



G W Y O D B P
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**EXECUTIVE ORDER DESIGNATING THE CHEROKEE NATION MEDICINE
KEEPERS PRESERVE AS PROTECTED CONSERVATION LANDS FOR
TRADITIONAL GATHERING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
2022-03-CTH**

Short Title: *Executive Order Establishing the Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers Preserve*

- 1. Authority:** The Constitution and laws of the Cherokee Nation.
- 2. Policy:** The executive authority to administer the operations and programs of the Cherokee Nation are authorized by law in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. The Principal Chief has the fundamental responsibility to protect traditional Cherokee practices and manage reservation lands for the benefit of future generations of Cherokee citizens.
- 3. Purpose:** This Executive Order formally designates the “Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers Preserve” as protected conservation lands for traditional gathering and cultural activities in accordance with the Cherokee Nation Park, Wildlands, Fishing and Hunting Preserve Act of 2021 (LA-06-21 *eff.* March 1, 2021) (hereinafter the “Preserve Act”). This designation will formally set-aside nearly one-thousand acres of tribal trust land containing culturally significant plants and natural resources for conservation and to support the advancement of cultural education.
- 4. Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers:** The Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers are a group of fluent Cherokee speaking elders whose mission is to protect and perpetuate traditional Cherokee knowledge within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. The Medicine Keepers work closely with the Cherokee Nation in advancing that mission.

The Medicine Keepers organized to protect Cherokee environmental knowledge for current and future generations. The Medicine Keepers recognize that our Cherokee traditions are uniquely tied to the land and our natural resources. They acknowledge that the current generation of Medicine

Keepers hold important traditional knowledge, which needs to be revitalized, protected, and shared with younger Cherokees.

5. Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers Preserve: The “Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers Preserve” is pristine deciduous forest located near the Bell community of Adair County. The property is among the most botanically diverse tribal lands within the Cherokee Nation Reservation and has been designated by the Medicine Keepers as the preferred land to cultivate traditional plants in support of Cherokee environmental knowledge and education.

6. Order: Effective as of the date undersigned, the “Cherokee Nation Medicine Keepers Preserve” is hereby formally set-aside under the Preserve Act for environmental conservation and cultural uses. The Cherokee Nation Secretary of Natural Resources is hereby directed to evaluate the property for additional conservation easements consistent with this Executive Order and in accordance with Cherokee Nation law.

7. Cooperative Agreements and Federal Lands: This Order further directs the Cherokee Nation Natural Resources department to coordinate cooperative agreements with federal agencies, and other entities, to expand access for traditional plant gathering and conservation of traditional environmental resources in accordance with the Preserve Act and this Executive Order.

8. Effective Date: This Order is effective immediately on this 20th day of April, 2022.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Cherokee Nation, Principal Chief

Date Signed: 04/20/2022