriate permissions.

3. *Can a tribal member hunt within an Oklahoma Wildlife Management Area?*

- For purposes of Chickasaw Nation law, a Chickasaw citizen's Chickasaw Hunting and Fishing License authorizes them to hunt or fish anywhere within the Chickasaw Nation. However, each citizen has the personal and independent legal obligation to obtain appropriate permission to hunt on anyone's land other than their own, which would include Oklahoma Wildlife Management Areas. Before going on anyone else's land, each citizen should contact the owner or land manager to obtain appropriate permissions.

4. *Can a tribal citizen hunt outside of the Reservations or jurisdictions of the Five Tribes who have signed on the Agreement?*

- A Chickasaw citizen's Chickasaw Hunting and Fishing License will be recognized pursuant to that Agreement as authorizing them to hunt or fish on the reservation or within the jurisdiction of any of the other signatory Tribal nations, i.e., the Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.
- Neither the Chickasaw Hunting and Fishing License nor that Agreement authorize hunting or fishing anywhere else, and each citizen should check with the jurisdiction within which they hope to hunt or fish to determine what is required.
- And remember: Even with a valid tribal license and under the Agreement, each citizen has the personal and independent legal obligation to obtain appropriate permission to hunt on anyone's land other than their own.

5. *What does a tribal citizen need to carry to show they are licensed?*

- Fishing: all citizens need is a valid tribal citizenship card and/or CDIB card for one of the tribes signed on to this Agreement. Chickasaw citizens must carry their valid tribally issued hunting and fishing license.
- Hunting: citizens need a valid tribal citizenship card and/or CDIB card for one of these tribes signed on to this Agreement. Chickasaw citizens must carry their valid tribally issued hunting and fishing license.
- Tribal citizens are not exempt from federal wildlife regulations. For example, anyone hunting within the Chickasaw Nation, whether they are a citizen or not,

must still obtain the federal HIP and Migratory Bird Stamp if they are hunting waterfowl or doves.

6. *Does this agreement apply to members or citizens of other Tribes or to people who are not members or citizens of any Tribe?*

- No. Non-citizens or non-members of the Five Tribes or members or citizens of a tribe who has not signed onto this Agreement are not covered by this Agreement.
- Non-citizens or non-members of any Tribe will remain subject to Oklahoma's hunting and fishing laws and may lawfully be criminally cited for any violations of those laws committed within the Chickasaw Nation reservation.

7. *What hunting and fishing laws apply to Tribal members or citizens?*

- Under the Agreement and each of the Tribe's own laws, members or citizens of one of the Five Tribes must follow the licensure requirement of their own tribe to be authorized to hunt or fish within one of the signatory Tribe's reservations or jurisdictions.
- It is the obligation of all members or citizens of the Five Tribes to comply with the laws of the Tribe on whose reservation or within whose jurisdiction they are hunting or fishing. This means any member or citizen of the Five Tribes who is authorized to hunt or fish within their own Tribe's reservation may hunt or fish within the Chickasaw Nation, but their hunting and fishing activities here will be subject to the Chickasaw Nation's laws. The Chickasaw Nation's Wildlife Code and the regulations implementing it set season dates, bag limits, and other rules that must be followed.
- Additionally, each Tribal member or citizen, wherever they are hunting or fishing, has the personal and independent legal obligation to obtain appropriate permission to go on anyone's land other than their own. So before going on anyone else's land, you contact the owner or land manager to ensure appropriate permissions.
- If the species you are hunting or fishing for is subject to federal law requirements, you must comply with those federal requirements in addition to the relevant Tribal law.

8. *How are these wildlife laws enforced?*

- The Chickasaw Nation has cross-deputization agreements in place with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, which empowers law enforcement officers from that agency to cite any Chickasaw citizen or member of any other federally recognized Indian Tribe, i.e., persons over whom Oklahoma does not have criminal jurisdiction, under the Chickasaw Nation Wildlife Code. Those citations are then referred to the Chickasaw Nation Office of Tribal Justice Administration for prosecution, as appropriate, in the Chickasaw Nation District Court.
- Likewise, Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse officers are empowered under section 99a of title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes to act as Oklahoma Peace Officers and to cite those persons not subject to the Chickasaw Nation's criminal jurisdiction into the Oklahoma criminal justice system. Those citations are referred to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma District Attorneys for prosecution, as appropriate, in the District Court for the relevant Oklahoma county.

9. *How do Tribal citizens check-in a harvest?*

- The Chickasaw Nation Fish and Wildlife Service provides an online portal for Chickasaw citizens to report the harvest of any species with a check-in requirement. Access that portal here: <https://chickasaw.workflowcloud.com/forms/85dd47ff-caa7-466f-853f-e7f23e40f730>.
- All Chickasaw citizens taking or harvesting a species with a check-in requirement must report any take that occurs within Indian country (i.e., within the reservation or jurisdiction of the Chickasaw Nation or any other Tribe that is party to the Agreement) through this portal, regardless of where the species was taken or harvested. This means, for example, a Chickasaw citizen would report the taking of a deer through this portal even if the deer was taken within the Cherokee Nation reservation. For takes outside of Indian country, Chickasaw citizens should obtain a state-issued hunting license for the state in which the take was harvested. Chickasaw Nation law on this subject will not apply outside of our reservation, nor will the laws of the other Tribes that are party to the Agreement apply outside of their respective reservations or jurisdictions.
- Under the Agreement, the citizens or members of the other Five Tribes will likewise have to check-in their harvests through their own Tribe's reporting system.

