



## NCA 22-014

**CLASSIFICATION: #23. HUNTING AND FISHING**

**A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REPEALING MCNCA TITLE 23, ENTITLED "HUNTING AND FISHING FAYETV HVTVM MAKWIYETV" AND CREATING A NEW MCNCA TITLE 23, ENTITLED "WILDLIFE CODE"**

**Be it enacted by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:**

**SECTION ONE. FINDINGS. The National Council finds that:**

A. The increased jurisdictional authority following the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* requires the Nation to review its laws in order to assure the protection of persons within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation.

B. A review of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Hunting and Fishing Code indicates the need to adopt a more comprehensive wildlife code for enforcement within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation.

C. There is a need to repeal the existing Hunting and Fishing Code and establish a comprehensive Wildlife Code with Conservation Regulations in its place.

**SECTION TWO. REPEALER. MCNCA Title 23, Entitled "HUNTING AND FISHING FAYETV HVTVM MAKWIYETV" is hereby repealed.**

**SECTION THREE. NEW LAW. The following new law shall be codified in Title 23, of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; provided that for purposes of codification of said new law and its inclusion in pocket parts for the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Attorney General is hereby authorized: (1) to approve any changes related to the manner in which sections, articles, chapters and sub-chapters are designated in this law in order to be consistent with the format in the Code of Laws published in 2010 by West Publishing Company; (2) to include footnoted references to the legislative history in said pocket parts to the Code of Laws; and (3) to note in said pocket parts any editorial correction of minor clerical or grammatical errors in the following new law:**

### **TITLE 23. WILDLIFE CODE**

#### **CHAPTER 1. REGULATION OF HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING AND GATHERING**

**§ 1-101. Promulgation of rules and regulations.**

The Nation's Natural Resources Manager together with any other interested persons or entities are hereby authorized to conduct a study regarding the plant and animal populations of the Nation and to promulgate rules and regulations regarding the conservation of the Nation's natural resources to be presented to the National Council and approved by law. Said rules and regulations shall contain provisions for hunting, fishing and gathering on Tribal lands and shall recommend a procedure to be employed in order to preserve the Nation's plants and animals and regulate the taking of the same. Consideration shall be given to who may hunt, fish and gather; how the Natural Resources Department proposes to govern said hunting, fishing and gathering of plants; a licensing, permitting and/or tagging procedure, if desirable; registration requirements, if any; the number of licenses, permits and/or tags to be let for each season and/or game if it is determined that such is desirable; the amount of the fee, if any; enforcement provisions; and any other appropriate matter. The Natural Resources Department shall work with the Attorney General to determine what, if any, Wildlife conservation laws are implicated.

**CHAPTER 2. CONSERVATION CODE**  
**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§ 2-101. Title**

This law shall be cited as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Conservation Code.

**§ 2-102. Findings**

A. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering rights guaranteed by treaties between the Nation and the United States of America, which have not been abrogated.

B. It is necessary for the good of the Nation that fish, wildlife, plants and other natural resources not be taken or depleted without the oversight and regulation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

C. There is a need to adopt a Conservation Code to protect and manage the fish, wildlife, plants and other natural resources of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

**§ 2-103. Purpose**

The purpose of this Code is to:

A. Provide for the creation of an orderly system for Tribal control and regulation of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and outdoor recreation on certain lands within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

B. Provide a means of conservation, enhancement, protection and management of the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plant populations through the regulation of fishing, hunting and harvesting; and,

C. Provide a means of enforcing rules and regulations promulgated under this Code.

**§ 2-104. Jurisdiction, preemption and retention of rights**

A. This Code shall govern hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and outdoor recreation activities on lands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, whether held in fee simple title or in trust, and on lands, the alienation of which is restricted by Tribal or federal law, of citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

B. It shall not be a defense to any infraction under this Code that the alleged activity may be lawful under state law.

C. Nothing in this Code shall be construed to limit or waive any aspect of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's sovereign authority to regulate activities conducted in whole or in part within the exterior boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

D. Nothing in this Code shall be construed to waive or limit any usufructuary rights or attendant regulatory authority heretofore vested in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and its citizens.

