

# Oil We Need Is Landback: How the Regulation of Oil is Changing on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reservation

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## McGIRT V. OKLAHOMA

In July 2020, the US Supreme Court ruled that Congress never officially dissolved tribal boundaries within the state of OK (Map 1). This decision has tremendous implications for tribal and state political relationships, raising questions concerning civil jurisdiction and the maintenance of natural resources within tribal lands.

OK has a well-known history of oil production and has made the state highly profitable over the years (Fig 1). Following the Supreme Court's landmark decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma, OK faces pressure from tribal governments concerning the regulation of oil (RO) on tribal lands.

### Oklahoma Field Production of Crude Oil

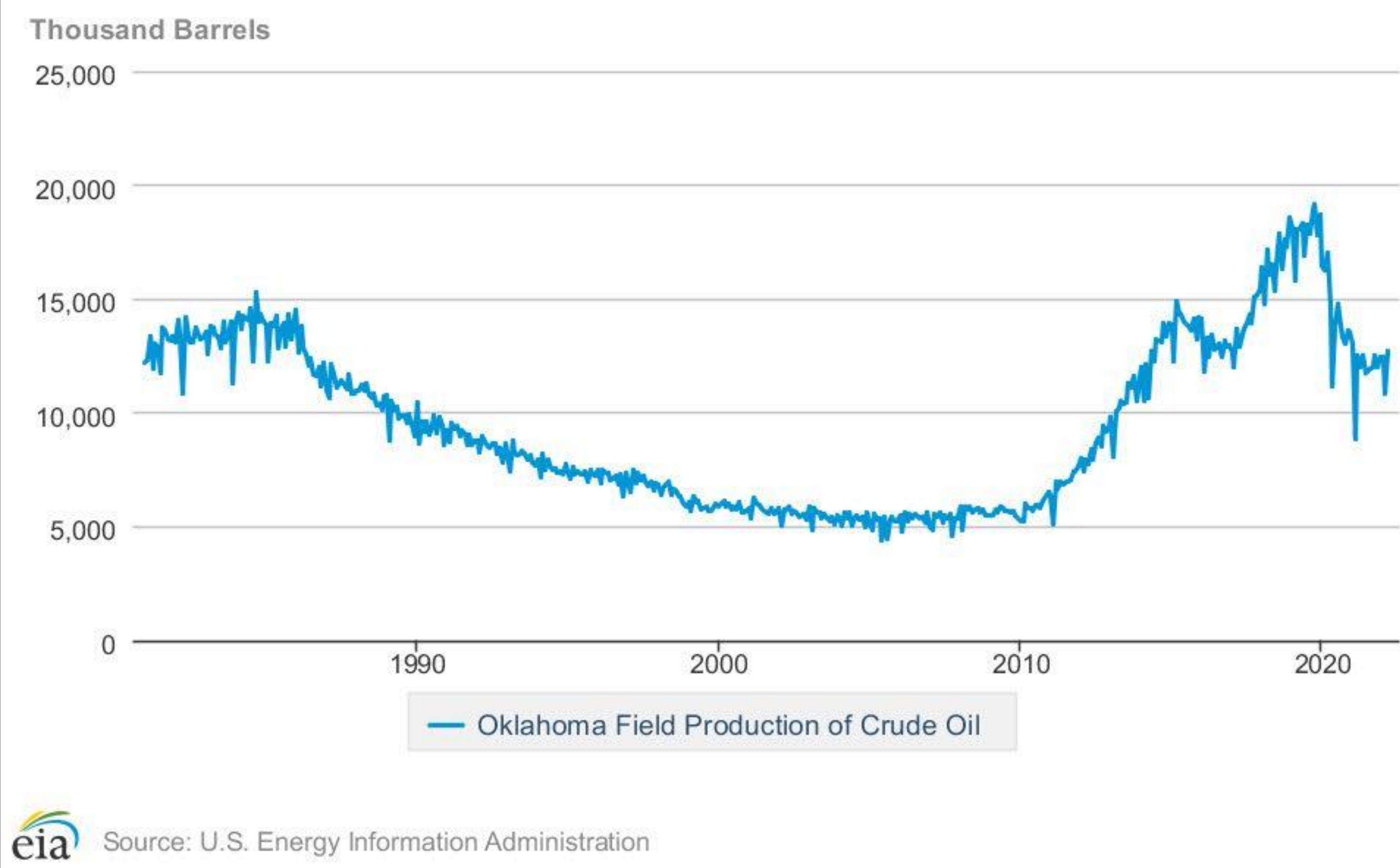


Figure 1. Source: U.S. Energy Information Association

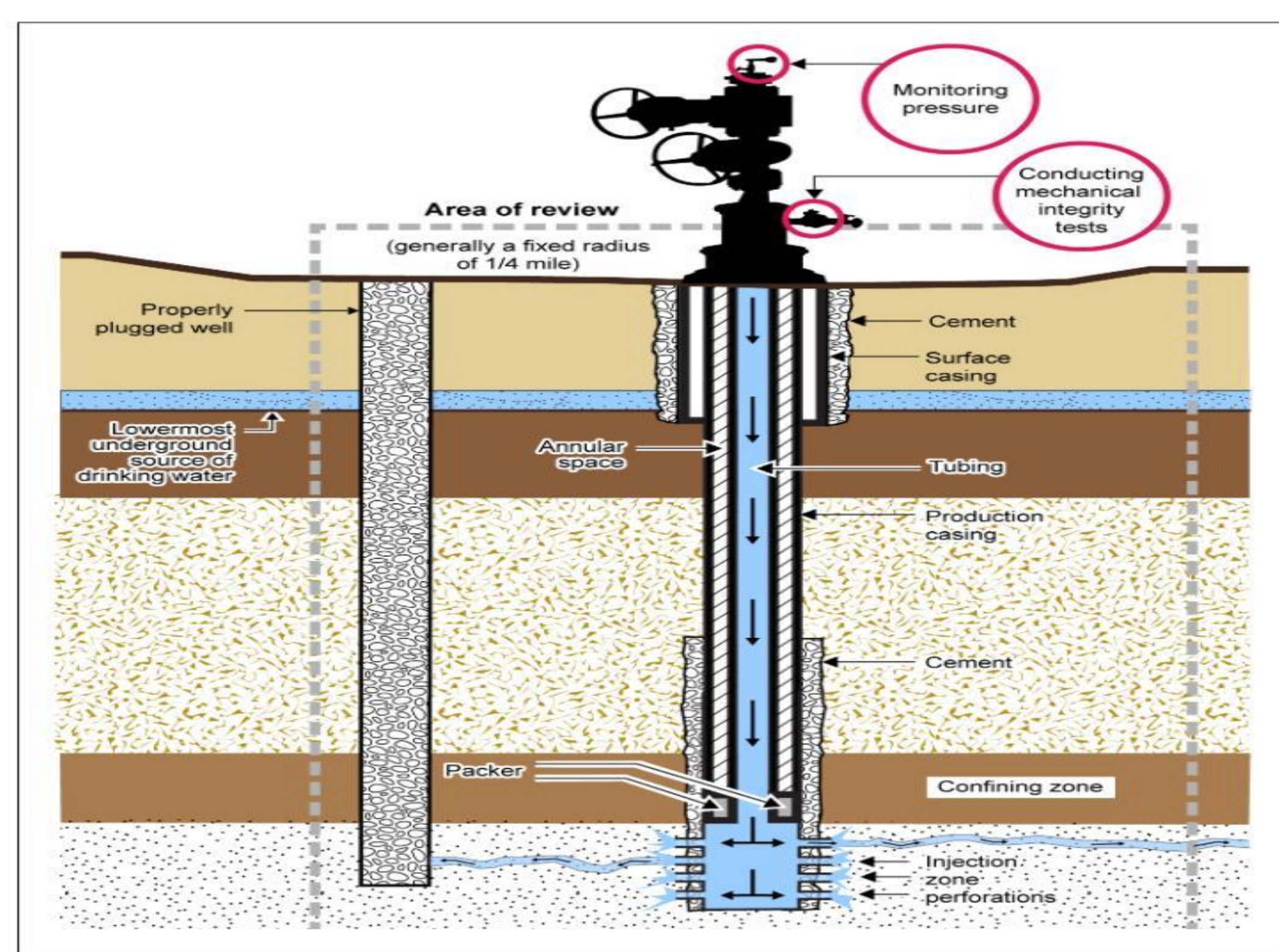


Figure 2. Underground Injection Control Site. Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office

