



AGENDA

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

October 5, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

1751 Varsity Drive

NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor

Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER - *Chairman John Coley*

This meeting is being recorded as a public record and is audio streaming live at www.ncwildlife.org. As a courtesy to others please turn off all cell phones during the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner Mike Johnson*

INVOCATION - *Commissioner Hayden Rogers*

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY - North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman John Litton Clark*

RECEIVE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEW OF 2017 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FOR COMMISSIONER - Pursuant to NCGS §138A-15(c), any actual or potential conflict of interest by a public servant sitting on a board and cited by the Ethics Commission under NCGS 138A-24(e) is required to be read into the minutes of the applicable board. Read into the minutes relevant portions of the evaluation by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the 2017 Statement of Economic Interest for Thomas Fonville – *Betsy Haywood, Ethics Liaison*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Take action on the August 23, 2017 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT A**)

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Status Report - Receive a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and Wildlife Endowment Fund – *Gordon Myers, Executive Director (EXHIBIT B)*

2017-2018 Endowment Fund Annual Interest Allocation Report- Receive a financial status report and take action on the allocation of interest from the Endowment Fund for 2017-2018 *Gordon Myers (EXHIBIT C)*

RECOGNITION – EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS – Recognize and present service awards to Wildlife Resources Commission Employees - *Executive Director Gordon Myers*

Break for Photographs

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee – *Mark Craig, Chair*

Land Use and Access Committee Report – September 25, 2017 – *Tommy Fonville, Vice-Chair*

Land Use and Access Committee Report – October 4, 2017 – *Tommy Fonville*

Education Committee - *Joe Budd, Chair*

Committee of the Whole – *Chairman John Coley*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – HUMAN/WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS HOTLINE - Receive a presentation highlighting the *NC Wildlife Helpline* – *Jessie Birckhead, Extension Biologist – Wildlife Management Division and Daron Barnes, Section Manager – Customer Service Section*

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Division Update - Receive a staff update on activities of the Inland Fisheries Division – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

Rulemaking – 2018-2019 Fishing Rule Proposals – Consider staff recommendations for proposed changes in the 2018-2019 Inland Fisheries rules proposals to be presented at statewide public hearings - *Christian Waters* (**EXHIBIT D-1**)

Fiscal Note for Proposed 2018-2019 Fishing Rules – Review and approve the Fiscal Note for proposed changes in the 2018-2019 Fishing rules – *Christian Waters* (**EXHIBIT D-2**)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Wildlife Management Division Update – Receive an update on the activities of the Wildlife Management Division – *Dr. David Cobb, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

Rulemaking, 2018-2019 Wildlife Management Rule Proposals – Consider staff recommendations for proposed changes in the 2018-2019 Wildlife Management rules proposals to be presented at statewide public hearings – *David Cobb* (**EXHIBIT E-1**)

Fiscal Note for Proposed 2018-2019 Wildlife Management Rules – Review and approve the Fiscal Note for proposed changes in the 2018-2019 Wildlife Management rules – *David Cobb* (**EXHIBIT E-2**)

North Carolina Alligator Management Plan – Receive from the Alligator Task Force and consider final adoption of the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan – *Allen Boynton, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator* (**EXHIBIT F**)

LAND AND WATER ACCESS SECTION

Land Acquisitions and Property Matters

Phase I Land Acquisitions - Consider approval for staff to work with State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for the following properties – *Brian McRae, Land and Water Access Section Chief* (**EXHIBITS G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4**)

- Salter’s Creek Tract – Carteret County (G-1)
- Fosters Creek Preserve Tract – Polk County (G-2)
- Rocky Swamp Tract – Halifax County (G-3)
- Maggot Springs Gap Tract – Haywood County (G-4)

Phase II Land Acquisitions - Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Brian McRae* (**EXHIBITS H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4, H-5**)

- Godwin Tract – Pender County (H-1)
- Long Ridge Tract – Onslow County (H-2)
- Drowning Creek Tract – Scotland County (H-3)
- Palmetto Peartree Preserve Tract – Tyrrell County (H-4)
- Johns River Tract – Burke and Caldwell counties (H-5)

Easement Requests – Consider acquisition of an easement from the Raynor family to provide permanent administrative access to the Sandbanks Tract of Chowan Swamp Game Lands and consider conveyance of an easement to The Nature Conservancy to provide administrative access from the Sandbanks Tract of Chowan Swamp Game Land to an adjacent parcel in Virginia – *Brian McRae (EXHIBIT I)*

Property Disposal – Consider approval to proceed with disposition of a house on Texas Plantation Game Land – *Brian McRae (EXHIBIT J)*

Rulemaking - Consider staff recommendations for proposed changes in the 2018-2019 game land management rules to be presented at statewide public hearings – *Brian McRae (EXHIBIT K-1)*

Fiscal Note for Proposed 2018-2019 Game Land Management Rules – Review and approve the fiscal note for proposed changes in the 2018-2019 Game Land Management rules – *Brian McRae (EXHIBIT K-2)*

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0300 – Local Water Safety Regulations – Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for proposed amendments to 25 water safety regulations, hold one public hearing, and open the public comment period. Approve Fiscal Note – *Betsy Haywood, No-Wake Zone Coordinator (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)*

CONSIDERATION OF 2018 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE - Consider adoption of the 2018 schedule of meetings of the Wildlife Resources Commission – *Executive Director Gordon Myers (EXHIBIT M)*

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN – *Chairman John Coley*

COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Gordon Myers*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A
October 5, 2017



MINUTES
August 23, 2017
N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting
NC Museum of Natural Sciences Nature Research Center
Raleigh, North Carolina

The August 23, 2017 N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting was called to order by *Commission Chairman* John Coley at 9:05 a.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences Nature Research Center at 121 W. Jones Street, Raleigh. Coley reminded everyone that the meeting audio is being recorded and will be available on the Wildlife Resources Commission website. He requested that everyone silence electronic devices and use the microphones when speaking. Commissioners Tom Berry, Garry Spence, Richard Edwards, and Hayden Rogers were absent.

Commissioner Brad Stanback led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Joe Budd gave the invocation.

WELCOME AND MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Coley welcomed the Commissioners and guests. He recognized Dr. Emlyn Koster, who spoke briefly to welcome the WRC to the meeting at the Nature Research Center. Dr. Koster thanked the WRC for its participation in the Candid Critters project and mentioned the engagement of SAS Institute in the development of recognition software for the Candid Critter cameras.

Chairman Coley advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e).

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

John Litton Clark
Brad Stanback
Nat Harris
John Coley
Landon Zimmer
Tommy Fonville
John Stone
Ray Clifton

Brian White
Wes Seegars
Monty Crump
David Hoyle, Jr.
Mark Craig
Joe Budd
Mike Johnson

VISITORS

Tim Gestwicki – NC Wildlife Federation
Richard Hamilton – NCWF

Danielle Ward – Office of State Budget & Mgt.
Dr. Emlyn Koster – NC Museum of Nat. Sciences

MINUTES

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by John Litton Clark, the Commission approved the July 27, 2017 Wildlife Resources Commission minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**. The Minutes are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, presented in **Exhibit B** the Cash Balance Report for the week ending August 21, 2017. Myers noted the entries highlighted in colors, which show that they are restricted funds. Total cash as of August 21, 2017 is \$13,800,323.52, of which \$4,404,397.57 is unrestricted. **Exhibit B** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS RECOGNITION – *Executive Director* Gordon Myers presented service awards to WRC employees Jessica Bauman, *Inland Fisheries* – 10 years, and Lisa Barfield, *Information Technology* – 15 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee Report – John Litton Clark reported that the Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee met at WRC Headquarters on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. Discussion was held regarding the collaborative effort working with Ducks Unlimited, where the WRC agrees to give \$50,000 annually in a 10-year segment, to be leveraged to \$200,000 annually for work on the waterfowl breeding habitat management program in the Maritime Provinces in Canada. The Committee discussed HB 559 Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act. A study will be conducted by the WRC, with a RFP to hire a consultant to determine the economic and social impacts of Sunday hunting. The study report will be available in March 2018.

Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Report – Mark Craig, *Chair*, reported that the HNGES Committee met at WRC Headquarters on August 22, 2017. Allen Boynton presented the final draft of the Alligator Management Plan. The Commission will consider adoption at the October 5, 2017 WRC meeting. Jessie Birkhead presented an update on coyote management activities. The final Coyote Management Plan will be presented in March 2018.

Land Use and Access Committee Report – Tommy Fonville, *Vice Chair*, reported that the Land Use and Access Committee met at WRC Headquarters on August 22, 2017. A subcommittee will be set up to discuss the land acquisition prioritization process. The committee endorsed two Phase I projects. One Phase I project will be tabled and the Committee recommends against proceeding with one Phase I tract. The Committee endorsed two Phase II projects for consideration by the Commission.

Education Committee Report – Joe Budd, *Chair*, reported that the Education Committee met at WRC Headquarters on August 22, 2017. Kris Smith, *Wildlife Education Division Chief*, provided highlights about the Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament survey. Smith also gave an overview about effective communication about the Outdoor Heritage Enhanced legislation, so that the public will understand the pathway to opening opportunities for Sunday hunting of migratory birds.

Committee of the Whole Report – *Chairman* John Coley reported that the Committee of the Whole met on August 22, 2017 at WRC Headquarters. *Director* Gordon Myers gave an overview for Commissioners to understand the annual rulemaking process. Christian Waters, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, Brian McRae, *Land and Water Access Section Chief*, and Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief* provided initial reviews of proposed Rules for Inland Fisheries, Lands Management, and Wildlife Management, to be considered for a vote at the October 5, 2017 WRC meeting to take to 2018 statewide public hearings. Betsy Haywood, *No-Wake Zone Coordinator* reviewed a fiscal note and proposed rulemaking to amend 27 water safety Rules. Carrie Ruhlman, *Rulemaking Coordinator*, reviewed a fiscal note and proposed Notice of Text for Rulemaking for changes to wildlife captivity and rehabilitation regulations. Ruhlman reviewed final determinations for the 2017 Periodic Review of Rules.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – “International Law Enforcement Academy: Building Partnerships for Conservation Law Enforcement” – Sgt. Chad Arnold, *Law Enforcement Division*, gave a spotlight about the International Law Enforcement Academy. There are five worldwide training academies funded by the Department of State to educate and provide uniformity of enforcement involving international crime, including multiple courses in wildlife trafficking. Sgt. Arnold was one of six invited instructors from the U.S. for the course held in Bangkok, Thailand to train wildlife trafficking investigators on topics ranging from intelligence gathering to forensics and crime scene processing. Accomplishments of the academies included network building, identifying resources in other countries, and partnering with China and Hong Kong against turtle smuggling. As a result of his participation, Sgt. Arnold is now able to share the results of these academies with the agency recruit academy.

INLAND FISHERIES

Inland Fisheries Update

Christian Waters, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, gave an update about the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division. Waters reported that genetics work is ongoing at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and research projects have been funded for study of the western crawfish and Waccamaw fatmucket mollusk. Waters stated that the agency is partnering with the Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium to obtain Red Drum eggs as part of the Hyco Lake project. The eggs will be grown at the Marion Fish Hatchery. Staff is also working on a project analyzing growth, age and diet of blue catfish in Lake Gaston.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Management Update

Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, reported on the activities of the Wildlife Management Division. Staff is conducting coyote management workshops. Cobb reported that the second year of the gobbling chronology study ended June 3, 2017. Fifty-one acoustic recorders have been placed statewide, recording two and one-half hours per day starting 30 minutes before sunrise. Staff have begun the process of analyzing this data. John Isenhour, *Technical Assistance Biologist*, has been awarded the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) Firebird Conservation Award for his work with early successional habitat management. Jeff Hall, *Herpetologist*, will receive the 2016 Wildlife Conservationist Award from the NC Wildlife Federation on September 9, 2017. Hall is a herpetologist with expertise working with gopher frogs, diamond back rattlesnakes and bog turtles, among other species.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Education Update

Kris Smith, *Wildlife Education Division Chief*, gave an update about the activities of the Wildlife Education Division. Smith mentioned that the outreach education staff assisted with Fur, Fish and Game Camp, Camp Canvasback, and 120 field staff programs. This year the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education has hosted 277 programs with more than 3,000 participants. Forty-three programs have been held at the Pechmann Fishing Education Center with 1,400 participants. The Wildlife Education Hub is working with Exploris Middle School and four NCSU interns to study box turtles. Smith stated that social media outreach continues to grow with approximately 83,000 Facebook fans and 7,000 Twitter fans. Smith announced that Joe Darden, *Hunter Safety Educator*, will receive the Volunteer of the Year Award from the NC Wildlife Federation on September 9, 2017.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase I Land Acquisitions

Upon a motion by Joe Budd and second by Tommy Fonville, the Commission approved working with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition plans for the Rubin tract in Ashe County (**Exhibit C-3**) and the Vaughan and Dixon tracts in Hertford County (**Exhibit C-4**). The Commission tabled consideration of the Aydelette Swamp/Dempsey Sawyer Swamp tract in Camden County (**Exhibit C-1**) until the October 5, 2017 WRC meeting and declined to proceed with acquisition plans for the Joe's Island tract and Wilkins tract (**Exhibit C-2**) in Pasquotank County. Presented by Brian McRae, *Land and Water Access Section Chief*, **Exhibits C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Phase II Land Acquisitions

Upon a motion by David Hoyle, Jr. and second by Tommy Fonville, the Commission gave final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties presented in **Exhibits D-1 and D-2**:

- Carswell tract – Burke County (D-1)
- Galloway tract – Rockingham County (D-2)

Exhibits D-1 and D-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

2017-2018 FIELD TRIAL SCHEDULE

On a motion by John Stone and second by Joe Budd, the Commission adopted the 2017-2018 Running Schedule for the J. Robert Gordon Sandhills Field Trial Area, presented in **Exhibit E**. **Exhibit E** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting:

**NORTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION
 RUNNING SCHEDULE**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Location</u>
October 6-8	Duplin County Field Club	Warsaw
October 14-15	Decoy Lake	Linden
October 20-22	Tar Heel Championship	Hoffman
October 23-25	Central Carolina – Open	Hoffman
October 27-29	Catawba Classic	Hoffman
November 2-5	Richmond County	Hoffman
November 9-12	Central Carolina	Hoffman
December 1-3	Carolina Amateur	Hoffman
December 8-10	German Shorthaired	Hoffman
December 14-17	REGION 3	Hoffman
December 18-20	NC Shooting Championship	Hoffman
December 29- Jan 3	Swamp Fox	Hoffman
December 30-31	Aurora	Pactolus
January 5-7	Pinehurst	Hoffman
January 13-15	Tarheel Brittany	Hoffman
January 18-21	Southeastern Brittany	Hoffman
January 22-24	Atlantic Coast Championship	Hoffman
January 29-Feb 2	US Quail Futurity	Hoffman
February 3-5	Yankee Field Trial	Hoffman
February 9-11	NC Ama All Age	Hoffman
February 16-18	Reg 3 Ama Shoot. Dog Championship	Hoffman
February 22-24	SE US Complete Shooting Dog Assoc.	Hoffman
March 2-4	Spring Valley	Hoffman
March 15-18	NC Open All Age	Hoffman
March 19-21	NC Open Quail Chmp.	Hoffman
March 22-25	NC Field Trial Assoc.	Hoffman
	And	NC Pointing Dog Assoc.

RULEMAKING

FISCAL NOTE AND NOTICE OF TEXT FOR WILDLIFE CAPTIVITY AND REHABILITATION RULE – On a motion by Wes Seegars and second by David Hoyle, Jr., the Commission approved the Fiscal Note review (**Exhibit F-1**) and the request to publish Notice of Text in the NC Register, hold three public hearings, and open the public comment period (**Exhibit F-2**) for 15A NCAC 10H .1400 – Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation, presented by Carrie Ruhlman, *Rulemaking Coordinator*. **Exhibits F-1 and F-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting and the complete text of each Rule is incorporated by reference into the minutes:

Title 15A NCAC 10H .1400. Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation

In 2013, the General Assembly passed a bill that amended G.S. 113-272.5. Captivity license, to provide for the issuance of these licenses for exhibition purposes. Effective September 30, 2015, farmed captive cervids were transferred from the Commission to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services via G.S. 106-549.97. Because of these changes, the agency's captivity rules required revision to ensure that the intent of the statutes was clear and unambiguous in rule, and to specify terminology for consistent application. Additionally, it was necessary to distinguish the regulatory differences between holding wildlife for rehabilitation purposes from holding wildlife in long-term captivity. To accomplish this, the existing captivity rules in 15A NCAC 10H, subsections .0301 - .0304 were revised and reorganized into a new Section of subchapter 10H (15A NCAC 10H .1400 – Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation). The proposed rules split rehabilitation and long-term captivity requirements, incorporate necessary definitions and provisions to be used throughout the subchapter, detail enforcement actions, and specify form contents. The new Section applies to all captivity licenses issued by the Commission and to those non-farmed cervid facilities issued a license prior to September 30, 2015.

15A NCAC 10H .1401 Definitions and General Requirements for Captivity Licenses

Establishes definitions used throughout 10H .1400. Details standard conditions of captivity licenses, including applicant requirements, duration of license, transportation, and reportable disease requirements. Changes from 10H .0300 Rules include:

- Specific definitions for terms used throughout the captivity and rehabilitation rules;
- Named rabies species (raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, bobcat, coyote, groundhog, and beaver);
- Disclosure requirements for reportable diseases; and
- License eligibility requirements including 18 years of age and no convictions of animal cruelty.

15A NCAC 10H .1401 Definitions and General Requirements for Captivity Licenses

15A NCAC 10H .1402 Minimum Standards

Details and separates the required minimum care and caging standards for wildlife held for rehabilitation and long term holding. Changes from 10H .0300 Rules include:

- Life-stage specific rehabilitation standards based on the “Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation” from the National Wildlife Rehabilitations Association;
- Long-term captivity standard separated by species and based on Zoological Association of America standards; and
- Remove arbitrary language.

15A NCAC 10H .1402 Minimum Standards

15A NCAC 10H .1403 Captivity License for Wildlife Rehabilitation

Details the conditions and requirements for rehabilitating wildlife. Lists species that cannot be rehabilitated. Specifies reasons why a captivity license for rehabilitation can be denied. Details conditions under which an animal held for rehabilitation can be transferred or released. Changes from 10H .0300 Rules include the following:

- All rehabilitators will be required to pass a general rehabilitation exam, and provide proof of successful completion once every five years;
- White-tailed deer fawn and elk calf rehabilitators will be required to pass a species-specific examination;
- All white-tailed deer fawn and elk calves must be permanently tagged within 24 hours of intake;
- White-tailed deer fawn and elk calves being rehabilitated shall be kept at least 30-feet away from any farmed or non-farmed cervids and separate equipment shall be used;
- License holders shall adhere to withdrawal times for drugs, as recommended by the prescribing NC licensed veterinarian;
- Wildlife may only remain in rehabilitation for 180 days unless approved by the Commission;
- Details for disposition of non-releasable wildlife;
- Pre-license facility inspections are not required for rehabilitators, except for facilities for white-tailed deer fawn and elk calves, and black bear cubs;
- Rehabilitation of wild turkey and black bear cubs is permitted; and
- Rehabilitation facilities for black bear cubs shall be approved on an as-needed basis by the Commission

15A NCAC 10H .1403 Captivity License for Wildlife Rehabilitation

15A NCAC 10H .1404 Captivity License for Holding Wildlife

Details the conditions and requirements for long-term holding of wildlife for scientific, education, or exhibition purposes. Specifies reasons why a captivity license for holding can be denied. Changes from 10H .0300 Rules include the following:

- Animals may be held for exhibition purposes;
- Ability to require tagging of all species held in long-term captivity;
- Restrictions on comingling of wildlife with domestic, livestock, or other captive species;
- Restricts reproduction of all wildlife in captivity unless part of a breeding program;
- Details rules specific to holding cervids of wild origin at facilities licensed prior to September 30, 2015;
- Requires rehabilitated wildlife deemed non-releasable be transferred to a different license holder for long-term holding;
- Allows the long-term holding of black bears and wild turkeys; and
- Makes requirements for black bears and cougars consistent with the statutes.

15A NCAC 10H .1404 Captivity License for Holding Wildlife

15A NCAC 10H .1405 Captivity License Revocation and Enforcement

Establishes when the Commission can inspect captivity license holders and the criteria under which the Commission may issue warnings, modify, revoke or suspend licenses. Provides a list of potential activities or actions that would be deemed violations of the captivity licenses, including acts of animal cruelty.

15A NCAC 10H .1405 Captivity License Revocation and Enforcement

15A NCAC 10H .1406 Forms for Captivity Licenses

Details the required information an applicant must provide the Commission to obtain a Captivity License for Holding, Captivity License for Rehabilitation and transportation permit for non- farmed cervids.

15A NCAC 10H .1406 Forms for Captivity Licenses

FISCAL NOTE AND NOTICE OF TEXT FOR LOCAL WATER SAFETY REGULATIONS

- On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by Mike Johnson, the Commission approved the Fiscal Note review (**Exhibit G-1**) and the request to submit Notice of Text in the NC Register, hold one public hearing, and open the comment period for 27 water safety rule amendments (**Exhibit G-2**) under 15A NCAC 10F .0300 – Local Water Safety Regulations, presented by Betsy Haywood, *No Wake Zone Coordinator*. **Exhibits G-1 and G-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting and the complete text of each Rule is incorporated by reference into the minutes:

Title 15A NCAC 10F .0300 - Local Water Safety Regulations

All 15A NCAC 10F. 0300 Water Safety Rules have been reviewed as part of the 2016 Periodic Review process. Twenty-seven rules proposed for amendment are not required to be readopted, but are proposed for revisions to incorporate the following changes:

- Revise language and terms for consistency;
- Clarify no-wake zone boundaries by including coordinates;
- Correct names of locations;
- Remove applicant’s responsibility for maintenance of markers;
- Remove the word “motorboat”, as the statutory definition of “vessel” includes motorboats;
- Include appropriate federal approval for placement of markers.

15A NCAC 10F .0303 Beaufort County

Update language for consistency, remove maintenance of markers, and remove the word “motorboat” from the rule.

15A NCAC 10F .0303 Beaufort County

15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County

Update language, renumber the Rule.

15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County

15A NCAC 10F .0306 Carolina Beach

Clarify boundaries and add coordinates, remove “motorboat” and maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0306 Carolina Beach

15A NCAC 10F .0313 Hyde County

Technical changes to add coordinates, correct names, remove “motorboat” and maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0313 Hyde County

15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County

Technical changes to update language for consistency, correct coordinates.

15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County

15A NCAC 10F .0318 Warren County

Correct name and coordinates, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0318 Warren County

15A NCAC 10F .0319 Washington County

Update language, add coordinates, remove “motorboat” and maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0319 Washington County

15A NCAC 10F .0321 Pender County

Technical change to update language for consistency.
15A NCAC 10F .0321 Pender County

15A NCAC 10F .0326 Pamlico County

Technical changes to add coordinates, correct name and update language for consistency, remove “motorboat” and maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0326 Pamlico County

15A NCAC 10F .0328 Martin County

Remove “motorboat” and maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0328 Martin County

15A NCAC 10F .0330 Carteret County

Correct names and update language, correct coordinates, remove “motorboat.”
15A NCAC 10F .0330 Carteret County

15A NCAC 10F .0331 Wake County

Remove “motorboat” and maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0331 Wake County

15A NCAC 10F .0334 Guilford County

Correct text, remove maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0334 Guilford County

15A NCAC 10F .0337 Franklin County

Lake Royale is a private, limited access lake; therefore, maintenance remains responsibility of Franklin County. As a private lake, it is not subject to the approval of the USACE and USCG; therefore, that language is stricken.
15A NCAC 10F .0337 Franklin County

15A NCAC 10F .0348 Person County

Update language, correct coordinates, remove maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0348 Person County

15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern

Correct name of road, remove maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern

15A NCAC 10F .0352 Camden County

Technical corrections to update language and correct coordinates, remove maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0352 Camden County

15A NCAC 10F .0354 Pitt County

Update language, specify location with description and coordinates, remove “motorboat” and maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0354 Pitt County

15A NCAC 10F .0355 Perquimans County

Describe locations with details and coordinates, correct coordinates, remove maintenance, and move the swimming area from (a)(2)(G) to Paragraph (b). A swimming area is a no-entry zone rather than a no-wake zone and requires a separate Paragraph from other no-wake zones.
15A NCAC 10F .0355 Perquimans County

15A NCAC 10F .0356 Pasquotank County

Remove maintenance. Add purview of USACE and the USCG in a coastal county.
15A NCAC 10F .0356 Pasquotank County

15A NCAC 10F .0361 Wilkes County

Remove “motorboat” and maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0361 Wilkes County

15A NCAC 10F .0363 Caswell and Person Counties

Update and clarify language. Remove maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0363 Caswell and Person Counties

15A NCAC 10F .0364 Greensboro

Add official name of Lake Townsend. Remove maintenance.
15A NCAC 10F .0364 Greensboro

15A NCAC 10F .0365 Tyrrell County

Clarify descriptions and remove maintenance. Add the purview of USACE and USCG in a coastal county.

15A NCAC 10F .0365 Tyrrell County

15A NCAC 10F .0368 Town of Nags Head

Add descriptions and coordinates to clarify boundaries. Remove maintenance. Add the purview of USACE and USCG in a coastal county.

15A NCAC 10F .0368 Town of Nags Head

15A NCAC 10F .0370 City of Rocky Mount

Clarify description and correct spelling, and remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0370 City of Rocky Mount

15A NCAC 10F .0374 Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. Safety Zones

Change facility name to Cube Yadkin Generation in the Rule title and in body of the Rule. Reorganize text to fall under Paragraph (a), numbers (1) and (2). Add minor technical changes for spelling and punctuation corrections.

15A NCAC 10F .0374 Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. Safety Zones

2017 PERIODIC REVIEW OF RULES – On a motion by John Stone and second by Monty Crump, the Commission reviewed comments received on 15A NCAC 10B Rules – Hunting and Trapping, presented in **Exhibit H** by Carrie Ruhlman, *Rulemaking Coordinator*, and made final determinations for the readoption process under the Periodic Review of Rules on 15A NCAC 10B – Hunting and Trapping; 15A NCAC 10C – Inland Fishing; and 15A NCAC 03Q .0105 – Marine Fisheries Commission; presented in **Exhibits I, J, and K**. **Exhibits H, I, J, and K** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

2018 STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Nat Harris, the Commission adopted the schedule for statewide public hearings to be conducted in January 2018, presented in **Exhibit L**, for proposed Rules. The public hearings will be held at 7:00 pm. The hearing locations are tentative. **Exhibit L** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting:

2018 Public Hearing Schedule
Hearing Time: 7:00 pm
Locations tentative

DATE	DISTRICT	CITY	LOCATION
January 9, 2018 Tuesday	4	Dublin	<i>Bladen Community College</i>
January 10, 2018 Wednesday	5	Graham	<i>Old Alamance County CTHS</i>
January 11, 2018 Thursday	6	Albemarle	<i>Stanly Co Agri-Civic Center</i>
January 16, 2018 Tuesday	9	Clyde	<i>Haywood CC</i>
January 17, 2018 Wednesday	8	Morganton	<i>Western Piedmont CC</i>
January 18, 2018 Thursday	7	Elkin	<i>Elkin HS</i>
January 23, 2018 Tuesday	1	Edenton	<i>Chowan Co. Public Safety Ctr.</i>
January 24, 2018 Wednesday	2	New Bern	<i>Craven Community College</i>
January 25, 2018 Thursday	3	Rocky Mount	<i>Nash Community College</i>

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman John Coley thanked staff for arranging the meeting at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. He reminded the Commissioners of the tour today at 10:30 in the Nature Research Center Lab.

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Gordon Myers stated that he hoped Commissioners could stay for the tour. The tour will focus on the research lab at the museum to provide an opportunity for Commissioners to learn about the unique partnership we have with the museum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

John Coley, Chairman

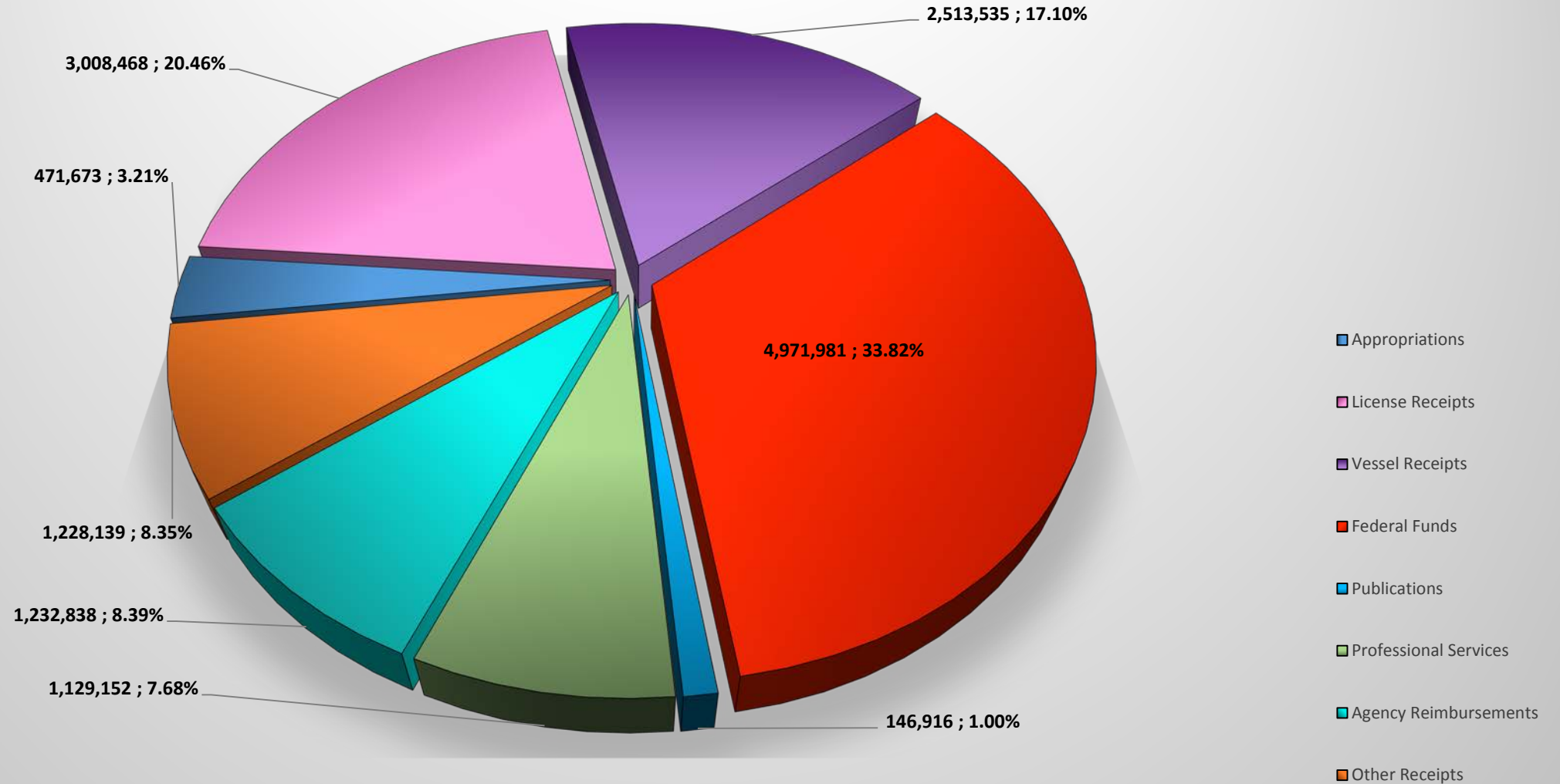
Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

Exhibit B

Year to Date SFY 2018 Receipts - \$14,702,702 (Through August 31, 2017)



Year to Date SFY 2018 Expenditures - \$11,789,861 (Through August 31, 2017)

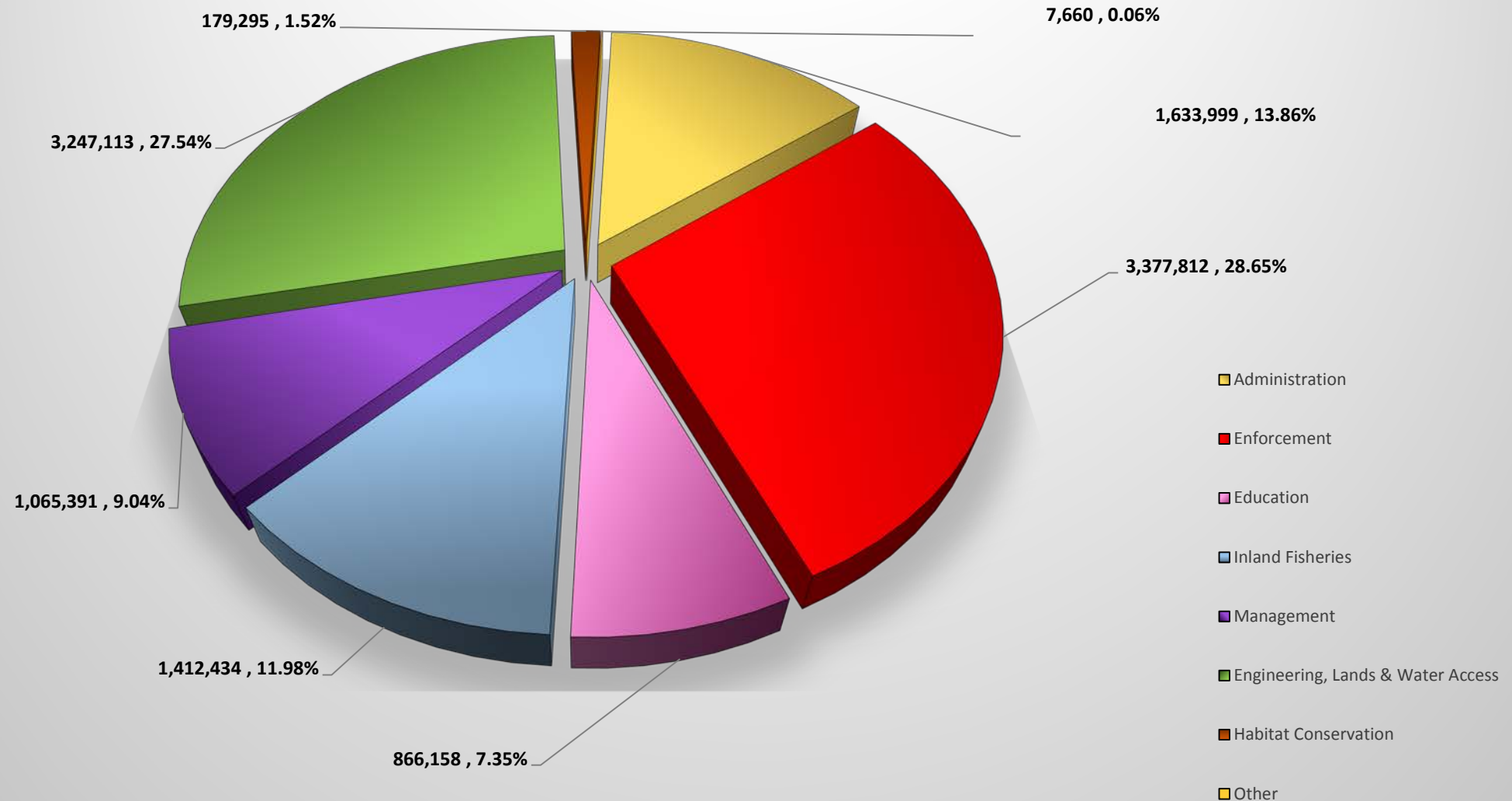


Exhibit C

October 5, 2017



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

2017-2018 Allocation of Endowment Fund Investment Returns

Endowment Fund Return On Investment	2015	2.23%
	2016	4.45%
	2017	2.49%
3 Year Average Return on Investment		3.06%
2017 Year End Net Adult License Endowment	\$	93,848,060.91
Three Year Average Return on Investment		x 3.06%
FY 17/18 Endowment Allocation	\$	2,869,412.84

The formula for determining the amount of interest available to support *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine was passed in a motion by the Commission on May 18, 2007. The motion allocated 100 percent of the interest earned from magazine lifetime subscriptions to the magazine budget.

2016-2017 Allocation - **\$125,883.58**

EXHIBIT D-1

October 5, 2017



PROPOSED CHANGES IN INLAND FISHERIES REGULATIONS FOR 2018-2019 RECOMMENDED BY AGENCY STAFF FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND PRESENTATION AT NINE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Trout

- 1) Designate all waters on Headwaters Game Land in Transylvania County, William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County, and Pisgah Game Land in Watauga County as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Wild Trout Waters. In addition, this proposal would reformat the NC Administrative Code by alphabetizing the list of game lands and would correct the spelling of DuPont State Forest Game Land.
15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands (pages 19 and 20)
- 2) Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Beaver Creek in Ashe County removing approximately 0.4 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 4)
- 3) Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on East Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County removing 1.0 miles of Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be from East Fork Baptist Church to the French Broad River.
15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 9)
- 4) Modify the size and creel limits on the Special Regulation Trout Waters reach of the Catawba River in Burke County by establishing a 14-inch minimum size limit, removing the restriction of only one may be greater than 14 inches, and reducing the daily creel limit from seven to two fish.
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout (page 14)
- 5) Correct the NC Administrative Code to remove the prohibition on night fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters on game lands.
15A NCAC 10D .0104 Fishing on Game Lands (page 19)

Black Bass

- 1) Modify the exception to the general statewide regulation for black bass by prohibiting possession of black bass in Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the boundaries of the Town of Southern Shores in Dare County.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass (page 12)

Blue Catfish

- 1) Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Blue Catfish in the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir, Lake Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir by allowing only one fish greater than 32 inches to be possessed in the daily creel.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale (page 15)

Nongame Fishes

- 1) Require that the appearance of nongame fishes subject to a length and/or creel limit not be altered such that the fish cannot be identified, measured, or counted.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale (pages 15 and 16)

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption (page 18)

Equipment

- 1) Remove the requirement that minnow traps must be under the immediate control and attendance of the individual operating them when used to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption. Under this provision, the use of minnow traps only requires a license that authorizes basic fishing privileges, and any nongame fish collected may not be sold. Minnow traps must be checked daily to remove all fish. Each minnow trap must be labeled with either the user's Commission customer number or name and address.

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption (page 17)

- 2) Allow the harvest of nongame fishes for bait with equipment specified for the taking of nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption from impounded waters of power supply reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters. The exception would only apply to the following reservoirs: Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake.

15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption (pages 17 and 18)

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

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) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that
6 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 7 (3) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

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

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

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

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

- 43 (1) Alleghany
 - 44 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
45 Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128
46 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])
 - 47 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
48 Big Pine Creek
49 Bledsoe Creek
50 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against
51 trespassing)
52 Cranberry Creek
53 (Big) Glade Creek
54 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129
55 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)
56 Meadow Fork

- 1 Pine Swamp Creek
2 Piney Fork
3 Prathers Creek
4 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
5 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park
6 (2) Ashe County
7 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
9 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
10 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)
11 Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)
12 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)
13 Trout Lake
14 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to ~~South Fork New River~~ confluence of Beaver Creek and South
16 Beaver Creek)
17 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
18 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
19 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
20 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
21 Nathans Creek
22 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
23 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
24 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
25 Roan Creek
26 Three Top Creek
27 (3) Avery County
28 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
29 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
30 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
31 (B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Wilson Creek (game land portion)
33 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Boyde Coffey Lake
35 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state
36 line)
37 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,
38 except where posted against trespassing)
39 Milltimber Creek
40 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family
41 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
42 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
43 trespassing)
44 Squirrel Creek
45 Wildcat Lake
46 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
47 Birchfield Creek
48 Cow Camp Creek
49 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
50 Gragg Prong
51 Horse Creek
52 Kentucky Creek
53 North Harper Creek
54 Plumtree Creek
55 Roaring Creek
56 Rockhouse Creek

- 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 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 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
40 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
41 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
42 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
43 against trespassing)
44 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
45 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
46 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
47 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
48 Rockhouse Creek
49 (7) Cherokee County
50 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
51 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
52 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
53 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
54 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
55 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
56 (B) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:

- 1 Bald Creek (game land portion)
2 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
3 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
4 (8) Clay County
5 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Fires Creek (USFS Rd. 340A to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)
7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
9 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
10 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
11 (9) Graham County
12 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
13 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
14 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
16 Cheoah Reservoir
17 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
18 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
19 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
20 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
21 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
22 West Buffalo Creek
23 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
24 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
25 Little Buffalo Creek
26 South Fork Squally Creek
27 Squally Creek
28 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
29 Deep Creek
30 Franks Creek
31 Long Creek (game land portion)
32 (10) Haywood County
33 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
34 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
35 Logan)
36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
37 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
38 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
39 trespassing)
40 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
41 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
42 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
43 except Middle Prong)
44 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
45 Hemphill Creek
46 Hurricane Creek
47 (11) Henderson County
48 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
49 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
50 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
51 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
52 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
53 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
54 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
55 (Big) Hungry River
56 (12) Jackson County

- 1 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Flat Creek
3 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
4 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream
6 of the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
7 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Balsam Lake
9 Bear Creek Lake
10 Cedar Cliff Lake
11 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
12 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
13 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
14 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
15 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
16 trespassing)
17 Tanasee Creek Lake
18 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
19 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
20 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
21 Wolf Creek Lake
22 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
23 Gage Creek
24 North Fork Scott Creek
25 Tanasee Creek
26 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
27 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
28 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
29 Buff Creek
30 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
31 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
32 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
33 (13) Macon County
34 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
35 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
37 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
38 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
39 Cliffside Lake
40 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
41 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
42 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
43 Queens Creek Lake
44 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
45 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
46 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
47 Kimsey Creek
48 Overflow Creek (game land portion)
49 Park Creek
50 Tellico Creek (game land portion)
51 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
52 (14) Madison County
53 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
54 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
55 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
56 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews)

- 1 Ave.)
- 2 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill watershed boundary to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.]
- 4 bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
- 5 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- 6 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence
- 7 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
- 8 Max Patch Pond
- 9 Meadow Fork Creek (S.R. 1165 to Spring Creek)
- 10 Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)
- 11 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- 12 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at
- 13 Belva)
- 14 Shut-in Creek
- 15 Spillcorn Creek
- 16 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
- 17 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-
- 18 in Creek)
- 19 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 20 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- 21 (15) McDowell County
- 22 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 23 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
- 24 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- 26 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
- 27 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
- 28 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- 30 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- 31 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- 32 Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against
- 33 trespassing)
- 34 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 35 (16) Mitchell County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- 38 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 39 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 40 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- 41 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 42 East Fork Grassy Creek
- 43 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- 44 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against
- 45 trespassing)
- 46 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
- 47 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 48 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against
- 49 trespassing)
- 50 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
- 51 posted against trespassing)
- 52 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 53 (17) Polk County
- 54 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 55 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
- 56 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
2 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
3 (18) Rutherford County
4 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
5 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
6 against trespassing)
7 (19) Stokes County
8 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
9 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R.
10 1421)
11 (20) Surry County
12 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
14 Mitchell River (.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below
15 Kapps Mill Dam)
16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
18 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
19 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
20 Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
21 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
22 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
23 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
24 (21) Swain County
25 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
26 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
28 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
29 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
30 Cheoah Reservoir
31 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
32 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
33 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
34 (22) Transylvania County
35 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
36 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass
37 Creek and Grogan Creek)
38 (B) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
39 East Fork French Broad River (~~Glady Fork~~ East Fork Baptist Church to French Broad
40 River)
41 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
42 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
43 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
44 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork) French
45 Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
46 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
47 West Fork French Broad River (Camp Cove Branch to confluence with North Fork French
48 Broad River)
49 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
50 All waters located on Gorges State Park
51 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
52 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
53 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
54 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against
55 trespassing)
56 (23) Watauga County

- 1 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding
3 tributaries)
4 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to
5 Coffee Lake)
- 6 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
7 Lake Coffey
8 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge
9 and S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)
- 10 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
11 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
12 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
13 Beech Creek
14 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
15 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
16 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
17 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
18 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against
19 trespassing)
20 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
21 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
22 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South
23 Fork New River)
24 Norris Fork Creek
25 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower
26 boundary of Brookshire Park)
27 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co.line)
- 28 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
29 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
30 Howard Creek
31 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
32 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co.
33 line)
34 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
35 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 36 (24) Wilkes County
- 37 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
38 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park
39 lower boundary)
40 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
41 Club)
42 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
43 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the
44 Yadkin River)
45 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong
46 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 47 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
48 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
49 Bell Branch Pond
50 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
51 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence
52 with North Fork Reddies River)
53 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
54 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where
55 posted against trespassing)
56 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)

- 1 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1736)
 2 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.
 3 1559)
 4 Pike Creek
 5 Pike Creek Pond
 6 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies
 7 River)
 8 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to S.R. 1155 bridge)
 9 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 10 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
 11 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
 12 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
 13 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
 14 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
 15 (25) Yancey County
 16 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 17 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
 18 Upper Creek
 19 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 20 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
 21 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 22 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 23 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
 24 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
 25 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
 26 except where posted against trespassing)
 27 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 28 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
 29 Licksillet Creek
 30 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
 31

32 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
 33 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
 34 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
 35 *October 1, 1992;*
 36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
 37 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
 38 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
 39 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
 40 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
 41 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
 42 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
 43 *2003);*
 44 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
 45 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
 46 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS**

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

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

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

11 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Black Bass is 10 fish, the minimum size limit for
12 Largemouth Bass is 12 inches, and there is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass.

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

14 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

15 (2) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;

16 (3) New Lake in Hyde County; and

17 (4) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River
18 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River,
19 Perquimans River, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, and Alligator River
20 (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy 264/45 bridge).

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

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

25 (h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Black Bass,
26 but only two Black Bass less than 14 inches and no Black Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

27 (i) In Randleman Reservoir, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less
28 than 14 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

29 (j) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Black Bass is 18 inches.

30 (k) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is
31 no minimum size limit for Black Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one
32 Black Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

33 (l) In Sutton Lake, the minimum size limit for Black Bass is 14 inches and no Black Bass may be possessed from
34 December 1 through March 31.

35 (m) 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 (n) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no Black Bass may
38 be possessed.

39 (o) For purposes of this Rule, creel limits apply to Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass in aggregate unless
40 otherwise specified.

41
42 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*
43 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

44 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

45 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

46 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*

47 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*

48 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule*
49 *becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*

50 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*

51 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*

52 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*

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

54 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

55 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*

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Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT**

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 Paragraphs (d) and (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 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: in the
17 Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is
18 ~~seven-two~~ fish. ~~There is no minimum size limit for these fish, but only one may be greater than~~ The minimum size
19 limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

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

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

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

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

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28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
29 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*
30 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: PURCHASE AND SALE**

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, or grabbling. Nongame fishes may be taken
4 by hook and line or grabbling at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, with the following
5 exceptions:

- 6 (1) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to
7 possess more than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.
8 (2) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring
9 (alewife and blueback) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless
10 of origin in:
11 (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
12 (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
13 (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;
14 (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
15 (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
16 (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;
17 (G) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
18 (H) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.
19 (3) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman,
20 Mountain Island Reservoir, Lake Wylie, and John H. Kerr Reservoir, except that one fish per day
21 may be taken with archery equipment.
22 (4) No trotlines or set-hooks shall be used in the impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land
23 or in designated public mountain trout waters.
24 (5) In Lake Waccamaw, trotlines or set-hooks may be used only from October 1 through April 30.
25 (6) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are
26 the same as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the
27 Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

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

30 (c) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by licensed special devices may be sold, with the following
31 exceptions:

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

36 (d) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters,
37 except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County, and in University Lake in Orange County.
38 The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for
39 the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

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

44 (f) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following reservoirs:

- 45 (1) Lake Norman;
46 (2) Mountain Island Lake;
47 (3) Lake Wylie;
48 (4) Badin Lake; ~~and~~
49 (5) ~~Lake Tillery; Tillery;~~
50 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
51 (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
52 (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

53 (g) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing
54 in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.