**§ 2-105. Definitions**

For the purposes of this Code, the following definitions shall apply:

A. Bag limit—the maximum number of a particular species of fish or wildlife that may be lawfully taken in one day or one open season.

B. Bait—any substance that is placed by any person and which may serve as an attraction to any wildlife, and may include but is not limited to fruits, vegetables, grains, or animal remains; however, artificial decoys used to hunt migratory birds or turkeys shall not be deemed bait.

C. Baited area—any area where any bait whatsoever capable of luring, attracting or enticing wildlife is directly or indirectly placed, exposed or distributed.

D. Baiting—the placing, exposing, or distributing of bait so as to constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take wildlife.

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E. Bow—any hunting instrument, including a crossbow, designed for the purpose of propelling arrows.

F. Carcass—the dead body of fish or wildlife or parts thereof.

G. Crossbow—any bow which, once drawn, is held by means other than the effort of the person firing it.

H. Endangered or threatened species—any species of fish, wildlife, or wild plant listed under the authorities of 50 CFR Sections 17.11 and 17.12 or species classified pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 19731, as may be amended from time to time, or which the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, by law, may declare as endangered or threatened.

I. Firearm—a rifle, shotgun, BB gun, handgun or other type of gun.

J. Fish—for purposes of this Code, an aquatic animal normally sought after by sportsmen and women, including but not limited to, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white bass, spotted bass, black crappie, white crappie, northern pike, trout, striped bass, walleye, blue catfish and channel catfish.

K. Fishing—taking of fish of any variety by hook and line, net, seine, bow and arrow, spear or by hand.

L. Furbearers—shall include but are not limited to mink, muskrat, beaver, otter, weasel, marten, fisher, fox, coyote, bobcat, badger and raccoon.

M. Gathering—to take or acquire, or attempt to take or acquire, possession of any wild plants or parts thereof, including live or downed timber.

N. Hunt or hunting—includes shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, catching, or killing any wildlife, except that “hunt” or “hunting” does not include the recovery of any wild animal which has already been lawfully reduced to possession.

O. Law enforcement officer—includes the Game Ranger, any Lighthorse Police officer, the Criminal Investigator of the Attorney General’s Office and any cross-commissioned Police officer.

P. License—a written document granting Tribal authority to engage in activities covered in this Code.

Q. Migratory birds—shall include but are not limited to all species of ducks, geese, and swans; all shorebirds and wading birds; and the mourning dove.

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R. Nation, National, Tribe or Tribal—the, or relating to the, Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

S. Outdoor recreation—shall include but not be limited to picnicking, camping, hiking, swimming, bird watching, nature photography and other related activities.

T. Permit—a written document granting Tribal authority to enter a specific area, harvest a specific resource, or engage in specific conduct.

U. Plant—any undomesticated species, and fruit or part thereof, of the plant kingdom occurring in the natural ecosystem.

V. Possession—having killed, harvested, taken, or otherwise obtained or acquired any fish, wildlife or plant subject to the provisions of this Code.

W. Possession limit—the amount of fish and/or wildlife that may be legally possessed at any one time.

X. Size limit—the specific size of a species of fish and/or wildlife that may be possessed legally.

Y. Tag—any identification device issued for the purpose of attaching to the carcass of any fish or wildlife.

Z. Take or taking—pursuing, shooting, shooting at, hunting, fishing, netting, capturing, killing, snaring or trapping, or harvesting any fish, wildlife or plant, or attempting any of the foregoing.

AA. Timber—any woody vegetation that is 10 feet or greater in height and which has 6 inches of diameter or greater.

BB. Trapping—taking, or attempting to take, fish or wildlife by means of setting or operating any device that is designed or made to close upon, hold fast or otherwise capture fish or wildlife.

CC. Usufructuary Rights—legal rights to use others' property, for example, to hunt, fish, trap, or gather, including but not limited to rights acknowledged by the Treaties of 1835 and 1837 with the United States and other Indian Nations, which treaties guarantee to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation “free permission to hunt and trap in the Great Prairie west of the Cross Timber to the western limits of the United States.”

DD. Waterfowl—shall include but not be limited to all varieties of geese, brant, swans, ducks, rails, coots and Wilson snipe.