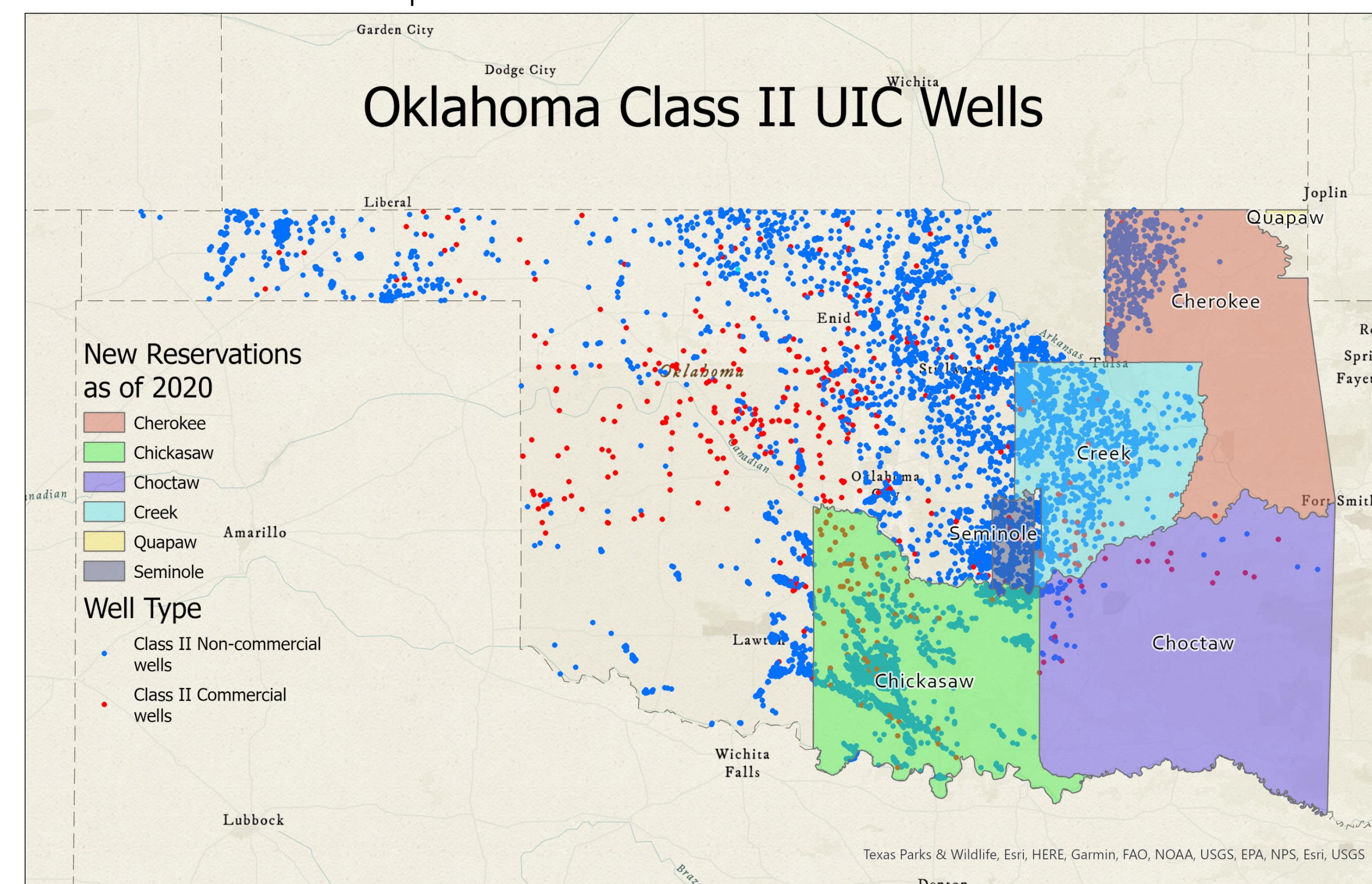
## OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1:** Examine the ramifications of 2020 McGirt ruling, which is affecting the RO and civil jurisdiction in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and explain how the MCN's economy will benefit from maintaining sovereignty over natural resources within the tribe's reservation lands. (Fig 2.)

**Objective 2:** Determine the attitudes of tribal citizens towards the state of Oklahoma's historical treatment of oil and MCN citizens and to raise awareness surrounding the re-establishment of the MCN reservation and the legal implications the McGirt case has had on tribal/state relationships within Oklahoma.



