

Committee of the Whole
Meeting Agenda



Wednesday, October 21, 2020
2:00 – 5:00 pm

Commission Room/Zoom
Centennial Campus, Raleigh

Call to Order – *Chairman David Hoyle*

Roll Call – *Betsy Haywood, Commission Liaison*

Rule Proposal Review

- **Fisheries Rule Proposals** – review of fiscal note and proposed rules for Inland Fisheries to take to statewide public hearings in January 2021 – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief (Exhibits E-1, E-2)*
- **Wildlife Management Rule Proposals** – review of fiscal note and proposed rules for Wildlife Management to take to statewide public hearings in January 2021 – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief (Exhibits F-1, F-2)*
- **Lands Management Rule Proposals** – review of fiscal note and proposed rules for Lands Management to take to statewide public hearings in January 2021 – *Brian McRae, Land and Water Access Section Chief (Exhibits G-1, G-2)*

Rulemaking

- **Notice of Text – 15A NAC 10H .1500 Wildlife and Alligator Control Agents** – consider approval to publish Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open public comment period and virtual public hearing for proposed adoption of rules licensing and regulating wildlife and alligator control agents (**EXHIBIT L**) – *Daron Barnes, Program Manager, Office of Wildlife Interaction, Regulated Activities & Permits*
- **Notice of Text – 15A NAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Take for Depredations** – consider approval to publish Notice of Text in the NC Register with an open public comment period and virtual public hearing for proposed amendments to the Wildlife Take for Depredations Rule (**EXHIBIT M**) – *Daron Barnes*

2021 Statewide Public Hearing Schedule – Consider approval of the 2021 Public Hearing schedule– *Cameron Ingram, Executive Director (EXHIBIT N)*

2021 Commission Meeting Schedule – Consider approval of the 2021 Commission meeting schedule– *Cameron Ingram (EXHIBIT O)*

N.C. Wildlife Federation Initiative – Discuss the NC Wildlife Federation’s One Mission, One Commission initiative – *Chairman Hoyle*

Other Business – *Chairman Hoyle*

Adjourn

EXHIBIT E-1

October 22, 2020



Proposed Changes to Inland Fisheries Regulations for 2021-2022 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

Trout

1. Combine the two-existing Public Mountain Trout Waters (PMTW) catch-and-release classifications (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters and Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters) into a single classification (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters).

Justification:

Regulatory complexity has been identified routinely by trout anglers as an impediment to their experiences, and the Commission identified the need to reduce rule complexity within its Trout Management Plan. The two-existing catch-and-release classifications function as social regulations and do not address any biological issues. This proposal will reduce angler confusion by combining the two current classifications into one.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (pages 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, and 18)
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout (page 27)

2. Remove Franks Creek in Graham County from Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters. This proposal will remove 4.1 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters and 0.4 miles of Franks Creek on game lands will be reclassified to Wild Trout Waters.

Justification:

Franks Creek was historically managed as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters with stockings of fingerling trout. When fingerling trout stockings were phased out, Franks Creek was reclassified as Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters to maintain the stream as Public Mountain Trout Waters. Much of the stream is located on private property and public access is limited. The proposed change will simplify rules by allowing the portion of Franks Creek on private property to default as undesignated.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 11)

3. Remove Hemphill Creek in Haywood County from Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters. This proposal will remove 3.7 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

Hemphill Creek was historically managed as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters with stockings of fingerling trout. When fingerling trout stockings were phased out, Hemphill Creek was reclassified as Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters to maintain the stream as

Public Mountain Trout Waters. The stream is located on private property and public access is limited. The proposed change will simplify rules by allowing Hemphill Creek to default as undesignated.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 11)

4. Remove Buff Creek in Jackson County from Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters. This proposal will remove 2.8 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters and 1.0 mile of Buff Creek on game lands will be reclassified to Wild Trout Waters.

Justification:

Buff Creek was historically managed as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters with stockings of fingerling trout. When fingerling trout stockings were phased out, Buff Creek was reclassified as Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters to maintain the stream as Public Mountain Trout Waters. Much of the stream is located on private property and public access is limited. The proposed change will simplify rules by allowing the portion of Buff Creek on private property to default as undesignated.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 13)

5. Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Big Pine Creek in Alleghany County removing approximately 4.5 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from the S.R. 1464 bridge to the confluence with Brush Creek.

Justification:

Most of the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters reach on Big Pine Creek is located on Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) property. National Park Service staff has requested this portion of the creek no longer be stocked in compliance with the BRP management policy prohibiting the stocking of fish into streams on BRP property.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 7)

6. Remove Meadow Fork in Alleghany County from Hatchery Supported Trout Waters. This proposal will remove 5.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

The Hatchery Supported Trout Waters reach on Meadow Fork is located on Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) property. National Park Service staff has requested this portion of the creek no longer be stocked in compliance with the BRP management policy prohibiting the stocking of fish into streams on BRP property.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 7)

7. Remove Mill Creek in McDowell County from Hatchery Supported Trout Waters. This proposal will remove 6.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

The Hatchery Supported Trout Waters reach of Mill Creek is primarily adjacent to private properties, many of which have been posted against trespassing in recent years. The few areas that are stocked are short in reach, disjunct, and often separated by lengthy inaccessible reaches, making it difficult for anglers to access the fishery.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 14)

8. Clarify that there is no closed season for harvest in undesignated trout waters.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. The removal of the closed season for harvest in undesignated trout waters was adopted during the 2015-2016 rule-making cycle but was not removed from the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 7)

9. Clarify the boundaries for the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters reaches of the Watauga River in Watauga County. The designated reaches are S.R. 1114 bridge to Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary (upper reach) and S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek (lower reach). This proposal will not add or remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. The boundary changes for the reaches of the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters of the Watauga River were adopted during the 2015-2016 rule-making cycle but were not fully incorporated in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 16)

10. Clarify that Boundary Line Pond in Wilkes County is designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters and further classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. The addition of Boundary Line Pond to Public Mountain Trout Waters was adopted during the 2015-2016 rule-making cycle but was not incorporated into the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 18)

11. Clarify that the lower Hatchery Supported Trout Waters boundary on the Middle Prong Roaring River in Wilkes County is the second bridge on S.R. 1736.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. The boundary change for the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters reach of the Middle Prong Roaring River was adopted during the 2015-2016 rule-making cycle but was not incorporated into the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 18)

Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass

1. Clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. The previous rule for black bass species was reformatted into species-specific rules during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Largemouth Bass (page 23)
15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass (page 29)
15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass (page 30)

2. Prohibit harvest of Largemouth Bass from three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park, City of New Bern, Craven County.

Justification:

The City of New Bern is allowing public angling opportunities to three ponds within the newly established Martin-Marietta Park. The proposed rule will address concerns regarding potential overharvest of Largemouth Bass once the ponds are opened to fishing.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Largemouth Bass (page 24)

Striped Bass

1. Prohibit harvest of Striped Bass from three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park, City of New Bern, Craven County.

Justification:

The City of New Bern is allowing public angling opportunities to three ponds within the newly established Martin-Marietta Park. Periodic flooding from the Neuse River has introduced Striped Bass into these ponds. The proposed rule will provide consistent regulations in the area and address concerns regarding potential overharvest of Striped Bass once the ponds are opened to fishing.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass (page 25)

Blue Catfish

1. Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Blue Catfish in the North Carolina portion of the Dan River (Caswell Co.), downstream of Danville, Va. by allowing only one fish greater than 32 inches to be possessed in the daily creel.

Justification:

From the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA, the Dan River flows downstream through Caswell County for approximately 10 miles before flowing back into Virginia and then into John H. Kerr Reservoir. The proposed change is consistent with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations for Blue Catfish and will provide continuity when enforcing regulations on the river.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes (pages 31 and 32)

American Eel

1. Allow American Eel greater than the 9-inch minimum length limit to be used for cut bait provided the body depth of the eel is at least ½ inch.

Justification:

During the 2018-2019 rule-making cycle, a rule was adopted prohibiting the removal the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of any nongame fish with a specific size and/or creel limit. American Eel is subject to this rule, and before it became

effective, eels were a popular cut bait among anglers, especially those targeting trophy catfish. Anglers have requested the ability to use eels once again as cut bait. The proposal would allow the use of eels greater than the 9-inch minimum length limit as cut bait provided the body depth of the cut bait is at least ½ inch, which is consistent with the ½-inch x ½-inch mesh restriction for eel pots. While American Eel are considered depleted across their range by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, using legally harvest eels as cut bait is not expected to impact the overall population.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes (page 32)

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption (page 35)

Prohibited Species

1. Add the African Longfin Eel, Creole Painted Crayfish, Bigclaw Crayfish, Marbled Crayfish or Marmorkrebs, Applesnail, Olive Mysterysnail, European Eel, Oriental Weatherfish, Brown Hoplo, Yellow Bass, Shortfin Eel, Crucian Carp, Prussian Carp, European Perch, European Minnow, and Amur Sleeper to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina. The proposed change also includes taxonomic clarifications and corrections.

Justification:

Non-native species introduced into public waters can have unintended, negative consequences, which can alter the existing aquatic community permanently. Unfortunately, once established, introduced species are nearly impossible to eradicate. Strategies to evaluate and manage the unintended impacts of introduced species are difficult to implement, often ineffective and costly. The species proposed for adding are listed in the North Carolina Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan, U.S. Geological Survey's Aquatic Nuisance Species website, or in the Lacey Act as species that can become invasive and nuisance species in North Carolina.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes (pages 20 and 21)

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared
4 substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 5 (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- 6 (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that
7 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8 (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any
9 similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- 10 (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

11 (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- 12 (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC
13 10D .0104.
- 14 (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters
15 where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed
16 or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless
17 otherwise noted.
- 18 ~~(3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where
19 only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested
20 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.~~
- 21 ~~(4)~~(3) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and
22 one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful
23 to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout
24 while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth
25 anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday
26 in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions.
27 Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 28 ~~(5)~~(4) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure
29 restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 30 ~~(6)~~(5) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific
31 regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 32 ~~(7)~~(6) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or
33 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person
34 shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include
35 tributaries unless otherwise noted.

1 ~~(8)(7)~~ "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and
2 natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook.
3 Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

4 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure
5 restrictions. ~~Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on~~
6 ~~the first Saturday in April.~~

7 (c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this
8 Subchapter.

9 (d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on
10 game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters
11 are classified as Undesignated Waters.

12 (1) Alleghany

13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

14 Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128
15 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])

16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

17 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1464 bridge to confluence with Brush Creek)

18 Bledsoe Creek

19 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against
20 trespassing)

21 Cranberry Creek

22 (Big) Glade Creek

23 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129
24 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)

25 ~~Meadow Fork~~

26 Pine Swamp Creek

27 Piney Fork

28 Prathers Creek

29 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

30 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

31 (2) Ashe County

32 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

33 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)

34 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

35 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)

36 Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)

37 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)

- 1 Trout Lake
- 2 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)
- 4 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
- 5 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
- 6 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
- 7 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
- 8 Nathans Creek
- 9 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
- 10 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
- 11 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- 12 Roan Creek
- 13 Three Top Creek
- 14 (3) Avery County
- 15 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 16 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
- 17 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
- 18 Wilson Creek (game land portion)
- 19 ~~(B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:~~
- 20 ~~Wilson Creek (game land portion)~~
- 21 ~~(B)~~ Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Boyde Coffey Lake
- 23 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state
- 24 line)
- 25 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,
- 26 except where posted against trespassing)
- 27 Milltimber Creek
- 28 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family
- 29 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
- 30 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
- 31 trespassing)
- 32 Squirrel Creek
- 33 Wildcat Lake
- 34 ~~(D)~~(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Birchfield Creek
- 36 Cow Camp Creek
- 37 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)

- 1 Gragg Prong
2 Horse Creek
3 Kentucky Creek
4 North Harper Creek
5 Plumtree Creek
6 Roaring Creek
7 Rockhouse Creek
8 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
9 South Harper Creek
10 Webb Prong
- 11 (4) Buncombe County
- 12 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 14 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
16 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
17 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
18 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
19 Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
20 Lake Powhatan
21 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
22 trespassing)
23 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
24 Stony Creek
25 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of
26 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 27 (5) Burke County
- 28 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
29 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 30 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
31 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 32 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
33 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
34 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
35 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake
36 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 37 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 2 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
- 4 A and B of this Subparagraph
- 5 (6) Caldwell County
- 6 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 8 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 9 Boone Fork Pond
- 10 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
- 11 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
- 12 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
- 13 against trespassing)
- 14 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
- 15 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 16 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
- 17 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
- 18 Rockhouse Creek
- 19 (7) Cherokee County
- 20 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- 22 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
- 23 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
- 24 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
- 25 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 26 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27 Apalachia Reservoir
- 28 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 29 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 30 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 31 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 32 (8) Clay County
- 33 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Fires Creek (Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)
- 35 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 37 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)

- 1 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 2 (9) Graham County
- 3 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 4 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 5 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 6 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 7 Cheoah Reservoir
- 8 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 9 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 10 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 11 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
- 12 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 13 West Buffalo Creek
- 14 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 15 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 16 Little Buffalo Creek
- 17 South Fork Squally Creek
- 18 Squally Creek
- 19 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 20 Deep Creek
- 21 ~~Franks Creek~~
- 22 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 23 (10) Haywood County
- 24 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 26 Logan)
- 27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 28 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 29 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 30 trespassing)
- 31 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 32 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 33 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 34 except Middle Prong)
- 35 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 36 ~~Hemphill Creek~~
- 37 Hurricane Creek

- 1 (11) Henderson County
- 2 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 4 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
- 6 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
- 7 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
- 8 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
- 9 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 10 (12) Jackson County
- 11 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Flat Creek
- 13 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- 14 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 15 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
- 16 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Balsam Lake
- 19 Bear Creek Lake
- 20 Cedar Cliff Lake
- 21 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
- 22 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
- 23 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
- 24 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
- 25 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
- 26 trespassing)
- 27 Tanasee Creek Lake
- 28 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
- 29 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
- 30 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
- 31 Wolf Creek Lake
- 32 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33 Gage Creek
- 34 North Fork Scott Creek
- 35 Tanasee Creek
- 36 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- 37 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)

- 1 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
2 ~~Buff Creek~~
3 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
4 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
5 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
6 (13) Macon County
7 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
9 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
10 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
11 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
12 Cliffside Lake
13 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
14 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
15 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
16 Queens Creek Lake
17 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
18 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
19 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
20 Kimsey Creek
21 Overflow Creek (game land portion)
22 Park Creek
23 Tellico Creek (game land portion)
24 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
25 (14) Madison County
26 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
27 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
28 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
29 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews
30 Ave.)
31 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of
33 Bearpen Branch)
34 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
35 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence
36 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
37 Max Patch Pond

- 1 Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
- 2 Puncheon Fork (Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
- 3 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- 4 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- 5 Shut-in Creek
- 6 Spillcorn Creek
- 7 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
- 8 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-
- 9 in Creek)
- 10 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 11 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- 12 (15) McDowell County
- 13 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
- 15 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 16 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- 17 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
- 18 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
- 19 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- 21 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- 22 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- 23 ~~Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against~~
- 24 ~~trespassing)~~
- 25 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 26 (16) Mitchell County
- 27 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 28 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- 29 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 30 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- 32 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 33 East Fork Grassy Creek
- 34 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- 35 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against
- 36 trespassing)
- 37 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)

- 1 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
3 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
4 posted against trespassing)
5 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 6 (17) Polk County
7 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
9 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
10 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
11 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 12 (18) Rutherford County
13 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
14 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
15 against trespassing)
- 16 (19) Stokes County
17 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
18 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 19 (20) Surry County
20 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
21 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
22 Mitchell River (0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R.
23 1330)
24 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
25 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
26 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
27 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
28 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
29 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
30 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
31 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 32 (21) Swain County
33 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
35 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
36 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
37 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)

- 1 Cheoah Reservoir
- 2 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
- 3 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
- 4 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 5 (22) Transylvania County
- 6 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek
- 8 and Grogan Creek)
- 9 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 10 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107
- 11 bridge)
- 12 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
- 13 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
- 15 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork)
- 16 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
- 17 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
- 18 West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad
- 19 River)
- 20 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21 All waters located on Gorges State Park
- 22 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- 23 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 24 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
- 25 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against
- 26 trespassing)
- 27 (23) Watauga County
- 28 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding
- 30 tributaries)
- 31 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee
- 32 Lake)
- 33 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Lake Coffey
- 35 ~~Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and~~
- 36 ~~S.R. River – upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)~~
- 37 Watauga River – lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)

- 1 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
3 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
4 Beech Creek
5 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
6 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
7 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
8 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
9 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against
10 trespassing)
11 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
12 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
13 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork
14 New River)
15 Norris Fork Creek
16 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower
17 boundary of Brookshire Park)
18 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)
- 19 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
20 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
21 Howard Creek
22 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
23 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
24 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
25 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 26 (24) Wilkes County
- 27 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
28 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park
29 lower boundary)
30 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
31 Club)
32 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
33 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin
34 River)
35 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong
36 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 37 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
- 2 Bell Branch Pond
- 3 Boundary Line Pond
- 4 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
- 5 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence
- 6 with North Fork Reddies River)
- 7 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
- 8 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where
- 9 posted against trespassing)
- 10 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
- 11 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
- 12 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.
- 13 1559)
- 14 Pike Creek
- 15 Pike Creek Pond
- 16 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies
- 17 River)
- 18 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 intersection)
- 19 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
- 21 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
- 22 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
- 23 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
- 24 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 25 (25) Yancey County
- 26 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
- 28 Upper Creek
- 29 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
- 31 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 32 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- 33 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
- 34 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
- 35 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
- 36 except where posted against trespassing)
- 37 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

1 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
2 Licksillet Creek
3 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
6 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
7 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
8 *October 1, 1992;*
9 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
10 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
15 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
16 *2003);*
17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
18 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
19 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
20 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina
3 any live individuals of:

- 4 ~~(1) — piranha;~~
5 ~~(2) — "walking catfish" (Clarias batrachus);~~
6 ~~(3) — snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);~~
7 ~~(4) — black carp (Mylopharyngodon piceus);~~
8 ~~(5) — bighead carp (Hypophthalmichthys nobilis);~~
9 ~~(6) — silver carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix);~~
10 ~~(7) — rudd (Scardinius erythrophthalmus);~~
11 ~~(8) — round goby (Neogobius melanostomus);~~
12 ~~(9) — tubenose goby (Proterorhinus marmoratus);~~
13 ~~(10) — ruffe (Gymnocephalus cernuus);~~
14 ~~(11) — Japanese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina japonica);~~
15 ~~(12) — Chinese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata);~~
16 ~~(13) — red rim melania (Melanoides tuberculatus);~~
17 ~~(14) — virile crayfish (Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis);~~
18 ~~(15) — rusty crayfish (Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus);~~
19 ~~(16) — Australian red claw crayfish or "red claw" (Cherax quadricarinatus, or other species of "giant"~~
20 ~~crayfish species in the genus Cherax);~~
21 ~~(17) — white amur or "grass carp" (Ctenopharyngodon idella);~~
22 ~~(18) — swamp or "rice" eel (Monopterus albus);~~
23 ~~(19) — red shiner (Cyprinella lutrensis);~~
24 ~~(20) — zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha);~~
25 ~~(21) — quagga mussel (Dreissena rostriformis bugensis) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae; or~~
26 ~~(22) — redbtail catfish (Phraetoecephalus hemioliopterus).~~
27 (1) African longfin eel (Anguilla mossambica);
28 (2) amur sleeper (Perccottus glenii);
29 (3) applesnail (any species of the genus Pomacea);
30 (4) Asian swamp eel, swamp or rice eel (Monopterus albus);
31 (5) Australian red claw crayfish or red claw (Cherax quadricarinatus, or other species in the genus
32 Cherax);
33 (6) bigclaw crayfish (Faxonius placidus);
34 (7) bighead carp (Hypophthalmichthys nobilis);
35 (8) black carp (Mylopharyngodon piceus);
36 (9) brown hoplo (Hoplosternum littorale);
37 (10) Chinese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina chinensis);

- 1 (11) Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*);
- 2 (12) Crucian Carp (*Carassius carassius*);
- 3 (13) European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*);
- 4 (14) European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*);
- 5 (15) European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*);
- 6 (16) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 7 (17) marbled Crayfish or Marmorkrebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*);
- 8 (18) olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*);
- 9 (19) Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*);
- 10 (20) piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*);
- 11 (21) Prussian Carp (*Carassius gibelio*);
- 12 (22) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*;
- 13 (23) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 14 (24) red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*);
- 15 (25) redbtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*);
- 16 (26) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 17 (27) rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus* or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*);
- 18 (28) ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*);
- 19 (29) rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*);
- 20 (30) shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*);
- 21 (31) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
- 22 (32) snakehead fish (from the Family *Channidae*, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*);
- 23 (33) tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*, *Proterorhinus semilunaris*, and *Proterorhinus*
- 24 *semipellucidus*);
- 25 (34) virile crayfish (*Faxonius virilis*);
- 26 (35) walking catfish (any member of the genus *Batrachus*);
- 27 (36) white amur or grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), except for triploid individuals as permitted in
- 28 Paragraph (b) of this Rule;
- 29 (37) yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*); or
- 30 (38) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*).

31 (b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose
32 of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an
33 evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

34 (c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring,
35 in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the
36 tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

37

1 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*
2 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
3 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
5 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*
6 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*
7 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*
8 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
9 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), ~~and~~
3 ~~(j), and~~ (l) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than
4 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) of this Rule. There
5 is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (l) of this Rule.

6 (b) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County the daily creel limit for Largemouth
7 Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

8 (c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
9 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
10 in aggregate.

11 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass,
12 and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.

13 (e) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the following:

- 14 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- 15 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- 16 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- 17 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- 18 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River
19 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank
20 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,
21 Scuppernong River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy
22 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

23 (f) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size
24 limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

25 (g) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches,
26 and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

27 (h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir in Chatham and Wake counties and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no
28 minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass
29 between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

30 (i) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.

31 (j) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ ~~there~~
32 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
33 is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and
34 only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

35 (k) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16
36 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

1 (l) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern ~~Shores, Shores in Dare County, County~~
2 and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

3
4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
5 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
6 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*
9 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule*
11 *becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*
12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*
14 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent*
19 *amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*
20 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*
21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
22 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
23 *2003);*
24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*
25 *March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
26 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
27 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
28 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in
3 Paragraphs (b), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in
4 waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except
5 for waters identified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of this Rule.

6 (b) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA
7 and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the
8 minimum size limit is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel
9 limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.

10 (c) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 20
11 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September
12 30.

13 (d) In Lake Norman, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake
14 Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

15 (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but
16 only two may be greater than 22 inches.

17 (f) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the
18 South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the
19 minimum size limit is 18 inches.

20 (g) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to
21 the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of
22 Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (f), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its
23 hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and
24 possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

25 (h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of ~~Buckhorn Dam, Dam and in~~
26 the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass
27 is closed year-round.

28 (i) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A
29 NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost
30 rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through
31 April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam.
32 During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the
33 minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily
34 creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

35 (j) In designated inland fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck
36 Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and

1 their tributaries), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules
2 or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.
3 (k) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend, or extend the hook-and-
4 line season for Striped Bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate
5 the provisions of any proclamation issued under this authority.

6

7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*
8 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*
9 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
10 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
11 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit
3 for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated
4 in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

5 (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The
6 minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

7 (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters or ~~Catch and
8 Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters~~. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.

9 (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for
10 these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12
11 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first
12 Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October
13 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed
14 while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on
15 the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

16 (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

17 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum
18 size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

19 (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the
20 daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

21 (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these
22 fish.

23 (g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the
24 impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the
25 public for fishing.

26 (1) Bear Creek Lake;

27 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

28 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;

29 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

30 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;

31 (6) Cliffside Lake;

32 (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

33 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and

34 (9) Wolf Lake.

35 (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing
36 season.

37 (i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

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History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b) and (c)~~ (b),
3 (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than
4 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no closed season.

5 (b) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
6 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
7 in aggregate.

8 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
9 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass.

10 (d) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~) ~~there~~
11 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
12 is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and
13 only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

14

15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

16 *Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) and
3 (c) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

4 (b) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass,
5 and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

6 (c) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ there
7 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
8 is no minimum size limit for Spotted Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only
9 one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

10

11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

12 *Eff. August 1, 2020.*

13

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, it is unlawful to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing
3 waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special
4 device fishing license.

5 (b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license
6 at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated in this Rule.

7 (c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties
8 and waters with open season designated in Rule .0407 of this Section.

9 (d) Archery equipment may only be used for the take of catfish on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam
10 to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

11 (e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

12 (f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as
13 the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

14 (g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters,
15 except mussels shall not be taken in:

- 16 (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
- 17 (2) University Lake in Orange County.

18 The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for
19 the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

20 (h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more
21 than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

22 (i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and
23 blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

- 24 (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
- 25 (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
- 26 (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
- 27 (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
- 28 (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
- 29 (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
- 30 (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
- 31 (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

32 (j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property,
33 or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take
34 ~~channel, white, channel~~ or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit for channel catfish is
35 seven. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

36 (k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following ~~reservoirs;~~ waters:

- 37 (1) Lake Norman;

- 1 (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- 2 (3) Lake Wylie;
- 3 (4) Badin Lake;
- 4 (5) Lake Tillery;
- 5 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- 6 (7) Dan River (Downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA)
- 7 ~~(7)~~(8) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- 8 ~~(8)~~(9) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

9 (l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the
10 South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

11 (m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing
12 in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches. Eels greater than 9 inches in length and with a
13 minimum body depth greater than ½ inch may be cut for use as bait.

14 (n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and
15 Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.

16 (o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr
17 Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

18 (p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as
19 those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent
20 joint or coastal fishing waters.

21 (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
22 specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure
23 its total original ~~length~~-length, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this rule. No person while fishing shall change
24 the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule
25 having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in
26 ~~possession~~-possession, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this rule.

27 (r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may
28 be sold, with the following exceptions:

- 29 (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr
30 Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);
- 31 (2) blue crab; and
- 32 (3) bowfin.

33 (s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

34
35 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;*
36 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
37 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;*

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;*
2 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
4 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
5 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
8 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
9 *2003);*
10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
11 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
12 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
13 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION**

2 (a) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in the inland waters of North Carolina using
3 equipment other than:

- 4 (1) a net of dip net design not greater than six feet across;
- 5 (2) a seine of not greater than 12 feet in length (except in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County where
6 there is no length limitation) and with a bar mesh measure of not more than one-fourth inch;
- 7 (3) a cast net;
- 8 (4) a bow net for the seasons and waters in which the use of bow nets is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C
9 .0407;
- 10 (5) a dip net when used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher;
- 11 (6) a gig (except in Public Mountain Trout Waters);
- 12 (7) up to three traps for the seasons and waters in which the use of traps is authorized in 15A NCAC
13 10C .0407;
- 14 (8) up to two eel pots;
- 15 (9) a spear gun for the seasons and waters in which the use of a spear gun is authorized in 15A NCAC
16 10C .0407;
- 17 (10) minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not
18 exceeding one inch in diameter, from which all fish and animals are removed daily, and that are
19 labeled with the user's Wildlife Resources Commission customer number or name and address;
- 20 (11) a hand-held line with a single bait attached;
- 21 (12) a single, multiple-bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length, marked on each end
22 with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter, bearing legible and indelible identification of
23 the user's name and address, and under the immediate control and attendance of the person using
24 the device, with a limit of one line per person and no more than one line per vessel; or
- 25 (13) a collapsible crab trap with the largest open dimension not greater than 18 inches and that by design
26 is collapsed at all times when in the water, except when it is being retrieved or lowered to the bottom,
27 with a limit of one trap per person.

28 (b) The use of equipment under this Rule requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.

29 (c) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.

30 (d) Game fishes taken shall be returned unharmed to the water, except white perch may be taken when captured in a
31 cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95
32 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).

33 (e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal
34 consumption subject to the size and creel limits identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401.

35 (f) Any fishes taken for bait purposes are included within the daily possession limit for that species.

36 (g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait from the following waters:

- 1 (1) Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-
- 2 owned water supply reservoirs);
- 3 (2) Bear Creek in Chatham County;
- 4 (3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph
- 5 County;
- 6 (4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and
- 7 (5) Rocky River in Chatham County.

8 (i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
9 having a size limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to render it impractical to measure its total original ~~length.~~
10 length, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m). No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any
11 nongame fish having a daily creel limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to obscure its identification or render
12 it impractical to count the number of fish in ~~possession.~~ possession, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m).

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-272.3; 113-292;*
15 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1989;*
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
18 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
20 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
21 *2003);*
22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015;*
23 *August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006.*

EXHIBIT E-2

October 22, 2020



Fiscal Note for Proposed Inland Fisheries Division Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout
15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes
15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman
Senior Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
919-707-0011
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

Impact:

State Government:	Yes
Local Government:	No
Private Impact:	Yes
Substantial Economic Impact:	No

Authority: G.S. 113-134

For reasons outlined below, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) believes that these rule changes have a minimal fiscal impact pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.4. An analysis of the proposed changes for the rules follows.

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). WRC is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in

Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and other regulations to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives; ensuring the safety of the boating public; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full text included in Appendix A.

Many of the proposed amendments change what anglers may harvest in specific waters, where anglers may harvest certain species, and how they may harvest. Several of the proposed amendments seek to increase angling opportunity while others may prove to be more restrictive. All the proposed changes are intended to expand future angling opportunity. In the end, despite the changes, no impact to overall angling participation is expected.

Although the WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact of the specific rule changes proposed below, economic research on anglers' value of recreational fishing can provide general context for the impact of rules that affect opportunities for fishing or the quality of those opportunities. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, the estimated value of freshwater fishing per person per day is approximately \$53.¹ This figure represents the angler's total willingness to pay to engage in the activity, less the cost to do so. It does not represent any economic activity generated by fishing, such as retail sales, and is not species or location specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rules induce anglers to increase or decrease fishing trips, this estimate provides a rough approximation of the costs or benefits to the angler.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

The WRC manages approximately 5,300 miles and 2,100 acres of the State's coldwater resources within its Public Mountain Trout Waters program (PMTW), and in 2014, an estimated 148,991 anglers fished for trout in PMTW and contributed approximately \$383 million to the State's economy.² As noted within the WRC's Trout Management Plan, the purpose of PMTW is to use science-based decision making and biologically sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of trout populations for continued and varied angling opportunities. By designating waters as PMTW, the WRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensures the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest

¹ Rosenberger, Randall S.; White, Eric M.; Kline, Jeffrey D.; Cvitanovich, Claire. 2017. Recreation economic values for estimating outdoor recreation economic benefits from the National Forest System. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-957. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 33 p.

² Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy, 2015.

Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will combine the two-existing PMTW catch-and-release classifications (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters and Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters) into a single classification (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters). Regulatory complexity has been identified routinely by trout anglers as an impediment to their experiences, and the Commission identified the need to reduce rule complexity within its Trout Management Plan. This change will reduce angler confusion and address rule complexity.

In addition, the proposed amendment will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported, Wild Trout, or Wild Trout Natural Bait. To reflect changes in partnerships with landowners and angler access, approximately 10.6 miles of Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters and 15.5 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will be removed from PMTW. Approximately 1.4 miles of Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters will be reclassified to Wild Trout Waters. Additional boundary clarifications are proposed which do not add or remove PMTW. Changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with landowners, angler access, and overall trout management.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management. Conservation biologists and technicians will change signage as part of their regularly scheduled duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated cost to the agency of approximately \$248 ($\$31/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated related to combining the two-existing PMTW catch-and-release classifications. This change will provide additional angling opportunity and decrease regulatory complexity. Changes to PMTW boundaries will result in a net loss of approximately 26.1 miles of PMTW from public access. While this loss is a loss of angling opportunity to the public in specific areas, it represents less than 0.5% of PMTW. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals, which may include changes to angler behavior (i.e., fishing less or fishing more).

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will add African Longfin Eel, Creole Painted Crayfish, Bigclaw Crayfish, Marbled Crayfish or Marmorokrebs, Applesnail, Olive Mysterysnail, European Eel, Oriental Weatherfish, Brown Hoplo, Yellow Bass, Shortfin Eel, Crucian Carp, Prussian Carp,

European Perch, European Minnow, and Amur Sleeper to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina. These species are freshwater fish not native to North Carolina. Impacts if introduced outside their native range may include predation upon, competition with, and hybridization with native species. Preventing the introduction of this exotic species is the first line of defense against the establishment of a nonnative population. The proposed change also includes taxonomic clarifications and corrections.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. The number of the species held in captivity in North Carolina is unknown but believed to very limited. There are currently no known established wild populations in North Carolina. Preventing the introduction and establishment of exotic species will protect native and naturalized fish populations and their habitats and will sustain associated fisheries.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination. The rule for black bass species was reformatted into species-specific rules during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

The proposed amendment will also prohibit harvest of Largemouth Bass from three ponds associated with the City of New Bern's Martin-Marietta Park in Craven County. To address concerns regarding potential overharvest of Largemouth Bass once the ponds are opened to the public, no harvest of Largemouth Bass from the ponds is recommended.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No impacts are anticipated. Clarifying the size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the New River will not change current on-the-ground management. Prohibiting the harvest of Largemouth Bass from three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes. Clarifying the size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the New River will not change current on-the-ground management. User group and fiscal effects are anticipated to be positive for the three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park as the fishery develops.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will prohibit harvest of Striped Bass from three ponds associated with the City of New Bern's Martin-Marietta Park in Craven County. Periodic flooding from the Neuse River has introduced Striped Bass into these ponds. To provide consistent regulations in the area and to address concerns regarding potential overharvest of Striped Bass once the ponds are opened to the public, no harvest of Striped Bass from the ponds is recommended.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. User group and

fiscal effects are anticipated to be positive for the three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park as the fishery develops.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

The proposed amendment to the Rule will combine the two-existing PMTW catch-and-release classifications (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters and Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters) into a single classification (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters). Regulatory complexity has been identified routinely by trout anglers as an impediment to their experiences, and the Commission identified the need to reduce rule complexity within its Trout Management Plan. This change will reduce angler confusion and address rule complexity.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management. Conservation biologists and technicians will change signage as part of their regularly scheduled duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated cost to the agency of approximately \$248 ($\$31/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. This change will provide additional angling opportunity and address rule complexity.

15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination. The rule for Smallmouth Bass was created during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA AND SPOTTED BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination. The rule for Alabama and Spotted Bass was created during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Blue Catfish in the North Carolina portion of the Dan River (Caswell Co.), downstream of Danville, VA by allowing only one fish greater than 32 inches to be possessed in the daily creel. From the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA, the Dan River flows downstream through Caswell County for approximately 10 miles before flowing back into Virginia and then into John H. Kerr Reservoir. The proposed change is consistent with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations for Blue Catfish and will provide continuity when enforcing regulations on the river.

The proposed amendment will also allow American Eel greater than the 9-inch minimum length limit to be used for cut bait provided the body depth of the eel is at least ½ inch. During the 2018-2019 rule-making cycle, a rule was adopted prohibiting the removal the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of any nongame fish with a specific size and/or creel limit. American Eel is subject to this rule, and before it became effective, eels were a popular cut bait among anglers, especially those targeting trophy catfish. Anglers have requested the ability to use eels once again as cut bait. The requirement that the body depth of the cut bait be at least ½ inch is consistent with the ½-inch x ½-inch mesh restriction for eel pots. While American Eel is considered depleted across its range by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, using legally harvest eels as cut bait is not expected to impact the overall population.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes. Establishing consistent size and creel limits for Blue Catfish in the Dan River will simplify rules for anglers and allowing the use of legally harvested American Eel as cut bait will provide additional angling opportunity.

15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

The proposed amendment to the Rule will allow American Eel greater than the 9-inch minimum length limit to be used for cut bait provided the body depth of the eel is at least ½ inch. During the 2018-2019 rule-making cycle, a rule was adopted prohibiting the removal the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of any nongame fish with a specific size and/or creel limit. American Eel is subject to this rule, and before it became effective, eels were a popular cut bait among anglers, especially those targeting trophy catfish. Anglers have requested the ability to use eels once again as cut bait. The requirement that the body depth of the cut bait be at least ½ inch is consistent with the ½-inch x ½-inch mesh restriction for eel pots. While American Eel is considered depleted across its range by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, using legally harvest eels as cut bait is not expected to impact the overall population.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. Allowing the use of legally harvested American Eel as cut bait will provide additional angling opportunity.

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1 15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

2 (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared
4 substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 5 (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- 6 (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that
7 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8 (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any
9 similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- 10 (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

11 (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- 12 (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC
13 10D .0104.
- 14 (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters
15 where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed
16 or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless
17 otherwise noted.
- 18 ~~(3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where
19 only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested
20 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.~~
- 21 ~~(4)~~(3) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and
22 one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful
23 to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout
24 while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth
25 anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday
26 in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions.
27 Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 28 ~~(5)~~(4) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure
29 restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 30 ~~(6)~~(5) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific
31 regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 32 ~~(7)~~(6) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or
33 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person
34 shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include
35 tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 36 ~~(8)~~(7) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and
37 natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook.
38 Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

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1 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure
2 restrictions. ~~Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on~~
3 ~~the first Saturday in April.~~

4 (c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this
5 Subchapter.

6 (d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on
7 game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters
8 are classified as Undesignated Waters.

9 (1) Alleghany

10 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

11 Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128
12 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])

13 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

14 Big Pine Creek

15 Bledsoe Creek

16 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against
17 trespassing)

18 Cranberry Creek

19 (Big) Glade Creek

20 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129
21 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)

22 Meadow Fork

23 Pine Swamp Creek

24 Piney Fork

25 Prathers Creek

26 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

27 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

28 (2) Ashe County

29 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

30 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)

31 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

32 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)

33 Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)

34 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)

35 Trout Lake

36 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

37 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)

38 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)

39 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)

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- 1 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
2 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
3 Nathans Creek
4 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
5 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
6 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
7 Roan Creek
8 Three Top Creek
9 (3) Avery County
10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
11 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
12 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
13 Wilson Creek (game land portion)
14 ~~(B) — Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:~~
15 ~~Wilson Creek (game land portion)~~
16 ~~(B)~~ Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Boyde Coffey Lake
18 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state
19 line)
20 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,
21 except where posted against trespassing)
22 Milltimber Creek
23 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family
24 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
25 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
26 trespassing)
27 Squirrel Creek
28 Wildcat Lake
29 ~~(D)~~(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
30 Birchfield Creek
31 Cow Camp Creek
32 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
33 Gragg Prong
34 Horse Creek
35 Kentucky Creek
36 North Harper Creek
37 Plumtree Creek
38 Roaring Creek
39 Rockhouse Creek

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- 1 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
2 South Harper Creek
3 Webb Prong
- 4 (4) Buncombe County
- 5 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
9 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
10 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
11 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
12 Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
13 Lake Powhatan
14 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
15 trespassing)
16 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
17 Stony Creek
18 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of
19 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 20 (5) Burke County
- 21 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
22 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 23 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
24 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 25 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
26 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
27 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
28 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake
29 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 30 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
31 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 32 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
33 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
34 A and B of this Subparagraph
- 35 (6) Caldwell County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
37 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 38 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
39 Boone Fork Pond

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- 1 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
- 2 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
- 3 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
- 4 against trespassing)
- 5 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
- 6 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
- 8 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
- 9 Rockhouse Creek
- 10 (7) Cherokee County
- 11 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- 13 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
- 14 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
- 15 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
- 16 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 17 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Apalachia Reservoir
- 19 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 20 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 21 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 22 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 23 (8) Clay County
- 24 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 Fires Creek (Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)
- 26 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 28 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- 29 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 30 (9) Graham County
- 31 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 32 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 35 Cheoah Reservoir
- 36 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 37 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 38 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 39 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)

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- 1 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 2 West Buffalo Creek
- 3 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 4 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 Little Buffalo Creek
- 6 South Fork Squally Creek
- 7 Squally Creek
- 8 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 9 Deep Creek
- 10 ~~Franks Creek~~
- 11 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 12 (10) Haywood County
- 13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 15 Logan)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 18 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 19 trespassing)
- 20 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 21 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 22 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 23 except Middle Prong)
- 24 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 25 ~~Hemphill Creek~~
- 26 Hurricane Creek
- 27 (11) Henderson County
- 28 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 30 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
- 32 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
- 33 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
- 34 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
- 35 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 36 (12) Jackson County
- 37 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Flat Creek
- 39 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)

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- 1 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
3 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 4 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Balsam Lake
6 Bear Creek Lake
7 Cedar Cliff Lake
8 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
9 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
10 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
11 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
12 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
13 trespassing)
14 Tanasee Creek Lake
15 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
16 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
17 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
18 Wolf Creek Lake
- 19 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
20 Gage Creek
21 North Fork Scott Creek
22 Tanasee Creek
23 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
24 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- 25 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
26 ~~Buff Creek~~
27 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
28 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
29 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- 30 (13) Macon County
- 31 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
- 33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
35 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
36 Cliffside Lake
37 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
38 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
39 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)

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- 1 Queens Creek Lake
- 2 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 3 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- 4 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
- 5 Kimsey Creek
- 6 Overflow Creek (game land portion)
- 7 Park Creek
- 8 Tellico Creek (game land portion)
- 9 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
- 10 (14) Madison County
- 11 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
- 13 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
- 14 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews
- 15 Ave.)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of
- 18 Bearpen Branch)
- 19 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- 20 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence
- 21 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
- 22 Max Patch Pond
- 23 Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
- 24 Puncheon Fork (Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
- 25 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- 26 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- 27 Shut-in Creek
- 28 Spillcorn Creek
- 29 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
- 30 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-
- 31 in Creek)
- 32 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 33 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- 34 (15) McDowell County
- 35 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
- 37 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- 39 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)

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- 1 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
- 2 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- 4 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- 5 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- 6 ~~Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against~~
- 7 ~~trespassing)~~
- 8 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 9 (16) Mitchell County
- 10 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 11 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- 12 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 13 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- 15 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 16 East Fork Grassy Creek
- 17 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- 18 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against
- 19 trespassing)
- 20 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
- 21 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- 23 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
- 24 posted against trespassing)
- 25 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 26 (17) Polk County
- 27 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 28 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
- 29 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
- 31 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 32 (18) Rutherford County
- 33 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
- 35 against trespassing)
- 36 (19) Stokes County
- 37 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 39 (20) Surry County

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- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
3 Mitchell River (0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R.
4 1330)
- 5 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
7 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
8 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
9 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
10 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
11 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
12 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 13 (21) Swain County
- 14 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
18 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
19 Cheoah Reservoir
20 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
21 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
22 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 23 (22) Transylvania County
- 24 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
25 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek
26 and Grogan Creek)
- 27 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
28 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107
29 bridge)
30 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
- 31 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
33 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork)
34 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
35 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
36 West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad
37 River)
- 38 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
39 All waters located on Gorges State Park

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- 1 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- 2 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 3 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
- 4 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against
- 5 trespassing)
- 6 (23) Watauga County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 8 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding
- 9 tributaries)
- 10 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee
- 11 Lake)
- 12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 13 Lake Coffey
- 14 ~~Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and~~
- 15 ~~S.R. River – upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)~~
- 16 Watauga River – lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)
- 17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
- 19 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
- 20 Beech Creek
- 21 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
- 22 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- 23 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
- 24 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
- 25 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against
- 26 trespassing)
- 27 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
- 28 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
- 29 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork
- 30 New River)
- 31 Norris Fork Creek
- 32 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower
- 33 boundary of Brookshire Park)
- 34 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)
- 35 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
- 37 Howard Creek
- 38 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
- 39 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)

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- 1 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
- 2 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 3 (24) Wilkes County
- 4 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park
- 6 lower boundary)
- 7 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
- 8 Club)
- 9 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
- 10 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin
- 11 River)
- 12 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong
- 13 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 14 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 15 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
- 16 Bell Branch Pond
- 17 Boundary Line Pond
- 18 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
- 19 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence
- 20 with North Fork Reddies River)
- 21 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
- 22 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where
- 23 posted against trespassing)
- 24 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
- 25 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
- 26 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.
- 27 1559)
- 28 Pike Creek
- 29 Pike Creek Pond
- 30 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies
- 31 River)
- 32 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 intersection)
- 33 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
- 35 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
- 36 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
- 37 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
- 38 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 39 (25) Yancey County

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- 1 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
2 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
3 Upper Creek
- 4 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
- 6 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
7 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
8 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
9 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
10 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
11 except where posted against trespassing)
- 12 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
14 Lickskillet Creek
15 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
16

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1 15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

2 (a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina
3 any live individuals of:

- 4 (1) ~~piranha~~; piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*);
- 5 (2) ~~"walking catfish" (*Clarias batrachus*);~~ walking catfish (any member of the genus *Batrachus*);
- 6 (3) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
- 7 (4) black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- 8 (5) bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- 9 (6) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
- 10 (7) rudd (~~*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*~~); *erythrophthalmus* or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*;
- 11 (8) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 12 (9) tubenose goby (~~*Proterorhinus marmoratus*~~); ~~*marmoratus*~~, *Proterorhinus semilunaris*, and
13 *Proterorhinus semipellucidus*;
- 14 (10) ruffe (~~*Gymnocephalus cernuus*~~); *cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*;
- 15 (11) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 16 (12) Chinese mysterysnail (~~*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*~~); *chinensis*;
- 17 (13) red-rim melania (~~*Melanoides tuberculatus*~~); *tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*;
- 18 (14) virile crayfish (~~*Orconectes (Gremicambarus)*~~) (*Faxonius virilis*;
- 19 (15) rusty crayfish (~~*Orconectes (Procericambarus)*~~) (*Faxonius rusticus*;
- 20 (16) Australian red claw crayfish or ~~"red claw"~~ red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species of
21 "giant" crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*;
- 22 (17) white amur or ~~"grass carp"~~ grass carp (~~*Ctenopharyngodon idella*~~); *idella*, except for triploid
23 individuals as permitted in Paragraph (b) of this Rule;
- 24 (18) Asian swamp eel, swamp or "rice" rice eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- 25 (19) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 26 (20) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*);
- 27 (21) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae; ~~or~~
- 28 (22) redtail catfish (~~*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*~~); *hemiliopterus*;
- 29 (23) African longfin eel (*Anguilla mossambica*);
- 30 (24) Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*);
- 31 (25) bigclaw crayfish (*Faxonius placidus*);
- 32 (26) marbled Crayfish or Marmor Krebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*);
- 33 (27) applesnail (any species of the genus *Pomacea*);
- 34 (28) olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*);
- 35 (29) European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*);
- 36 (30) Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*);
- 37 (31) brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*);
- 38 (32) yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*);
- 39 (33) shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*);

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1 (34) Crucian Carp (Carassius carassius);

2 (35) Prussian Carp (Carassius gibelio);

3 (36) European perch (Perca fluviatilis);

4 (37) European minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus); or

5 (38) amur sleeper (Perccottus glenii).

6 (b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose
7 of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an
8 evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

9 (c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring,
10 in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all
11 the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

12

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1 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), ~~and~~
3 (j), and (l) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than
4 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) of this Rule. There
5 is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (l) of this Rule.

6 (b) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County the daily creel limit for Largemouth
7 Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

8 (c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
9 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
10 in aggregate.

11 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass,
12 and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.

13 (e) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the following:

14 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

15 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;

16 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;

17 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and

18 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River
19 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank
20 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,
21 Scuppernong River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy
22 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

23 (f) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size
24 limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

25 (g) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches,
26 and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

27 (h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir in Chatham and Wake counties and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no
28 minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass
29 between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

30 (i) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.

31 (j) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~) ~~there~~
32 Virginia, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
33 is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and
34 only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

35 (k) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16
36 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

37 (l) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern ~~Shores, Shores in Dare County, County~~
38 and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

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APPENDIX A

1 15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in
3 Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in
4 waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except
5 for waters identified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of this Rule.

6 (b) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA
7 and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the
8 minimum size limit is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel
9 limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.

10 (c) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 20
11 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September
12 30.

13 (d) In Lake Norman, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake
14 Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

15 (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but
16 only two may be greater than 22 inches.

17 (f) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the
18 South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the
19 minimum size limit is 18 inches.

20 (g) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to
21 the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of
22 Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (f), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its
23 hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and
24 possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

25 (h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn ~~Dam, Dam and in~~
26 the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass
27 is closed year-round.

28 (i) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A
29 NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost
30 rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through
31 April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam.
32 During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the
33 minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily
34 creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

35 (j) In designated inland fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck
36 Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and
37 their tributaries), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules
38 or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

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1 (k) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend, or extend the hook-and-
2 line season for Striped Bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate
3 the provisions of any proclamation issued under this authority.

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1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit
3 for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated
4 in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

5 (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The
6 minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

7 (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters or ~~Catch and~~
8 ~~Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters~~. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.

9 (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for
10 these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12
11 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first
12 Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October
13 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed
14 while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on
15 the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

16 (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

17 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum
18 size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

19 (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the
20 daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

21 (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these
22 fish.

23 (g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the
24 impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the
25 public for fishing.

26 (1) Bear Creek Lake;

27 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

28 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;

29 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

30 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;

31 (6) Cliffside Lake;

32 (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

33 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and

34 (9) Wolf Lake.

35 (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing
36 season.

37 (i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

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1 **15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b) and (c)~~ (b),
3 (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than
4 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no closed season.

5 (b) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
6 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
7 in aggregate.

8 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
9 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass.

10 (d) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~) ~~there~~
11 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
12 is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and
13 only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

14

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1 **15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) and
3 (c) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

4 (b) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass,
5 and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

6 (c) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ there
7 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
8 is no minimum size limit for Spotted Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only
9 one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

10

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15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

(a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, it is unlawful to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license.

(b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated in this Rule.

(c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties and waters with open season designated in Rule .0407 of this Section.

(d) Archery equipment may only be used for the take of catfish on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

(e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

(f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

(g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in:

- (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
- (2) University Lake in Orange County.

The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

(h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

(i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

- (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
- (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
- (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
- (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
- (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
- (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
- (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
- (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

(j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take channel, white, or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit for channel catfish is seven. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

(k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following ~~reservoirs;~~ waters:

- (1) Lake Norman;
- (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- (3) Lake Wylie;

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- 1 (4) Badin Lake;
- 2 (5) Lake Tillery;
- 3 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- 4 (7) Dan River (Downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA)
- 5 ~~(7)(8)~~ Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- 6 ~~(8)(9)~~ Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

7 (l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the
8 South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

9 (m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing
10 in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches. Eels greater than 9 inches in length and with a
11 minimum body depth greater than ½ inch may be cut for use as bait.

12 (n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and
13 Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.

14 (o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr
15 Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

16 (p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as
17 those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent
18 joint or coastal fishing waters.

19 (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
20 specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure
21 its total original ~~length-length~~, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this rule. No person while fishing shall change
22 the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule
23 having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in
24 ~~possession~~, possession, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this rule.

25 (r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may
26 be sold, with the following exceptions:

- 27 (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr
28 Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);
- 29 (2) blue crab; and
- 30 (3) bowfin.

31 (s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

32

APPENDIX A

1 15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

2 (a) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in the inland waters of North Carolina using
3 equipment other than:

- 4 (1) a net of dip net design not greater than six feet across;
- 5 (2) a seine of not greater than 12 feet in length (except in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County where
6 there is no length limitation) and with a bar mesh measure of not more than one-fourth inch;
- 7 (3) a cast net;
- 8 (4) a bow net for the seasons and waters in which the use of bow nets is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C
9 .0407;
- 10 (5) a dip net when used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher;
- 11 (6) a gig (except in Public Mountain Trout Waters);
- 12 (7) up to three traps for the seasons and waters in which the use of traps is authorized in 15A NCAC
13 10C .0407;
- 14 (8) up to two eel pots;
- 15 (9) a spear gun for the seasons and waters in which the use of a spear gun is authorized in 15A NCAC
16 10C .0407;
- 17 (10) minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not
18 exceeding one inch in diameter, from which all fish and animals are removed daily, and that are
19 labeled with the user's Wildlife Resources Commission customer number or name and address;
- 20 (11) a hand-held line with a single bait attached;
- 21 (12) a single, multiple-bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length, marked on each end
22 with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter, bearing legible and indelible identification of
23 the user's name and address, and under the immediate control and attendance of the person using
24 the device, with a limit of one line per person and no more than one line per vessel; or
- 25 (13) a collapsible crab trap with the largest open dimension not greater than 18 inches and that by design
26 is collapsed at all times when in the water, except when it is being retrieved or lowered to the bottom,
27 with a limit of one trap per person.

28 (b) The use of equipment under this Rule requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.

29 (c) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.

30 (d) Game fishes taken shall be returned unharmed to the water, except white perch may be taken when captured in a
31 cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95
32 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).

33 (e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal
34 consumption subject to the size and creel limits identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401.

35 (f) Any fishes taken for bait purposes are included within the daily possession limit for that species.

36 (g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait from the following waters:

- 37 (1) Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-
38 owned water supply reservoirs);
- 39 (2) Bear Creek in Chatham County;

APPENDIX A

1 (3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph
2 County;

3 (4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and

4 (5) Rocky River in Chatham County.

5 (i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
6 having a size limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to render it impractical to measure its total original
7 ~~length-length, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m).~~ No person while fishing shall change the
8 appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to obscure its
9 identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in ~~possession.~~ possession, except as provided in
10 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m).

EXHIBIT F-1

October 22, 2020



Proposed Changes to Wildlife Management Regulations for 2021-2022 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

Deer

1. This proposal modifies the definition of a muzzleloading firearm to allow for the use of pre-loaded powder capsules in muzzleloader during blackpowder season.

Justification:

Products are currently commercially available that make the loading and reloading aspect of using a muzzleloader much easier and safer for hunters. Though the bullet is loaded through the muzzle of the rifle, the powder capsule is loaded through the breech. So, while this system does not use fixed ammunition, the powder is not loaded in the same manner as with a traditional sidelock or inline muzzleloader. Thus, this blackpowder firearm does not meet the current definition in rule. This proposed amendment will allow for the use of new technology that is less intimidating to hunters and may increase opportunities for hunters to use muzzleloaders in a safe way.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed) (page 7)

Archery Equipment

1. This proposal modifies the permitted archery equipment to allow for the use of sling bow for taking white-tailed deer.

Justification:

Sling bows continue to increase in popularity and were made legal in North Carolina for wild turkey, small game animals, nongame animals, and nongame fish in 2019. Request have been made to consider allowing the use of sling bows for deer. These weapons are legal and successfully used in other states and some hunters have generated an interest in allowing them to hunt deer in North Carolina.

15A NCAC 10B .0116 Permitted Archery Equipment (page 9)

Quail

1. This proposal will create a NCWRC private land program called “Wild Quail Management Areas” and will allow dedicated property managers enrolled in the Program to implement specific additional management actions.

Justification:

Certain intensive management actions have been demonstrated, through peer-reviewed research, to have positive impacts on quail populations when combined with appropriate landscape size and overall habitat creation and management. Properties eligible for this program must meet specific requirements outlined in this rule including a minimum of 1500 acres of contiguous habitat, be managed for wild quail populations with no release of pen-reared birds, and to collect and maintain specific records which must be submitted to NCWRC annually. Specific management actions to be permitted on Wild Quail Management Areas by this rule include, trapping programs to reduce the abundance of the most important quail nest predators (opossum, raccoon, and striped skunk) during the early nesting season and providing supplemental feed without impacting the ability to hunt quail on the property.

15A NCAC 10B .0227 Wild Quail Management Areas (pages 10-11)

Trapping

1. This proposed rule amendment will allow the use of remote trap checking systems in lieu of a physical trap check under specified conditions.

Justification:

Wildlife damage control agents (WDCAs) and the wildlife control industry have expressed interest in having remote trap checking systems as an alternative to physical trap check. WDCAs feel the devices would improve their ability to more quickly respond to an activated trap, which will not only improve animal welfare, but improve their efficiency, reduce costs, and make them look more professional, all of which may increase customer satisfaction. Electronic trap check systems conforming to the standards recommended in this proposed rule ensures that trap status is reliably determined. The recommended standards are supported by the wildlife control industry and assures that remote trap monitoring devices used in North Carolina are reliable in detecting captured animals and notifying the user. These standards also assure that the users using these devices will meet or exceed maximum time requirements (e.g., daily trap check except 72 hours for completely submerged conibear-type traps) for trap attendance.

15A NCAC 10B .0110 Attendance of Traps (page 12)

Bear

1. This proposed rule amendment corrects the open season for the take of bear in Camden, Chowan, and Pasquotank counties.

Justification:

Due to the convention for how seasons of take are established in rule, this year when November 1 falls on a Sunday, the first segment of the bear season in Camden, Chowan, and Pasquotank counties begins a week and one day earlier than intended. Allowing this would be counter to bear management objectives and detrimental to the bear population. Additionally, this amendment is currently being implemented as a temporary rule.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear (page 13)

1 15A NCAC 10B .0203 is proposed for amendment as follows:
2

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED) (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

4 (a) Open Seasons (All Lawful Weapons) for hunting deer:

5 (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as
6 distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken on all
7 game lands except Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and
8 South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Deer With
9 Visible Antlers seasons on these Game Lands), during the following seasons:

10 (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Beaufort, Bladen,
11 Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus*, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin,
12 Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow,
13 Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and
14 Washington counties.

15 *Unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its
16 shoreline.

17 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Bertie, Camden,
18 Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax,
19 Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans,
20 Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

21 (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alexander,
22 Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell,
23 Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin
24 counties.

25 (D) Monday of Thanksgiving week through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving
26 Day in all of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham,
27 Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell,
28 Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

29 (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alamance,
30 Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville,
31 Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph,
32 Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.

33 (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of
34 Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp
35 National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington
36 counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in that part
37 of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in
38 those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National
39 Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as
40 the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck County
41 known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

1 (2) Deer of Either Sex. Except on Game Lands, deer of either sex may be taken during the
2 open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A), (B),
3 (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G) of this Subparagraph (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103
4 for either-sex deer seasons on Game Lands). Deer of either sex may be taken during
5 the open season identified in Part (H) of this Subparagraph.

6 (A)The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
7 Service during the period from the Saturday on or nearest September 10
8 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties
9 known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of
10 Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes
11 National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties
12 known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in those parts of
13 Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the
14 Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

15 (B)The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the appropriate military
16 commands at each of the military installations listed in this Paragraph,
17 during the period from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January
18 1 in that part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military
19 Ocean Terminal, in that part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry
20 Point Marine Base, in that part of Onslow County known and marked as the
21 Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort Bragg Military Reservation, and on
22 Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

23 (C)Youth either-sex deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer
24 hunting by permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in
25 Stokes County designated by agents of the Commission; the third Saturday
26 in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on Mountain
27 Island State Forest in Lincoln and Gaston counties; and the second Saturday
28 in November for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on apporion
29 of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes County
30 designated by agents of the Commission. A youth is defined as a person
31 under 18 years of age.

32 (D)The first open Saturday of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in
33 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Buncombe*, Haywood,
34 Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.

35 *Except for that part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and
36 Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280

37 (E)The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in
38 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in all
39 of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

40 (F)The first open day of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in
41 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter in all
42 of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

1 (G)All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in
2 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes,
3 Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties and in the following
4 parts of counties: Buncombe: That part east of NC 191, south of the French
5 Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280; and
6 Henderson; That part east of NC 191 and north and west of NC 280.

7 (H)The fourth Saturday in September in all counties, subject to the following
8 restriction: only persons under the age of 18 years may hunt.

9 (b) Open Seasons (Archery) for hunting deer:

10 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph
11 and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with
12 archery equipment during the following seasons:

13 (A)Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding
14 the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons
15 described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately
16 following the closing of blackpowder firearms and archery season identified
17 in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the
18 counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With
19 Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule except on Buffalo
20 Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains
21 Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on these
22 Game Lands).

23 (B)Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With
24 Visible Antlers through January 1 in the counties and parts of counties
25 having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part
26 (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

27 (2) Restrictions

28 (A)In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use
29 of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting
30 deer during the archery season, except a single dog on a leash may be used
31 to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

32 (B)Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for
33 taking deer may be used during the archery deer hunting season.

34 (C)Deer of either sex may be taken during archery seasons specified by Part
35 (b)(1)(A) of this Rule.

36 (D)Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished
37 from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the
38 archery season specified by Part (b)(1)(B) of this Rule.