EE. Wildlife—wild birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic animals other than fish and all other animals which normally can be found in a wild state, regardless of classification, whether resident, migratory or imported, protected or unprotected, dead or alive, and shall include any and every part of any individual species of wildlife, whether or not bred, hatched or born in captivity, and including any part, product, egg or offspring thereof.

## **SUBCHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATION**

### **§ 2-201. Duties of Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

A. The Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources is authorized and directed to:

1. Implement the provisions of this Code;
2. Establish the conservation regulations approved according to 2-203 of this Code;
3. Design and implement a plan for the issuance of licenses, permits, tags and the collection of fees;
4. Establish applications for special permits for the taking of fish, wildlife and plants for subsistence and ceremonial purposes, on the basis of need, and in accordance with federal law;
5. Establish applications for special permits for the taking of fish, wildlife and plants by persons with disabilities, on the basis of need, and in accordance with federal law, providing for reasonable accommodations in access and methods of harvest;
6. Maintain records of all licenses, permits and tags issued for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering and outdoor recreation;
7. Order closure of any hunting, fishing, gathering or outdoor recreational area or season whenever, in his/her professional judgment, activity is likely to result in a harvest exceeding harvest goals and quotas or present a danger to the public;
8. Establish checking stations to gather biological data for the use in investigations and species management; and
9. Cooperate with and assist the National Council; the Principal Chief and executive officers; the Lighthouse Administration; the Attorney General's Office; federal, state, county and local agencies; non-profit organizations; and individuals; and, delegate authority as needed.

### **§ 2-202. Powers and duties of Game Ranger**

A. The Game Rangers are authorized and directed to:

1. Implement and enforce the provisions of this Code;

2. Implement and enforce conservation regulations approved pursuant to § 2-203 of this Code;
3. Enforce the plan for the issuance of licenses, permits, tags and the collection of fees designed by the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources;
4. Enforce closure of any hunting, fishing, gathering or outdoor recreational area or season whenever the DANR orders the area to be closed;
5. Enforce any special restrictions or regulations outlined in the Conservation Code for specific properties including but not limited to archery only, special draw, walk-in or ambulatory access, etc.;
6. Establish checking stations to gather biological data, inspect licenses, permits, tags, equipment and vehicles for compliance with this Code and conservation regulations; and
7. Cooperate with and assist the National Council; the Principal Chief and executive officers; the Lighthouse Administration; the Attorney General's Office; the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources; federal, state, county and local agencies; non-profit organizations; and individuals; and, delegate authority as needed.

**§ 2-203. Conservation regulations**

A. The DANR shall draft Conservation regulations. The Conservation regulations shall include specific provisions relating to:

1. The issuance and monitoring of licenses, permits and tags;
2. The establishment of a schedule of fees;
3. The setting of annual seasons for various species of fish, wildlife and plants;
4. Bag and size limits for various species of fish, wildlife and plants;
5. Approved and prohibited methods of harvesting various species of fish, wildlife and plants, and for the utilization of outdoor recreational resources;
6. Approved and prohibited methods of accessing and using Tribal property or specific areas of Tribal property;
7. Approved and prohibited vehicles such as automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, all-terrain vehicles, boats, trailers and personal watercraft on Tribal property or within specific areas of Tribal property;
8. Approved and prohibited methods of transporting different species of fish, wildlife and plants onto and off of lands subject to this Code.

B. These Conservation regulations are subject to change annually if the DANR or Game Rangers see the need for amending the regulations for the benefit of wildlife populations.

1. The Conservation regulations shall not conflict with, or be held to limit or waive, any aspect of this Code.
  - a. The DANR shall present the conservation regulations to the Principal Chief who shall then submit said regulations to the National Council for approval by Tribal Resolution.
  - b. Once approved, the conservation regulations shall have the full force of the law.
  - c. At the time of application, this Code and the Conservation regulations shall be provided to all applicants for Tribal licenses, permits or tags. However, it is the duty of all licensees to keep abreast of any amendments to this Code and/or the Conservation regulations.
  - d. Revisions to the Conservation regulations may be made on an annual basis, in accordance with § 2-206(E) of this Code, and shall be approved by the National Council by Tribal Resolution.
  - e. A copy of this Code and the Conservation regulations, along with any amendments and revisions shall be kept in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court library and shall be made available to the public.
  - f. The National Council hereby authorizes the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources or its designee to grant permission to Tribal citizens to hunt, fish, and gather plants and other natural resources on Tribal government lands pursuant to permitting guidelines in the Conservation Regulations for hunting, fishing and gathering on Tribal government lands as required under this section.

