



Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Department of Game and Fish

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

This FAQ document aims to provide clarity for Seminole Nation Tribal Members and others regarding the structure of our program and the Five Tribes Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement.

General Information

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, as a Tribal sovereign with an affirmed reservation recognized under federal law as Indian country, has exercised its inherent authority to provide opportunities for its citizens to participate in wildlife harvesting and related activities. The Nation's treaty rights affirm its connection to a permanent homeland, which includes a commitment to care for and manage the wildlife and natural resources within that territory. These efforts, as reflected in the Title 36 – Game and Fish Code, demonstrate the Nation's dedication to protecting its land, honoring its traditions, and advancing its sovereign governance.

FIVE TRIBE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT Regulations

This agreement among the Five Tribes establishes a framework of mutual recognition, whereby each Tribe agrees to honor the licenses issued through their tribe to their respective members. This reciprocal arrangement grants the right to hunt, fish, and trap across each Tribe's reservation, thereby promoting intertribal cooperation, respecting sovereign authority, and expanding access within Indian country.

Under this agreement, members of any Tribe that has entered into the intertribal reciprocity arrangement may engage in hunting, fishing, or trapping activities within the reservation boundaries of any other participating Tribe, provided they are authorized to do so within their own Tribe's jurisdiction.

- For example, a Seminole Nation citizen who holds a valid Seminole Nation Tribal Enrollment Card (hunting license) may now hunt within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation. Likewise, a Chickasaw citizen with a Chickasaw-issued fishing license may fish within the Choctaw Nation Reservation without needing additional permits.

All Tribal Members are required to comply with the regulations established by the Nation governing the reservation on which they are engaging in recreational or hunting activities. It is the responsibility of each Tribal Member to be informed of and adhere to the specific rules and regulations applicable to the reservation where such activities take place.

- For example, a Tribal Member who chooses to hunt on the Choctaw Reservation is subject to the wildlife regulations established by the Choctaw Nation. It is the responsibility of each Tribal Member to understand and comply with the specific rules and requirements of the Tribal jurisdiction in which they are hunting.

Each party to this agreement has adopted wildlife regulations that closely align with the Oklahoma Wildlife Code, particularly regarding hunting seasons and bag limits. This alignment is intended to promote consistency in conservation practices across jurisdictions and to foster effective intergovernmental cooperation in the management of wildlife resources.

Harvest Check-In

In order to protect Tribal Member data while still supporting the wildlife conservation mission, a Tribal Member's harvest of a deer, for example, would still have to be reported, but the reporting would be done through the Seminole Nation's online harvest check-in portal, not the Tribe on whose reservation the deer was taken.

For example, a Seminole Nation Tribal Member will report their deer harvest to The Seminole Nation through the Nation's portal/link even if they harvested the animal on the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, or Muscogee (Creek) Reservation.

Land Regulations

Nothing in this agreement or in any of the Five Tribes' wildlife laws authorizes trespass on any other person's lands. This means Tribal Members must still obtain permission to hunt, fish, or trap on any other person's property. This includes obtaining permission to access Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Wildlife Management Areas and other State-owned properties.

Each Nation reserves the right to set areas aside for the exclusive use of their own citizens.

- For example, Cherokee Nation Wildlife Access Areas may remain open only to Cherokee Citizens.

FAQ Sheet

1. What do I need to carry to be licensed?
 - Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership Card
 - A Valid Hunter Safety Certification unless exempt

Please note that Tribal membership does not exempt individuals from federal requirements related to waterfowl hunting. All Tribal Members must obtain a valid federal Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration and a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as a Duck Stamp) in accordance with federal law.

2. What about if I want to hunt on a State WMA?
 - Tribal members who wish to hunt on State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Oklahoma must comply with state regulations and rules of access to such lands.
3. What if I want to access lands not owned by myself, including city lakes and public lands?
 - You must still comply with the rules of access by the owner of the property.
4. If I want to hunt off the Reservations of the Tribes who have joined this agreement?
 - Outside of the reservations of the parties to this agreement, citizens and members comply with the rules of the controlling jurisdiction—such as another Tribe, the State of Oklahoma, the State of Arkansas, the State of Texas, etc.
5. What if I am not a Tribal Member or am a Member of a Tribe other than one that has joined this agreement?
 - You should consult with the Tribe on whose reservation you wish to hunt, fish, or trap, but in general, non-Tribal citizens will have to obtain an Oklahoma hunting or fishing license, wherever they might want to engage in such activities.
6. What laws do I have to follow?
 - Members must follow the wildlife regulations (e.g., bag limits, season, etc.) of the Tribe on whose reservation they are hunting, fishing, or trapping.
 - If the species being hunted has federal oversight, federal requirements must still be met.

7. Do I still have to check-in my harvest?
 - Yes, all species with a check-in requirement must be checked-in, and the check-in must be to the member's own Tribe, regardless of the Reservation where the animal was taken.
 - Seminole Nation Member's harvest check-in here:
<https://bcrcommission.org/>
Upon completing the harvest check-in, a confirmation number will be provided for your carcass tag and emailed to you for future reference.
8. Do I have to buy tags?
 - Right now, all tags are free on all reservations. You are not required to pre-purchase tags, but you must report your harvest via the harvest check in stated above. A confirmation number will be given to you upon check-in completion and should be written on your tag then attached to carcass.
9. Can a State Game Warden ticket me?
 - Yes, State Game Wardens are cross-deputized and can enforce Tribal wildlife laws within each reservation. If an individual Game Warden is not cross-deputized, a Tribal officer should be called to enforce the Tribal laws.
10. Can I harvest multiple limits on different reservations?
 - No, one combined limit applies per person to harvests across all reservations per season.
 - For example, if this limit is one turkey, you may only kill one turkey, but as long as turkey season is open on that reservation you may harvest that animal on any of the participating Tribe's Reservations.
11. Can a Seminole Tribal Member check-in their deer, turkey, etc. from a cell phone?
 - Yes, but a reliable internet connection or cell service is required for successful submission.
12. Can I take my deer to a processor or a taxidermist?
 - Yes, but a tag confirmation number may be required, which is provided at the time of harvest check-in, as well as the confirmation email you receive after check-in is completed.

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

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

<http://bcrcommission.org/>

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) 584-9920 or wildlife@sno-nsn.gov

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>

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