55 (h) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
56 having a minimum size limit so as to render it impracticable to measure its total original length. No person while

1 fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification
2 or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.
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4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;*
5 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
6 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;*
8 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*
9 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
10 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
14 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
15 *2003);*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013;*
17 *August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1,*
18 *2006; June 1, 2005.*

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, ~~and that are under the immediate control and attendance of the~~
19 ~~individual operating them;~~ from which all fish and animals are removed daily, and which are labeled
20 with the owner's North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission customer number or name and
21 address;
- 22 (11) a hand-held line with a single bait attached;
- 23 (12) a single, multiple-bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length, marked on each end
24 with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter, bearing legible and indelible identification of
25 the user's name and address, and under the immediate control and attendance of the person using
26 the device, with a limit of one line per person and no more than one line per vessel; or
- 27 (13) a collapsible crab trap with the largest open dimension not greater than 18 inches and that by design
28 is collapsed at all times when in the water, except when it is being retrieved or lowered to the bottom,
29 with a limit of one trap per person.

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

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

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

35 (e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal
36 consumption subject to the following restrictions:

- 37 (1) No more than 25 eels, none of which may be less than 9 inches in length, shall be taken from or
38 possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters;
- 39 (2) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no river herring (alewife and
40 blueback) that are greater than six inches in total length shall be taken, and no such river herring
41 shall be possessed regardless of origin:
 - 42 (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
 - 43 (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
 - 44 (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;
 - 45 (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
 - 46 (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
 - 47 (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;
 - 48 (G) the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
 - 49 (H) all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
- 50 (3) No more than 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width
51 of five inches (point to point) shall be taken.

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

53 (g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or any other fish bait ~~from designated public mountain trout waters~~
54 ~~and from the bodies of water specified for the following counties:~~ waters:

- 55 (1) Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-
56 owned water supply reservoirs;

- 1 ~~(2) Bear Creek in Chatham County; County;~~
2 ~~(3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph~~
3 ~~County;~~
4 ~~(4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and~~
5 ~~(5) Rocky River in Chatham County.~~
6 ~~Bear Creek~~
7 ~~(2) Lee County;~~
8 ~~Deep River~~
9 ~~(3) Moore County;~~
10 ~~Deep River~~
11 ~~(4) Randolph County;~~
12 ~~Deep River below the Coleridge Dam~~
13 ~~Fork Creek~~

14 (h) In the waters of the Little Tennessee River, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent
15 shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings, it is unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring
16 (alewife and blueblack).

17 (i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
18 having a minimum size limit so as to render it impracticable to measure its total original length. No person while
19 fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification
20 or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-272; 113-272.3; 113-292;*
23 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
24 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1989;*
25 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
26 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*
27 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
28 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
29 *2003);*
30 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
31 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS**

2 (a) Generally. Except as otherwise indicated herein, fishing on game lands that are open to fishing shall be in
3 accordance with the North Carolina rules. All game lands are open to public fishing except restocked ponds when
4 posted against fishing, Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge, Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, and in the
5 case of private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by the owners thereof. No trotline or set-hook or any net, trap,
6 gig, ~~bow and arrow~~, archery equipment, or other special fishing device of a type mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C
7 .0404(b),(c),(d), and (f) may be used in any impounded waters located entirely on game lands. ~~Bow and arrow~~ Archery
8 equipment may be used to take nongame fishes in impounded waters located entirely on game lands with the exception
9 of those waters mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(a). Blue crabs taken by hook and line (other than set-hooks) in
10 designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point
11 to point) and the daily possession limit is 50 per person and 100 per vessel.

12 (b) Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters

13 ~~(1) Fishing Hours. It is unlawful to fish in designated public mountain trout waters on any game land
14 and in all waters on the Dupont State Forest Game Land from one half hour after sunset to one half
15 hour before sunrise, except in Hatchery Supported Trout waters as stated in 15A NCAC 10C
16 .0305(a), Delayed Harvest waters as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0205(a)(5), game lands sections of
17 the Nantahala River located downstream from the Swain County line, and in the sections of Green
18 River in Polk County located on Green River Game Lands from Cove Creek downstream to the
19 natural gas pipeline crossing.~~

20 ~~(2)(1) Location. All waters located on the game lands listed in this Subparagraph are designated public
21 mountain trout waters except as noted: Cherokee Lake, Grogan Creek, Big Laurel Creek
22 downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Pigeon River downstream of
23 Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, Nolichucky River, Mill Ridge Pond, Cheoah River
24 downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir, Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls
25 downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake
26 Julia, Fawn Lake, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Green
27 River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing, and Spring Creek below US Forest Service
28 road 223.~~

29 ~~Dupont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties.~~

30 ~~Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.~~

31 ~~Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and
32 Transylvania counties.~~

33 ~~Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson,
34 Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.~~

35 ~~Thurmond-Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County.~~

36 ~~Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County.~~

37 ~~South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.~~

38 ~~Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.~~

39 ~~Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties.~~

40 ~~Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.~~

41 ~~Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County.~~

42 ~~(A) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County;~~

43 ~~(B) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little
44 River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the DuPont State Forest
45 boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake;~~

46 ~~(C) Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, except Green River downstream
47 of the natural gas pipeline crossing;~~

48 ~~(D) Headwaters Game Land in Transylvania County;~~

49 ~~(E) Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon,
50 Swain, and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah
51 Reservoir and Cherokee Lake;~~

52 ~~(F) Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood,
53 Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties,
54 except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong
55 Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River,
56 Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to~~

- 1 the Tennessee state line, and Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223;
 2 (G) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County;
 3 (H) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County;
 4 (I) South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties;
 5 (J) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County;
 6 (K) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County;
 7 (L) Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County; and
 8 (M) William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County.

9 (2) All designated public mountain trout waters located on the game lands listed in Subparagraph (b)(1)
 10 of this Rule are Wild Trout Waters unless classified otherwise. [See 15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)]

11 (c) Ponds. In all game lands ponds, it is unlawful to take channel, white, or blue catfish (forked tail catfish) by means
 12 other than hook and line and the daily creel limit for forked tail catfish is six fish in aggregate.
 13

14 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305;*
 15 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
 16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
 17 *July 1, 1992;*
 18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
 19 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
 20 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
 21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2010;*
 22 *May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004.*



EXHIBIT D-2

October 5, 2017

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.0305 Black Bass
15A NCAC 10C.0316 Trout
15A NCAC 10C.0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale
15A NCAC 10C.0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption
15A NCAC 10D.0104 Fishing on Game Lands

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman
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, 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 Commission-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 are expected to change what anglers may harvest in specific waters, where anglers may harvest particular species, and how they may harvest. Some of the proposed changes are expected to increase angling opportunities, while others are expected to restrict angling opportunities. Many of the changes are intended to improve the quality of future angling opportunities. However, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing.

Although the Commission 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 their fishing trips in particular areas of the state, this estimate provides a rough approximation of the costs or benefits to the angler.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) 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 its 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 NCWRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensure 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 Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

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.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported, Delayed Harvest, or Wild Trout Waters. Approximately 1.4 miles of waters will be removed from PMTW to reflect changes in landmarks and partnerships with private landowners. The proposed changes will result in the removal of two reaches.

The proposed changes to this Rule are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with private landowners and overall trout management.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will not have an impact because the changes will not impact on-the-ground management. Conservation 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 \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

Approximately 1.4 miles of PMTW are being removed from public access. While this may constitute a minimal loss of opportunity to the public, the Commission 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 .0305 BLACK BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will prohibit possession of black bass in Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the boundaries of the Town of Southern Shores in Dare County.

The proposed change to this Rule was requested by Town of Southern Shores administrators to increase the number of Largemouth Bass in in Jean Guite Creek and associated canals.

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 substantial 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 Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

The proposed amendment to the Rule will modify the size and creel limits on the Special Regulation Trout Waters reach of the Catawba River in Burke County by establishing a 14-inch minimum size limit, removing the restriction of only one fish may be greater than 14 inches, and reducing the daily creel limit from seven to two fish.

The proposed change to this Rule is necessary to protect recently stocked Brown Trout and allow the opportunity to produce larger and older trout in the Special Regulation Trout Waters reach of the Catawba River.

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 substantial 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 Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: PURCHASE AND SALE

The proposed amendment to the Rule will allow only one fish greater than 32 inches to be possessed in the daily creel for Blue Catfish in the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir, the North Carolina portion of Lake Gaston, and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir. The proposed amendment will also require that the appearance of nongame fishes subject to a length and/or creel limit not be altered such that the fish cannot be identified, measured, or counted.

The proposed change to this Rule for Blue Catfish will protect larger catfish from overharvest and provide opportunity for trophy catfish fisheries in Lake Gaston, John H. Kerr Reservoir, and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir. The second proposed change is necessary because removing the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of fish makes it difficult to measure their

original length or count the number in possession. This change will develop consistency in the regulations for inland game and nongame fishes and facilitate enforcement efforts for conservation of certain nongame species.

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 substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule changes will alter what anglers may harvest and how anglers handle nongame fish in the field, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

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

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the requirement that minnow traps must be under the immediate control and attendance of the individual operating them when used to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption. The proposed amendment will also allow the harvest of nongame fishes for bait with equipment specified for the taking of nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption from impounded waters of power supply reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters. The proposed amendment will also require that the appearance of nongame fishes subject to a length and/or creel limit not be altered such that the fish cannot be identified, measured, or counted.

The first proposed change to this Rule will provide additional opportunity for constituents and will make regulations consistent with the traditional fishing practice. The second change will allow anglers to collect nongame fish for bait on-site as they do in other similar reservoirs not designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters. Nongame species are abundant in these reservoirs, and there is no biological or management reason to restrict their collection. The third change is necessary because removing the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of fish makes it difficult to measure their original length or count the number in possession. This change will develop consistency in the regulations for inland game and nongame fishes and facilitate enforcement efforts for conservation of certain nongame species.

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 substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule changes will alter how anglers may fish minnow traps, what anglers may harvest, and how anglers handle nongame fish in the field, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes.

15A NCAC 10D .0402 FISHING ON GAME LANDS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will designate all waters on Headwaters Game Land in Transylvania County, William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County, and Pisgah Game Land in Watauga County as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify as Wild Trout Waters. In addition, the proposed amendment will reformat the NC Administrative Code by alphabetizing the list of game lands, correct the spelling of DuPont State Forest Game Land, and correct the NC Administrative Code by removing the prohibition on night fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters on game lands.

The first proposed change to this Rule will provide increased angling opportunities under the Wild Trout Waters classification. The additional proposed changes address technical corrections. The prohibition on night fishing on game lands was removed during the WRC's 2015–2016 regulatory cycle; however, the NC Administrative Code was not updated at the time.

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

The proposed amendments will add approximately 40 - 50 miles of PMTW. This change is anticipated to increase angling opportunities. However, while the proposed rule will alter where anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes.

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED RULES

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

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

- (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (2) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (3) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

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

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

- (7) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (8) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (9) "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.

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

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

(1) Alleghany

(A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

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

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Pine Creek

Bledsoe Creek

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

Cranberry Creek

(Big) Glade Creek

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

Meadow Fork

Pine Swamp Creek

Piney Fork

Prathers Creek

(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

- (2) Ashe County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)
Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)
South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)
Trout Lake
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to ~~South Fork New River~~ confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)
Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
Nathans Creek
North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
Roan Creek
Three Top Creek
- (3) Avery County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
- (B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Wilson Creek (game land portion)
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Boyde Coffey Lake
Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway

boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)

Milltimber Creek

North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)

North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)

Squirrel Creek

Wildcat Lake

(D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

Birchfield Creek

Cow Camp Creek

Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)

Gragg Prong

Horse Creek

Kentucky Creek

North Harper Creek

Plumtree Creek

Roaring Creek

Rockhouse Creek

Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)

South Harper Creek

Webb Prong

(4) Buncombe County

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

Carter Creek (game land portion)

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)

Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)

Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)

Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)

Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)

Lake Powhatan

Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)

Stony Creek

Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)

(5) Burke County

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

Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)

Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)

Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)

(D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)

(E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in parts A and B of this Subparagraph

(6) Caldwell County

(A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Boone Fork Pond

Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)

Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)

Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)

Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)

(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)

Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
Rockhouse Creek

(7) Cherokee County

(A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)

Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)

Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)

Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)

Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)

(B) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:

Bald Creek (game land portion)

Dockery Creek (game land portion)

North Shoal Creek (game land portion)

(8) Clay County

(A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Fires Creek (USFS Rd. 340A to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)

Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)

Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)

(9) Graham County

(A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

(Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)

Cheoah Reservoir

Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)

Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)

(Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)

Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)

Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)

West Buffalo Creek

- Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Little Buffalo Creek
 - South Fork Squally Creek
 - Squally Creek
 - (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 - Deep Creek
 - Franks Creek
 - Long Creek (game land portion)
- (10) Haywood County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
 - Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespassing)
 - Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
 - Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
 - West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 - Hemphill Creek
 - Hurricane Creek
- (11) Henderson County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
 - Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
 - Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
 - Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
 - (Big) Hungry River

- (12) Jackson County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 Flat Creek
 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Balsam Lake
 Bear Creek Lake
 Cedar Cliff Lake
 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against trespassing)
 Tanasee Creek Lake
 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
 Wolf Creek Lake
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 Gage Creek
 North Fork Scott Creek
 Tanasee Creek
 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 Buff Creek
 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)

- Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- (13) Macon County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
Cliffside Lake
Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
Queens Creek Lake
- (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
Kimsey Creek
Overflow Creek (game land portion)
Park Creek
Tellico Creek (game land portion)
Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
- (14) Madison County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Ave.)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill watershed boundary to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)

- Max Patch Pond
- Meadow Fork Creek (S.R. 1165 to Spring Creek)
- Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)
- Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- Shut-in Creek
- Spillcorn Creek
- Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
- West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek)
- (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 - Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- (15) McDowell County
 - (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Newberry Creek (game land portion)
 - (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
 - Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
 - Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
 - (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
 - Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
 - Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
 - Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
 - North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- (16) Mitchell County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
 - North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- East Fork Grassy Creek
- Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
 - Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
 - Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- (17) Polk County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
 - North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- (18) Rutherford County
 - (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- (19) Stokes County
 - (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- (20) Surry County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
 - Mitchell River (.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)

Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)

(21) Swain County

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

Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)

Cheoah Reservoir

Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)

Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)

Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)

(22) Transylvania County

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

Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

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

East Fork French Broad River (~~Gladys Fork~~ East Fork Baptist Church to French Broad River)

Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)

French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork)

French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area

Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)

West Fork French Broad River (Camp Cove Branch to confluence with North Fork French Broad River)

- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 All waters located on Gorges State Park
 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)
- (23) Watauga County
 - (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries)
 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake)
 - (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 Lake Coffey
 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)
 - (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
 Beech Creek
 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)
 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork New River)
 Norris Fork Creek
 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to

- lower boundary of Brookshire Park)
- Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co.line)
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
 - Howard Creek
 - Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
 - North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
 - Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
 - Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- (24) Wilkes County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary)
 - Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain Club)
 - Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
 - Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin River)
 - Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
 - Bell Branch Pond
 - Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
 - Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)
 - East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
 - Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where posted against trespassing)
 - Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
 - Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1736)

North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)

Pike Creek

Pike Creek Pond

South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)

South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to S.R. 1155 bridge)

(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply

(25) Yancey County

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

South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)

Upper Creek

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)

Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)

South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park, except where posted against trespassing)

(D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)

Lickskillet Creek

Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;

15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass — collectively known as Black Bass - is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), ~~and (d)~~ (d), and (o) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), ~~and (m)~~ (m), and (o) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (l) and (o) of this Rule.

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

(c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Black Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Black Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish.

(d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Black Bass is 10 fish, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches, and there is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass.

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

- (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- (2) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- (3) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- (4) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, and Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy 264/45 bridge).

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

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

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

(i) In Randleman Reservoir, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

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

(k) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is no minimum size limit for Black Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be

possessed and only one Black Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

(l) In Sutton Lake, the minimum size limit for Black Bass is 14 inches and no Black Bass may be possessed from December 1 through March 31.

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

(n) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no Black Bass may be possessed.

(o) For purposes of this Rule, creel limits apply to Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass in aggregate unless otherwise specified.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

- (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated in Paragraphs (d) and (g) of this Rule.
- (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.
- (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters or Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.
- (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.
- (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows: in the Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is ~~seven~~two fish. ~~There is no minimum size limit for these fish, but only one may be greater than~~The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.
- (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish.
- (g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing.
- (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing season.
- (i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

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

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: PURCHASE AND SALE

(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, or grabbling. Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line or grabbling at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, with the following exceptions:

- (1) 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.
- (2) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and blueback) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:
 - (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
 - (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
 - (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;
 - (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
 - (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
 - (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;
 - (G) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
 - (H) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.
- (3) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, Lake Wylie, and John H. Kerr Reservoir, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.
- (4) No trotlines or set-hooks shall be used in the impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land or in designated public mountain trout waters.
- (5) In Lake Waccamaw, trotlines or set-hooks may be used only from October 1 through April 30.
- (6) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

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

(c) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by licensed special devices may be sold, with the following exceptions:

- (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from

Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);

- (2) blue crab; and
- (3) bowfin.

(d) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County, and in 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*).

(e) 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 is six catfish in aggregate. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

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

- (1) Lake Norman;
- (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- (3) Lake Wylie;
- (4) Badin Lake; ~~and~~
- (5) ~~Lake Tillery.~~ Tillery;
- (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

(g) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.

(h) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish having a minimum size limit so as to render it impracticable to measure its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;

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

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

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

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

- (c) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.
- (d) Game fishes taken while netting for bait shall be returned unharmed to the water, except white perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).
- (e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal consumption subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) No more than 25 eels, none of which may be less than 9 inches in length, shall be taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters;
- (2) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no river herring (alewife and blueback) that are greater than six inches in total length shall be taken, and no such river herring shall be possessed regardless of origin:
 - (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
 - (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
 - (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;
 - (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
 - (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
 - (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;
 - (G) the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
 - (H) all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
- (3) No more than 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) shall be taken.

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

(g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or any other fish bait ~~from designated public mountain trout waters and from the bodies of water specified for the following counties:~~ waters:

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

~~(3) Moore County:~~

~~Deep River~~

~~(4) Randolph County:~~

~~Deep River below the Coleridge Dam~~

~~Fork Creek~~

(h) In the waters of the Little Tennessee River, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings, it is unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring (alewife and blueblack).

(i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish having a minimum size limit so as to render it impracticable to measure its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-272; 113-272.3; 113-292;

15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS

(a) Generally. Except as otherwise indicated herein, fishing on game lands that are open to fishing shall be in accordance with the North Carolina rules. All game lands are open to public fishing except restocked ponds when posted against fishing, Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge, Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, and in the case of private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by the owners thereof. No trotline or set-hook or any net, trap, gig, ~~bow and arrow~~, archery equipment, or other special fishing device of a type mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(b),(c),(d), and (f) may be used in any impounded waters located entirely on game lands. ~~Bow and arrow~~ Archery equipment may be used to take nongame fishes in impounded waters located entirely on game lands with the exception of those waters mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(a). Blue crabs taken by hook and line (other than set-hooks) in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and the daily possession limit is 50 per person and 100 per vessel.

(b) Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters

~~(1) — Fishing Hours. It is unlawful to fish in designated public mountain trout waters on any game land and in all waters on the Dupont State Forest Game Land from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise, except in Hatchery Supported Trout waters as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0305(a), Delayed Harvest waters as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0205(a)(5), game lands sections of the Nantahala River located downstream from the Swain County line, and in the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Lands from Cove Creek downstream to the natural gas pipeline crossing.~~

~~(2)(1) Location. All waters located on the game lands listed in this Subparagraph are designated public mountain trout waters except as noted: Cherokee Lake, Grogan Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, Nolichucky River, Mill Ridge Pond, Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir, Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, Fawn Lake, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Green River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing, and Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223.~~

~~Dupont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties.~~

~~Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.~~

~~Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties.~~

~~Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood,~~

~~Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.~~

~~Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County.~~

~~Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County.~~

~~South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.~~

~~Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.~~

~~Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties.~~

~~Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.~~

~~Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County.~~

(A) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County;

(B) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the DuPont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake;

(C) Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, except Green River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing;

(D) Headwaters Game Land in Transylvania County;

(E) Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake;

(F) Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, and Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223;

(G) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County;

(H) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County;

(I) South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties;

(J) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County;

(K) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County;

(L) Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County; and

(M) William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County.

~~(3)~~(2) All designated public mountain trout waters located on the game lands listed in

Subparagraph (b)(1) of this Rule are Wild Trout Waters unless classified otherwise. [See 15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)]

(c) Ponds. In all game lands ponds, it is unlawful to take channel, white, or blue catfish (forked tail catfish) by means other than hook and line and the daily creel limit for forked tail catfish is six fish in aggregate.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305;

EXHIBIT E-1

October 5, 2017



PROPOSED CHANGES IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS FOR 2018-2019 RECOMMENDED BY AGENCY STAFF FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND PRESENTATION AT NINE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Deer

- 1) Change statewide deer hunting seasons to establish five deer season zones. Separate the current Eastern Zone into two zones, Northeastern and Southeastern; move Polk and Rutherford counties to the Western Zone; and move Cleveland County to the Northwest Zone.
15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED) (page 4)
- 2) Implement a balanced option for deer hunting seasons that is based on biological data and hunter feedback for each of the five season zones. These options include changes in season length and time frames, and antlered and antlerless bag limits. There would be no changes in the season opening dates for archery, but where other seasons would begin later, archery seasons would be longer than currently established seasons.
15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED) (page 4)
- 3) Shift either-sex days to the front of Introductory, Conservative, and Moderate antlerless deer seasons.
15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED) (page 4)

Bear

- 1) Change bear hunting seasons in the Coastal Bear Management Unit to align hunting seasons with five bear hunting zones established based upon biological data and bear hunter feedback.
15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR (page 10)
- 2) Change bear hunting season in the Mountain Bear Management Unit to add two weeks to the beginning of the current season.
15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR (page 10)

Alligators

- 1) Allow limited take of American alligators as prescribed by the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan.

Under this proposal:

1. The season for taking American alligators would be September 1 to October 1.
2. Limited take would be by permit only issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
3. The bag limit would be one per permit, with a season limit of one alligator per permittee.
4. Alligators could only be taken using hand-held ropes or catch poles; hand-held or rod/reel snatch hooks; harpoons or gigs with attached restraining lines; baited, wooden pegs less than 2-inches in length attached to hand-held restraining lines; archery equipment with arrow-attached restraining lines.
5. Alligators taken by any lawful method described above would have to be dispatched immediately upon capture.
6. Alligators could be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.
7. Baited hooks would be prohibited.
8. Permittees would be required to complete a harvest survey provided by the Wildlife Resources Commission and to allow staff to collect biological data from harvested alligators.

15A NCAC 10B .0224 AMERICAN ALLIGATOR (page 13)

Possession of Non-native Species

- 1) Amend the rule regulating possession of non-native species in the North Carolina Administrative Code to include brown anoles, red-eared sliders, Cuban treefrogs, and all Asian newt species in the genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, and *Tylototriton*.

15A NCAC 10B .0123 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES (page 14)

Clarify Definition of Blackpowder Firearm

- 1) Clarify the definition of a blackpowder firearm to mean “any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured in or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle or cylinder and that cannot use fixed ammunition.”

15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED) (page 4)

Technical Correction

- 1) Clarify that the hunting seasons for pheasant, fox (by archery), and rabbits open on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

15A NCAC 10B .0207 RABBITS (page 15)

15A NCAC 10B .0211 PHEASANT (NONNATIVE VARIETIES) (page 15)

15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED) (page 15)

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)**

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

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

8 (A) Saturday on or nearest October ~~15-22~~ through the first Sunday in January in all of
9 Beaufort, ~~Bertie~~, Bladen, Brunswick, ~~Camden~~, Carteret, ~~Chowan~~, Columbus*,
10 Cumberland, Craven, ~~Currituck~~, Dare, Duplin, ~~Edgecombe~~, ~~Franklin~~, ~~Gates~~, ~~Greene~~,
11 ~~Halifax~~, Harnett, ~~Hertford~~, Hoke, Hyde, ~~Johnston~~, Jones, Lenoir, ~~Martin~~, Moore, Nash,
12 New Hanover, ~~Northampton~~, Onslow, Pamlico, ~~Pasquotank~~, Pender, ~~Perquimans~~, ~~Pitt~~,
13 Richmond**, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland**, Tyrrell, and Vance, Wake, Warren,
14 Washington, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

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

16 **Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on ~~Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek,~~
17 ~~and Sandhills Game Lands.~~

18 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 29 through the first Sunday in January in all of Bertie,
19 Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford,
20 Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake,
21 Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

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

25 *Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on ~~Buffalo Cove Game Land.~~

26 ~~(C)(D)~~ Monday-Saturday after of Thanksgiving week-Day through the ~~third Saturday after~~
27 ~~Thanksgiving Day~~ first Sunday in January in all of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell,
28 Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell,
29 Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

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

34 ~~(E)(F)~~ Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the first Sunday in January in those parts
35 of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National
36 Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the
37 Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in that part of Hyde county known as Lake

1 Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known
2 as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond
3 counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck
4 County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

5 ~~(F) Monday of Thanksgiving week through January 1 in all of Cleveland, Polk, and~~
6 ~~Rutherford counties, except for South Mountain Game Land.~~

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

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

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

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

35 (D) The ~~last~~first open day of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph
36 (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Buncombe*, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and
37 Transylvania counties.

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

3 ~~**Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either sex deer seasons on game lands that differ~~
4 ~~from the days identified in this Subparagraph~~

5 (E) The ~~last six~~ first open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in
6 Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Friday thereafter in all of Avery, Burke,
7 Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

8 (F) The first ~~six~~ open days ~~and the last seven open days~~ of the Deer with Visible Antlers
9 season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter
10 in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

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

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

18 (b) Open Seasons (~~Bow and Arrow Archery~~) for hunting deer:

19 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag
20 limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with ~~bow and arrow~~ archery equipment
21 ~~during the following seasons: from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day~~
22 ~~immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons~~
23 ~~described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish~~
24 ~~Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery~~
25 ~~seasons on these Game Lands).~~

26 (A) ~~— Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Friday thereafter in the counties and~~
27 ~~parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part~~
28 ~~(A) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, except on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and~~
29 ~~Sandhills Game Lands.~~

30 (B) ~~— Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Friday before Thanksgiving in the~~
31 ~~counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer with Visible Antlers~~
32 ~~specified by Part (B) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule except for that portion of~~
33 ~~Buffalo Cove Game Land in Wilkes County.~~

34 (C) ~~— Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the Sunday prior to the opening of the~~
35 ~~blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow season identified in Part (c)(1)(C) of this Rule;~~
36 ~~and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms and bow and~~
37 ~~arrow season identified in Part (c)(1)(C) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving~~

1 in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible
2 Antlers specified by Part (C) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule and in Cleveland, Polk,
3 and Rutherford counties.

4 ~~(D) — Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving in the~~
5 ~~counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers~~
6 ~~specified by Part (D) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, and on Nicholson Creek,~~
7 ~~Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.~~

8 ~~(E) — Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible~~
9 ~~Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(C) of this Rule through January 1 in the counties and~~
10 ~~parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part~~
11 ~~(a)(1)(C) of this Rule.~~

12 (2) Restrictions

13 (A) In the areas of the state where the WRC is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
14 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs ~~Dogs~~ may not be used for hunting deer during the ~~bow~~
15 ~~and arrow archery~~ season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a
16 wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

17 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
18 may be used during the ~~bow and arrow~~ archery deer hunting season.

19 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken during ~~bow and arrow~~ archery seasons specified by ~~Parts~~
20 ~~Subparagraph (b)(1)(A), (B), (C), and (D)~~ of this Rule.

21 ~~(D) — Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs~~
22 ~~or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the bow and arrow season~~
23 ~~specified by Part (b)(1)(E) of this Rule.~~

24 (c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and ~~Bow and Arrow~~ Archery) for hunting deer:

25 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
26 taken only with blackpowder firearms and ~~bow and arrow~~ archery equipment on the Saturday
27 preceding the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described in Parts (a)(1) (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and
28 (F) of this Rule through the first Friday thereafter except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek,
29 Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for
30 Blackpowder Firearms and Archery seasons on these Game Lands): during the following seasons:

31 (A) — ~~The Saturday on or nearest October 1 to the Friday of the second week thereafter in the~~
32 ~~counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers~~
33 ~~specified by Part (A) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, except on Nicholson Creek,~~
34 ~~Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.~~

35 (B) — ~~The third Saturday preceding Thanksgiving until the Friday of the second week thereafter~~
36 ~~in the counties* and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible~~
37 ~~Antlers specified by Part (B) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.~~

1 *Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Buffalo Cove game land.

2 (C) — ~~Monday on or nearest October 1 to the Saturday of the second week thereafter in~~
3 Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties and in the counties and parts of counties having
4 the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (F) of Subparagraph
5 (a)(1) of this Rule.

6 (D) — ~~The fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving until the Friday of the second week~~
7 ~~thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With~~
8 ~~Visible Antlers specified by Part (D) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, and on~~
9 ~~Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.~~

10 (2) Restrictions

11 (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and ~~bow and arrow~~archery
12 season in and east of the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke,
13 Caldwell, Watauga, and Ashe. Deer of either sex may be taken on the ~~last~~first day of this
14 season only in all other counties.

15 (B) In the areas of the state where the WRC is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
16 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs ~~Dogs~~ shall not be used for hunting deer during the
17 blackpowder firearms and ~~bow and arrow~~archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash
18 may be used to retrieve a wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

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

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

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

32 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to that effect no
33 later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to the Executive Director or his
34 designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-~~4722~~1700. Cities shall also submit a
35 map of the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.

36 (3) Restrictions:

1 (A) In the areas of the state where the WRC is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
2 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs ~~Dogs~~ shall not be used for hunting deer during the
3 urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a wounded deer in
4 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

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

7 (e) Bag limits. ~~In and east of Vance, Franklin, Wake, Harnett, Moore, and Richmond counties, the possession limit is~~
8 ~~six deer, up to four of which may be deer with visible antlers. In all other counties of the state the~~ The possession and
9 season limit is six deer, up to two of which may be deer with visible antlers, antlers and up to four of which may
10 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from
11 spikes protruding through the skin. The season limit in all counties of the State, is six deer. In addition to the bag limits
12 described above, a hunter may obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources
13 Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card ~~on lands~~
14 ~~others than lands enrolled in the Commission's game land program during any open deer season in all counties and~~
15 ~~parts of counties of the State identified in Part (G) of Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule. Antlerless deer harvested and~~
16 ~~reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit. Hunters~~
17 ~~may also use the bonus antlerless harvest report cards for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d)~~
18 ~~of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer~~
19 ~~harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season~~
20 ~~limit. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes~~
21 ~~protruding through the skin.~~ The bag limits described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the
22 Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using
23 Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be
24 set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program,
25 regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP
26 license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for
27 deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags
28 may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those seasons,
29 including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus 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;*

32 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

33 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*

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

35 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*

37 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*

38 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*

39 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*

40 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018, August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013;*

41 *August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005*

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

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

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

30 (b) Restrictions

- 31 (1) For purposes of this Paragraph, "bait" means any natural, unprocessed food product that is a grain,
32 fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw
33 components.
- 34 (2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:
- 35 (A) any processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), any animal, animal part or
36 product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups, candy, pastry, gum,
37 candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, or grease;

- 1 (B) any extracts of substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph;
- 2 (C) any substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph,
- 3 including any extracts of those substances; or
- 4 (D) any bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders.
- 5 (3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday
- 6 before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.
- 7 (4) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties identified in
- 8 Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (a)(6) of this Rule.
- 9 (5) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.
- 10 (6) Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of Interstate 85,
- 11 Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston,
- 12 Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph,
- 13 Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties and
- 14 parts of counties, hunters may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.
- 15 (c) No Open Season. There is no open season in those parts of counties included in the following posted bear
- 16 sanctuaries:
- 17 Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties--Daniel Boone bear sanctuary except by permit only
- 18 Beaufort, Bertie, and Washington counties--Bachelor Bay bear sanctuary
- 19 Bladen County--Suggs Mill Pond bear sanctuary
- 20 Brunswick County--Green Swamp bear sanctuary
- 21 Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania counties--Pisgah bear sanctuary
- 22 Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties--Croatan bear sanctuary
- 23 Clay County--Fires Creek bear sanctuary
- 24 Columbus County--Columbus County bear sanctuary
- 25 Currituck County--North River bear sanctuary
- 26 Dare County--Bombing Range bear sanctuary except by permit only
- 27 Haywood County--Harmon Den bear sanctuary
- 28 Haywood County--Sherwood bear sanctuary
- 29 Hyde County--Gull Rock bear sanctuary
- 30 Hyde County--Pungo River bear sanctuary
- 31 Jackson County--Panthertown-Bonas Defeat bear sanctuary
- 32 Macon County--Standing Indian bear sanctuary
- 33 Macon County--Wayah bear sanctuary
- 34 Madison County--Rich Mountain bear sanctuary
- 35 McDowell and Yancey counties--Mt. Mitchell bear sanctuary except by permit only
- 36 Mitchell and Yancey counties--Flat Top bear sanctuary
- 37 Wilkes County--Thurmond Chatham bear sanctuary

- 1 (d) The daily bag limit is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.
2 (e) Kill Reports. The carcass of each bear shall be reported as provided by 15A NCAC 10B .0113.

3
4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;*
5 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
6 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; April 14, 1992;*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
8 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
9 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
10 *Amendment Eff. August 1, 2002;*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2003;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Expired Eff. December 27, 2003;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
14 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 31, 2016;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018, August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016.*

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0224 AMERICAN ALLIGATOR**

2
3 (a) The season for taking American alligators is September 1 to October 1.

4 (b) Take is by permit only.

5 (c) The bag limit is one per permit and the season limit is one.

6 (d) American alligators must be restrained before being killed. American alligators may only be
7 restrained using hand-held ropes or catch poles; hand-held or rod/reel snatch hooks; harpoons or gigs
8 with attached restraining lines; baited, wooden pegs less than 2-inches in length attached to hand-held
9 restraining lines; archery equipment with arrow-attached restraining lines.

10 (e) American alligators restrained by any lawful method specified in part (d) of this paragraph must be
11 dispatched immediately upon capture.

12 (f) Alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.

13 (g) Baited hooks are prohibited.

14
15 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;
16 Eff. August 1, 2018.

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0123 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

2
3 It is unlawful for any individual to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, or sell any species of Tongueless
4 or African Clawed Frog (*Xenopus* spp.), Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*), Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*),
5 or any Asian Newts (genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Tylotriton*); or to import, purchase, or
6 sell Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*); or to stock or release ~~them~~ any of the aforementioned species in
7 the public or private waters or lands of North Carolina, except as authorized under permit issued by the Executive
8 Director pursuant to G.S. 113-274(c)(4) and subject to limitations as specified in this Rule:

9 (1) Importation, possession, sales, transportation, and exportation will be allowed under permit by retail and
10 wholesale establishments whose primary function is providing scientific supplies for research; provided
11 that they must be possessed in indoor facilities; and that all transportation of specimens provides adequate
12 safeguards against accidental escape; and that sale or transfer is permitted only as listed in Item (2) of this
13 Rule. Written applications for permits shall include plans for holding, transportation, advertisement, and
14 sale in such detail as to allow a determination of the safeguards provided against accidental escape and
15 sales to unauthorized individuals.

16 (2) Purchase, importation, and possession of this species within North Carolina will be allowed under permit
17 only by state and federal governmental agencies, corporate research entities, and research institutions;
18 provided that sales are permitted to lawful out-of-state consumers; and, provided that they must be
19 possessed in indoor facilities and that all transportation of specimens provides adequate safeguards against
20 accidental escape; and that the agency's or institution's Animal Use and Care Committee has approved the
21 research protocol for this species; and, further provided that no specimens may be stocked or released in
22 the public or private waters or lands of North Carolina and may not be transferred to any private individual.

23
24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-292;*
25 *Eff. February 1, 1994;*
26 *Amended Eff. August, 1, 2018; April 1, 1997.*
27

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0207 RABBITS**

2
3 (a) Open Season: The open season for taking rabbits is the ~~first~~ Saturday preceding before Thanksgiving through the
4 last day of February.

5 (b) Bag Limits: The daily bag limit is five and there are no season and no possession limits.

6 (c) Box-traps: During the hunting season specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule and subject to the bag limits set forth
7 in Paragraph (b) of this Rule, rabbits may be taken with box-traps. A valid hunting license shall serve as a
8 transportation permit for live rabbits taken pursuant to this Rule.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*
11 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 1998;*
14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017, May 1, 2008; April 1, 1999.*

15
16 **15A NCAC 10B .0211 PHEASANT (NONNATIVE VARIETIES)**

17
18 (a) Open Season: The Saturday next preceding before Thanksgiving to February 1 on male pheasant only.

19 (b) Bag Limits: Daily, three; possession, six; season, 30.

20
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*
22 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
23 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018, July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984.*

24
25 **15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)**

26
27 (a) Seasons.

28 (1) There shall be no closed season on taking foxes with dogs;

29 (2) Foxes may be taken with weapons or traps the first to fourth Saturday in January in the following
30 counties:

31 Caswell Henderson
32 Clay Macon
33 Graham Tyrrell

34 (3) Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding before Thanksgiving through January 1 by bow
35 and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Mitchell County.

36 (b) Bag Limit.

37 (1) Except in areas of open season for taking foxes with weapons or traps, foxes may not be intentionally
38 killed by any method;

39 (2) In areas of open season in all areas east of Interstate Highway 77 as set by the Legislature and in
40 Subparagraph (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this Rule, the following bag limit applies: Daily, two; season, 10.

41 Note: Where local laws governing the taking of foxes conflict with these Regulations, the local laws shall prevail.

1 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.4;*
2 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
3 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1987; December 1, 1985;*
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1989;*
5 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; May 1, 1990;*
6 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
7 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018, May 1, 2009; July 1, 2000.*

EXHIBIT E-2

October 5, 2017



Fiscal Note for Proposed Bear and Deer Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10H .0202 Bear
15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman
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 Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305

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 Wildlife Resources Commission 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)).

I. Introduction and Purpose of Rule Change

To optimize the relationship between hunting seasons and biological conditions of the bear and deer populations, the WRC is proposing to modify the hunting zones in the Coastal Black Bear Management Unit (CBMU), deer hunting season zones, and associated hunting seasons for both species throughout the State.

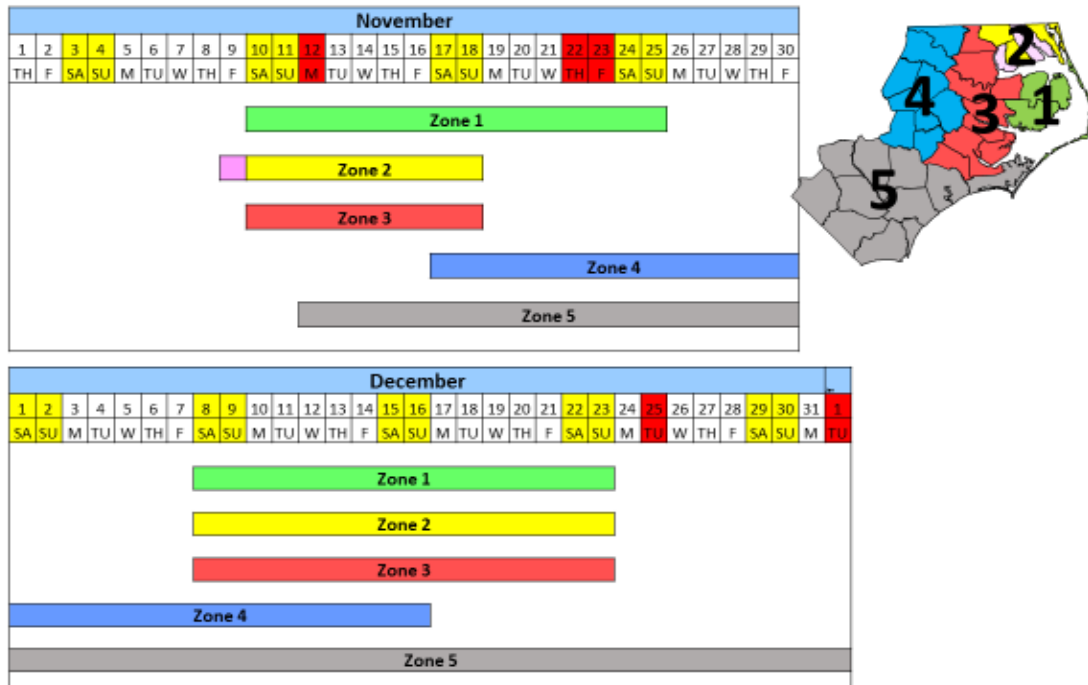
Bear

Proposed changes to the bear management units and bear hunting seasons are as follow:

- 1) Change bear hunting seasons in the CBMU to align hunting seasons with biological zones.

Goals and objectives in the 2012 – 2022 North Carolina Black Bear Management Plan¹ call for stabilizing bear population growth in the CBMU at 2012 levels while sustaining a bear population to provide hunting and other benefits to the citizens of North Carolina. After evaluating significant public input, biological data from across the coastal region, and options for balancing biological and social goals, the changes to the current rules are proposed to meet goals in the Black Bear Management Plan, public desires for bear management, and social carrying capacity.

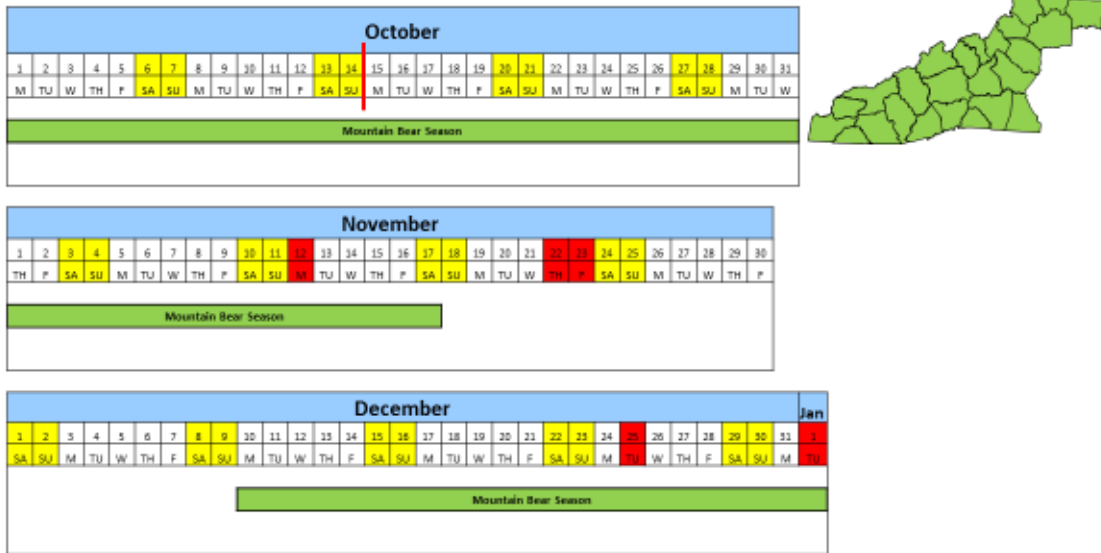
Proposed 2018-19 CBMU Seasons - 5 Zones



¹ http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Species/Bear/Black%20Bear%20Management%20Plan_2012-2022.pdf

- 2) Change bear hunting season in the Mountain Bear Management Unit (MBMU) to begin on the first Monday in October.

Proposed 2018-19 MBMU Season



Proposed statewide changes to deer hunting seasons will result in overlap of the current bear and deer hunting seasons in the MBMU, where historically, these seasons have not overlapped (deer and bear seasons currently overlap in all other portions of the State with no significant user conflicts). In collaboration with mountain bear hunters, the proposal to add two weeks at the beginning of the season in October was developed. Based on available biological data, adding two weeks to the beginning of the bear season should have no negative impacts on the bear population.

Deer

To improve the biological condition of the deer herd and hunter satisfaction, WRC staff began evaluating deer populations and hunting season frameworks in 2010. Biological objectives were set for management in the best interest of the resource and data were collected to determine if those objectives were being met. Results of biological evaluations of the statewide deer herd were publicized and initial feedback was gathered in public forums in 2015.² A scientific 2016 Survey of Deer Hunters was developed to better determine the desires, expectations, and potential support from deer hunters to meet biological objectives across the state.³

² <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Regs/Documents/Evaluation-of-Deer-Hunting-Seasons-and-Mgt-Units.pdf>

³ <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Hunting/Documents/Deer/2016-Deer-Hunting-and-Management-Survey-Report.pdf>

Biologically, the deer herd is in good condition, but could be improved by reducing young buck harvest, shifting the timing of harvest later in the year, and adjusting doe harvest rates. From the deer hunter survey, the WRC found that hunter satisfaction has declined since the last survey in 2006, and that 68% think there are too few mature bucks in the herd. Additionally, 48% of respondents wanted deer numbers to increase.⁴ Eighty-one percent of respondents were willing to see changes in deer hunting seasons to improve herd condition, but their preferences on these changes were mixed.

Changes to improve the condition of the herd require some trade-offs to hunting opportunity and/or traditions. Potential trade-offs that hunters would make to season lengths, timing, and bag limits were assessed from the survey. Based on both the survey results and biological evaluation, WRC staff developed five deer zones and a management option for each zone that balanced hunter preferences with the biologically optimum management of the deer herd.

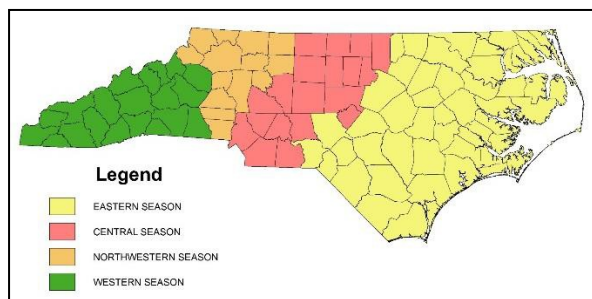
Public forums were held in 2017 to present results of WRC evaluations, and potential changes in hunting seasons that could improve the condition of the deer herd and positively impact deer hunting. In addition to the anticipated support for these options from the deer hunters surveyed in 2016, 80% of the 401 forum attendees indicated that they either supported the options presented or would accept them if the results improved management of the deer herd.

The proposed changes to the deer seasons were developed from this multi-year evaluation and should significantly improve the biological condition of the herd and hunter satisfaction over time, by improving buck age structure, timing of the harvest, and establishing a sustainable doe harvest.

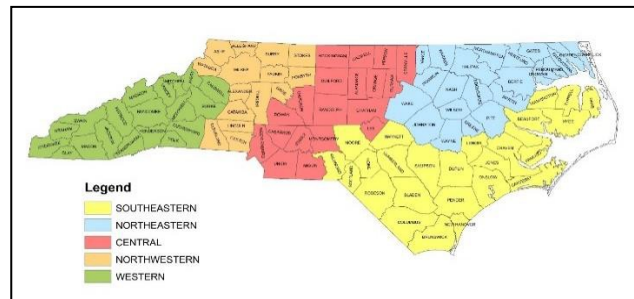
The proposed changes to season frameworks are as follows:

- 1) Establish five deer season zones by splitting the Eastern Zone into two zones, Northeastern and Southeastern. Move Cleveland County to the Northwestern Zone.

Current Deer Season Zones



Proposed Deer Season Zones



⁴ Data based on responses from 33,750 participants.

- 2) Implement the following changes in season lengths and timing, and both antlered and antlerless bag limits within each of the five season zones.

Proposed Season Change: Western
Peak Breeding: December 2

2018/2019 Season	Current Season	Proposed Change	Proposed Season
Blackpowder	Oct. 1-13 Monday opening	7 weeks later; 1 week shorter	Nov. 17 – 23 Saturday opening
Gun	Nov. 19 - Dec. 8 Monday opening	5 days later; 3 weeks longer	Nov. 24 - Jan. 6 Saturday opening
Antlered bag	2	No change	2
Antlerless bag	6	Reduced	4

Proposed Season Changes: Northwestern
Peak Breeding: November 25

2018/2019 Season	Current Season	Proposed Change	Proposed Season
Blackpowder	*Nov. 3 - Nov. 16	1 week later; 1 week shorter	Nov. 10 - Nov. 16
Gun	*Nov. 17 - Jan. 1	Same time; 5-7 days longer	Nov. 17 - Jan. 6
Antlered bag	2	No change	2
Antlerless bag	**Unlimited	Reduced	4

*Cleveland blackpowder currently opens Oct. 1 and gun Nov. 19
**Unlimited with purchase of bonus antlerless report card in max. either-sex seasons

Proposed Season Changes: Central
Peak Breeding: November 15

2018/2019 Season	Current Season	Proposed Change	Proposed Season
Blackpowder	Oct. 27 - Nov. 9	1 week later; 1 week shorter	Nov. 3 - Nov. 9
Gun	Nov. 10 - Jan. 1	Same time; 5 days longer	Nov. 10 - Jan. 6
Antlered bag	2	No change	2
Antlerless bag	*Unlimited	Reduced	4

*Unlimited with purchase of bonus antlerless report cards

Proposed Season Changes: Northeastern
Peak Breeding: November 7

2018/2019 Season	Current Season	Proposed Change	Proposed Season
Blackpowder	Sept. 29 - Oct. 12	3 weeks later; 1 week shorter	Oct. 20 - Oct. 26
Gun	Oct. 13 - Jan. 1	2 weeks later; 9 days shorter	Oct. 27 - Jan. 6
Antlered bag	4	Reduced	2
Antlerless bag	*Unlimited	Reduced	4

*Unlimited with purchase of bonus antlerless report cards

Proposed Season Zone: Southeastern
Peak Breeding: Oct. 27

2018/2019 Season	Current Season	Proposed Change	Proposed Season
Blackpowder	Sept. 29 - Oct. 12	2 weeks later; 1 week shorter	Oct. 13 - Oct. 19
Gun	Oct. 13 - Jan. 1	1 week later; 2 days shorter	Oct. 20 - Jan. 6
Antlered bag	4	Reduced	2
Antlerless bag	*Unlimited	Reduced	4

*Unlimited with purchase of bonus antlerless report cards

- 3) Shift either-sex days to the front of Introductory, Conservative, and Moderate antlerless deer seasons.

Either-Sex Season	Area Impacted	Current	Proposed
Blackpowder – Introductory	In and west of Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery	Last day	First day
Gun – Introductory	Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania	Last day	First day
Gun - Conservative	Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey	Last 6 days	First 7** days
Gun - Moderate	Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford	First 6* and last 7 days	First 14** days

*Monday opening and Saturday closing

**Saturday opening and Friday closing (includes an additional Sunday)

- 4) Restrict use of bonus antlerless deer licenses to the urban archery season and shift the closing day of the urban archery season from Saturday to Sunday (adds 1 day).

Expected effectiveness

Hunters indicated a desire for a slight increase in the deer population in areas that they hunt and biologist likewise concur, that current population trend data, especially across the coastal plain indicate a declining deer population in these areas. The reasons for these declines are likely related to multiple factors including changing land use (habitat change) and new mortality factors (predators), but hunter harvest of antlerless deer remains the most significant mortality factor on that segment of the deer herd. Since the only regulatory approach to addressing this declining trend is to reduce the harvest of female deer by humans during open hunting seasons, this proposal reduces the legal limit for antlerless deer statewide. Based on harvest data and harvest trends, this change may result in a minimum of 4% reduction in doe harvest.⁵ Biologists will continue to monitor the trends and make recommendations for antlerless harvest appropriately to address future changes in the population trends.

One of the WRC established biological management objectives for the deer herd is that the sex composition of the harvest that occurs prior to peak breeding is comprised of at least 50% does. This biological variable is not currently met for any of the Deer Management Units. This means that either doe harvest prior to the peak breeding period needs to increase or antlered buck harvest prior to that time period needs to decrease. Achieving this objective will ensure that does are not overrepresented in the population at peak breeding periods. This in turn ensures adequate breeding of females during the first estrous period, that fawn births occur during an optimal and relatively short span of time, and that food resources are available later in the season. In areas

⁵ Calculated from reported harvest data.

with undesirably low deer density the objective is to decrease antlered buck harvest prior to the peak breeding period, as additional doe harvest is not warranted.

Another biological management objective with regards to deer management is that no more than 20% of the total antlered buck harvest (i.e., excluding button bucks) occurs before the time of peak breeding. Achieving this objective will ensure that adult bucks are not under-represented in the population at peak breeding periods, and that successful yearling buck dispersal is adequate. Meeting this objective also ensures adequate breeding of females during the first estrous period and that fawn births occur during an optimal and relatively short span of time. Minimizing the span of fawning dates across time may also reduce predation of fawns by predators.

As for the shift in buck age structure the agency estimates that at a minimum, during the 2016/17 deer season, 7,362 antlered bucks would not have been lawfully harvested with a 2-buck limit.⁶ Natural mortality in most populations in typical years is <20%, indicating that at a minimum, roughly 6,000 antlered bucks would survive to the next hunting season, and would be 1 year older, which would contribute to a shift in the buck age structure. Reducing buck harvest increases annual survival rates, which results in a shift in the age-structure toward older individuals. This is because the reduction in buck harvest occurs annually and there is a cumulative effect resulting in increases in all age classes over time.

Specifically, in the 2016/17 season, 16% of antlered bucks reported to be harvested in the 4-buck area (Eastern Season Zone) were taken with the 3rd or 4th buck “tag” by hunters harvesting all their bucks solely in the Eastern Deer Season Zone (5,769 antlered bucks).⁶ This is a conservative estimate of reduction in harvest that could occur from changing to a 2-buck limit. But, the reduction in harvest from this change would likely be even higher because this estimate does not account for hunters hunting both sides of the current buck limit line or potential changes in harvest selectivity, and of course does not account for the fact that many hunters may become more selective (i.e., holding their tags in case they see a bigger buck).

Currently, the agency is not meeting the buck age-structure objective (<30% 1.5yr. bucks in the antlered harvest) in any season zone, but is relatively close in the Eastern Zone (33%). The antler characteristics of a 2.5 yr. old in the Eastern Season Zone are similar to those of a yearling (1.5 yr.) in the rest of the state, which contributes to a lower percent yearling (1.5yr.) bucks in the harvest. A statewide 2-buck limit that prevents individuals from traveling across zones to harvest more than two bucks, will likely result in moving toward this objective across the state, and meeting the objective in the Eastern Zone.

II. Impacts - Costs

State Impact

The proposed amendments to the bear and deer rules are anticipated to create the following costs to the State.

⁶ Calculated from 2016/17 reported harvest data.

10B .0202 Bear

No specific state-level costs are anticipated due to proposed changes in bear season.

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

In the 2016-17 deer season, deer hunters purchased 2,447 bonus antlerless deer licenses at a cost of \$10.00 each (2,447 X \$10.00 = \$24,470.00). Currently bonus antlerless deer licenses are valid during all open seasons in counties with the “maximum” either-sex season. The proposed amendments to 10B .0203 would make bonus antlerless deer licenses valid only during the urban archery season (in the second half of January). Based on data from the WRC big game harvest reporting system, 99.5% (1864 out of 1873 in 2016-17) of the antlerless deer harvests reported on bonus licenses occurred before the Urban Archery Season. Based on this information, the WRC anticipates a significant decline in the number of bonus antlerless licenses sold. However, because the intent of the license purchase is unknown (when the hunter intended to use the bonus license), as is the actual usage of the license (hunters may have reported antlerless deer on this license before reporting on their hunting license), the WRC is unable to accurately estimate the decline in sales, and thus anticipates a maximum potential loss of approximately \$24,470 per year in revenue.

The WRC is authorized by G.S. 113-270.1 to charge a fee of \$2.00 per transaction for the sale of licenses or permits issued by the Commission. In 2016, 288 bonus antlerless licenses were sold by governmental license sales methods (sales counter, help desk, internet sales) as independent transactions (individual purchased just the bonus antlerless license), totaling \$568 (288 x \$2 = \$568.00). Because the WRC anticipates that the number of bonus antlerless deer licenses sales will decline due to the proposed amendments to the rule, it also anticipates a reduction in this specific revenue. Unfortunately, due to lack of data the agency is unable to accurately estimate what the decline will be, and thus anticipates a maximum potential loss of approximately \$568 per year.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments to the Bear and Deer Rules are anticipated to create no local economic costs.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments to the Bear and Deer Rules are expected to create the following private costs.

10B .0202 Bear

No specific private costs are anticipated due to proposed changes in bear season.

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

WRC license agents are authorized by G.S. 113-270.1 to charge a fee of \$2.00 per transaction for the sale of licenses and permits issued by the Commission. In 2016, 470 bonus antlerless licenses were sold by WRC license agents as independent transactions (individual purchased just

the bonus antlerless license), totaling \$940 (470 x \$2 = \$940) statewide. Because the WRC anticipates that the number of bonus antlerless deer licenses sales will decline due to the proposed amendments to the rule, it also anticipates a reduction in this specific revenue for license agents. Unfortunately, due to lack of data, there is no way to accurately estimate the reduction in sales, and thus the maximum potential loss of approximately \$940 per year for license agents across the state is anticipated.

While each licensed hunter will still be able to harvest six deer statewide each season, the removal of the bonus antlerless license (except for Urban Archery Season) may impact an individual's opportunity to harvest additional antlerless deer and potentially their ability to obtain meat. Based on survey data from the 2017 deer forums, many of the hunters in attendance indicated that the primary reason they hunt is for the venison. Because it is illegal for individual hunters to sell venison, it is assumed that the meat is being used by individuals to feed themselves, their families, or friends. It is possible that some hunters will obtain less meat because of the proposed rule changes, and therefore need to spend additional money on commercially available protein. However, only 124 hunters reported taking more than 6 deer during the 2016-2017 deer season.⁷ Additionally, the WRC does not know what successful hunters do with their venison, therefore it is not possible to accurately estimate this potential impact.

Reducing the antlerless bag limits could result in a slight increase in deer numbers in some areas. Depending on specific location, it is possible that in these areas a proportional increase in depredation could occur. While WRC does not expect a significant increase in depredation as a result of these rule changes, no changes are being proposed that alter the opportunity of a landholder to obtain a depredation permit and address these situations. Additionally, the WRC is making no changes to the Deer Management Assistance Program which, through biological prescription, allows individuals to harvest more antlerless deer than is allowed on their normal season bag limit.

In all proposed deer season zones, the length of the blackpowder season is proposed to be reduced by one week. Additionally, in the Northeastern and Southeastern Zones, the length of the proposed gun season is shortened. While this could be considered a lost opportunity for hunters, there are a variety of factors that play into an individual's decision to hunt on any given day, including time of the season, weather, and deer behavior (i.e. peak breeding "the rut", deer becoming more nocturnal due to increased hunting pressure, etc.). Hunters are well aware of these changes, and thus, not all days within a season can be considered equal. Because of the length of deer seasons in NC, the agency does not anticipate the change to be a major lost opportunity, but instead, as an adjustment that could lead to considerable benefits in the quality of an individual's experience in the future. On the flip side, the increased number of available hunting days in the firearms (blackpowder and gun) seasons in the western zone could have the effect of leading hunters to experience a sense of security or additional opportunity that leads to procrastination, which could ultimately lead to fewer days hunted. However, because the agency is unable to predict hunter behavior, there is no way to accurately anticipate the magnitude of either of these costs.

⁷ Data from WRC hunter survey with 781 respondents.

III. Impacts - Benefits

State Impact

It is unknown if increasing the season length will result in increased hunter effort (trips to the field throughout the season). However, more time in the woods each season could lead to increased contacts with enforcement personnel and increases in the number of citations issued, some of which result in court costs, replacement costs, etc. Replacement cost of a black bear is \$2,232 and a deer is \$602; court costs can vary annually but are consistent across the state.

Approximately 233,000 hunting licenses are sold each year, 24,000 of those being lifetime licenses. In addition, approximately 28,000 bear e-stamps are sold each year. While it is possible that increases in season length for bear and deer could result in additional sales of licenses and/or bear e-stamps, the likelihood of this occurring is unknown. Additionally, the WRC sells a variety of different licenses that make estimating the potential increase in license sales impractical. However, any increase in sales is not anticipated to be significant, as it does not appear that hunters are currently limited by time (Table 1, Table 2).

10B .0202 Bear

In some bear hunting zones, increasing the length of the season could result in additional days that non-local hunters spend in these areas. These hunters may spend additional money purchasing lodging, fuel, food, and bait which would contribute to the economy in the form of increased state tax revenue. However, the WRC has no way to estimate or quantify this benefit.

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

Reducing the season bag limit on antlerless deer from six to four has the potential to result in some hunters purchasing bonus antlerless licenses and increasing efforts in the urban archery season. While it is known that only 0.5% (9 of 1873) of the antlerless deer harvests reported on bonus licenses occurred during the Urban Archery Season⁸, there is no way for the agency to estimate how much the harvest with bonus antlerless licenses will increase in the Urban Archery Season because of the proposed rule change.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments to the Bear and Deer Rules are expected to have minimal local benefits.

10B .0202 Bear

In some zones, increasing the bear season could result in additional time spent in these areas by non-local hunters. These hunters may spend additional money purchasing lodging, fuel, food, and bait which would contribute to the local economy in the form of increased county and city tax revenues. Unfortunately, the WRC has no way to estimate or quantify this benefit.

Additionally, baiting of bears (with certain restrictions in statute and rule) is legal in most seasons across the state. Because the bear season will be extended by two weeks in the MBMU, additional opportunities will be available for individuals to bait bears in these areas. While the

⁸2016-2017 data from the WRC big game harvest reporting system.

WRC does not track information on bear baiting, it is reasonable to assume that in areas where seasons increase, the sale of unprocessed bait for bears may also increase, thus minimally increasing local tax revenue. However, the WRC has no mechanism for estimating this impact.

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

No specific local benefits are anticipated due to proposed changes in deer seasons.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments to the Bear and Deer Rules are expected to have appreciable private benefits.

Hunting, in most cases, is a voluntary activity. Increasing or decreasing the length of a hunting season does not mandate that individual hunters adjust their participation; hunters choose whether to hunt on available season days. Regardless of season length, many hunters will hunt the same number of days, and changes in season length do not necessarily result in changes to hunting participation. A variety of factors play a role in a hunter's decision about when they will hunt during the season beyond convenience, including weather, animal behavior and number of animals available for harvest (more deer earlier in the season vs. later). However, opportunity cost effects may occur in the Mountain Deer Season zone, where increasing the season length by 2 weeks offers individuals additional days to either increase their participation (number of hunting trips) or modify their participation in a way that allows them to more optimally allocate their time between various activities. Increasing the length of the season may provide additional advantageous opportunities for hunters, decreasing the opportunity costs of participating in this activity. This opportunity may be considered a benefit by those individuals able to take advantage of the additional days. Hunters may also value and benefit from an extended season - even if they do not increase their hunting trips - due to the added convenience of the extended opportunities to participate in the activity. A longer season may allow hunters to optimally allocate their time between hunting and other activities (lower opportunity costs).

In NC, seasons for bear and deer currently provide extended opportunities for participation in comparison with season lengths in some other states. WRC data (Table 1 and Table 2) indicate that most hunters are not hunting on all currently available hunting days. Current firearm (gun and blackpowder) seasons for deer range from 30 to 90 days. The mean number of days hunted for deer is approximately 15 days. Current bear hunting seasons range from 24 to 58 days and the mean number of days hunted for bear is approximately 7. These data illustrate that most North Carolina hunters are using less than half of the currently available hunting days for either species. Except for the proposed increases to the Zone 1 bear hunting season, the MBMU season and the Mountain Deer Season, the WRC does not anticipate that increasing the number of open days will necessarily increase hunting participation, but acknowledges that expanding these seasons could provide additional opportunities.

Table 1. Number of days respondents to the 2016 survey of deer hunters hunted during open deer season.⁹

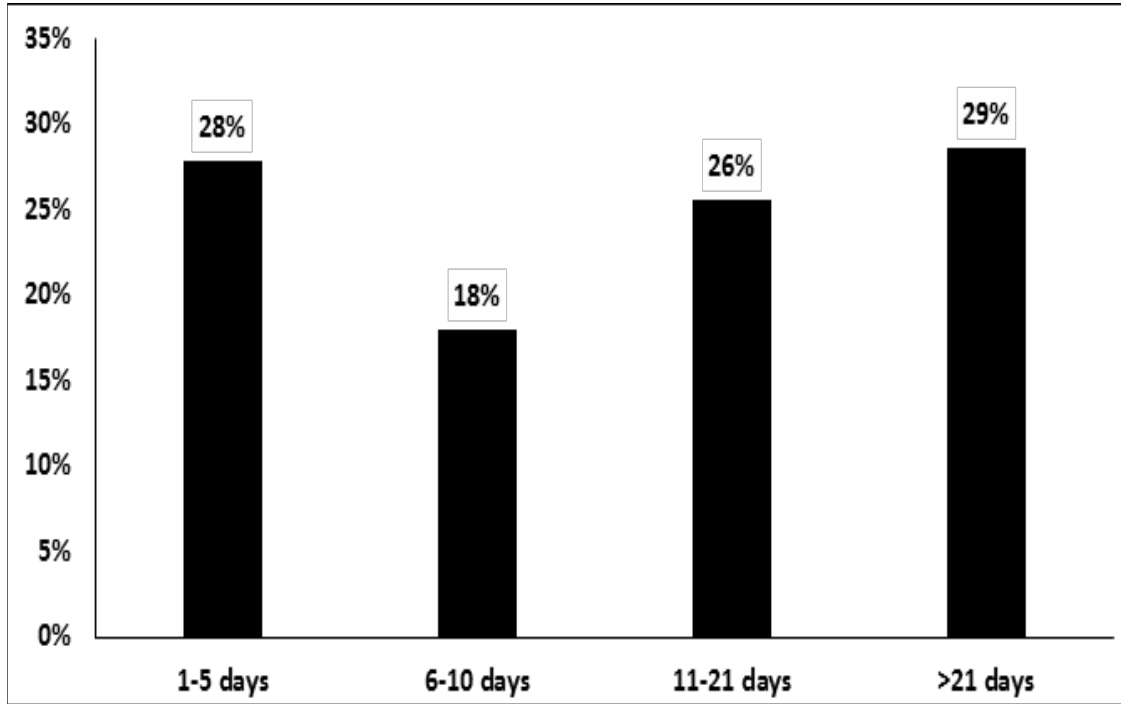
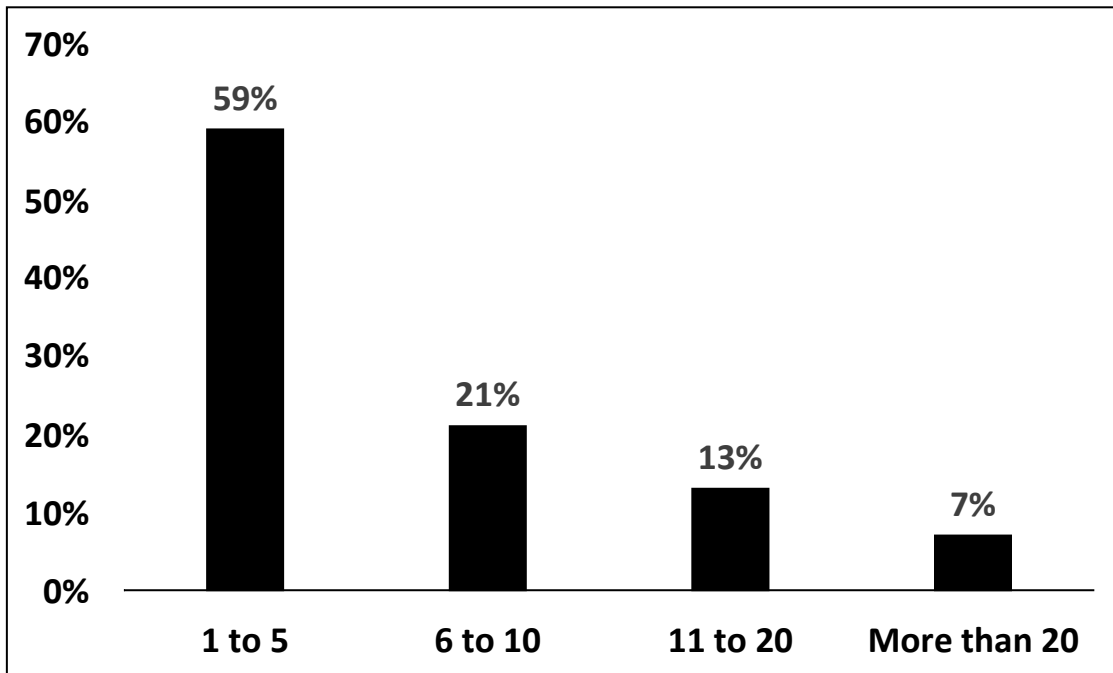


Table 2. Number of days bear e-stamp survey respondents hunted during open bear season.¹⁰



⁹ Data obtained from 2016 WRC deer hunter survey (n = 33,750).

¹⁰ Data obtained from 2015 bear e-stamp survey (n = 20,747).

10B .0202 Bear

Landowners/Farmers can legally shoot bears that are in the act of damaging their property with or without a depredation permit. In some bear management units, increasing the bear season may result in increased harvest, which could have an accompanying reduction in crop depredation issues from black bear. While the WRC does not know how many bears are shot without a depredation permit, there are data on the number of depredation permits issued. There were 27 depredation permits issued by the WRC for black bear in 2016. Most permits (22) were issued in the CBMU (15 in District 1 and seven in District 2). There is no way to predict if harvest will increase enough to result in associated decreases in crop depredation, or to know if the bears taken during the season would be the same ones that might cause damage.

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

Because proposed amendments to the rules will make bonus antlerless deer licenses valid only during the urban archery season, the agency expects the purchase of these bonus licenses to significantly decrease. Based on 2016-17 deer season license sales, 2,447 bonus antlerless licenses were purchased at a cost of \$10.00 each. While the agency does anticipate that participation in the urban archery season may minimally increase, it is expected, on net, that fewer hunters will purchase bonus licenses. Thus, the agency anticipates the maximum change of approximately \$24,470 ($\$10/\text{license} \times 2,447 \text{ licenses} = \$24,470$) in avoided costs for hunters.

Additionally, sustainable doe harvest along with improvements in timing of harvest, buck age-structure, and sex-ratio of the deer herd should improve long-term hunter satisfaction. Available days to hunt with a firearm (blackpowder and gun) would be increased in the Western Deer Season Zone.

IV. Uncertainties

During the deer and bear forums, hunters had a chance to express their concerns about changes to the bear and deer seasons. While the WRC recognizes these concerns, there is no available mechanism to validate or quantify them. These issues are presented below.

10B .0202 Bear

A hunting lease is an arrangement between a property owner and hunter(s), that allows them to hunt land for a specified time period. This is a widely recognized way for landowners to manage their property while receiving income, and for hunters to have access to land that would otherwise be off-limits to them. The WRC does not regulate this practice. However, it is known that much of the property in the CBMU is leased to bear hunters and guides.

Individual hunters have expressed the following concerns about hunting leases in regards to extended bear seasons:

- Guide fees in some coastal bear areas are so substantial that increasing the season length in these areas will result in a lost opportunity because they can't afford to lease the property (guides will outbid them for the land).

The WRC believes that this may occur regardless of season length.

- Increasing the length of bear seasons could increase the fees that landowners charge hunters for hunting access (lease fees).

These fees are typically paid for a specific hunting year regardless of the season length and the WRC is unaware of information that would support this concept.

- If seasons are lengthened, bear guides/outfitters will have more time to serve more clients, and this will ultimately result in driving lease rates higher.

The WRC does not have access to income received by hunting guides, nor does it have knowledge of lease rates or income of landowners/landholders. The WRC has no way to predict fee increases for hunting leases or guide services, but does not anticipate an increase in the number of guides due to the proposed season changes, as the land area is not changing. Additionally, the WRC recognizes that it is possible that increasing the bear season length could result in increases in land lease rates, resulting in additional income for landowners/landholders and it is also possible that increases in bear harvest will occur in some zones, thus leading to additional business for meat processors who charge fees for processing carcasses. Due to lack of data, estimates of these speculated impacts are unquantifiable and unknown.

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

Some hunters that pay annual lease fees to access hunting land believe that decreasing season length would result in fewer access days per unit cost. While this may be the case, the WRC has no way of determining the actual cost to lessees for reduced access days. However, it should be noted, that with only one exception, the proposed changes in season length either maintain or increase the number of weekend days as the current seasons.

V. Economic Impact Summary

In estimating the economic impact of the proposed amendments to the Bear and Deer rules, most costs identified were unquantifiable. However, the following quantifiable impacts were identified:

State

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

- Estimated \$24,470 annual reduction in sales of the bonus antlerless deer license
- Estimated \$568 annual reduction in the \$2.00 transaction fee.

Private

10B .0203 Deer (White-Tailed)

- Estimated \$940 annual reduction in collection of \$2.00 transaction fee collected by WRC service agents.
- Estimated \$24,470 annual avoided cost for hunters not purchasing bonus antlerless deer licenses.

Based on these estimates, the WRC expects an annual recurring loss of approximately \$25,038. A private total loss of approximately \$940 is expected for license agents located throughout the state, with varying impacts to individual license agents, and individual hunters are expected to experience a maximum of approximately \$24,470 in avoided costs for purchase of bonus antlerless deer licenses.

While several cost and benefits associated with the proposed amendments have been identified, many are speculative and cannot be quantified due to lack of data.

Unquantifiable costs and benefits include the following:

State

- Additional sales of bear e-stamps
- Increased (or decreased) sales tax revenue from hunter purchases
- Increase in citations issued during bear or deer seasons, some of which result in court costs, replacement costs, etc.
- Improved quality and condition of the deer herd

Local

- Increased (or decreased) sales tax revenue from hunter purchases

Private

- Increased hunter satisfaction because of improved quality and condition of deer herd
- Decrease in bag limit for both sexes
- Reduced crop depredation from black bears with increased harvest
- Increased hunter access fees (land lease costs)
- Increased income for guides/outfitters
- Increased sales of bait, gasoline, food, lodging, etc.
- Loss or increase in meat obtained from harvested game
- Increased/decreased opportunities to hunt based on length of seasons

In summary, only the loss of WRC revenue from the sale of bonus antlerless deer licenses and the loss of associated transaction fees collected by the State and private license agents are known, quantifiable costs. All other impacts anticipated from these proposed rule changes are speculative and/or are not quantifiable due to the nature of the rules themselves. However, the WRC believes that the biological and social benefits of the proposed changes to the bear and deer rules, though likely not immediate, will far outweigh the costs.

APPENDIX A – Proposed Rule Text

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

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

3 (1) ~~First Monday in on or nearest October 15 to through~~ the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the third
4 Monday after Thanksgiving ~~to through~~ January 1 in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke,
5 and Cleveland ~~counties.~~counties:

6 (2) Second Monday in November ~~to through~~ January 1 in Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus,
7 Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, ~~Pamlico,~~ Pender, Robeson, and Sampson
8 ~~counties.~~counties:

9 ~~(3) First Monday in December to the third Saturday thereafter in Robeson County~~

10 ~~(4)(3) Second Monday-Saturday in November to through~~ the following ~~Saturday-Sunday~~ and the third
11 ~~Monday-Saturday~~ after Thanksgiving ~~to through~~ the fifth ~~Saturday-Sunday~~ after Thanksgiving in
12 Beaufort, ~~Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Dare, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hyde, Hertford,~~
13 Jones, ~~Lenoir,~~ Martin, Nash, ~~Northampton, Pasquotank, Pitt, Tyrrell, Pamlico, and~~
14 ~~Washington~~ Washington, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

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

17 ~~(5) Second Saturday preceding the second Monday in November to through~~ the following Sunday
18 ~~Saturday~~ and the third ~~Saturday-Monday~~ after Thanksgiving ~~to through~~ the fifth Saturday after
19 Thanksgiving in ~~Bertie,~~ Currituck, Gates, ~~Hertford,~~ and Perquimans ~~counties.~~counties;

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

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

25 ~~(6)(8)~~ Concurrent with the open season for all lawful weapons for hunting deer as specified in 15A NCAC
26 10B .0203(a)(1) in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie,
27 Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston,
28 Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond,
29 Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin counties.

30 (b) Restrictions

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX A – Proposed Rule Text

- 1 (C) any substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph,
2 including any extracts of those substances; or
- 3 (D) any bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders.
- 4 (3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday
5 before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.
- 6 (4) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties identified in
7 Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (a)(6) of this Rule.
- 8 (5) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.
- 9 (6) Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of Interstate 85,
10 Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston,
11 Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph,
12 Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties and
13 parts of counties, hunters may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.
- 14 (c) No Open Season. There is no open season in those parts of counties included in the following posted bear
15 sanctuaries:
- 16 Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties--Daniel Boone bear sanctuary except by permit only
17 Beaufort, Bertie, and Washington counties--Bachelor Bay bear sanctuary
18 Bladen County--Suggs Mill Pond bear sanctuary
19 Brunswick County--Green Swamp bear sanctuary
20 Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania counties--Pisgah bear sanctuary
21 Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties--Croatan bear sanctuary
22 Clay County--Fires Creek bear sanctuary
23 Columbus County--Columbus County bear sanctuary
24 Currituck County--North River bear sanctuary
25 Dare County--Bombing Range bear sanctuary except by permit only
26 Haywood County--Harmon Den bear sanctuary
27 Haywood County--Sherwood bear sanctuary
28 Hyde County--Gull Rock bear sanctuary
29 Hyde County--Pungo River bear sanctuary
30 Jackson County--Panthertown-Bonas Defeat bear sanctuary
31 Macon County--Standing Indian bear sanctuary
32 Macon County--Wayah bear sanctuary
33 Madison County--Rich Mountain bear sanctuary
34 McDowell and Yancey counties--Mt. Mitchell bear sanctuary except by permit only
35 Mitchell and Yancey counties--Flat Top bear sanctuary
36 Wilkes County--Thurmond Chatham bear sanctuary
- 37 (d) The daily bag limit is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.
- 38 (e) Kill Reports. The carcass of each bear shall be reported as provided by 15A NCAC 10B.0113.

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)**

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

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

8 (A) Saturday on or nearest October ~~15-22~~ through the first Sunday in January ~~+~~ in all of
9 Beaufort, ~~Bertie~~, Bladen, Brunswick, ~~Camden~~, Carteret, ~~Chowan~~, Columbus*,
10 Cumberland, Craven, ~~Currituck~~, Dare, Duplin, ~~Edgecombe~~, Franklin, ~~Gates~~, ~~Greene~~,
11 ~~Halifax~~, Harnett, ~~Hertford~~, Hoke, Hyde, ~~Johnston~~, Jones, Lenoir, ~~Martin~~, Moore, ~~Nash~~,
12 New Hanover, ~~Northampton~~, Onslow, Pamlico, ~~Pasquotank~~, Pender, ~~Perquimans~~, ~~Pitt~~,
13 Richmond**, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland**, Tyrrell, and Vance, Wake, Warren,
14 Washington, ~~Wayne~~, and Wilson counties.

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

16 **~~Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek,~~
17 ~~and Sandhills Game Lands.~~

18 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 29 through the first Sunday in January in all of Bertie,
19 Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford,
20 Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake,
21 Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

22 (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the first Sunday in January ~~+~~ in all of
23 Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell,
24 Lincoln, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes*, and Yadkin counties.

25 *~~Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Buffalo Cove Game Land.~~

26 ~~(C)(D)~~ Monday-Saturday after of Thanksgiving week-Day through the ~~third Saturday after~~
27 Thanksgiving Day first Sunday in January in all of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell,
28 Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell,
29 Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

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

34 ~~(E)(F)~~ Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the first Sunday in January ~~+~~ in those parts
35 of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National
36 Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the
37 Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in that part of Hyde county known as Lake
38 Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known

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1 as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond
2 counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck
3 County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

4 ~~(F) Monday of Thanksgiving week through January 1 in all of Cleveland, Polk, and~~
5 ~~Rutherford counties, except for South Mountain Game Land.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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~~**Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either sex deer seasons on game lands that differ from the days identified in this Subparagraph~~

- (E) The ~~last six~~ first open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Friday thereafter in all of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.
- (F) The first ~~six~~ open days ~~and the last seven open days~~ of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.
- (G) All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties: Buncombe: That part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280; and Henderson; That part east of NC 191 and north and west of NC 280.
- (H) The fourth Saturday in September, subject to the following restriction: only persons under the age of 18 years may hunt.

(b) Open Seasons (~~Bow and Arrow Archery~~) for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with bow and arrow archery equipment during the following seasons: from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on these Game Lands).

(A) ~~— Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Friday thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (A) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, except on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.~~

(B) ~~— Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Friday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer with Visible Antlers specified by Part (B) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule except for that portion of Buffalo Cove Game Land in Wilkes County.~~

(C) ~~— Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the Sunday prior to the opening of the blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow season identified in Part (c)(1)(C) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow season identified in Part (c)(1)(C) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (C) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule and in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.~~

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- 1 (D) — Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving in the
2 counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers
3 specified by Part (D) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, and on Nicholson Creek,
4 Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.
- 5 (E) — Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible
6 Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(C) of this Rule through January 1 in the counties and
7 parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part
8 (a)(1)(C) of this Rule.
- 9 (2) Restrictions
- 10 (A) In the areas of the state where the WRC is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
11 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs ~~Dogs~~ may not be used for hunting deer during the ~~bow~~
12 ~~and arrow~~ archery season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a
13 wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- 14 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
15 may be used during the ~~bow and arrow~~ archery deer hunting season.
- 16 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken during ~~bow and arrow~~ archery seasons specified by ~~Parts~~
17 Subparagraph (b)(1)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this Rule.
- 18 (D) — Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs
19 or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the ~~bow and arrow~~ season
20 specified by Part (b)(1)(E) of this Rule.
- 21 (c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and ~~Bow and Arrow~~ Archery) for hunting deer:
- 22 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
23 taken only with blackpowder firearms and ~~bow and arrow~~ archery equipment on the Saturday
24 preceding the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and
25 (F) of this Rule through the first Friday thereafter except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek,
26 Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for
27 Blackpowder Firearms and Archery seasons on these Game Lands): during the following seasons:
- 28 (A) — The Saturday on or nearest October 1 to the Friday of the second week thereafter in the
29 counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers
30 specified by Part (A) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, except on Nicholson Creek,
31 Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.
- 32 (B) — The third Saturday preceding Thanksgiving until the Friday of the second week thereafter
33 in the counties* and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible
34 Antlers specified by Part (B) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.
35 *Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Buffalo Cove game land.
- 36 (C) — Monday on or nearest October 1 to the Saturday of the second week thereafter in
37 Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties and in the counties and parts of counties having

APPENDIX A – Proposed Rule Text

- 1 ~~the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (F) of Subparagraph~~
2 ~~(a)(1) of this Rule.~~
- 3 (D) — ~~The fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving until the Friday of the second week~~
4 ~~thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With~~
5 ~~Visible Antlers specified by Part (D) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, and on~~
6 ~~Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.~~
- 7 (2) Restrictions
- 8 (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and ~~bow and arrow~~archery
9 season in and east of the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke,
10 Caldwell, Watauga, and Ashe. Deer of either sex may be taken on the ~~last~~first day of this
11 season only in all other counties.
- 12 (B) In the areas of the state where the WRC is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
13 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs ~~Dogs~~ shall not be used for hunting deer during the
14 blackpowder firearms and ~~bow and arrow~~archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash
15 may be used to retrieve a wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- 16 (3) As used in this ~~Paragraph~~Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm
17 with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or
18 before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is
19 not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any
20 muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that
21 is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the
22 muzzle or cylinder and that cannot use fixed ammunition."
- 23 (d) Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:
- 24 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag
25 limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow in
26 participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following
27 January 1 ~~to through the fifth~~through the sixth Saturday ~~Sunday~~ thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on any game
28 land or part thereof that occurs within a city boundary.
- 29 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to that effect no
30 later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to the Executive Director or his
31 designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-~~1722~~1700. Cities shall also submit a
32 map of the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.
- 33 (3) Restrictions:
- 34 (A) In the areas of the state where the WRC is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
35 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs ~~Dogs~~ shall not be used for hunting deer during the
36 urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a wounded deer in
37 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

APPENDIX A – Proposed Rule Text

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

3 (e) Bag limits. ~~In and east of Vance, Franklin, Wake, Harnett, Moore, and Richmond counties, the possession limit is~~
4 ~~six deer, up to four of which may be deer with visible antlers. In all other counties of the state the~~ The possession and
5 season limit is six deer, up to two of which may be deer with visible antlers, antlers and up to four of which may
6 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from
7 spikes protruding through the skin. The season limit in all counties of the State, is six deer. In addition to the bag limits
8 described above, a hunter may obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources
9 Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card ~~on lands~~
10 ~~others than lands enrolled in the Commission's game land program during any open deer season in all counties and~~
11 ~~parts of counties of the State identified in Part (G) of Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule. Antlerless deer harvested and~~
12 ~~reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit. Hunters~~
13 ~~may also use the bonus antlerless harvest report cards for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d)~~
14 ~~of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer~~
15 ~~harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season~~
16 ~~limit. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes~~
17 ~~protruding through the skin.~~ The bag limits described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the
18 Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using
19 Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be
20 set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program,
21 regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP
22 license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for
23 deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags
24 may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those seasons,
25 including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

EXHIBIT E-2

October 5, 2017



Fiscal Note for Proposed Alligator Rule and Possession of Certain Species Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B .0224 American Alligator
15A NCAC 10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman
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 Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-292

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)). The Commission recently established an Alligator Task Force that has recommended enhancements to the State's management of the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), including establishment in rule of a season and methods of take.

Additionally, the WRC may take steps to ensure the safety of native wildlife resources, by restricting the acquisition, importation, possession, transportation, disposition, or release of

certain exotic species (G.S. 113-292). In the case of the species prohibited in 15A NCAC 10B .0123, WRC staff, in coordination with professional herpetologists, considered all exotic species posing a threat to wildlife resources. The proposed additional species reflect those which pose considerable threats to the well-being and continued existence of wildlife resources. The prevention of introduction of exotic species is highly desirable versus attempting to eradicate established exotic species, often at great expense.

I. Introduction and Purpose of Rule Change

American Alligator:

The proposed rule will allow limited take of alligators in North Carolina under the following conditions:

- Season of September 1 to October 1.
- Take by permit only.
- Bag limit - one per permit and the season limit is one.
- American alligators must be restrained before being killed. American alligators may only be restrained using hand-held ropes or catch poles; hand-held or rod/reel snatch hooks; harpoons or gigs with attached restraining lines; baited, wooden pegs less than 2-inches in length attached to hand-held restraining lines; or archery equipment with arrow-attached restraining lines.
- American alligators restrained by any lawful method specified above must be dispatched immediately upon capture.
- Alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.
- Baited hooks are prohibited.

The Alligator Task Force has recommended in the final draft of the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan¹ that the Commission consider a rule proposal to allow limited take of alligators. This proposed rule would allow the limited take of alligators to address public safety or to provide recreational hunting where scientific data demonstrates that the permitted take will not impair long-term sustainability of the population. The intent of this regulation is to provide closely regulated and monitored opportunities for take in accordance with the Alligator Management Plan.

Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources:

The proposed amendment to 10B.0123 will add exotic, potentially invasive, species that threaten wildlife resources. Reptiles and amphibians to be added to this rule include brown anole (*Anolis sagrei*), red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), Cuban treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), and all Asian newt species in the genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, and *Tylototriton*.

¹ Available upon request.

The primary impact of brown anole introduction into North Carolina would be competition and extirpation of native green anole populations, as documented elsewhere in its established range. The proposed action in North Carolina is to ban possession and sale of live brown anoles within the state. The primary threat that red-eared sliders pose in North Carolina is genetic pollution of native yellow-bellied sliders; the secondary threat is competition with native turtles for food, basking and nesting sites. The proposed action in North Carolina is to ban the sale of live red-eared sliders, and their apparent intergrades (based on morphology and/or mitochondrial DNA), within the state. The primary impact of Cuban tree frog introduction into North Carolina would be predation on native, small-sized amphibians, other vertebrates, and invertebrates, and direct competition with native tree frogs (genus *Hyla*). The proposed action in North Carolina is to ban possession and sale of live Cuban tree frogs within the state.

North Carolina is home to more species of salamanders than any other state (approximately 65 species). The salamander chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*Bsal*), a fungal pathogen that causes infectious disease in salamanders has not yet been detected in the wild in the United States, but risk for spread of *Bsal* via trade in Asian newts remains high. The proposed action in North Carolina is to ban the possession and sale of live Asian newts (genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, and *Tylototriton*) with the goal of preventing the introduction and/or spread of *Bsal* to wild salamanders.

II. Fiscal Impacts - Costs

State Impact²

10B .0224 American Alligator

The WRC estimates a cost of approximately \$24,928 per year (including labor, gasoline, and other supplies) to coordinate with local governments to allow limited take of alligators. This coordination will include surveys and monitoring of alligator populations in municipalities and is based on the costs of previous work ((three staff: \$45/hr + \$45/hr + \$62/hr) x 164 hrs = \$24,928).

By creating a hunting season, the WRC will be able to offer limited opportunities to take alligators. The WRC anticipates offering permits for take to provide for public safety or recreational opportunities in specific circumstances. The WRC will incur administrative costs associated with setting-up an alligator permit system to closely control hunting. Based on similar permit opportunities, the agency anticipates a cost of approximately \$1,643 associated with development ((four staff: \$45/hr + \$37/hr + \$48/hr + \$67/hr) x 8 hrs = \$1,576) and administration (\$67/hr x 1 hr = \$67).

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

The enforcement of 10B .0123 already requires all new wildlife enforcement officers to participate in WRC training that includes a one-day review of regulations and field identification specifically for reptile and amphibian species. This training includes 8 hours of information on the illegal pet trade, collection, and food market, and accurate species identification. Routine

² All hourly rates for WRC staff herein reflect total compensation.

refresher trainings are also offered to officers. Though new training materials will need to be developed due to the proposed changes to the 10B Rule, the materials are produced in-house. Staff time anticipated for completion of this task is, at most, two hours. This will be a one-time cost to the agency of \$90 (\$45/hr x 2hrs = \$90). No additional costs are anticipated for enforcement.

Despite the proposed prohibition of certain species, permits for possession will be issued to state and federal governmental agencies, corporate research entities, and research institutions. Staff review permit applications when requested by these entities, thereby requiring additional WRC staff time. Though the WRC is unable to estimate the number of permits that will be requested for the newly listed species, approximately 1 hr is needed to review permit applications, at a cost to the WRC of approximately \$37 (\$37/hr x 1 hr/permit = \$37/permit).

Local Impact

The proposed amendments to the alligator and possession of certain species of wildlife resources rules are not anticipated to have local economic costs.

Private Impact

10B .0224 American Alligator

As specified in the proposed rule, the WRC would allow take of alligators by permit only. While there is no cost to individuals for a permit, the WRC does charge a \$5 administrative fee associated with the permit application.

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

Several of the proposed species are currently found in the pet industry or are acquired by hobbyists at a cost ranging from \$3 for a small Brown Anole to \$25 for a 4" – 5" Red Eared Slider.³ However, these animals are not integral to reptile and amphibian trade, and have low financial value. Due to lack of data, the agency is unable to estimate the potential impact of the proposed rule change.

III. Fiscal Impacts - Benefits

State Impact

10B .0224 American Alligator

By creating a hunting season for the American alligator, the WRC could issue permits for limited take of alligators in specific circumstances to provide for public safety or recreational opportunities. The WRC collects a \$5 administrative fee associated with each permit hunt application. Though the WRC is uncertain about the number of permits that may be offered, there is high interest in alligator hunting from citizens. Because all hunters interested in obtaining a permit would pay a \$5 application fee, the WRC anticipates revenue generation due

³ Cost estimates obtained from undergroundreptiles.com and backwaterreptiles.com

to this proposed regulation change. Applicants awarded a permit may also need to buy additional licenses. However, any increase in license sales is not expected to be significant.

Responding to human-wildlife interactions is a routine duty of WRC biologists and law enforcement personnel. The WRC's human-wildlife interactions database documents that in an average year, employees respond to over 120 nuisance alligator complaints, with approximately 30 of those requiring relocations of alligators. In areas of the state where alligators are prevalent, it is possible that limited take by hunters could decrease the number of nuisance alligator situations and associated costs. However due to a lack of specific data, the WRC is unable to quantify this benefit.

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

WRC biologists often work to predict decline of a species, as it is much easier to proactively maintain species than it is mitigate losses. Additionally, wildlife species have diverse life histories which can heavily influence recovery efforts. Due to these factors, early prevention of establishment of exotic invasive species that threaten wildlife resources can provide for proactive, biologically sound management ensuring the conservation and wise use of wildlife resources, minimizing the risk of federal listing, which can put restrictions on private land, and fostering partnerships with local, state, and federal entities.

There can be significant economic benefits to avoiding federal listing of a species through proactive management. Based on 2015 state expenditure data for conservation projects for federally-listed species, benefits could be a savings of from \$2,500 per year (gray bat, *Myotis grisescens*) to \$1,142,843 per year (red-cockaded woodpecker, *Picoides borealis*) in state funds.⁴ Additionally, avoided federal listing may preclude the delay or cancelation of major construction projects. Any project with the potential to jeopardize the existence of a federally-listed species must undergo a Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which could take anywhere from one to 10 years and cost a significant amount of money.⁵ For example, the research study required for a NCDOT highway maintenance project with potential impacts to the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in eastern North Carolina cost the state \$400,000 per year for 5 years. Prohibiting the possession of species that have the potential to negatively affect native populations is a benefit to the state.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments to the alligator and possession of certain species of wildlife species rules are expected to have limited local benefits.

10B .0224 American Alligator

In some areas, it is possible that hunting effort on alligators will decrease the number of alligator nuisance situations. This would decrease costs for local municipalities and communities to deal with these situations, including costs of Nuisance Alligator Agent services that could cost from \$300 to \$750 per incident.

⁴ <http://ecos.fws.gov/expenditures>

⁵ <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/section7/section7.html>

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

No benefits to local governments are anticipated.

Private Impact

10B .0224 American Alligator

By creating a hunting season for the American alligator, citizens will be afforded additional hunting opportunities. Although the Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact of this opportunity, economic research on the value individuals place on hunting can provide useful context for rules that affect opportunities for this activity. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, researchers have estimated that the value of hunting per person per day is approximately \$63.⁶ This figure represents 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. Additionally, this estimate is not species or location-specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rule induces hunters 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.

Any citizen who harvests an alligator may also benefit from meat, hide, and taxidermy opportunities. Additionally, there may be other economic benefits to private individuals, such as guide services, sale of hunting equipment specifically designed for harvesting alligators, and property leases for landowners who may lease their property for alligator hunting. Due to a lack of data, the agency is unable to quantify these benefits.

Private landowners that request the assistance of a Nuisance Alligator Agent to remove an unwanted alligator from their property incur costs of \$300 - \$750 per incident. The proposed alligator rule could result in a cost savings to landowners, in that permitted hunting would be an option. Landowners could allow access to hunters and a problematic alligator could be removed at no cost.

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

North Carolina residents value the opportunity to view and interact with nongame species. Individuals also value protecting these species for present and future generations, even if they never interact with them.⁷ Together, the value of wildlife viewing and related recreation and the value of maintaining biodiversity are the "non-consumptive" benefits of species protection (through prevention of establishment of invasive exotic species).

The non-consumptive values of wildlife species can be estimated by measuring residents' willingness to pay for wildlife protection. Although economists and biologists have conducted many studies over the past 30 years to estimate the value of protecting species, it is difficult to

⁶ 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.

⁷ Wallmo, Kristy and Daniel Lew, 2016. A comparison of regional and national values for recovering threatened and endangered marine species in the United States. *Journal of Environmental Management*, Volume 179. Accessed at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479716302249>

estimate the impact of the WRC's proposed actions to minimize invasive exotic species, because benefits are species-specific and location specific. The WRC is unaware of any value studies involving the species that will be protected as a result of this rulemaking. Given the species-specific nature of the value individuals place on wildlife protection, the WRC is not able to quantify the total social benefit of protecting wildlife resources with the proposed rule. However, the potential benefits are discussed below:

Ecotourism

- Research shows that society enjoys biodiversity and there are many physical and mental benefits associated with spending time outdoors.⁸ Although the WRC does not actively collect data specific to ecotourism, the WRC does partner and participate in surveys on willingness to pay.⁹ These surveys request participants to answer questions regarding their willingness to travel to see wildlife. Also, the USFWS 2011 report indicated that North Carolina had 2,432,000 recorded wildlife watchers ages 16 years and older.¹⁰
- To the average recreationist, a more diverse and abundant wildlife population may increase recreational opportunities in an area. Not only may it increase the number of recreational experiences, but also it may increase the quality of those experiences. Although the Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact that the proposed rule changes will have on ecotourism, economic research on the value that individuals place on nature-related activities, including nature watching, may provide a useful context on the potential impact. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, researchers have estimated that the value of nature-related activities per person per day is approximately \$47.¹¹ This figure 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. Additionally, this estimate is not species or location-specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rule induces individuals 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.

