

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION
JAMES DRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL**

A COUNCIL BILL

TO AMEND the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code related to: Section 17. Deer to clarify widths and lengths of modern and traditional broadheads; Section 37. Rules and Regulations for the Talawanda Property; Section 39. Scientific Collectors; and Section 40. Draw Hunt Opportunities.

TO APPROVE the 2025 youth, draw hunt opportunities.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the “Nation”) provides that the Tribal Council (the “Council”) shall enact legislation, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation;

WHEREAS, the Council has previously adopted the Fish, Game, and Animals Code, which establishes the laws governing the hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping of fish, game, and animals within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Reservation;

WHEREAS, the Nation, as a sovereign nation, possesses the right to enact laws and regulations governing the hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping of fish, game, and animals within the Nation’s Reservation;

WHEREAS, the Council finds it is in the best interest of the Nation to amend the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code as follows; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it is also in the best interest of the Nation to establish draw hunt opportunities for youths as provided below.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED, by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, that the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code is amended as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY. Section 17 of the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code is amended to read as follows:

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

Section 17. Deer

A. COMBINED SEASON NATIONWIDE BAG LIMIT

a. Each person with a tribal membership may only legally harvest six (6) deer, no more than two (2) being antlered, nationwide, no matter the legal means of take, whether with a legal bow and legal arrow, muzzleloader, or rifle, from the period beginning October 1, and ending January 15, inclusively, one half hour before official sunrise to one half hour after official sunset.

b. Any Indian found guilty of a violation of this provision shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or by both such imprisonment and fine.

c. It shall also be a civil violation for any person to violate this provision, and may subject same to fines of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and to confiscation of vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

B. DEER - BOW ONLY

a. Deer, limit six (6), no more than two (2) may be antlered per person, may be harvested nationwide with a legal bow and legal arrow, in the Fall between October 1 and January 15, inclusively, one half hour before official sunrise to one half hour after official sunset. All deer taken during the deer archery season count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six (6) deer.

b. A legal bow is any compound bow of thirty (30) pounds or more draw weight; any recurve, longbow, or self-bow of forty (40) pounds or more draw weight, any crossbow with a minimum of 100 pounds draw weight and equipped with safety devices, bolts must not be less than 14 inches in length. A legal arrow for deer shall be fitted with a broadhead hunting-type point. Modern, commercially manufactured broadheads should not be less than 7/8 inches wide ~~and not less than 1 1/2 inches long.~~ Traditional stone points should not be less than 1/2 inch wide. Any device that permits a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw is prohibited. Hand-held releases are permitted. Unless otherwise provided by tribal or federal law, no person shall carry or use any firearm in conjunction with any bow during the archery season while hunting deer with a bow. Pursuing deer with dogs is prohibited.

c. Any Indian found guilty of a violation of this provision shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or by both such

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

imprisonment and fine.

d. It shall also be a civil violation for any person to violate this provision, and may subject same to fines of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and to confiscation of vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

C. DEER - MUZZLELOADER - BOW

a. Deer, limit two (2), no more than one (1) may be antlered per person, may be harvested nationwide with a muzzleloader, in the Fall beginning the fourth Saturday in October and running nine (9) consecutive days, inclusively, one half hour before official sunrise to one half hour after official sunset. Harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited. All deer taken during the deer muzzleloader season count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six (6) deer.

b. Muzzleloading firearms are weapons that fire forty caliber or larger projectiles (muzzleloading muskets are legal), with a single slug or ball. Black powder or equivalent only may be used. Black powder firearms loaded from the breech, and smoothbore muzzleloading shotguns, are illegal.

c. Muzzleloading pistols (single shot or revolver) with characteristics as described for muzzleloading rifles are permissible as a secondary firearm, but may be used only for killing a downed animal.

d. Archery equipment described as legal for the deer archery season may be used during the primitive firearms season. The hunter shall have the option of hunting with a primitive gun or with legal archery equipment. Pursuing deer with dogs is prohibited.

e. Any Indian found guilty of a violation of this provision shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or by both such imprisonment and fine.

f. It shall also be a civil violation for any person to violate this provision, and may subject same to fines of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and to confiscation of vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

D. DEER - RIFLE - MUZZLELOADER - BOW

a. Deer, limit two (2), no more than one (1) may be antlered per person, may be harvested nationwide with a rifle, in the Fall beginning on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and running sixteen (16) consecutive days, inclusively, one half hour before official sunrise to

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

one half hour after official sunset. Harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited. All deer taken during the deer rifle season count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six (6) deer.

b. Any Indian found guilty of a violation of this provision shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or by both such imprisonment and fine.

c. It shall also be a civil violation for any person to violate this provision, and may subject same to fines of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and to confiscation of vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

d. Legal weapons for deer hunting rifle season shall be:

i. Centerfire rifles only, and firing ammunition with a soft-nosed bullet of at least 55 grains weight are legal.

ii. ~~Rifles chambered for .224 caliber bullets traveling more than 3,100 feet per second are deemed legal.~~

ii. Hollow point bullets are legal.

iii. Muzzleloading rifles that are legal for the muzzleloading season shall also be legal in all areas open to rifles.

iv. Twenty-gauge shotguns or larger, firing a single rifled slug, are legal rifles.

v. Centerfire handguns must be chambered for a .224 .223 caliber or larger firing a soft-nosed bullet of at least 55 grains weight, or 100 grain or heavier, soft-nosed bullet having an overall cartridge case length of 1 1/4 inches or longer. Minimum barrel length is four inches.

e. Any firearm not fitting these descriptions shall be confiscated. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited. Firearm suppressors (aka "silencers") may be used to take any wildlife resource in accordance with Choctaw Nation Title 110: Fish, Game, and Animals Code; however, all tribal and federal laws continue to apply. Pursuing deer with dogs is prohibited.

f. Any Indian found guilty of a violation of this provision shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

g. It shall also be a civil violation for any person to violate this provision, and may subject same to fines of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and to confiscation of vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

E. YOUTH HUNT DEER

a. Age Requirements. All Choctaw youth under 18 years of age with a valid Choctaw Nation Membership card are eligible to participate in a youth hunt in accordance with this subsection. All participants, while hunting, are required to be accompanied by an adult, 18 years or older. The adult shall not hunt, except that the adult may archery hunt in accordance with this Code while accompanying the youth hunter. The adult hunter accompanying the youth hunter shall not possess any rifle, shotgun, or pistol.

b. Dates. The dates for the youth season shall be a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in October determined by the Choctaw Nation Wildlife Department and printed in the Choctaw Nation Hunting and Fishing Regulation brochure.

c. Open Areas. The season is open nationwide.

d. Bag Limit. Two (2) deer, which may include no more than one (1) antlered deer. The deer harvested by the youth during the youth hunt count towards the combined season limit of six (6) deer.

e. Legal means of taking. All rifles (conventional or muzzleloader), handguns, shotguns or bows legal during the deer gun season shall also be legal during the youth deer season.

F. HOLIDAY DEER ANTLERLESS SEASON

a. The dates for the holiday deer antlerless season shall be December 18 – December 31.

b. Bag Limit. The bag limit shall be two (2) antlerless deer.

c. Legal Means of Taking. All rifles (conventional or muzzleloader), handguns, shotguns, or bows legal during the deer gun season shall also be legal during the holiday deer antlerless season.

d. Deer taken during the holiday deer antlerless season shall not count towards the season limit of six (6).

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

G. ELK-BOW ONLY

a. One bull (male) elk may be harvested by legal bow and legal arrows (as defined during legal deer season) between October 1 and October 30, inclusively, one half hour before official sunrise to one half hour after official sunset.

b. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has set the elk harvest quota at five (5) bull (male) elk. The elk bow season will be open until five (5) elk have been harvested or the season ends. Hunters may check via telephone whether the quota has been reached before going hunting each day. Once the quota has been reached, the season will close.

c. To check the status of the harvest quota, call 1-800-522-6170.

SECTION 2. ENACTMENT. Section 38 of the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code is enacted to read as follows:

Section 38. Rules and Regulations for Talawanda Property

Any person, whether a member of a federally recognized tribe or not, shall be subject to the following rules and regulations while on the Talawanda property:

- A. Beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages are not allowed. No person shall use or possess any controlled dangerous substance on the premises.
- B. All boats and motors must comply with current boating laws. All boats must be operated at a no-wake speed (five miles an hour or less).
- C. Unless otherwise provided, no person is allowed on the property during any limited draw hunt within specified times and dates unless they possess a controlled hunt permit.
- D. Camping is not permitted.
- E. No person shall use obscene, threatening, abusive or indecent language or participate in any disorderly assemblage or appear nude or intoxicated.
- F. All pets, including but not limited to dogs, must be kept on a leash at all times unless being used for hunting purposes as permitted by the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation.

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

- G. Fires are prohibited.
- H. All firearms are prohibited unless used during an authorized hunting season or possessed under the Concealed Carry Act regulations.
- I. Fishing is permitted according to Choctaw Nation regulations. From 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., the area is closed except for fishing or permitted hunting activities only. Fishing methods allowed are rod and reel, juglines, and trotlines only. Noodling is prohibited.
- J. All glass containers are prohibited on the property.
- K. The Talawanda property is closed to hunting except for seasons and permits authorized by the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation.
- L. Disposal of trash, refuse, debris, litter, sewage, or any other form of organic or inorganic waste is prohibited except in designated trash receptacles.
- M. Only motor vehicles registered to legally operate on public roads are permissible. All vehicles must stay on maintained roadways. Off-road travel is strictly prohibited.
- N. Shooting ranges are closed unless permitted by the Choctaw Nation for limited use.
- O. Vandalism, theft, cutting of live trees or vegetation, removal of rocks, soil, water, or minerals, or damage to Choctaw Nation property is prohibited.
- P. Any Indian found guilty of a violation of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for up to thirty (30) days, or by both such imprisonment and fine.
- Q. It shall also be a civil violation for any person to violate this provision, and may subject same to fines of not less than Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00), nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and to confiscation of vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

SECTION 3. ENACTMENT. Section 39 of the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code is enacted to read as follows:

Section 39. Scientific Collectors

A. Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation associates, designated agents, or representatives may collect fish, wildlife, nests, eggs, or parts thereof outside of designated seasons and bag limits for scientific purposes.

B. Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation may authorize students, teachers, researchers, and/or contractors to collect for scientific purposes when projects are done on behalf of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

SECTION 4. ENACTMENT. Section 40 of the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code is enacted to read as follows:

Section 40. Draw Hunt Opportunities

A. The Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation may issue limited draw permits to Choctaw Nation tribal members for hunts that take place within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

B. Draw permits will only be valid for the dates, methods, and locations specified within the permit and shall only be used by Choctaw Nation tribal members approved by the permit.

C. Draw hunt opportunities will be approved by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Council.

D. Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation will advertise the dates, methods, and locations on the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation website and other media sources.

E. Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation will provide the method for tribal members to enter the drawing.

F. Permits will be drawn at random.

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

G. Tribal members may only enter the drawing once a year and one time each draw period.

H. Draw permit categories will be set by the Choctaw Nation Department of Wildlife Conservation and may include youth, veteran, elder, and general categories.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, that the following draw hunt opportunities for 2025 are approved:

1. **November 7-9, 2025** Five (5) Youths may draw a rifle hunt with a bag limit of two (2) deer, no more than one (1) antlered, at the Talawanda Property
2. **November 7-9, 2025** Two (2) Youths may draw a rifle hunt with a bag limit of two (2) deer, no more than one (1) antlered at the Wardville Property
3. **December 12, 2025** Five (5) Jones Academy students may draw an archery hunt with a bag limit of one (1) antlerless deer at the Talawanda Property
4. **December 19-21, 2025** Five (5) Youth may draw a rifle hunt with a bag limit of one (1) antlerless deer at the Talawanda Property.

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHOCTAW NATION
FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN
YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025**

CERTIFICATION

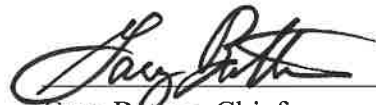
I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that eleven (11) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council in Tvshka Homma, Oklahoma on July 12, 2025. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 79 -25 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of eleven (11) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.



Thomas Williston, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



James Dry, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 7-17-25

Purpose/Need of Council Bill: The purpose of this bill is to amend the Choctaw Nation Fish, Game, and Animals Code related to Section 17. Deer to clarify the widths and lengths of modern and traditional broadheads; Section 37. Rules and Regulations for the Talawanda Property; Section 39. Scientific Collectors; and Section 40. Draw Hunt Opportunities. This bill also adjusts the caliber for handguns and the use of silencers.

Title of Council Bill: A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE FISH, GAME, AND ANIMALS CODE AND APPROVING CERTAIN YOUTH DRAW HUNTS IN 2025

Agency: Legal & Compliance

Budget: N/A

Match Required: N/A

Request by Project Director: Brian Danker, SEO, Legal & Compliance