39 (c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:

1 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph,
2 deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment during
3 the following seasons:

4 (A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons
5 described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the
6 second Friday thereafter except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek,
7 Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to
8 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Blackpowder Firearms and Archery seasons on
9 these Game Lands):

10 (B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the
11 counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for
12 Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

13 (2) Restrictions

14 (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery
15 season in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule
16 that has either-sex days for all lawful weapons and in the following
17 counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, and Cleveland.
18 Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this season only
19 in all other counties.

20 (B) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use
21 of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting
22 deer during the blackpowder firearms and archery seasons, except a single
23 dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance
24 with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

25 (3) As used in this Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm
26 with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system -
27 manufactured in or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of
28 this type of firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire
29 or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-
30 loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to
31 use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through
32 the ~~muzzle or cylinder~~ muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed
33 ammunition."

34 (d) Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:

35 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph
36 and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer of either sex may be
37 taken with bow and arrow in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S.
38 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday
39 thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on any game land or part thereof that occurs
40 within a city boundary.

41 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to
42 that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to
43 the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C.

1 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which
2 the urban season shall apply.

3 (3) Restrictions:

4 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use
5 of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting
6 deer during the urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to
7 retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

8 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for
9 taking deer shall be used during the urban season.

10 (e) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two of which may be deer with visible
11 antlers and four of which may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or
12 buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. In
13 addition to the bag limits described above, a hunter may obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer
14 harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to
15 allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season
16 described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities,
17 except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless
18 harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit. The bag limits
19 described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management
20 Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using
21 Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season
22 bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer
23 harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP
24 tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big
25 Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags.
26 Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be
27 harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those
28 seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus
29 antlerless harvest report card.

30
31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
32 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
33 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1,*
34 *1994; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
36 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
38 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
39 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
40 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by*
41 *RRC on July 17, 2003);*
42 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1,*
43 *2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1,*
44 *2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0116 is proposed for amendment as follows:
2

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0116 PERMITTED ARCHERY EQUIPMENT**

4 (a) "Archery equipment" means any device that has a solid, stationary handle, two limbs, and a
5 string, that uses non-pneumatic means to propel a single arrow or bolt and may be used to take
6 game and nongame species.

7 (b) When used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine,
8 longbows ~~Longbows~~ and recurved bows ~~having~~ shall have a minimum pull of 40 pounds,
9 compound bows having a minimum pull of 35 pounds, and crossbows ~~having~~ shall have a
10 minimum pull of 100 pounds. ~~pounds shall be used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator,~~
11 ~~and feral swine.~~

12 (c) Archery equipment utilizing an elastic string and having a minimum pull of 40 pounds may be
13 used to take deer, wild turkey, small game animals, nongame animals, and nongame fish.

14 (d) Only arrows and bolts with a fixed minimum broadhead width of seven-eighths of an inch or
15 a mechanically opening broadhead with a width of at least seven-eighths of an inch in the open
16 position shall be used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine.

17 (e) Blunt-type arrow heads may be used in taking small animals and birds including rabbits,
18 squirrels, quail, grouse, and pheasants.

19 (f) Poisonous, drugged, or explosive arrowheads shall not be used for taking any wildlife.
20

21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1(a);*

22 *Eff. September 1, 1980;*

23 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; July 10, 2010; May 1, 2007; August*
24 *1, 2002; July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; August 1, 1990;*

25 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*
26
27
28

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0227 WILD QUAIL MANGEMENT AREAS**
2

3 (a) A Wild Quail Management Area shall be land maintained to enhance enjoyment of sportsmen
4 and support wild bobwhite quail conservation under signed agreement between the landowner(s)
5 and the Wildlife Resources Commission.

6 (b) The following minimum qualifications shall apply to all Wild Quail Management Areas:

7 (1) At least 1,500 acres of contiguous land; and

8 (2) A minimum of 15% of the land shall be maintained in year-round bobwhite quail
9 habitat.

10 (c) Wild bobwhite quail habitat shall be any habitat described as early successional habitat within
11 the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, available online, free of charge, at www.ncwildlife.org.

12 (d) Landowners interested in establishing a Wild Quail Management Area shall contact the
13 Commission as described on the Commission's website at www.ncwildlife.org.

14 (e) The signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the Commission shall include at a
15 minimum:

16 (1) A list of all owners of land included in the Wild Quail Management Area;

17 (2) County parcel identification information for each parcel to be included in the Wild
18 Quail Management Area;

19 (3) A scaled map of the Wild Quail Management Area with the areas to be maintained in
20 year-round bobwhite quail habitat clearly identified;

21 (4) Management practices to be used to maintain bobwhite quail habitat and populations;
22 and

23 (5) Any reporting requirements in addition to the minimum requirements in (g)(6) that are
24 specific to the individual Wild Quail Management Area.

25 (f) Property inspection:

26 (1) All potential properties shall be inspected by a representative of the Commission prior
27 to acceptance into the program; and

28 (2) Wild Quail Management Areas shall be inspected by a representative of the
29 Commission at least once every five years.

30 (g) The following shall apply to all Wild Quail Management Areas:

31 (1) No domestically raised upland game birds shall be released on Wild Quail
32 Management Areas;

33 (2) The hunting of wild bobwhite quail shall only be permitted during the established
34 seasons in 15A NCAC 10B .0208.

35 (3) Supplemental feeding, if conducted, shall be for the primary purpose of ensuring that
36 wild bobwhite quail populations remain stable during droughts or other periods of
37 stressful environmental conditions. Supplemental feed shall:

1 (A) be broadcast into quail habitat along a minimum linear distance of at least one
2 mile per 100 acres of habitat at a rate of three bushels per mile;

3 (B) be broadcast on a bi-weekly schedule during at least five months each year

4 (C) be broadcast using a non-stationary spreader;

5 (D) be only natural grains or seed; and

6 (E) not be placed to attract birds for the purpose of hunting.

7 (4) Except for wild bobwhite quail on Wild Quail Management Areas, no wild birds may
8 be taken near or with the aid of supplemental feed.

9 (5) Trapping for raccoon, striped skunk, and opossum on Wild Quail Management Areas
10 for the purpose of nest predator control shall be allowed from the end of the
11 established trapping season in 15A NCAC 10B .0303 through May 31. Enclosed
12 foot-hold traps with a one-way trigger or cage traps may be used, and trapped
13 raccoons, striped skunks, and opossums may be euthanized or released at the trap
14 site.

15 (6) An annual report for the period of June 1 through May 31 shall be submitted to the
16 Commission within 30 days of the end of the reporting period, and shall include at
17 least the following:

18 (A) number of days and hours wild bobwhite quail were hunted;

19 (B) total annual harvest of wild bobwhite quail;

20 (C) total number of coveys flushed;

21 (D) supplemental feeding activities;

22 (E) number of trap nights, number of animals trapped and their disposition or
23 release, by species, for trapping activity conducted during trapping seasons
24 established by 15A NCAC 10B .0303; and

25 (F) number of trap nights, number of animals trapped and their disposition or
26 release, by species, for trapping activity conducted outside of trapping
27 seasons established by 15A NCAC 10B .0303.

28

1 15A NCAC 10B .0110 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0110 ATTENDANCE OF TRAPS**

4 (a) Every trap shall be visited daily and any animal caught therein removed, except for
5 completely submerged conibear type traps which shall be visited once every 72 hours and
6 any animal caught therein removed.

7 (b) Remote trap checking systems may be used in lieu of visiting the trap, provided the system
8 has the following features:

9 (1) a control unit that remains in continuous operation and reports trap status to a centralized
10 application database at least once every 24 hours;

11 (2) notification alarms that report trap closures and system health issues within one hour of
12 detection via email and text-based messaging systems; and

13 (3) on-demand control unit testing capabilities for determining trap status, signal strength,
14 and battery condition via remote system check-in.

15 (c) If the remote trap checking system control unit reports a trap closure, the trap shall be
16 physically visited within 24 hours of the time the trap was reported closed.

17 (d) If a remote trap checking system control unit fails to report trap status within a 24-hour
18 period, or reports a system health issue, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of
19 the last time an open trap signal was received.

20 (e) Remote trap checking system users shall maintain records of trap status and notification
21 alarms for a period of no less than seven days after receipt. Records shall be made available
22 for inspection upon request by a representative of the Commission.

23

24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113134; 113291.6;*

25 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

26 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002; July 1, 1988.*

27

1 15A NCAC 10B .0202 is proposed for amendment as follows:
2

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR**

4 (a) Open Seasons for hunting bear shall be from the:

5 (1) Monday on or nearest October 15 through the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the
6 third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1 in and west of Surry, Wilkes,
7 Caldwell, Burke, and Cleveland counties;

8 (2) Second Monday in November through January 1 in Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret,
9 Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender,
10 Robeson, and Sampson counties;

11 (3) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third
12 Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in
13 Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, and Washington counties;

14 (4) Second Saturday in November through the third Sunday thereafter and the third
15 Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Dare,
16 Hyde, and Tyrrell counties;

17 (5) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third
18 Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in
19 Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans counties;

20 (6) Second Sunday in November through the following ~~Sunday-Sunday, when November~~
21 1 falls on a Sunday the season shall be from the third Sunday in November through
22 the following Sunday;

23 (7) Third Saturday in November though the fifth Sunday thereafter in Edgecombe, Greene,
24 Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties; and

25 (8) Concurrent with the open season for all lawful weapons for hunting deer as specified
26 in 15A NCAC 10B .0203(a)(1) in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus,
27 Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston,
28 Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg,
29 Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan,
30 Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin counties.

31 (b) Restrictions

32 (1) For purposes of this Paragraph, "bait" means any natural, unprocessed food product that
33 is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is
34 not modified from its raw components.

35 (2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:

36 (A) any processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), any animal, animal
37 part or product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups,
38 candy, pastry, gum, candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, or grease;

39 (B) any extracts of substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph;

1 (C)any substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this
2 Subparagraph, including any extracts of those substances; or

3 (D)any bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent
4 powders.

5 (3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to
6 the Saturday before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this
7 Rule.

8 (4) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties
9 identified in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (a)(6) of this Rule.

10 (5) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.

11 (6) Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of
12 Interstate 85, Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson,
13 Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery,
14 Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and
15 Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties and parts of counties, hunters
16 may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.

17 (c) No Open Season. It shall be unlawful to take bear on posted bear sanctuaries except when
18 authorized by permit issued by the Commission. See 15A NCAC 10D .0106 for posted bear
19 sanctuaries.

20 (d) The daily bag limit for bear is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.

21
22 *History Note:Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;*
23 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
24 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; April*
25 *14, 1992;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
27 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
29 *Amendment Eff. August 1, 2002;*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2003;*
31 *Temporary Amendment Expired Eff. December 27, 2003;*
32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010;*
33 *May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
34 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 31, 2016;*
35 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*
37 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019.*
38

1 15A NCAC 10B .0202 is proposed for amendment as follows:
2

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR**

4 (a) Open Seasons for hunting bear shall be from the:

5 (1) Monday on or nearest October 15 through the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the
6 third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1 in and west of Surry, Wilkes,
7 Caldwell, Burke, and Cleveland counties;

8 (2) Second Monday in November through January 1 in Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret,
9 Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender,
10 Robeson, and Sampson counties;

11 (3) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third
12 Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in
13 Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, and Washington counties;

14 (4) Second Saturday in November through the third Sunday thereafter and the third
15 Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Dare,
16 Hyde, and Tyrrell counties;

17 (5) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third
18 Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in
19 Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans counties;

20 (6) Second Sunday in November through the following Sunday and the third Saturday after
21 Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Camden, Chowan,
22 and Pasquotank counties;

23 (7) Third Saturday in November though the fifth Sunday thereafter in Edgecombe, Greene,
24 Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties; and

25 (8) Concurrent with the open season for all lawful weapons for hunting deer as specified
26 in 15A NCAC 10B .0203(a)(1) in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus,
27 Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston,
28 Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg,
29 Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan,
30 Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin counties.

31 (b) Restrictions

32 (1) For purposes of this Paragraph, "bait" means any natural, unprocessed food product that
33 is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is
34 not modified from its raw components.

35 (2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:

36 (A) any processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), any animal, animal
37 part or product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups,
38 candy, pastry, gum, candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, or grease;

39 (B) any extracts of substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph;

1 (C) any substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this
2 Subparagraph, including any extracts of those substances; or

3 (D) any bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent
4 powders.

5 (3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to
6 the Saturday before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this
7 Rule.

8 (4) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties
9 identified in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (a)(6) of this Rule.

10 (5) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.

11 (6) Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of
12 Interstate 85, Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson,
13 Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery,
14 Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and
15 Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties and parts of counties, hunters
16 may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.

17 (c) No Open Season. It shall be unlawful to take bear on posted bear sanctuaries except when
18 authorized by permit issued by the Commission. See 15A NCAC 10D .0106 for posted bear
19 sanctuaries.

20 (d) The daily bag limit for bear is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;*

23 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

24 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; April*
25 *14, 1992;*

26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

27 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*

29 *Amendment Eff. August 1, 2002;*

30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2003;*

31 *Temporary Amendment Expired Eff. December 27, 2003;*

32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010;*

33 *May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*

34 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 31, 2016;*

35 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*

36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*

37 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019.*

EXHIBIT F-2

October 22, 2020



Fiscal Note for Proposed Wildlife Management Rules and Rule Amendments

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B .0116 Permitted Archery Equipment
15A NCAC 10B .0110 Attendance of Traps
15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)
15A NCAC 10B .0202 Bear

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman, Sr. Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
919-707-0011
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

Impact: State Government: Yes
Local Government: No
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (hereinafter WRC or Commission) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134). In accordance with the supply of wildlife and other factors it determines to be of public importance, the WRC may fix seasons and bag limits upon the wild animals and wild birds authorized to be taken that it deems necessary or desirable in the interests of the conservation of wildlife resources (G.S. 113.291.2(a)).

A summary of the proposed rule amendments with anticipated impacts is shown below. Proposed rule text is included in Appendix A.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

15A NCAC 10B .0116 PERMITTED ARCHERY EQUIPMENT

Sling bows continue to increase in popularity as a manner of take and were made legal in North Carolina for wild turkey, small game animals, non-game animals and non-game fish in 2019. The proposed amendment to this Rule will allow for the use of a sling bow for taking white-tailed deer.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

Allowing this manner of take for deer presents opportunities for hunters who currently use sling bows and for those who want to start. However, because the Commission does not track the type of archery equipment used to harvest other species or know the deer hunter interest in using sling bows, the Commission has no means to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10B .0110 ATTENDANCE OF TRAPS

Currently, with the exception of completely submerged conibear-type traps, trappers are required to physically check their traps daily. While this is likely not an issue for many trappers, Wildlife Control Agents (individuals in the business of trapping depredating wildlife for compensation), have expressed interest in allowing remote trap checking systems in leu of a physical trap check in order to maximize cost effectiveness and improve animal welfare.

Remote trap checking systems are increasingly being authorized for use throughout the country as a substitute for physical trap checks. The advantages to using remote trap checking systems is that the trapper is immediately alerted to a trap that has been activated, likely indicating an animal capture. The user is then able to prioritize checking activated traps, which can improve animal welfare (the animal is not held as long in the trap, thus reducing stress and exposure to the elements) and decrease trapper time and resources for unnecessary trap checks.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

The proposed rule change allows use of electronic remote trap checking devices but does not require them. Additionally, trappers could use as many of these devices as they want, as long as the requirements of the rule are met. As such, any costs incurred by the trapper would be by choice, not necessity. Representatives from the wildlife control industry have informed the Commission that trappers and WCAs who choose to use remote trap checking devices view this as a legitimate expense that would likely result in cost-savings.

Electronic remote trap checking devices range in price from \$99¹ - \$495² each, with an additional charge of anywhere from \$12.99/month¹ to \$40/month² per trap for communication service. However, allowing remote trap checks has the potential to increase trapper efficiency by permitting trappers to prioritize trap checks, decrease fuel costs by eliminating unnecessary physical trap checks, and increase or expand their effort, which may allow them to increase their the number of clients.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

Blackpowder firearms, also known as muzzle-loaders, are defined in this rule and currently exclude weapons with the propellant loaded through the breech. The proposed amendment to this rule will allow for propellants loaded through the breech, as new products are available in the form of pre-loaded powder capsules, that make the loading, reloading, and unloading aspect of using a muzzleloader much easier and safer for hunters.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

Allowing the use of propellant products designed to make muzzleloaders less intimidating and easier, provides opportunities for current and new hunters interested in participating in the blackpowder firearms season. Currently available products that fit the new definition could cost hunters anywhere from an estimated \$550 to \$700 for the one-time purchase of a muzzleloader,

¹ Skyhawk Kiwi from Tomahawk Live Trap (livetrapp.com) with three-month subscription plan.

² TrapSmart Worldwide pure satellite system for use in areas without ground based cellular communication options (trapsmart.com) with three-month subscription plan.

with recurring costs of approximately \$27 for 10 powder capsules.³

The Commission has no way to estimate how many hunters will take advantage of this opportunity now or in the future, or what products they will choose to use, and thus has no means to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR

The Black Bear Cooperator Program lets hunters directly participate with the Commission in monitoring the bear population when they voluntarily submit biological information from their harvested bear to the Commission. Information gathered from biological samples (premolar teeth) are used for analyzing the age structure of the harvested population and for population reconstruction modeling. Hunter submissions are critical to the management of North Carolina's bear populations.

In order to meet the assumptions of population reconstruction, remove biases due to the under-sampling of younger bears and female bears, accurately determine age structures of bear populations, and calculate population growth rates at a smaller scale, biologists would need ~80 to 90% submission rate. Unfortunately, despite intensive efforts by Commission staff during the bear hunting seasons, the number of bear teeth submitted by hunters statewide has declined since the 1990's.⁴

Proposed amendments to this rule will require successful bear hunters to submit at least one upper premolar tooth from their harvested bear no later than January 31 of the year following the successful hunting season. Requiring submittal will increase the data needed for the agency to make confident management decisions.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Costs

Assuming submission rates increase from an average 48.55%⁵ to 90%, and no other changes are implemented to the program, the following costs would be incurred by the Commission: additional lab costs to analyze teeth, purchase of additional hats for successful hunters, and additional costs for mailing hats to successful hunters. While staff time required to process data from the bear teeth would also increase, there would be no additional cost incurred, as staff would simply reallocate their time from other projects (staff salaries and work time will not change).

The 2019-2020 lab costs incurred for processing 1,779 teeth was \$10,788 (approximately \$6.06/tooth). Assuming a 90% compliance rate, lab costs are estimated at \$18,956 (\$6.06/tooth x 3,128 teeth), a difference of approximately \$8,168 per season (\$18,956 - \$10,788 - \$8,168).

The Commission currently spends approximately \$9,042 per year (\$5.51/hat) for Bear

³ traditionsfirearms.com and federalpremium.com.

⁴ N.C. Black Bear Annual Report - 2018.

⁵ 2019-2020 state-wide bear tooth submission rate.

Cooperator hats used as rewards for hunters that submit bear teeth. While the Commission is uncertain at this point if incentive for submittal of biological samples will continue to be offered, as tooth submittal will no longer be voluntary, the continuation of these incentives with 90% compliance would cost the Commission an additional \$8,193 per year ($\$5.51/\text{hat} \times 3,128 \text{ hats/year} = \$17,235 - \$9,042 = \$8,193$). Also, mailing the hats to 3,128 successful hunters is estimated to cost an estimated \$13,325/year, \$5,432 more than mailing costs incurred during the 2019-2020 season ($\$13,325/\text{year} - \$7,893/\text{year} = \$5,432$).

In 2019-2020, staff spent approximately 89 hours to process 1,782 (3 minutes/envelope) bear teeth and associated data. With 90% compliance, it is estimated that 156 hours (3 minutes/envelope \times 3,128 envelopes = 9,384 minutes/60 seconds = 156 minutes) would be required to process hunter harvest bear tooth envelopes and data, a difference of approximately 76 hours, and a cost to the agency of approximate \$2,204 (76 hours \times \$29/hour = \$2,204). However, there is no increase in cost associated with this task, as staff time will be reallocated to accomplish this (staff salaries and work time will not change due to change in tasks).

Benefits

Each season, agency Wildlife Management and Land and Water Access staff spend weeks in each bear management unit collecting bear teeth and other biological data from successful bear hunters to improve submission rates for the Bear Cooperator Program. If submission becomes mandatory, an estimated 80% reduction in staff time and travel costs (mileage, lodging, meals) are anticipated, as staff will not need to track down harvested bears.

In the 2019-2020 bear season, 32,684 miles (approximately \$18,793.30 at the IRS mileage rate of 57.5) were dedicated to the Bear Cooperator Program and staff spent a total of approximately 1,995 hours in the field. Additionally, approximately \$710 (\$230 lodging + \$480 meals = \$710) in overnight travel was spent on this program. An 80% reduction in the time and travel dedicated to the collection of bear teeth would be a savings of approximately 1,496 hours, \$568 in food and lodging ($\$710 - \$142 = \$568$), and \$14,095 in mileage (24,513 miles \times .575/mile = \$14,095). Though reduced staff time dedicated to this project will be an obvious benefit to the agency, this time will not be an actual cost savings, as staff will reallocate their time to other projects.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

Costs

Per G.S. 113-135.1, convictions for violation of wildlife rules are a Class 3 misdemeanor (first conviction) and carry a fine of \$25 plus cost of court. Because bear tooth submission will be mandatory, and some individuals may choose not to comply, the penalty associated with non-submission is a potential cost to hunters. The Commission has no data to quantify this potential cost.

Benefits

Additional biological bear data will improve population reconstruction, remove biases due to the under-sampling of younger bears and female bears, accurately determine age structures of bear

populations, and calculate population growth rates at a smaller scale. All of this may lead Commission biologists to modify bear management and modify hunting seasons to provide additional opportunities for bear hunters. While this cannot be guaranteed or quantified, opportunities and/or the quality of opportunities could improve for bear hunters in NC, as the Commission will have more data on which to base management decisions because of the proposed amendments to the rule.

SUMMARY

Quantifiable Impacts

State

The following quantifiable costs are anticipated from the proposed bear rule changes:

- Lab costs = \$8,168 per season
- Rewards (hats) = \$8,193 per year
- Mailing = \$5,432 per year

The following quantifiable benefits are anticipated from the proposed bear rule changes:

- Food & Lodging = \$568 per year
- Data processing = \$2,204 per year
- Mileage = \$14,095 per year

Private

The following quantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Electronic trap checking devices range in price from \$99 - \$495 each, with an additional charge of anywhere from \$12.99/month to \$40/month per trap for communication service.
- Currently available products that fit the new definition for muzzleloaders could cost hunters anywhere from an estimated \$550 to \$700 for the one-time purchase of a muzzleloader, with recurring costs of approximately \$27 for 10 powder capsules.

Unquantifiable Impacts

State

The following unquantifiable benefits are anticipated due to the proposed bear rule changes:

- Staff time - 1,496 hours of staff time reallocated to other projects

Private

The following unquantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Adding sling bows to permitted archery equipment allowed to take deer may present additional opportunities for hunters who currently use sling bows and for those who want to start to participate in the deer archery season.
- Allowing electronic remote trap checks has the potential to increase trapper efficiency by permitting trappers to prioritize trap checks, decrease fuel costs by eliminating unnecessary trap checks, and expand trapper effort.

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0116 PERMITTED ARCHERY EQUIPMENT**

2 (a) "Archery equipment" means any device that has a solid, stationary handle, two limbs, and a string, that uses non-
3 pneumatic means to propel a single arrow or bolt and may be used to take game and nongame species.

4 (b) ~~When used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine, longbows~~ ~~Longbows~~ and recurved
5 bows ~~having shall have~~ a minimum pull of 40 pounds, compound bows having a minimum pull of 35 pounds, and
6 crossbows ~~having shall have~~ a minimum pull of 100 pounds. ~~pounds shall be used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild~~
7 ~~turkey, alligator, and feral swine.~~

8 (c) Archery equipment utilizing an elastic string and having a minimum pull of 40 pounds may be used to take deer,
9 wild turkey, small game animals, nongame animals, and nongame fish.

10 (d) Only arrows and bolts with a fixed minimum broadhead width of seven-eighths of an inch or a mechanically
11 opening broadhead with a width of at least seven-eighths of an inch in the open position shall be used for taking bear,
12 deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine.

13 (e) Blunt-type arrow heads may be used in taking small animals and birds including rabbits, squirrels, quail, grouse,
14 and pheasants.

15 (f) Poisonous, drugged, or explosive arrowheads shall not be used for taking any wildlife.

16

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0110 ATTENDANCE OF TRAPS**

2 (a) Every trap shall be visited daily and any animal caught therein removed, except for completely submerged conibear
3 type traps which shall be visited once every 72 hours and any animal caught therein removed.

4 (b) Remote trap checking systems may be used in lieu of visiting the trap, provided the system has the following
5 features:

6 (1) a control unit that remains in continuous operation and reports trap status to a centralized application
7 database at least once every 24 hours;

8 (2) notification alarms that report trap closures and system health issues within one hour of detection
9 via email and text-based messaging systems; and

10 (3) on-demand control unit testing capabilities for determining trap status, signal strength, and battery
11 condition via remote system check-in.

12 (c) If the remote trap checking system control unit reports a trap closure, the trap shall be physically visited within 24
13 hours of the time the trap was reported closed.

14 (d) If a remote trap checking system control unit fails to report trap status within a 24-hour period, or reports a system
15 health issue, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of the last time an open trap signal was received.

16 (e) Remote trap checking system users shall maintain records of trap status and notification alarms for a period of no
17 less than seven days after receipt. Records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a representative of
18 the Commission.

19

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED) (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 ...

3 (c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:

4 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
5 taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment during the following seasons:

6 (A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described
7 in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter
8 except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South
9 Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Blackpowder Firearms and
10 Archery seasons on these Game Lands):

11 (B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the counties and
12 parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part
13 (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

14 (2) Restrictions

15 (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery season in any
16 county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule that has either-sex days for all
17 lawful weapons and in the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke,
18 Caldwell, and Cleveland. Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this
19 season only in all other counties.

20 (B) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
21 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder
22 firearms and archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead
23 or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

24 (3) As used in this Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm with a
25 matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or before
26 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not
27 designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any
28 muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that
29 is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the
30 ~~muzzle or cylinder~~ muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition."
31

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR**

2 (a) Open Seasons for hunting bear shall be from the:

- 3 (1) Monday on or nearest October 15 through the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the third Monday
4 after Thanksgiving through January 1 in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Cleveland
5 counties;
- 6 (2) Second Monday in November through January 1 in Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus,
7 Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, and Sampson counties;
- 8 (3) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after
9 Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford,
10 Jones, Martin, and Washington counties;
- 11 (4) Second Saturday in November through the third Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after
12 Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Dare, Hyde, and Tyrrell counties;
- 13 (5) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after
14 Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans
15 counties;
- 16 (6) Second Sunday in November through the following ~~Sunday~~ Sunday, when November 1 falls on a
17 Sunday the season shall be from the third Sunday in November through the following Sunday, and
18 the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Camden,
19 Chowan, and Pasquotank counties;
- 20 (7) Third Saturday in November though the fifth Sunday thereafter in Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax,
21 Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties; and
- 22 (8) Concurrent with the open season for all lawful weapons for hunting deer as specified in 15A NCAC
23 10B .0203(a)(1) in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie,
24 Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston,
25 Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond,
26 Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin counties.

27 (b) Restrictions

- 28 (1) For purposes of this Paragraph, "bait" means any natural, unprocessed food product that is a grain,
29 fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw
30 components.
- 31 (2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:
- 32 (A) any processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), any animal, animal part or
33 product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups, candy, pastry, gum,
34 candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, or grease;
- 35 (B) any extracts of substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph;
- 36 (C) any substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph,
37 including any extracts of those substances; or
- 38 (D) any bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders.

APPENDIX A

- 1 (3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday
2 before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.
- 3 (4) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties identified in
4 Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (a)(6) of this Rule.
- 5 (5) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.
- 6 (6) Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of Interstate 85,
7 Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston,
8 Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph,
9 Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties and
10 parts of counties, hunters may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.
- 11 (c) No Open Season. It shall be unlawful to take bear on posted bear sanctuaries except when authorized by permit
12 issued by the Commission. See 15A NCAC 10D .0106 for posted bear sanctuaries.
- 13 (d) The daily bag limit for bear is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.
- 14 (e) Any hunter who has harvested a black bear shall submit at least one upper premolar tooth from the bear to the
15 Commission at 1723 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27690-4619. The tooth shall be received by the Commission
16 no later than January 31 of the year following the applicable hunting season. The following information shall be
17 submitted with the tooth:
- 18 (1) hunter's name and mailing address;
- 19 (2) hunter's WRC customer number;
- 20 (3) hunter's bear harvest authorization number;
- 21 (4) sex of harvested bear; and
- 22 (5) county of harvest.
- 23



Fiscal Note for Proposed Wild Quail Management Area for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B .0227 Wild Quail Management Areas

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman, Sr. Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
919-707-0014
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

Impact: State Government: Yes
Local Government: No
Private Impact: No
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (hereinafter WRC or Commission) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134). In accordance with the supply of wildlife and other factors it determines to be of public importance, the WRC may fix seasons and bag limits upon the wild animals and wild birds authorized to be taken that it deems necessary or desirable in the interests of the conservation of wildlife resources (G.S. 113.291.2(a)).

A summary of the proposed rule is below, with the full text included in Appendix A.

15A NCAC 10B .0227 WILD QUAIL MANAGEMENT AREAS

This proposed rule will allow landowners, on large properties with large amounts of year-round useable quail habitat, to increase wild quail (i.e., not captive-reared) populations by implementing specific management actions that have been demonstrated, through peer-reviewed research, to have positive impacts on quail populations. Requirements for these areas will include 1,500 acres of contiguous land, periodic inspection by the Commission, annual reports of management actions, and no release of pen-reared game birds. Management actions that will be permitted on Wild Quail Management Areas include:

- Trapping programs to reduce the abundance of the most significant quail nest predators (opossum, raccoon, and striped skunk) during the early nesting season.
- Providing supplemental feed without impacting the ability to hunt quail on the property.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed rule is anticipated to have minimal impacts on the Commission, as only staff time will be required to work with property owners for establishment of the area and re-inspection of participating landowner properties every five years. Because this program is new, the Commission is unsure of exactly how many property owners will want to establish Wild Quail Management Areas and how much staff time will be needed to assist those landowners. However, based on the current number of properties that do this type of management and anticipated future interest, the Commission expects five properties to enter into agreements with the initiation of this program. Based on this estimate, and the anticipated three days of staff time required to work with the landowner and inspect the property, the Commission expects to incur an estimated cost of \$4,920 in the first year of this program (5 properties x 24hrs/property x \$41/hr = \$4,920). If it is assumed that one additional property per year will participate in the program and each property needs to be inspected every five years, the Commission anticipates an annual cost of \$984 (1 property x 24hours/property x \$41/hour = \$984) for property enrollment per year and \$1,640 (5 properties x 8hrs/property x \$41 = \$1,640) for inspections on year 6 with a recurring \$328 (8hrs x \$41/hr = \$328) each of the four years thereafter.¹

Local Impact

This proposed rule will not impact local government.

Private Impact

While the Commission cannot predict how many landowners will ultimately chose to implement the additional management actions required for a Wild Quail Management Area, this proposed rule will provide an opportunity for landowners to implement additional management actions for wild bobwhite quail. Landowners are not required to implement these actions unless they want to manage for trapping nest predators outside of the normal trapping season and hunt quail where feed has been provided; thus, use of this rule is entirely voluntary. Interested landowners must sign an agreement with the Commission, but no fee is required. Participants that choose to implement the additional trapping and supplemental feeding actions allowed by this rule will

¹ Staff costs based on total compensation for Conservation Biologist II (GN10) at salary midpoint.

incur additional costs associated with carrying out these activities on their lands. Costs may include the purchase of feed, traps, and bait. On average, feeding programs generally require one bushel of feed per acre per year. Seed costs can range from \$3 - \$12 per bushel. Habitat management typically costs approximately \$20 per acre/year. Trapping costs can vary based on the species and whether the landowner is trapping themselves or hiring someone to trap for them.

The landowner costs associated with Wild Quail Management Areas will vary based on total acreage and the percentage of that acreage that the landowner desires to maintain as habitat. Management choices made by the landowner will also determine costs. Due to potential variations in management strategies and lack of data, the Commission has no way to quantify these costs.

Appendix A

15A NCAC 10B .0227 WILD QUAIL MANGEMENT AREAS

(a) A Wild Quail Management Area shall be land maintained to enhance enjoyment of sportsmen and support wild bobwhite quail conservation under signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(b) The following minimum qualifications shall apply to all Wild Quail Management Areas:

(1) At least 1,500 acres of contiguous land; and

(2) A minimum of 15% of the land shall be maintained in year-round bobwhite quail habitat.

(c) Wild bobwhite quail habitat shall be any habitat described as early successional habitat within the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, available online, free of charge, at www.ncwildlife.org.

(d) Landowners interested in establishing a Wild Quail Management Area shall contact the Commission as described on the Commission's website at www.ncwildlife.org.

(e) The signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the Commission shall include at a minimum:

(1) A list of all owners of land included in the Wild Quail Management Area;

(2) County parcel identification information for each parcel to be included in the Wild Quail Management Area;

(3) A scaled map of the Wild Quail Management Area with the areas to be maintained in year-round bobwhite quail habitat clearly identified;

(4) Management practices to be used to maintain bobwhite quail habitat and populations; and

(5) Any reporting requirements in addition to the minimum requirements in (g)(6) that are specific to the individual Wild Quail Management Area.

(f) Property inspection:

(1) All potential properties shall be inspected by a representative of the Commission prior to acceptance into the program; and

(2) Wild Quail Management Areas shall be inspected by a representative of the Commission at least once every five years.

(g) The following shall apply to all Wild Quail Management Areas:

(1) No domestically raised upland game birds shall be released on Wild Quail Management Areas;

(2) The hunting of wild bobwhite quail shall only be permitted during the established seasons in 15A NCAC 10B .0208.

(3) Supplemental feeding, if conducted, shall be for the primary purpose of ensuring that wild bobwhite quail populations remain stable during droughts or other periods of stressful environmental conditions. Supplemental feed shall:

(A) be broadcast into quail habitat along a minimum linear distance of at least one mile per 100 acres of habitat at a rate of three bushels per mile;

(B) be broadcast on a bi-weekly schedule during at least five months each year

(C) be broadcast using a non-stationary spreader;

(D) be only natural grains or seed; and

(E) not be placed to attract birds for the purpose of hunting.

Appendix A

- 1 (4) Except for wild bobwhite quail on Wild Quail Management Areas, no wild birds may be taken near
2 or with the aid of supplemental feed.
- 3 (5) Trapping for raccoon, striped skunk, and opossum on Wild Quail Management Areas for the purpose
4 of nest predator control shall be allowed from the end of the established trapping season in 15A
5 NCAC 10B .0303 through May 31. Enclosed foot-hold traps with a one-way trigger or cage traps
6 may be used, and trapped raccoons, striped skunks, and opossums may be euthanized or released at
7 the trap site.
- 8 (6) An annual report for the period of June 1 through May 31 shall be submitted to the Commission
9 within 30 days of the end of the reporting period, and shall include at least the following:
- 10 (A) number of days and hours wild bobwhite quail were hunted;
11 (B) total annual harvest of wild bobwhite quail;
12 (C) total number of coveys flushed;
13 (D) supplemental feeding activities;
14 (E) number of trap nights, number of animals trapped and their disposition or release, by species,
15 for trapping activity conducted during trapping seasons established by 15A NCAC 10B
16 .0303; and
17 (F) number of trap nights, number of animals trapped and their disposition or release, by species,
18 for trapping activity conducted outside of trapping seasons established by 15A NCAC 10B
19 .0303.

EXHIBIT G-1

October 22, 2020



Proposed Changes to Property, Game Land, and Wildlife Conservation Area Regulations for 2021-2022 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

Property

1. Codify the Commission's authority to manage public access and use of Commission property and/or waive any non-statutorily required rules in Chapter 10 to protect public health, public safety, wildlife resources, and Commission property.

Justification:

The Commission is authorized to regulate, prohibit or restrict public use of property by rule; however, a single rule does not currently exist that restricts public use and can be applied to the variety of Commission managed properties (buildings, boating access area, public fishing areas, game lands). This rule will provide flexibility to temporarily restrict access to Commission property as needed during emergency situations to protect public health, public safety, wildlife resources, and Commission property. This proposal also gives the Commission authority to temporarily waive any non-statutorily required rules in Chapter 10 upon the declaration of a national emergency, disaster, or state of emergency, by a federal, state, or local governmental authority impacting North Carolina.

15A NCAC 10A .1102 Emergency Closures and Waivers (page 8)

Game Lands and Wildlife Conservation Areas

1. This proposal will redefine the description of a Temporary Restricted Zone.

Justification:

Redefining the Temporary Restricted Zone description is needed to align this definition with the proposed Emergency Closure and Waiver rule. The new definition provides flexibility to the Commission to post an area of game land as a Temporary Restricted Zone solely when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public, regardless of the cause for the danger.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use (page 9)

2. Remove the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility from the NCAC.

Justification:

The State no longer owns this property and this proposed rule removes references of it in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use (page 11)

3. Clarify that coyotes, armadillos, and groundhogs are authorized to be taken on game lands by trapping during the regulated trapping season (November 1 through end of February). This rule also clarifies that foxes can be trapped on game lands during the regulated trapping season in counties with a session law that authorizes fox trapping in that county. This proposal also establishes a closed trapping season on game lands from April 1 through October 31.

Justification:

There has been confusion about the legality of trapping foxes, coyotes, armadillo, and groundhogs on game lands. This proposal will clarify the rules for this activity. This proposal will also establish a closed trapping season to avoid conflicts and confusion among game land users.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use (page 12)

4. Clarify that licensed trappers can use bait on game lands while trapping.

Justification:

NCAC text about using bait on game lands for trapping is unclear and various interpretations about this rule have been made by Commission staff and the public. This rule will provide a specific definition of bait and include requirement that trappers must follow. Specifically: at each trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed food product as defined in GS 113-294(r), is less than 3 cubic inches, and is completely covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers (including those with attached skin or entire bird wings), hair (with or without skin or hide), and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use (page 12)

5. Clarify NCAC rule text that identifies where game lands designated in the disabled access program are listed.

Justification:

This proposal clarifies that game lands designated in the disabled access program are listed in the regulations digest and not in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use (page 14)

6. Amend NCAC rule text by removing Brunswick County Game Land.

Justification:

The private landowner removed Brunswick County Game Land from the Game Land Program in 2017. This change will update the NC Administrative Code.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 19)

7. Clarify NCAC rule text that establishes the December segment of the bear season for Alligator River, Buckridge, Chowan Swamp, Gull Rock, and Van Swamp game lands.

Justification:

An administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (pages 19, 20, 23, 26, and 39)

8. Clarify that horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 – May 15 on R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell, Chatham, Jordan, and Pee Dee River game lands. This proposal will also allow equestrian riding on gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use at Pee Dee River Game Land. This proposal will also clarify that a Game Land License is not needed to ride horses on the American Tobacco Trail at Jordan Game Land.

Justification:

The existing rule language is confusing regarding Sundays during hunting seasons and has been interpreted differently from the way it was intended. This will make the permitted riding times easier to understand. This change will also allow for more horseback riding opportunities at Pee Dee River Game Land and clarify needs for a Game Land License at Jordan Game Land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (pages 22, 28, 32)

9. Prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Beaufort County portion of Goose Creek Game Land north of NC 33.

Justification:

Landowners adjacent to this portion of the game land have complained and reported about trespass, unleashed dogs on their property, and harassing and intimidating behaviors from dog hunters.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 26)

10. Implement permanent rule text to replace a temporary rule that corrected a clerical error in the NCAC regarding the primitive weapons seasons for deer on Nicholson Creek Game Land.

Justification:

An administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 31)

11. Change Perkins Game Land from an Introductory Either-Sex Gun Season to a Conservative Either-Sex Gun Season.

Justification:

This proposal would increase hunter opportunities by adding five days for when antlerless deer could be harvested on Perkins Game Land during the either-sex gun season. Perkins Game Land is approximately 1,100 acres in size and located in Davie County. Deer densities near this game land in Davie County suggest that these additional five days of opportunity would not adversely affect the local deer population. This change would closer align the Perkins Game Land regulations with nearby properties enrolled in the Game Land Program that are in the Maximum Either Sex-Gun Season. Lastly, the property owner is supportive of this change.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 32)

12. Clarify the times and places where horseback riding will be permitted and not allowed on the Sandhills Game Land.

Justification:

The existing rule language does not address horseback riding outside of the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of the Sandhills Game Land. This rule will make it clear that horseback riding is allowed on the remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week. For safety reasons and the protection of sensitive habitats, this rule will also establish that horseback riding can only occur on roads open to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads or trails posted for equestrian use.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 35)

13. Amend NCAC rule text to remove references to impoundments on Stones Creek Game Land.

Justification:

Posted waterfowl impoundment do not exist on this game land.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 37)

14. Prohibit horseback riding at William H. Silver Game Land.

Justification:

A great deal of the habitat management on the game land is focused on habitat improvements for elk. These habitat improvements converted old logging trails and roads to linear wildlife openings. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has made significant financial contributions to assist in the creation of these linear wildlife openings. Recently, groups of horseback riders have been riding on linear wildlife openings on the game land. As a result, the vegetation planted for wildlife in the linear openings is getting damaged and/or destroyed. The damaged/destroyed vegetation also creates the threat for erosion problems.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 40)

15. Clarify NCAC rule text regarding restrictions on Wildlife Conservation Areas.

Justification:

An administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10J .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 43)

16. Add the definition of a “Seven Days per Week Game Land” and indicate that hunting is allowed Monday through Sunday during open seasons. Also add the definition for a “Four Days per Week Game Land” and indicate that hunting is allowed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Further, as per G.S. 103-2, this rule will indicate that on Sundays, hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM is prohibited, the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs is prohibited, and hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof, is prohibited.

Justification:

G.S. 103-2 gives the Commission the authority to authorize hunting on Sundays on Game Lands. This proposal will amend the definitions of game lands and identify Sunday as an open day for “Seven Days per Week Areas” and “Four Days per Week Areas”. This rule also outlines the restrictions to Sunday hunting as outlined in G.S. 103-2.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 18)

17. Change the following six game lands to “Four Days per Week Game Lands”:

Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve
Columbus County
Mitchell River
Perkins
Robeson
Sampson

Justification:

G.S. 103-2 gives the Commission the authority to authorize hunting on Sunday on Game Lands. Based on seven in-person public meetings, two virtual public meetings, three focus group meetings with stakeholders, an Agency staff retreat, discussions with landowning partners, biological staff, and commissioners, and a follow up meeting with stakeholders, the following criteria were used to help evaluate the feasibility of Sunday hunting on game lands: rural game lands that are not heavily used by non-hunters, proximity to other game lands and public lands where hunting is prohibited, value to unique properties that are important to user groups, avoid game lands where past conflict has been a pattern. Given the results of the public input process, staff recommend that Sunday hunting be allowed at the above game lands and that these areas be changed from “Three Days per Week Areas” to “Four Days per Week Areas”.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (pages 23 - 34)

18. Change the following 45 game lands to “Seven Days per Week Game Lands”:

Alcoa
Alligator River
Angola Bay
Bachelor Bay
Brinkleyville
Buffalo Cove
Cape Fear River Wetlands
Carteret County
Chatham
Chowan
Cold Mountain
Croatan
Currituck Banks
Dare
Elk Knob
Embro
Goose Creek
Gull Rock
Harris
Hyco

Juniper Creek
Lee
Light Ground Pocosin
Linwood
Lower Fishing Creek
Mayo
Nantahala
Needmore
New Lake
North River
Northwest River Marsh
Pee Dee River
Pisgah
Pond Mountain
Sandy Creek
Shocco Creek
South Mountains
Sutton Lake
Three Top Mountain
Thurmond Chatham
Tillery
Toxaway
Uwharrie
Van Swamp
William H. Silver

Justification:

G.S. 103-2 gives the Commission the authority to authorize hunting on Sunday on Game Lands. Based on seven in-person public meetings, two virtual public meetings, three focus group meetings with stakeholders, an Agency staff retreat, discussions with landowning partners, biological staff, and commissioners, and a follow up meeting with stakeholders, the following criteria were used to help evaluate the feasibility of Sunday hunting on game lands: rural game lands that are not heavily used by non-hunters, proximity to other game lands and public lands where hunting is prohibited, value to unique properties that are important to user groups, avoid game lands where past conflict has been a pattern. Given the results of the public input process, staff recommend that Sunday hunting be allowed at the above game lands and that these areas be changed from “Six Days per Week Areas” to “Seven Days per Week Areas”.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (page 18 - 40)

19. Prohibit the harvest of bear on Sunday on the following game lands in the Coastal Bear Management Unit:

Alligator River
Angola Bay
Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve
Cape Fear River Wetlands
Carteret County
Chowan
Croatan
Currituck Banks
Goose Creek
Gull Rock
Juniper Creek
Light Ground Pocosin
New Lake
North River
Northwest River Marsh
Robeson
Sampson
Sutton Lake
Van Swamp

Justification:

There is concern about allowing additional harvest of bear in the Coastal Bear Management Unit (CBMU) since the population objective of a 0% population growth rate is currently being met. Additional opportunities for harvest in the CBMU could result in negative population growth rate or a reduction in the population size. Further, increased weekend hunting on game lands in the CBMU that have significant bear hunting traditions could impact hunt quality. Therefore, recommendation at this time is to prohibit bear hunting on Sundays on the game lands in CBMU to meet the guiding principal identified by the focus groups, that the resources come first. If management objectives change or changes in the bear population are observed in the CBMU, staff will reevaluate the conditions and adjust the rule to allow for additional opportunities in the CBMU if warranted.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands (pages 18 - 39)

1 **15 NCAC 10A .1102 EMERGENCY CLOSURES AND WAIVERS**

2 (a) The Commission may prohibit or restrict public access to and use of property allocated to the Wildlife Resources
3 Commission if the Commission finds that the closure is necessary to protect public health, public safety, or wildlife
4 resources. Closures exercised under this Paragraph shall only be exercised for the duration of the threat.

5 (b) The Commission may waive any rule in this Chapter or portion thereof, that is not statutorily required, upon
6 declaration of a national emergency, disaster, or state of emergency, by a federal, state, or local governmental authority
7 impacting North Carolina. Waivers exercised under this Paragraph shall only be exercised for the duration of the
8 declaration.

9 (c) The Commission may delegate emergency closure and waiver authority to the Executive Director.

10 (d) The following factors shall be considered in determining whether to restrict or prohibit public access or use, or
11 waive requirements of rule:

- 12 (1) need for the closure or waiver;
- 13 (2) degree of benefit to the public, if applicable;
- 14 (3) degree of benefit to the resource, if applicable;
- 15 (4) degree of disruption to the Commission; and
- 16 (5) cost to the Commission.

17 (e) All closures and waivers shall be posted on the Commission website at www.ncwildlife.org.

18 (f) It is unlawful to use, enter, or remain on Wildlife Resources Commission Property that is closed pursuant to this
19 Rule.

20

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

2 (a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed
4 from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each
5 day's hunt.
- 6 (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or
7 self-defense.
- 8 (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

9 (b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the
10 landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional
11 restrictions on entry or usage:

- 12 (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to bow and
13 arrow hunting and falconry only. On these areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days
14 of any applicable deer season.
- 15 (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person
16 shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on
17 any game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- 18 (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use
19 of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- 20 (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the
21 general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having
22 obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources
23 Commission. Entry shall be authorized only when such entry will not compromise the primary
24 purpose for establishing the Restricted Zone and the person or persons requesting entry are able to
25 demonstrate a valid need or such person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting
26 official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations,
27 surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- 28 (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are
29 closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited
30 without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the
31 Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land ~~shall~~ may be declared a Temporary
32 Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public. ~~public due to~~
33 ~~topographical features or activities occurring on the area.~~
- 34 (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge
35 of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.

- 1 (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting
2 Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S.
3 113-264(d).
- 4 (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the
5 general public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.
- 6 (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to all
7 use by the general public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry upon such an area for any
8 purpose is prohibited without first obtaining written approval of such entry or use from an authorized
9 agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a permit.

10 The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing
11 the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted ~~restricted~~ deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat.
12 After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final
13 determination.

14 (c) Littering. No person shall deposit any litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse at any place on any game land except
15 in receptacles provided for disposal of such refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps
16 or sanitary landfills shall be established on any game land by any person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality,
17 except as permitted by the landowner.

18 (d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

- 19 (1) any weapon within 150 yards of any game land building or designated game land camping area,
20 except where posted otherwise;
- 21 (2) any weapon within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on
22 Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and
- 23 (3) any firearm within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and
24 Jordan Game Lands.

25 No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any
26 posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while
27 deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-
28 415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan,
29 Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows,
30 or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is
31 incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at:

32 http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_

33 113&rgn=div8. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game
34 Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and
35 east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game
36 birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

- 1 (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length
- 2 and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- 3 (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- 4 (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- 5 (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

6 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- 7 (1) Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon
- 8 any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, running dogs, or training dogs using wildlife
- 9 shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or
- 10 trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- 11 (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in
- 12 a field trial using wildlife shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North
- 13 Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege, except non-residents
- 14 may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- 15 (3) For any other field trial using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall
- 16 possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a
- 17 license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- 18 (4) Exceptions:
 - 19 (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal
 - 20 guardian;
 - 21 (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103(e)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is
 - 22 required only for hunting doves; all other activities are subject to the control of the
 - 23 landowners.

24 (f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. Any individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial
25 area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~, shall file with the Commission an application to use the area and facility
26 accompanied by the facility use fee computed at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each scheduled day of
27 the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day
28 of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for
29 all intermediate days on which for any reason trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A
30 fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled
31 events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or any other entity shall enter or use in any manner
32 any of the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~ without first
33 having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission,
34 and no such entry or use of any such facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The
35 Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources
36 Commission. No more than 16 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during
37 any calendar month, and no more than four days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field

1 trial requiring more than four days may be scheduled during one week upon reduction of the maximum number of
2 days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 16 days is not exceeded. Before October 1
3 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities
4 between October 22 and November 18 and between December 3 and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of
5 such use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for its consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial
6 facilities at any time by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may
7 be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained
8 or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on any game land located west of I-95, except when
9 participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted
10 to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in
11 field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where
12 special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained
13 or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall
14 be authorized when such field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the Game Land or field trial
15 facilities, and the applying organization can demonstrate their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field
16 trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when
17 they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict
18 with the mission of the agency.

19 (g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing
20 ~~animals~~ animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the applicable open trapping
21 ~~seasons,~~ seasons established by rule. Foxes can be trapped on game lands from November 1 through the end of
22 February in any county with an open fox trapping season that falls between November 1 and the end of February.
23 Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during any fox
24 trapping season that occurs outside the dates of November 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping
25 is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and
26 a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. ~~except that trapping~~ Trapping is prohibited:

- 27 (1) on the ~~field trial course~~ J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of the Sandhills Game Land;
- 28 (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- 29 (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south,
30 US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- 31 (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke ~~County;~~ and County;
- 32 (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game ~~Lands;~~ Lands; and
- 33 (6) from April 1 through October 31.

34 ~~On those areas of State-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed~~
35 ~~under a permit system.~~ At each trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if
36 the food is less than 3 cubic inches and is completely covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers,

1 including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no
2 attached meat, organs, or viscera are not considered other foods and are excluded from this requirement.

3 (h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on any game land except on those roads constructed,
4 maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel, unless such person:

- 5 (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land;
- 6 or
- 7 (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program
- 8 Permit as described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph
- 9 (m).

10 (i) Camping.

- 11 (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.
- 12 (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources
- 13 Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at
- 14 any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31.
- 15 After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

16 (j) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

17 (k) Disabled Sportsman Program. In order to qualify for permit hunts for disabled sportsmen offered by the
18 Commission and use of designated blinds during those hunts, an individual shall possess a Disabled Veteran
19 Sportsman license, a Totally Disabled Sportsman license, or a disabled sportsman hunt certification issued by the
20 Commission. In order to qualify for the certification, the applicant shall provide medical certification of one or more
21 of the following disabilities:

- 22 (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- 23 (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;
- 24 (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and
- 25 lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- 26 (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or
- 27 (5) deafness.

28 On game lands where the privileges described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule apply, participants in the program may
29 operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, or other passenger vehicles:

- 30 (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and
- 31 (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular
- 32 travel.

33 Each program participant may be accompanied by one companion provided such companion has in his possession the
34 companion card issued by the Commission. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their
35 companions may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit
36 hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land.

- 1 (l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds,
2 domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or
3 feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild
4 fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given
5 when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native
6 wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife
7 Resources Commission.
- 8 (m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use
9 on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this
10 Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but
11 shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans
12 with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian
13 use on any area where foot travel is allowed.
- 14 (n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by
15 the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the
16 game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel
17 chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel
18 and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on
19 game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use.
20 Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules section of the
21 regulations digest and map book. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths,
22 or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each
23 qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all
24 times in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while
25 assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person
26 for access to game lands under this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources
27 Commission in the passenger area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle.
28 It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a
29 Disabled Access Permit to hunt, during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the
30 Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.
- 31 (o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water.
32 For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque
33 covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while
34 in a public place.
- 35 (p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting
36 ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for
37 other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating

1 concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except
2 for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted,
3 provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the
4 time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the
5 grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the
6 shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of
7 the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent,
8 impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle
9 or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized
10 parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting
11 range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other
12 permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would
13 cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller
14 may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a
15 shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public
16 safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission
17 employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing
18 substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours
19 of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting
20 range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is
21 required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use
22 of the area.

23 (q) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are
24 open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. only. These roads shall be posted with the opening and
25 closing times.

26 (r) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other
27 part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

28 (s) Baiting. Except as provided in section (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game
29 land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written
30 authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific
31 objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take any wild birds or wild animals attracted
32 to such foods.

33
34 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*
35 *143-318.10;*
36 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
37 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*
2 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
4 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
5 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*
6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*
7 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
8 *2003);*
9 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*
10 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.*
13
14

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS**

2 (a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of alcohol
3 or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the
4 Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

5 (b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates,
6 or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

7 (c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached
8 by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to lag-
9 screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

10 (d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals
11 and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to hunting
12 or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game animal or
13 game bird seasons. On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 14 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 15 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;
- 16 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- 17 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and
- 18 (5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

19 On designated youth waterfowl days, youths may hunt on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before
20 sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans and military waterfowl days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and
21 members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty
22 other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-
23 only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this Paragraph shall apply. On
24 waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl
25 hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment
26 outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." ~~No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal
27 taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated. No
28 person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written
29 authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the
30 best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds
31 or game animals attracted to such foods.~~

32 (e) Definitions:

- 33 (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be
34 taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day,
35 Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- 36 (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any
37 game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,

1 Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this
2 Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be
3 practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed under
4 each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until
5 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

6 (3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game
7 may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
8 during the open seasons.

9 (4) For purposes of this Section, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game
10 may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays,
11 Saturdays, and Sundays. On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

12 (A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

13 (B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

14 (C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or
15 any accessory structure thereof.

16 (5) For purposes of this Section, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game
17 may be taken during the open season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On
18 Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

19 (A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

20 (B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

21 (C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or
22 any accessory structure thereof.

23 (f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or
24 parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

25 (g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

26 (1) Alcoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties

27 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
29 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county,
30 and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
31 Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.

32 (C) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

33 (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Day per Week Area

35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
36 Antlers Season.

- 1 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days
2 during the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday first
3 three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- 4 (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties
- 5 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
7 Antlers Season.
- 8 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 9 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 10 (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, ~~Martin~~, and Washington counties
- 11 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County
- 15 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season.
- 18 (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 19 (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- 20 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
22 Antlers Season.
- 23 (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 24 (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 25 (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 26 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
27 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 28 (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through
29 August 1.
- 30 (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
- 31 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
33 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 34 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 35 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 36 ~~(8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County~~
- 37 ~~(A) Hunting is by permit only.~~

- 1 ~~(B)~~ — The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 2 ~~(9)~~(8) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- 3 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 4 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 5 ~~(10)~~(9) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- 6 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 8 Antlers Season.
- 9 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days during~~
- 10 of the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days of the second week second
- 11 Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season. ~~If any of these days falls~~
- 12 ~~on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those days.~~
- 13 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 14 ~~(11)~~(10) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
- 15 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
- 17 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
- 18 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on
- 19 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October
- 20 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with
- 21 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible
- 22 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
- 23 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest
- 24 October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.
- 25 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 26 Antlers Season.
- 27 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 28 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 29 ~~(12)~~(11) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County
- 30 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 32 Antlers Season.
- 33 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 34 ~~(13)~~(12) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties
- 35 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 36 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 37 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

- 1 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
2 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
3 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
4 (iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
5 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
6 hunting after November 1.
- 7 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited.
8 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
9 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
10 (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of
11 Falls Lake.
12 (H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not
13 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable
14 seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of
15 bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September
16 1 through May 14.
17 (I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
18 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
19 (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area
20 and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited
21 in this camping area.
- 22 ~~(14)~~(13) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
23 (A) Six Days per Week Area
24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
25 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
26 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 27 ~~(15)~~(14) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
28 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
29 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
30 Antlers Season.
31 (C) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
32 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west
33 of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road,
34 and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
35 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
36 (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 37 ~~(16)~~(15) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County

- 1 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 4 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 5 (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- 6 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

7 ~~(17)~~(16) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County

- 8 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 10 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 11 (C) ~~Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from~~
- 12 ~~May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only, September~~
- 13 ~~1 – May 15, during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.~~
- 14 Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated
- 15 roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding
- 16 on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 17 (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock
- 18 hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of
- 19 SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the
- 20 intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to
- 21 the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR
- 22 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- 23 (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after
- 24 November 1.
- 25 (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
- 26 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 27 (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

28 ~~(18)~~(17) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County

- 29 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 30 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 31 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 32 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 33 (D) ~~Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from~~
- 34 ~~May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only September~~
- 35 ~~1 – May 15, during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.~~
- 36 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

37 ~~(19)~~(18) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County

- 1 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
3 Season.
4 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

5 ~~(20)~~(19) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.

- 6 (A) Six Days per Week Area
7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
8 Antlers Season.
9 (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days~~
10 ~~during of~~ the November bear season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~first~~
11 ~~three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December bear season except that portion
12 of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of
13 Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River
14 where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
15 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
16 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
17 (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays
18 only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on
19 those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
20 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.

21 ~~(21)~~(20) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County

- 22 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
23 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
24 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
25 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
26 Antlers Season.

27 ~~(22)~~(21) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.

- 28 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
29 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
30 Antlers Season.
31 (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.

32 ~~(23)~~(22) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties

- 33 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
35 Antlers Season.
36 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
37 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

- 1 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
2 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 3 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl
4 seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish
5 Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- 6 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas.
7 During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 8 (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

9 ~~(24)~~(23) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County

- 10 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by
12 permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
- 13 (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the
14 guides do not use a firearm.
- 15 (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- 16 (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of
17 their hunt.
- 18 (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand
19 or blind to a tree.
- 20 (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
21 season.
- 22 (H) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

23 ~~(25)~~(24) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County

- 24 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
- 26 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 27 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age
28 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
- 29 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

30 ~~(26)~~(25) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties

- 31 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
33 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 34 (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- 35 (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.

36 ~~(27)~~(26) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 3 season.
- 4 ~~(28)~~(27) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- 5 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 6 (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders
- 7 during scheduled permit hunts.
- 8 ~~(29)~~(28) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- 9 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 12 ~~(30)~~(29) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- 13 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 15 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 16 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 17 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 18 ~~(31)~~(30) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- 19 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 21 Antlers Season.
- 22 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
- 23 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 24 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 25 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 26 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 27 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all
- 28 waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl
- 29 impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith
- 30 Creek, and Hobucken.
- 31 (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except
- 32 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping
- 33 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1
- 34 through March 15.
- 35 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 36 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

- 1 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1
2 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting
3 opportunity permit.
- 4 (H) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
5 prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of NC-33.
- 6 (I) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 7 ~~(32)~~(31) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- 8 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
10 Antlers Season.
- 11 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 12 ~~(33)~~(32) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
15 Antlers Season.
- 16 (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little
17 Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 18 (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
19 prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of
20 Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- 21 ~~(34)~~(33) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- 22 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 23 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
24 Antlers Season.
- 25 (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
26 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
27 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
28 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 29 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
30 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 31 (E) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days
32 during the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday first
33 three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season, except for that
34 portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- 35 ~~(35)~~(34) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- 36 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 3 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
4 (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
5 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
6 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 7 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 8 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 9 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10 (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 11 ~~(36)~~(35) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- 12 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
14 Antlers Season
- 15 ~~(37)~~(36) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 16 ~~(38)~~(37) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- 17 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
19 Antlers Season.
- 20 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
21 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
22 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
23 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 24 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
25 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 26 (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east
27 of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and
28 bear hunting are permit only.
- 29 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
30 (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch
31 extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road
32 extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
33 (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving,
34 Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden
35 Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River,
36 south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting
37 is by permit only.

- 1 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the
2 last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting
3 opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 4 (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and
5 within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 6 (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 7 (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 8 ~~(39)~~(38) Hyco Game land in Person County
- 9 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
11 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 12 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 13 ~~(40)~~(39) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 14 ~~(41)~~(40) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- 15 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 16 (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- 17 (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31,
18 except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the
19 permits.
- 20 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 21 (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is
22 limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 23 ~~(42)~~(41) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties
- 24 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
26 Antlers Season.
- 27 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- 28 (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 29 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 30 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 31 (D) ~~Horseback riding~~ riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except allowed only on
32 those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use.
33 Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American
34 Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use,
35 horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August 31, only during
36 June, July, and August, and on Sundays only from September 1 – May 15. the remainder of
37 the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older must obtain

1 ~~who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries shall~~
2 ~~possess a Game Lands license.~~ license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area
3 other than the American Tobacco Trail.

4 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

5 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.

6 (G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not
7 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable
8 seasons for game birds and game animals.

9 ~~(43)~~(42) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties

10 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

12 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
13 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

14 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

15 ~~(44)~~(43) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County

16 (A) Six Days per Week Area

17 (B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

18 (C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable
19 Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.

20 (D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating
21 the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.

22 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
23 Antlers season.

24 (F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

25 (G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.

26 ~~(45)~~(44) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties

27 (A) Six Days per Week Area

28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
29 Antlers Season.

30 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

31 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.

32 (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

33 ~~(46)~~(45) Lee Game Land in Lee County

34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
36 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

37 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

- 1 ~~(47)~~(46) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
- 2 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible
- 4 Antlers Season.
- 5 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 6 ~~(48)~~(47) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
- 7 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 9 Antlers Season.
- 10 ~~(49)~~(48) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
- 11 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 13 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 14 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 16 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 17 ~~(50)~~(49) Mayo Game Land in Person County
- 18 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 20 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 21 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 22 (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 23 (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 24 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 25 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 26 ~~(51)~~(50) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
- 27 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 29 Antlers Season through the second ~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday thereafter.
- 30 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
- 31 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 32 ~~(52)~~(51) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
- 33 counties
- 34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 36 Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.
- 37 ~~(53)~~(52) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.

- 1 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
- 3 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 4 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 5 ~~(54)~~(53) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County
- 6 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 8 Antlers Season.
- 9 (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the
- 10 game land that lies west of NC-43.
- 11 ~~(55)~~(54) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties
- 12 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 14 Antlers Season.
- 15 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 16 ~~(56)~~(55) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 17 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
- 19 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 20 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
- 21 the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week
- 22 thereafter.
- 23 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
- 24 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 25 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 26 Antlers Season.
- 27 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 28 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 29 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:
- 30 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
- 31 (ii) Swimming.
- 32 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 33 ~~(57)~~(56) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties
- 34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 36 Antlers Season.

1 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
2 shoreline.

3 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.

4 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

5 ~~(58)~~(57) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County

6 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
8 Antlers Season.

9 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
10 shoreline.

11 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

12 ~~(59)~~(58) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties

13 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
15 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

16 (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North
17 of US-74.

18 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.

19 (E) Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on
20 Sundays only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and
21 gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use. only during the following times:

22 (i) ~~during June, July, and August; and~~

23 (ii) ~~on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey~~
24 ~~seasons are closed.~~

25 (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be
26 prohibited on that portion south of US-74.

27 ~~(60)~~(59) Perkins Game Land in Davie County

28 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area

29 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
30 Antlers ~~Season.~~ Season through the second Tuesday thereafter.

31 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.

32 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.

33 ~~(61)~~(60) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison,
34 McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties

35 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

36 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
37 Antlers Season.

- 1 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River
2 (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 3 (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke
4 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open
5 day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this
6 restriction.
- 7 ~~(62)~~(61) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 8 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
10 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 11 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31
12 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited
13 from November 1 through May 15.
- 14 ~~(63)~~(62) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- 15 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season.
- 18 ~~(64)~~(63) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- 19 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
21 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 22 (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- 23 ~~(65)~~(64) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- 24 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 25 (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- 26 ~~(66)~~(65) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- 27 (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- 28 (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business
29 or by permit holders.
- 30 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however,
32 that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-
33 owned portion of the game land.
- 34 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 35 ~~(67)~~(66) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- 36 ~~(68)~~(67) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- 37 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area

1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season.

3 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

4 ~~(69)~~(68) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County

5 (A) Three Days per Week Area

6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
7 Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.

8 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
9 the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week
10 thereafter.

11 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
12 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.

13 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
14 Antlers Season.

15 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

16 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

17 (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.

18 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.

19 ~~(70)~~(69) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.

20 ~~(71)~~(70) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County

21 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area

22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
23 Antlers Season.

24 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

25 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

26 ~~(72)~~(71) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties

27 (A) Three Days per Week Area

28 (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22
29 through March 31 except as follows:

30 (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of
31 the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with
32 blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the
33 blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving
34 Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from
35 the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following
36 Thanksgiving Day;

- 1 (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through
2 the third Saturday thereafter;
- 3 (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from the second Saturday
4 before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 5 (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding
6 Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 7 (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- 8 (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen
9 Program Permit Hunt; and
- 10 (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or
11 nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- 12 (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday
13 before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the
14 J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 15 (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth
16 Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds,
17 the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
18 taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit
19 during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated
20 in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday
21 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 22 (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding
23 Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on
24 the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day
25 through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open
26 hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With
27 Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday
28 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 29 (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- 30 (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing
31 days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 32 (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 33 (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited
34 unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the remainder
35 of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular traffic
36 and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

- 1 (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
 2 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 3 (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
- 4 ~~(73)~~(72) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin ~~Counties~~ counties
- 5 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
 7 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 9 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 10 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 11 ~~(74)~~(73) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.
- 12 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible
 14 Antlers season.
- 15 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
 16 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 17 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed
 18 in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).
- 19 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove
 20 season.
- 21 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 22 ~~(75)~~(74) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.
- 23 ~~(76)~~(75) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties
- 24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
 26 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 27 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 28 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
 29 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 30 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 31 ~~(77)~~(76) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- 32 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
 34 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
 35 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on
 36 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October
 37 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with

1 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
3 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest
4 October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.

5 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
6 Antlers Season.

7 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:

- 8 (i) January 2 through March 31;
9 (ii) May 16 through August 31;
10 (iii) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
11 (iv) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.

12 ~~(78)~~(77) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County

13 (A) Six Days per Week Area

14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
15 Antlers Season.

16 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

17 (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.

18 (E) Waterfowl ~~on posted waterfowl impoundments~~ may be taken only on the following days:

- 19 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
20 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
21 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

22 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.

23 (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

24 ~~(79)~~(78) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties

25 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

26 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
27 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

28 (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:

- 29 (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and
30 (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.

31 (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels
32 on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only
33 by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by
34 the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

35 (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed
36 waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters

- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season.
- 3 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
4 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 5 ~~(87)~~(86) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- 6 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
8 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 9 (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following
10 days:
- 11 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 12 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 13 (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 14 (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- 15 ~~(88)~~(87) Vance Game Land in Vance County
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
18 Antlers Season.
- 19 (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the
20 Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- 21 ~~(89)~~(88) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
- 22 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 23 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
24 Antlers Season.
- 25 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of ~~three hunting days~~
26 ~~during~~ the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~first~~
27 ~~three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season.
- 28 ~~(90)~~(89) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
- 29 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 30 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 31 ~~(91)~~(90) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
- 32 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
34 Antlers Season.
- 35 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
36 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 37 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

- 1 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 2 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 3 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all
- 4 waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
- 5 (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
- 6 (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting
- 7 Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to
- 8 G.S. 113-264(d);
- 9 (ii) hunting is by permit only; and
- 10 (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 11 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 12 (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.

13 ~~(92)~~(91) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties

- 14 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 15 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 16 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 17 (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
- 18 prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.

19 ~~(93)~~(92) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County

- 20 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 22 Antlers Season.
- 23 (C) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.

24 (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed
 25 applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of
 26 hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and
 27 are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or
 28 by phone.

29 (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a
 30 valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

- 31 (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
- 32 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
- 33 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
- 34 (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;
- 35 (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- 36 (6) Dare County—Roanoke ~~Sound~~ Marshes Game Lands; and
- 37 (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

1 (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the
2 Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise
3 the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid
4 need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes
5 issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public
6 interest.

7 (k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any
8 legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands
9 that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.

10 (l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on
11 any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where
12 prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

13 (m) Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans and Military
14 Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including
15 members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt
16 on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

17 (n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for participants
18 of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed
19 season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice,
20 the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

21 (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

22 (p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on
23 Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

24
25 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
26 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
27 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;*
28 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September*
29 *1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*
31 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
34 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
35 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*
36 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
37 *January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*

1 *1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October*
2 *1, 2004;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*
4 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019.*
5
6

1 **15A NCAC 10J .0103 HUNTING ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS**

2 (a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area
3 shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug.

4 (b) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached
5 by nails, screws, bolts or wire to a tree on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area. This
6 prohibition shall not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal left remaining
7 in or attached to the tree.

8 (c) Time and Manner of Taking. Except where closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by these regulations,
9 hunting on areas designated and posted as wildlife conservation areas is permitted during the open season for the game
10 or furbearing species being hunted. Waterfowl hunters shall not enter the areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted
11 hunting dates, and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates; decoys may not be set out prior to 4:00
12 a.m. and must be removed by 3:00 p.m. each date. No person shall operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an
13 internal combustion engine on the waters of any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area. No person
14 shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or
15 possess any bird or animal which has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any area
16 designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written
17 authorization of the Commission or its agent and no person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game
18 animals attracted to such foods. No person shall use an electronic calling device for the purpose of attracting wild
19 birds or wild animals. No live wild animals or wild birds shall be removed from any designated wildlife conservation
20 area except with the written permission of the landowner.

21 (d) Hunting Dates:

22 (1) Any game may be taken during the open seasons ~~on the following wildlife conservation areas and~~
23 hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New
24 Year's Days. In addition, deer may be taken with bow and arrow on the opening day of the bow and
25 arrow season for deer. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays,
26 until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays. ~~Additional restrictions apply as~~
27 ~~indicated in parentheses following specific designations:~~

28 (2) Except as otherwise indicated, the following designated wildlife conservation areas or indicated
29 portions thereof are closed to all hunting:

30 (A) Nona Pitt Hinson Cohen Wildlife Conservation Area - Richmond County.

31 (B) John D. Lewis Wildlife Conservation Area - Wayne County.

32

33 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-136; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305;*

34 *Eff. February 1, 1990;*

35 *Amended Eff. October 1, 1994.*

EXHIBIT G-2

October 22, 2020



Fiscal Note for Proposed Lands Management Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10A .1102 Emergency Closures and Waivers
15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands
15A NCAC 10J .0103 Hunting on Wildlife Conservation Areas

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman, Sr. Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 919-707-0011
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

Impact Summary: State Government: Yes
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113 – 134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.5

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. § 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. § 143-239). This responsibility includes managing, as equitably as possible, the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. § 113-131.1(a)).

The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. § 113-134).

As part of its mission, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and game land regulations, to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives; ensuring the safety of the boating public; managing Commission-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

Many of the proposed rule changes are expected to increase hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities, while others are expected to restrict such opportunities. Additional

changes are intended to improve the quality of future opportunities.

Although the Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact of these specific rule changes on recreationists' behavior, economic research on the value individuals place on outdoor recreation can provide useful context for rules that affect opportunities for recreation. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, researchers have estimated that the value of hunting per person per day is approximately \$63; both hiking and "nature-related recreation" are valued at \$47 per person per day; and fishing is valued at approximately \$53 per person per day.¹ These figures represent individuals' total willingness to pay to engage in the activity, less the cost to do so. It does not represent any economic activity generated by the activity, such as retail sales. Note that these estimates are not species or location-specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rules induce recreationists to increase or decrease their trips in particular areas of the state, these findings provide a rough approximation of the costs or benefits to the individual.

The following is a summary and analysis of the proposed rule amendments to the game land rules 15A NCAC 10D .0102 and .0103, 15 NCAC 10A .1102, and 15A NCAC 10J .0103 with the proposed text included in Appendix A, B, C, and D.

15 NCAC 10A .1102 EMERGENCY CLOSURES AND WAIVERS (Appendix A)

This proposed rule amendment will codify the Commission's authority to manage public access and use of Commission property and/or waive any non-statutorily required rules in Chapter 10 to protect public health, public safety, or wildlife resources. The Commission is authorized by G.S. 113-264 to regulate, prohibit or restrict public use of property by rule. 15A NCAC 10E .0103 has been used in the past to temporarily restrict access to specific Commission infrastructure as needed. However, as a result of COVID-19, it became necessary for the Commission to limit access to a variety of other properties (buildings, BAAs, PFAs and game land areas) for public health concerns, not because they could not meet their intended use (as is the case with hurricane damage, flooding, etc.). Additionally, as a result of COVID-19, the Commission found that it may be useful under certain circumstances, to have the ability to temporarily waive requirements of rule. While this flexibility was not available to the Commission during this particular emergency, the Commission would like to have the flexibility to exercise this ability in the future should it be needed in order to protect public health, safety, or wildlife resources.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule has no state government impact.

¹ Rosenberger, Randall S.; White, Eric M.; Kline, Jeffrey D.; Cvitanovich, Claire. 2017. Recreation economic values for estimating outdoor recreation economic benefits from the National Forest System. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR- 957. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 33 p.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This rule has no private impact.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE (Appendix B)

- A. This proposed amendment clarifies that other wild animals authorized to be taken by trapping during the regulated trapping season (15A NCAC 10B .0303) or in a county authorizing fox trapping can also be taken on game lands by trapping. It establishes a closed trapping season on game lands from April 1 through October 31. Fur-bearing animals and coyotes, armadillos, and groundhogs can be trapped on private lands during the regulated trapping season. Foxes can be trapped on private lands in counties with session laws authorizing a fox trapping season (56 of 100 counties). While 10D .0102 does allow the trapping of fur-bearing animals on game lands, this rule has not been updated. The proposed amendment will clarify that trapping of foxes, coyotes, armadillos, and groundhogs is allowed on game lands.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This amendment has no private impact.

- B. This proposal clarifies that licensed trappers can use bait on game lands while trapping. Upon review of both 15 NCAC 10D .0102 and 15 NCAC 10D .0103 by Commission staff from the WMD, LAWA, and Wildlife Enforcement, it was determined that the rule regarding placement of foods on game lands needed to be clarified to reduce regulatory complexity. Currently, the Commission's regulations digest gives the impression that trappers can use bait and the use of bait by trappers on game lands is a common practice. The amended rule will clarify that trappers can use foods (e.g., bait), but with restrictions to prevent conflicts with other user groups and reduce capture of non-target species, such as birds of prey.

To reduce regulatory complexity, this section was moved to Rule 10D .0102 - General regulations regarding use. Additionally, LAWA staff identified an edit to identify an area on Sandhills Game Land by name and to remove reference to the trapping permit system on Roanoke River Wetland. Removing this reference also further clarifies that trappers may use foods on all game lands, except those that are restricted in 10D .0103(g)(3).

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency could see an increase in the number of trapping licenses sold due to this clarification. The current cost of an annual resident trapping license is \$32. A non-resident annual trapping license costs \$133. The Commission has no way to anticipate how many additional licenses might be sold and thus has no means to accurately quantify this potential increase.

Local Impact

Increases in sales tax revenue and expenditures on fuel and supplies needed to engage in trapping could be seen by local governments and businesses, but the Commission has no data to accurately quantify this benefit.

Private Impact

Trappers could see more days afield due to this clarification.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (Appendix C)

The proposed changes to this rule cover multiple general topic areas, including: game lands, horse-back riding, waterfowl, deer, and bear.

For the reasons outlined below, the WRC believes that the proposed rule changes will have minimal fiscal impacts.

Horse-back Riding

- A. These proposals clarify when equestrian riding will be permitted and not on the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell, Jordan, and Pee Dee River Game Lands. Proposed amendments will also allow equestrian riding on gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use at the Pee Dee River Game Land and clarify that a Game Land License is not needed to ride horses on the American Tobacco Trail at Jordan Game Land.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The state could see a minor reduction in the sale of game land license (\$16 per license per year) sold if those individuals only riding on the American Tobacco Trail purchased a game land license in the past when they did not need to. The data do not exist to quantify this reduction.

Local Impact

Rule clarity and additional opportunities on the Pee Dee River Game Land may invite a small number of new users.

Private Impact

The decreased complexity of the rules and potential for additional opportunities at Pee Dee River Game Land, may cause new horseback riders to these areas.

- B. Clarify the times when equestrian riding will be permitted and not on Sandhills Game Land and restrict riders to open roads or those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

Rule clarity may create an opportunity for a small number of new users.

Private Impact

The decreased complexity of the rules could cause an increase in the number of users. However, current and new users may decide to travel to a different area to horseback ride if being restricted to gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use is unappealing.

- C. Prohibit horseback riding, including all equine species, on William H Silvers Game Land. A great deal of the habitat management on this game land is focused on habitat improvements for elk. These habitat improvements are conducted on old logging trails and woods roads on the game lands due to the lack of flat ground that can be used for wildlife openings. The roads and trails are converted to linear wildlife openings that benefit elk and other wildlife. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has made significant financial contributions to assist in the creation of these linear wildlife openings. Recently, groups of horseback riders have been riding on linear wildlife openings on the game land. As a result, the vegetation planted for wildlife in the linear openings is getting damaged and/or destroyed. The damaged/destroyed vegetation also creates the threat for erosion problems.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

Approximately 12 horseback riders are currently using the area. The proposed rule change will be a lost opportunity for these riders. Additionally, though minor, these riders may incur an additional cost (time and gas) to travel an extra 20-30 miles to an alternative riding location on public land.

Deer

- A. This proposal would change Perkins Game Land from an Introductory Either-Sex Gun Season to a Conservative Either-Sex Gun Season. If approved, it would add 5 days to legally harvest does on Perkins Game Land during the general firearms season.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

Increasing the time which either-sex deer hunting is allowed on the Perkins Game Land may result in the additional purchase of food, gas, and equipment in the local area, however the WRC has no mechanism to quantify this benefit.

Private Impact

One additional day of either-sex deer hunting on the Perkins Game Land will enhance opportunities for deer hunters to enjoy the game land. The overall fiscal impact should be positive since the value of hunting is estimated at \$63 per person per day.

- B. This proposal would correct the NCAC text to reflect the correct primitive weapons seasons for deer on Nicholson Creek Game Land.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This amendment has no private impact.

Bear

This proposal will reduce regulatory confusion by amending rule language that establishes the December segment of the bear season for several game lands to improve intent and clarity. The current rule language establishing the December segment of the bear hunting season for five game lands is unclear and confusing. The proposed language would not change the bear season for these game lands.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This amendment has no private impact.

Waterfowl

This proposal amends the Stones Creek Game Land rule to remove references to impoundments on the game land where they do not exist. Amended text will eliminate confusion about game land facilities.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This amendment has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This amendment has no private impact.

Game Lands

- A. This proposed change would remove the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility from rule text. The commission no longer owns the facility.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposal has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This proposal has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This proposal has no private impact.

- B. This proposal will redefine the description of a Temporary Restricted Zone. Redefining the Temporary Restricted Zone description is needed to align this definition with the proposed

Emergency Closure and Waiver rule. The Temporary Restricted Zone and the Emergency Closure and Waiver rule provide the Commission with the authority to restrict public access to Commission-managed property where public safety, health, or wellbeing is at risk. This proposal will provide continuity between the two rules and ensure that the Commission can continue to provide safe environments for users of Commission-managed property.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposal has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This proposal has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This proposal has no private impact.

- C. This proposed change is to codify the game lands designated in the disabled access program. They are currently only identified in the regulation digest and map book.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposal has no state government impact.

Local Impact

This proposal has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This proposal has no private impact.

- D. This proposal will remove the Brunswick County Game Land from the NCAC. The private landowner removed this Game Land from the Game Land Program in 2017.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Because this game land is removed from the program, the state may realize minimal cost savings associated with game land management for this property.

Local Impact

Because this game land is no longer in the program, users may not travel to this area as much. However, the Commission has no way to estimate or quantify this potential loss.

Private Impact

Removal of this game land from the program will be a lost opportunity for wildlife-associated recreation for users. The Commission has no way to quantify this loss.

Pursuing or Chasing Deer and Bear

This regulation will prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Beaufort County portion of Goose Creek Game Land north of NC 33. Hunter conflicts with adjacent landowners, surrounding hunter interests and other user groups necessitates a change in hunting methods on the game land tracts.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment will have no impacts on state government.

Local Impact

Decreasing the opportunities to partake in hunting deer and bear with dogs on this game land may decrease the number of these hunters visiting local businesses, which will result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, hunting supplies, etc. The local government could potentially see a reduction in tax-based revenue. However, the agency has no way to project these potential reductions.

Private Impact

This proposed amendment will likely have a negative impact on the private sector. Individuals and groups that have traditionally pursued deer and bear with dogs on this game land will no longer have that opportunity. It will also deny that opportunity to potential first-time users. However, the number of individuals and groups that pursue deer and bear with dogs on this game land is unknown.

15A NCAC 10J .0103 HUNTING ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS (Appendix D)

This proposal will remove text indicating specific conservation areas are listed having additional hunting restrictions. Clarify text that no specific designations are listed for additional restrictions to apply.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No Impact

Local Impact

No Impact

Private Impact
No Impact

APPENDIX A

1 **15 NCAC 10A .1102 EMERGENCY CLOSURES AND WAIVERS**

2 (a) The Commission may prohibit or restrict public access to and use of Wildlife Resources Commission property if
3 the Commission finds that the closure is necessary to protect public health, public safety, or wildlife resources.
4 Closures exercised under this Paragraph shall only be exercised for the duration of the threat.

5 (b) The Commission may waive any rule in this Chapter or portion thereof, that is not statutorily required, upon
6 declaration of a national emergency, disaster, or state of emergency, by a federal, state, or local governmental authority
7 impacting North Carolina. Waivers exercised under this Paragraph shall only be exercised for the duration of the
8 declaration.

9 (c) The Commission may delegate emergency closure and waiver authority to the Executive Director.

10 (d) The following factors shall be considered in determining whether to restrict or prohibit public access or use, or
11 waive requirements of rule:

- 12 (1) need for the closure or waiver;
- 13 (2) degree of benefit to the public, if applicable;
- 14 (3) degree of benefit to the resource, if applicable;
- 15 (4) degree of disruption to the Commission; and
- 16 (5) cost to the Commission.

17 (e) All closures and waivers shall be posted on the Commission website at www.newwildlife.org.

18 (f) It is unlawful to use, enter, or remain on Wildlife Resources Commission Property that is closed pursuant to this
19 Rule.

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15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

(a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or self-defense.
- (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional restrictions on entry or usage:

- (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to bow and arrow hunting and falconry only. On these areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of any applicable deer season.
- (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on any game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Entry shall be authorized only when such entry will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Restricted Zone and the person or persons requesting entry are able to demonstrate a valid need or such person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land ~~shall~~ may be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public. ~~public due to topographical features or activities occurring on the area.~~
- (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.

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1 (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting
2 Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S.
3 113-264(d).

4 (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the
5 general public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

6 (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to all
7 use by the general public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry upon such an area for any
8 purpose is prohibited without first obtaining written approval of such entry or use from an authorized
9 agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a permit.

10 The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing
11 the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted restricted deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat.
12 After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final
13 determination.

14 (c) Littering. No person shall deposit any litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse at any place on any game land except
15 in receptacles provided for disposal of such refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps
16 or sanitary landfills shall be established on any game land by any person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality,
17 except as permitted by the landowner.

18 (d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

19 (1) any weapon within 150 yards of any game land building or designated game land camping area,
20 except where posted otherwise;

21 (2) any weapon within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on
22 Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and

23 (3) any firearm within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and
24 Jordan Game Lands.

25 No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any
26 posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while
27 deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-
28 415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan,
29 Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows,
30 or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is
31 incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at:

32 [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8)
33 [113&rgn=div8](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8). On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game
34 Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and
35 east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game
36 birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

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- 1 (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length
2 and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- 3 (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- 4 (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- 5 (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

6 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- 7 (1) Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon
8 any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, running dogs, or training dogs using wildlife
9 shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or
10 trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- 11 (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in
12 a field trial using wildlife shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North
13 Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege, except non-residents
14 may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- 15 (3) For any other field trial using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall
16 possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a
17 license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- 18 (4) Exceptions:
 - 19 (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal
20 guardian;
 - 21 (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103(e)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is
22 required only for hunting doves; all other activities are subject to the control of the
23 landowners.

24 (f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. Any individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial
25 area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~, shall file with the Commission an application to use the area and facility
26 accompanied by the facility use fee computed at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each scheduled day of
27 the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day
28 of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for
29 all intermediate days on which for any reason trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A
30 fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled
31 events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or any other entity shall enter or use in any manner
32 any of the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~ without first
33 having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission,
34 and no such entry or use of any such facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The
35 Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources
36 Commission. No more than 16 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during
37 any calendar month, and no more than four days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field

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1 trial requiring more than four days may be scheduled during one week upon reduction of the maximum number of
2 days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 16 days is not exceeded. Before October 1
3 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities
4 between October 22 and November 18 and between December 3 and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of
5 such use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for its consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial
6 facilities at any time by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may
7 be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained
8 or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on any game land located west of I-95, except when
9 participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted
10 to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in
11 field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where
12 special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained
13 or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall
14 be authorized when such field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the Game Land or field trial
15 facilities, and the applying organization can demonstrate their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field
16 trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when
17 they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict
18 with the mission of the agency.

19 (g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing
20 ~~animals~~ animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the applicable open trapping
21 ~~seasons,~~ seasons established by rule. Foxes can be trapped on game lands from November 1 through the end of
22 February in any county with an open fox trapping season that falls between November 1 and the end of February.
23 Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during any fox
24 trapping season that occurs outside the dates of November 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping
25 is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and
26 a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. ~~except that trapping~~ Trapping is prohibited:

- 27 (1) on the ~~field trial course~~ J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of the Sandhills Game Land;
- 28 (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- 29 (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south,
30 US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- 31 (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in ~~Burke County;~~ and County;
- 32 (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game ~~Lands;~~ Lands; and
- 33 (6) from April 1 through October 31.

34 ~~On those areas of State-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed~~
35 ~~under a permit system. At each trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if~~
36 ~~the food is less than 3 cubic inches and is completely covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers,~~

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1 including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no
2 attached meat, organs, or viscera are not considered other foods and are excluded from this requirement.

3 (h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on any game land except on those roads constructed,
4 maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel, unless such person:

- 5 (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land;
6 or
- 7 (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program
8 Permit as described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph
9 (m).

10 (i) Camping.

- 11 (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.
- 12 (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources
13 Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at
14 any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31.
15 After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

16 (j) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

17 (k) Disabled Sportsman Program. In order to qualify for permit hunts for disabled sportsmen offered by the
18 Commission and use of designated blinds during those hunts, an individual shall possess a Disabled Veteran
19 Sportsman license, a Totally Disabled Sportsman license, or a disabled sportsman hunt certification issued by the
20 Commission. In order to qualify for the certification, the applicant shall provide medical certification of one or more
21 of the following disabilities:

- 22 (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- 23 (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;
- 24 (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and
25 lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- 26 (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or
- 27 (5) deafness.

28 On game lands where the privileges described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule apply, participants in the program may
29 operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, or other passenger vehicles:

- 30 (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and
- 31 (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular
32 travel.

33 Each program participant may be accompanied by one companion provided such companion has in his possession the
34 companion card issued by the Commission. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their
35 companions may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit
36 hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land.

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- 1 (l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds,
2 domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or
3 feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild
4 fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given
5 when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native
6 wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife
7 Resources Commission.
- 8 (m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use
9 on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this
10 Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but
11 shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans
12 with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian
13 use on any area where foot travel is allowed.
- 14 (n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by
15 the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the
16 game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel
17 chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel
18 and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on
19 game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use.
20 Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules section of the
21 regulations digest and map book. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths,
22 or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each
23 qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all
24 times in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while
25 assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person
26 for access to game lands under this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources
27 Commission in the passenger area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle.
28 It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a
29 Disabled Access Permit to hunt, during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the
30 Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.
- 31 (o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water.
32 For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque
33 covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while
34 in a public place.
- 35 (p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting
36 ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for
37 other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating

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1 concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except
2 for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted,
3 provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the
4 time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the
5 grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the
6 shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of
7 the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent,
8 impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle
9 or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized
10 parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting
11 range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other
12 permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would
13 cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller
14 may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a
15 shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public
16 safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission
17 employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing
18 substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours
19 of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting
20 range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is
21 required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use
22 of the area.

23 (q) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are
24 open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. only. These roads shall be posted with the opening and
25 closing times.

26 (r) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other
27 part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

28 (s) Baiting. Except as provided in section (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game
29 land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written
30 authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific
31 objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take any wild birds or wild animals attracted
32 to such foods.

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15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

(a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

(b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates, or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

(c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

(d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons. On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;
- (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and
- (5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

On designated youth waterfowl days, youths may hunt on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans and military waterfowl days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this Paragraph shall apply. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." ~~No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods.~~

(e) Definitions:

- (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,

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Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed under each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

(3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons.

(4) For purposes of this Section, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

(A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

(B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

(C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof.

(5) For purposes of this Section, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

(A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

(B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

(C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof.

(f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

(1) Alcoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties

(A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.

(C) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

(2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

(A) ~~Six~~ Seven Day per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

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- 1 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days
2 during the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday first
3 three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- 4 (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties
- 5 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
7 Antlers Season.
- 8 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 9 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 10 (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, and Washington counties
- 11 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 15 (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
18 Antlers Season.
- 19 (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 20 (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- 21 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
23 Antlers Season.
- 24 (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 25 (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 26 (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 27 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March
28 31through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 29 (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through
30 August 1.
- 31 (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
- 32 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
34 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 35 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 36 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 37 ~~(8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County~~

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- 1 (A) ~~Hunting is by permit only.~~
- 2 (B) ~~The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
- 3 (9)(8) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- 4 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 5 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 6 (10)(9) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- 7 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days during~~
- 11 of the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days of the second week second
- 12 Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season. ~~If any of these days falls~~
- 13 ~~on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those days.~~
- 14 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 15 (11)(10) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
- 16 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
- 18 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
- 19 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on
- 20 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October
- 21 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with
- 22 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible
- 23 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
- 24 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest
- 25 October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.
- 26 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 27 Antlers Season.
- 28 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 29 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 30 (12)(11) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County
- 31 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 33 Antlers Season.
- 34 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 35 (13)(12) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties
- 36 (A) Six Days per Week Area

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- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 2 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 3 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 4 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 5 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 6 (iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 7 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
- 8 hunting after November 1.
- 9 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 10 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 11 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 12 (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of
- 13 Falls Lake.
- 14 (H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not
- 15 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable
- 16 seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of
- 17 bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September
- 18 1 through May 14.
- 19 (I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
- 20 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 21 (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area
- 22 and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited
- 23 in this camping area.
- 24 ~~(14)~~(13) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
- 25 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 27 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 28 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 29 ~~(15)~~(14) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
- 30 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 32 Antlers Season.
- 33 (C) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
- 34 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west
- 35 of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road,
- 36 and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
- 37 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

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- 1 (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 2 ~~(16)~~(15) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
- 3 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 5 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 7 (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- 8 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 9 ~~(17)~~(16) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
- 10 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 12 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 13 (C) ~~Horseback riding~~ riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from
- 14 May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only, September
- 15 1 – May 15, during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- 16 Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated
- 17 roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding
- 18 on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 19 (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock
- 20 hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of
- 21 SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the
- 22 intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to
- 23 the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR
- 24 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- 25 (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after
- 26 November 1.
- 27 (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
- 28 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 29 (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- 30 ~~(18)~~(17) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
- 31 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 33 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 34 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 35 (D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays during
- 36 the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- 37 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

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- 1 ~~(19)~~(18) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
- 2 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 4 Season.
- 5 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 6 ~~(20)~~(19) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days~~
- 11 ~~during~~ of the November bear season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~first~~
- 12 ~~three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December bear season except that portion
- 13 of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of
- 14 Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River
- 15 where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
- 16 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 17 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 18 (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays
- 19 only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on
- 20 those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 21 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 22 ~~(21)~~(20) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
- 23 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 25 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 26 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 27 Antlers Season.
- 28 ~~(22)~~(21) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.
- 29 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 30 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 31 Antlers Season.
- 32 (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.
- 33 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 34 ~~(23)~~(22) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- 35 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 36 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 37 Antlers Season.

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- 1 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 2 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 3 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 4 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 5 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl
- 6 seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish
- 7 Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- 8 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas.
- 9 During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 10 (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 11 ~~(24)~~(23) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
- 12 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by
- 14 permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
- 15 (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the
- 16 guides do not use a firearm.
- 17 (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- 18 (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of
- 19 their hunt.
- 20 (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand
- 21 or blind to a tree.
- 22 (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 23 season.
- 24 (H) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 25 ~~(25)~~(24) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County
- 26 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 27 (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
- 28 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 29 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age
- 30 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
- 31 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 32 ~~(26)~~(25) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
- 33 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 35 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 36 (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- 37 (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.

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- 1 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 2 ~~(27)~~(26) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- 3 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 5 season.
- 6 ~~(28)~~(27) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- 7 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 8 (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders
- 9 during scheduled permit hunts.
- 10 ~~(29)~~(28) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- 11 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 13 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 14 ~~(30)~~(29) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- 15 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 17 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 18 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 19 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 20 ~~(31)~~(30) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- 21 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 23 Antlers Season.
- 24 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
- 25 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 26 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 27 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 28 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 29 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all
- 30 waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl
- 31 impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith
- 32 Creek, and Hobucken.
- 33 (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except
- 34 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping
- 35 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1
- 36 through March 15.

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- 1 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
2 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 3 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1
4 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting
5 opportunity permit.
- 6 (H) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
7 prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of NC-33.
- 8 (I) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 9 ~~(32)~~(31) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- 10 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
12 Antlers Season.
- 13 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 14 ~~(33)~~(32) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- 15 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season.
- 18 (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little
19 Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 20 (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
21 prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of
22 Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- 23 ~~(34)~~(33) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- 24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
26 Antlers Season.
- 27 (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
28 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
29 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
30 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 31 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
32 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 33 (E) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days
34 ~~during~~ the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday first
35 ~~three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season, except for that
36 portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- 37 ~~(35)~~(34) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties

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- 1 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 4 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 5 (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 6 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 7 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 8 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 9 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 10 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 11 (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 12 ~~(36)~~(35) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 15 Antlers Season
- 16 ~~(37)~~(36) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 17 ~~(38)~~(37) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- 18 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 20 Antlers Season.
- 21 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- 22 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 23 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 24 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 25 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 26 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 27 (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east
- 28 of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and
- 29 bear hunting are permit only.
- 30 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
- 31 (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch
- 32 extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road
- 33 extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
- 34 (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving,
- 35 Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden
- 36 Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River,

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- 1 south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting
2 is by permit only.
- 3 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the
4 last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting
5 opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 6 (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and
7 within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 8 (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 9 (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 10 ~~(39)~~(38) Hyco Game land in Person County
- 11 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 14 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 15 ~~(40)~~(39) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 16 ~~(41)~~(40) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- 17 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 18 (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- 19 (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31,
20 except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the
21 permits.
- 22 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 23 (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is
24 limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 25 ~~(42)~~(41) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties
- 26 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
28 Antlers Season.
- 29 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- 30 (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 31 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 32 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 33 (D) ~~Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except~~ allowed only on
34 those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use.
35 Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American
36 Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use,
37 horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August 31, only during

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1 ~~June, July, and August~~, and on Sundays only from September 1 – May 15. ~~the remainder of~~
2 ~~the year except during open turkey and deer seasons~~. People age 16 or older must obtain
3 ~~who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries shall~~
4 ~~possess a Game Lands license.~~ license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area
5 other than the American Tobacco Trail.

- 6 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 7 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- 8 (G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not
9 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable
10 seasons for game birds and game animals.

11 ~~(43)~~(42) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties

- 12 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- 14 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
15 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 16 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

17 ~~(44)~~(43) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County

- 18 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- 20 (C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable
21 Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.
- 22 (D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating
23 the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- 24 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
25 Antlers season.
- 26 (F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.
- 27 (G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.

28 ~~(45)~~(44) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties

- 29 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 30 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
31 Antlers Season.
- 32 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 33 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.
- 34 (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

35 ~~(46)~~(45) Lee Game Land in Lee County

- 36 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

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- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 2 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 3 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 4 ~~(47)~~(46) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
- 5 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible
- 7 Antlers Season.
- 8 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 9 ~~(48)~~(47) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
- 10 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 12 Antlers Season.
- 13 ~~(49)~~(48) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
- 14 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 18 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 19 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 20 ~~(50)~~(49) Mayo Game Land in Person County
- 21 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 23 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 24 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 25 (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 26 (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 27 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 28 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 29 ~~(51)~~(50) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
- 30 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 32 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 33 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
- 34 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 35 ~~(52)~~(51) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
- 36 counties
- 37 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

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- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.
- 3 ~~(53)~~(52) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
- 4 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 5 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
6 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 7 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 8 ~~(54)~~(53) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County
- 9 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
11 Antlers Season.
- 12 (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the
13 game land that lies west of NC-43.
- 14 ~~(55)~~(54) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties
- 15 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season.
- 18 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 19 ~~(56)~~(55) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 20 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
22 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 23 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
24 the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week
25 thereafter.
- 26 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
27 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 28 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
29 Antlers Season.
- 30 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 31 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 32 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:
- 33 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
34 (ii) Swimming.
- 35 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 36 ~~(57)~~(56) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties
- 37 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

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- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season.
- 3 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
4 shoreline.
- 5 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
- 6 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 7 ~~(58)~~(57) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County
- 8 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
10 Antlers Season.
- 11 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
12 shoreline.
- 13 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 14 ~~(59)~~(58) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
- 15 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 18 (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North
19 of US-74.
- 20 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 21 (E) Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on
22 Sundays only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and
23 gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use. only during the following times:
24 (i) ~~during June, July, and August; and~~
25 (ii) ~~on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey~~
26 ~~seasons are closed.~~
- 27 (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be
28 prohibited on that portion south of US-74.
- 29 ~~(60)~~(59) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- 30 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
32 Antlers ~~Season~~ Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 33 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- 34 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 35 ~~(61)~~(60) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison,
36 McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- 37 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

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- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 2 Antlers Season.
- 3 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River
- 4 (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 5 (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke
- 6 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open
- 7 day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this
- 8 restriction.
- 9 ~~(62)~~(61) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 10 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 12 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 13 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31
- 14 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited
- 15 from November 1 through May 15.
- 16 ~~(63)~~(62) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- 17 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 19 Antlers Season.
- 20 ~~(64)~~(63) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- 21 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 23 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 24 (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- 25 ~~(65)~~(64) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- 26 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 27 (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- 28 ~~(66)~~(65) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- 29 (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- 30 (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business
- 31 or by permit holders.
- 32 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 33 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however,
- 34 that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-
- 35 owned portion of the game land.
- 36 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 37 ~~(67)~~(66) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.

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- 1 ~~(68)~~(67) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- 2 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 4 Antlers Season.
- 5 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 6 ~~(69)~~(68) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 7 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
- 9 Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 10 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
- 11 the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week
- 12 thereafter.
- 13 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
- 14 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 15 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season.
- 17 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 18 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 19 (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- 20 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 21 ~~(70)~~(69) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- 22 ~~(71)~~(70) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
- 23 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 25 Antlers Season.
- 26 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 27 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 28 ~~(72)~~(71) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties
- 29 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 30 (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22
- 31 through March 31 except as follows:
- 32 (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of
- 33 the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with
- 34 blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the
- 35 blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving
- 36 Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from

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- 1 the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following
2 Thanksgiving Day;
- 3 (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through
4 the third Saturday thereafter;
- 5 (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from the second Saturday
6 before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 7 (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding
8 Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 9 (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- 10 (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen
11 Program Permit Hunt; and
- 12 (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or
13 nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- 14 (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday
15 before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the
16 J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 17 (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth
18 Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds,
19 the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
20 taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit
21 during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated
22 in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday
23 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 24 (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding
25 Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on
26 the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day
27 through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open
28 hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With
29 Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday
30 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 31 (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- 32 (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing
33 days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 34 (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 35 (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited
36 unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the remainder

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- 1 of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular traffic
2 and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 3 (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
4 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 5 (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
- 6 ~~(73)~~(72) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties
- 7 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
9 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 10 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 11 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 12 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 13 ~~(74)~~(73) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.
- 14 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible
16 Antlers season.
- 17 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
18 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 19 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed
20 in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).
- 21 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove
22 season.
- 23 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 24 ~~(75)~~(74) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.
- 25 ~~(76)~~(75) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties
- 26 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
28 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 29 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 30 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 32 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 33 ~~(77)~~(76) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- 34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
36 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
37 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on

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1 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October
2 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with
3 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible
4 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
5 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest
6 October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.

7 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
8 Antlers Season.

9 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:

- 10 (i) January 2 through March 31;
- 11 (ii) May 16 through August 31;
- 12 (iii) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
- 13 (iv) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.

14 ~~(78)~~(77) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County

15 (A) Six Days per Week Area

16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season.

18 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

19 (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.

20 (E) Waterfowl ~~on posted waterfowl impoundments~~ may be taken only on the following days:

- 21 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 22 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 23 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

24 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.

25 (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

26 ~~(79)~~(78) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties

27 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

28 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
29 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

30 (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:

- 31 (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and
- 32 (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.

33 (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels
34 on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only
35 by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by
36 the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

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- 1 (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed
2 waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters
3 possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife
4 Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 5 ~~(80)~~(79) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
- 6 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
8 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 9 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 11 ~~(81)~~(80) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County
- 12 (A) Hunting is by permit only
- 13 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited
- 14 ~~(82)~~(81) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 15 ~~(83)~~(82) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 16 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
18 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 19 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 20 ~~(84)~~(83) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
- 21 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
23 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 24 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
25 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or
26 older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 27 (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is
28 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive
29 days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- 30 ~~(85)~~(84) Tillery game Land in Halifax County
- 31 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
33 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 34 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 35 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 36 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 37 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.

APPENDIX C

- 1 ~~(86)~~(85) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
- 2 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 4 Antlers Season.
- 5 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 6 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 7 ~~(87)~~(86) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- 8 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 10 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 11 (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following
- 12 days:
- 13 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 14 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 15 (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 16 (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- 17 ~~(88)~~(87) Vance Game Land in Vance County
- 18 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 20 Antlers Season.
- 21 (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the
- 22 Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- 23 ~~(89)~~(88) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
- 24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 26 Antlers Season.
- 27 (C) Bear may only be taken the first ~~Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days~~
- 28 ~~during~~ the November Bear Season and the ~~second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday first~~
- 29 ~~three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season.
- 30 ~~(90)~~(89) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
- 31 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 32 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 33 ~~(91)~~(90) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
- 34 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 36 Antlers Season.

APPENDIX C

- 1 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
2 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 3 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 4 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 5 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 6 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all
7 waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
- 8 (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
- 9 (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting
10 Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to
11 G.S. 113-264(d);
- 12 (ii) hunting is by permit only; and
- 13 (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 14 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 15 (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 16 ~~(92)~~(91) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties
- 17 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 18 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
19 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 20 (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
21 prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.
- 22 ~~(93)~~(92) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County
- 23 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
25 Antlers Season.
- 26 (C) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.
- 27 (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed
28 applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of
29 hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and
30 are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or
31 by phone.
- 32 (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a
33 valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:
- 34 (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
- 35 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
- 36 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
- 37 (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;

APPENDIX C

- 1 (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- 2 (6) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
- 3 (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.
- 4 (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the
- 5 Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise
- 6 the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid
- 7 need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes
- 8 issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public
- 9 interest.
- 10 (k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any
- 11 legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands
- 12 that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.
- 13 (l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on
- 14 any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where
- 15 prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.
- 16 (m) Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans and Military
- 17 Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including
- 18 members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt
- 19 on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.
- 20 (n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for participants
- 21 of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed
- 22 season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice,
- 23 the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.
- 24 (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.
- 25 (p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on
- 26 Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.
- 27

APPENDIX D

1 **15A NCAC 10J .0103 HUNTING ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS**

2 (a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area
3 shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug.

4 (b) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by
5 nails, screws, bolts or wire to a tree on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area. This prohibition
6 shall not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal left remaining in or attached
7 to the tree.

8 (c) Time and Manner of Taking. Except where closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by these regulations,
9 hunting on areas designated and posted as wildlife conservation areas is permitted during the open season for the game
10 or furbearing species being hunted. Waterfowl hunters shall not enter the areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted
11 hunting dates, and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates; decoys may not be set out prior to 4:00
12 a.m. and must be removed by 3:00 p.m. each date. No person shall operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal
13 combustion engine on the waters of any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area. No person shall
14 attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess
15 any bird or animal which has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any area designated
16 and posted as a wildlife conservation area, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the
17 Commission or its agent and no person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such
18 foods. No person shall use an electronic calling device for the purpose of attracting wild birds or wild animals. No live
19 wild animals or wild birds shall be removed from any designated wildlife conservation area except with the written
20 permission of the landowner.

21 (d) Hunting Dates:

22 (1) Any game may be taken during the open seasons ~~on the following wildlife conservation areas~~ and
23 hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's
24 Days. In addition, deer may be taken with bow and arrow on the opening day of the bow and arrow
25 season for deer. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00
26 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays. Additional restrictions apply as indicated in
27 parentheses following specific designations:

28 (2) Except as otherwise indicated, the following designated wildlife conservation areas or indicated
29 portions thereof are closed to all hunting:

30 (A) Nona Pitt Hinson Cohen Wildlife Conservation Area - Richmond County.

31 (B) John D. Lewis Wildlife Conservation Area - Wayne County.



Fiscal Note for Proposed Land Management Rule Amendments Sunday Hunting on Game Lands

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

Agency Contacts: Carrie Ruhlman, Sr. Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
919-707-0011
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

Chris Bova, Resource Economist/Lead Social Scientist
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
919-707-0057
christopher.bova@ncwildlife.org

Impact Summary: State Government: Yes
Local Government: No
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial impact: Uncertain but potential

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; S.L. 2017-182

I. SUMMARY

The proposed permanent rule removes the prohibition of Sunday hunting on game lands for 56 of the 94 North Carolina Wildlife Resources (NCWRC) managed lands enrolled in the Game Lands Program (we are awaiting confirmation from the landowner of Dover Bay Game Land; however, for the purposes of the fiscal note, we have included this area as a 7-day per week game land). The following changes are proposed to 15A 10D .0103:

- replacing 6-day per week game lands with 7-day per week game lands (46 game lands)
- replacing 3-day per week game lands with 4-day per week game lands (6 game lands)
- allowing permit hunts on Sundays (4 game lands)

The following is a summary and analysis of the proposed rule amendments to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 to allow Sunday hunting on select game lands. The proposed text is included in Appendix A.

II. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

When the Outdoor Heritage Act of 2015 passed, it removed the absolute prohibition on hunting with firearms on Sunday in North Carolina that had been in place since 1868. On July 25, 2017, the Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act was signed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper granting authority to the Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to implement new options for hunting on Sundays on its game lands, though hunters are still prohibited from hunting:

- with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;
- deer with the use of dogs; and
- within 500 yards of a place of worship.

The NCWRC began evaluating options associated with Sunday hunting on game lands in 2018 and has continued gathering data and public input to help inform this decision through 2020. This fiscal note summarizes the potential costs and benefits to the State, regulated community, and citizens of North Carolina for increasing hunting opportunities on Wildlife Resources Commission-managed game lands through the allowance of Sunday Hunting on select properties. The Commission has determined the proposed rule will have minor impacts to State Government and private individuals. No impacts have been identified to local (county or municipal) governments. However, an exact quantification of the impacts could not be identified based on existing information.

III. STATEMENT OF NEED

In 2015, the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) removed a longstanding prohibition on Sunday hunting on private property. Two years later, in 2017, the NCGA bestowed the NCWRC with the authority to implement rules and allow Sunday hunting on Game Lands. Following this shift in authority, many stakeholders began to inquire about the possibility of increasing hunting opportunities on NCWRC managed game lands.

A major component of the NCWRC's Strategic Plan is to "*Expand opportunities for all wildlife-associated recreation.*" This includes increasing access to hunting opportunities. By allowing an additional weekday to hunt during hunting seasons, more opportunities are made available to constituents.

Public access to huntable lands is becoming increasingly scarce in North Carolina and many constituents rely on public game lands as their only available hunting spaces. However, the currently limited number of days available for hunting on game lands can create an overcrowding scenario that reduces the overall quality of the activity. By adding an additional day of hunting opportunity, where the resources can accommodate the pressure, the crowding can potentially be reduced.

IV. BACKGROUND

The Game Lands program was established in 1971, and incorporated approximately 800,000 acres of land. Traditionally, these areas were tightly controlled for the hunting of a limited number of species. The main purpose of the initial establishment of the Game Lands program was to set aside land dedicated for the use of public hunting, trapping, and fishing. However, since their establishment, game lands, now comprising over 2 million acres, have evolved to include a range of wildlife-related uses, including hiking, wildlife watching, photography, horseback riding, camping, and foraging. In fact, multiple surveys have indicated that these "non-traditional" (for the purposes of this fiscal note, non-traditional means activities other

than hunting, trapping, or fishing) uses are much more prevalent on some game lands than hunting and fishing.

In North Carolina, all forms hunting on Sundays had been prohibited from 1868 until 2015. This was largely motivated by “blue laws”, laws enacted based on the religious belief that Sundays were meant for worship or rest (Humphreys, 2016). The Outdoor Heritage Act of 2015, passed in the North Carolina State Legislature, removed this prohibition. The Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act of 2017 expanded on the former legislation by granting authority to the NCWRC to implement rules for hunting on Sundays on game lands. However, the act still prohibits hunting with a firearm between 9:30am and 12:30 pm, prohibits hunting deer with the use of dogs, and prohibits hunting within 500 yards of a place of worship on Sundays.

Funding for the maintenance of game lands is provided through various sources. The sale of all licenses, including hunting licenses, accounts for approximately 25% of this funding, while US Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife restoration program funds support the remaining 75% of Game Lands management funding. This federal funding is also supported by the sale of hunting licenses, as well as other factors including in-state expenditures on hunting and firearm related items.

Currently, game lands are classified as follows:

- Three Days per Week Area - game lands on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day, except for Game Lands that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. However, Falconry is allowed on Sundays.
- Six Days per Week Area - game lands on which any game may be taken during the open seasons, on any day except Sundays.
- Permit Only - areas only huntable with a NCWRC-issued permit on days specified by the permit.

i.) Determining Feasibility

A substantial amount of effort was given by the NCWRC in determining the feasibility of allowing Sunday hunting on game lands. The process began by identifying constituent attitudes, preferences, and concerns through a series of surveys. These were addressed in greater detail through public “listening sessions” held in each NCWRC management region. Potential conflicts between user-groups were assessed and opportunities for feedback were provided by online focus group sessions with key stakeholders. Largely based on the results of these events, an iterative process amongst staff aided in development of an exploratory tool, based on structured decision making, which identified key criteria for deciding whether specific game lands were feasible options for hunting on Sundays.

Survey of Public Opinions

In 2018, the NCWRC completed its first constituent survey to explore opinions on Sunday Hunting on game lands. The questionnaire was made public to constituents via press-release, social media, emails to the NCWRC listserv, and through cooperation with agency partners. Based on the responses, it was evident that significantly more work would need to be done before a decision on allowing Sunday hunting could be made. However, it did identify themes for both proponents

and opponents of Sunday hunting. The results suggested that public opinion was generally split on Sunday hunting. A divide between individuals for, and against existed between hunters and other user groups, but also within the hunter group. Some of the main themes for those that supported Sunday hunting were that it would increase access and participation to the activity in an already limited season, and that the prohibition of Sunday hunting was not based on science and instead favored religious beliefs. Opposition to Sunday hunting was shaped by safety concerns, user-group conflicts, concerns of wildlife pressure, and religious beliefs.

Following the first survey, the NCWRC decided to further explore additional details of the feasibility of Sunday hunting on game lands. An alternative and more comprehensive survey regarding public preferences was undertaken in 2020. Distributed to the general public via multiple modes, this survey identified some key aspects of the conflict in opinions on Sunday hunting. Over 30,000 responses were collected and opinions on the topic closely resembled the 2018 survey. In addition, the survey identified game lands use behavior, and preferences based on allowing Sunday hunting. Of the respondents, approximately 14,000 indicated that they hunt on game lands, while roughly 17,000 identified with some other activity on game lands. Perceived conflicts between these user groups was the primary driver behind much of the opposition to Sunday hunting.

Sundays were identified as the highest participation day in non-traditional activities such as hiking, biking, and wildlife watching. This held true for both hunter and non-hunters. The results of the second survey indicated that 74% of hunters were in support of Sunday hunting, while 75% of non-hunters were in opposition to the idea.

Hunters supported the idea for a number of reasons. These related to increasing hunting participation and the economic and conservation benefits provided from this increase, as well as the fact that over 40 other states have allowed it without conflict. Additionally, they indicated that it could reduce pressure on Saturdays from working class individuals as they could redistribute the pressure over an additional hunting day. Hunters that opposed the idea were mostly focused around religious beliefs, ecological impacts, safety of non-hunters, and “tradition”.

Non-hunters mostly opposed Sunday hunting due to the perceived safety concerns of co-usage, noise pollution, religious reasons, and impacts to wildlife. Those that support Sunday hunting questioned why Sunday should be treated differently from any other day and didn’t want to see opportunities restricted for other user groups.

It became apparent that the obvious conflict between user groups was going to be a major hurdle in determining whether to allow Sunday hunting on game lands. Those opposed to the idea of Sunday hunting indicated skepticism or “no options” (~60%) surrounding compromises to address concerns around Sunday hunting. Proponents of Sunday hunting felt there were “some” or “many” options available for addressing these concerns. Nevertheless, these options needed to be identified and explored. To do so, the NCWRC hosted listening sessions with the goal of identifying these alternative options and the consensus surrounding them.

State-wide Listening Sessions

Findings from the surveys were summarized and presented to over 400 individuals at 6 face-to-face externally facilitated listening sessions across the state and two online virtual listening sessions. The goal of these sessions was to review the available information regarding game land use and Sunday hunting, as well as determine some “middle-ground” options between the conflicting opinions and user-groups. The feasible options were determined by polling the listening session participants for consensus.

Many of the concerns that existed regarding safety and impacts to wildlife were quelled based on discussion by experts and between conflicting groups, however safety concerns persisted as a shared concern between groups. Terms of equity became a recurring theme, in that hunter participation largely funds the maintenance of game lands, while the non-hunters reap the benefits for free. In terms of fairness, non-hunters indicated they would also be willing to contribute towards the management of game lands in the form of user fees. The process confirmed that, with a lot of careful listening, compromise solutions for opening Sunday hunting on a limited number of game lands could be developed.

Focus Groups

The compromise solutions identified through the listening sessions were used as potential elements of a consensus solution and used as input into 3 focus groups. These focus groups consisted of 32 key stakeholders from various user-groups comprised of hunters and non-hunters. During these sessions, stakeholders discussed the potential solutions proposed from the survey and listening sessions. Key criteria for selecting suitable game lands were identified. And tangentially related to the topic of Sunday hunting, stakeholders discussed funding equity and the possibility for a user-pay scheme.

Structured Decision Making

After receiving substantial and informative feedback from our constituency in the form of survey responses, listening sessions, and focus groups with key stakeholders, the NCWRC was tasked with making a final decision on which game lands would be suitable for Sunday hunting. The decisions would rely on the expertise of NCWRC game lands managers/staff and biological experts. In order to make sure decisions were unbiased, these decisions would need to be made based on a specified set of criteria.

In an iterative process between agency staff, and guided by the agency social scientist, key sets of criteria were determined within a framework of structured decision making. These criteria were based on agency considerations and stakeholder considerations. The agency considerations related to the capacity of the NCWRC to allow Sunday hunting with regards, to ecological impacts, infrastructure impacts, Game Land capacity, species availability for hunting, and the regulatory complexity of Sunday hunting. Stakeholder considerations were largely based off the focus group outcomes and included the level of non-hunting use, proximity to large populations of users, proximity to alternative public lands for non-hunting use, level of non-hunting activities that are negatively impacted by

allowing hunting, and the level of acceptance or non-conflict with land owners adjoining game lands. In a similar iterative process between staff members, these criteria were weighted for their importance in the decision-making process (Table 1).

Table 1: NCWRC decision guiding criteria and criteria weighting.

Agency Considerations	Weights
Size of Game Land (<1000 1pt., 1000-10k 2-4 pts., >10k 5pts.)	0.1
Game species availability (Small number of huntable species 1 pt., most huntable species available, 5 pts.)	0.15
Infrastructure impacts of increased activity (High level of impact 1 pt, no impact 5 pts.)	0.2
Potential for overharvest of ANY game species or substantial resource disturbance with increased effort (high potential 1pt, no potential 5 pts.)	0.3
Game land complexity	0.25
Stakeholder Considerations	
Level of hunting use vs. other use- -consider number of non-hunter specific attractions (high # of other users/non-hunt attractions 1pt., moderate # of other users/attractions 2-4 pts., primarily hunting use and low # of other users 5 pts.)	0.25
Proximity to urban centers (high population density); (<10 miles 1pt., 10-20 miles 2-4pts., >20 miles 5 pts.)	0.15
Proximity to alternative public lands for recreation purposes (>20 miles 1pt., 10-20 miles 2-4 pts., <10 miles 5pts.)	0.2
Level of other activities being negatively impacted by Sunday Hunting (3 or more activities 1pt, 1 to 3 activities 2-4 pts., 0 activities 5pts.)	0.25
Level of acceptance/non-conflict with adjacent landowners (Low acceptance/high conflict 1 pt., moderate acceptance/conflict 2-4 pts., high acceptance/low conflict 5pts.)	0.15

After the criteria and weights were identified, a panel of game land experts, comprised of game lands staff, wildlife biologists, social scientists, and agency management were tasked with scoring each criterion for each game land from 1 to 5. Based on the recorded scores for each criterion, total scores were formulated for each set of considerations (agency and stakeholder), based on the weights of the criterion. The total scores for each consideration category were plotted on an XY scatterplot to determine whether the game lands were “feasible for Sunday hunting”, “feasible with considerations”, or currently “not feasible for Sunday hunting (Figure 1).

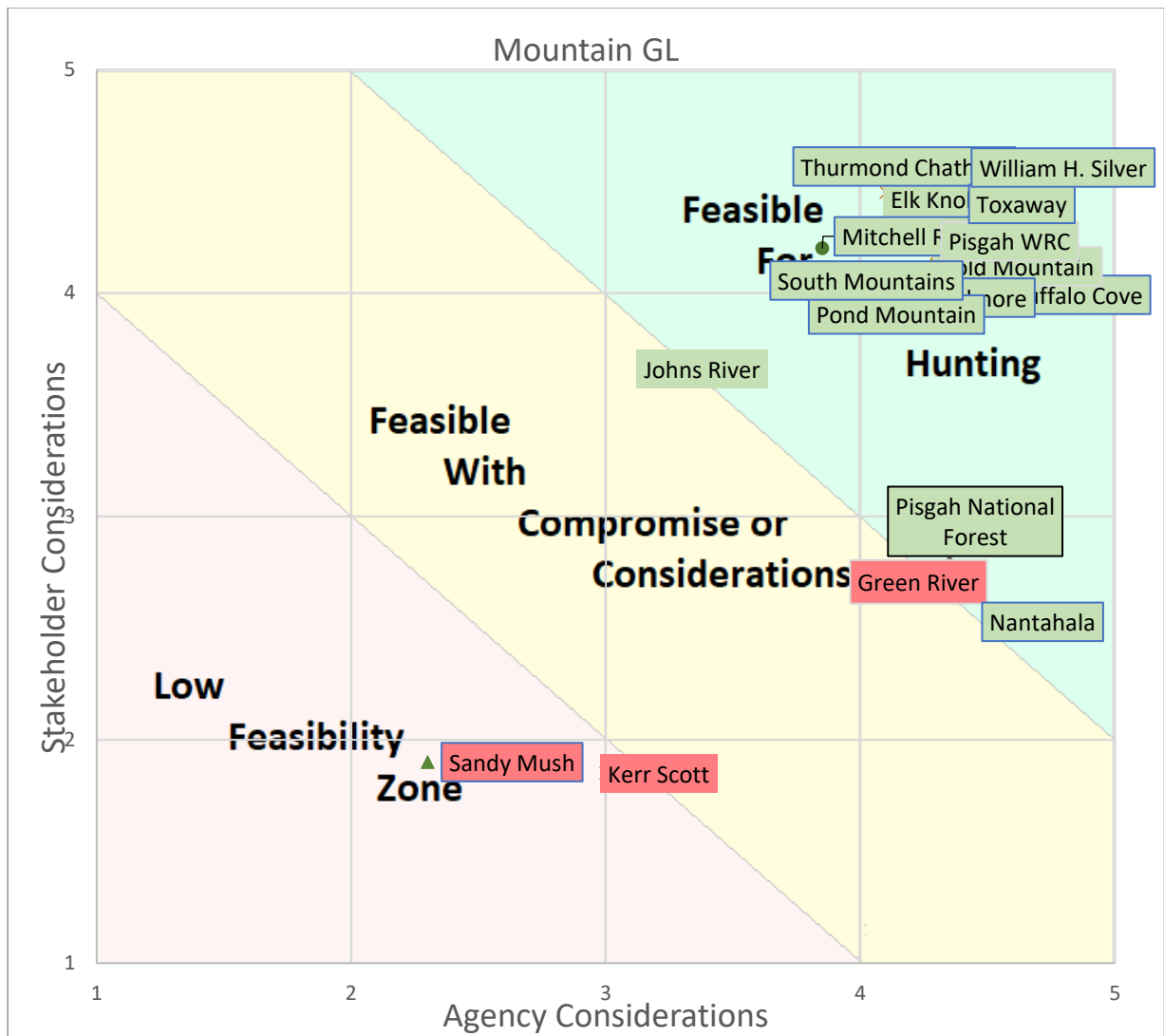


Figure 1: Feasibility plot for Sunday Hunting on Mountains Game Lands, based on scoring of feasibility criteria. Green labels will allow Sunday hunting.

Staff Recommendations

The structured decision-making tool helped to guide game lands experts towards their final recommendations on the feasibility of allowing Sunday hunting on certain game lands. However, several other context specific factors were up to the judgement of the experts. It should be noted that not all game lands managed by the NCWRC were up for consideration, as the private landowners in some instances were opposed to Sunday hunting. However, based on the remaining game lands available for consideration, NCWRC staff determined that Sunday hunting is currently feasible on 56 game lands and gave brief statements of why, apart from the decision tool (Appendix B). In some instances, exceptions needed to be made over concerns of wildlife impacts. As a result, hunting bear with dogs received some additional restrictions.

V. IMPACTS

The impacts of these Sunday hunting decisions are all but clear. Some impacts to the NCWRC could be estimated in terms of costs of signage, marketing and additional staff work. Decisions with regards to allowing Sunday hunting on game lands were centered around minimizing the impacts on game lands use and users. These potential impacts such as a change in usage can only be speculated at this time. There is not expected to be any additional impacts on local governments. In any case, these impacts are uncertain but may be substantial.

i.) State Impacts

Costs

The costs to the NCWRC are expected to be minimal but will involve those associated with signage changes on the game lands, and marketing and communications materials and staff time to notify the public of these changes. However, these costs are anticipated to be offset by the potential for increased sales of hunting licenses and permits. Additionally, increased expenditures by hunters due to an additional day of hunting for those that rely on public land to hunt may generate additional tax revenue for the state. These additional expenditures are not expected to be substantial, however they could benefit local economies as well.

Costs to the state will come in the form of signage and marketing efforts to inform constituents of these rule changes. Although, these costs are expected to be minimal. An estimated \$5 per sign with an average of 3 signs per game land amounts to a one-time cost of \$855 ($\$5/\text{sign} \times (3 \text{ signs}/\text{game land} \times 56 \text{ game lands}) = \855) for signage state-wide. Staff time required to post signs are estimated at a one-time cost of approximately \$1,980 ($60 \text{ hours} \times \$33/\text{hour} = \$1,980$). Thus, the agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$2,835 to post signage.

Additional costs to the agency are anticipated for outreach to the public to inform them of the rule change. The creation of new outreach materials are anticipated to cost the agency approximately \$11,640, which includes paid social media campaigns, web ads, and search engine optimization (\$5,000), and creation of outreach and webpage material and website updates, ($80 \text{ hours} \times 2 \text{ staff} \times 41.50/\text{hour} = \$6,640$). Because materials can be re-used, no recurring cost was calculated.

Benefits

Increasing opportunities and the quality of one's hunting experience can contribute to the NCWRC's commitment to the recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) of hunters. As an agency that relies on the funding of game land management through income generated from the sale of licenses, particularly hunting licenses, R3 strategies are meant to bolster participation and there for increase the sale of licenses (Larson *et al.* 2014). While, the exact impact of additional available public land hunting days on license sales is unknown at this point, it may generate more agency revenue through increased license purchases.

An increase in license sales could also benefit game land management through increased funding from the license sales and federal funds issued to the agency based on these sales. An increase in hunting participation also amounts to an increase in expenditures on hunting related items, which may contain a federal excise tax used to generate more funding for game lands (Pittman-Robertson Act). However, the

estimates on these impacts could not be made as there are currently no data on the number of daily hunters on game lands.

Increasing opportunities for participation could also lead to increased applications for permit hunts, as four of the 56 game lands proposed for Sunday hunting are hunted by permit only. The fee to apply for permit hunts is \$8 and hunters may apply for as many permit hunts as they want. Over the past three hunting seasons, Rocky Run has offered seven permit hunts, Tar River two, Upper Roanoke 12, and Johns River on average 15. At this time, it is anticipated that the same number of hunts will be issued but the hunting days may change to include Sundays. The average number of applications received over the past three hunting seasons, for each of the four proposed game lands allowing permit hunts on Sundays, is as follows: Rocky Run = 124, Tar River = 122, Upper Roanoke = 2,385, and Johns River = 1,397. While the Commission cannot accurately estimate how many applications will be submitted if hunting is allowed on Sundays, the number is anticipated to increase, as weekend days are assumed to be more conducive to hunting for work and scheduling reasons.

ii.) Private Impacts

Costs

It is currently unknown how the level of game lands use will be impacted for each user-group based on the allowance of Sunday hunting. The NCWRC typically rejected recommending Sunday hunting on game lands where user-conflicts were likely to result in major user impacts.

During the big game hunting seasons, horseback riders have been allowed to ride on certain game lands only on Sundays. Now, horseback riding will still be allowed on Sundays on those game lands, but hunting will also be allowed. Because of this, participation in horseback riding on the game lands where hunting will be allowed on Sundays could decrease and result in reduced local expenditures generated by the transportation of horses to the game lands and associated expenses with a horseback riding trip if they choose not to ride because of hunting. However, game lands where this activity may be impacted are in proximity to alternative public lands where horseback riding can occur. Additionally, hunting is not allowed on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. As a result, it is unlikely these expenditures will change.

Benefits

Non-hunting related wildlife associated recreation contributes a considerable amount of expenditures to the American economy. A 2016 survey of this group associated roughly \$76 Billion in economic activity based on their recreation (*2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*). Rosenberger *et al.* (2017) estimated the mean daily expenditures of various hunting and non-hunting related activities. Common activities that occur on Game Lands, such as hiking, biking, and nature viewing were estimated to have average daily expenditures of \$78.19, \$98.94, and \$63.46 respectively, while “other” recreation was estimated at \$62.06. Based on some of the discussion surrounding the listening sessions held by the NCWRC, it is possible that some of these non-hunters may no longer participate in recreation on game lands, on Sundays if Sunday hunting is allowed.

Casola *et al.* (2020) explored how Sunday hunting could impact the visitation to North Carolina Game Lands by various user-groups (Table 3). In a survey of game lands

users, the authors found that non-hunters (current Sunday users) were less likely to visit the game land on Sundays if hunting were allowed. However, in general, aside from birders and equestrians, most non-traditional user groups do not have statistically significant opinions for or against Sunday hunting and hikers may be the only non-traditional user group who would visit game lands less often if Sunday hunting were allowed. Since the number of daily hikers per game land is currently unknown, a total impact value cannot be estimated. However, it is estimated that their participation in hiking on game lands could be reduced by as much as 21.6%.

Since horseback riding is already regulated, bird watchers are the only significantly impacted group. However, decision making for Sunday hunting also involved a NCWRC bird biologist, NC Birding trail organizer, and liaison to the birding community who provided valuable data on birding participation on game lands. The estimates were based on data collected through a mobile birding app (eBird), which allowed decision makers to view birder effort on various Game Lands. Most of the game lands that have been identified as feasible for Sunday Hunting had very little birder participation that would be impacted. However, these impacts could result in a decrease in participation of birding on game lands by up to an estimated 33%.

Table 2: Sunday visitation impacts by game lands users if Sunday hunting is allowed. (Source: Casola et al., 2020)

Activity	Visitation Impacts (N = 2069)			
	Count	Visit More	Visit Less	No Impact
Hunting	1152	61.4%	5.3%	33.3%
Trapping	63	68.3%	3.2%	28.6%
Fishing	1017	47.2%	8.46%	44.3%
Hiking	997	30.9%	21.6%	47.5%
Camping	581	39.1%	16.0%	45.1%
Birding	323	27.6%	33.4%	39.3%
Biking	227	27.8%	23.1%	49.5%
Motorized Boating	362	46.7%	11.6%	42.0%
Canoeing/Kayaking	572	25.9%	19.1%	55.2%
Horseback Riding	121	26.4%	34.7%	39.7%
Shooting Range	432	46.5%	4.17%	49.3%
Field Trials	127	40.2%	16.5%	43.3%
Other	145	14.5%	31.7%	54.5%
All Users Combined	2069	38.3%	15.3%	46.4%

An expectation of the agency is that by allowing Sunday hunting on game lands, it will generate more participation by hunters. Based on the results indicated in Table 3, 61.4% of hunters indicated they would visit game lands more on Sunday if hunting were allowed, representing a significant increase in participation. The average daily expenditure of hunters has been estimated at approximately \$76.72 (Rosenberger et al., 2017). This could potentially result in a significant increase in hunting related expenditures with an additional day of hunting available on public land. However, data do not exist to quantify this potential increase at this time.

VI. ALTERNATIVES

There are two alternatives to the proposed rule changes. The first being that all forms of Sunday hunting are allowed on all game lands. The second being no change to the rule at all.

The NCNCWRC has decided to forego the idea of allowing all forms of Sunday hunting on all game lands for several major issues. The first and most prohibitive is the issue of land ownership. While the NCNCWRC is responsible for managing all game lands, it does not have complete authority to implement rules for privately owned land. In some instances, these private landowners enrolled in the Game Lands program opposed Sunday hunting on their lands. Additionally, extreme conflicts between user-groups were identified on several game lands which the NCWRC would greatly like to minimize. Finally, not all game lands can sustain the pressure of Sunday hunting. As a result, this alternative is not feasible and is rejected by the NCNCWRC.

The other alternative of maintaining the existing rule is also not an option for the NCNCWRC. In doing so would ignore the interests of our constituent base. Additionally, it goes against the agency objectives of increasing opportunities for wildlife users, such as hunters. Hunters are significantly more likely to use the game lands for recreation on Sunday if hunting is allowed, compared to a general indifference in the visitation behavior of other users. This increase in participation and the associated funding and expenditures will be lost if the existing rule is withheld, representing a potentially high opportunity cost. As a result of these factors, the NCNCWRC rejects this alternative.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Following the Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act of 2017, the NCWRC has received substantial public interest in both allowing and disallowing Sunday hunting on game lands. Significant research, collaboration, and planning went into determining potential impacts. Providing opportunities for wildlife-associated recreation is a pillar of the agency's mission. The Commission believes that the anticipated the non-market benefits provided to hunters in the form of additional recreational opportunity will far outweigh the impacts of allowing Sunday hunting on the proposed 56 game lands.

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APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

2 (a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of
3 alcohol or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding
4 the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

5 (b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or
6 gates, or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

7 (c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached
8 by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to
9 lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

10 (d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals
11 and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to
12 hunting or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open
13 game animal or game bird seasons. On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 14 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 15 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;
- 16 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- 17 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and
- 18 (5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

19 On designated youth waterfowl days, youths may hunt on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before
20 sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans and military waterfowl days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and
21 members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active
22 duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as
23 permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this Paragraph shall apply.

24 On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and
25 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the
26 impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." ~~No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of
27 any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has
28 been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods
29 without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall
30 be made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or
31 attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods.~~

32 (e) Definitions:

33 (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be
34 taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day,
35 Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.

36 (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any
37 game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,
38 Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in
39 this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may
40 also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons

1 listed under each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on
2 Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

3 (3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any
4 game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and
5 Saturday during the open seasons.

6 (4) For purposes of this Section, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which
7 game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays,
8 Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

9 (A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

10 (B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

11 (C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b),
12 or any accessory structure thereof.

13 (5) For purposes of this Section, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game
14 may be taken during the open season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On
15 Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

16 (A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

17 (B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

18 (C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b),
19 or any accessory structure thereof.

20 (f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or
21 parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

22 (g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

23 (1) Alcoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties

24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
26 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery
27 county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer
28 With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly
29 counties.

30 (C) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

31 (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

32 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Day per Week Area

33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
34 Antlers Season.

35 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of ~~three hunting days~~
36 ~~during~~ the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday
37 ~~first three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season.

38 (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties

39 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

40 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
41 Antlers Season.

- 1 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 2 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 3 (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, ~~Martin~~, and Washington counties
- 4 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 5 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 6 Antlers Season.
- 7 (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County
- 8 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 10 Antlers Season.
- 11 (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 12 (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- 13 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 15 Antlers Season.
- 16 (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 17 (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 18 (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 19 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 20 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 21 (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15
- 22 through August 1.
- 23 (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
- 24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 26 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 27 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 28 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 29 ~~(8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County~~
- 30 ~~(A) Hunting is by permit only.~~
- 31 ~~(B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
- 32 ~~(9)~~(8) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- 33 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 34 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 35 ~~(10)~~(9) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- 36 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 37 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 38 Antlers Season.
- 39 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days~~
- 40 ~~during of~~ the November Bear Season and the ~~first three hunting days of the second~~
- 41 ~~week~~ second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season. ~~If any of~~

1 ~~these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those~~
2 ~~days.~~

3 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.

4 ~~(11)~~(10) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties

5 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

6 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from
7 the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.
8 Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the
9 Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on
10 or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible
11 antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the
12 closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through
13 January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days
14 beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second
15 week thereafter.

16 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
17 Visible Antlers Season.

18 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31
19 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

20 ~~(12)~~(11) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County

21 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area

22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
23 Antlers Season.

24 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

25 ~~(13)~~(12) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties

26 (A) Six Days per Week Area

27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
28 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

29 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

- 30 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
31 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
32 (iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

33 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
34 hunting after November 1.

35 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited.

36 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

37 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

38 (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south
39 of Falls Lake.

40 (H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does
41 not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the

1 applicable seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding
2 areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays
3 only from September 1 through May 14.

4 (I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas
5 are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
6 14.

7 (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping
8 Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are
9 prohibited in this camping area.

10 ~~(14)~~(13) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:

11 (A) Six Days per Week Area

12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.

14 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

15 ~~(15)~~(14) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County

16 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
18 Antlers Season.

19 (C) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.

20 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is
21 west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck
22 Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.

23 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

24 (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

25 ~~(16)~~(15) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County

26 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
28 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

29 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

30 (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.

31 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

32 ~~(17)~~(16) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County

33 (A) Three Days per Week Area

34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
35 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.

36 (C) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week
37 from May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only,
38 September 1 – May 15, during the remainder of the year except during open turkey
39 and deer seasons. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic
40 and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or
41 older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.

- 1 (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and
2 woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the
3 intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR
4 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62,
5 north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of
6 SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- 7 (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after
8 November 1.
- 9 (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas
10 are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
11 14.
- 12 (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- 13 ~~(18)~~(17) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
- 14 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
16 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 18 (D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays
19 during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- 20 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 21 ~~(19)~~(18) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
- 22 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 23 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
24 Season.
- 25 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 26 ~~(20)~~(19) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
- 27 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
29 Antlers Season.
- 30 (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting~~
31 ~~days during~~ of the November bear season and the second Saturday, Monday, and
32 Tuesday ~~first three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December bear
33 season except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is
34 east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of
35 Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season
36 dates for the Gates County bear season.
- 37 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
38 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 39 (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on
40 Sundays only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular
41 traffic and on those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

- 1 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 2 ~~(21)~~(20) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
- 3 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31
- 5 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 6 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
- 7 Visible Antlers Season.
- 8 ~~(22)~~(21) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.
- 9 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season.
- 12 (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.
- 13 ~~(23)~~(22) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- 14 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season.
- 17 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 18 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 19 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 20 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 21 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl
- 22 seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish
- 23 Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- 24 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted
- 25 areas. During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 26 (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 27 ~~(24)~~(23) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
- 28 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 29 (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted
- 30 by permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
- 31 (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided
- 32 the guides do not use a firearm.
- 33 (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or
- 34 shoreline.
- 35 (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the
- 36 day of their hunt.
- 37 (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree
- 38 stand or blind to a tree.
- 39 (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 40 season.
- 41 (H) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

- 1 ~~(25)~~(24) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County
- 2 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
- 4 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 5 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People
- 6 age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
- 7 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 8 ~~(26)~~(25) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
- 9 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 12 (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- 13 (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- 14 ~~(27)~~(26) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- 15 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 17 Antlers season.
- 18 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 19 ~~(28)~~(27) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- 20 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 21 (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit
- 22 holders during scheduled permit hunts.
- 23 ~~(29)~~(28) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- 24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 26 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 27 ~~(30)~~(29) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- 28 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 29 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 30 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 31 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 32 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 33 ~~(31)~~(30) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- 34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 36 Antlers Season.
- 37 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
- 38 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 39 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 40 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 41 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

- 1 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all
2 waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl
3 impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith
4 Creek, and Hobucken.
- 5 (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except
6 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the
7 trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period
8 November 1 through March 15.
- 9 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
10 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 11 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1
12 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid
13 hunting opportunity permit.
- 14 (H) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
15 prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of NC-33.
- 16 (I) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 17 ~~(32)~~(31) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- 18 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
20 Visible Antlers Season.
- 21 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 22 ~~(33)~~(32) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- 23 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
25 Antlers Season.
- 26 (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little
27 Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit
28 only.
- 29 (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
30 prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east
31 of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- 32 ~~(34)~~(33) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- 33 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
35 Antlers Season.
- 36 (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following
37 days:
- 38 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
- 39 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 40 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.

- 1 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
2 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 3 (E) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of ~~three hunting days~~
4 ~~during~~ the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday
5 ~~first three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season, except
6 for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- 7 ~~(35)~~(34) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- 8 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
10 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 11 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 12 (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 13 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 14 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 15 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 16 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 17 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 18 (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 19 ~~(36)~~(35) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- 20 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
22 Antlers Season
- 23 ~~(37)~~(36) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 24 ~~(38)~~(37) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- 25 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
27 Antlers Season.
- 28 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- 29 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 30 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 31 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 32 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
33 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 34 (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch,
35 east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting
36 and bear hunting are permit only.
- 37 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
- 38 (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch
39 extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road
40 extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and

- 1 (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving,
2 Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden
3 Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear
4 River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and
5 bear hunting is by permit only.
- 6 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to
7 the last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting
8 opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources
9 Commission.
- 10 (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on
11 and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 12 (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 13 (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 14 ~~(39)~~(38) Hyco Game land in Person County
- 15 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 18 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 19 ~~(40)~~(39) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 20 ~~(41)~~(40) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- 21 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 22 (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- 23 (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31,
24 except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on
25 the permits.
- 26 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 27 (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas
28 is limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
29 14.
- 30 ~~(42)~~(41) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties
- 31 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
33 Antlers Season.
- 34 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- 35 (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 36 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 37 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 38 (D) ~~Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except~~ allowed only
39 on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian
40 use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the
41 American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for

1 equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August
2 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only from September 1 –
3 May 15, the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People
4 age 16 or older must obtain who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the
5 game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license–license prior to engaging in
6 horseback riding on any area other than the American Tobacco Trail.

7 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.

8 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery
9 Zone.

10 (G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does
11 not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the
12 applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.

13 ~~(43)~~(42) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties

14 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers
16 Season.

17 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
18 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

19 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

20 ~~(44)~~(43) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County

21 (A) Six Days per Week Area

22 (B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

23 (C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable
24 Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.

25 (D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating
26 the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.

27 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
28 Antlers season.

29 (F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

30 (G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.

31 ~~(45)~~(44) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties

32 (A) Six Days per Week Area

33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
34 Antlers Season.

35 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

36 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.

37 (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

38 ~~(46)~~(45) Lee Game Land in Lee County

39 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

40 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
41 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

- 1 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 2 ~~(47)~~(46) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
- 3 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible
- 5 Antlers Season.
- 6 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 7 ~~(48)~~(47) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
- 8 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With
- 10 Visible Antlers Season.
- 11 ~~(49)~~(48) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
- 12 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 14 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 15 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 16 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 17 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 18 ~~(50)~~(49) Mayo Game Land in Person County
- 19 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 21 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 22 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 23 (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 24 (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 25 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 26 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 27 ~~(51)~~(50) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
- 28 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 29 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 30 Antlers Season through the second ~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday thereafter.
- 31 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31,
- 32 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 33 ~~(52)~~(51) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
- 34 counties
- 35 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 36 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
- 37 Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.
- 38 ~~(53)~~(52) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
- 39 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 40 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31,
- 41 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

1 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit
2 only.

3 ~~(54)~~(53) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County

4 (A) Six Days per Week Area

5 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
6 Antlers Season.

7 (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of
8 the game land that lies west of NC-43.

9 ~~(55)~~(54) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties

10 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
12 Antlers Season.

13 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

14 ~~(56)~~(55) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County

15 (A) Three Days per Week Area

16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from
17 the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the fourth Friday before
18 Thanksgiving Day.

19 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days
20 beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the
21 second week thereafter.

22 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the
23 second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after
24 Thanksgiving Day.

25 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
26 Antlers Season.

27 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

28 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

29 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:

30 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine;
31 and

32 (ii) Swimming.

33 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.

34 ~~(57)~~(56) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties

35 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

36 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
37 Antlers Season.

38 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
39 shoreline.

40 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.

41 (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

- 1 ~~(62)~~(61) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 2 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 4 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 5 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through
- 6 August 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding
- 7 is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.
- 8 ~~(63)~~(62) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- 9 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season.
- 12 ~~(64)~~(63) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- 13 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 15 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 16 (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- 17 ~~(65)~~(64) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- 18 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 19 (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- 20 ~~(66)~~(65) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- 21 (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- 22 (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission
- 23 business or by permit holders.
- 24 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 25 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided,
- 26 however, that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River
- 27 on the state-owned portion of the game land.
- 28 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 29 ~~(67)~~(66) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- 30 ~~(68)~~(67) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- 31 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 33 Antlers Season.
- 34 (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 35 ~~(69)~~(68) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 36 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 37 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from
- 38 the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 39 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days
- 40 beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the
- 41 second week thereafter.

- 1 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the
2 second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after
3 Thanksgiving Day.
- 4 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
5 Antlers Season.
- 6 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 7 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 8 (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- 9 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10 ~~(70)~~(69) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- 11 ~~(71)~~(70) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
- 12 (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
14 Antlers Season.
- 15 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 16 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 17 ~~(72)~~(71) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties
- 18 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22
20 through March 31 except as follows:
- 21 (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days
22 of the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day;
23 with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the
24 blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before
25 Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all
26 legal weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through
27 the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 28 (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season
29 through the third Saturday thereafter;
- 30 (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from the second
31 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following
32 Thanksgiving Day;
- 33 (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding
34 Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 35 (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- 36 (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen
37 Program Permit Hunt; and
- 38 (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or
39 nearest October 15 through the last day of February.

- 1 (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second
2 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day
3 except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 4 (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the
5 fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial
6 Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either
7 sex may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery
8 season, by permit during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder
9 firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be
10 taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 11 (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding
12 Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except
13 on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving
14 Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on
15 all open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during
16 the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from
17 the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 18 (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- 19 (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and
20 closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 21 (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 22 (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is
23 prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed
24 on the remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are
25 open to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 26 (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas
27 are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
28 14.
- 29 (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
30 ~~(73)~~(72) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin ~~Counties~~ counties
- 31 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
33 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 34 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 35 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 36 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 37 ~~(74)~~(73) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.
- 38 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 39 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with
40 Visible Antlers season.

- 1 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31
2 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 3 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as
4 allowed in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).
- 5 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of
6 dove season.
- 7 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 8 ~~(75)~~(74) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.
- 9 ~~(76)~~(75) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties
- 10 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
12 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 13 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 14 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
15 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 16 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 17 ~~(77)~~(76) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- 18 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 19 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from
20 the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.
21 Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the
22 Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on
23 or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible
24 antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the
25 closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through
26 January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days
27 beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second
28 week thereafter.
- 29 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
30 Visible Antlers Season.
- 31 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
- 32 (i) January 2 through March 31;
- 33 (ii) May 16 through August 31;
- 34 (iii) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
- 35 (iv) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
- 36 ~~(78)~~(77) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
- 37 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 38 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
39 Antlers Season.
- 40 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- 41 (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.

- 1 (E) Waterfowl ~~on posted waterfowl impoundments~~ may be taken only on the following
2 days:
- 3 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
4 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
5 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 6 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 7 (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 8 ~~(79)~~(78) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties
- 9 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 10 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
11 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 12 (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:
- 13 (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and
14 (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
- 15 (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of
16 vessels on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl
17 hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity
18 Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 19 (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed
20 waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters
21 possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife
22 Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 23 ~~(80)~~(79) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
- 24 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
26 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 27 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 28 (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 29 ~~(81)~~(80) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County
- 30 (A) Hunting is by permit only
- 31 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited
- 32 ~~(82)~~(81) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 33 ~~(83)~~(82) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 34 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
36 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 37 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 38 ~~(84)~~(83) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
- 39 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 40 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
41 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

- 1 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31,
2 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age
3 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 4 (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground
5 is 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14
6 consecutive days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game
7 land.
- 8 ~~(85)~~(84) Tillery ~~game~~ Game Land in Halifax County
- 9 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
11 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 12 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 13 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 14 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 15 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 16 ~~(86)~~(85) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
- 17 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
19 Visible Antlers Season.
- 20 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31
21 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 22 ~~(87)~~(86) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- 23 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
25 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 26 (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following
27 days:
- 28 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 29 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 30 (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 31 (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- 32 ~~(88)~~(87) Vance Game Land in Vance County
- 33 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
35 Antlers Season.
- 36 (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the
37 Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- 38 ~~(89)~~(88) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
- 39 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- 40 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
41 Antlers Season.

1 (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days
2 during the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday
3 first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

4 ~~(90)~~(89) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County

5 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

6 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.

7 ~~(91)~~(90) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County

8 (A) Three Days per Week Area

9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
10 Antlers Season.

11 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
12 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:

13 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

14 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

15 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

16 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all
17 waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.

18 (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:

19 (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting
20 Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant
21 to G.S. 113-264(d);

22 (ii) hunting is by permit only; and

23 (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

24 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

25 (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.

26 ~~(92)~~(91) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties

27 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

28 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
29 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

30 (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
31 prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.

32 ~~(93)~~(92) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County

33 (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With
35 Visible Antlers Season.

36 (C) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.

37 (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed
38 applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the
39 dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the
40 hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife
41 cooperator agent or by phone.

1 (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained
2 a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

- 3 (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
- 4 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
- 5 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
- 6 (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;
- 7 (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- 8 (6) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
- 9 (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

10 (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the
11 Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not
12 compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can
13 demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business.
14 "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to
15 conduct activities in the public interest.

16 (k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using
17 any legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game
18 lands that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.