Ecological Benefit

- Although unquantifiable, the overall value added by protecting ecological processes from degradation by invasive, exotic species cannot be overstated. When ecological processes are impaired, there are consequences which may incur management costs. For example, establishment of feral hogs has incurred tremendous management costs in southern states. Native species sustain processes in ecosystems such as energy flow through food webs. If exotic species degrade food resources, a species may not thrive. Unhealthy wildlife can be more susceptible to disease, resulting in a variety of management issues. These results

⁸ Sandifer, Sutton-Grier, Ward, 2015

⁹ Deason, Seekamp, 2015

¹⁰ http://insidewrc.org/div09_management/documents/FWS-021SurveyReport2011-2WildlifeWatching-FINAL.pdf

¹¹ 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.

weigh on the state's resources. By limiting the establishment of exotic invasive species, the WRC is proactively conserving wildlife resources and mitigating serious negative impacts.

IV. Uncertainties

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

Because the proposed amendments to this rule are preventative in nature, and the current rule only prohibits possession of one species, there are no data available on the effectiveness of the rule at preventing possession. However, the agency does enforce restrictions on possession of state-listed reptiles and amphibians. The WRC performs approximately 5 confiscations of state-listed species each year from individuals who are not authorized to collect or possess them. WRC officers have made one confiscation of listed species from a business in the past five years. Though these state-listed reptile and amphibian species are all native, the number of confiscations provides an estimate of the magnitude of potential impacts from new species being added to 10B .0123. Potential impacts include an increased cost to the state for enforcement, a minimal increase in the number of local court cases dealing with illegal possession, and the cost to individuals for getting caught in possession of the species proposed for addition to the rule. It should however be noted that because all the proposed species are exotic, enforcement actions are more likely to occur in businesses than with private individuals; and though the agency acknowledges these as potential costs, it lacks appropriate data to accurately quantify them.

V. Economic Impact Summary

10B .0224 American Alligator

The proposed alligator rule is anticipated to have minimal state, local, and private costs, while many economic benefits are expected at all these same levels. Although most of the costs and benefits are unquantifiable with available data, the WRC was able to quantify the following

State

- Alligator survey costs of approximately \$24,928 per year
- Approximately \$1,643 for development and administration of permit hunts
- A \$5 administration fee per application for permit hunts

Local

- Decreased need for contracting with Nuisance Alligator Agents at approximately \$300 - \$750 per incident

Private

- A \$5 administration fee per application for permit hunts
- Decreased need for contracting with Nuisance Alligator Agents at approximately \$300 - \$750 per incident

Unquantifiable costs and benefits include the following:

State

- Additional sales of licenses
- Decrease in staff time needed to address nuisance issues

Local

- Decrease in staff time needed to address nuisance issues
- Decreased need for contracting with Nuisance Alligator Agents

Private

- Additional hunting opportunity
- Meat, hide, and taxidermy opportunities
- Increased income for guides/outfitters
- Increased sales of equipment
- Increased value of hunting leases

Though most of these economic impacts lack data and are unquantifiable costs, the WRC expects the benefits of the proposed rule to outweigh the costs.

10B .0123 Possession of Certain Species of Wildlife Resources

Wildlife recreation benefits our state's economy. By preventing the establishment of exotic invasive species, the WRC aims to proactively conserve wildlife resources. The proposed amendments to the possession of certain species rule are anticipated to have minimal costs at the state, local, or private levels, while they are expected to have many positive economic benefits at all those same levels. Although most of the costs and benefits are unquantifiable with available data, the WRC was able to quantify the following:

State

- Approximately \$37/permit for possession permit application review
- Development of training program for staff costing \$90

Private

- Lost revenue from sale of species estimated from \$3 - \$25 per potential sale

Unquantifiable costs and benefits include the following:

State

- Officer court time for newly added exotic species possession cases
- Increased species resilience and ecological integrity
- Avoidance of federal listing
- Increased wildlife watching

Local

- Increased court cases dealing with illegal possession

Private

- Reduction in available species for pet trade
- Fines and court fees for illegal possession of exotic species
- Opportunities for wildlife watching
- Ecotourism and biodiversity

Though most of these economic impacts lack data and are unquantifiable costs, the WRC expects the benefits of the proposed amendments to outweigh the costs.

15A NCAC 10B .0224 AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

- (a) The season for taking American alligators is September 1 to October 1.
- (b) Take is by permit only.
- (c) The bag limit is one per permit and the season limit is one.
- (d) American alligators must be restrained before being killed. American alligators may only be restrained using hand-held ropes or catch poles; hand-held or rod/reel snatch hooks; harpoons or gigs with attached restraining lines; baited, wooden pegs less than 2-inches in length attached to hand-held restraining lines; archery equipment with arrow-attached restraining lines.
- (e) American alligators restrained by any lawful method specified in part (d) of this paragraph must be dispatched immediately upon capture.
- (f) Alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.
- (g) Baited hooks are prohibited.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;
Eff. August 1, 2018.*

15A NCAC 10B .0123 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

It is unlawful for any individual to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, or sell any species of Tongueless or African Clawed Frog (*Xenopus* spp.), Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*), Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), or any Asian Newts (genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Tylotriton*); or to import, purchase, or sell Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*); or to stock or release ~~them~~ any of the aforementioned species in the public or private waters or lands of North Carolina, except as authorized under permit issued by the Executive Director pursuant to G.S. 113-274(c)(4) and subject to limitations as specified in this Rule:

- (1) Importation, possession, sales, transportation, and exportation will be allowed under permit by retail and wholesale establishments whose primary function is providing scientific supplies for research; provided that they must be possessed in indoor facilities; and that all transportation of specimens provides adequate safeguards against accidental escape; and that sale or transfer is permitted only as listed in Item (2) of this Rule. Written applications for permits shall include plans for holding, transportation, advertisement, and sale in such detail as to allow a determination of the safeguards provided against accidental escape and sales to unauthorized individuals.
- (2) Purchase, importation, and possession of this species within North Carolina will be allowed under permit only by state and federal governmental agencies, corporate research entities, and research institutions; provided that sales are permitted to lawful out-of-state consumers; and, provided that they must be possessed in indoor facilities and that all transportation of specimens provides adequate safeguards against accidental escape; and that the agency's or institution's Animal Use and Care Committee has approved the research protocol for this species; and, further provided that no specimens may be stocked or released in the public or private waters or lands of North Carolina and may not be transferred to any private individual.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-292;

Eff. February 1, 1994;

Amended Eff. August, 1, 2018; April 1, 1997.

EXHIBIT F

October 5, 2017



North Carolina Alligator Management Plan

Presented by the Alligator Task Force

To

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

October 5, 2017

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North Carolina Alligator Management Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), during its February 2016 meeting, tasked the Executive Director with establishing an Alligator Task Force (Alligator TF) to write an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) management plan (see NCWRC resolution, Appendix A). Executive Director Myers established the Alligator TF (see Appendix B) in June 2016 and charged the group with writing a management plan by July 2017. He also instructed the Alligator TF to examine options under existing law to use North Carolina sportsmen and women to aid in removal of alligators under nuisance or depredation circumstances.

The Alligator TF first met in late August 2016. In November 2016, NCWRC staff hosted three public input forums in Leland (Brunswick County), Swansboro (Carteret County), and Manteo (Dare County). NCWRC staff also held a public forum on alligator management at Lake Waccamaw in July 2016. These meetings served as scoping meetings that helped the Alligator TF create the Draft North Carolina Alligator Management Plan. The Alligator TF held its second meeting in December 2016, its third meeting in March 2017, and its final meeting in June 2017. The June 2017 meeting followed six public forums held in coastal counties to present and listen to public opinions on the Draft North Carolina Alligator Management Plan. These forums were in Hampstead (Pender County), Dublin (Columbus County), Bolivia (Brunswick County), Jacksonville (Onslow County), New Bern (Craven County), and Washington (Beaufort County). Three documents produced during the Alligator TF's work are available on NCWRC's website:

[Summary of Public Input from 2016 NCWRC Alligator Management Forums](#)

[Draft North Carolina Alligator Management Plan](#)

[Summary of Public Input on the Draft Alligator Management Plan](#)

The Alligator TF has prepared this North Carolina Alligator Management Plan using input from multiple stakeholders interested in alligator management in North Carolina. This plan proposes five management goals and 22 objectives to strengthen American alligator management in the state. Narratives about management strategies and objectives are also included. The final sections of the plan estimate the costs of achieving each objective and discusses the potential economic impacts of alligators and alligator management in North Carolina.

Several scientific research objectives proposed herein address uncertainties about the biological characteristics of North Carolina's alligator populations. New research may reveal information that requires amendment of management strategies and objectives described in this plan. Thus, NCWRC implementation of the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan will take an adaptive management approach. It is a dynamic plan that will use systematic learning from project outcomes to improve alligator management. The Alligator TF presented the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan to NCWRC on August 22nd, 2017.

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II. BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

A. *General Description*

The American alligator resembles a large lizard, but reaches a much larger size, has a thicker body and tail, and is strongly associated with wetlands. Adults range in color from black or dark gray to dark olive. Juveniles are born with bright yellow bands that encircle their bodies. These bands gradually fade over time.

Alligators can live 50 or more years in the wild (Wilkinson et al. 2016), and captive animals have been documented to live more than 70 years (Weigl 2014). Upper size limits for males, which grow larger than females, are typically 13-14 feet (396 - 427 cm) in length, while females reach 9-10 feet (274 – 305 cm) (Woodward et al. 1995; Brunell et al. 2013; Brunell et al. 2015). Adult males can reach weights of more than 500 pounds (227 kg), while females do not usually exceed 200 pounds (91 kg). Per Palmer and Braswell (1995), the largest male alligator ever examined in North Carolina was 12.5 feet long (382 cm total length) and weighed 475 pounds (215.5 kg), while the largest female was just over 8 feet (246 cm total length, weight unknown). External sexual characters are minimal for the alligator.

B. *Taxonomy*

There are currently 24 described species of crocodylians in the world (IUCNCSG 2017). The genus *Alligator* includes the only two extant species that can endure temperate climates, the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) and the Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*). American alligator (see Table 1) has existed in North America for at least 7 million years (Whiting 2016). Fossils of prehistoric crocodylians and their ancestors dating back to 231 million years ago (MYA) have been discovered in North Carolina (see Appendix D).

Table 1. Taxonomy of the American alligator.

Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata
Class	Reptilia
Order	Crocodylia
Family	Alligatoridae
Genus	Alligator
Species	mississippiensis

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C. *Life History and Ecology*

Reproduction

Sexual maturity in alligators is directly related to body size. Both genders tend to be capable of reproduction at 6 feet (183 cm) in length. Males in North Carolina are thought to take 14-16 years to reach sexual maturity, while females require 18-19 years; this is longer than the amount of time required for alligators from more southern locales (Doerr et al. 1983). For example, in South Carolina, researchers have estimated that male alligators reach sexual maturity at about 11.6 years of age, while females require approximately 15.8 years (Wilkinson et al. 2016; see Table 2). Due to slower growth rates, juvenile alligators in North Carolina require more time to outgrow a vulnerability to predation (Doerr et al. 1983). Immature alligators are much less susceptible to predators upon reaching 3 feet (91 cm) in length. Alligators typically mate from mid-May to early-July in North Carolina (Klause 1984), after which females construct mound nests of vegetation and soil on the shore. They lay an average of 35 eggs, then cover them with additional vegetation to incubate for 9-12 weeks until hatching.

The sex of young alligators is not determined at conception; rather, it is determined by nest temperatures during the thermosensitive period (TSP) of incubation. Lang and Andrews (1994) reported that the TSP occurs from stages 21 to 24 of embryonic development (in the middle third of the incubation period), during which nests with high or low temperatures produce females, while males are predominantly produced at intermediate temperatures (approximately 32-34°C or 90-93°F). Findings from a more recent study have expanded our understanding of this mechanism and demonstrated that the TSP begins by stage 15, and potentially earlier (McCoy et al. 2015).

After 60-80 days of incubation, the young hatch at about 9 inches (23 cm) long. While hatching they instinctively call to attract the female, who scratches open the nest mound and carries the hatchlings in her mouth to the edge of the water (Hunt 1987). Females have also been observed gently picking up eggs and rolling them in their mouth to aid in the hatching process (Kushlan and Simon 1981). Unlike most reptiles, female alligators protect their offspring from predators throughout incubation and into their early years of life. Juveniles generally congregate together in pods for the first few years, during which the female will respond to distress calls made by the young when threatened (Hunt and Watanabe 1982, Kushlan 1973).

Table 2. Reported length of time (years) required for American alligators to reach sexual maturity.

State	Males	Females	# of Alligators Studied	Source
Louisiana	6 - 10	8 - 13	745	Rootes et al. (1991)
Florida	8.9 – 12.4		N/A	Fujisaki et al. (2007)
Texas	10		48	Saalfeld et al. (2008)
South Carolina	11.6	15.8	185	Wilkinson et al. (2016)
North Carolina	14 - 16	18 - 19	87	Doerr et al. (1983)

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Ecology

During their first years of life, alligators eat primarily snails, frogs, crayfish, insects, and other small invertebrates. Larger alligators may eat smaller alligators, turtles, snakes, fish, waterbirds, beavers, raccoons, and otters. Given the opportunity, alligators can prey upon dogs, cats, and other small domestic animals, such as goats and pigs. Alligators in North Carolina grow more slowly than alligators to the south because our water temperatures do not stimulate feeding for as long a period each year.

Alligators create small wetlands using their snouts, feet, and tail to excavate “gator holes” the size of small backyard pools. Because these holes provide critical pockets of aquatic habitat to many other species during periods of drought, the alligator is considered a keystone species within the coastal communities they inhabit (Palmer and Mazzotti 2004).

A mutualistic relationship between alligators and long-legged wading birds has been documented (Nell et al. 2016; Burtner and Frederick 2017). Large colonies of these birds choose to nest high up in trees near alligators because the presence of alligators is a strong deterrent for mammalian nest predators, such as raccoons and opossums. The resident alligators have an opportunity to scavenge nestlings that fall from the nests, which can be a substantial food source for alligators. Because the birds forage in other locations, this relationship also facilitates the transfer of nutrients from other ecosystems to these wetlands (Nell and Frederick 2015).

As an apex predator, alligators play an important role in ecosystems by regulating mesopredator populations. In salt marsh food webs, for example, predation on blue crabs by alligators results in the increased survival of a keystone marsh grazer (the Periwinkle snail, *Littoraria irrorata*) and a *Spartina* cordgrass-facilitating mutualist (the Atlantic ribbed mussel, *Geukensia demissa*) (Nifong and Silliman 2013).

Behavior

Alligators usually remain in the same area where they were hatched for two to three years before establishing their own territories. Hagan (1982) reported that annual home ranges of alligators at Lake Ellis Simon (Craven County, NC) ranged from 7.4 acres (3.0 ha) to 3,555 acres (1,439 ha) and that male home ranges were significantly larger than those of females.

Although adult alligators are usually solitary, they are known to congregate during the breeding season. Both males and females vocalize. The male calls with a loud, throaty bellow and may hiss and inflate to impress a mate. Females bellow and grunt, too, but less loudly.

Genetics

Genetic studies of alligators in Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida have revealed geographic patterns of genetic variation and population differentiation (Glenn et al., 1998; Davis et al., 2000). The results of a study in Texas indicated limited levels of gene flow among both coastal and inland populations of alligators (Ryberg et al. 2002). These findings suggest that alligators in North Carolina could exhibit genetic differentiation between isolated populations.

North Carolina Alligator Management Plan

D. *Distribution and Population Status*

American Alligator Distribution

The range of the alligator in the United States includes areas from the southern tip of Texas through the northern coastal areas of North Carolina (Fig. 1).

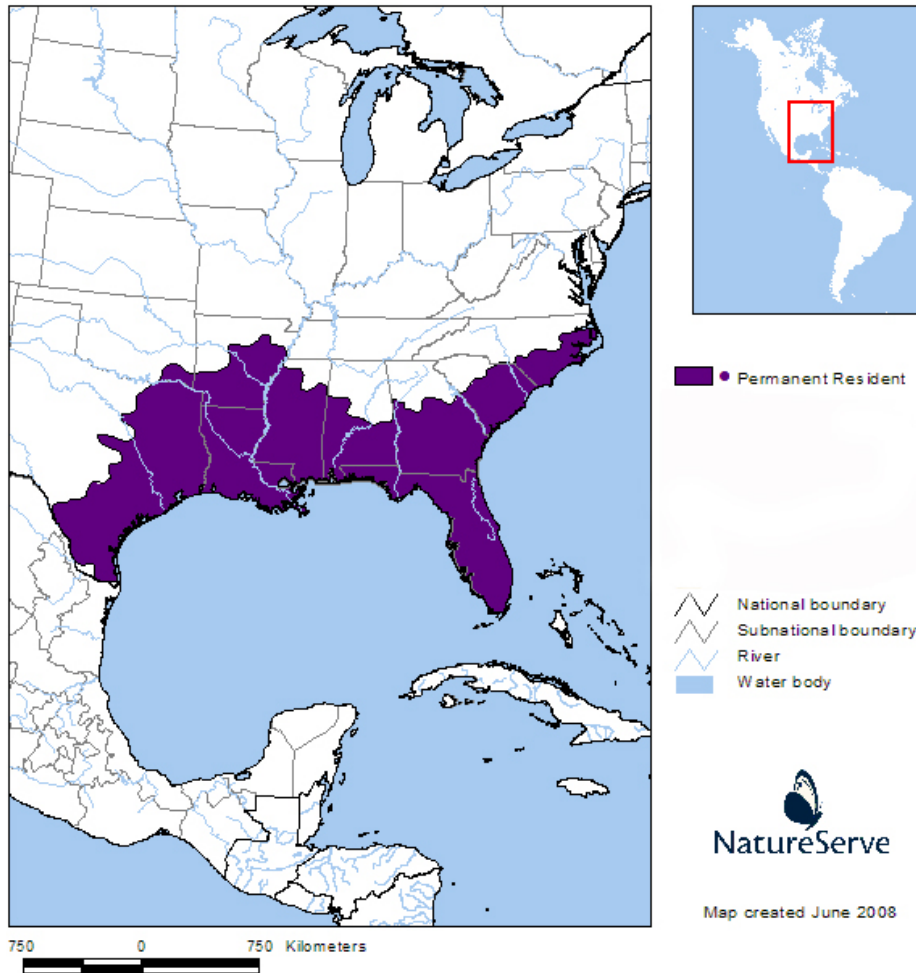


Figure 1. Range of the American alligator in the United States.

<http://explorer.natureserve.org/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Alligator+mississippiensis>

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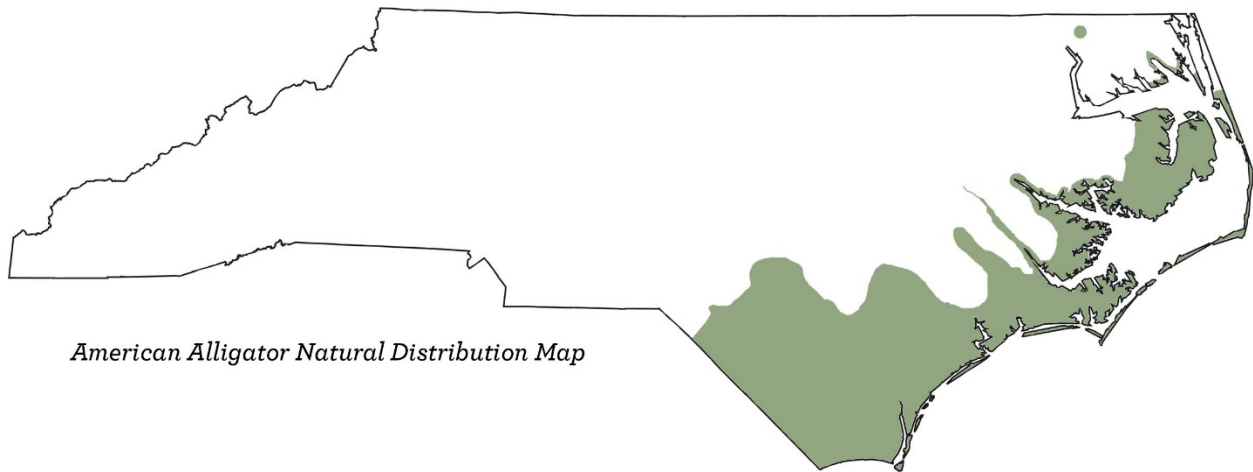


Figure 2. Approximate range of American alligator in North Carolina.

Alligator Distribution and Abundance in North Carolina

In North Carolina, the alligators occur just north of Albemarle Sound, south along the eastern Coastal Plain, and west as far as Robeson County (Palmer and Braswell 1995; Gardner et al. 2016) (Fig. 2). The aquatic habitats that alligators occupy vary widely across their range in North Carolina and from season to season. Alligators tend to prefer fresh to brackish waters, although they can tolerate higher levels of salinity for short periods of time. They inhabit swamps, creeks, rivers, tidal marshes, canals, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

Recent study of alligators in North Carolina by Gardner et al. (2016) showed that alligator populations are likely stable or slightly increasing and their current distribution appears to be relatively consistent with the results of a study conducted 30 years ago (O'Brien and Doerr 1986). Although these results did not indicate a population decline, the researchers noted that alligators occur in patchy distributions and very low densities across much of their North Carolina range. Alligators were more abundant closer to the coastline, further south, and in locations that limit access by people and provide more protection for alligators.

E. Historic and Ongoing Conservation Efforts

Chiefly driven by the commercial market for alligator skin products, alligator populations were greatly diminished by the mid-twentieth century because of unregulated harvest throughout their range. Under the 1966 Endangered Species Preservation Act, the very first list of endangered species compiled in 1967 ([32 FR 4001](#)) included the American alligator. This act authorized the use of federal funds for the acquisition of lands inhabited by listed species, but take ("to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct") of these species was not prohibited by federal law until Congress passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In 1969, Congress amended The Lacey Act ([16 USC 3371-3378](#), [18 USC 42-43](#)) to include reptiles, perhaps the most important legislation related to the recovery of American alligator. The Lacey Act prohibits interstate commerce of illegally obtained wildlife. In 1973, governments of 80 countries signed a treaty—the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The international export of

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alligator skins was banned by CITES in 1975. Owing to these and state-level protections, alligator populations rebounded in many parts of their range. This recovery prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify alligators range-wide in 1987 ([52 FR 21059](#)) as Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance to other crocodylians worldwide, including the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), which was federally listed as Endangered in 1979 ([44 FR 75074](#)) and down-listed to Threatened in 2007 ([72 FR 13027](#)). Under this classification, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continues to regulate interstate trade of alligators today. Illegal trade of alligators or alligator parts is generally thought to seldom occur.

With the rare exception of individuals taken by WRC employees or permitted Nuisance Alligator Agents (e.g., if an alligator poses a threat to public safety or personal property), there has been no legal take of alligators in North Carolina since 1973. While also relatively uncommon, relocation of alligators occurs far more often than euthanization when “problem” alligators are found in locations that could be a safety hazard to humans or their pets (see Public Safety Strategies in this document). In many cases, private citizens are provided with information about alligators and encouraged to allow the alligator to move on its own, which typically occurs within a few hours to a couple of weeks.

Alligators are usually shy and secretive in nature. If fed, they can lose their natural fear of humans and learn to associate people with an easy meal. In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law, [NCGS § 113 291.11](#), that prohibits the feeding of alligators. NCWRC has published a document titled [Coexist with Alligators](#) that highlights how important it is for people to refrain from feeding alligators.

III. PLAN GOALS

Five broad goals will guide the state’s management of alligators. Proposed strategies (Section IV) and objectives (Section V) will guide activities to achieve these goals. Objectives that address each goal are referred to by objective number (see Table 3) following the goal narrative.

A. *Maintain viable populations of alligators in North Carolina*

NCWRC will maintain viable populations of alligators in suitable areas within the state. A viable population (see glossary) can survive or live successfully over the long-term, especially under current environmental conditions. Alligators are a socially valued and biologically important native wildlife species inhabiting North Carolina. NCWRC is charged with managing wildlife resources for the benefit of the people. The General Assembly has directed the agency to conserve native species. This goal is addressed by objectives 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22.

B. *Conduct research to support science-based management of alligators*

Long-term surveys, monitoring, and research of alligator populations will best inform management decisions affecting the conservation of alligators in the state. Science-based management of wildlife resources is a strategic goal for NCWRC. Sufficient, long-term information on the ecology and population status of alligators in the state, needed for successful management, is lacking. The best possible decisions for alligator conservation and management will always require up-to-date scientific information. This goal is addressed by objectives 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22.

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C. Promote public safety through management of alligator populations

NCWRC must address public safety needs to retain support for alligator conservation in the state. The agency has received many requests from people for advice and help with managing alligators. These requests have increased as the state's human population has grown and rural areas have been developed. NCWRC places a high priority on reducing human-alligator interactions that compromise public safety or result in property damage. This goal is addressed by objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 18, 22.

D. Provide comprehensive information about alligators and alligator management

Expansion of the agency's outreach efforts will help reduce negative human interactions with alligators and promote public support for alligator conservation and management. Working closely with local governments will help communities achieve their alligator management goals and promote inter-agency communication. High public interest in alligators and alligator management offers opportunities to improve public knowledge about alligator behavior and therefore public safety. This goal is addressed by objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20.

E. Provide opportunities for public enjoyment of alligators through hunting and wildlife viewing

The alligator is a valuable wildlife resource of great interest to people. NCWRC has received requests from those interested in using this resource. Creating and managing opportunities for public enjoyment of alligators will promote public support of alligator conservation. This goal is addressed by objectives 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 12, 19, 21, 22.

IV. STRATEGIES

A. Education and Outreach Strategies [Goals C, D]

Public education, outreach, and non-lethal management options will be the first line of response in nuisance situations, and lethal removal will be the last option to resolve conflicts. Providing information, education, and outreach to the public related to alligators has been a long-term challenge for NCWRC. The perception many individuals have that every alligator is a dangerous nuisance, misconceptions about alligator behavior and biology, public unawareness that alligators exist in North Carolina, and the transient nature of human populations in some areas (e.g., military bases, vacation destinations, recreational areas) all contribute to the need for a strong and continual education and outreach program to keep the public informed. Historic education and outreach activities have involved periodic news releases in the spring to inform the public of increasing alligator activity and ways to reduce conflicts with alligators. Other current activities include responding to media inquiries (e.g., local paper and electronic media), informal and formal meetings with presentations to citizen groups and community leaders, and public information forums.

A major component of NCWRC's past and future public education and outreach efforts involves technical guidance to landholders and other citizens who have real or perceived conflicts with alligators. NCWRC responds to reports of such conflicts by providing information on alligator biology, regulatory considerations, public safety strategies, habitat management recommendations, alligator exclusion techniques, and other ways to reduce conflicts with alligators. These information exchanges occur in

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informal or formal settings with individual citizens, groups of citizens at public meetings, and with community leaders. When necessary, site visits are conducted to investigate site-specific circumstances and to communicate with the involved persons. In some instances, actions are taken to resolve conflicts by removing problem alligators. In all instances, public education and outreach efforts are critical aspects of informing the public and managing expectations related to alligator management. As human populations and associated landscape development continue to expand, the frequency of these education and outreach opportunities continues to increase. NCWRC must continue to address these public education and outreach challenges to reduce future conflicts with alligators and to ensure long-term public support for conservation of this valuable resource.

With increasing contacts and demands from the public related to alligator issues, and uncertainties related to some aspects of alligator biology and population dynamics, clearly NCWRC should develop a formal alligator education and outreach program. NCWRC will strive to define and target appropriate audiences using multiple outlets to reach the right people effectively. Important audiences are residential communities, sportsmen and women, conservation groups, tourists, boaters, and governmental organizations. Effective education and outreach outlets could include paper media, televised media, online social and other online shared media (e.g., emails, blogs), news releases, agency video productions, agency webpages, public information meetings, and citizen science opportunities. NCWRC staff will work together to build a comprehensive public education and outreach program to better inform its constituents and address the various challenges associated with the management of the state's alligator resource.

B. Population Management Strategies [Goals A, B, C, E]

Management Units

The development of Alligator Management Units (AMUs) involves identifying geographic areas where alligator population management and human sociological objectives align. These delineated areas will then represent unique AMUs where different applications of NCWRC alligator management tools and strategies can best be applied. In some situations or locations within individual AMUs, there may be varying population management and sociological goals due to differences in land uses, varying levels of urbanization, and local differences in alligator population dynamics.

Alligator population dynamics, human population and associated sociological factors, and landscape features are the most useful parameters for delineating AMUs. In most areas of the Coastal Plain, alligators persist at relatively low densities and conflicts with humans are rare. In other areas, alligator populations are more robust or conflicts with humans are more common. The primary landscape feature most useful for delineating AMUs are riverine systems or watersheds. North Carolina Coastal Plain rivers and watersheds serve as somewhat of an east-to-west gradient that complement differences in alligator population dynamics from southern to northern areas of North Carolina's Coastal Plain.

When considering alligator population dynamics and sociological factors, the Alligator TF feels that two AMUs will be ideal. However, the Alligator TF understands that multiple approaches could be used to delineate AMUs. The proposed approach to delineating AMUs combines alligator resource, human sociological, and landscape factors. AMU 1 will consist of the following counties where alligator populations are generally considered to be more robust, human-alligator conflicts most commonly occur, and water bodies representing quality alligator habitat are more common and well distributed: Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, Jones, Onslow, Pender, New Hanover, Brunswick, and Columbus. AMU 2 will consist of other counties where alligators currently exist to the west and north of AMU 1 (Fig. 3).

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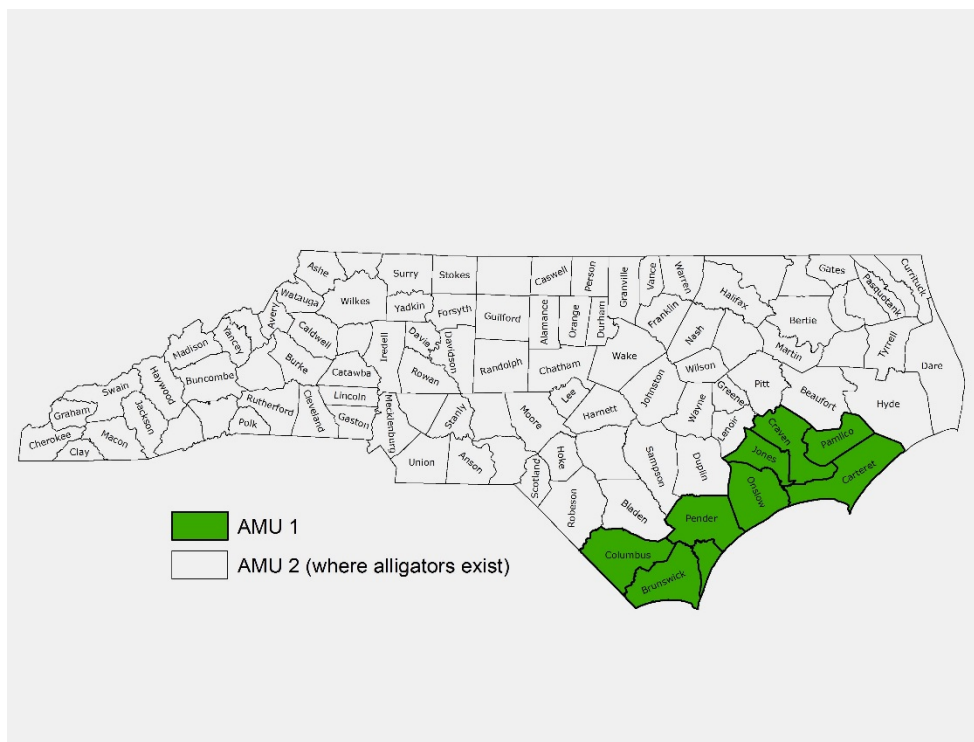


Figure 3. Proposed Alligator Management Units (AMU) in North Carolina.

Population Goals

The goal for both AMUs is to maintain viable alligator populations throughout their current range. A viable population is a population likely to persist over the long-term, in this plan defined as a population where the population growth rate (λ) is estimated as equal to or greater than 1.

Previous research suggests that the state’s alligators may exist in metapopulations. A metapopulation is comprised of spatially separated populations of alligators which interact at some level. Alligators in separate metapopulations do not interact. While the degree of interchange between alligator populations in North Carolina is not well known, no management strategy will be implemented within either AMU with the objective of eliminating a population. Following are more specific population goals for each AMU.

AMU 1: Alligators may be more actively managed on some properties in this management unit than in AMU 2. The overall population objective is to maintain alligator natural distributions, densities, and associated trends, and allow the limited take of alligators in two circumstances. First, limited take could occur to reduce alligator numbers in municipalities where reports of human-alligator conflicts frequently occur. Second, take of alligators could occur where research demonstrates a population growth rate that can maintain long-term population viability despite hunter harvest.

AMU 2: The overall population objective is to manage alligator populations to maintain their natural distributions, densities, and associated trends with no lawful forms of regulated take other than take by depredation permit. This approach corresponds to current management. Exceptions for management or take of alligators may be made in situations involving alligator threats to public safety or damage to property.

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Population Management

While problem evaluation and technical guidance are the initial response to conflict situations, relocation or lethal removal of alligators may become necessary in some localities. Should a municipality desire a reduction of alligator numbers for public safety or protection of property, the only current option is for alligator relocation or, in extenuating circumstances, lethal removal. NCWRC staff and a few Nuisance Alligator Agents have conducted population management for many years by removing a small number of alligators in accordance with depredation laws.

Current management practices are efficient to address situations where an alligator is causing a problem, such as a food-conditioned alligator or an alligator blocking traffic. However, resolution of some incidents requires considerable effort. Targeted take of alligators to reduce numbers in areas with frequent alligator conflicts may be more economically accomplished by licensed sportsmen and women. These alligator removals may be completed at a reduced cost to communities because individual sportsmen and women are willing to pay a portion of the management costs out-of-pocket. The participants are willing to bear these costs because they realize a personal benefit from taking the alligator.

The Alligator TF recommends that NCWRC establish a process by which a city (as defined by [NCGS § 160A-1\(2\)](#) and hereinafter referred to as municipality) can formally request agency support to manage an alligator population. NCWRC will then work cooperatively with the municipality to assess alligator numbers, define areas of public safety concern, and identify those areas where alligator take could be safely conducted by hunters. If advisable to promote public safety, the Director may then issue an appropriate number of permits to accomplish the desired take of alligators. NCWRC must retain decision-making authority on the number of take permits issued. Local officials and NCWRC staff will jointly plan and implement any alligator removals authorized.

Public involvement is critical to gain support for alligator conservation and management, whether increasing, maintaining, or decreasing alligator abundance. Public support is gained by maintaining the distinction between removing alligators for personal gain and removing alligators to protect the public or property. Hunting provides a legal means for a person to take a public trust wildlife resource into lawful possession for personal benefit. Hunting removes a surplus of animals and does not violate the public trust by diminishing wildlife populations below sustainable levels over the long-term.

Removal of wildlife for a public safety or property protection purpose is a benefit to the public and not primarily to the person removing the alligator. Some people would, and have tried to, take public trust wildlife resources by hunting under the guise of protecting property or public safety.

NCWRC will maintain a distinction between hunting and removal of animals to protect the public or property by working closely with communities when setting goals for numbers of alligators. A public participatory process offers local and state government the best opportunity to communicate with all stakeholders in alligator management. A public decision-making process to set alligator population levels best protects public trust wildlife resources and meets the need for public safety and person property protection.

Some populations of alligators in AMU 1 may support a limited removal of alligators over a larger area than municipalities typically include. Because hunting throughout the entire area inhabited by an alligator population could result in the removal of too many alligators, NCWRC must acquire demographic, vital rate, and other biological information before allowing hunting in a substantial portion of a population's inhabited area. Factors informing the decision to permit hunting of a population include: area inhabited, alligator abundance by life stage, sex ratio, fecundity, and survival rates.

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The Alligator TF recommends that NCWRC not issue permits authorizing hunting throughout a population's range when the population growth rate (λ) is less than 1.0, although exceptions may be made in populations where the management objective is to decrease alligator numbers. If NCWRC decides to allow the limited take of alligators by hunters outside of municipalities, then close monitoring must ensure that take does not exceed harvest quotas set by NCWRC biologists. Based upon research already conducted in North Carolina, a prudent approach to regulated hunting will maintain sub-adult and adult alligators in populations, particularly females. NCWRC will issue hunting permits based upon the best available take per permit rates, including those from other states that allow alligator hunting. Recent data from alligator hunts in South Carolina indicate that 4 alligators are harvested for every 10 hunting permits issued.

C. Habitat Management Strategies [Goals A, B, E]

Habitat Conservation

Federal, state and private conservation organizations own significant lands in eastern North Carolina. NCWRC alone owns 225,000-acres of land within the range of alligators. About 60% of this habitat is wetlands where alligators can reside. Game lands, national wildlife refuges, national forests, state parks and national estuarine research reserves have management plans that seek to conserve freshwater wetland habitats. A review of current alligator distribution relative to available habitat and conservation ownerships may point out opportunities for habitat conservation.

Some conservation lands are appropriate for management to stabilize or increase alligator populations. Maintenance of healthy populations of prey species such as turtles, fish, snakes, waterbirds, rodents and other mammals allows alligator populations to thrive. Because alligators do not tolerate high salinity for long periods (Birkhead and Bennett 1981, Fujisaki et al., 2016, Parlin et al., 2015), management techniques and methods to ameliorate or minimize the effects of sea level rise will be important for maintaining alligators near the coast. Maintenance of dikes and plugging ditches to restore wetlands and inhibit salt intrusion will help to maintain or improve habitats. Control of exotic invasive species such as imported fire ants and feral hogs may minimize losses of alligator eggs to predators. Elsey et al. (2012) found that alligator nest losses from feral swine were on the rise in Louisiana.

Permit Review

State and federal biologists will review permit applications for projects that might impact wetlands inhabited by alligators. This promotes adherence to wetland laws, regulations, rules and best management practices. Alligators use a variety of wetland habitat types and depend on uplands for dispersal or movement between wetlands (Subalusky et al., 2009). Federal wetland laws, including the Clean Water Act, protect much of the habitat that alligators use. However, important habitat for juvenile alligators in isolated or seasonal wetlands receive less protection. Storm water management rules, along with the Division of Coastal Management's rules for Areas of Environmental Concern, dredge and fill laws, and forestry Best Management Practices all protect water quality and habitat for alligators.

Alligator Management Assistance Program

The Alligator TF recommends that NCWRC develop an Alligator Management Assistance Program (AMAP) to promote alligator habitat conservation and management. NCWRC will provide support to landowners to set and achieve their alligator conservation and management goals through a cooperative agreement. The landowner must agree to provide and manage habitat for alligators and to provide access to NCWRC for alligator population monitoring and research. Where a hunting season is established, landowners may

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be eligible to receive alligator tags for use on their property during an established hunting season when consistent with the overall population goal for the metapopulation. Landowners will agree to provide biological information from any alligators harvested.

D. Public Safety Strategies [Goals C, D]

Alligator Removal

Although the legal harvest of alligators may lessen some need for relocation, NCWRC will retain the ability to relocate or euthanize alligators where they pose safety issues or cause damage to property. In the interest of public safety and property protection, alligators may be trapped and relocated from public or private properties under the following circumstances: damage to property, injuries or threats to pets or livestock, proximity to human habitation, threats to human safety, alligator injury or welfare, emergency situations (e.g., roadway blockage, presence in structure or dwelling), or other appropriate circumstances at the discretion of NCWRC. Alligators will only be euthanized if they have been shown to be aggressive towards humans, there is an imminent public safety threat, or the alligator has suffered a severe injury and survival is unlikely. Properly trained personnel will be authorized to conduct alligator site visits and to make and carry out relocation and euthanization decisions. NCWRC will pre-approve release sites for alligators that are relocated by staff or permittees.

Due to agency staff and other resource constraints, NCWRC established a Nuisance Alligator Agent program. This program permits individuals to trap and relocate alligators under the above-listed circumstances. Nuisance Alligator Agents may charge a fee for alligator trapping and relocation services. Historically, NCWRC has had very few Nuisance Alligator Agents and currently has three, two of which are with governmental organizations working only within their jurisdictions.

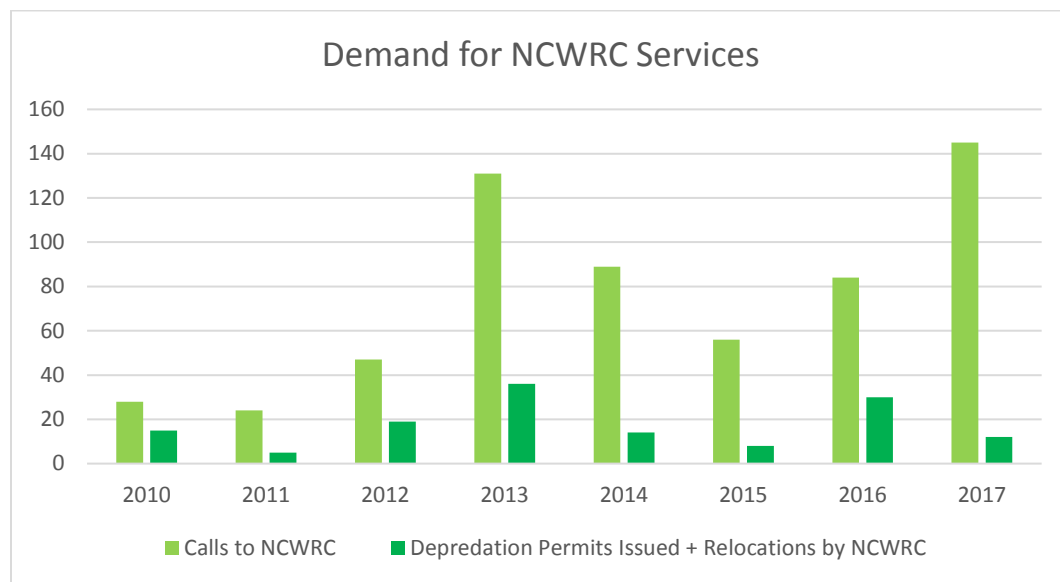
With the recent development of a more formal Nuisance Alligator Agent program, the agency will recruit more agents to help resolve alligator nuisance issues. Doing so will lessen demands on agency personnel, while also providing better service to the public. Other than NCWRC staff and Nuisance Alligator Agents, no other individuals are authorized to trap and relocate alligators in the state.

NCWRC will adopt the revised guidelines in Appendix C for the Nuisance Alligator Agent program. Program participants must obtain an annual Endangered Species permit that authorizes them to take alligators, and they must follow certain equipment, capture, and alligator handling guidelines. Trapping and relocation of alligators to pre-approved release sites by program participants must occur after issuance of a depredation permit from NCWRC personnel, except in instances involving emergency situations where NCWRC staff can provide verbal permission to handle the situation. Program participants may not euthanize an alligator unless prior approval has been granted by NCWRC personnel, and authorization for euthanasia will only be granted if the alligator is suffering from severe injury and survival is unlikely.

In 2017, the agency established the North Carolina Wildlife Helpline to aid people with questions or concerns about wildlife interactions and conflicts. All calls received are answered; some responses require more effort than others. Agency records regarding calls (Figure 4) for help have improved recently, therefore the data indicate a greater increase in calls than occurred. The number of calls received in 2016 and 2017 are the most accurate data. The number of depredation permits issued for either relocation or lethal take of alligators has not increased at the same rate as calls for help. The data are not complete for 2017.

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Figure 4. Calls to NCWRC requesting help with alligator management (2017 data is to date).



E. Science Strategies [Goals A, B, D]

Surveys and Monitoring

Various protocols are available for conducting surveys and monitoring of alligators. The prevalent tool used in North Carolina to date to assess the distribution and relative abundance of alligators is eye-shine counts. The technique can be used from a boat or car in motion or while stationary. Summaries of studies conducted in North Carolina using this technique follow.

Study 1: The first study was conducted during 1979-1980 by North Carolina State University (NCSU) in coastal North Carolina (Doerr et al. 1983). This study looked at distribution and relative abundance of alligators and considered three different methodologies for counting alligators: 1) night-time eye-shine counts, 2) day-time visual surveys, and 3) aerial visual surveys. They found that densities reported from night-count surveys in the coastal counties were very low (from 0 to 0.8 per km), that observations declined from south to north, that populations were clumped in areas where alligators are given some degree of protection, that no alligators were observed north of the Albemarle Sound, and that densities in 4 of 8 watersheds were too low to be effectively measured. They estimated a total population size of 1,772 alligators based on night-count survey results and calculations that included the probability values for observing alligators.

Results of the study included a finding that moon phase was the only correlated environmental variable that predicted alligator detection (increased observations with fuller moon). Also, careful standardization of night survey methodology improved results, and randomization was necessary. Comparing surface night counts, surface day counts, and aerial day counts as methods for surveying alligators, the authors made several observations: 1) season, time of day, and weather are critical to success of day counts, therefore these surveys should be conducted only on clear days, in the early mornings of early spring; 2) for aerial surveys, researchers can cover a large area in a short period of time, but the methodology is expensive and is most effective in open marsh and lake habitats in early spring; 3) night surveys were considered the best option by the author if alligator activity, ease of observation, and non-zero counts are

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considered, and in these surveys eye-shine was visible up to 0.5 km. Based on the results, the authors recommended that when designing surveys, the number of survey routes should be maximized, and that each should be surveyed only once (between route variance was much higher than within route variance). They also found high spatial heterogeneity in the alligator observations within a route.

Study 2: To duplicate some of the work completed in the '80s, another study was conducted by NCSU in 2012-2013 in conjunction with NCWRC (Garner 2017; Gardner et al. 2016). This work employed night-time eye-shine counts to explore occupancy and relative abundance of alligators in North Carolina. Latitude (further north), longitude (further west), and salinity (increasing) all had negative effects on occupancy, while a positive response was seen with date of survey (later in the season). Additionally, higher temperatures resulted in greater detection probabilities, while presence in estuaries (as opposed to lakes and rivers) had significantly lower detection probability. The authors also suggested that habitat type, wind speed, and weather all likely play a role in detection, but none of these rose to statistical significance. The overall distribution of alligators in North Carolina appears to be clumped, with large unoccupied areas in eastern North Carolina.

Abundance analysis showed similar patterns to occupancy with latitude, longitude, and salinity. Two additional habitat parameters also had effects on abundance. Rivers appeared to have lower abundance estimates than lakes. Vegetation was important in the abundance model, suggesting that alligator abundance is greater in water bodies with vegetated shorelines. Abundance estimates among sites ranged from 0 to 105.4 alligators. In the area sampled by the 156 surveyed sites, abundance was estimated to be 672.13 (95% confidence interval 315-1507) alligators. This abundance estimate was only for the area sampled and is not an estimate of the total number of alligators in North Carolina.

Research

The conservation of the American alligator in North Carolina depends on understanding fully the demography of each metapopulation. This includes all the vital rates, such as fecundity, nest and egg survival, recruitment rates, growth rates, and size at maturity of adults. An understanding of alligator movements between populations within a metapopulation would also clarify population dynamics. These data are sorely lacking for North Carolina, although some relevant information may be available from other states.

Some modeling has been conducted to attempt to understand alligator population dynamics in North Carolina, but these models have relied on vital rates acquired from other states or from data collected in North Carolina at 2 sites during a short period in the early 1980s. Two recent published studies applicable to North Carolina were by Gardner et al. (2016) and Dunham et al. (2014). Both studies explored models including a harvest element, and both appeared to show declines with any significant level of harvest. In fact, the Dunham et al. (2014) model found that the overall population of northern alligators (which would include North Carolina) is in decline currently. The Gardner et al. (2016) model reported a similar negative population trajectory, but anecdotal reports from trappers and biologists and comparison of raw counts between the 1980s and 2010s indicated a slowly increasing population. Hence, Gardner et al. (2016) explored harvest models with the vital rates of a slowly increasing population. Model results reported that only a very small harvest of the adult female component of the population (i.e., 0.13 adult females per year given a population of 100 females) was sustainable. As indicated, both studies examining North Carolina alligators have relied heavily on vital rates from other states. To properly understand population dynamics in North Carolina, it is critical to have robust estimates of all vital rates from North Carolina populations.

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Recommended Surveys, Monitoring, and Research

Alligators in North Carolina are at the northern extent of their range. They are not able to colonize colder areas northward because alligator births do not exceed deaths. Accurate, up-to-date information on alligator populations in any part of North Carolina on vital rates and the public's acceptance of alligators is required for wildlife professionals to maintain viable alligator populations and meet the needs of people.

New studies are required to provide the scientific basis for management of alligators in North Carolina. Collection of data on alligator populations in North Carolina will require considerable field work and resources. Some vital rates can be estimated in two field seasons, while others (e.g. growth rate, maturity, movements) may require years to accomplish.

Six studies are proposed to provide important information on which to base alligator management decisions.

Investigate spatial ecology of alligators

Knowledge about the movements of alligators is important for two reasons. First, alligator populations in North Carolina may occur in one or more metapopulations. Study of populations throughout the alligator's range in North Carolina may answer this question. Metapopulations may be comprised of populations with differing demographic, genetic, or other characteristics. These characteristics are important factors in management decisions. Second, alligator relocation is expensive and experience has shown that alligators often attempt to return to the general area where they were captured. Knowledge of return rates in North Carolina will help NCWRC evaluate the effectiveness of relocation as a population management technique. Due to the time required to learn about alligator movements in North Carolina, this study will begin immediately.

Improve estimates of demographic characteristics of populations

Accurate estimates of natality rates, survival rates, population age class distributions, sex ratios, age of first breeding, and fecundity are needed to reliably predict the ability of the alligator population to sustain itself. This research could provide initial data to estimate population growth rate (λ) for some populations within 4-years. Once acquired, NCWRC will evaluate the reliability of λ estimates for populations considered for limited take of alligators by hunters. Estimates judged unreliable will result in continued monitoring of populations to improve those estimates. Due to the time required to learn about demographic characteristics of alligator populations in North Carolina, this study will begin immediately.

Assess the level of acceptance of alligators in each AMU 1 county

Periodically assessing the attitudes, values, and beliefs of the state's residents and visitors will provide important information to state and local governments to set and periodically revise alligator population goals. Like biological carrying capacity, cultural carrying capacity can change over time. Due to the need to understand the human dimensions of alligator management in North Carolina, this study will begin immediately.

Evaluate usefulness of alligator survey techniques

Periodic surveys of the number of alligators in a variety of habitats is required to evaluate the effectiveness of alligator conservation and management actions. These surveys are costly and NCWRC is interested in conducting these surveys in the most efficient and economical way possible. This study will begin immediately to minimize agency monitoring costs over the long-term.

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Identify and map important alligator habitat and target areas for conservation attention

In a rapidly changing environment, it is prudent to periodically assess habitat availability for American alligator. Alligator habitat availability is an important factor in conservation decisions, as well as helpful for establishing research and monitoring projects. This study will begin immediately.

Determine the economic values of alligators

NCWRC manages wildlife resources to benefit the people of the state. Periodically assessing the tangible and intangible values of alligators will provide important information to state and local government to set and periodically revise alligator population goals. This work will begin once more information is available on the distribution and abundance of alligators in the state.

F. Legal Strategies [Goals A, C, E]

Current Laws (General Statutes and North Carolina Administrative Code)

The American alligator is listed as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to its similarity of appearance to other protected crocodylians. The FWS regulates the take of alligator by the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under [50 CFR 17.42](#). Per 50 CFR 17.42 (a)(ii), a person may take alligators in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State. Per 50 CFR 17.42 (a)(ii)(B), a person may sell or transfer a specimen domestically in accordance with the laws and regulations of the source and receiving States.

The FWS regulates the trade of alligators by [50 CFR 23.70](#). States must require tagging of any alligator skins for sale or transfer. Tags must be FWS-approved in accordance with 50 CFR 23.70. The State must set up a management program using FWS guidelines for approval by the FWS. Once the program is approved, international trade under the Convention in International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) may be allowed.

North Carolina statutes (NCGS) concerning alligators include [NCGS S 113 Article 25](#), requiring NCWRC to list the alligator as a Threatened species to match its federal listing. [NCGS § 113-129](#) (15) includes the American alligator in the definition of “Wild Animal” due to its federal listing as Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance. [NCGS § 113-291.11](#) prohibits the feeding of alligators outside of captivity. [NCGS § 106-763.1](#) regulates the commercial propagation and production of captive alligators. [NCGS § 14-417.2](#) regulates the ownership or use of crocodylians exclusive of alligator. Collection for scientific purposes is governed by [NCGS § 113-272.4](#), which prohibits the taking and collection of endangered, threatened and special concern species except under a special permit issued by the Executive Director for research purposes.

Alligators are managed as a Threatened species per North Carolina Administrative Code, and currently there is no open season for taking alligators. The only currently legal take of alligator is via a depredation permit issued by the Executive Director per [15A NCAC 10I .0102](#) (b)(4), except in instances of defense of human life per 15A NCAC 10I .0102 (c)(1).

NCWRC may establish rules allowing the hunting of alligators within the state. The Commission is authorized to establish season, bag limits and some manners of taking for any wild animal and may require persons taking wild animals to possess a hunting license. Definition of the alligator as a “Wild Animal” invokes this authority. Note that federal delisting of the alligator would remove it from the definition of “Wild Animal”.

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Recommended Changes to Law

NCWRC will evaluate a proposal during its 2017-2018 rulemaking cycle allowing the limited take of alligators by hunters. These rules will provide the legal framework to enable hunters to take alligators in cities, towns, and villages as authorized by permit. These rules will also provide the legal framework for hunting in those areas of AMU 1 where research has demonstrated that the recruitment rate is sufficient to offset adult mortality and sustain a viable population over the long-term ($\lambda \geq 1.0$).

G. Other Conservation Strategies [Goals A, B, D, E]

Conservation Incentives

Several conservation incentive programs focus on restoring water quality by preventing runoff and siltation. Each of these programs helps to provide better alligator habitat. Each of the following incentive programs, except for the North Carolina Wildlife Conservation Land Program, come from the Farm Bill.

The Conservation Reserve Program is administered by the Farm Services agency and pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive lands from agriculture and planting species that will improve environmental quality. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program provides rental payments to landowners with high priority conservation issues in exchange for removal of these lands from farm production.

The Farmable Wetlands Program is designed to restore wetlands and wetland buffer zones that are farmed. It also provides annual rental payments to farmers willing to restore wetlands and establish planted buffers.

The Grassland Reserve Program works to prevent grazing and pasture land from being converted into cropland or used for development. In return, landowners receive an annual rental payment.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a Farm Bill program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers who plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program was another Farm Bill program that focused more specifically on wildlife habitat, but was repealed in 2014. Some parts of that program have been rolled into EQIP.

The North Carolina Wildlife Conservation Land Program provides tax incentives to landowners willing to manage priority habitats such as wetlands, or protected state listed species such as the alligator. This program is administered by NCWRC, and allows landowners a reduced assessment for taxation purposes. Although this program has not been used much in eastern North Carolina, it has significant potential to improve habitat for alligators.

Collaboration with Other Organizations

NCWRC has developed strong collaborations with a variety of organizations involved in wildlife conservation work. Many of these collaborations are long-standing and offer opportunities to strengthen habitat management and public relation projects that would benefit alligators. The following is not a complete list of all partners, but constitutes primary collaborators and potential opportunities for joint conservation work.

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Non-government Organizations

Cape Fear Arch: This regional collaboration covers an area from Cape Lookout, North Carolina to Cape Romain, South Carolina, and extends inland beyond Fayetteville to the Sandhills Region of the Carolinas. It was created in 2006, and consists of 28 partner organizations, agencies and municipalities. Its mission is to develop and implement a community conservation vision to build awareness, protection and stewardship of the region's important natural resources. An opportunity exists for NCWRC to work with the Cape Fear Arch to protect additional lands for the conservation of alligators.

Onslow Bight Conservation Forum: This is another regional collaboration. It was established in 2002, and is the first of its kind. It extends from the lower Northeast Cape Fear River to the Pamlico River and from offshore waters to approximately 30 miles inland. Twelve governmental agencies and private conservation groups with land holdings in the landscape, as well as other interested agencies and groups, established this forum to enhance cooperation and communication regarding regional conservation issues within the Onslow Bight landscape. The mission of the North Carolina Onslow Bight Conservation Forum is: *To provide for open discussion among the participants concerning the long-term conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and ecosystem sustainability throughout the Onslow Bight landscape compatible with the land use, conservation and management objectives of the participating organizations and agencies.*

North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy: These land conservation organizations work independently or with partners to conserve ecologically significant lands. Many acres of land acquired by these organizations have been transferred to NCWRC, and continued partnerships like these provide opportunities to conserve additional alligator habitat.

North Carolina Coastal Federation: This advocacy organization works to protect and restore coastal water quality and habitats throughout the North Carolina coast by collaborating with and engaging people committed to preserving the coast. NCWRC works with the North Carolina Coastal Federation to restore wetlands and create marsh habitat to provide alligators more places to live.

Federal Agencies

Department of Defense: Marine Corps Air Stations at Cherry Point and New River, the Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune, and the Navy Base at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point all partner with NCWRC on various projects. The military is very involved in both the Cape Fear Arch and Onslow Bight Conservation Forums. Land acquisition, wildlife research, and wildlife surveys and monitoring are all consistent activities between our agencies. Camp Lejeune has provided NCWRC with alligator survey data from that base, and continued cooperation will provide research, monitoring and habitat conservation opportunities.

United States Forest Service: The Croatan National Forest lies within Craven, Jones and Carteret Counties. A cooperative agreement between NCWRC and the U.S. Forest Service provides that NCWRC will conduct wildlife management activities on the forest. The forest is in the Game Lands Program, and is a valued location for hunting. Alligator population numbers are not known on the property, but are thought to be at least average given the northern latitude. Few complaints about alligators on the Croatan National Forest have been received. There seems to be good potential for the Croatan National Forest to be a large reservoir of alligators, although there may be a need to take some alligators in isolated locations where the forest interfaces with urban settings.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service: The FWS has purview over federally listed species, so our partnership with them is paramount. The American alligator was declared recovered in 1987, and was the first success story for the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS still regulates the legal trade in alligators and their products to protect the federally-listed Threatened American crocodile because of their

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similarity in appearance. The recovery of the alligator could not have been achieved without the partnership between the USFWS and state wildlife agencies. In addition, the National Wildlife refuges of Swan Quarter, Cedar Island, Roanoke River, Alligator River, Pea Island, Pocosin Lakes and Lake Mattamuskeet all provide valuable habitat for alligators at the northern end of their range.

Department of Environmental Quality

National Estuarine Research Reserve: The North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is within the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Coastal Management. Most of the reserves are within estuaries, and thus have less importance to alligators as habitat. However, the largest reserve (Emily Richardson Preyer Buckridge Reserve) is over 27,000 acres strategically located in Tyrrell County between Pocosin Lakes and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuges. This property is almost entirely forested wetlands and freshwater marsh. NCWRC has an opportunity to Partner with NERR to help manage alligator populations on their lands.

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries: The Division of Marine Fisheries manages and makes rules for fisheries in estuarine environments, so they have minimal impact on alligator habitat. However, they do have a significant enforcement division (Marine Patrol) that works with NCWRC wildlife officers. The Marine Patrol is sometimes called upon to help enforce wildlife laws when violations occur in marine environments.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources: The N.C. Forest Service owns several state forests. Bladen Lakes State Forest has the largest potential for alligators. At almost 33,000 acres, this inland forest in Bladen County is mostly uplands, but contains ditches, canals, ponds, lakes and streams that provide potential alligator habitat. It is also located next to or near several state parks, state natural areas or NCWRC Game Lands. This geologically significant area contains numerous Carolina bays that provide additional alligator habitat. Some human and alligator interactions occur here. Additional opportunities exist for land managers to collaborate in the management of this area for the alligator population.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension: The Cooperative Extension Service offers an educational partnership with numerous programs implemented by county field faculty and supported by university-based specialists. This large-scale outreach system could be valuable in reaching landowners and homeowners who have alligator technical guidance issues.

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation: There are numerous state parks in coastal North Carolina that provide habitat for alligators, and NCWRC has an excellent relationship with state parks. They also do significant monitoring and survey work, and would be an exceptional partner for additional survey efforts. No hunting is permitted in state parks, so these lands provide refugia for alligators.

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences: The state museum provides valuable data with respect to alligators. They also occasionally conduct surveys or research on wildlife species. Additional partner activities should provide better data collection and storage opportunities.

North Carolina Aquariums and North Carolina Zoo: Both these agencies are part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. They both provide opportunities on occasion for rearing wildlife to release into the wild. In addition, the aquariums and zoo provide a tremendous education and outreach service. Each of the three coastal aquariums have displays involving alligators.

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V. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: SCHEDULE OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS BY YEAR

Table 3. Objectives and implementation schedule.

Objective	Completion Date	Description	Related Goal(s)	Estimated Cost (4-yr)
1	1-Nov-17	Adopt, publish online, and implement Alligator Management Plan for North Carolina	A, B, C, D, E	\$ 100,000
2	1-Feb-18	Identify communities with frequent human-alligator interactions	B, C, D, E	\$ 500
3	1-Feb-18	Implement public education program emphasizing public safety, prohibitions on illegal take and feeding, and alligator ecology and management	D	\$ 10,000
4	1-Feb-18	Refine and adopt response guidelines, including third party involvement, to alligators causing public safety or property damage problems	C, D	\$ 500
5	1-May-18	Assess local government interest in targeted removal of alligators by hunters	C, D	\$ 1,000
6	1-Oct-18	Complete targeted removal of alligators by hunters where appropriate per requests of municipalities	A, B, C, E	\$ 24,000
7	1-Feb-19	Identify and map important alligator habitat and target areas for conservation attention	A, B	\$ 75,000
8	1-Mar-19	Develop first approximation of the number and extent of populations of alligators	A, B	\$ 2,500
9	1-May-19	Assess interest of municipalities in the targeted removal of alligators by hunters	C, D	\$ 1,000
10	1-Oct-19	Complete targeted removal of alligators by hunters where appropriate per requests of municipalities	A, B, C, E	\$ 24,000
11	1-Dec-19	Design an Alligator Management Assistance Program (AMAP)	C, E	\$ 2,500
12	1-Feb-20	Complete development of a watchable wildlife alligator viewing location on a game land	D, E	\$ 20,000
13	1-May-20	Assess interest of municipalities in the targeted removal of alligators by hunters	C, D	\$ 1,000
14	1-May-20	Complete an assessment of cultural carrying capacity by county in AMU 1	A, B, D	\$ 150,000
15	1-May-20	Complete study to determine economic values of alligators in North Carolina	A, B, D	\$ 150,000
16	1-May-20	Complete study to evaluate usefulness of alligator survey techniques in North Carolina	B	\$ 150,000
17	1-May-20	Complete study to improve estimates of vital rates and age-class distributions for metapopulations in AMU 1	A, B	\$ 200,000
18	1-May-20	Complete study to investigate spatial ecology of alligators with emphasis on interchange between metapopulations and fate of relocated alligators	A, B, C	\$ 200,000
19	1-Jun-20	Complete development of technical materials to help public land managers develop watchable wildlife viewing areas for alligators	D, E	\$ 5,000
20	1-Jun-20	Review and adjust as needed the alligator population goals (increase, maintain, decrease) for each Alligator Management Unit (AMU)	A, D	\$ 1,000
21	1-Jun-20	Review and revise as needed metrics for number of recreational hunt permits to hunt alligators where biologically sustainable and socially acceptable	A, E	\$ 1,000
22	1-Oct-20	Complete targeted removal of alligators by hunters where appropriate per requests of municipalities	A, B, C, E	\$ 24,000
				\$ 1,143,000

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The initiatives proposed in this Alligator Management Plan are achievable within four years given sufficient attention, staffing, and funding (Table 3). The highest priority objectives with the earliest completion dates are those important to improving public safety. Objectives relating to public enjoyment of alligators, while important, have completion dates ending the four-year period. This is due to the need to conduct research to provide the scientific basis for management of alligator populations.

VI. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

A. *Alligator Management Revenues and Costs*

Agency Revenues

The implementation of the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan will require upfront and long-term costs for NCWRC. NCWRC does not expect to receive any substantial revenues from the management of alligators, although some funds could be collected from hunters selected by lottery to receive alligator permits. Most funding to support more intensive management of alligators in North Carolina will come from other sources. Two primary sources are the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund and a federal grant, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife funds are given by North Carolina taxpayers for conservation of nongame and at-risk wildlife, donations which in 2017 totaled about \$230,000. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Funds are used to match State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, funds appropriated by Congress to conserve at-risk species. The amount of State and Tribal Wildlife Grant funding allocated by the federal government to North Carolina in 2017 was about \$1,275,000. These funds are used to support conservation work for aquatic organisms, reptiles and amphibians. Another funding source that could support alligator management is the Wildlife Endowment Fund.

Agency Costs

The current estimated cost of the proposed initiatives in this Alligator Management Plan is \$1,143,000 over a 4-year period (Table 3). This estimate does not include the cost of redirecting current staff to alligator management work. Using existing agency staff to perform new or additional tasks incurs opportunity costs (i.e., an existing or different task will be forgone). Some staff time savings will be realized by shifting responsibility for alligator relocations or lethal removals to the private sector.

The estimated cost to produce and implement the Alligator Management Plan is about \$100,000. These costs were incurred by permanent and temporary staff to support the Alligator TF, and travel to attend task force meetings and public forums.

The Alligator Management Plan calls for an expanded education and outreach program. NCWRC will incur the production cost for materials, though no increased staff will be necessary. Estimated cost to produce materials and pay for travel for outreach activities is \$10,000.

NCWRC may need a temporary staff position to support targeted removal of alligators by hunters in municipalities, depending on demand for technical guidance services. Current cost for a 6-month position is \$17,700. This work will also require effort by District Biologists, but likely add minimal additional costs beyond travel to meet with local officials and production of hunting permits. Total cost by the agency over a four-year period is estimated at \$75,000.

NCWRC will pay for improving or constructing wildlife viewing facilities on game lands to enable easier access to safer alligator viewing. These improvements could include viewing platforms and parking areas.

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Estimated cost is \$20,000 per facility, but the actual cost is expected to vary considerably depending upon site characteristics.

Completion of the six studies outlined in Section D could cost about \$925,000. The research is required to provide the scientific basis for management of alligator populations. Contractors will be hired to conduct the research needed, although staff may have substantial involvement in some of this work.

Costs to Private Sector

Landowners will incur costs should they require the services of Nuisance Alligator Agent, which will be at the discretion of the agent. The cost to remove an alligator is expected to be in the range of \$300 - \$500, depending on the services rendered.

Private citizens (licensed hunters) will pay for the opportunity to harvest an alligator either through hunts in municipalities or permitted hunts in AMU 1. Permit fees and any associated cost (guide service fees, etc.) fall to the hunter. Should a landowner wish to enroll in the AMAP program, they could incur some costs from providing access to NCWRC, collecting data on alligators, or implementing habitat management recommendations. However, there may be revenue received from providing hunting access to alligator permit holders.

Costs to Business/Commercial Sector

Businesses will need to pay for Nuisance Alligator Agent services, like private landowners. Real estate businesses may benefit from improved management of alligators in residential areas.

Costs to Municipalities

Municipalities will also need to pay for Nuisance Alligator Agent services as well as whatever costs they would incur if choosing to remove some alligators with the help of hunters. The relative cost of alligator management by these two options will depend on the number of alligators that must be handled each year. Municipalities may also choose to display informational (educational) signage about how to safely coexist with alligators.

Costs to Other State Agencies

Other state agencies may incur costs associated with managing alligators on their lands. Agencies may wish to participate in outreach programs or alligator research and incur costs from those activities.

Costs to Federal Agencies

Federal agencies may incur costs associated with managing alligators on their lands. Agencies may wish to participate in outreach programs or alligator research and incur costs from those activities.

B. Efforts to Minimize Costs and Adverse Economic Impacts

Costs to NCWRC have been reduced in that no additional permanent employees are required to enact any of the management objectives outlined in the Alligator Management Plan. The agency could redirect staff time and other resources to other alligator management objectives (e.g., outreach, research) when an expanded cadre of Nuisance Alligator Agents become available. Where appropriate, the use of licensed hunters to manage alligator numbers could reduce costs to both private and public sector land managers. Additionally, the high cost of research to support the proposed management approach will be reduced by awarding research contracts through a competitive request for proposals process.

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C. *Potentially Affected Parties*

The North Carolina Alligator Management Plan contains topics and initiatives that could affect a wide variety of individuals and organizations (Table 4).

Table 4. Individuals and organizations potentially influenced by this plan.

Type	Local	State	National
Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • Counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRC • DOT • DACS • DEQ • State Parks • State Forest Service • NWAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOD (military bases) • USFWS • USDA (Croatan NF) • USDA (APHIS) • USGS
Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golf courses • WDCAs • Nuisance Alligator Agents • Rental housing providers • Realty companies • Chambers of Commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental housing providers
Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeowners (HOAs) • Wildlife clubs • Conservation groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Herp Society • NC PARC • Alligator Alliance • NC Wildlife Federation • The Nature Conservancy • NC Coastal Federation • NC Coastal Land Trust • Cape Fear Arch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASIH • Crocodile Specialist Group • Herpetologists League • PARC • SEAFWA • SSAR • TWS
Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics (teachers and students) • Homeowners • Hunters, hunting guides • Owners of rental property • Paddlers • Swimmers • Tourists • Wildlife watchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics (teachers and students) • Tourists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics (teachers and students) • Tourists

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VIII. GLOSSARY

A. *Definitions of Terms*

Adaptive Management:	Adaptive management is a systematic approach for improving resource management by learning from the outcomes of management actions.
Alligator Management Unit:	Geographic areas within the Coastal Plain where both alligator population management and human sociological goals align.
Apex Predator:	A predator that exists at the top of the food chain within an ecosystem that is not preyed upon [as a healthy adult in the wild] by other species in that system.
Biological Carrying Capacity:	The maximum population size of the species that the environment can sustain indefinitely, given the food, habitat, water, and other necessities available in the environment.
City as defined by § 160A-1(2):	"City" means a municipal corporation organized under the laws of this State for the better government of the people within its jurisdiction and having the powers, duties, privileges, and immunities conferred by law on cities, towns, and villages. The term "city" does not include counties or municipal corporations organized for a special purpose. "City" is interchangeable with the terms "town" and "village," is used throughout this Chapter in preference to those terms, and shall mean any city as defined in this subdivision without regard to the terminology employed in charters, local acts, other portions of the General Statutes, or local customary usage.
Conservation:	Usage, improvement, and protection of natural resources in a wise manner, ensuring derivation of their highest economic and social benefits on a continuing or long-term basis.
Cultural Carrying Capacity:	The maximum number of individuals of a species that the human population will accept.
Fecundity:	The number of young produced per year for each reproductive-age female in the population.
Gene Migration:	The alteration of the frequencies of alleles of genes in a population, resulting from interbreeding with organisms from another population; the movement of individuals and their genetic material from one population to another.
Genetic Differentiation:	The accumulation of differences in allelic frequencies between completely or partially isolated populations due to evolutionary forces such as selection or genetic drift. In population genetics, allele frequencies show the genetic diversity/variation of a species population or the richness of its gene pool.
Genetic Variation:	Differences in genes between individual members of a population, or the frequency in which the various gene types are expressed. Genetic

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variation is important for the survival and adaptation of a species, as it helps in terms of natural selection and evolution.

Keystone Species:	A species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend, such that if it were removed the ecosystem would change drastically; a keystone species has a disproportionately large effect on its environment relative to its abundance.
Mesopredator:	Any midranking predator in a food web, regardless of its size or taxonomy; a non-apex predator which often increases in abundance when a higher-ranking predator that preys on it is reduced or eliminated from the ecosystem.
Metapopulation:	A group of spatially separated populations of the same species which interact at some level; a regional group of connected populations of a species.
Mutualist:	One of the two species in a relationship from which both species benefits.
Population:	A group of alligators that interbreed and live in the same place at the same time.
Population Growth Rate:	Lambda (λ) describes the population growth over a single time unit where λ is called the finite growth rate (a per-capita rate). The alligator population grows when $\lambda > 1$, stays constant when $\lambda = 1$, and declines when λ is between 0 and 1.
Recruitment Rate:	Number of young produced that survive to breeding age per adult alligator.
Relocation:	The removal of an alligator from one place to another, often because of a concern for public safety or property damage.
Stakeholder:	A person, group, or organization with an interest in alligators and alligator management.
Viable population:	A population likely to persist over the long-term, in this plan defined as a population where the population growth rate (λ) is estimated as equal to or greater than 1.

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Wild Animal:

Game animals; fur-bearing animals; feral swine; and all other wild mammals except marine mammals found in coastal fishing waters. In addition, this definition includes members of the following groups which are on the federal list of endangered or threatened species: wild amphibians, wild reptiles except sea turtles inhabiting and depending upon coastal fishing waters, and wild invertebrates except invertebrates declared to be pests under the Structural Pest Control Act of North Carolina of 1955 or the North Carolina Pesticide Law of 1971. Nothing in this definition is intended to abrogate G.S. 113-132(c), confer jurisdiction upon the Wildlife Resources Commission as to any subject exclusively regulated by any other agency, or to authorize the Wildlife Resources Commission by its regulations to supersede valid provision of law or regulation administered by any other agency.

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B. Acronyms

AMAP:	Alligator Management Assistance Program
AMU:	Alligator Management Unit
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
ASIH	American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulations
CITES:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
DACS	North Carolina Department of Agricultural Services
DEQ:	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
DOD	United States Department of Defense
DOT	North Carolina Department of Transportation
MYA:	Million years ago
NCAC	North Carolina Administrative Code
NCGS:	North Carolina General Statutes
NWAC	North Carolina Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee
PARC	Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
SEAFWA	Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
SSAR	Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
TSP:	Thermosensitive period
TWS	The Wildlife Society
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS:	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Service
WDCA:	Wildlife Damage Control Agent
WRC:	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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IX. APPENDIX A – NCWRC RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ALLIGATOR TASK FORCE



Resolution Regarding Proposed Establishment of an Alligator Hunting Season in North Carolina

Whereas, the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) occurs along the southeast Coastal Plain, into coastal North Carolina, where it reaches the current northern limit of its geographic range, and

Whereas, cooler environmental conditions in North Carolina result in differences in some life history traits from alligators in more southern states, and

Whereas, alligators in North Carolina have slower rates of growth and achieve sexual maturity later than alligators in more southern states, and

Whereas, these variable life history traits make alligators in North Carolina more vulnerable to over-harvest, and

Whereas, alligators have a patchy and variable distribution in coastal North Carolina, and

Whereas, there are indications that the distribution and relative abundance of alligators in some locales has increased over the last thirty years, and

Whereas, there is public interest in allowing take of alligators through hunting in areas and situations where harvest and the alligator populations are sustainable, and

Whereas, sustaining the alligator population in North Carolina requires unique conditions for allowing take through hunting or other means, and

Whereas, in response to public interest and some situations of over-abundance, the Commission took a proposal (H4) to public hearings in January 2016 to conditionally establish an alligator hunting season in which take would only be allowed by Commission issued permits, and

Whereas, 328 comments were received from these public hearings and through an on-line portal on Proposal H4, 133 (41%) of which were in opposition, and

Whereas, eight organizations including the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the North Carolina Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, the Carteret County Wildlife Club, the Coastal Plain Conservation Group, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, the North Carolina Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, The Alligator Alliance, and the North Carolina Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee have all submitted letters or resolutions in opposition to opening an alligator hunting season at this time, and

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Whereas, Commission staff received 648 standardized emails in opposition to alligator hunting.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that while the Commission believes the take of alligators in some situations is reasonable and appropriate, based on public comments and the need to further refine conditions under which alligator hunting should be allowed, the Commission does not approve proposal H4 taken to public hearings in January 2016, and

Now, therefore be it further resolved that the Commission directs the Executive Director to:

Examine options under existing statutory authorities to utilize the skills and expertise of North Carolina sportsmen and women to provide assistance in removal of alligators under nuisance or depredation circumstances,, and to establish a North Carolina Alligator Task Force to develop a North Carolina Alligator Management Plan that includes:

- Evaluation of all available biological information on alligators in North Carolina,
- Identification of knowledge gaps and additional research needed on alligator population demography, historical changes in alligator habitats, and public attitudes and opinions on alligator conservation,
- Identification of areas where alligators may be over-populated and recommend biological and social strategies to address alligator management issues in these areas,
- Recommendations of geographical management zones,
- Recommendations for metrics to establish the number of permits per year that could be issued for opportunities to harvest alligators by hunting where sustainable and consistent with local alligator population, habitat, and social conditions, and
- Recommendations on a framework for gathering public input on the North Carolina Alligator Management Plan.

Approved this the 11th day of February, 2016, in an official meeting by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.



John Litton Clark, Chairman



Gordon Myers, Executive Director

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X. APPENDIX B – ALLIGATOR TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Allen Boynton, NCWRC - (Chair)

Alvin Braswell, NC Museum of Natural Sciences (retired)

Dillon Epp, Orton Plantation

Dr. Chris Moorman, North Carolina State University

Dr. Courtney Mitchell IV, Camp Bryan Farms

Dr. Thomas Rainwater, Clemson University

Ed Corey, NC State Parks

Evin Stanford, NCWRC

J.T. Windham, Brunswick County resident

Jay Wheless, Wheless Law Firm

Jeff Hall, NCWRC

Jeff Messinger, Camp Bryan Farms

Keith Rogers (retired) NCWRC

Sgt. Brandon Dean, NCWRC

Thomas Padgett (retired), NCWRC

Wanda Diefes, Lake Waccamaw resident

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XI. APPENDIX C – GUIDELINES FOR THE NUISANCE ALLIGATOR AGENT PROGRAM

A. *Nuisance Alligator Agent Qualifications*

- 1) Program applicants must be able to demonstrate to NCWRC that they have the experience and/or ability to capture and relocate alligators. Preference will be given to individuals who have prior experience trapping and handling wild, feral, and/or livestock animals.
- 2) Program applicants must show NCWRC that they have the necessary equipment to capture and relocate alligators, including at a minimum the following: ropes, cables, snares, and poles.
- 3) Program applicants must demonstrate to NCWRC that they are knowledgeable in the use of alligator capture and relocation equipment.
- 4) Program applicants that are not currently a Wildlife Damage Control Agent must agree to a criminal history check. Applicants will not be approved if they have a conviction within the past 5 years for charges related to animal abuse or fish or wildlife violations. Convictions for other offenses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 5) Nuisance Alligator Agents must apply annually to receive an Endangered Species permit that allows them to have alligators in their possession while conducting alligator capture and relocation activities. Nuisance Alligator Agent activities cannot take place unless the individual has obtained a current Endangered Species permit, and the permit must be in their possession when conducting alligator capture and relocation activities. Nuisance Alligator Agents are not required to also be a Wildlife Damage Control Agent, unless they are involved in nuisance/damage control work for wildlife species other than alligators.

B. *Approved Alligator Capture Equipment*

For Capture

- 1) Handheld, hand-thrown, or pole-mounted cable snares affixed to enough rope or cable to secure, control, and take possession of the alligator.
- 2) Heavy-duty fishing rod (e.g., surf or offshore rod) and reel and a snagging hook. The snagging hook shall not be made of stainless steel or other noncorrosive material that will not corrode with time in the event the alligator escapes with an imbedded hook.
- 3) Murphy traps, other trip-snare style traps, or cage traps are allowed if the trap design can safely capture the alligator without causing injury to the animal and minimizes the potential to capture nontarget species. All traps must be marked with the Endangered Species permit number assigned to the Nuisance Alligator Agent.
- 4) Other equipment may be approved for use by NCWRC on a case-by-case basis. Equipment that may not be used for capturing alligators include firearms, archery equipment, set hooks (baited or unbaited), or conibear or other body-gripping traps that cause injury or death to the alligator.

For Transport

- 1) Captured alligators must be transported in a device consisting of a secure tube, cage, or other type of enclosure that provides for the security and safety of the alligator and humans. Transport device must accommodate the size of the alligator being transported. Alligators must not be transported in the

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back of open bed trucks, open trailers, or other vehicles that do not allow for security of the alligator and safety to humans.

C. Protocols and Guidelines for Responding to a Nuisance Alligator Situation

- 1) Nuisance alligator reports will be investigated by NCWRC personnel. If agency personnel determine issuance of a depredation permit is warranted, a permit will be issued to the landholder with the Nuisance Alligator Agent of their choice being listed as a 2nd party.
- 2) Local NCWRC Division of Law Enforcement personnel will be notified that the depredation permit has been issued and that alligator capture and relocation activities will be taking place.
- 3) Any traps that are set must be checked at least once daily by the Nuisance Alligator Agent or his/her designee. Note that unless they are also a permitted Nuisance Alligator Agent, the only action related to alligator trapping the designee can participate in is visibly checking the trap. The trap check designee cannot participate in setting traps, baiting traps, maintaining traps, or removing alligators from traps unless they are also a permitted Nuisance Alligator Agent. Traps in urban areas, or other areas with high human activity, must be checked at least twice daily with each check occurring at least 10 hours apart.
- 4) Live bait will not be used to bait traps.
- 5) Under normal circumstances, alligators will be handled and manipulated with the Nuisance Alligator Agent having no or minimal physical contact with the animal. If determined to be necessary, captured alligators may be restrained using rope or tape. Wire or metal of any kind shall not be used to restrain alligators after capture. The legs of restrained alligators may be bound by tape or rope alongside the alligator, but the legs shall not be tied behind the alligator's back as to cause permanent injuries.
- 6) Care will be taken to avoid exposing captured alligators to excessive heat throughout the capture, transportation, and release process.
- 7) Alligators that are to be released offsite must be transported in a transport device as described in the above section titled Approved Alligator Capture Equipment.
- 8) Captured alligators must be scanned for a PIT tag with equipment provided by NCWRC, and unmarked alligators must be PIT tagged and/or marked following NCWRC guidelines. The following data must also be obtained and submitted from each captured alligator: total length, snout-to-vent length, tissue sample, and PIT tag or other marker identification. Other data collection requirements may be implemented by NCWRC as needed to address alligator management and research needs.
- 9) Captured alligators must be released as soon after capture as possible and cannot be held in captivity longer than 24 hours.
- 10) Relocated alligators must be discretely released at locations preapproved by NCWRC. Alligators may not be released on private lands without the permission of the landholder.
- 11) Nuisance Alligator Agents must notify NCWRC of any alligator captures by the end of the next business day via telephone or electronic means.
- 12) Nuisance Alligator Agents may not euthanize an alligator unless prior approval has been granted by NCWRC personnel. Authorization for euthanasia will only be provided if the alligator is suffering from severe injury, survival is highly unlikely, and agency personnel cannot respond in a timely fashion.
- 13) Any dead or injured alligators must be reported to NCWRC by the end of the next business day. Alligators that are found dead, die during the capture and relocation process, or that are euthanized must

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be disposed of via burial or at a landfill. No parts of a dead alligator may be retained by a Nuisance Alligator Agent or any other individual for any reason, except:

- a. Tissue samples (i.e. femur bone, liver, and scutes) will be collected from dead alligators to be submitted to NCWRC staff.
- b. Educational or research facilities may receive alligator carcasses or carcass parts with prior approval from NCWRC.

14) Any fees charged by Nuisance Alligator Agents are set by the agent or otherwise negotiated between the agent and their client. NCWRC does not set or establish fees for Nuisance Alligator Agent activities.

D. Emergency Situations & Incidents on Public Waterway and Roads

Emergency Situations

An emergency is one involving an alligator that must be moved immediately due to current or imminent threat to human safety, pet or livestock safety, safety of the alligator, property damage, or obstruction of traffic. Nuisance Alligator Agents must obtain verbal approval from NCWRC staff prior to acting in emergency situations. If the Nuisance Alligator Agent cannot reach a local agency representative, they can obtain verbal permission from NCWRC's communications center in Raleigh (800-662-7137). A depredation permit is not required when taking actions in emergency situations, and Nuisance Alligator Agents may collect payment for services rendered under such circumstances. If NCWRC becomes aware of an emergency that agency staff cannot respond to, agency personnel will attempt to locate a Nuisance Alligator Agent to capture and relocate the alligator. In these circumstance the Nuisance Alligator Agent closest to the incident will be the initial point of contact. If necessary, contacts with other Nuisance Alligator Agents will be based on proximity to the incident.

Incidents on Public Waterways and Roads

When an alligator presents a demonstrable nuisance or public safety issue in a public waterway or on a public road, NCWRC in some situations may request that a Nuisance Alligator Agent capture and relocate the animal. When NCWRC contacts a Nuisance Alligator Agent to capture and relocate alligators in public waterways or roadways, the agent closest to the incident location will be the initial point of contact. If necessary, contacts with other Nuisance Alligator Agents will be based on proximity to the incident.

Reporting Requirements

Nuisance Alligator Agents are required to notify NCWRC of any alligator captures, mortalities, or injuries by the end of the next business day. This notification will contain the GPS location of the capture site, GPS location of the release site, PIT tag and/or other marker identification, total length, snout-to-vent length, date(s) of capture and release, and general circumstances regarding the incident. By December 31 of the year the Nuisance Alligator Agent's Endangered Species permit was issued, each agent will submit a completed NCWRC-provided report form for each alligator that was relocated during the permitted period. The report form can be submitted via paper or electronic means and will include the following information on each alligator relocated: capture and release date(s), GPS location of the capture and release sites, method of capture, injuries and condition, total length, snout-to-vent length, PIT tag and/or other marker identification, and circumstances justifying relocation. If an alligator is found to be dead, or authorization is given to euthanize the animal, information on the cause of death and disposition of the carcass will also be included on the report form.

North Carolina Alligator Management Plan

XII. APPENDIX D – PREHISTORIC PRESENCE OF CROCODYLIANS AND THEIR ANCESTORS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Following the Permian-Triassic extinction event that took place approximately 252 million years ago (MYA), a newly evolved group of animals referred to as archosaurs (see Glossary) became the dominant land vertebrates (Fig. 4). Modern crocodylians and their extinct relatives belong to a group of archosaurs known as crocodylomorphs. *Carnufex carolinensis*, one of the oldest and earliest diverging crocodylomorphs described to date, was discovered in 2003 from the Carnian Pekin Formation (~231 MYA) in Chatham County, North Carolina.¹ While small-bodied crocodylomorphs had previously been unearthed by paleontologists from late Triassic excavations^{2,3}, *Carnufex* was much more formidable at 3 meters long and boasting a skull length of 50 cm. This find reveals that crocodylomorphs filled top predator roles in the equatorial regions of Pangea prior to the global dominance of dinosaurs in the early Jurassic period.

Descendants of the crocodylomorphs that had survived the Triassic-Jurassic extinction event, alligatoroids were the first group of crocodylians to evolve by the Campanian period of the late Cretaceous epoch (~72-83 MYA). Fossils of *Deinosuchus rugosus*, one of the earliest-known alligatoroids, were uncovered at Phoebus Landing and the Black Creek Formation site in Bladen and Sampson counties of North Carolina around the time of the Civil War.⁴ Considerably larger than any living crocodylians, *D. rugosus* would have typically measured 8 meters long and weighed in at approximately 2.3 tons.

There are currently 24 described species of crocodylians in the world.⁵ The genus *Alligator* includes the only two extant species that can endure temperate climates, the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) and the Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*). *A. mississippiensis* has existed in North America for at least 7 million years.⁶ North Carolina contains the northernmost portion of the American alligator's present-day range.

¹ Zanno, Lindsay E., Susan Drymala, Sterling J. Nesbitt, and Vincent P. Schneider. 2015. Early crocodylomorph increases top-tier predator diversity during rise of dinosaurs. *Scientific Reports* 5(9276). DOI: 10.1038/srep09276.

² Drymala, Susan M. and Lindsay E. Zanno. 2016. Osteology of *Carnufex carolinensis* (Archosauria: Psuedosuchia) from the Pekin Formation of North Carolina and Its Implications for Early Crocodylomorph Evolution. *PLoS One* 11(6): e0157528. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0157528.

³ Sues, Hans-Dieter, Paul E. Olsen, Joseph G. Carter, and Diane M. Scott. 2003. A new crocodylomorph archosaur from the Upper Triassic of North Carolina. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 23(2): 329-343.

⁴ Schwimmer, David R. 2002. *King of the Crocodylians: The Paleobiology of Deinosuchus*. Indiana University Press, USA.

⁵ International Union for the Conservation of Nature Crocodile Specialist Group [IUCNCSG]. 2017. IUCNCSG Crocodylian Species page. <<http://www.iucncsg.org/pages/Crocodylian-Species.html>>. Accessed 24 Mar 2017.

⁶ Whiting, Evan T., David W. Steadman, and Kent A. Vliet. 2016. Cranial polymorphism and systematics of Miocene and living Alligator in North America. *Journal of Herpetology* 50(2): 306-315.

North Carolina Alligator Management Plan

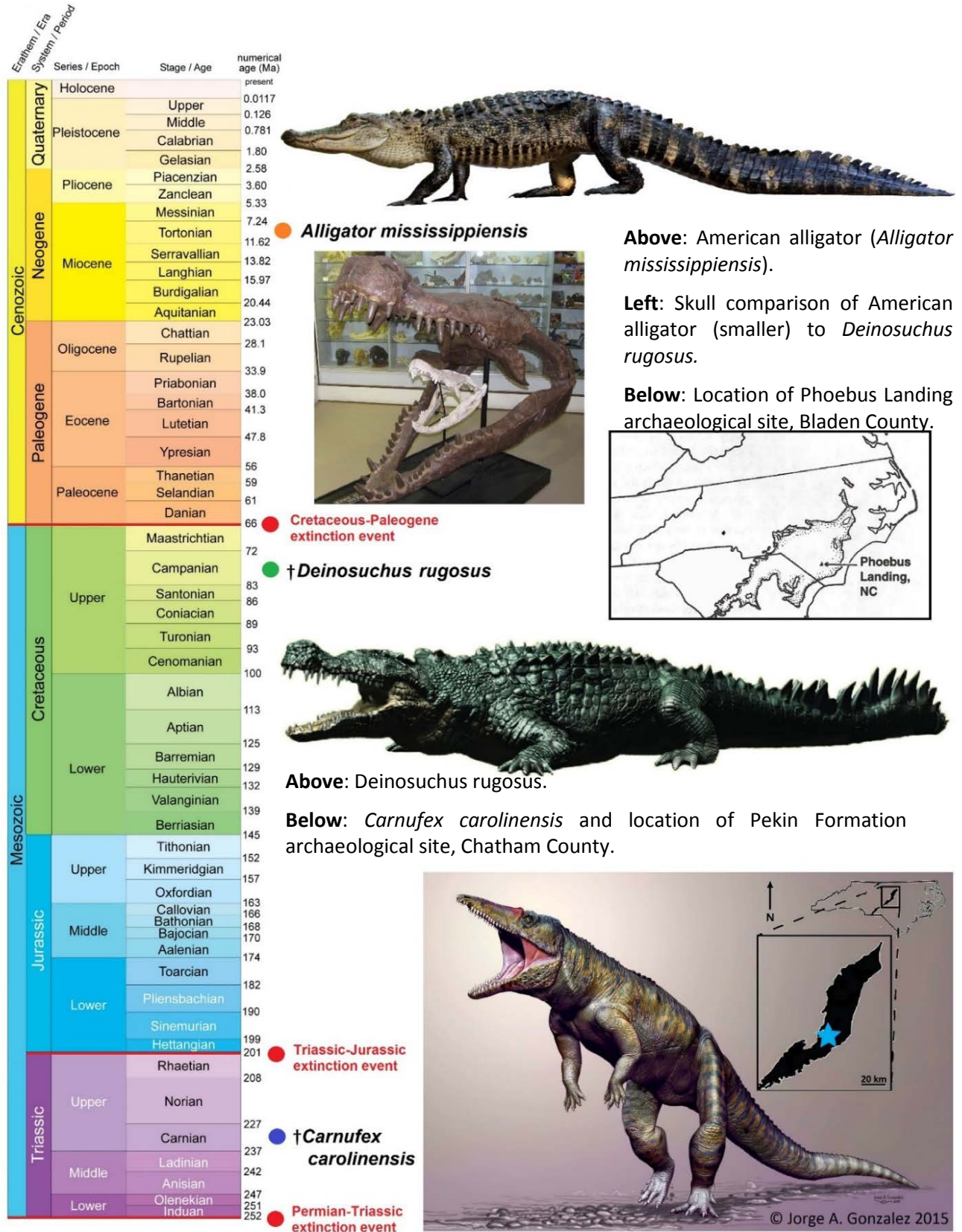


Figure 5. Geologic timeline for evolution of American alligator.

EXHIBIT G-1
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Richard Clark_Brent Wilson
Date First Presented to Commission:	6/14/2017
Tract Name:	Salter's Creek
County:	Carteret
Acreage:	5,495
Tax Value:	\$2,796,774
Property Owner/Representative:	Sailors of Sugg Harbor/NCCLT-Janice Allen
Phone:	252-634-1927
Email Address:	janice@coastallandtrust.org
Address:	3301 Trent Road, Suite G New Bern, NC 28562

Primary Purpose:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

Program Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Grant Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	REPI
<input type="checkbox"/>	NAWCA

Owner Interest:

<input type="checkbox"/>	High
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	75/25	Match:

Funding Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Additional Comments:
 NCCLT Transfer for \$100,000.00 Non-Federal funds. Owner's appraised value \$4,460,000

EXHIBIT G-1
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name:	Salter's Creek (Sellers-Trustees of Sailors of Snug Harbor)
County:	Carteret

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Salter's Creek Tract consists of 5,495 acres in Carteret Co., between NC Hwy 12 and Long Bay approximately 2.5 miles NW of Atlantic, NC. It is adjacent to Cedar Island NWR and Piney Island Bombing Range (BT-11). This Tract hosts estuarine marsh, pocosin and longleaf pine ridges. 80% of site scored 10 while the remaining 20% scores 7 using the Biodiversity Wildlife Habitat Assessment. This land is within Natural Heritage's Exceptional Atlantic Natural Area and lies in a Sentinel Landscapes county, and is part of Audubon NC Cedar Island Marsh Important Bird Area (Tidal Marsh, Open Water). Species of Greatest Conservation Need potentially associated with this property include Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Wayne's black-throated green warbler, Carolina watersnake, Atlantic sturgeon, and the shortnose sturgeon. Primary access is provided by a single unimproved woods road approximately 3.5 miles in length. There are several spur roads/trails which could provide users access to most of the tract. Currently the tract is severely fire suppressed. Pine woods have been thinned, however, longleaf pine and associated understory remain relatively intact.

Tract Name	Salter Creek
Date	August 8, 2017
Staff Completing Form	Richard Clark, Cindy Simpson, Sarah Schweitzer, Brent Wilson

Species	0.926
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3

Comments
SGCN known to occur on the tract or in adjacent waters: 1. TERRESTRIAL SPECIES Carolina Watersnake (state listed as Special Concern) Wayne's Black-throated Green Warbler (considered by USFWS as Federal Species of Concern); also identified as SGCN of highest conservation priority in SC and VA. Red-cockaded Woodpecker (federal and state listed as Endangered); also identified as SGCN of highest conservation priority in VA. 2. AQUATIC SPECIES (includes waters at property boundary) Atlantic Sturgeon (federal and state listed as Endangered); also identified as SGCN of highest conservation priority in SC and VA. Shortnose Sturgeon (federal and state listed as Endangered); also identified as SGCN of

Habitat	0.556
Size	2
Quality	1
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	2
Buffer	1

Comments
Large tract. Severely fire suppressed. 3 primary hab types, directly adjacent to existing protected lands.

Public Access	0.556
Hunting/Viewing	1
Fishing	2
Boating	2

Comments
Access is provided by a road which divides tract in half. Access road would require significant upgrades. Tract is adjacent to Salters Creek BAA.

Wildlife Uses	0.667
Hunting	2
Viewing	2
Fishing	2
Boating	2
Education	2

Comments
Opportunities exist for deer, bear, wild turkey and small game hunting. This particular tract would not be conducive to dog deer or bear hunting.

Other Values	0.556
Timber Harvest	2
Local Economy	1
Quality of Life	2

Comments
In addition to fisheries and wildlife habitats, the tract provides numerous ecosystem services: water quality protections, wetlands, and open space.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.333
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	1
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	0
Proximity to Users	1

Comments
Tract is high compatible with adjoining/existing land uses. Maintaining the tract as conservation land fits with the objectives of Sentinental Landscapes (DoD); provides a land use buffer for Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point; and extends protection buffers because of proximity to Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.750
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	3

Comments
Tract contains RCW habitat which needs to be maintained through application of prescribed fire; burning mitigates any threat from disease and pest insects.

Threats	0.533
Number	2
Severity	2
Imminence	1
Manageability	2
Management Cost	1

Comments
3. THREATS RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL According to the NC Forest Service, there is a moderate to high risk of damage from insects and diseases. This can be mitigated through land management actions such as use of prescribed fire to maintain RCW habitat.

Overall Score	3.809
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Instructions for filling out Phase I Worksheet

General

1. Fill in the gray cells in Cover Sheet and Page 2. The rest of these instructions pertain to the Worksheet.
2. The worksheet is for assessing opportunistic land acquisitions. Responses should reflect current conditions.
3. The worksheet is protected so that you can only edit certain cells. These are shaded gray.
4. The gray cells in the worksheet will change color after you have entered text or a numeric value.
5. Ratings for each metric must be an integer from 0 to 3. If you enter anything else, you will get a warning.
6. Except for the Threats category, 0 represents an undesirable condition (i.e., tract is not suitable for acquisition) and 3 represents a preferred condition (i.e., the tract is valuable and worth pursuing). For subjective metrics, start with a mindset that the parcel provides average/moderate conditions (i.e., rating of 2). Don't automatically give a rating of 3 without justification.

Species

1. If necessary, get assistance from staff in other Divisions/Programs or other sources (GIS, NHP, LCC models, etc.).
2. The scores are meant to be based on best professional judgment, not an exact count of species.
3. Rating: 3 = High species count; 2 = Moderate species count; 1 = Low species count; 0 = Very low species count.
4. Overall biodiversity means all species of each group.
5. SCGN species are those listed in the 2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan.
6. Game species are those managed for sport or take. For game species, also consider population size.

Habitat

1. Quality refers to habitat condition. Diversity refers to the variety of habitat types.
2. Rare/Important refers to critical habitat for listed or SCGN species. Consider quantity and quality.
3. Connectivity means the parcel provides a corridor to other conservation lands or connectivity in river systems.
4. Buffer means the parcel provides additional conservation land around a critical habitat type or allows managers to appropriately use tools such as prescribed fire without impacting adjoining land.
5. For all metrics except Size: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
6. Size: 3 = >3,000 acres; 2 = 1,000 - 3,000 acres; 1 = 100 - 1,000 acres; 0 = <100 acres

Public Access

1. The parcel provides public access to fish/wildlife resources on that parcel or to adjoining land or water.
2. Rating: 3 = Excellent existing access or provides critical access; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor; 0 = None

Wildlife Uses

1. Recreational or educational use of resources.
2. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Other Values

1. Timber Harvest is not the value of timber, but the potential to produce, manage and harvest timber.
2. Local Economy is the ability of the parcel to act as an economic driver by attracting substantial public use (e.g., unique wildlife viewing, hunting, etc.).
3. Quality of Life is the indirect/secondary benefit to the local community by providing green space or walking/hiking opportunities.
4. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Feasibility & Logistics

1. Existing Infrastructure includes road system, buildings, etc. Consider quantity and quality. If a liability and has to be removed/repaired, score 0 or 1.
2. Compatibility of Multiple Uses is the ability of the parcel to provide hunting, viewing, fishing, etc. at the same time.
3. Compatibility with Adjoining Land should consider things like public safety, noise, prescribed burns, etc. Consider both the impact of wildlife users and management on adjoining land and adjoining landowners on the parcel.
4. Inholding/Corridor - Does the parcel fill in a hole in existing WRC ownership or does it provide a wildlife corridor?
5. Proximity to Users refers to location of parcel to targeted user groups (e.g., new game land near population center).
6. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Restoration/Mitigation Potential

1. Restoration Potential is the ability to improve species, habitat or access through natural processes or management actions.
Potential: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
2. Threat Mitigation is the degree to which the threat can be avoided, minimized or delayed by acquiring the parcel.
Mitigation: 3 = Avoids Threats; 2 = Minimizes Threats; 1 = Delays Threats; 0 = None

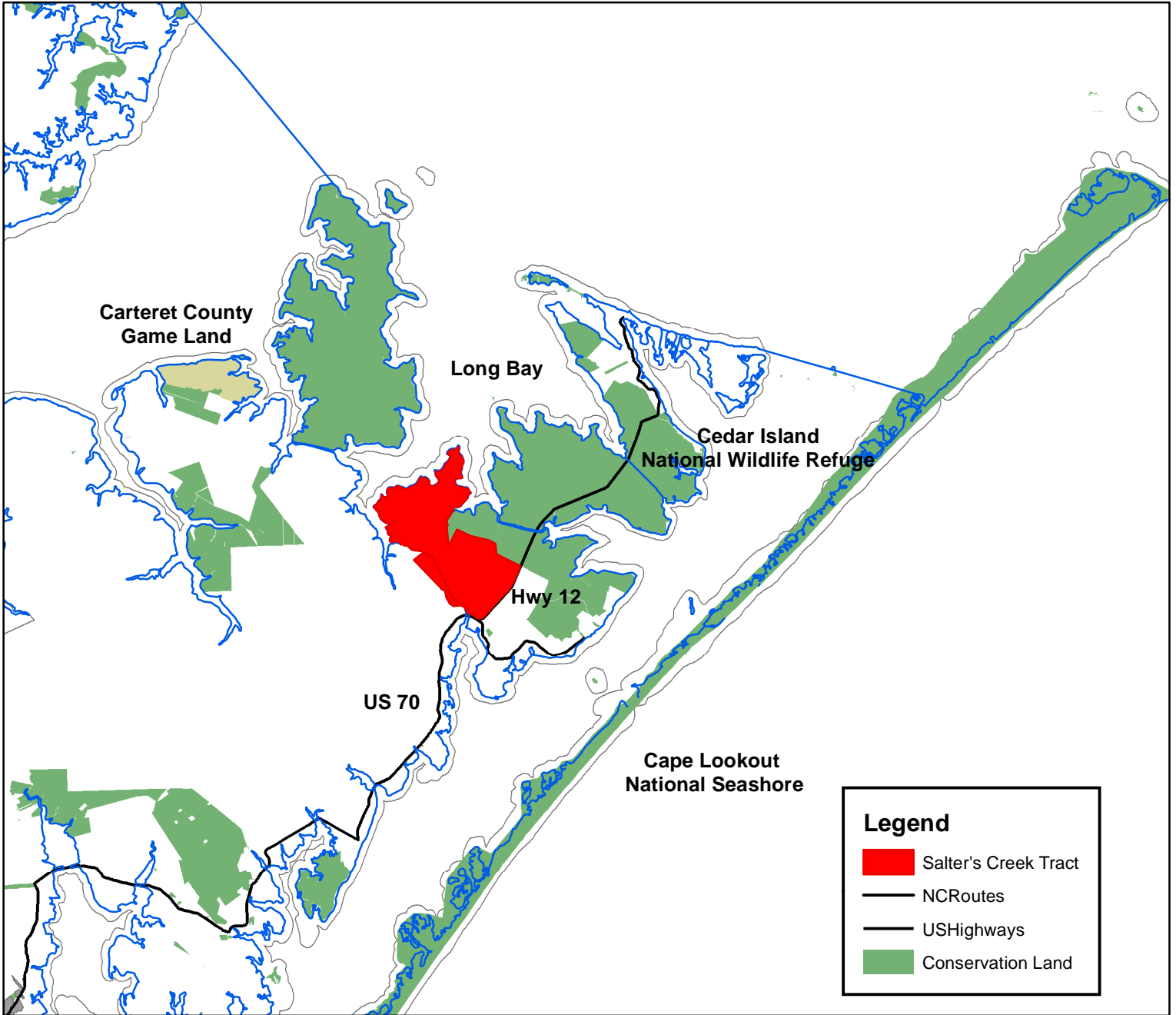
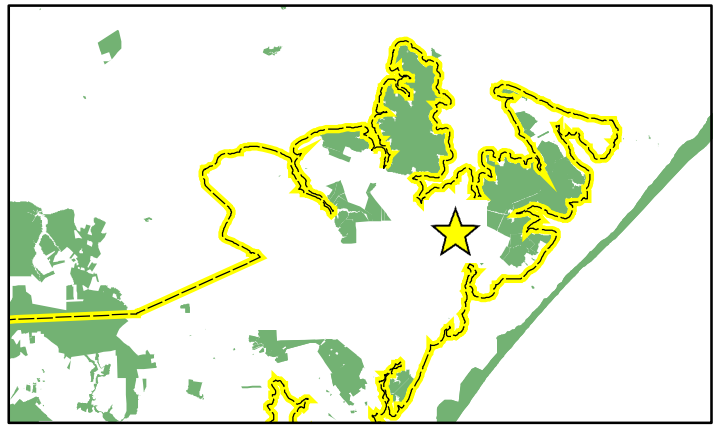
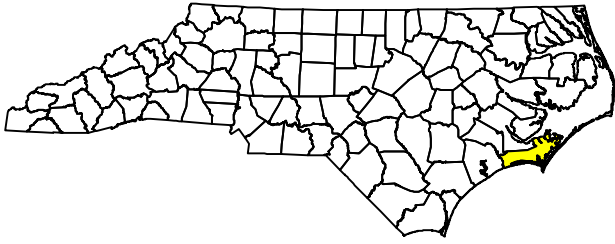
Threats

1. Threats reduce the value of a parcel, so the overall Threat score will be subtracted from the total score of the other metrics.
2. Number of Threats: 3 = Many; 2 = Some; 1 = Few; 0 = None
3. Severity of Threats: 3 = Critical; 2 = High; 1 = Moderate; 0 = Low
4. Imminence (time or distance) of Threats: 3 = Extant; 2 = Very Near; 1 = Moderately Near; 0 = Distant
5. Manageability of Threats: 3 = Unmanageable; 2 = Low; 1 = Moderate; 0 = High
6. Management Cost to Control Threats: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = Minimal





Scoring

1. Scoring for each section is normalized (range 0 - 1).
2. The overall score is calculated by adding individual section scores and subtracting the Threat score.
3. The overall score will not calculate unless there is at least one ranking filled in for each section, even if a zero.
4. The overall score ranges from 7 (all values high and no threats) to -1 (all values zero and high threats).

**Salter's Creek Tract
Carteret County Game Land
Carteret County
5,495 Acres**



Legend

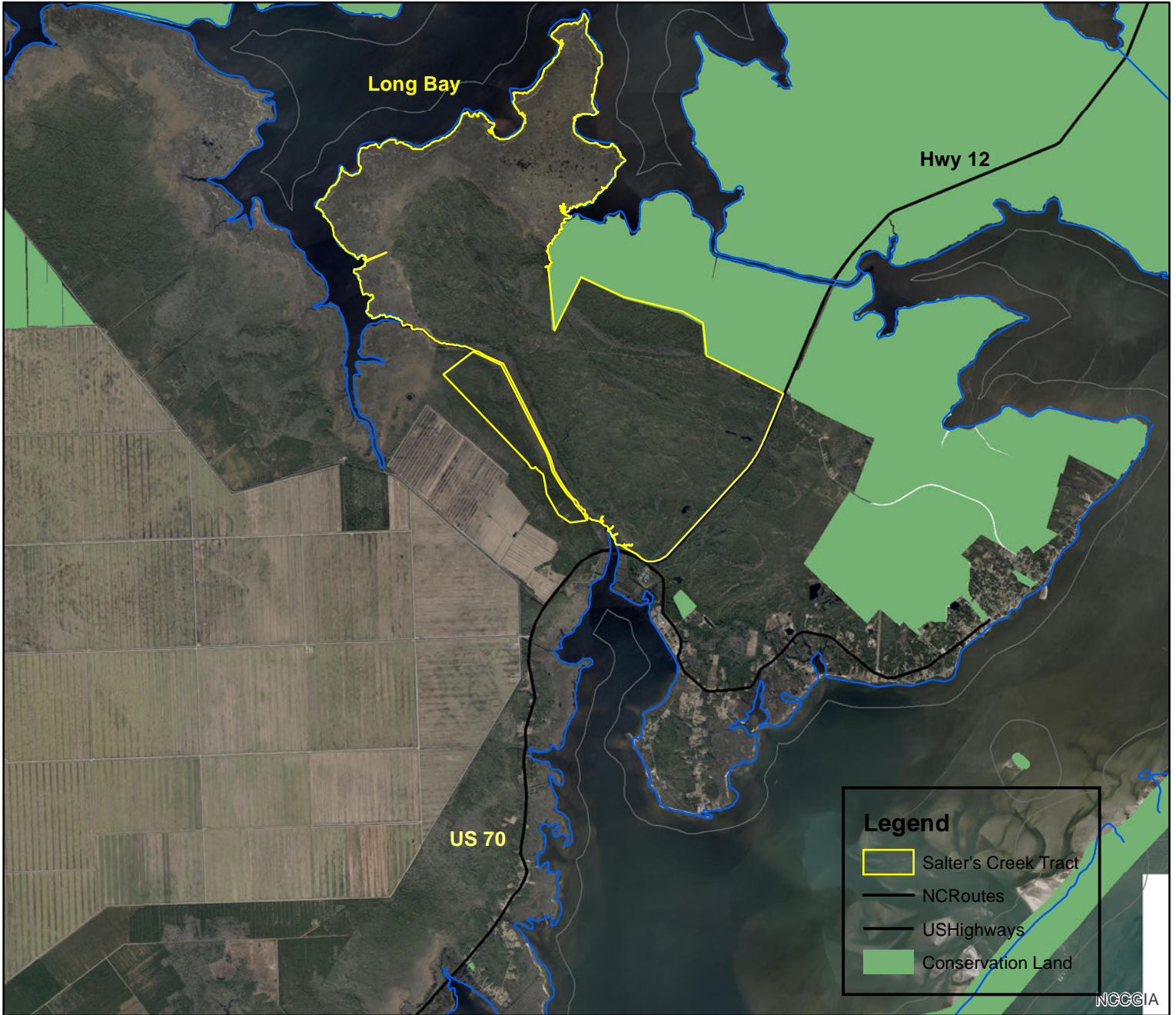
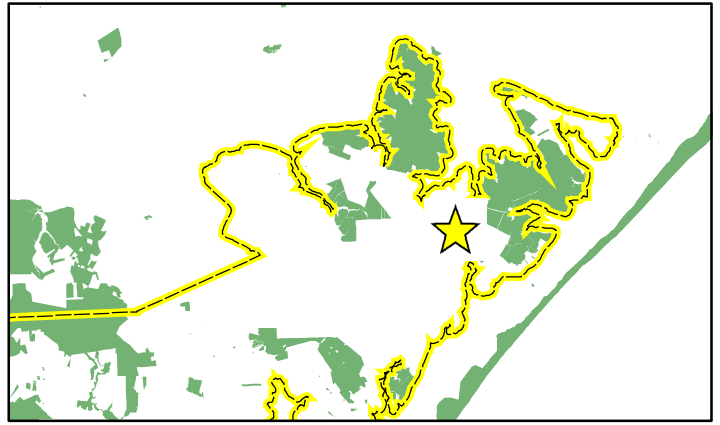
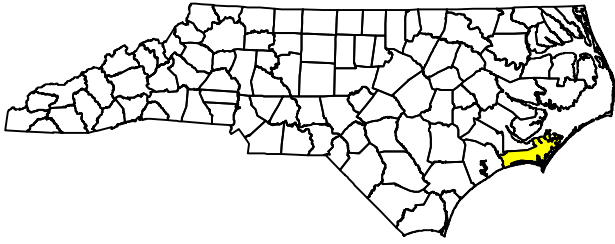
-  Salter's Creek Tract
-  NCRoutes
-  USHighways
-  Conservation Land



October 5, 2017



**Salter's Creek Tract
Carteret County Game Land
Carteret County
5,495 Acres**



October 5, 2017

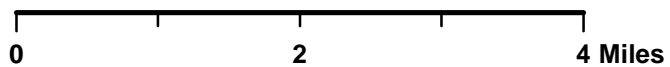


EXHIBIT G-2
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson/Kip Hollifield
Date First Presented to Commission:	
Tract Name:	Foster Creek Preserve - Addition to Green River Game Land
PIN:	GNISID: 1008579, Parcel No. P58-23
County:	Polk
Acreage:	Approx 600 acres to WRC (Tract Total = 900 acres, with approx. 300 going to Polk Co. Parks)
Tax Value:	\$5,440,725, WRC Portion (\$3,645,286)
Property Owner/Representative:	Conserving Carolina (Formerly Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy)
Phone:	828-697-5777
Email Address:	kieran@carolinamountain.org
Address:	847 Case St, Hendersonville NC 28792

Primary Purpose:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

Program Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Grant Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation

Owner Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	State	Match:

Funding Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Additional Comments:

Conserving Carolina (Carolina MTN Land Conservancy) has purchased approximately 900 acres known as Foster Creek Preserve in Polk County near the town of Columbus. Approximately 300 acres of the tract which adjoins the current Polk County Recreation Complex will be carved out and conveyed to Polk County and will become an addition to the county park. Approximately 600 acres will be carved out and conveyed to WRC. The WRC portion will adjoin Green River GL to the north and adjoin the Polk County tract to the east. The WRC portion contains direct access from S.R. 1137 (Houston Rd.). Polk County will have direct access to their portion from current Polk County holdings. Conserving Carolina owns an additional adjoining 167 acres that will remain for residential use and adjoins the Polk County tract. The WRC tract will not be adjoined by any of these tracts retained for residential use. Conserving Carolina has applied for a grant from the CWMTF for the purchase of Foster Creek Preserve. CWMTF currently has the Foster Creek Preserve scored 2nd of all CWMTF acquisition project for 2017, making funding very likely. Resulting match funds will derive from Open Space Institute, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, WRC, and donated land value. Conserving Carolinas has budgeted to cover acquisition and transaction costs. Project partners and itemized budget for tract acquisition is below.

EXHIBIT G-2
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name:	Foster Creek Preserve - Green River GL
County:	Polk

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The subject property has direct access from DOT maintained SR 1137 and will provide opportunity to develop a new public access to Green River Game Land. This access point will serve well due to the close proximity to the Columbus, Tryon, and Mill Spring area. Numerous creeks are found on this property, thus the interest of CWMTF for funding. Portions of the 600 tract have been previously logged with steeper areas not logged. Appalachian oak forest is the predominant forest cover type (55%), with a small component of Appalachian cove forest (10%). The remainder forest types consist mostly of shrub/scrub and dry oak-pine. Low elevation rocky summit community types are also present. The management objectives on this tract will include restoring or maintaining the oak and cove forest, and rocky summit priority habitats. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon, and gray squirrel. Species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) likely found on the tract as either permanent residents or transients include: Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Eastern Mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*), and Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*). White Irisette (*Sisyrinchium dichotomum*), a federally endangered species, is found on the tract.

Tract Name	Foster Creek Preserve-Green River Game Land
Date	August 30, 2017
Staff Completing Form	Hollifield/Thompson

Species	0.296
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Moderate terrestrial biodiversity is based on a diversity of forest cover types and age classes. Moderate aquatic diversity based on numerous streams on the property. Wetland habitat is not found on the property.

Habitat	0.611
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	2
Buffer	2

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, as is diversity. The property provides good access from SR 1137 and provides connectivity to existing gameland.

Public Access	0.333
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
The property provides excellent access for hunting/wildlife viewing on Green River GL. No waters of sufficient size are located on the properties, so there is no fishing/boating opportunity.

Wildlife Uses	0.400
Hunting	3
Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
The property offers good hunting opportunity as well as some opportunity for wildlife viewing. Educational opportunities are minimal. Although there are numerous streams on the property, they lack sufficient size for fishing/boating opportunities.

Other Values	0.778
Timber Harvest	3
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Comments
The tract can produce good timber and will offer additional access to the game land. This will provide some benefit to the local economy and provide quality of life benefits to local residents.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.733
Existing Infrastructure	2
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	2
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	2
Inholding/Corridor	2
Proximity to Users	3

Comments
The tract currently has a system of logging roads from recent timber harvest. Conflicts among game land users and adjoining should be minimal. The tract is very close in proximity to GL users in the Columbus/Tryon/Mill Spring area.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.667
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	2

Comments
Restoration and habitat management potential on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate. The property will provide additional access to Green River GL. There are few threats to the properties.

Threats	0.067
Number	1
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

Comments
The tract is owned by Conserving Carolina, so threats are minimal.

Overall Score	3.752
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Instructions for filling out Phase I Worksheet

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5. Ratings for each metric must be an integer from 0 to 3. If you enter anything else, you will get a warning.
6. Except for the Threats category, 0 represents an undesirable condition (i.e., tract is not suitable for acquisition) and 3 represents a preferred condition (i.e., the tract is valuable and worth pursuing). For subjective metrics, start with a mindset that the parcel provides average/moderate conditions (i.e., rating of 2). Don't automatically give a rating of 3 without justification.

Species

1. If necessary, get assistance from staff in other Divisions/Programs or other sources (GIS, NHP, LCC models, etc.).
2. The scores are meant to be based on best professional judgment, not an exact count of species.
3. Rating: 3 = High species count; 2 = Moderate species count; 1 = Low species count; 0 = Very low species count.
4. Overall biodiversity means all species of each group.
5. SGCN species are those listed in the 2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan.
6. Game species are those managed for sport or take. For game species, also consider population size.

Habitat

1. Quality refers to habitat condition. Diversity refers to the variety of habitat types.
2. Rare/Important refers to critical habitat for listed or SGCN species. Consider quantity and quality.
3. Connectivity means the parcel provides a corridor to other conservation lands or connectivity in river systems.
4. Buffer means the parcel provides additional conservation land around a critical habitat type or allows managers to appropriately use tools such as prescribed fire without impacting adjoining land.
5. For all metrics except Size: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
6. Size: 3 = >3,000 acres; 2 = 1,000 - 3,000 acres; 1 = 100 - 1,000 acres; 0 = <100 acres

Public Access

1. The parcel provides public access to fish/wildlife resources on that parcel or to adjoining land or water.
2. Rating: 3 = Excellent existing access or provides critical access; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor; 0 = None

Wildlife Uses

1. Recreational or educational use of resources.
2. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Other Values

1. Timber Harvest is not the value of timber, but the potential to produce, manage and harvest timber.
2. Local Economy is the ability of the parcel to act as an economic driver by attracting substantial public use (e.g., unique wildlife viewing, hunting, etc.).
3. Quality of Life is the indirect/secondary benefit to the local community by providing green space or walking/hiking opportunities.
4. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Feasibility & Logistics

1. Existing Infrastructure includes road system, buildings, etc. Consider quantity and quality. If a liability and has to be removed/repaired, score 0 or 1.
2. Compatibility of Multiple Uses is the ability of the parcel to provide hunting, viewing, fishing, etc. at the same time.
3. Compatibility with Adjoining Land should consider things like public safety, noise, prescribed burns, etc. Consider both the impact of wildlife users and management on adjoining land and adjoining landowners on the parcel.
4. Inholding/Corridor - Does the parcel fill in a hole in existing WRC ownership or does it provide a wildlife corridor?
5. Proximity to Users refers to location of parcel to targeted user groups (e.g., new game land near population center).
6. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Restoration/Mitigation Potential

1. Restoration Potential is the ability to improve species, habitat or access through natural processes or management actions.
Potential: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
2. Threat Mitigation is the degree to which the threat can be avoided, minimized or delayed by acquiring the parcel.
Mitigation: 3 = Avoids Threats; 2 = Minimizes Threats; 1 = Delays Threats; 0 = None

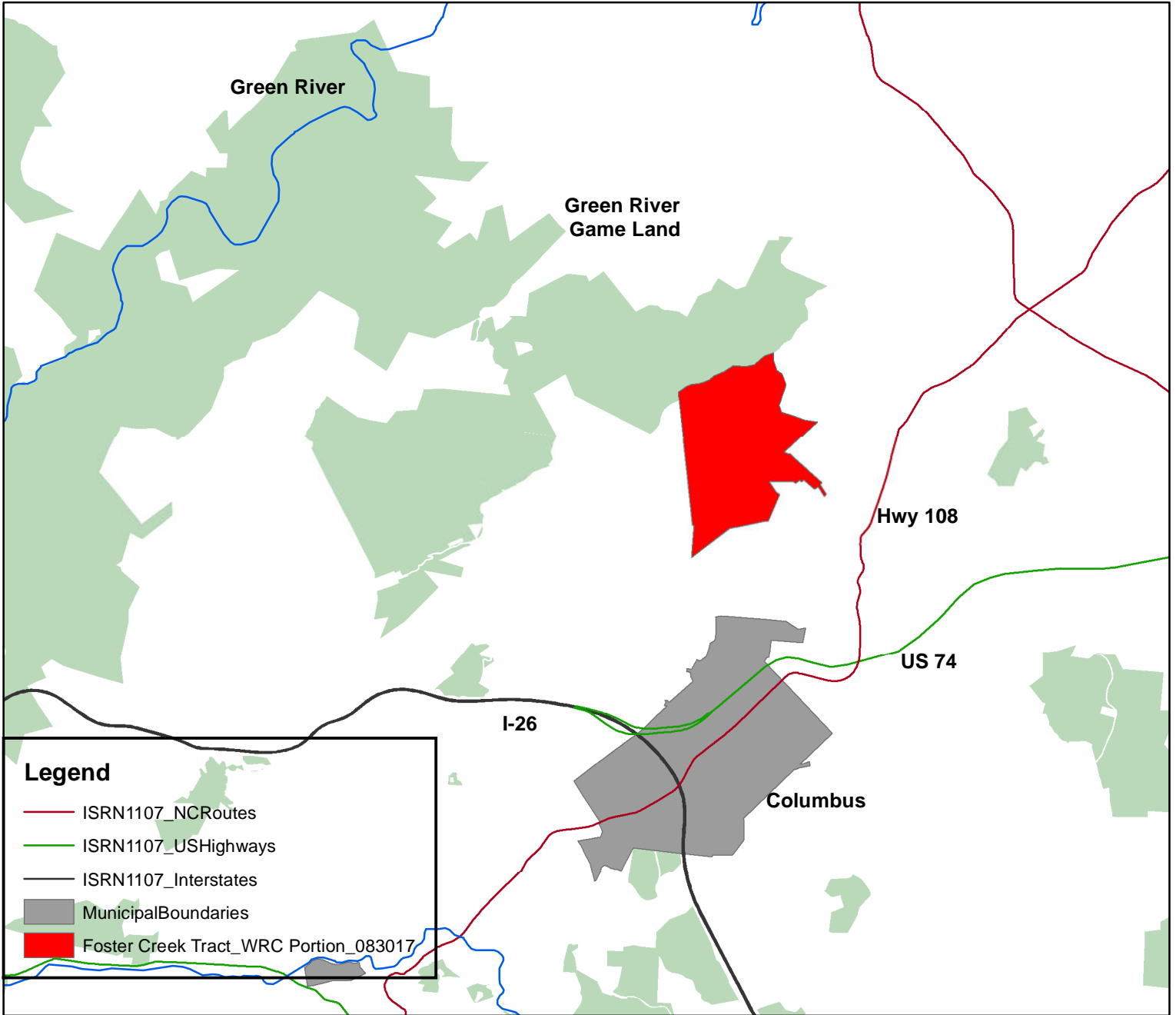
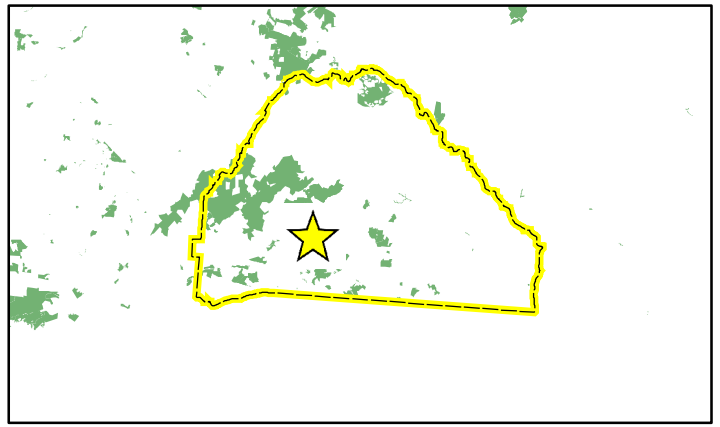
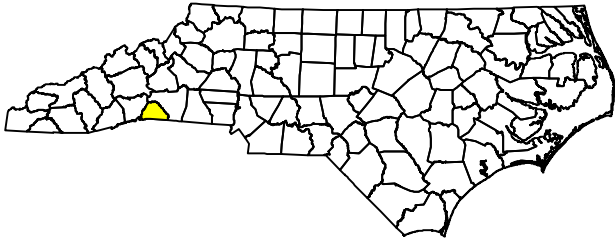
Threats

1. Threats reduce the value of a parcel, so the overall Threat score will be subtracted from the total score of the other metrics.
2. Number of Threats: 3 = Many; 2 = Some; 1 = Few; 0 = None
3. Severity of Threats: 3 = Critical; 2 = High; 1 = Moderate; 0 = Low
4. Imminence (time or distance) of Threats: 3 = Extant; 2 = Very Near; 1 = Moderately Near; 0 = Distant
5. Manageability of Threats: 3 = Unmanageable; 2 = Low; 1 = Moderate; 0 = High
6. Management Cost to Control Threats: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = Minimal

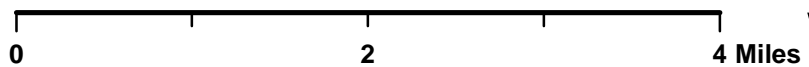
Scoring

1. Scoring for each section is normalized (range 0 - 1).
2. The overall score is calculated by adding individual section scores and subtracting the Threat score.
3. The overall score will not calculate unless there is at least one ranking filled in for each section, even if a zero.
4. The overall score ranges from 7 (all values high and no threats) to -1 (all values zero and high threats).

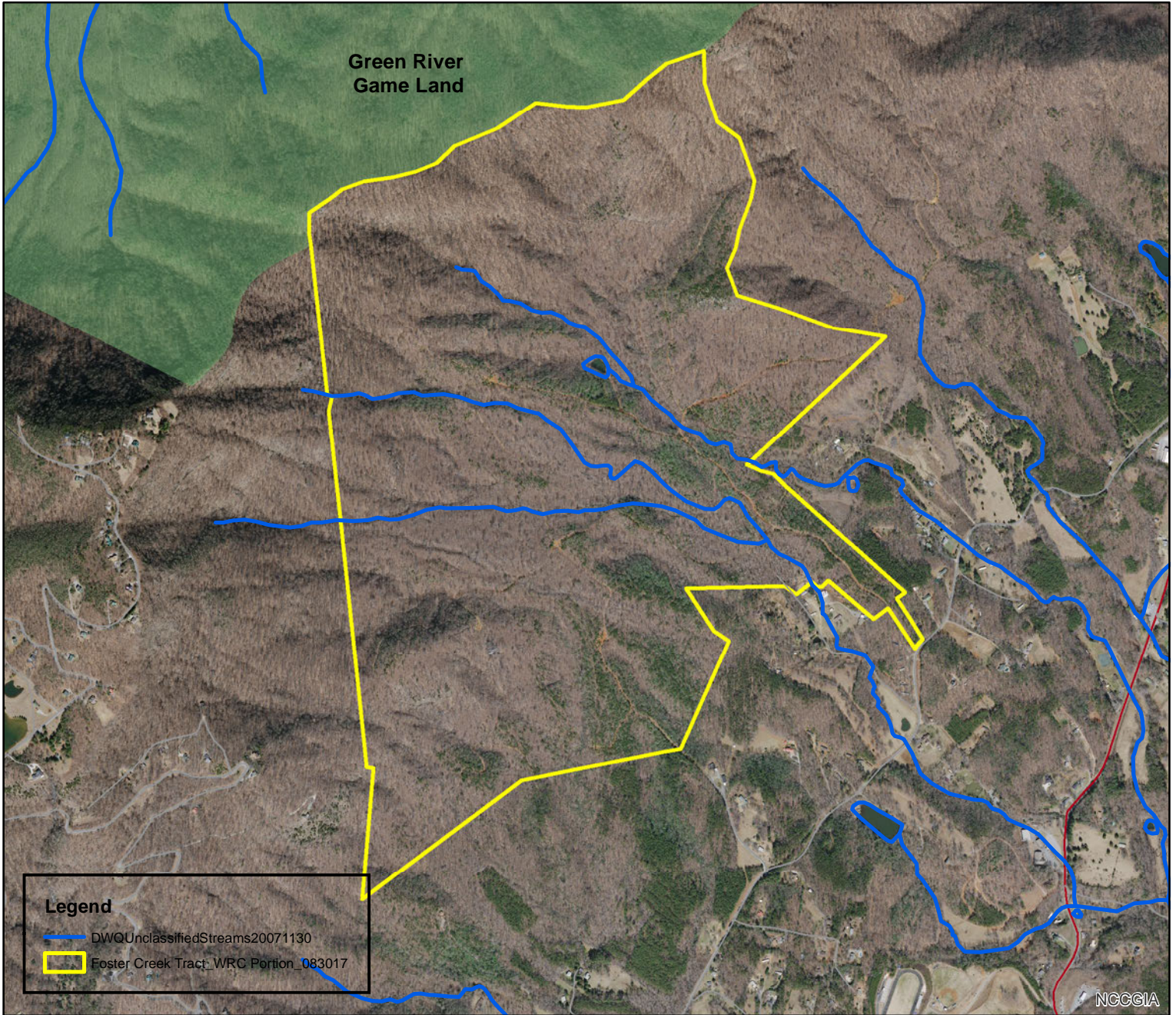
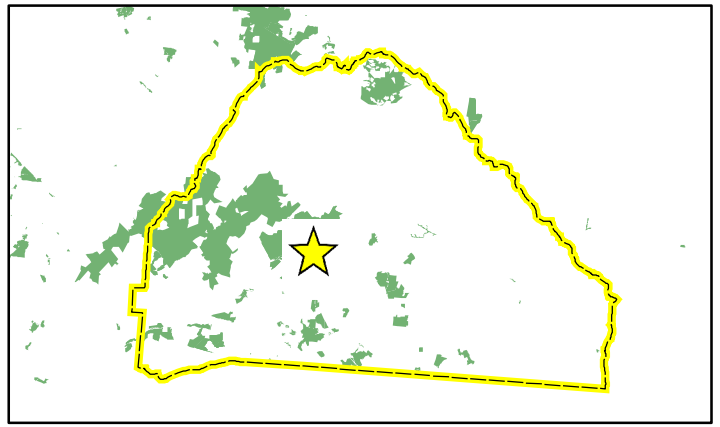
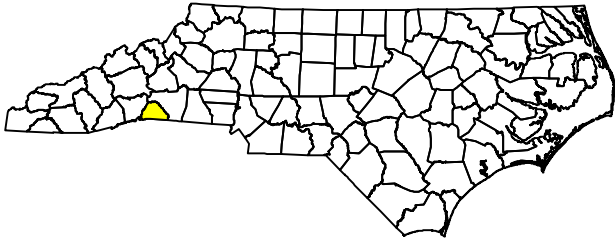
**Foster's Creek Tract
Green River Game Land
Polk County
600 Acres**



October 5, 2017



Foster's Creek Tract
Green River Game Land
Polk County
600 Acres



October 5, 2017

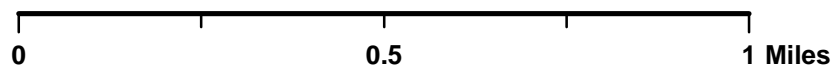


EXHIBIT G-3

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Land Acquisition Investigation Form

- PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION -

WRC Staff Contact:	Chris Dawes
Date First Presented to Commission:	June, 2017
Tract Name:	Rocky Swamp South
County:	Halifax
Acreage:	1343.6 (Three combined parcels to be sold as one)
Tax Value:	UNK
Property Owner/Representative:	Spruce Creek Land & Timber LLC / (Mott & Shay, Inc. Real Estate)
Phone:	1-800-533-3754 (Greg Mott: 252-308-7020)
Email Address:	greg.mott@mottshay.com
Address:	1123 Roanoke Ave. (P.O. Box 1645, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870)

Primary Purpose:

- Resource Protection
- Resource Management
- User Access
- WRC Facility

Program Potential:

- Game Land
- Wildlife Conservation Area
- Access Area
- None

Type of Acquisition:

- Purchase
- Lease
- Easement

Type of Parcel:

- Tract
- Riparian Corridor

Grant Potential:

- CWMTF
- Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
- Other (overwrite this cell)
- Other (overwrite this cell)

Owner Interest:

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- No

Tax Value:

- 2017 Year Assessed
- PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

- Source:
- Match:

Funding Considerations:

- Donation
- Bargain Sale
- Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

- Pursue
- Do Not Pursue
- Defer

Additional Comments:

[Empty text box for additional comments]

EXHIBIT G-3
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name: Rocky Swamp South
County: Halifax

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

This large available property (three combined parcels, 1,343 total acres) lies in Halifax County directly to the southwest of Rocky Swamp tract of the Brinkleyville Game Land. (Acquisition of these parcels would increase the size of the Brinkleyville Game Land by 74% from 1,819 acres to 3,162 acres.) Currently, under management by Spruce Creek Land and Timber LLC, the property has an extensive timber production history, very similar to that which occurred on the nearby acreage the WRC acquired in 2007-2008 from International Paper.

The three parcels (~837 ac., ~237 ac., and ~269 ac.) are being sold together and subdivision is not being considered by the landowner. The property is listed at \$2,750,000.00. There is one modern structure (uninhabited house) on the northern end of the property, near NC Hwy 561. The sale announcement from the realtor indicates that there are over 6.5 miles of well-maintained gated roads/paths. The main creek is ~1.91 miles of frontage on Rocky Swamp. The other tributaries total ~5.81 miles, with Smith Branch being the largest. There is also significant acreage of floodplain with interspersed beaver swamps and wetlands. The riparian areas are mostly intact and buffered, while the majority of the uplands are either recently clearcut and/or planted back in young loblolly pine plantations. Older pine stands are mostly pine pulpwood or C-N-S, and there are some stands of pine sawtimber. Except for the bottomland hardwood riparian buffers, there is only a small percentage of acreage of mature upland timber (mixed hardwood/pine). Almost all of the uplands (non-hardwood) will require intense timber management, mostly pine thinnings for the next few decades. A large percentage of this property will be in need of prescribed fire and burning could be accomplished easily.

The hunting opportunities on this property are extensive and it would provide excellent deer and turkey hunting, as well as small game (particularly for rabbits), and some waterfowl along Rocky Swamp. Water resources are unlikely to provide much fishing interest.

Rocky Swamp represents a Tier 1 priority area within the Tar-Pamlico River basin due to the occurrence of at least five rare freshwater mussel species and one crayfish species. Specifically, the following rare species occur on or near this tract on Rocky Swamp: Dwarf Wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*, Federal and State Endangered), Atlantic Pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*, Proposed for Federal listing and State Endangered), Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, State Threatened), Notched Rainbow (*Villosa constricta*, State Special Concern), Northern Lance (*Elliptio fisheriana*, State Significantly Rare), and Carolina Spiny Crayfish (*Orconectes carolinensis*, State Special Concern). In addition, Rocky Swamp represents the easternmost population of Dwarf Wedgemussel within the Tar River Basin. This population is currently isolated from other populations, has a low probability of natural recolonization (if extirpated), and potentially contains unique genetic diversity that will be highly valuable for future management related to populations augmentations. These concerns prompted the need for beaver management within Rocky Swamp, and the addition of this tract to the Brinkleyville Game Land is critical to the long-term management of Dwarf Wedgemussel in North Carolina. Acquisition of the tract will allow the Agency to manage the beaver population within a larger section of Rocky Swamp and help to protect aquatic species from land development or timber harvest activities that lack appropriate BMPs (e.g. excessive sedimentation).

Grant potential would seem very likely, particularly for water quality and aquatic species protection. Three-hundred foot buffers on Rocky Swamp, two-hundred foot buffers on intermittent streams, and the area in the 100-year floodplain outside these buffers were measured and total ~337 acres (25.1% of the property).

For the WRC to acquire such large acreage contiguous parcels adjacent to an existing Game Land is a rare opportunity. This tract is a very high priority for acquisition and addition to the Brinkleyville Game Land, as it is unlikely that a tract of this size adjacent to existing Game Lands and with such significant aquatic resources and species will ever be available again. Acquisition of this property will support increased connectivity of protected lands between Game Lands and Medoc Mountain State Park. The most significant current threat to terrestrial wildlife in this area is the further conversion of mature hardwood and mixed hardwood/pine forests into loblolly pine plantations, and potential sprawling future development. Ensuring that forest stands managed for wildlife habitat are restored and maintained in this area will help support many (SGCN) species on the local landscape.

Tract Name	Rock Swamp South
Date	September 12, 2017
Staff Completing Form	C. Baranski, D. Cox, C. Dawes, and A. Mynatt

Species	0.852
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2

Habitat	0.889
Size	2
Quality	2
Diversity	3
Rare/Important	3
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

Public Access	0.556
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	2
Boating	0

Wildlife Uses	0.600
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	0
Education	2

Other Values	0.778
Timber Harvest	3
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Feasibility & Logistics	0.933
Existing Infrastructure	3
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	1.000
Species Restoration	3
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	3
Threat Mitigation	3

Threats	0.133
Number	1
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	1

Overall Score	5.474
----------------------	--------------

Comments

Some potentially occurring SGCN: Rafinesque Big-eared Bat, Tri-colored Bat, Southeastern Bat, Yellow Bat, Little Brown Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Hermit Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Bobwhite, American Kestrel, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Warbler, Barn Owl, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Worm-eating Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Swainson's Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Spotted Turtle, Box Turtle, Northern Two-lined Salamander, Scarlet Kingsnake

General

This form is for assessing opportunistic land acquisitions. Responses should reflect current conditions.

The worksheet is protected so that you can only edit certain cells. These are shaded gray.

The gray cells will change color after you have entered text or a numeric value.

Ratings for each metric must be an integer from 0 to 3. If you enter anything else, you will get a warning.

Except for the Threats category, 0 represents an undesirable condition (i.e., tract is not suitable for acquisition) and 3 represents a preferred condition (i.e., the tract is valuable and worth pursuing).

Species

If necessary, get assistance from staff in other Divisions/Programs or other sources (GIS, NHP, LCC models, etc.).

The scores are meant to be based on best professional judgment, not an exact count of species.

3 = High species count; 2 = Moderate species count; 1 = Low species count; 0 = Very low species count.

Overall biodiversity means all species of each group.

SCGN species are those listed in the 2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan.

Game species are those managed for sport or take. For game species, also consider population size.

Habitat

Quality refers to habitat condition. Diversity refers to the variety of habitat types.

Rare/Important refers to critical habitat for listed or SCGN species. Consider quantity and quality.

Connectivity means the parcel provides a corridor to other conservation lands or connectivity in river systems.

Buffer means the parcel provides additional conservation land around a critical habitat type or allows managers to appropriately use tools such as prescribed fire without impacting adjoining land.

For all metrics except Size: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Size: 3 = >3,000 acres; 2 = 1,000 - 3,000 acres; 1 = 100 - 1,000 acres; 0 = <100 acres

Public Access

3 = Excellent existing access or provides critical access; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor; 0 = None

Wildlife Uses

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Other Values

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Feasibility & Logistics

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Restoration/Mitigation Potential

Restoration Potential is the ability to improve species, habitat or access through natural processes or management actions.

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Threat Mitigation is the degree to which the threat can be avoided, minimized or delayed by acquiring the parcel.

3 = Avoids Threats; 2 = Minimizes Threats; 1 = Delays Threats; 0 = None

Threats

Threats reduce the value of a parcel, so the overall Threat score will be subtracted from the total score of the other metrics.

Number: 3 = Many; 2 = Some; 1 = Few; 0 = None

Severity: 3 = Critical; 2 = High; 1 = Moderate; 0 = Low

Imminence (time or distance): 3 = Extant; 2 = Very Near; 1 = Moderately Near; 0 = Distant

Manageability: 3 = Unmanageable; 2 = Low; 1 = Moderate; 0 = High

Management Cost: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = Minimal

Scoring

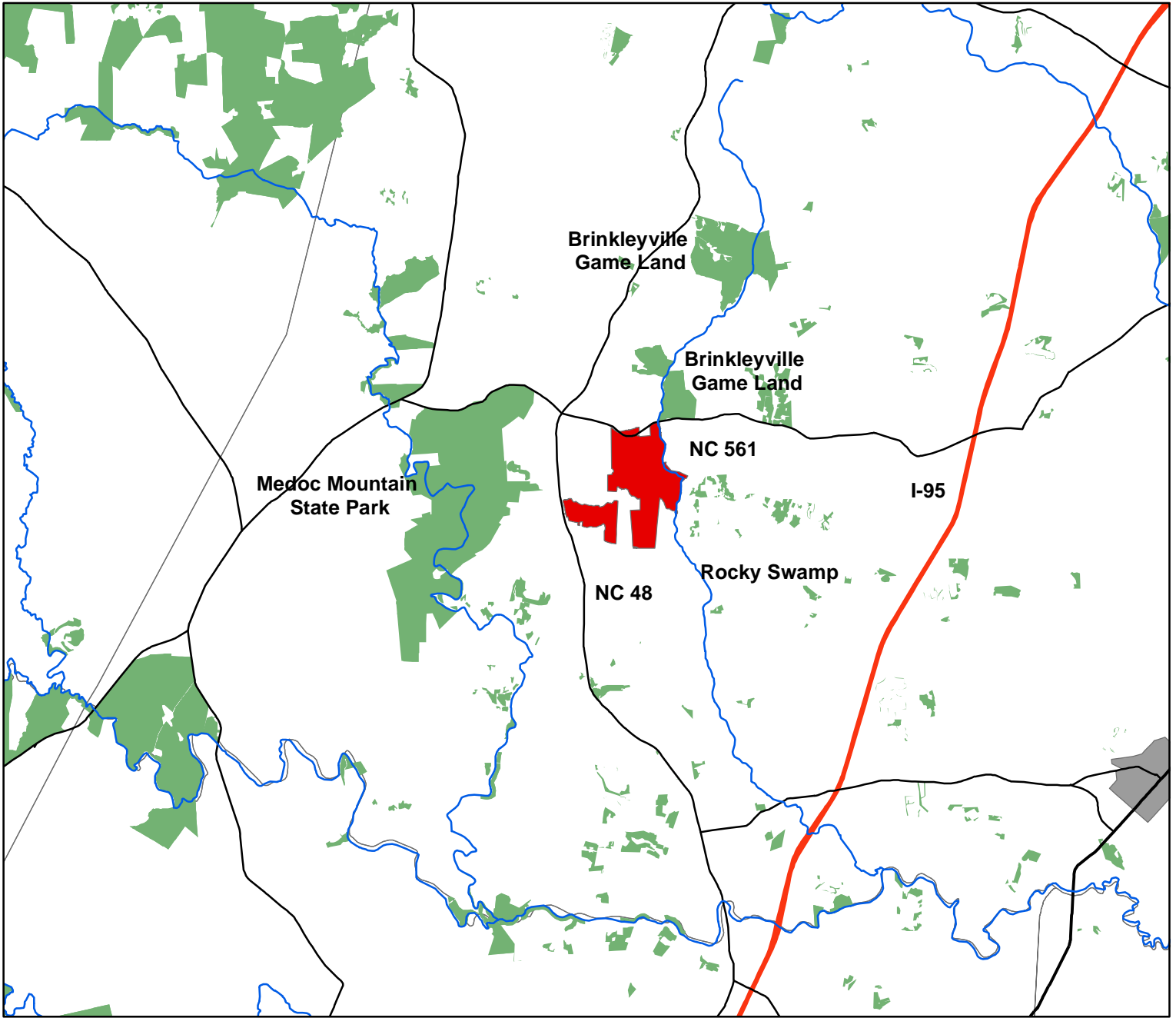
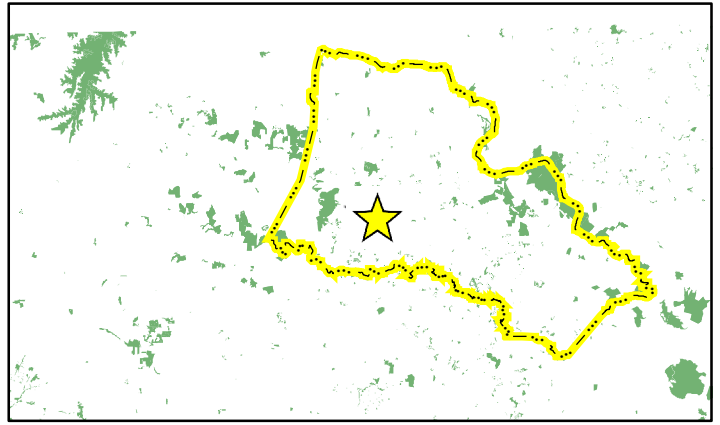
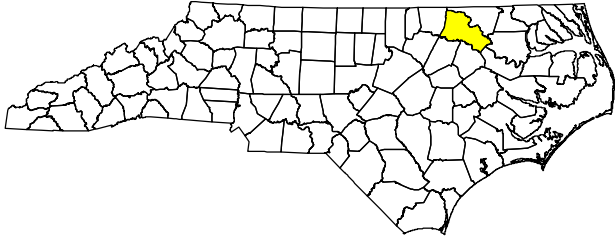
Scoring for each section is normalized (range 0 - 1).

The overall score is the sum of the individual section scores, minus the Threat score.

The overall score will not calculate unless there is at least one ranking filled in for each section, even if a zero.

The overall score ranges from 7 (all values high and no threats) to -1 (all values zero and high threats).

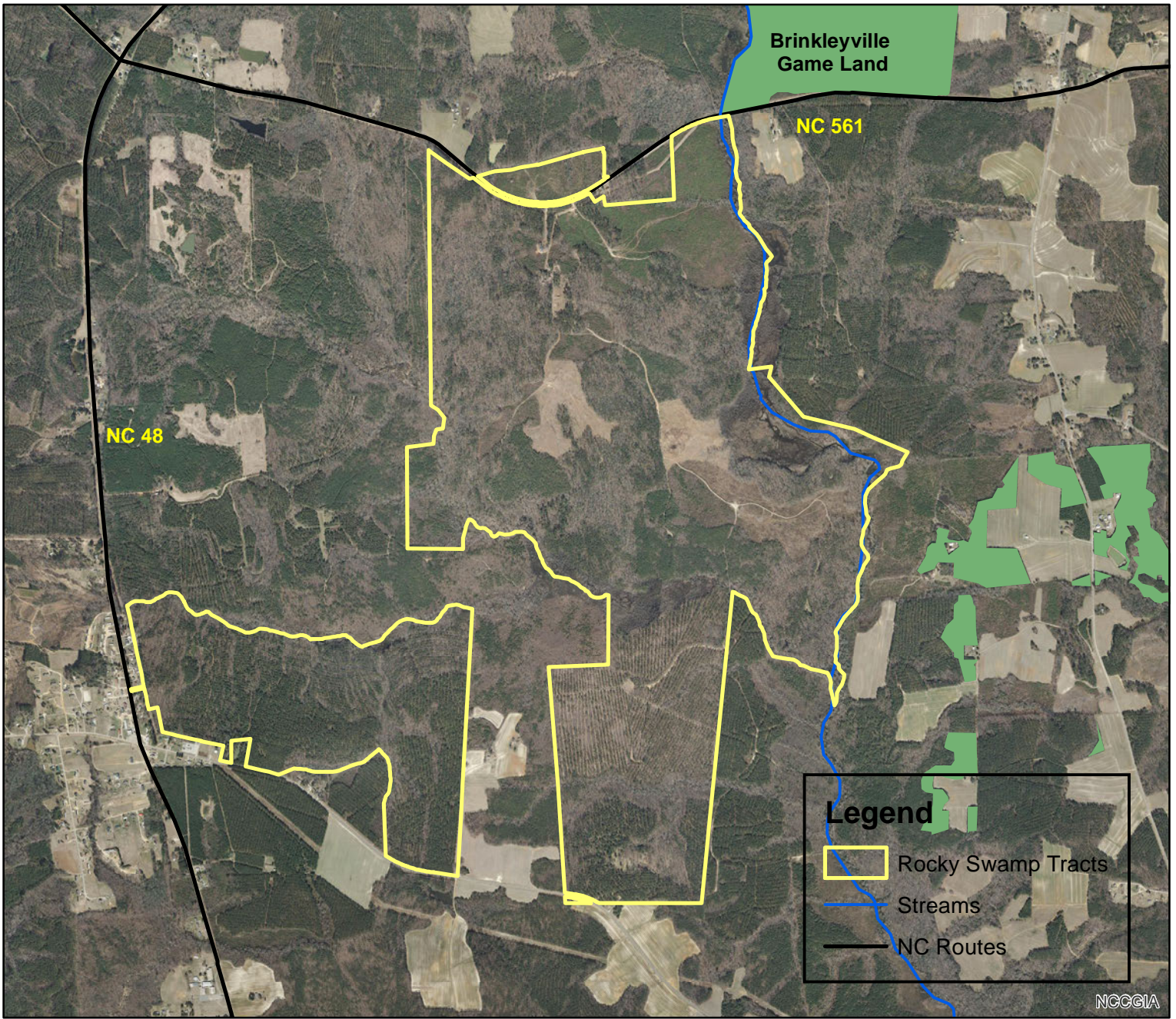
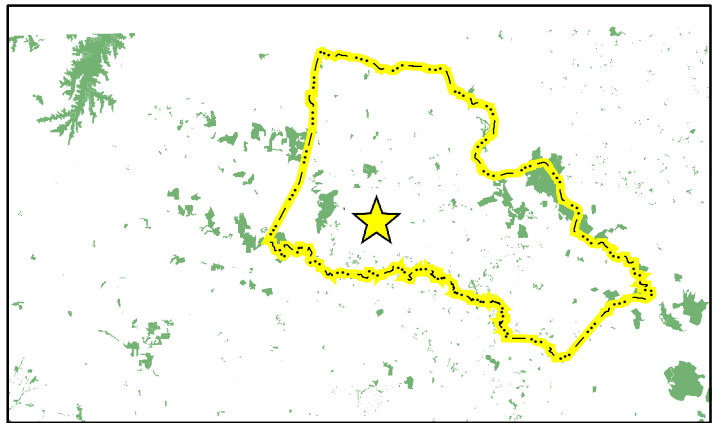
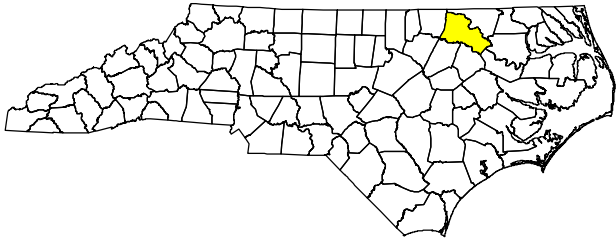
**Rocky Swamp Tract
Brinkleyville Game Land
Halifax County
1,343 Acres**



October 5, 2017



**Rocky Swamp Tract
Brinkleyville Game Land
Halifax County
1,343 Acres**



Legend

- Rocky Swamp Tracts
- Streams
- NC Routes

NCCGIA



October 5, 2017

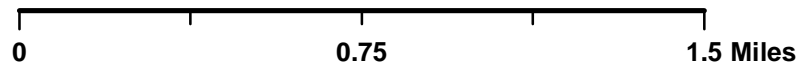


EXHIBIT G-4

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Land Acquisition Investigation Form

– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	David Stewart
Date First Presented to Commission:	
Tract Name:	Maggot Springs Gap, William H Silver Game Land
County:	Haywood
Acreage:	115
Tax Value:	Total Tax Value of 15 parcels = \$1,137,700
Property Owner/Representative:	The Conservation Fund
Phone:	919-951-0119
Email Address:	bholman@conservationfund.org
Address:	P.O. Box 271, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Primary Purpose:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

Program Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation

Owner Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Tax Value:

2016	Year Assessed
?	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

PR	Source:
State	Match:

Funding Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Additional Comments:

The Conservation Fund (TCF) has the subject properties under contract and anticipates receiving partial funding through a CWMTF grant, etc. TCF is requesting a WRC contribution of approximately \$200,000 (PR), with total project cost of the entire assemblage expected to be \$700,000. TCF has budgeted to cover acquisition and transaction costs.

Exhibit G-4
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name:	Maggot Springs Gap Tract William H Silver Game Land
County:	Haywood

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Maggot Spring Gap Tracts are located near Maggie Valley NC. They are located 4 miles NW of Maggie Valley, and west of the Sheepback Mountain tract, and east of the Williams/Indian Creek tract of the William H Silver Game Land. The northern parcel borders Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Maggot Spring Gap tracts will connect the Sheepback tract and the Williams/Indian Creek tracts. The property is easily accessed by Sheepback Mountain road and Pless Underwood Road. The Maggot Spring Gap tracts are almost entirely forested with mature timber. The property is split into 15 parcels. The parcels range in size from 5 acres to 25 acres. These parcels rise in elevation from around 4400 ft. at the southern parcel, to 5400 ft. where the northern parcel joins the national park boundary. Two high quality natural community types have been observed on the tracts. These are Rich Montane Seeps and Northern Hardwood Forest. Additional high quality communities may be present. The vegetation of the seeps has an assortment of varied flora spilling in from the adjacent rich forests on areas of slightly higher and drier areas within the seeps. The Northern Hardwood Forest surrounding the Rich Montane Seeps is diverse with a well developed canopy. The diversity is very high in the herb layer as well. High Elevation Red Oak is also present on the tracts. Acquisition of this property is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the Mountain Eco Region. NCWRC ownership of the tract will increase conservation ownership of properties in the immediate area such as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee Indian Reservation, Blue Ridge Parkway, Maggie Valley Sanitary District, William H Silver Game Land, and properties owned by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC). In a broader sense, NCWRC ownership of the tract will help ensure ecosystem integrity at the landscape level by increasing connectivity of lands in conservation ownership such as Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cherokee Indian Reservation, Silver and Cold Mountain game lands (NCWRC holdings), Conservation Fund Properties, Blue Ridge Parkway, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and SAHC lands and various private holdings that are in conservation ownership or have conservation easements that are located in the vicinity. NCWRC ownership will help reduce land fragmentation as well.

Tract Name	Maggot Spring Gap Tract William H Silver Game Land
Date	12 Sept, 2017
Staff Completing Form	David Stewart

Species	0.407
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Moderate biodiversity is based on a diversity of forest cover types and age classes, the number of blue line streams located on the tracts, and the diversity of wildlife found on the properties.

Habitat	0.611
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	3
Buffer	2

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, as is diversity. The properties provide good connectivity and buffer to William H Silver GL.

Public Access	0.222
Hunting/Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
The properties provide connectivity and access to existing portions of William H Silver GL. No waters of sufficient size are located on the properties, so there is no fishing/boating opportunity.

Wildlife Uses	0.333
Hunting	2
Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
The properties offer hunting opportunity as well as some opportunity for wildlife viewing. Educational opportunities will be low. No significant water is located on the tract, so there is no fishing/boating opportunity.

Other Values	0.778
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	3
Quality of Life	3

Comments
The tracts can produce some good timber and will offer additional access to the game land. This will provide some benefit to the local economy. Wildlife viewing, specifically elk viewing, may provide additional local economic benefits. The tract will provide some quality of life

Feasibility & Logistics	0.733
Existing Infrastructure	2
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	2
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	2
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

Comments
The tracts were originally sub-divided to be part of a residential housing development and have good access roads. Conflicts among game land users and adjoining should be minimal.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.750
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	3

Comments
Restoration and habitat management potential on the tract is good. Spruce restoration is potential on the tract. Threat of residential development is the biggest threat to the tract.

Threats	0.200
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	1
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

Comments
The tracts are under contract to The Conservation Fund, thus threats are minimal.

Overall Score	3.635
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Instructions for filling out Phase I Worksheet

General

1. Fill in the gray cells in Cover Sheet and Page 2. The rest of these instructions pertain to the Worksheet.
2. The worksheet is for assessing opportunistic land acquisitions. Responses should reflect current conditions.
3. The worksheet is protected so that you can only edit certain cells. These are shaded gray.
4. The gray cells in the worksheet will change color after you have entered text or a numeric value.
5. Ratings for each metric must be an integer from 0 to 3. If you enter anything else, you will get a warning.
6. Except for the Threats category, 0 represents an undesirable condition (i.e., tract is not suitable for acquisition) and 3 represents a preferred condition (i.e., the tract is valuable and worth pursuing). For subjective metrics, start with a mindset that the parcel provides average/moderate conditions (i.e., rating of 2). Don't automatically give a rating of 3 without justification.

Species

1. If necessary, get assistance from staff in other Divisions/Programs or other sources (GIS, NHP, LCC models, etc.).
2. The scores are meant to be based on best professional judgment, not an exact count of species.
3. Rating: 3 = High species count; 2 = Moderate species count; 1 = Low species count; 0 = Very low species count.
4. Overall biodiversity means all species of each group.
5. SCGN species are those listed in the 2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan.
6. Game species are those managed for sport or take. For game species, also consider population size.

Habitat

1. Quality refers to habitat condition. Diversity refers to the variety of habitat types.
2. Rare/Important refers to critical habitat for listed or SCGN species. Consider quantity and quality.
3. Connectivity means the parcel provides a corridor to other conservation lands or connectivity in river systems.
4. Buffer means the parcel provides additional conservation land around a critical habitat type or allows managers to appropriately use tools such as prescribed fire without impacting adjoining land.
5. For all metrics except Size: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
6. Size: 3 = >3,000 acres; 2 = 1,000 - 3,000 acres; 1 = 100 - 1,000 acres; 0 = <100 acres

Public Access

1. The parcel provides public access to fish/wildlife resources on that parcel or to adjoining land or water.
2. Rating: 3 = Excellent existing access or provides critical access; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor; 0 = None

Wildlife Uses

1. Recreational or educational use of resources.
2. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Other Values

1. Timber Harvest is not the value of timber, but the potential to produce, manage and harvest timber.
2. Local Economy is the ability of the parcel to act as an economic driver by attracting substantial public use (e.g., unique wildlife viewing, hunting, etc.).
3. Quality of Life is the indirect/secondary benefit to the local community by providing green space or walking/hiking opportunities.
4. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Feasibility & Logistics

1. Existing Infrastructure includes road system, buildings, etc. Consider quantity and quality. If a liability and has to be removed/repaired, score 0 or 1.
2. Compatibility of Multiple Uses is the ability of the parcel to provide hunting, viewing, fishing, etc. at the same time.
3. Compatibility with Adjoining Land should consider things like public safety, noise, prescribed burns, etc. Consider both the impact of wildlife users and management on adjoining land and adjoining landowners on the parcel.
4. Inholding/Corridor - Does the parcel fill in a hole in existing WRC ownership or does it provide a wildlife corridor?
5. Proximity to Users refers to location of parcel to targeted user groups (e.g., new game land near population center).
6. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Restoration/Mitigation Potential

1. Restoration Potential is the ability to improve species, habitat or access through natural processes or management actions.
Potential: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
2. Threat Mitigation is the degree to which the threat can be avoided, minimized or delayed by acquiring the parcel.
Mitigation: 3 = Avoids Threats; 2 = Minimizes Threats; 1 = Delays Threats; 0 = None

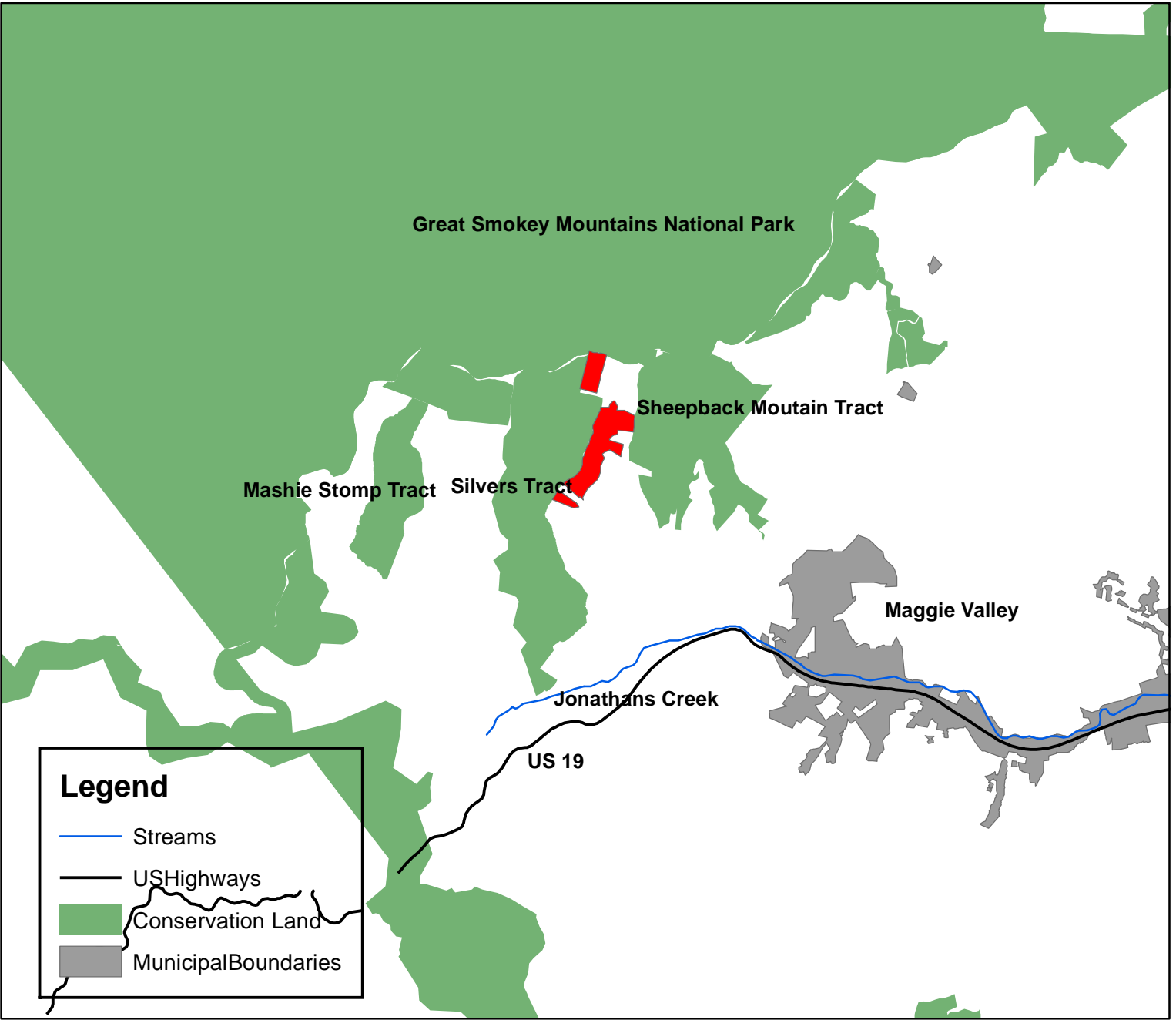
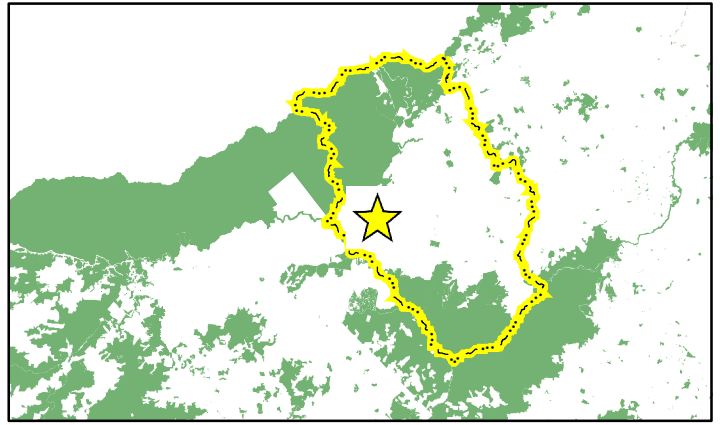
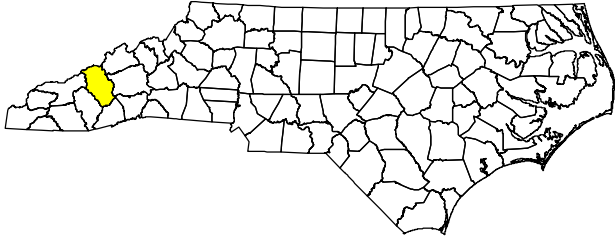
Threats

1. Threats reduce the value of a parcel, so the overall Threat score will be subtracted from the total score of the other metrics.
2. Number of Threats: 3 = Many; 2 = Some; 1 = Few; 0 = None
3. Severity of Threats: 3 = Critical; 2 = High; 1 = Moderate; 0 = Low
4. Imminence (time or distance) of Threats: 3 = Extant; 2 = Very Near; 1 = Moderately Near; 0 = Distant
5. Manageability of Threats: 3 = Unmanageable; 2 = Low; 1 = Moderate; 0 = High
6. Management Cost to Control Threats: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = Minimal

Scoring

1. Scoring for each section is normalized (range 0 - 1).
2. The overall score is calculated by adding individual section scores and subtracting the Threat score.
3. The overall score will not calculate unless there is at least one ranking filled in for each section, even if a zero.
4. The overall score ranges from 7 (all values high and no threats) to -1 (all values zero and high threats).

**Maggot Springs Tract
Sillers Game Land
Haywood County
115 Acres**

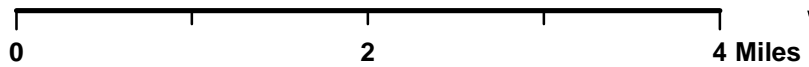


Legend

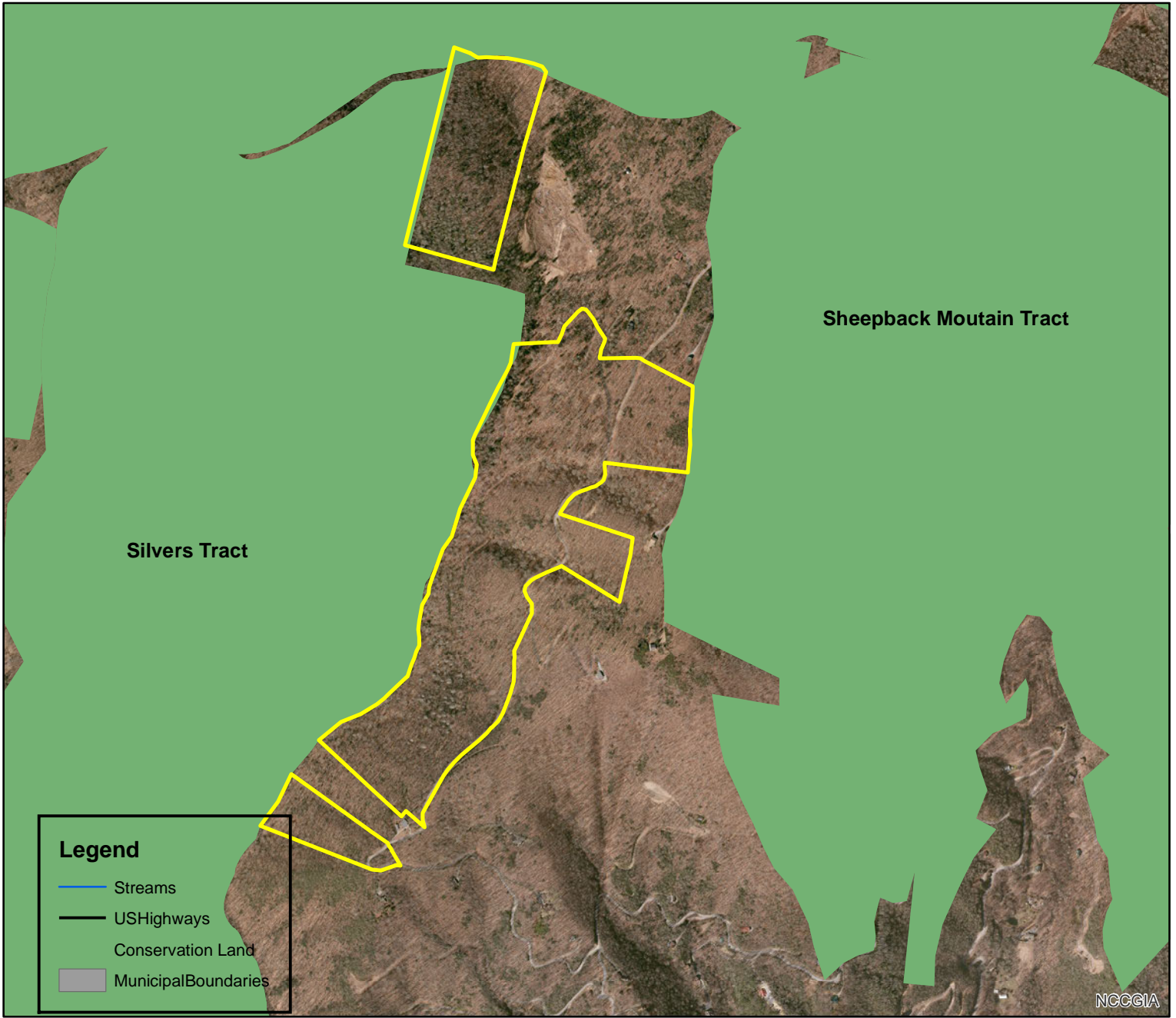
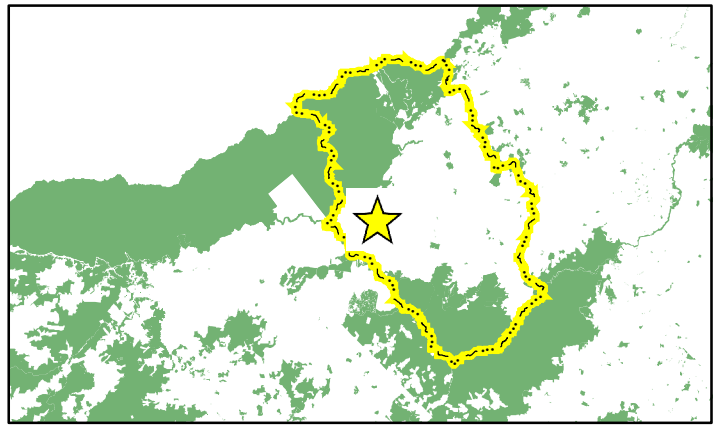
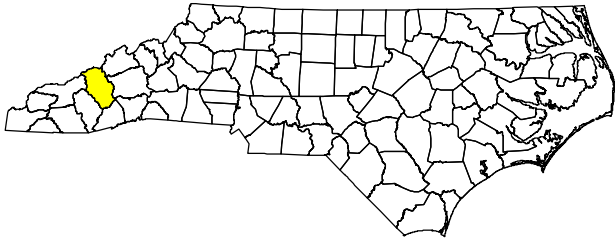
- Streams
- US Highways
- Conservation Land
- Municipal Boundaries



October 5, 2017



**Maggot Springs Tract
Sillers Game Land
Haywood County
115 Acres**



October 5, 2017

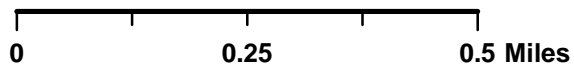


EXHIBIT H-1

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

Date first presented to WRC: October 16, 2016

Tract: Godwin UNC tract, Pender County 1/6th interest in 800 acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

WRC Pitman-Robertson Funds	\$ 52,500
WRC Funds	\$ 17,500
Total Cost:	<u>\$ 70,000</u>

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective date	Appraised Value
NCWRC	Michael Moody	August	\$70,000

Date of Appraisal: .

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal: state match rates): Pittman-Robertson 75/25

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:

\$0

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:

\$0

WORKSHEET

Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections

(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP						
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures						
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost	
Godwin Tract – Holly Shelter GL						NA
Total						\$
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>						

REVENUE							
Estimated Revenue Projections							
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue		
Godwin Tract – Holly Shelter GL					\$	NA	-

October 6, 2016

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: George Norris/Isaac Harrold

Date First Presented to WRC: October 6, 2016

Tract Name: Godwin UNC Foundation Tract (PIN 3279-72-0498-0000)

Acreage: ± 800

County: Pender

Estimated Value: \$91,200 for 1/6 interest (1/6 of listed tax value).

Property Owner or Representative:

Alex Ashton
UNC Property Office
103 Airport Drive
Suite 128D, CB # 1060
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
(919) 843-7749 (o)
(336) 706-2537 (m)
aashton@unc.edu

Ms. Betty Godwin et al of Hampstead, NC currently owns 1/6 undivided interest in the tract. The remaining interest was acquired by WRC in 1984. Ms. Godwin desires to donate her interest to the UNC Chapel Hill Foundation. The Foundation, in turn, has expressed interest in selling the donated interest to WRC.

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF

OTHER (explain): Pittman Robertson Land Acquisition Grant, WRC

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): WRC currently owns 5/6 undivided interest in the subject tract. Ms. Betty Godwin intends to donate the remaining 1/6 interest to the UNC Chapel Hill Foundation by the end of 2016, and the Foundation is interested in selling that donated interest to WRC. Acquisition of the remaining 1/6 donated interest would provide WRC with complete ownership of the subject tract and is a staff priority.

The tract is a complete inholding within Holly Shelter Game Land and borders the south shore of Ashes Creek. Habitats are primarily Atlantic Coastal Plain Peatland Pocosin. Primary game species include deer, bear, and furbearers. Potential nongame species are summarized in the attached table.

Additional Comments: The tract is accessible from existing game land roads.

Program Potential: Game Land (Holly Shelter GL) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area Boating Access Area

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet): 30 of 30

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

WORKSHEET
Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

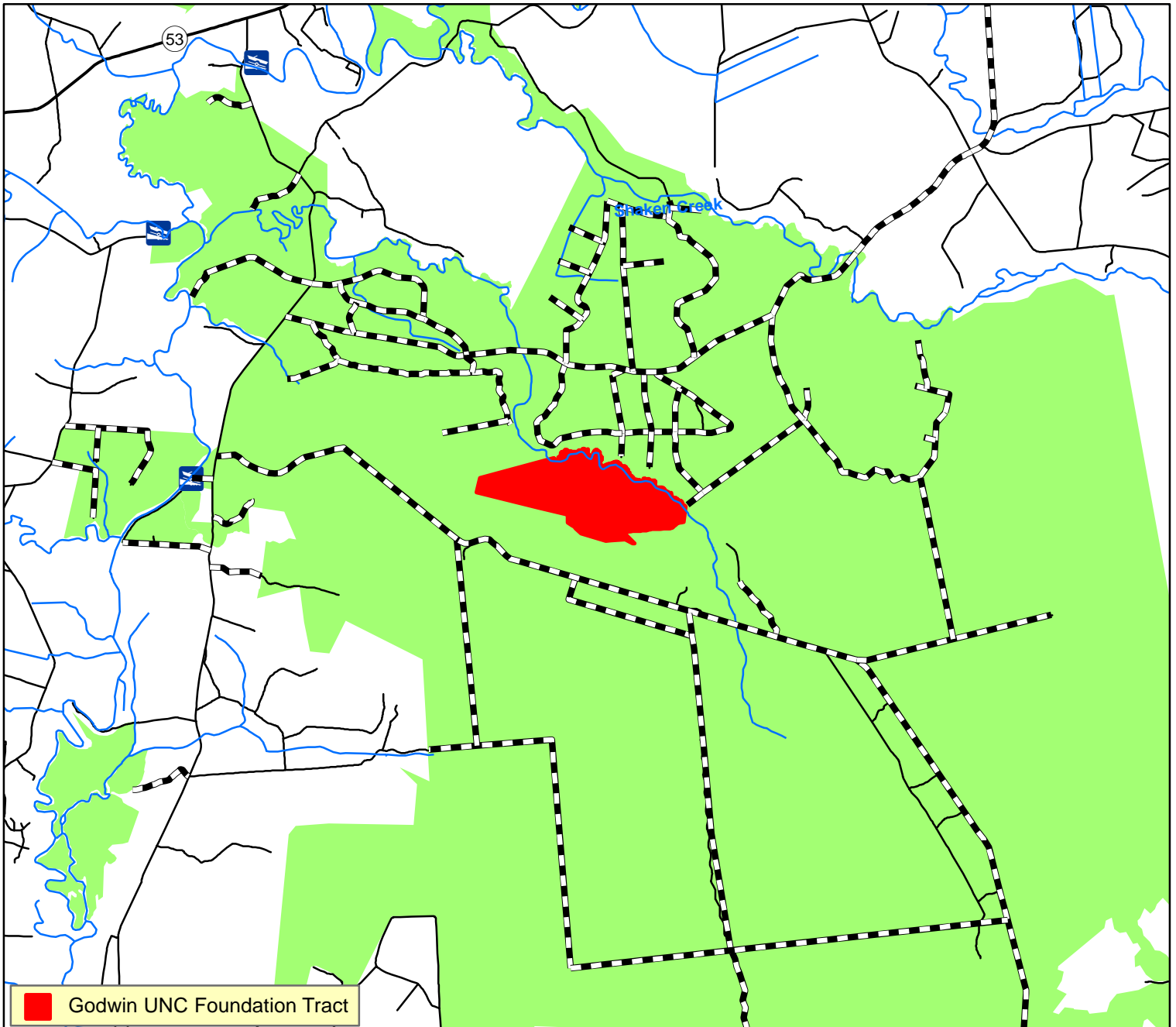
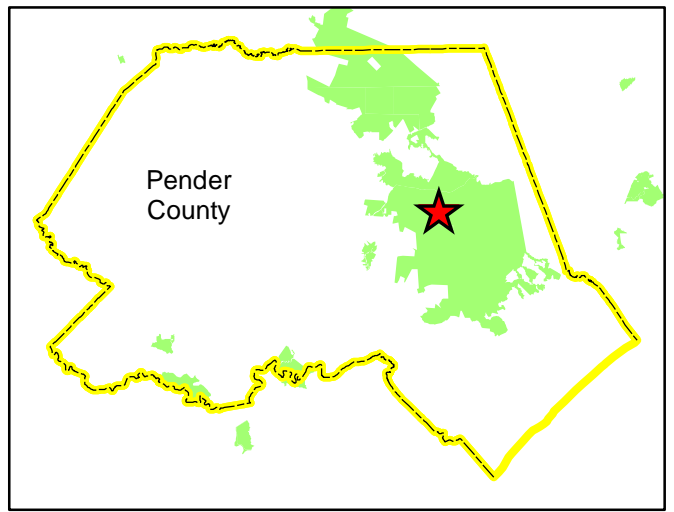
Tract Name (Holly Shelter GL) Godwin UNC Foundation Tract (Pender County)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>5</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>NA</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>NA</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>30</u></u>

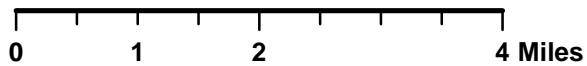
Godwin UNC Foundation Tract (Pender County) - Priority Species

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	TATE LISTED
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Plethodon glutinosus</i>	Slimy Salamander		
<i>Eurycea quadridigitata</i>	Dwarf Salamander		SC
<i>Stereochilus marginatus</i>	Many-lined Salamander		
<i>Ambystoma mabeei</i>	Mabee's Salamander		SR
<i>Siren lacertina</i>	Greater Siren		
<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	Oak Toad		SR
<i>Hyla andersonii</i>	Pine Barrens Treefrog		SR
<i>Pseudacris brimleyi</i>	Brimley's Chorus Frog		
<i>Pseudacris ornata</i>	Ornate Chorus Frog		SR
<i>Rana capito</i>	Gopher Frog		T
BIRDS			
<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal		
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser		
<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	Anhinga		
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		SC
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret		SC
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little Blue Heron		SC
<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	White Ibis		
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle		T
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail		
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl		SR
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	LE	E
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SC
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow		SC
MAMMALS			
<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat		T
<i>Lasiurus seminolus</i>	Seminole Bat		
<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	Southeastern Myotis		SC
<i>Sciurus niger</i>	Eastern Fox Squirrel		SR-G
REPTILES			
<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Spotted Turtle		
<i>Deirochelys reticularia</i>	Chicken Turtle		SR
<i>Malaclemys terrapin</i>	Diamondback Terrapin		SC
<i>Kinosternon baurii</i>	Striped Mud Turtle		
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American Alligator	SAT	T
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus</i>	Slender Glass Lizard		SR
<i>Ophisaurus mimicus</i>	Mimic Glass Lizard		SC
<i>Cemophora coccinea</i>	Scarlet Snake		
<i>Farancia erythrogramma</i>	Rainbow Snake		
<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Southern Hognose Snake		SC
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides</i>	Scarlet Kingsnake		
<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	Coachwhip		SR
<i>Regina rigida</i>	Glossy Crayfish Snake		SR
<i>Rhadinaea flavilata</i>	Pine Woods Snake		
<i>Seminatrix pygaea</i>	Black Swamp Snake		SR
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		
<i>Micrurus fulvius</i>	Eastern Coral Snake		E
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake		E
<i>Sistrurus miliarius</i>	Pygmy Rattlesnake		SC

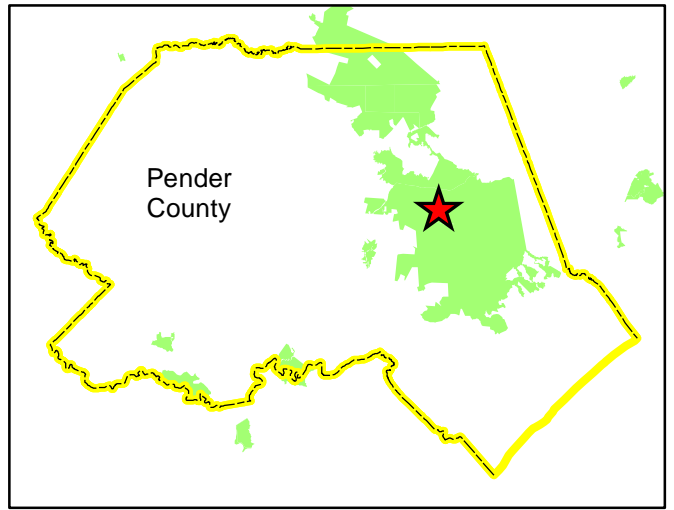
Godwin UNC Foundation Tract Holly Shelter GL Pender County 800 Acres




September 15, 2016



**Godwin UNC Foundation Tract
Holly Shelter GL
Pender County
800 Acres**



 Godwin UNC Foundation Tract

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



September 15, 2016

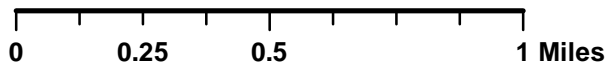


EXHIBIT H-2

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

Date first presented to WRC: February 15, 2016

Tract: Long Ridge Tract, Pender County 812 acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

WRC Pitman-Robertson Funds \$ 1,125,000

WRC Funds \$ 375,000

Total Cost: \$ 1,500,000

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective date	Appraised Value
NCWRC	Earl Worsley	June 16, 2016	\$1,499,517

Date of Appraisal: .

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal: state match rates): Pittman-Robertson 75/25

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:

\$29,860

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:

\$335,600

5- Year Estimated Stewardship Costs	Quantity	Unit	Unit/Cost	Total (5-yr)
Description				
Maintain Gate – yr. 2 - 5	5	ea.	\$ 200	\$ 1,000
Boundary Establishment – yr. 1	4.5	mi	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,750
Boundary Maintenance- yr. 4	4.5	mi	\$ 500	\$ 2,250
Prescribe Burning	462	ac	\$ 30	\$ 13,860
Manage existing wildlife openings	8	ac	\$ 150	\$ 6,000
Total estimated expenditures (5 yr.)			Total	\$ 29,860

5-Year Anticipated Revenue

Value	Total			
Timber sales of mid-aged pine stands	85	ac	\$ 400	\$ 34,000
*Thin mature longleaf and loblolly	377	ac	\$ 800	\$ 301,600
Total estimated revenue (5 yr.)				\$ 335,600

*Timber sales values are estimates - not based on actual timber volumes.

February 11, 2016

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Jeff Hall (jeff.hall@ncwildlife.org); 252-917-1683

Date First Presented to WRC: February 11, 2016

Tract Name: Long Ridge (PIN 2249-49-6159-0000)

Acreage: 812 +/-

County: Pender

Estimated Value: \$1,390,000 (Asking Price)

Property Owner or Representative: Ben Wolfe, Realtor, bwolfe@wolfesre.com
The property is owned by former NCWRC Wildlife Enforcement Officer, Herman Strickland. Mr. Strickland is anxious to sell in order to purchase an alternative tract in the Western US.

Phone: Office: 919-781-2992; Mobile: 919-219-8997; Fax: 919-781-2998

Address: 8009 Crooked Chute Ct., Raleigh, NC 27612

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No Interest

Grant Potential: CWMTF OTHER (explain): State Wildlife Grant monies;
USF&W Section 6 Recovery Land Acquisition Grant; WRC Nongame Fund;
The Nature Conservancy or Coastal Land Trust as possible partners

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief): This tract is near the current Cone's Folly property, and is in a very wildlife rich area of Pender County, particularly for rare species. Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWs) are located on the property. Numerous rare reptile and amphibian species are in the area including Southern Hognose Snake, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, Eastern Coral Snake, and Mabee's Salamander, as well as some potential for Pine Barrens Treefrog. The tract contains old growth upland Longleaf Pine forest, as well as other timber types, and some wetlands, including a Carolina Bay and a beaver pond. Along with Cone's Folly (private) nearby, this landscape comprises exceptional biological diversity. In addition, due to the high quality management activities occurring on the property, including prescribed fire, thinning, and wildlife plantings, the property is a haven for many wildlife species. Acquiring this property would enhance the sustainability of RCWs as well as numerous other species of wildlife.

Additional Comments: This property is easily accessed by numerous roads throughout the property. The main entrance road connects via a common dirt road to SR 1201 (Beatty's Bridge Rd) near Atkinson, NC. There is currently an access easement on the dirt road right-of-way which likely would restrict public use. However, future targeted acquisition of adjacent tracts may lead to public access that would allow for outstanding hunting opportunities.

Based upon data found in the NC Conservation Planning Tool, 60% of the Long Ridge tract averages a score of 8 out of 10 (1- low-10 high values) for the Biodiversity index. Another 30% averages 6-7 and the remaining 10% is in the 0-5 range. The Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Index prioritizes aquatic and terrestrial habitat, landscape function and connectivity. Areas that support this level of species richness should be targeted for protection.

Five-year estimated stewardship expenditures are estimated at approximately \$30,000 (\$6,000/yr.).

Five-year revenues are estimated at \$335,600.

Program Potential: Game Land Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name Long Ridge (Pender County)

Criterion Score (1-5)
5=Excellent 1=Poor

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands. | 3 |
| 2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities. | 5 |
| 3. No conflicting surrounding land uses. | 5 |
| 4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats. | 5 |
| 5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts. | 4 |
| 6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources. | 5 |
| 7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access? | Yes |
| 8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)? | Yes |
| 9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion? | NA |

TOTAL SCORE 27

Bird Species of Greatest Conservation Concern Likely to be Present on Long Ridge Property

BIRDS Species - Habitat Associations February 2015	Dry Longleaf Pine Forests	Mixed Hardwood Pine Forest/ Managed Timberland/	Successional Communities			Wetland Communities			
			Herb	Shrub	Woody	Nonalluvial Mineral Wetlands	Pocosins	Upland Pools & Depressions	Wet Pine Savannas
Common Name	COASTAL PLAIN								
Cooper's Hawk	X	X							
Henslow's Sparrow	X		X	X					X
Green Heron				X				X	
Hermit Thrush		X				X	X		
Northern Harrier			X	X					
Sedge Wren			X						
Northern Bobwhite	X		X	X	X				X
Yellow Rail			X	X					
Acadian Flycatcher						X	X		
Rusty Blackbird						X			
Merlin			X				X		X
American Kestrel	X		X						X
Common Gallinule								X	
Worm-Eating Warbler	X					X	X		
Least Bittern			x	x					
Loggerhead Shrike			X	X					
Swainson's Warbler						X	X		

BIRDS (continued)									
Red-Headed Woodpecker	X	X					X		X
Lincoln's Sparrow			X	X					
Wood Stork			X	X				X	
Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron						X			
Orange-Crowned Warbler			X	X	X				
Louisiana Waterthrush						X			
Savannah Sparrow			X	X					
Bachman's Sparrow	X		X	X					X
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker	X						X		X
Pied-Billed Grebe								X	
Prothonotary Warbler								X	
King Rail			X						
Virginia Rail			X						
Golden-Crowned Kinglet	X	X					X		
American Woodcock			X						
Prairie Warbler	X		X	X	X		X		X
Yellow-Throated Warbler	X						X		X
Wayne's Black-Throated Green Warbler						X	X		
Brown-Headed Nuthatch	X	X							X
Tree Swallow		X	X	X	X				
Barn Owl		X	X	X					

Amphibian Species of Greatest Conservation Concern Likely to be Present on Long Ridge Property

AMPHIBIANS Species - Habitat Associations February 2015	Terrestrial Communities						Wetland Communities					Aquatic Communitie s
	Dry Longleaf Pine Forests	Mixed Hardwood Pine Forest/ Managed Timberland/	Successional Communities			Sparsely Settled/ Mixed Habitats	Nonalluvial Mineral Wetlands	Pocosins	Upland Pools & Depressions	Upland Seepages & Spray Cliffs	Wet Pine Savannas	Headwater Streams/ Small Creeks
Herb			Shrub	Woody	Warm							
Common Name	COASTAL PLAIN											
Mabee's Salamander								X		X		
Southern Dusky Salamander						X	X					
Four-toed Salamander						X		X	X			
Pine Barrens Treefrog							X	X		X		
Oak Toad	X	X				X		X		X		
Brimley's Chorus Frog								X		X		
Southern Chorus Frog	X	X				X	X	X		X		
Ornate Chorus Frog								X		X		
Eastern Lesser Siren								X				
Many-Lined Salamander							X					

Reptile Species of Greatest Conservation Concern Likely to be Present on Long Ridge Property

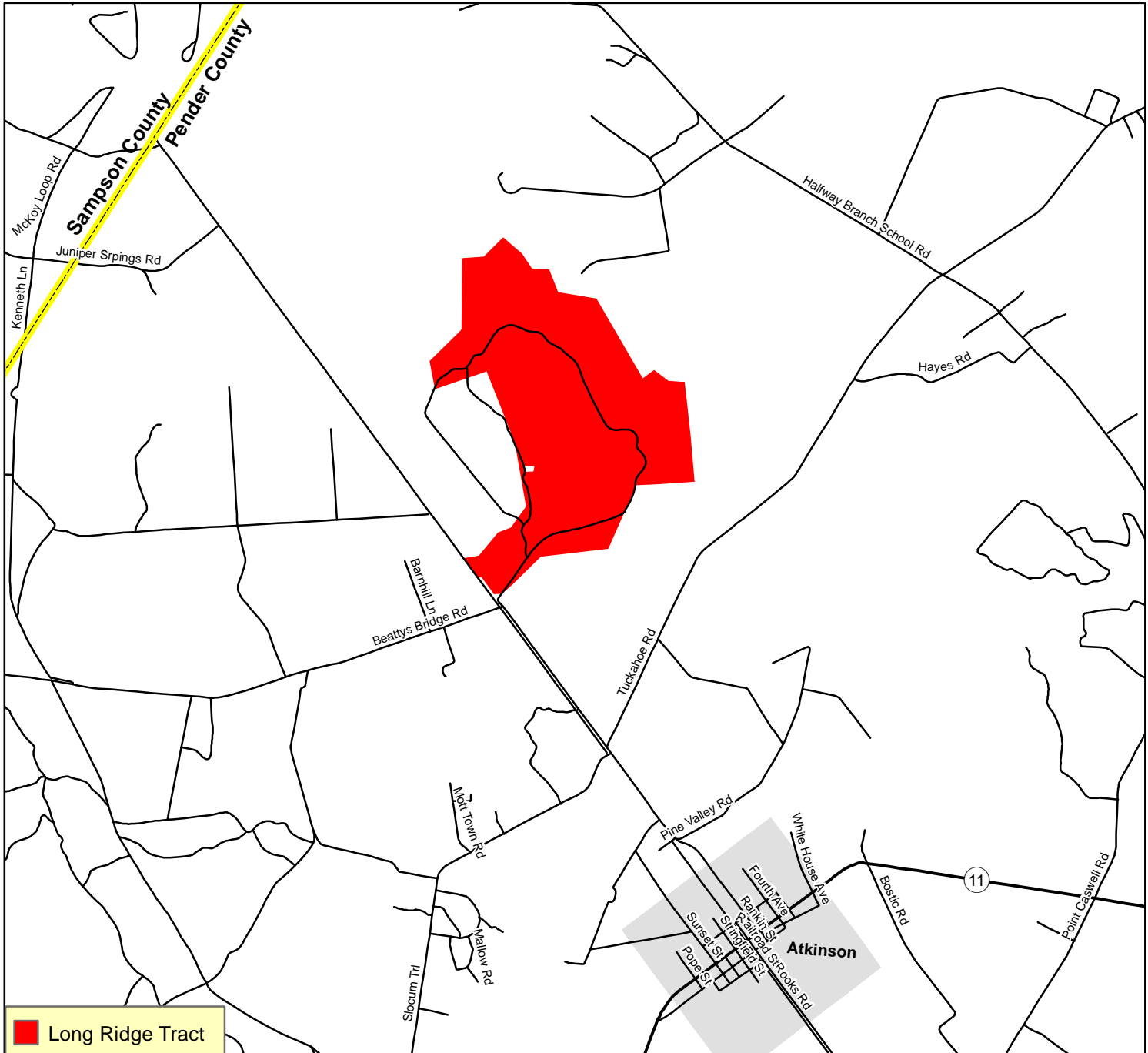
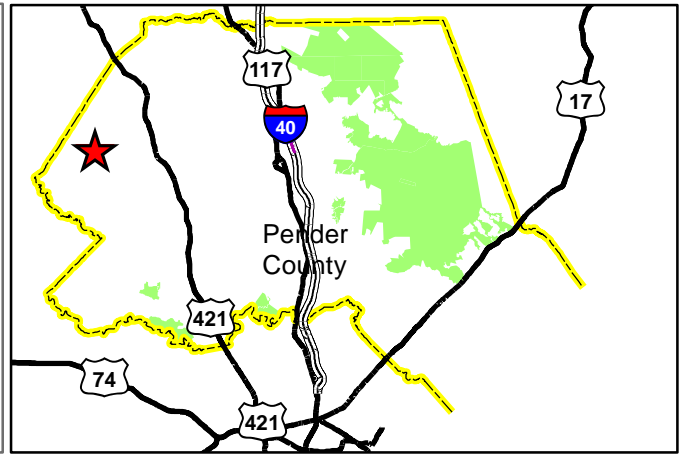
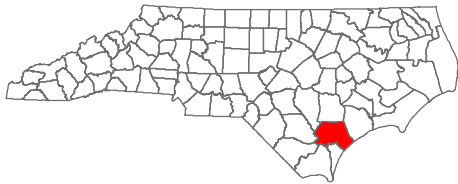
REPTILES Species - Habitat Associations February 2015	Terrestrial Communities						Wetland Communities				Aquatic Communities		
	Dry Longleaf Pine Forests	Mixed Hardwood Pine Forest/ Managed Timberland/	Successional Communities			Sparsely Settled/ Mixed Habitats	Nonalluvial Mineral Wetlands	Pocosins	Upland Pools & Depressions	Wet Pine Savannas	GW, Springs/ Caves	Head- water Streams/ Small Creeks	Stream Swamps
			Herb	Shrub	Woody						Cold	Warm	Warm
Common Name	COASTAL PLAIN												
American Alligator													X
Northern Scarlet Snake	X	X					X						
Spotted Turtle									X				
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake	X		X	X	X								
Timber Rattlesnake	X	X					X						
Eastern Chicken Turtle									X				
Striped Mud Turtle							X	X	X	X		X	X
Rainbow Snake													X
Southern Hognose Snake	X				X								
Mole Kingsnake			X	X	X	X							
Scarlet Kingsnake	X						X			X			
Eastern Coachwhip	X		X	X	X		X						
Coral Snake	X												
Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	X		X	X	X					X			

REPTILES (continued)													
Mimic Glass Lizard							X			X			
Glossy Crayfish Snake									X				
Pine Woods Litter Snake							X			X			
Carolina Swamp Snake									X				X
Eastern Box Turtle		X	X	X	X								
Smooth Earth Snake	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Eastern Ribbon Snake												X	X
Carolina Pigmy Rattlesnake	X						X						

Mammal Species of Greatest Conservation Concern Likely to be Present on Long Ridge Property

MAMMALS	Terrestrial Communities					Wetland Communities				Aquatic Communities	
	Dry Longleaf Pine Forests	Mixed Hardwood Pine Forest/ Managed Timberland/	Successional Communities			Nonalluvial Mineral Wetlands	Pocosins	Upland Pools & Depressions	Wet Pine Savannas	Headwater Streams/ Small Creeks	Stream Swamps
Herb			Shrub	Woody	Warm					Warm	
Species - Habitat Associations February 2015											
Common Name	COASTAL PLAIN										
Star-Nosed Mole			X	X			X	X			
Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bat - Coastal Plain Pop		X									
Hoary Bat									X	X	
Northern Yellow Bat						X					
Seminole Bat	X					X					
Southeastern Bat						X					
Little Brown Bat	X	X		X							
Northern Long-Eared Bat	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Little Brown Bat	X	X		X							
Eastern Woodrat - Coastal Plain population						X				X	
Tri-Colored Bat	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	

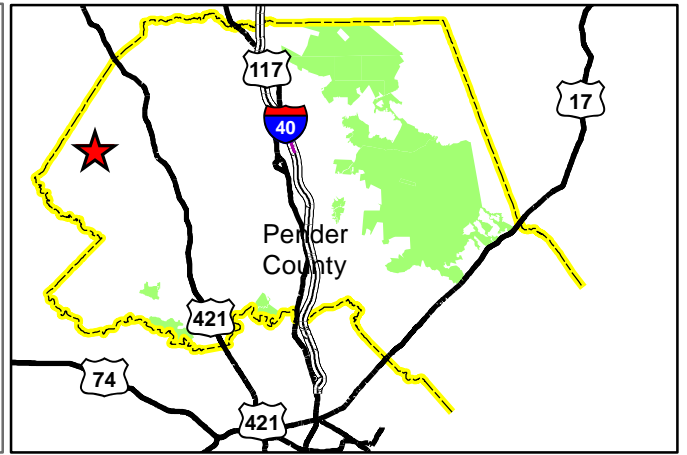
Long Ridge Tract Pender County 812 Acres



January 23, 2016



Long Ridge Tract Pender County 812 Acres



 Long Ridge Tract

NC OneMap, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, NC 911 Board



January 23, 2016

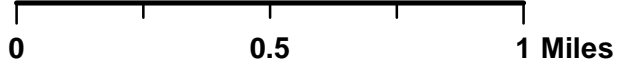


EXHIBIT H-3

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): October 5, 2017

Tract: Drowning Creek, Scotland County 175 acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

Transfer from NC DOT

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Date of Appraisal: .