Figure 3. Oklahoma Gas Well-head Source: Oklahoma Corporation Commission



Map 1. Amount of Class II UIC wells on tribal lands in Oklahoma Source: Oklahoma Corporation Commission

## SURVEY AREA

### ACTIVE WELLS WITHIN THE MCN RESERVATION

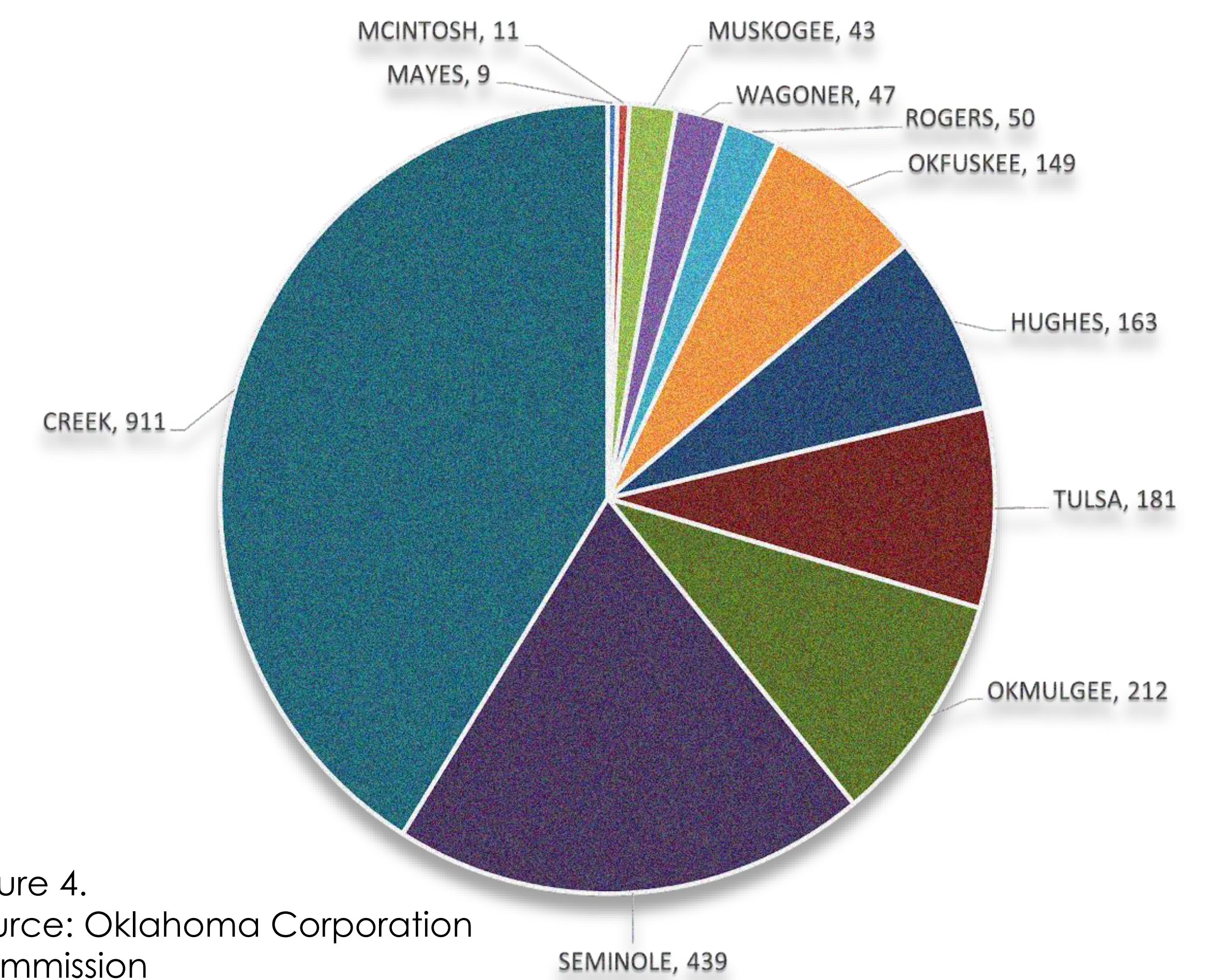


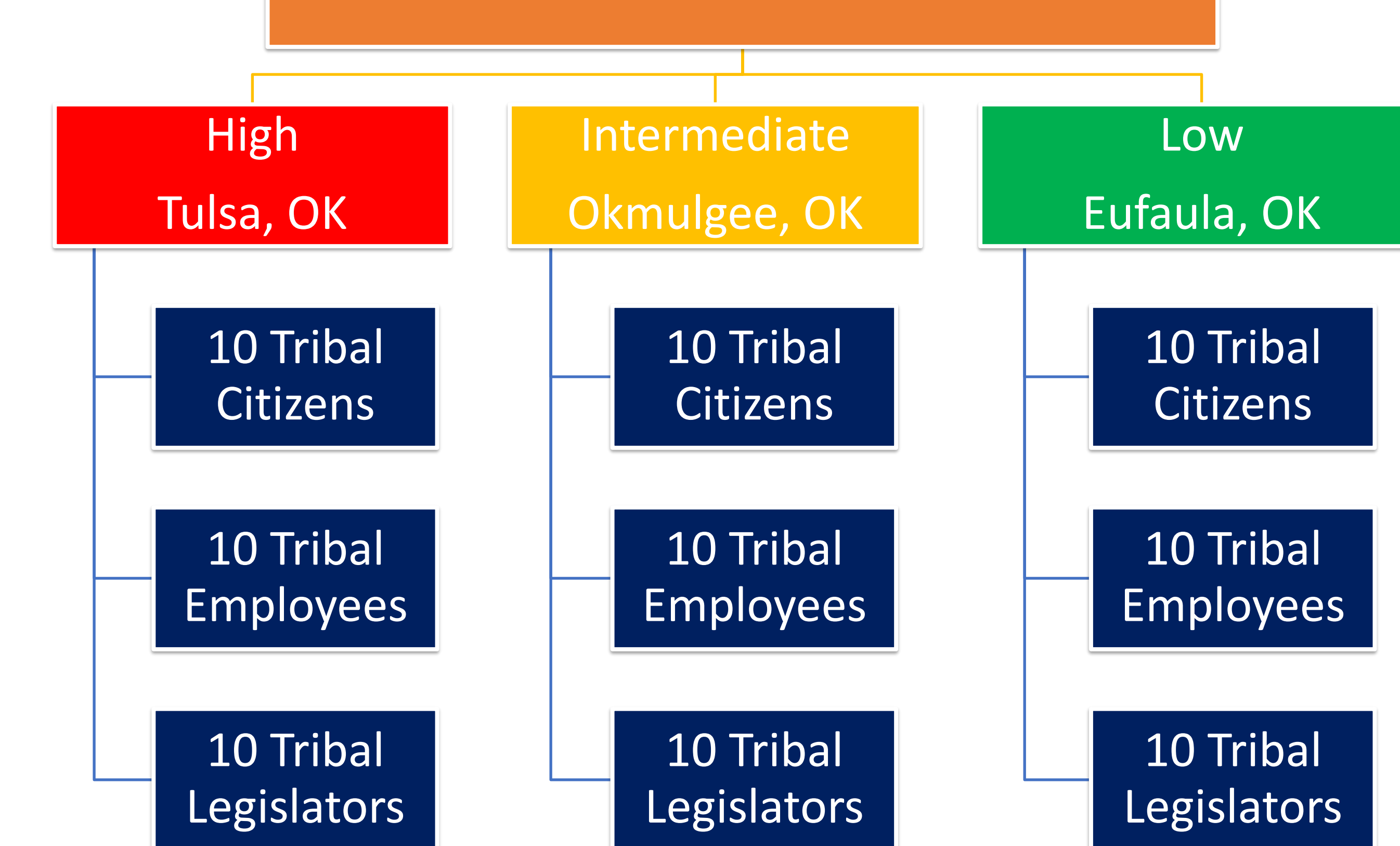
Figure 4. Source: Oklahoma Corporation Commission

## ATTITUDES OF TRIBAL LANDOWNERS

**Purpose:** to assess the relationship between tribal landowners and the state of OK to better understand the dynamics and attitudes landowners have towards the power shift after the McGirt ruling.

**About:** A combination of open-ended questions will be asked concerning the RO on tribal lands and how the state of Oklahoma have conducted themselves pre- and post-McGirt.

### Muscogee Nation Survey



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Institute (HERS), EPSCoR, the National Science Foundation (NSF), Haskell Indian Nations University, and the University of Kansas. I would also like to acknowledge, Josh Meisel, Phillip-Cody Marshall, Annalise Guthrie, Trina McClure, Drs. Jay Johnson, Sharon Billings, and Daniel Wildcat. This project was supported by NSF Grant Number: 1656006

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