



GWYB DBP
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EXECUTIVE ORDER
2021-11 (CTH)

- 1. Authority:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation.
- 2. Policy:** The executive powers to administer the operations of programs are authorized by law in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. The Principal Chief has a fundamental responsibility to faithfully execute the laws of the Nation and to provide executive direction over the departments and programs to protect the sovereign interest of the Cherokee Nation.
- 3. Purpose:** This Executive Order designates the responsible parties to manage and enforce hunting and fishing by Tribal citizens within the Cherokee Nation reservation, in accordance with Title 29 of the Cherokee Nation Code.
- 4. Background:** Since time immemorial, the Cherokee people have relied on hunting and fishing as a means of subsistence and integral part of our cultural identity. These values are reflected in our treaties with the United States of America, which protect our communal hunting and fishing rights in Oklahoma and have never been relinquished or extinguished. As we have exercised these treaty rights, the Cherokee Nation has adopted a hunting and fishing code, establishing a regulatory scheme for Cherokee citizens to hunt and fish within our reservation boundaries.

In 2015, the Cherokee Nation entered into a compact with the State of Oklahoma, which recognized the rights of Cherokee citizens to hunt and fish within our treaty reserved boundaries, and across the state, while also providing a common licensing system and coordination of our shared wildlife conservation standards. That compact has been renewed by the Cherokee Nation and the State over the years and has captured over \$32 million dollars in revenue and federal conservation funding to promote wildlife management. The compact has served the Nation and the state well.

However, despite our collaborative efforts over the years and our continued proposal for cooperative management of our shared wildlife resources, the Governor of the State of

Oklahoma has rejected any extension of the compact, which will expire December 31, 2021. In the absence of the Compact, the Nation will continue to protect the hunting and fishing rights of Cherokee citizens in accordance with our treaties with the United States of America, federal court decisions, and Cherokee Nation law.

5. Cherokee Nation Law Applies: As of January 1, 2022, Title 29 of the Cherokee Nation Code will be in effect within the Cherokee Nation reservation. In accordance with the Cherokee Nation law, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regulations, including bag limits and season dates, will continue to apply to hunting and fishing by tribal citizens within the Cherokee Nation reservation; provided, however, that this Order and the laws of the Cherokee Nation do not provide a right of entry upon privately owned lands.

6. Order: As of January 1, 2022, the Cherokee Nation Wildlife Conservation department, recently formed by earlier action of this office, is hereby designated as the Department for wildlife management under the supervision of the Secretary of Natural Resources, whom shall serve as the Director of Wildlife Conservation Department in accordance with Title 29, Chapter 1, of the Cherokee Nation Code. The Director is further ordered to implement the existing laws of the Cherokee Nation and propose any legislative or regulatory changes consistent with our reserved treaty rights, conservation initiatives, and cooperative agreements for wildlife management.

7. Cooperative Agreements. This Order further directs the Cherokee Nation Wildlife Department to coordinate cooperative agreements with other Tribes and state agencies consistent with Cherokee Nation law, cultural practices, and conservation efforts.

8. Effective Date: This Order is effective immediately on this 20th day of December, 2021.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation