

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Supporting the United States National Park Services Expansion of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park to form a New National Park and Preserve

Resolution No. 22-21



Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole Nations, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the ITC strongly supports actions of its member Nations to preserve and protect historic properties, Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) and sacred lands within respective ancestral homelands in the American Southeast; and

WHEREAS, the ITC previously supported legislation and the expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument boundary in Resolution Number 14-31 (2014); and



Gary Patton
Chief

WHEREAS, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Dingell Act) redesignated the Okmulgee National Monument, established in 1934, as the "Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park" and expanded the park boundary by 2,100 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Dingell Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to complete a Special Resource Study (SRS) to identify whether the Ocmulgee River Corridor from Macon to Hawkinsville, Georgia meets specific criteria to be recommended for potential inclusion as a new National Park and Preserve; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, SRS study area incorporates approximately fifty (50) river miles in Bibb, Twiggs, Houston, Bleckley and Pulaski Counties, Georgia, which are former Muscogee (Creek) Nation treaty lands ceded in the 1805 Treaty of Washington and the 1821 Treaty of Indian Springs; and



Lewis J. Johnson
Chief

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park and the Ocmulgee River Corridor make up the Macon Plateau and Ocmulgee Old Fields, which include large platform earthen mounds and an earthen lodge council house built by Muskogean-speaking people more than 1,000 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the Keeper of the United States National Register of Historic Places concurred with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's designation of the Ocmulgee Old Fields Traditional Cultural Property (1995) as being eligible

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for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, marking the Ocmulgee Old Fields as the first TCP east of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Ocmulgee River Corridor remains largely undeveloped and conservation is needed to retain the natural landscape, protect wildlife habitat, Native flora and fauna, threatened and endangered species and delicate ecosystems such as swamps, marshes, wetlands and backland prairies, as well as habitat restoration to enhance biodiversity in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation affirms that the area encompassing the Ocmulgee River, bounded by the northern perimeter of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park and by the southern perimeter of Hawkinsville, Georgia is a continuous segment of the region that holds national significance contributing to the exceptional cultural landscape and cultural history of the Muskogean people in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Tribal Resolution TR 22-148 (2022), supports the expansion of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park to form a new National Park and Preserve; and

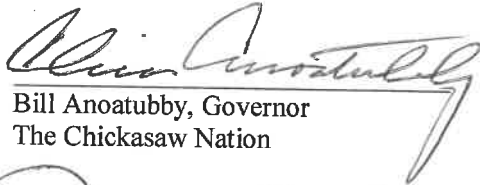
WHEREAS, ITC remains committed to supporting tribal co-management, self-preservation, self-determination and the right of tribal governments to build and strengthen our own communities while striving to protect our sovereignty.

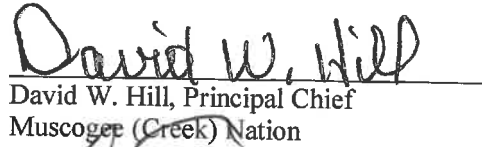
NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby supports the creation of the Ocmulgee National Park & Preserve located in Middle Georgia in order to preserve 80,000 acres in conservation under the National Park and Preserve status.

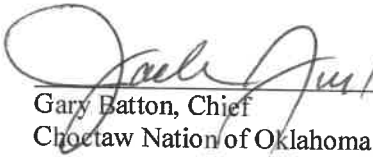
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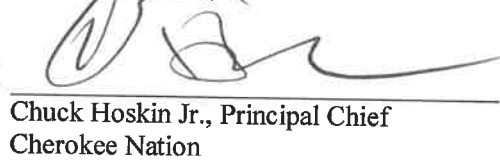
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting in Durant, Oklahoma on this 7th day of October, 2022, by a vote of _____ for _____ against and _____ abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


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


Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation


Lewis J. Johnson, Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma