



## MISSION



Our mission is to provide land management agencies with a safe, highly skilled and productive wildland fire management resource. The Cherokee Hotshots will provide leadership with the existing crew overhead and strive to produce quality and diverse leaders for the future.



We provide the Cherokee National Forest and the Southern Region with an additional resource to accomplish forest and regional targets when not committed to fire assignments. We will support the overall mission of the United States Forest Service and other agencies we work with. We will create and continue the proud heritage of the Cherokee Hotshots.

The Cherokee Hotshots are a highly trained Type One Wildland Fire Suppression crew that is hosted by the Cherokee National Forest in East Tennessee. The crew is comprised of a diverse group of men and women

who spend their summers fighting forest fires and responding to natural disasters throughout the country.

## CREW HISTORY



Cherokee IHC in California 2015

In June 2001, in accordance with the National Fire Plan, the Cherokee Hotshots came to be. The crew was first based in Unicoi, TN where it remains today. The crew was named after the host National Forest (Cherokee). The crew logo as seen above has been with them since the start. It outlines the Volunteer State of Tennessee and the host National Forest in green with a gold star indicating the location of the crew on the northern end of the Cherokee National Forest. Tim Wharton was the first Crew Superintendent. The current Superintendent is Dennis Trentham.

This crew was considered to be in a trainee status for its first five fire seasons. In July 2006 the crew obtained national certification as an Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC). Obtaining IHC status requires intense training and considerable expertise.



Cherokee IHC on the fireline

In 2002 new quarters were constructed that house up to 18 people. In November 2007 a state of the art administrative and training facility was constructed. This facility is complete with a weight/workout room, training room, offices, storage space, showers and laundry area. This facility is also utilized as a training site within the Southern Region.

The Cherokee Hotshots work a split season of February – April and July-October. The crew has specialized vehicles for transportation to and from incidents. Some of the places the Cherokee Hotshots have been on fire and other incident assignments includes Oregon, Washington, Montana, California, Idaho, South Dakota, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Ohio, New York City and throughout the Southeastern United States.