**§ 2-204. Collection of permit fees, forfeitures and fines**

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall establish the Conservation Fund, a fund account in which to deposit monies collected from the sale of licenses, permits and tags, and from fees, forfeitures and fines assessed pursuant to the provisions of this Code or Conservation regulations.

**§ 2-205. Expenditure of funds**

A. The DANR shall have the authority to expend appropriated funds and monies deposited in the Conservation Fund for:

1. Enforcement of provisions of this Code or the Conservation regulations adopted pursuant to this Code;
2. Conservation, protection and enhancement of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's fish, wildlife, plant and outdoor recreation resources;
3. Acquisition of land, or interests in land, for conservation and/or outdoor recreation, subject to approval by the National Council by Tribal Resolution; and
4. Information, outreach and cultural education programs.



**§ 2-206. Cooperative agreements**

The Principal Chief, on behalf of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Game Ranger Division within the Lighthorse Administration, is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with any federal, state, county, local or Tribal government agency or non-profit organization, for the purpose of promoting and implementing fish, wildlife, plant and outdoor recreation management plans and programs, provided all such agreements are reviewed by the Attorney General to ensure that there are no attempted waivers of sovereign immunity and that agreements comply with Tribal and federal law. The Game Ranger shall seek to maintain a cooperative agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, by which the State of Oklahoma will recognize Tribal licenses, permits and tags for the transportation of fish, wildlife and plants taken lawfully pursuant to this Code, provided that such agreement is reviewed by the Attorney General to ensure that there is no attempted waiver of sovereign immunity and that the agreement complies with Tribal and federal law.

**§ 2-207. Annual Report**

A. On or before February 28<sup>th</sup> of each fiscal year, the DANR shall present a written report to the National Council, which shall include:

1. A summary of licenses, permits, tags, assessments, enforcement activities, enhancement activities and expenditures;
2. A summary of community outreach and education programs;
3. A summary of the status of cooperative agreements with federal, state, county, local or Tribal government agencies or non-profit organizations;
4. Fish and wildlife counts, lists of endangered and threatened species, endangered and threatened habitats, species historically native to Tribal areas but now rare or absent, and programs to establish priorities and action plans for the enhancement of each;
5. Proposed revisions, if any, to the conservation regulations, and a request for National Council approval of said revisions by Tribal Resolution.

**SUBCHAPTER 3. GENERAL RULES**

**§ 3-301. Requirement of Tribal license, permit, and/or tag**

Except as provided for in § 2–302 of this Code, no person shall engage in the activity of hunting, fishing, trapping or gathering, including cutting or harvesting live or downed timber which requires approval from the United States government, or any other activity regulated by this Code or conservation regulations, without acquiring or having in his/her possession a valid Tribal license, permit and/or tag as this Code or conservation regulations may require, validated for the particular season and activity in which that person is engaged.

**§ 3-302. Landowner exemption**

A landowner shall not be required to obtain a license or permit, or pay a fee, for the right to hunt, fish, trap or gather exclusively on his/her own land. This exemption shall extend to the landowner's immediate family members, owners of undivided partial interests in the land, and owners of divided interests in the land to the extent of such divided interest. A landowner may further grant permission to another to hunt, fish, trap or gather on said landowner's property without a Tribal license or permit and without paying a fee to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from obtaining a Tribal tag for the transportation of fish, wildlife or plants off of the land subject to the landowner exemption or from any other provision of this Code or approved conservation regulations, including but not limited to bag and size limits, seasons, and safety regulations.

**§ 3-303. Trespass**

Nothing in this Code or conservation regulations shall be construed to limit or repeal any Tribal law regarding trespass, including but not limited to MCNCA Title 14, § 2-909, and any amendments thereto. Nor shall any provision of this Code or conservation regulations be construed to permit otherwise unlawful entry onto private or Tribal land, or to limit or waive the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's right to eject any person from Tribal property.

**§ 3-304. Issuance of license**

The form of licenses, permits and tags issued pursuant to this Code shall be left to the discretion of the DANR.

A. The application for the license, tag or permit shall require the licensee to provide a valid address and/or phone number and the licensee's date of birth.

B. The permit number must be on the permit and the permit shall describe the licensee in some form; name is sufficient.

C. The form of license shall also contain at minimum the year of expiration and type of license.

D. All information shall be kept in DANR records for their professional use when applicable.

**§ 3-305. Termination of license**

All licenses shall terminate on December 31st of the year issued. Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of this Code may have any or all licenses held by that person or the privilege of applying for, obtaining or exercising the benefits conferred by

the licenses revoked by the Game Ranger and DANR for a period of not less than one year. For purposes of this paragraph, a court conviction, a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere or the imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence shall be deemed a conviction.

**§ 3-306. Presentation of license**

No person may engage in any hunting, fishing, trapping or gathering activity without carrying a license on their person and producing said license for inspection upon the demand of any authorized law enforcement officer. Any person required to produce a license must also identify himself/herself as the person to whom such license was issued, and failure or refusal to produce adequate identification and a proper license shall be deemed prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

**§ 3-307. Seasons**

No person shall engage in the privileges regulated by or pursuant to this Code except during the respective seasons established by the DANR pursuant to this Code.

**§ 3-308. Bag, possession, and size limits**

No person shall have in his/her possession or under his/her control any fish, wildlife or plant in excess of the bag or possession limits, or above or below the size limits for such fish, wildlife or plants, as established by the DANR pursuant to this Code.

**§ 3-309. Sharing of licenses, permits, and tags**

No person shall lend, share, give, transfer, sell, barter or trade to any person any license, permit or tag issued by the DANR pursuant to this Code.

**§3-310. Harvesting with another's license, permit, or tag**

No person shall hunt, fish, trap or gather while in possession of any license, permit or tag issued to another.

**§3-311. Age restrictions**

A. No person under the age of sixteen (16) years may hunt while possessing a firearm or bow and arrow unless he or she is accompanied by a licensed or permitted adult aged eighteen (18) years old or older.

B. There are no age restrictions with regard to fishing. However, a person under the age of twelve (12) years must be accompanied by an adult aged eighteen (18) years old or older.

**§ 3-312. Orange clothing required**

A. No person shall hunt any wildlife, unless specified below, unless four hundred (400) square inches of the person's clothing above the waist is of a highly visible color referred to as Hunter Orange, Blaze Orange, Fluorescent Orange or Flame Orange.

1. Exemptions:

- a. Bow hunting for deer except during any muzzleloader or rifle seasons
- b. Shotgun or bow hunting turkey
- c. Waterfowl hunting

**§ 3-313. Restricted areas and activities**

A. No person shall hunt within seventeen hundred (1700) feet of any hospital and/or grounds, school and/or grounds or any public establishment and/or grounds.

B. No person shall discharge a firearm within five hundred (500) feet of any occupied building without the express permission of the owner or occupant thereof.

C. No person shall hunt or pursue any wildlife, enter for the purpose of hunting or pursuing any wildlife, or trap or pursue furbearers, on any legally posted lands, without the express permission of the owner or occupant.

D. No person shall leave any gate, bars or other devices used to enclose land or livestock open upon entering or exiting the premises for the purposes of hunting or pursuing wildlife.

E. No person shall drive off any established roadway while hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering or recreating.

F. No person shall in any manner deface, destroy or remove any signs posted in a legal manner.

G. Harvesting wildlife fitted with visible tracking devices is prohibited. This does not apply to any fish species, or waterfowl that may be fitted with bands, tags or collars.

**§ 3-314. Safe transportation of firearms and crossbows**

A. No person shall at any time transport a firearm with a round in the chamber, or revolvers with cartridges in the cylinder, or a shotgun with more than two (2) shells in the magazine.

B. If a special crossbow permit is allowed by conservation regulations, no person shall transport a crossbow unless in possession of such permit and unless the crossbow is encased or unstrung.

**§ 3-315. Safe use of firearms and bows**

A. No person shall hunt while possessing a loaded firearm or strung bow of any type within fifty (50) feet of the center of a maintained roadway.

B. No person shall load or discharge a firearm or bow of any type across a maintained roadway.

C. No person shall load or discharge a firearm or bow of any type in or from a motor vehicle.

D. No person shall lean or place any loaded firearm against any vehicle.

**§ 3-316. Hunting hours**

A. No person shall pursue, shoot, kill or attempt to take any wildlife, without expressed licensure from the DANR, between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset of one (1) day and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise of the next day.

B. No person shall pursue, shoot, kill or attempt to take any waterfowl or migratory birds between sunset of one (1) day and thirty (30) minutes before official sunrise of the next day.

**§ 3-317. Introduction of fish, wildlife, and plants**

No person shall transplant onto any lands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation any fish or eggs into any body of water, or any wildlife, animal or plant species without the express written authorization of DANR.

**§ 3-318. Spotlighting**

No person shall cast the rays of an artificial light on any road, forest, field, lake, creek or stream without expressed written authorization of the DANR or Game Ranger for the purpose of locating, taking, attempting to take, driving or harassing any fish or wildlife.

**§ 3-319. Baiting**

A. No person shall harvest any Migratory bird or Wild Turkey by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area.

B. Specifications:

1. Wild Turkey cannot be hunted within 100 yards of any bait;
2. Waterfowl may not be hunted within 100 yards of any bait;
3. Planted crops are not considered bait;
  - a. unless they are cut without the purpose of use due to regular agricultural practices; this includes unauthorized shaking, mowing, manipulating, or altering planted crops in any way.

**§ 3-320. Waste**

No person shall needlessly permit any fish, wildlife, or plant to go to waste after capturing, killing, wounding or gathering the same.

**§ 3-321. Commerce**

A. No person shall buy or sell fish, wildlife or plants taken pursuant to this Code.

B. Exemption: Skins of carcasses or parts of legally acquired fur bearing animals and coyotes (hide/pelt/fur) may be purchased, bartered, traded, sold or offered for sale.

**§ 3-322. Carcass Disposal**

A. No person may leave the carcass of any dead animal in any well, spring, pond, or stream of water or leave it within 1/4 mile of any occupied dwelling or public highway.

B. No dumping of carcasses is allowed on any of the Nation's property.

**SUBCHAPTER 4. ENFORCEMENT**

**§ 4-401. Enforcement by law enforcement officers**

Any authorized law enforcement officer may enforce any provision of this Code. The Game Ranger shall establish procedures and communications for such enforcement.

**§ 4-402. Coordination with federal authorities**

Any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Code and Conservation Regulations shall provide notice of alleged violations to the Attorney General's Office and the appropriate federal authorities for investigation of potential violations of federal law, where applicable, including but not limited to 16 U.S.C. § 3372 (prohibiting any person from transporting, selling, receiving, acquiring, or purchasing any

fish, wildlife, or plant taken or possessed in violation of federal or Tribal law), 18 U.S.C. § 1165 (prohibiting any person from going upon Indian trust lands for the purpose of hunting, trapping, or fishing without lawful authority or permission), 16 U.S.C. § 1538 (Endangered Species Act), 16 U.S.C. § 668 (Eagle Protection Act), and 16 U.S.C. § 703 (Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

**§ 4-403. Search and seizure, when authorized**

A. Any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Code may conduct a search of a person, object or place and seize objects when the search is made:

1. With consent;
2. Pursuant to a valid search warrant;
3. Within the authority and scope of a lawful inspection;
4. As otherwise authorized by law, provisions of this Code or MCNCA Title 14; or
5. Incident to arrest.

**§ 4-404. Investigations and citations**

A. Any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Code may:

1. Conduct routine inspections, in a manner and at such times and locations as are reasonable and appropriate in the ordinary course of routine enforcement activities, of vessels, wagons, trailers, automobiles, vehicles, containers, packages, tents and other receptacles contained therein, and records of commercial transactions, utilized by any person engaged in an activity authorized by this Code;
2. Execute and serve warrants and other process issued by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court in accordance with applicable law;
3. With or without a warrant, open, enter and examine vessels, wagons, trailers, automobiles, vehicles, packages and other receptacles contained therein, in which the officer has probable cause to believe that contraband fish, wildlife, plants, carcasses or parts thereof, may be contained;
4. Issue a citation on a form approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court to any person upon finding probable cause that such person has violated any provision of this Code or conservation regulations;
5. Seize and hold any alleged contraband or property which any law enforcement officer reasonably believes may be needed as evidence in connection with the institution of proceedings or which is otherwise authorized to be seized by any provision of this Code.

**§ 4-405. Arrests**

An arrest may be executed by any law enforcement officer through a tribally or federally approved arrest warrant or reasonable belief of imminent danger to life or property.

**§ 4-406. License, permit, and tag information**

The Lighthouse Chief of Police may request and receive from the Game Ranger or DANR information regarding license, permit and tag issuance and personal identification.

**§ 4-407. Penalties and sanctions**

A. Civil penalties. Any person who engages in conduct prohibited by any provision of this Code or conservation regulations, and who, in the exercise of due care, should know that the activity engaged in, or that the fish, wildlife or plants were taken, possessed, transported, bought or sold in, an unlawful manner, may be assessed a civil penalty by the appropriate court authority of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for each violation. Each violation shall be deemed a separate offense.

B. Criminal penalties. In addition to civil penalties, any Indian person who knowingly violates any provision of this Code or conservation regulations shall have committed a misdemeanor, as defined by Muscogee (Creek) Nation law, and may be assessed a criminal fine by the appropriate court authority in accordance with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Title 14, § 2–101 et seq., and amendments thereto. Each violation shall be deemed a separate offense.

C. Notice and hearing. No civil or criminal penalty may be assessed under this subsection unless the person accused of the violation is given notice and opportunity for a hearing with respect to the violation.

D. Jurisdiction. Civil jurisdiction over all matters under this Code shall lie in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, which shall adjudicate all questions, complaints and alleged violations involving the provisions of this Code and conservation regulations. Criminal jurisdiction over all matters under this Code shall lie in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court or an appropriate federal court, which shall adjudicate all questions, complaints and alleged violations involving the provisions of this Code and conservation regulations.

E. Revocation or suspension. For any violation, the Court may impose a revocation or suspension of hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering or recreational privileges for a period of time within the discretion of the court, but not less than one year.

F. Remedial forfeiture. The court shall impose a civil remedial forfeiture of all fish, wildlife, and plants taken in violation of this Code or Conservation Regulations, and



shall endeavor to avoid waste by donating the same to needy or worthy individuals or organizations. The Court may impose a civil remedial forfeiture of any property used in the commission of any violation of this Code or conservation regulations. Upon conviction of any person for a violation of this Code when such person has been convicted of a previous violation of this law within a period of two (2) years, the Court may enhance any civil remedial forfeiture or other penalty as the Court deems appropriate.

**§ 4-408. Parties to a violation**

A. Whoever participates in the commission of a violation of this Code shall be deemed a principal and may be charged with the violation although he/she did not directly commit it and although the person who directly committed the violation has not been convicted of the violation. A person participates in the commission of the violation if the person:

1. Directly commits the violation;
2. Aids or abets in the commission of the violation; or
3. Is a party to a conspiracy with another to commit the violation, or advises, hires, or counsels or otherwise procures another to commit the violation.

**§ 4-409. Harvesting after revocation or suspension**

No person whose hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering or outdoor recreational privileges have been revoked or suspended, shall hunt, fish, trap, gather or so recreate, if such activity is regulated by this Code or Conservation Regulations, during such revocation or suspension.

**SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall become effective immediately upon proper approval and execution in accordance with the requirements of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution.

**ENACTED** by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on this **10<sup>th</sup>** day of **February, 2022.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.



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William Lowe, Speaker  
National Council  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

**CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with **Fifteen** members attending this meeting on the **10<sup>th</sup>** day of **February, 2022** and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of **15** in favor, **0** against and that said Law has not been rescinded or amended in any way and the above is the signature of the Speaker of the National Council.

*Alicia Stroble*

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Alicia Stroble, Recording Secretary  
Muscogee (Creek) National Council

**APPROVAL**

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature on this **11<sup>th</sup>** day of **February, 2022** to the above Law, **NCA 22-014** authorizing it to become a Law under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

*David W Hill*

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David W. Hill, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