- For purposes of supporting coordinated and cooperative wildlife conservation efforts, each Tribe shares aggregate data (without any disclosure of any individual Tribal member's or citizen's information) with each other Tribe that is party to the Agreement.
- And remember: The bag limits prescribed for each species are not cumulative under the various jurisdictions. This means that what a Chickasaw citizen is authorized to take under Chickasaw law cannot be added to what that same person might claim to be entitled to take under, for example, Oklahoma law. In the interest of effective wildlife conservation efforts, there is no “double dipping” allowed.

10. Do tribal citizens have to buy tags?

- Under the Chickasaw Nation Wildlife Code, Chickasaw citizens will check-in their harvest through the website referenced above and receive a unique confirmation number, which they must then attach to the animal harvested. That confirmation number, as attached to the animal, will serve as the tag required under Chickasaw Nation law and must remain on the animal until the animal is processed.
- If a Chickasaw citizen is stopped by law enforcement and asked to show the tag for the animal, the confirmation number will serve that purpose under our Code. The law enforcement officer may contact Chickasaw Nation Fish and Wildlife Service to confirm that the confirmation number is real and recorded.

11. Can a Chickasaw citizen or a citizen or member of another Tribe be ticketed by an Oklahoma Game Warden?

- Yes, Oklahoma Game Wardens are cross-deputized with the Chickasaw Nation and can enforce Chickasaw Nation criminal law within the Chickasaw Nation.
- Even if the law enforcement officer who has stopped a Tribal member or citizen is not cross-deputized, that officer may call Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse or a cross-deputized State or local officer for purposes of issuing a criminal citation under the Chickasaw Nation Wildlife Code.

12. If I have a Chickasaw Nation Hunting and Fishing License and an Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing License, can I claim a separate bag limit for a harvested animal under each? What about if I have a Chickasaw Nation Hunting and Fishing license but I am hunting on the reservation or within the jurisdiction of one of the other Tribes that is party to the Agreement? Could I claim a separate bag limit under that Tribe's laws?

- No. No person may claim multiple bag limits. The bag limits established under Chickasaw Nation law are consistent with the limits that apply under Oklahoma law and the laws of the other Tribes that are party to the Agreement. These limits are meant to be cumulative and are not stackable. In the interest of sustainable wildlife management, absolutely no “double dipping” will be allowed.
- For example, if the limit is one (1) turkey per season, a person may take only one turkey during the turkey season, though that turkey could be taken on any of the reservations or within any of the jurisdictions of the Tribes that have signed the Agreement. Regardless, that person could take only one (1) turkey during that season.
- Alternatively, if the squirrel limit is fifteen (15) per day, a person could harvest five (5) squirrels in Choctaw Nation, five (5) squirrels in Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and five (5) squirrels in Cherokee Nation, but he or she may not harvest any more than the cumulative limit of fifteen (15) per day. To do so would violate the law.

To further assist Chickasaw citizens in understanding hunting and fishing under the Agreement, below are links to the wildlife programs for each of the Five Tribes:

Cherokee Nation

<https://wildlife.cherokee.org/frequently-asked-questions/?term=&page=2&pageSize=7>

The Cherokee Nation has adopted Oklahoma season dates and bag limits to apply within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. For further information on recreating within this Reservation, please contact Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation at (918) 453-5333 or wildlife@cherokee.org

Chickasaw Nation

<https://www.chickasaw.net/Services/Community-Services/Chickasaw-Nation-Fish-Wildlife-Service-Hunting-Program>; and <https://chickasaw.net/Hunting>

Chickasaw Nation season dates and bag limits can be found at this link, as well as links to all Chickasaw Nation wildlife laws and other helpful information. For further information on recreating within this Reservation, please contact the Chickasaw Nation Fish and Wildlife Service Hunting Program at (580) 310-6466 or CNRangers@Chickasaw.net

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

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

Choctaw Nation season dates and bag limits can be found at this link. For further information on recreating within this Reservation, please contact Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation at (800) 522-6170 or wildlife@choctawnation.com

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

<https://www.muscogeenation.com/department-of-interior-affairs/division-of-agriculture-natural-resources/>

Muscogee (Creek) Nation season dates and bag limits can be found at this link. For further information on recreating within this Reservation, please contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Wildlife Program at (918) 490-7074 or wildlife@muscogeenation.com

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

[https://www.sno-nsn.org/getpage.php?name=Wildlife Park and Recreation Department](https://www.sno-nsn.org/getpage.php?name=Wildlife_Park_and_Recreation_Department)

Seminole Nation season dates and bag limits can be found at this link. For further information on recreating within this Reservation, please contact the Seminole Nation Wildlife, Park & Recreation Department at (405) 666-0620 or wpr@sno-nsn.gov