19 (l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt
20 on any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except
21 where prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

22 (m) Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans and Military
23 Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including
24 members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may
25 hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

26 (n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for
27 participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts
28 during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a
29 limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

30 (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

31 (p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on
32 Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

33

APPENDIX B

Game Land	Notes	Sunday Hunting
Alligator River	Large, 24,000 acres, many species available, important to birders, nearby public land without Sunday hunting (Alligator River NWR, Pettigrew State Park), Buckridge Game Land nearby	Yes
Angola Bay	34,000 acres, all game species available, a lot of roads in organic soil, Low overharvest risk, low non-traditional use, some birding and horseback riding, no conflicts with landowners, very close to Holly Shelter Game Land	Yes
Bachelor Bay	TNC property, they supportive of Sunday hunting at this location, boat access only	Yes
Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve	No impacts to infrastructure (no roads/trails), no overharvest, low non-traditional users, mainly hunters, close to Lumber River state park, no conflicts expected	Yes
Cape Fear River Wetlands	Large, 7,200 acres, low impact to infrastructure expected, no overharvest expected, mainly hunters, no sensitive species, low non-traditional use, close proximity to alternative land	Yes
Carteret County	7,100 acres, all species available, a lot of roads, low overharvest, rural, low non-traditional use, few conflicts expected, Cedar Island NWR nearby	Yes
Chowan	Small, low impact, boating access only, no use of non-traditional users	Yes
Columbus County	10,000 acres, low overharvest risk, minimal infrastructure, low non-traditional use, Lake Waccamaw State park near one tract	Yes
Croatan National Forest	Low overharvest potential, not complex, has horse trails and bike trails, high non-traditional use, state parks nearby, USFS supports allowing hunting on Sunday	Yes
Currituck Banks	Nearby parks, low impact on other uses, no issue from TNC partnership; Jockey Ridge State Park is nearby	Yes
Dare	Permit hunting, low potential for overharvest, low impact for infrastructure, surrounded by Alligator River NWR	Yes

Game Land	Notes	Sunday Hunting
Goose Creek	All species available, no infrastructure issues, mild complexities, low non-traditional use, mainly hunters, rural, little conflict expected	Yes
Gull Rock	Low risk of overharvest, low impact on other uses, rural, no conflicts	Yes
Juniper Creek	20,000 acres, some infrastructure in the form of roads, no overharvest risk to most species, some concern about bear harvest, low non-traditional use, primarily hunters, close to Lake Waccamaw state park, close to Green Swamp Game Land	Yes
Light Ground Pocosin	Not much game species, low overharvest potential, no infrastructure, rural, low non-traditional use, low conflict, no other public lands nearby	Yes
New Lake	Minimal access, low non-traditional use, low conflict, no harvest issues, rural, Mattamuskeet and Pocosin NWRs nearby	Yes
North River	Some non-traditional use, close to Dismal Swamp state park, large enough for Sunday hunting, mainly hunters, rural,	Yes
Northwest River Marsh	Remote, BAA access only, low use in general, not much non-traditional use, Mackay Island NWR, Great Dismal Swamp NWR nearby	Yes
Robeson	Low potential for overharvest, primarily hunting use, little non-traditional use, close to other public lands (Lumber River State Park), small tract	Yes
Rocky Run	Low species availability, permit only, low non-traditional use, mainly hunters, public land close by (Hammocks Beach State Park), no conflicts expected	Yes
Sampson	No infrastructure, no potential for overharvest, primarily hunting use	Yes
Sutton Lake	Low non-traditional use, no conflicts expected, conservative deer season, no infrastructure impacts	Yes
Van Swamp	Heavy use of dogs for deer, bear hunts in Nov/Dec, options for other hunts and non-traditional use nearby-minimizes risk for overharvest, Pettigrew State Park, RR NWR nearby. VOA Game Land nearby.	Yes

Game Land	Notes	Sunday Hunting
Alcoa	Large game land, important to hunters, near Morrow Mtn. State Park, low conflicts expected	Yes
Brinkleyville	Large, Rural, all species available, important to hunters, low non-traditional use, next to Medoc Mtn. state park	Yes
Chatham	All species available, low non-traditional use, close to state parks (Haw River, Raven Rock), close to Jordan Game Land	Yes
Embryo	Large, 8,000 acres, rural, important to hunters, little non-traditional use, similar to Brinkleyville, right next to it	Yes
Harris	Next to Chatham and Lee, non-traditional users prevalent, close to state parks (Haw River, Raven Rock, Deep River), close to Jordan Game Land	Yes
Hycow	Little use by non-hunters, rural, far from public lands or urban center, low conflict with landowners	Yes
Lee	Low non-traditional use, mostly hunters, close to other parks for non-traditional users (Haw River, Raven Rock), close to Jordan Game Land, close to Raleigh	Yes
Linwood	Moderate hunting, no conflict w/ landowners	Yes
Lower Fishing Creek	Low nt use, mainly hunters, rural, far from other public lands or urban centers, high game species availability, little conflicts expected	Yes
Mayo	Large, all game species available, no complex rules, low non-traditional use, mostly hunters, rural, not near urban centers	Yes
Pee Dee River	Multiple counties, dog restrictions, close to urban centers, some adjacent areas for non-traditional user (Pee Dee NWR, Morrow Mtn. State Park), diversity of species to hunt, some horseback riding and camping	Yes
Perkins	One county, mostly hunting use, no known conflicts	Yes
Sandy Creek	All species available, low non-traditional use, mostly hunters, rural, Medoc Mtn. State Park is close, no conflicts with others	Yes

Game Land	Notes	Sunday Hunting
Shocco Creek	All game species available, no overharvest concerns, close to Medoc Mtn. state park, low non-traditional users, mostly hunting use, few conflicts expected	Yes
Tar River	Permit only, low non-traditional use, small, close to county parks for non-traditional users	Yes
Tillery	Low non-traditional use, far from urban centers, low conflict with landowners, all species available	Yes
Upper Roanoke River Wetlands	Large, permit only, all species, low non-traditional use, not close to urban centers, no conflicts expected	Yes
Uwharrie National Forest	Large game land, Heavy Sunday non-traditional use, some recreation areas, many species available, low potential for overharvest, close to other recreational opportunities; USFS supports allowing hunting on Sunday	Yes
Buffalo Cove	Low non-traditional use, no special amenities (one riding trail), rural, hard to get to, close to Pisgah for non-traditional users	Yes
Cold Mountain	Close to other land for non-traditional use, high hunting use	Yes
Elk Knob	No non-traditional use allowed, landowner agreeable to Sunday hunting	Yes
Johns River	Permit only, looking to see if we can fit more hunts in	Yes
Mitchell River	Limited game, remote, 3 day a week area, going to 4 day wouldn't impact pressure on game if added Sundays	Yes
Nantahala National Forest	2 sections asked to exclude from Sunday hunting by rangers (Jack Rabbit and Tsali). [USFS sent email to retract this request about Jack Rabbit and Tsali]. Support from Sunday hunting from focus group participants; USFS supports allowing hunting on Sunday	Yes

Game Land	Notes	Sunday Hunting
Needmore	Close to other tracts for non-traditional use, rural, Little Tennessee River through middle (watersport users), some traditional ideas about Sunday as a day of rest	Yes
Pisgah National Forest	USFS supportive of Sunday hunting on Pisgah, support from focus group participants	Yes
Pisgah NCWRC	Shared borders with US Forest Service-manage the same as USFS property	Yes
Pond Mountain	Remote, some non-traditional use but more hunting than non-traditional, low on ebird data/use	Yes
South Mountains	Some non-traditional use-adjoins South Mountain state park	Yes
Three Top Mountain	Some non-traditional use, some hunting, close to Elk Knob state park, no conflicts expected	Yes
Thurmond Chatham	Not much non-traditional use, mostly hunters, next to Stone Mtn. state park	Yes
Toxaway	Close to state park for non-traditional use, some hiking but not enough for conflict	Yes
William H. Silver	Close to Great Smoky Mtn. National Park for non-traditional use, close to Rendezvous Mtn., lot of use for hunting bear/hog/elk and deer	Yes

EXHIBIT L

October 22, 2020



Proposed Rules for Adoption

Section 15A NCAC 10H .1500 – Wildlife and Alligator Control Agents Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment and Presentation at Public Hearing

Session Law 2019-204 established the Wildlife Control Agent (WCA) License and Alligator Control Agent (ACA) Certification in statute. The rules proposed for adoption in this Section will replace current agency rules for the Wildlife Damage Control Agent (WDCA) program found in 15A NCAC 10B .0106.

10H .1501

Establishes definitions and details training and exam requirements for a WCA license.

10H .1501 Wildlife Control Agent License Eligibility and Requirements (pg. 3)

10H .1502

Provides detail on the issuance of depredation permits by WCAs; specifies species for which the issuance of a permit is prohibited; and clarifies that WCAs cannot receive compensation for a depredation permit.

10H .1502 Depredation Permits Issued by Wildlife Control Agents (pg. 4)

10H .1503

Incorporates manner of take and disposition of wildlife requirements in 10B .0106; establishes WCA license number and trapper identification number equivalency; and establishes a bat eviction and exclusion activity period August 1 to April 30.

10H .1503 Manner of Take (pg. 5)

10H .1504

Provides details on record-keeping, reporting, and record retention requirements for WCAs.

10H .1504 Records and Reporting Requirements (pg. 6)

10H .1505

Specifies requirements for the renewal of the annual WCA license; and provides that the Executive Director may warn, cite, or revoke a WCA's license for certain violations as specified.

10H .1505 Wildlife Control Agent License Renewal and Revocation (pg. 7)

10H .1506

Establishes definitions and details training and exam requirements for WCAs to qualify for ACA certification.

10H .1506 Alligator Control Agent Certification (pg. 8)

10H .1507

Sets forth additional permits (endangered species and Commission-issued depredation permits) required for ACAs to handle and relocate alligators; and establishes requirements for authorization in emergency situations.

10H .1507 Additional Permit Requirements for Alligator Control Agents (pg. 9)

10H .1508

Provides details on record-keeping, reporting, and record retention requirements for ACAs.

10H .1508 Alligator Control Agent Records and Reporting Requirements (pg. 10)

10H .1509

Specifies requirements for the renewal of the annual ACA certification; and provides that the Executive Director may warn, cite, or revoke an ACA certification for certain violations as specified.

10H .1509 Alligator Control Agent Certification Renewal and Revocation (pg. 11)

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1501 Wildlife Control Agent License Eligibility and Requirements**

2 (a) The following definitions shall apply in this Section:

3 (1) “Wildlife control agent” or “WCA” means an individual that holds a current and valid wildlife
4 control agent license issued by the Commission.

5 (2) “Wildlife control agent license” or “WCA license” means a license issued by the Commission that
6 authorizes an individual to engage in wildlife damage control or wildlife removal activities by means
7 of a depredation permit.

8 (b) It shall be unlawful to engage in wildlife damage control or wildlife removal activities for compensation,
9 including eviction or exclusion activities, without first obtaining a wildlife control agent (WCA) license from the
10 Commission, except that licensed trappers taking wild animals during the applicable open trapping season for that
11 species shall not be required to obtain a WCA license.

12 (c) Individuals meeting the following requirements shall qualify for a WCA license:

13 (1) completion of a Commission-approved, WCA training course, that reviews the following:

14 (A) wildlife laws and rules, including methods of take, trapping, and depredation; and

15 (B) safe, humane wildlife handling techniques.

16 (2) a passing score of at least 80 percent on the WCA examination as specified in Paragraph (e) of this
17 Rule.

18 (3) no wildlife misdemeanor convictions, as specified in G.S. 113-294 or G.S. 14, Article 47, that
19 resulted in a license suspension or revocation within the five years preceding completion of the
20 WCA training course.

21 (d) Individuals may register for a Commission-approved training course at www.ncwildlife.org/wca. Required
22 information shall include the following:

23 (1) the applicant's name, mailing address, email address, residence address, telephone number, driver's
24 license number, and date of birth; and

25 (2) organizational affiliation, if applicable.

26 (e) Individuals scoring at least an 80 percent on the WCA examination provided by the Commission shall be deemed
27 to have received a passing score and to have successfully demonstrated knowledge of wildlife laws and safe, humane
28 wildlife handling techniques. Individuals failing to obtain a passing score on the WCA examination shall receive one
29 opportunity to re-take the examination and receive a passing score without being required to retake the WCA training
30 course.

31 (f) A WCA license shall not be transferable between individuals.

32
33 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274
34

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1502 Depredation Permits Issued by Wildlife Control Agents**

2 (a) WCAs may issue depredation permits to landholders and may be listed as a second party on the permit to provide
3 wildlife damage control or wildlife removal services. Depredation permits shall be issued and administered in
4 accordance with the applicable provisions and requirements of 15A NCAC 10B .0106.

5 (b) WCAs shall not issue depredation permits for the following:

6 (1) any endangered, threatened, or special concern species listed in 15A NCAC 10I .0103 - .0105;

7 (2) coyotes in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, or Washington counties;

8 (3) big game animals, including Black Bear, White-tail Deer, and Wild Turkey;

9 (4) elk; and

10 (5) bats.

11 (c) WCAs shall be authorized to issue depredation permits for the taking of wildlife not prohibited in Paragraph (b)
12 of this Rule, provided there is evidence that the wildlife is or has been damaging or destroying property.

13 (d) Depredation permits shall not be issued for the taking of migratory birds unless a corresponding, valid U.S. Fish
14 and Wildlife Service depredation permit, as required by 50 CFR 21.41, has been obtained, if required.

15 (e) WCAs shall not receive compensation for the issuance of depredation permits; however, nothing in this Section
16 shall be construed to limit the ability of a WCA to receive compensation for investigations or wildlife damage control
17 and removal services.

18
19 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1503 Manner of Take**

2 (a) WCAs shall comply with applicable manner of taking and disposition of wildlife requirements specified in 15A
3 NCAC 10B .0106.

4 (b) A WCA license number shall be equivalent to a trapper identification number for the purpose of meeting trap
5 identification requirements specified in G.S. 113-291.6(b)(4) for all trap types used.

6 (c) WCAs may only engage in bat eviction and exclusion activities from August 1 through April 30 of the next
7 calendar year unless otherwise approved by the Commission, on a case-by-case basis, for reasons of public health and
8 safety, species conservation, or animal health.

9
10 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1504 Records and Reporting Requirements**

2 (a) WCAs shall maintain the following records:

3 (1) a copy of each depredation permit issued; and

4 (2) the species, number, and disposition of each animal taken, organized by county.

5 (b) WCAs shall submit the following information to the Commission each calendar quarter for each animal taken
6 pursuant to a depredation permit:

7 (1) depredation permit number and date of issue of the permit that authorized take;

8 (2) WCA license number;

9 (3) county where permit issued;

10 (4) type of damage;

11 (5) species;

12 (6) number of animals estimated to be taken;

13 (7) number of animals taken;

14 (8) method of take; and

15 (9) disposition of animal.

16 (c) Records shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon request or during the
17 Commission's business hours.

18 (d) Records shall be retained by the WCA for 12 months following expiration of the WCA license.

19
20 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1505 Wildlife Control Agent License Renewal and Revocation**

2 (a) A WCA may renew his or her WCA license by completing at least one Commission-approved continuing
3 education course within the previous year. A list of Commission-approved continuing education courses may be
4 found at www.ncwildlife.org/wca.

5 (b) WCAs that do not renew their license for two consecutive calendar years shall be ineligible for renewal and
6 shall be required to repeat the requirements specified in 15A NCAC 10H .1501, prior to obtaining a new WCA
7 license.

8 (c) The Executive Director or his or her designee, may warn, cite, or revoke a WCA's license, if the WCA violates
9 any provision of G.S. 14, Article 47; G.S. 113, Subchapter IV; any rules promulgated by the Commission; conditions
10 of the WCA license; or standards taught in a Commission-approved WCA training course. The determination whether
11 to warn, cite, or revoke a WCA's wildlife control agent license shall be based upon the seriousness of the violation.

12
13 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274
14

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1506 Alligator Control Agent Certification Eligibility and Requirements**

2 (a) The following definitions shall apply in this Section:

3 (1) “Alligator control agent” or “ACA” means a licensed Wildlife Control Agent that holds a current
4 and valid alligator control agent certification issued by the Commission.

5 (2) “Alligator control agent certification” or “ACA certification” means a certification issued by the
6 Commission that authorizes a Wildlife Control Agent to engage in alligator damage control or
7 alligator removal activities by means of a Commission-issued depredation permit.

8 (b) It shall be unlawful to engage in alligator damage control or alligator removal activities for compensation without
9 first obtaining an alligator control agent (ACA) certification from the Commission.

10 (c) Only individuals with a valid WCA license shall be eligible for ACA certification.

11 (d) WCAs meeting the following requirements shall qualify for ACA certification:

12 (1) completion of a Commission-approved ACA training course that reviews the following:

13 (A) alligator regulations;

14 (B) procedures for alligator data collection activities; and

15 (C) safe, humane alligator capture, handling, and transporting techniques.

16 (2) a passing score on the ACA written examination as specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule.

17 (3) demonstration to the Commission of necessary equipment to safely and humanely capture and
18 relocate alligators, including ropes, cables, snares, poles, passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag
19 reader, and an alligator transport device.

20 (e) WCAs may register for a Commission-approved ACA training course at www.ncwildlife.org/wca

21 (f) WCAs scoring at least an 80 percent on the ACA examination provided by the Commission shall be deemed to
22 have received a passing score. WCAs failing to obtain a passing score on the examination shall receive one opportunity
23 to re-take the examination and receive a passing score without being required to retake the ACA training course.

24 (g) An ACA certification shall not be transferable between individuals.

25
26 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274*

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1507 Additional Permit Requirements for Alligator Control Agents**

2 (a) ACAs shall obtain an endangered species permit from the Commission each calendar year prior to conducting any
3 alligator handling and relocation activities.

4 (b) ACAs shall only handle alligators after a separate depredation permit for each alligator has been issued from a
5 representative of the Commission.

6 (c) In emergency situations, where an alligator must be moved without delay due to a current or imminent threat to
7 human safety, the safety of the alligator, or disruption of traffic, ACAs shall obtain an authorization code from a
8 representative of the Commission prior to conducting any alligator handling and relocation activities. Authorization
9 codes may be obtained from Commission District Biologists or by contacting the Commission's communications
10 center at 1-800-662-7137 to be directed to an appropriate Commission representative.

11
12 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1508 Alligator Control Agent Records and Reporting Requirements**

2 (a) ACAs shall maintain alligator datasheets for each alligator handled or relocated, which shall include the following
3 information:

- 4 (1) dates and times of capture and release;
- 5 (2) the GPS locations of the capture and release sites;
- 6 (3) PIT tag number inserted or found upon scanning;
- 7 (4) scute numbers removed;
- 8 (5) total length and snout-to-vent length measurements;
- 9 (6) gender as determined by cloacal examination;
- 10 (7) general observations on physical condition including any injuries observed; and
- 11 (8) the Commission-issued depredation permit number or authorization code.

12 (b) ACAs shall follow the reporting requirements on the endangered species permit.

13 (c) Records shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon request or during the
14 Commission's business hours.

15 (d) Records shall be retained by the ACA for 12 months following expiration of the ACA certification.

16
17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274*

18

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1509 Alligator Control Agent Certification Renewal and Revocation**

2 (a) An ACA may renew his or her alligator control agent certification by certifying proof of attending at least one
3 Commission-approved alligator-specific continuing education course within the previous year. A list of Commission-
4 approved renewal courses may be found at www.ncwildlife.org.

5 (b) ACAs shall maintain a valid WCA license at all times.

6 (c) The Executive Director or his or her designee may warn, cite, suspend, or revoke an ACA's certification, if the
7 ACA violates any provision of G.S. 14, Article 47, or G.S. 113, Subchapter IV, or any rules promulgated by the
8 Commission; conditions of the certification; or standards taught in a Commission-approved ACA training course. The
9 determination whether to warn, cite, suspend, or revoke an ACA's certification shall be based upon the seriousness of
10 the violation.

11
12 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-274

EXHIBIT M

October 22, 2020



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10B .0106 – Wildlife Taken for Depredations Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment and Presentation at Public Hearing

Because of the Wildlife and Alligator Control Agent rules proposed for Section 10H .1500, 10B .0106 required updates to remove the Wildlife Damage Control Agent Certification and requirements.

10B .0106

This Rule was amended to remove language concerning Wildlife Damage Control Agent Certification and update and clarify language.

15A NCAC 10B .0106 Wildlife Taken for Depredations (pgs.2-5)

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0106 WILDLIFE TAKEN FOR DEPREDATIONS**

2 ~~(a) Depredation permits allow the taking of undesirable or excess wildlife resources as described in Subparagraphs~~
3 ~~(b)(1) and (b)(2) of this Paragraph. Only employees of the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) and~~
4 ~~Wildlife Damage Control Agents (WDCA) may issue depredation permits. Only depredation permits prepared on a~~
5 ~~form supplied by the Commission shall be valid. No permit is needed for the owner or lessee of a property to take~~
6 ~~wildlife while committing depredations on that property; however, the manner of taking, disposition of dead wildlife,~~
7 ~~and reporting requirements as described in this Rule still apply.~~

8 (a) Depredation permits shall authorize the taking, destruction, transfer, removal, transplanting, or driving away of
9 undesirable, destructive, or excess wildlife or wildlife resources as specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule.

10 (b) The following conditions shall apply to depredation permits:

- 11 (1) depredation permits shall be prepared on a form supplied by the Commission; and
- 12 (2) depredation permits shall only be issued by authorized employees of the Commission or licensed
13 Wildlife Control Agents (WCA).

14 (c) Depredation permits shall not be required for the owner or lessee of a property to take wildlife while committing
15 depredations on that property; however, the manner of take, disposition of dead wildlife, and reporting requirements
16 specified in this Rule shall apply.

17 ~~(b)~~ (d) No permit shall be issued to take ~~any~~ endangered or threatened species of wildlife listed under 15A NCAC
18 10I, except alligators, by reason of depredations to property. ~~Only the~~ The Executive Director or his or her designee
19 may issue depredation permits for Special Concern species listed in 15A NCAC 10I .0105 and for alligators. An
20 individual may take an endangered or threatened species in immediate defense of his or her own life or of the lives of
21 others without a permit. Any endangered or threatened species that may constitute a demonstrable but non-immediate
22 threat to human safety shall be reported to a federal or Commission wildlife enforcement officer, who, upon
23 verification of the report, may take or remove the specimen as provided by 15A NCAC 10I .0102. Depredation permits
24 for other species may be issued under the following conditions:

- 25 (1) for taking wildlife that is or has been damaging or destroying property, provided there is evidence
26 of property damage. No permit may be issued for the taking of migratory birds and other federally-
27 protected animals unless a corresponding, valid U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service depredation
28 permit(s), if required, has been issued. A permit issued pursuant to this Rule shall name the species
29 allowed to be taken and may include limitations as to age, sex, type of depredation, location of
30 animal or damage, and local laws. The permit shall be issued to a landholder or an authorized
31 representative of a unit of local government for depredations on public property. The permit shall
32 be used only by individuals named on the permit.
- 33 (2) for taking of wildlife resources in circumstances of overabundance or when the wildlife resources
34 present a danger to human safety. Cities, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), seeking a depredation permit
35 pursuant to these circumstances shall apply to the Commission using an application available from
36 the Commission. The application shall include the following information:
 - 37 (A) the name and location of the city;
 - 38 (B) the acreage of the affected property;

- (C) a map of the affected property;
- (D) the signature of an authorized city representative;
- (E) the nature of the overabundance or the threat to public safety; and
- (F) a description of previous actions taken by the city to ameliorate the problem.

~~(e) Wildlife Damage Control Agents. Individuals meeting the following eligibility requirements may apply to become a Wildlife Damage Control Agent (WDCA):~~

~~(1) Successful completion of a training course that is designed to:~~

- ~~(A) review wildlife laws;~~
- ~~(B) review safe, humane wildlife handling techniques.~~

~~(2) No wildlife misdemeanor conviction, as specified in G.S. 113-294 that resulted in a license suspension or revocation, within the last five years prior to application to become a WDCA.~~

~~Those individuals who demonstrate knowledge of wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques by a passing score of 80 percent or better on a written examination provided by a representative of the Commission, in cooperation with the training course provider, shall be approved. Those individuals failing to obtain a passing score shall be given one chance for re-testing without re-taking the course. Those individuals approved as agents by the Commission may then issue depredation permits for depredation as defined in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule to landholders and be listed as a second party to provide the control service. WDCAs may not issue depredation permits for coyotes in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington; big game animals; bats; or any species listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern under 15A NCAC 10I .0103, .0104, and .0105 of this Chapter. WDCAs shall annually report to the Commission the number and disposition of animals by county. Records shall be available for inspection by a wildlife enforcement officer at any time during the posted business hours of the Commission at newwildlife.org. The Executive Director shall revoke WDCA status when there is evidence of violations of wildlife laws, failure to report, or inhumane treatment of animals by the WDCA. A WDCA may not charge for the permit, but may charge for his or her investigations and control services. Each WDCA shall renew his or her agent status every three years by showing proof of having attended at least one training course provided for the purpose of reviewing and updating information on wildlife laws and safe, humane wildlife handling techniques within the previous 12 months or agency approved continuing education credits.~~

~~(d) (e) Each depredation permit shall have an expiration date or time after which the depredation permit is no longer valid. date. The A depredation permit authorizes the possession of any wildlife resources taken under the authority of the permit permit. and Depredation permits shall be retained as long as the wildlife resource is in the permittee's authorized individual's possession. All individuals~~ Individuals taking wildlife resources under the authority of a depredation permit shall comply with the conditions ~~written on~~ of the permit and the requirements specified in this Rule.

~~(e)-(f) Manner of Taking:~~

- (1) Taking Without a Permit. Wildlife taken without a permit while committing depredations to property may, during the open season on the species, be taken by the landholder by any lawful method. During the closed season, such depredating wildlife may be taken without a permit only by the use of firearms or archery equipment as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

- 1 (2) Taking With a Permit. Wildlife taken under a depredation permit may be taken only by the method
2 or methods authorized by the permit. When trapping is authorized, in order to limit the taking to the
3 intended purpose, the permit may specify a reasonable distance from the property sought to be
4 protected, within which the traps shall be set. The Executive Director, Commission employee, or
5 ~~agent~~ WCA may also state in a permit authorizing trapping whether or not bait or lure may be used
6 and the type of bait or lure that is authorized based upon factors such as type of depredation,
7 locations of animal or damage, and local laws. In addition to any trapping restrictions that may be
8 contained in the permit, the method of trapping shall be in accordance with the requirements and
9 restrictions imposed by G.S. 113-291.6 and other local laws passed by the General Assembly. No
10 depredation permit shall authorize the use of poisons or pesticides in taking wildlife except in
11 accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Pesticide Law of 1971, G.S. 143, Article 52,
12 the Structural Pest Control Act of 1955, G.S. 106, Article 4C, and G.S. 113, Article 22A. No
13 depredation permit shall authorize the taking of wildlife by any method by any landholder upon the
14 lands of another except when the individual is listed as a second party on a depredation permit.
- 15 (3) Intentional Wounding. It is unlawful for any landholder, with or without a depredation permit, to
16 intentionally wound a wild animal in a manner so as not to cause its immediate death as suddenly
17 and humanely as the circumstances permit.

18 ~~(f)~~ (g) Disposition of Wildlife Taken:

- 19 (1) Generally. Except as provided by Subparagraphs (2) through (5) of this Paragraph, any wildlife
20 killed without a permit while committing depredations shall be buried or disposed of in a safe and
21 sanitary manner on the property where taken. Wildlife killed under a depredation permit may be
22 transported to an alternate disposal site if desired. Anyone in possession of carcasses of animals
23 being transported under a depredation permit shall have the depredation permit in his or her
24 possession. Except as provided by Subparagraphs ~~(f)(2) through (5) of this Rule,~~ (2) through (5) of
25 this Paragraph, all wildlife killed under a depredation permit shall be buried or otherwise disposed
26 of as stated on the permit.
- 27 (2) Deer and feral swine. The edible portions of feral swine and deer may be retained by the landholder
28 for consumption but shall not be transported from the property where the depredations took place
29 without a valid depredation permit. The landholder may give a second party the edible portions of
30 feral swine or deer taken under a depredation permit. The receiver of the edible portions shall hold
31 a copy of the depredation permit. The nonedible portions of any deer carcass, including head, hide,
32 feet, and antlers, shall be disposed of as specified in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph or turned
33 over to a wildlife enforcement officer for disposition.
- 34 (3) Fox. Any fox killed under a depredation permit may be disposed of as described in Subparagraph
35 (1) of this Paragraph or, upon compliance with the fur tagging requirements of 15A NCAC 10B
36 Section .0400, the carcass or pelt thereof may be sold to a licensed fur dealer.
- 37 (4) Furbearing Animals. The carcass or pelt of any furbearing animal killed during the open season for
38 taking such furbearing animal for control of depredations to property, whether with or without a

1 permit, may be sold to a licensed fur dealer provided that the person offering such carcass or pelt
2 for sale has a valid hunting or trapping license; provided further that bobcats and otters may only be
3 sold upon compliance with any required fur tagging requirement set forth in 15A NCAC 10B
4 Section .0400.

5 (5) Animals Taken Alive. Wild animals in the order Carnivora, armadillos, groundhogs, nutria, and
6 beaver shall be humanely euthanized either at the site of capture or at a facility designed to humanely
7 handle the euthanasia, or such wild animals must be released on the property where captured. Feral
8 swine shall be euthanized while still in the trap in accordance with G.S. 113-291.12. For all other
9 animals taken alive, the animal shall be euthanized or released on property with permission of the
10 landowner. When the relocation site is public property, written permission shall be obtained from
11 the local, state, or federal official authorized to manage the property before any animal may be
12 released. Animals transported or held for euthanasia shall be euthanized within 12 hours of ~~capture~~
13 possession. Anyone in possession of live animals being transported for relocation or euthanasia
14 under a depredation permit shall have the depredation permit in his or her possession.

15 ~~(g)~~ (h) Reporting Requirements. Any landholder who kills an alligator; coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare,
16 Hyde, Tyrrell, or Washington; deer; Canada goose; bear; elk; or wild turkey under a valid depredation permit shall
17 report the kill on the form provided with the permit, including the number and species of animal(s) killed, and submit
18 the form upon the expiration date of the depredation permit to the Commission. Any landowner who kills a coyote in
19 the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington shall report the kill, including the number of coyotes
20 killed, on the form provided with the depredation permit. The killing and method of disposition of every alligator;
21 coyote in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington; bear; or elk taken without a permit shall be
22 reported to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 24 hours following the time of such killing.

23 (i) Exemption for Animal Control Officers. Animal Control Officers, as defined by G.S. 130A-184(1) when in the
24 performance of official duties, shall be exempt from obtaining a depredation permit when taking wild animals that:

- 25 (1) Exhibit visible signs of rabies;
- 26 (2) Exhibit unprovoked aggression that may be associated with rabies;
- 27 (3) Are suspected to be rabid; or
- 28 (4) Have or may have exposed humans, pets, or livestock to rabies.

29

EXHIBIT N
October 22, 2020



**Schedule for January 2021 Public Hearings for Proposed Changes to Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Game Land Rules**

Hearing Time: 7:00 p.m.

DATE	REGION	CITY	LOCATION
January 12, 2021 (Tuesday)	Coastal	New Bern	<i>Craven County Courthouse (District Courtroom #4) 302 Broad Street New Bern, NC 28560</i>
January 14, 2021 (Thursday)	Piedmont	Asheboro	<i>AVS Catering and Banquet Center 2045 N. Fayetteville Street Asheboro, NC 27203</i>
January 19, 2021 (Tuesday)	Mountain	Marion	<i>McDowell Technical Community College 54 College Drive Marion, NC 28752</i>
January 21, 2021 (Thursday)	All	Raleigh	<i>Virtual</i>

EXHIBIT O

October 22, 2020



2021 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETINGS

DRAFT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020