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal: state match rates): Pittman-Robertson 75/25

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:

\$2850

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:

\$0

WORKSHEET

Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections

(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures					
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Drowning Creek	Boundary Establishment (Contract)	1.72	mi.	\$200	\$350
	Create small parking area	1	Ea	\$2500	\$2500
Total					\$2850
<i>Insert additional rows in table as needed</i>					

REVENUE						
Estimated Revenue Projections						
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue	
					\$0	-
Total					\$0	-

EXHIBIT H-3

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

WRC Staff Contact:	Brady Beck
Date First Presented to Commission:	Oct-17
Tract Name:	Drowning Creek
County:	Scotland
Acreage:	175
Tax Value:	\$94,472
Property Owner/Representative:	NC DOT
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	P.O. Box 25201 Raleigh, NC 27601

Primary Purpose:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

Program Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (overwrite this cell)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transfer

Owner Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Match:

Funding Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Additional Comments:
 The NC Department of Transportation is beginning the process of clearing its books of mitigation properties that were purchased to offset impacts from road projects. A number of these projects are being assessed for the potential to be added to lands that the Wildlife Resources Commission manages. These are intended to be transfers from one State entity to another in order to maintain the protected status of the property. The Drowning Creek Tract is one of the highest quality properties available to the WRC.

EXHIBIT H-3

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name:	Drowning Creek
County:	Scotland

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

Based upon data found in the NC Conservation Planning Tool, the Drowning Creek Tract Biodiversity index averaged a score of 9 out of 10 (1- low-10 high values). However, 100% of the tract averaged an 8 or greater, with 72% of the area being assessed a score of 9 or 10. The Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Index prioritizes aquatic and terrestrial habitat, landscape function and connectivity. Areas that support this level of species richness should be targeted for protection as the highest priority. The entire Drowning Creek Tract is part of three different Significant Natural Heritage Areas. The indicated SNHA's are Drowning Creek/Quewhiffle Creek Floodplain, Beaver Dam Creek/Little Muddy Creek Natural Area, and Naomi Church Sandhills. Inclusion in any SNHA implies that the habitat on that property is representative of the best remaining examples of those rare plant and animal communities. This property also provides protection for 1.1 miles of Drowning Creek/Lumber River and shares 9700 feet of common boundary with the Sandhills Game Land.

Tract Name	Drowning Creek
Date	September 12, 2017
Staff Completing Form	Brady Beck

Species	0.926
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3

Comments
SGCN species noted on the tract: Pinewoods Darter, Pine Barrens Treefrog, Coppery Emerald, Red-cockaded Woodpecker. The Drowning Creek Tract Biodiversity index averaged a score of 9 out of 10 (1- low-10 high values). However, 100% of the tract averaged an 8 or greater, with 72% of the area being assessed a score of 9 or 10. The Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Index prioritizes aquatic and terrestrial habitat, landscape function and connectivity. Areas that support this level of species richness should be targeted for protection as the highest priority. The entire Drowning Creek Tract is part of three different Significant Natural Heritage Areas. The indicated SNHA's are Drowning Creek/Quewhiffle Creek Floodplain, Beaver Dam Creek/Little Muddy Creek Natural Area, and Naomi Church Sandhills. Deer and wild turkey are common game species on the tract.

Habitat	0.889
Size	1
Quality	3
Diversity	3
Rare/Important	3
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

Comments
The Drowning Creek tract (175 acres) borders the WRC owned Sandhills Game Land, which is 64,543 acres in size.

Public Access	0.667
Hunting/Viewing	2
Fishing	2
Boating	2

Comments
One gravel pit (pond) occurs on the property which would provide another fishing opportunity for the public. One existing Game Land road provides vehicle access to the boundary, however access to the interior of the parcel is by foot only.

Wildlife Uses	0.667
Hunting	3
Viewing	2
Fishing	2
Boating	2
Education	1

Comments
Hunting access is limited to one point, but opportunities to see large deer on the property should be available. Wildlife viewing opportunities should be good around the pond, but thick vegetation on the interior of the tract will make viewing opportunities more challenging.

Other Values	0.333
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	1
Quality of Life	1

Comments

Feasibility & Logistics	0.867
Existing Infrastructure	1
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	3

Comments
One small pond exists on the property. No road or trail infrastructure exists on the tract. Access is through existing SGL fireline.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.583
Species Restoration	3
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	1
Threat Mitigation	0

Comments

Threats	0.000
Number	0
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

Comments
The property is currently under Conservation Easement, so normal threats of development and logging do not exist on this tract.

Overall Score	4.931
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Instructions for filling out Phase I Worksheet

General

1. Fill in the gray cells in Cover Sheet and Page 2. The rest of these instructions pertain to the Worksheet.
2. The worksheet is for assessing opportunistic land acquisitions. Responses should reflect current conditions.
3. The worksheet is protected so that you can only edit certain cells. These are shaded gray.
4. The gray cells in the worksheet will change color after you have entered text or a numeric value.
5. Ratings for each metric must be an integer from 0 to 3. If you enter anything else, you will get a warning.
6. Except for the Threats category, 0 represents an undesirable condition (i.e., tract is not suitable for acquisition) and 3 represents a preferred condition (i.e., the tract is valuable and worth pursuing). For subjective metrics, start with a mindset that the parcel provides average/moderate conditions (i.e., rating of 2). Don't automatically give a rating of 3 without justification.

Species

1. If necessary, get assistance from staff in other Divisions/Programs or other sources (GIS, NHP, LCC models, etc.).
2. The scores are meant to be based on best professional judgment, not an exact count of species.
3. Rating: 3 = High species count; 2 = Moderate species count; 1 = Low species count; 0 = Very low species count.
4. Overall biodiversity means all species of each group.
5. SGCN species are those listed in the 2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan.
6. Game species are those managed for sport or take. For game species, also consider population size.

Habitat

1. Quality refers to habitat condition. Diversity refers to the variety of habitat types.
2. Rare/Important refers to critical habitat for listed or SGCN species. Consider quantity and quality.
3. Connectivity means the parcel provides a corridor to other conservation lands or connectivity in river systems.
4. Buffer means the parcel provides additional conservation land around a critical habitat type or allows managers to appropriately use tools such as prescribed fire without impacting adjoining land.
5. For all metrics except Size: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
6. Size: 3 = >3,000 acres; 2 = 1,000 - 3,000 acres; 1 = 100 - 1,000 acres; 0 = <100 acres

Public Access

1. The parcel provides public access to fish/wildlife resources on that parcel or to adjoining land or water.
2. Rating: 3 = Excellent existing access or provides critical access; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor; 0 = None

Wildlife Uses

1. Recreational or educational use of resources.
2. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Other Values

1. Timber Harvest is not the value of timber, but the potential to produce, manage and harvest timber.
2. Local Economy is the ability of the parcel to act as an economic driver by attracting substantial public use (e.g., unique wildlife viewing, hunting, etc.).
3. Quality of Life is the indirect/secondary benefit to the local community by providing green space or walking/hiking opportunities.
4. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Feasibility & Logistics

1. Existing Infrastructure includes road system, buildings, etc. Consider quantity and quality. If a liability and has to be removed/repaired, score 0 or 1.
2. Compatibility of Multiple Uses is the ability of the parcel to provide hunting, viewing, fishing, etc. at the same time.
3. Compatibility with Adjoining Land should consider things like public safety, noise, prescribed burns, etc. Consider both the impact of wildlife users and management on adjoining land and adjoining landowners on the parcel.
4. Inholding/Corridor - Does the parcel fill in a hole in existing WRC ownership or does it provide a wildlife corridor?
5. Proximity to Users refers to location of parcel to targeted user groups (e.g., new game land near population center).
6. Rating: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Restoration/Mitigation Potential

1. Restoration Potential is the ability to improve species, habitat or access through natural processes or management actions.
Potential: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None
2. Threat Mitigation is the degree to which the threat can be avoided, minimized or delayed by acquiring the parcel.
Mitigation: 3 = Avoids Threats; 2 = Minimizes Threats; 1 = Delays Threats; 0 = None

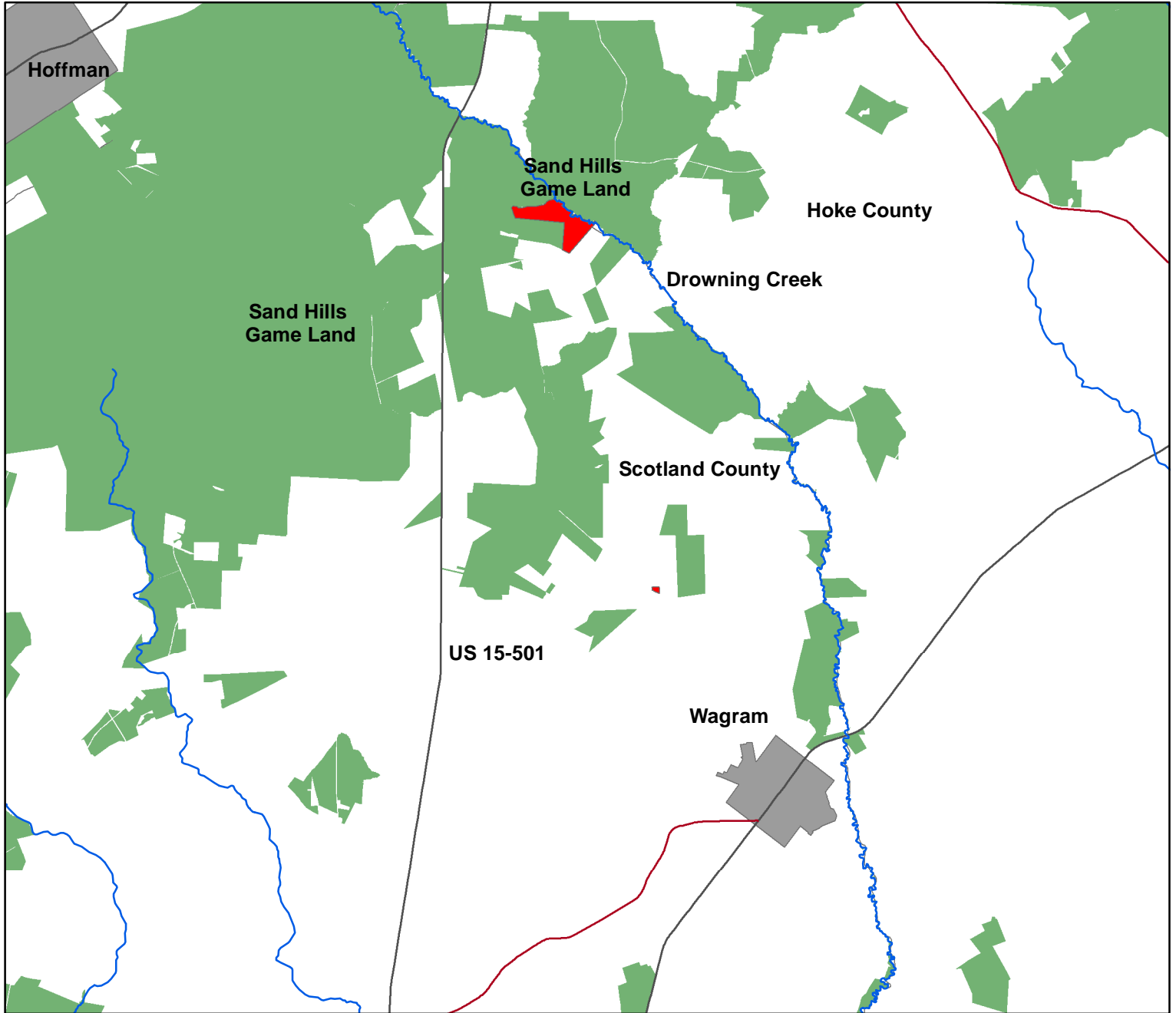
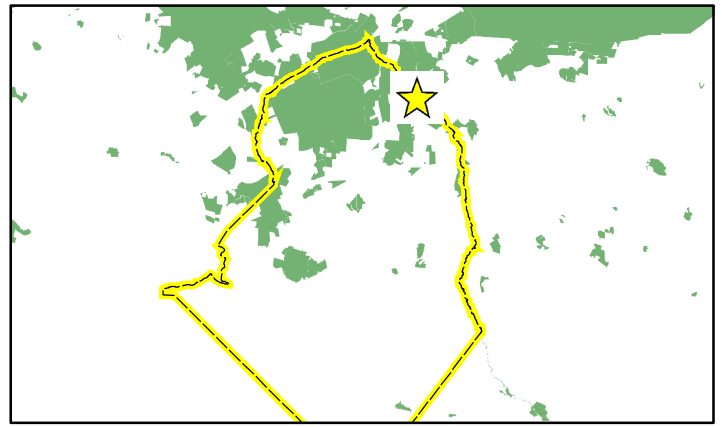
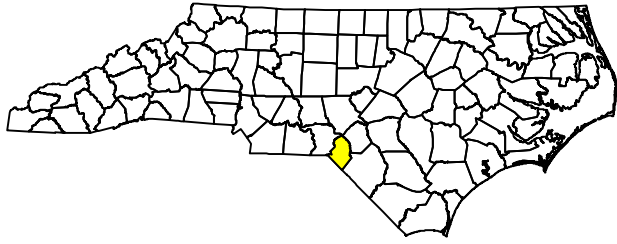
Threats

1. Threats reduce the value of a parcel, so the overall Threat score will be subtracted from the total score of the other metrics.
2. Number of Threats: 3 = Many; 2 = Some; 1 = Few; 0 = None
3. Severity of Threats: 3 = Critical; 2 = High; 1 = Moderate; 0 = Low
4. Imminence (time or distance) of Threats: 3 = Extant; 2 = Very Near; 1 = Moderately Near; 0 = Distant
5. Manageability of Threats: 3 = Unmanageable; 2 = Low; 1 = Moderate; 0 = High
6. Management Cost to Control Threats: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = Minimal

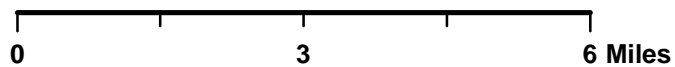
Scoring

1. Scoring for each section is normalized (range 0 - 1).
2. The overall score is calculated by adding individual section scores and subtracting the Threat score.
3. The overall score will not calculate unless there is at least one ranking filled in for each section, even if a zero.
4. The overall score ranges from 7 (all values high and no threats) to -1 (all values zero and high threats).

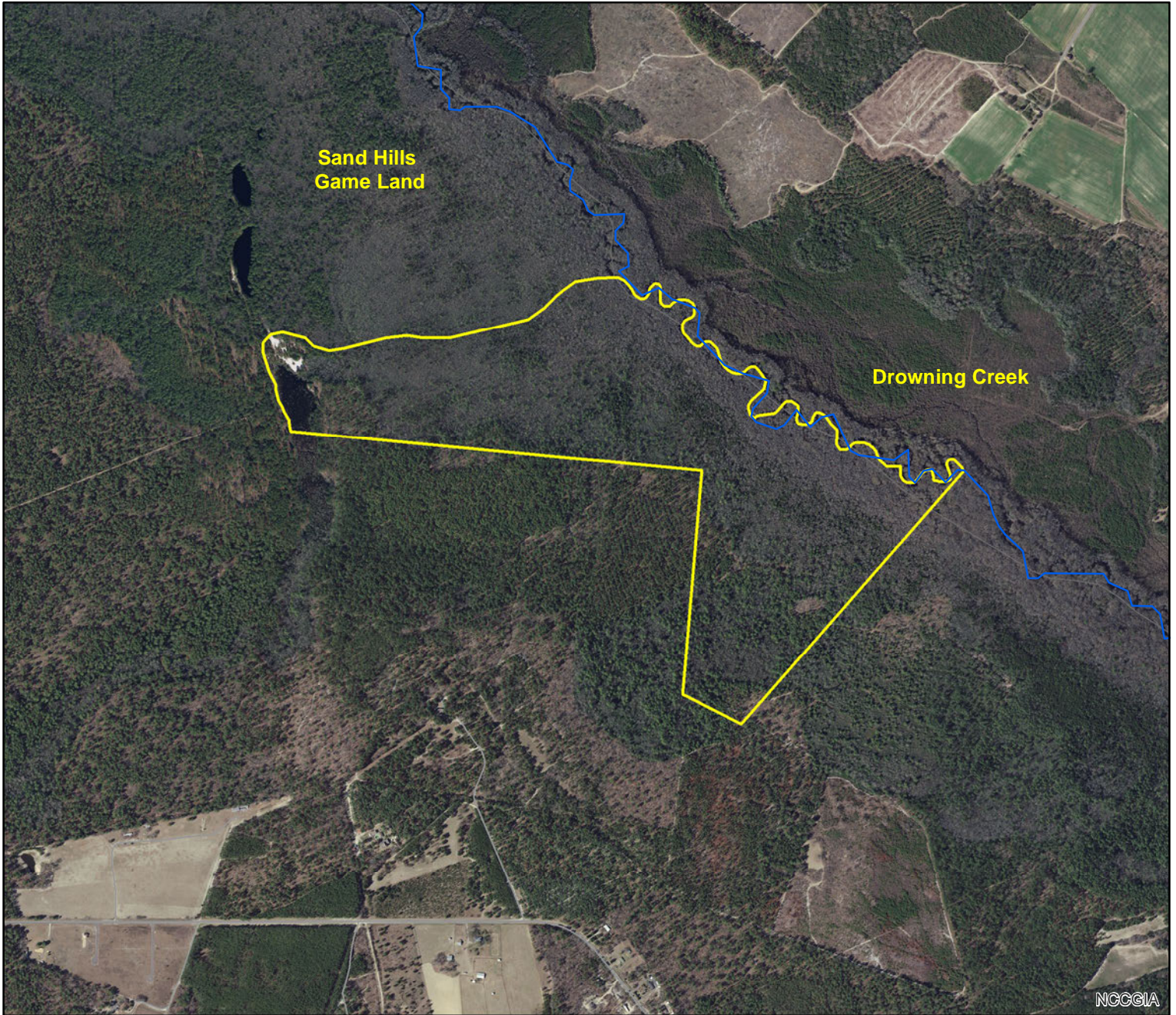
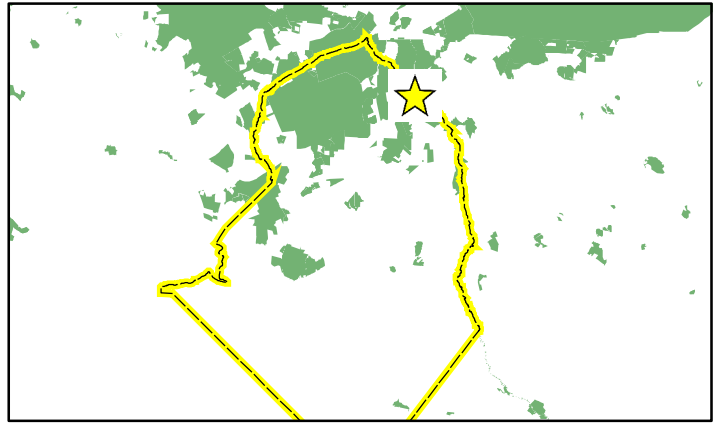
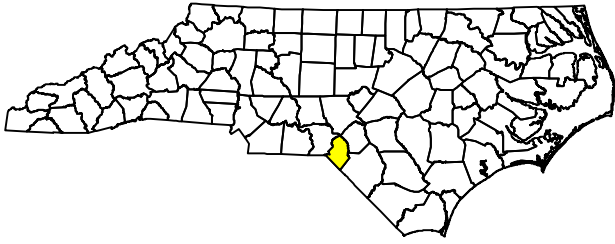
**Drowning Creek Tract
Sand Hills Game Land
Scotland County
175 Acres**



October 5, 2017



**Drowning Creek Tract
Sand Hills Game Land
Scotland County
175 Acres**



October 5, 2017

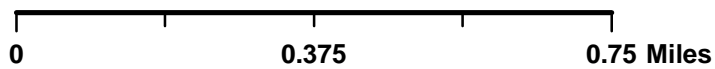


EXHIBIT H-4

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

Date first presented to WRC: October 5, 2017

Tract: Palmetto Peartree Tract, Tyrell County 10,297 acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

Transfer from DOT

Based on Appraisal: Yes No X NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective date	Appraised Value

Date of Appraisal: .

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details:

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal: state match rates): Pittman-Robertson 75/25

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:

\$566,514.50

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:

0

Palmetto-Peartree Preserve - Tyrrell County
5- Year Estimated Stewardship Costs

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit/Cost	Total
Boundary Establishment	54.23	mi	\$150.00	\$8,134.50
Install New Gates (Year 1)	7	ea	\$1,000.00	\$7,000.00
Replace/Repair Gates (Year 1)	10	ea	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00
Maintain Existing Gates (Year 1)	8	ea	\$100.00	\$800.00
Maintain Gates (Years 2-5)	25	ea	\$100.00	\$10,000.00
Upgrade Existing Improved Surface Road	1.16	mi	\$8,000.00	\$9,280.00
Gravel Existing Roads	5.0	mi	\$48,000.00	\$240,000.00
Maintain Roads(Years 2-4)	6.16	mi	\$2,500.00	\$61,600.00
Maintain Trails(Years 1-5)	17	mi	\$2,500.00	\$212,500.00
Install Kiosks	3	ea	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
Maintain Kiosks (Years 2-5)	3	ea	\$225.00	\$2,700.00
			Total	\$566,514.50

EXHIBIT H-4
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	David Turner
Date First Presented to Commission:	
Tract Name:	Palmetto-Peartree Preserve (P3)
County:	Tyrrell
Acreage:	10,297
Tax Value:	Not Available
Property Owner/Representative:	North Carolina Dept. of Transportation
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

Program Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enviva Forest Conservation Fund
<input type="checkbox"/>	NAWCA
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Enhancement Grant Program

Owner Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	75/25	Match:

Funding Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargain Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Additional Comments:

Palmetto-Peartree Preserve (P3) was created as a mitigation bank for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). The Conservation Fund began developing the area starting in 1999 as an ecotourism destination focusing on birders, hikers, paddlers, and campers. A portion of the preserve was leased to hunt clubs. P3 shares some property boundaries with Alligator River Game Land. If accepted, this property could be managed as part of Alligator River Game Land with existing game land regulations.

EXHIBIT H-4
October 5, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name: Palmetto-Peartree Preserve (P3)
County: Tyrrell

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The largest portion (8,487 acres) of P3 is bordered on the north by the Albemarle Sound and on the east by the Little Alligator River. The second largest parcel (1,495 acres) is bordered on the north by the Little Alligator River and primarily private land on the remaining boundaries. P3 has over 23 miles of unimproved logging roads that have been maintained as part of the RCW monitoring efforts. The limited roads traveled as part of this investigation were in fair to good condition however, the roads will not be able to support hunting season long vehicular traffic without a gravel surface. Most roads are currently gated with a few gates in poor condition. The Conservation Fund built canoe/kayak docks, out houses, bridges, boardwalks, trails, and a camping platform, all of which are weathered and in stages of disrepair. The Little Alligator River is considered an Anadromous Fish Spawning Area. P3 is a recognized Global Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society reports that P3 supports over 25 clusters of RCW's. This information may be old and a more accurate number can be produced by the firm which was monitoring the population locally. The area supports a large black bear population. Based upon data found in the NC Conservation Planning Tool, the property has an average Biodiversity Relative Conservation Value of 9.7 (0- low-10 high values). The Biodiversity/Wildlife Habitat Index prioritizes aquatic and terrestrial habitat, landscape function and connectivity.

Tract Name	Palmetto-Peartree Preserve
Date	September 12, 2017
Staff Completing Form	David Turner

Species	0.815
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	1

Comments
Species: As a large tract with several different habitat types P3 has 68 SGCN that possibly occur in the habitats identified on the tract according to the Conservation Opportunity Area and Threat Assessment tool (COA tool). Game species include black bear, deer, waterfowl, and grey squirrel. Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified by the COA tool include American Black Duck, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Black-throated Green Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and the Red Wolf.

Habitat	0.889
Size	3
Quality	3
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

Habitat: Habitats on P3 include Mixed Hardwood/Pine Forest and Managed timberland, Nonalluvial Mineral Wetlands, Pocosins, Coastal Plain Stream Swamps, and Estuarine Aquatic Communities.

Public Access	0.556
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	1

Public Access: Access is generally good with several roads originating at DOT roads. Two easements to isolated tracts or portions of tracts will need to be investigated to determine public use. The soil roads within the preserve will not sustain vehicular traffic during wet conditions and will need gravel surfacing. Most of the roads have been flat-mowed as of this report and all needed side-mowing. The Conservation Fund build camping, paddling, and trail infrastructure is in poor condition.

Wildlife Uses	0.533
Hunting	3
Viewing	2
Fishing	1
Boating	1
Education	1

Wildlife Uses: A portion of P3 was leased to primarily bear hunters. Deer hunting will likely occur with some squirrel hunting. Most waterfowl hunting will likely take place on the public waters surrounding the preserve.

Other Values	0.556
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	1
Quality of Life	3

Other Values: Depending on the restrictions outlined in a possible Conservation Easement, limited timber harvest may be an appropriate management option of certain stands that do not affect RCW habitats. Depending on existing infrastructure maintenance and time of year, the P3 site may increase the advertised ecotourism the county is promoting.

Feasibility & Logistics	1.000
Existing Infrastructure	3
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	3

Feasibility and Logistics: The P3 property borders a portion of Alligator River Game Lands, is near the Texas Plantation Game Land, and a portion lies across US HWY 64 from J. Morgan Futch Game Land. The rugged terrain helps to protect a black bear population from over harvest.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.500
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	0

Restoration/Mitigation Potential: There is little that could feasible be done to restore habitats to what is considered ideal RCW habitats in the areas that the clusters are found on P3. Rising water tables may eventually kill the pines that RCW's require for cavities.
--

Threats	0.600
Number	1
Severity	2
Imminence	2
Manageability	2
Management Cost	2

Threats: Sea-level rise will threaten most of the Mixed Hardwood/Pine Forests over time. The greatest management cost will be associated with road upkeep.

Overall Score	4.248
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Instructions for filling out Phase I Worksheet

General

This form is for assessing opportunistic land acquisitions. Responses should reflect current conditions.

The worksheet is protected so that you can only edit certain cells. These are shaded gray.

The gray cells will change color after you have entered text or a numeric value.

Ratings for each metric must be an integer from 0 to 3. If you enter anything else, you will get a warning.

Except for the Threats category, 0 represents an undesirable condition (i.e., tract is not suitable for acquisition) and 3

represents a preferred condition (i.e., the tract is valuable and worth pursuing).

Fill out all gray scoring cells (columns B, C, D).

Species

If necessary, get assistance from staff in other Divisions/Programs or other sources (GIS, NHP, LCC models, etc.).

The scores are meant to be based on best professional judgment, not an exact count of species.

3 = High species count; 2 = Moderate species count; 1 = Low species count; 0 = Very low species count.

Overall biodiversity means all species of each group.

SCGN species are those listed in the 2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan.

Game species are those managed for sport or take. For game species, also consider population size.

Habitat

Quality refers to habitat condition. Diversity refers to the variety of habitat types.

Rare/Important refers to critical habitat for listed or SCGN species. Consider quantity and quality.

Connectivity means the parcel provides a corridor to other conservation lands or connectivity in river systems.

Buffer means the parcel provides additional conservation land around a critical habitat type or allows managers to appropriately use tools such as prescribed fire without impacting adjoining land.

For all metrics except Size: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Size: 3 = >3,000 acres; 2 = 1,000 - 3,000 acres; 1 = 100 - 1,000 acres; 0 = <100 acres

Public Access

3 = Excellent existing access or provides critical access; 2 = Average; 1 = Poor; 0 = None

Wildlife Uses

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Other Values

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Feasibility & Logistics

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Restoration/Mitigation Potential

Restoration Potential is the ability to improve species, habitat or access through natural processes or management actions.

3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = None

Threat Mitigation is the degree to which the threat can be avoided, minimized or delayed by acquiring the parcel.

3 = Avoids Threats; 2 = Minimizes Threats; 1 = Delays Threats; 0 = None

Threats

Threats reduce the value of a parcel, so the overall Threat score will be subtracted from the total score of the other metrics.

Number: 3 = Many; 2 = Some; 1 = Few; 0 = None

Severity: 3 = Critical; 2 = High; 1 = Moderate; 0 = Low

Imminence (time or distance): 3 = Extant; 2 = Very Near; 1 = Moderately Near; 0 = Distant

Manageability: 3 = Unmanageable; 2 = Low; 1 = Moderate; 0 = High

Management Cost: 3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = Minimal

Scoring

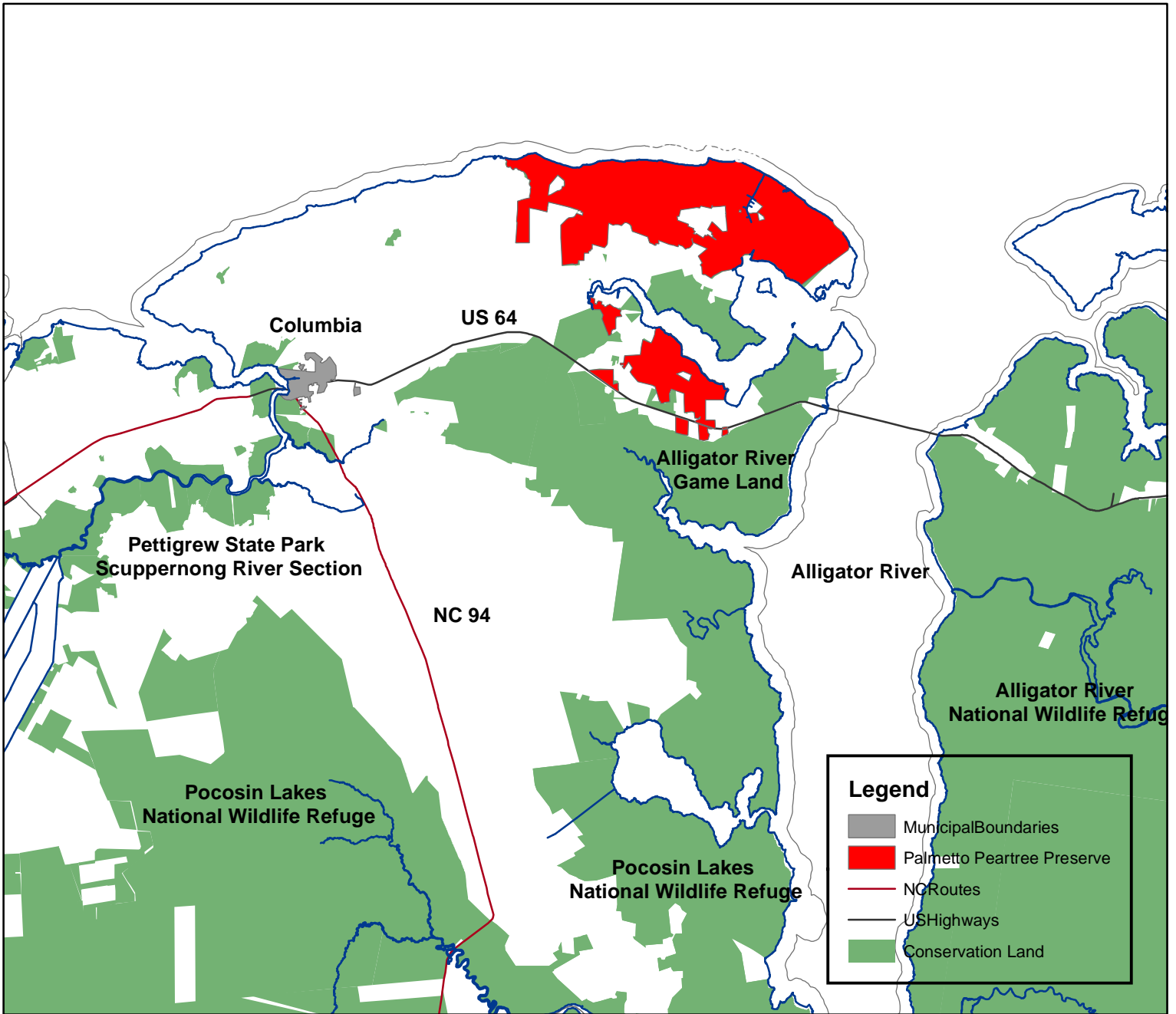
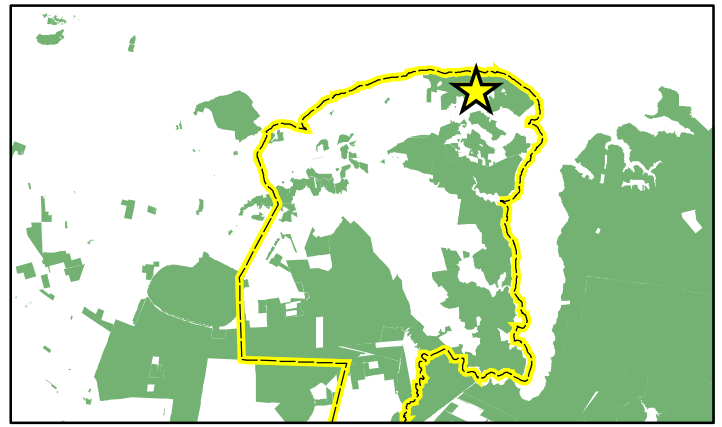
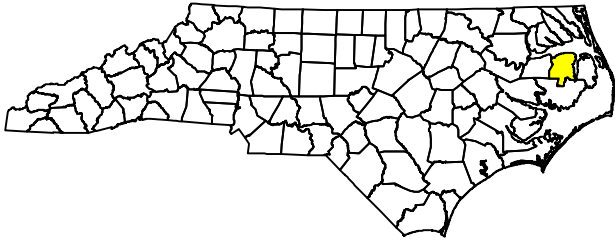
Scoring for each section is normalized (range 0 - 1).

The overall score is the sum of the individual section scores, minus the Threat score.

The overall score will not calculate unless there is at least one ranking filled in for each section, even if a zero.

The overall score ranges from 7 (all values high and no threats) to -1 (all values zero and high threats).

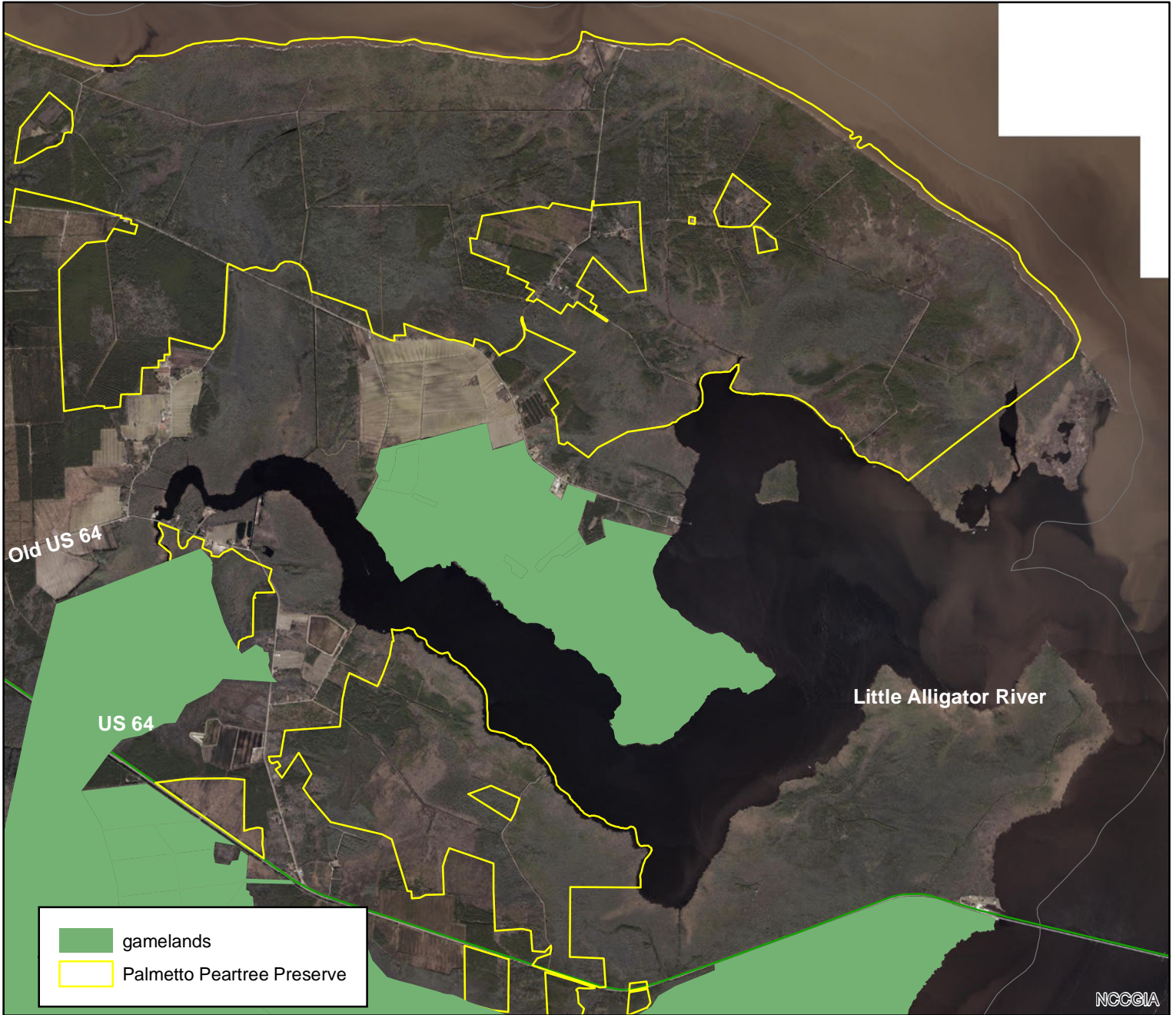
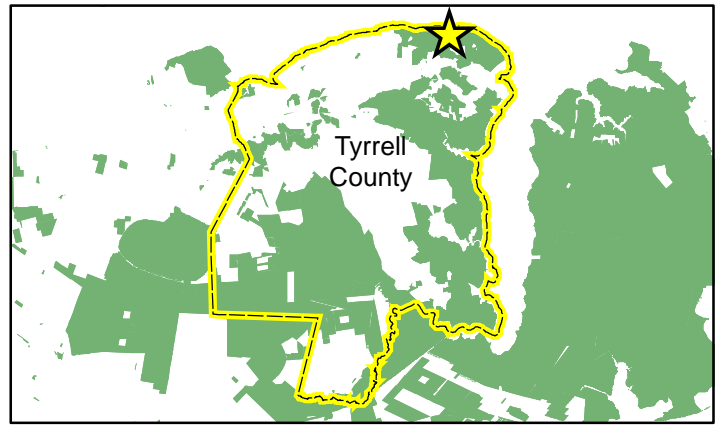
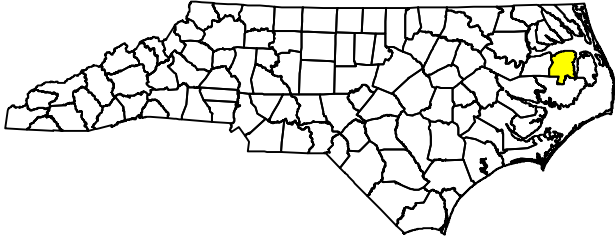
**Palmetto Peartree Preserve
Alligator River Game Land
Tyrrell County
10,297 Acres**



October 5, 2017



**Palmetto Peartree Preserve
Alligator River Game Land
Tyrrell County
10,297 Acres**



October 5, 2017

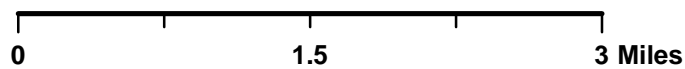


EXHIBIT H-5

October 5, 2017

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

-PHASE II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS-

Date first presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract: Johns River Tract, Burke and Caldwell counties 2,557 acres

Acquisition Plan (specify total project cost, each source, and amount of OBLIGATED funds):

WRC Pitman-Robertson Funds	\$4,030,207
CWMTF Funds	\$1,000,000
Duke Price reduction	\$3,456,151
Total Cost:	<u>\$8,486,358</u>
Total cost to NCWRC	\$5,030,207

Based on Appraisal: Yes No NA

If Yes, Name of Appraiser:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective date	Appraised Value
NCWRC	Michael Moore CDN appraisal	July 9, 2017	\$7,500,000
NCWRC	Shaun R McNeil Miller and associates	July 9, 2017	\$6,600,000
Duke Power	Tedford & associates	July 23, 2017	\$8,849,000

Date of Appraisal: .

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office: Yes No NA

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale: Yes No

If Yes, Explain Details: Duke reduced price per acre by \$1,350.00

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal: state match rates): Pittman-Robertson 75/25

Five Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projection Evaluation (attach worksheet)

Five Year Estimate of Total Stewardship Expenditures:

\$334,924

Five Year Estimate of Total Projected Revenue:

\$75,000

WORKSHEET
Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections
(Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP					
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures					
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Johns River FERC Tracts	Boundary Establishment (Contracted)				
	*Duke property boundaries are usually painted. If some portions are unpainted, then surveying at approximately \$1.25 per foot will be required for those portions only	102825	ft.	\$0.15	\$15,424
	Establish parking areas (game land portion)	9	ea.	\$10,000	\$90,000
	Erect gates (game land portion)	9	ea.	\$500	\$4,500
	Road upgrade (public access)	.6	mi.	\$100,000	\$60,000
	Grade/Spot Gravel (administrative access)	2	mi.	\$25,000	\$50,000
	Establish/Maintain Wildlife Openings (each acre maintained annually for 5 years)	15	ac.	\$200	\$15,000
	Establish 2 Public Fishing Access Areas	2	ea.	\$50,000	\$100,000
	Total				\$334,924.00

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue Projections					
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Johns River FERC Tracts	Timber Sales (1 approximately 75 acre sale within first 5 years after acquisition)	75	ac.	\$1,000	\$75,000
	Total				\$75,000.00

May 21, 2015

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form**

-PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION-

WRC Staff Contact: Chris Goudreau/Gordon Warburton/Kip Hollifield

Date First Presented to WRC: May 21, 2015

Tract Name: Johns River FERC Tracts

Acreage:

TRACT	ACRES
2121.02	33
2121.06	39
2122	767
2131.02	102
2134.01	614
2168.04	26
2168.03	20
2123	989
TOTAL	2,590

County: Burke/Caldwell

Value: Estimated \$7,770,000 (\$3,000/acre)

*Per the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing agreement with Duke Energy, the negotiated purchase price will be reduced by \$1,350/acre

Estimated Purchase Price with Discount): **\$4,273,500** (\$1,650/acre)

The subject tracts were appraised in January 2009 for a total fair market value of \$9,568,000 by Carter Valuation Services, Inc. That appraisal is outdated and current fair market value (FMV) needs to be determined. The current value of the tracts is likely in the \$3,000/acre range, but could be lower. Current FMV can only be determined through reappraisal and it is recommended that reappraisal be conducted as soon as possible.

Per the FERC relicensing agreement, the State will have a 2 year option period to purchase the tracts after the new FERC license is signed. It is anticipated that the new license will be signed in mid to late 2015. It should be noted that for tract 2123 only, the option to purchase period is 3 years from the time the new license is signed.

Property Owner or Representative:

DUKE VENTURES REAL ESTATE LLC
C/O DUKE ENERGY CORP
526 SOUTH CHURCH ST
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202

Status: High Interest Moderate Interest Low Interest No
Interest

Funding- potential funding sources are detailed below:

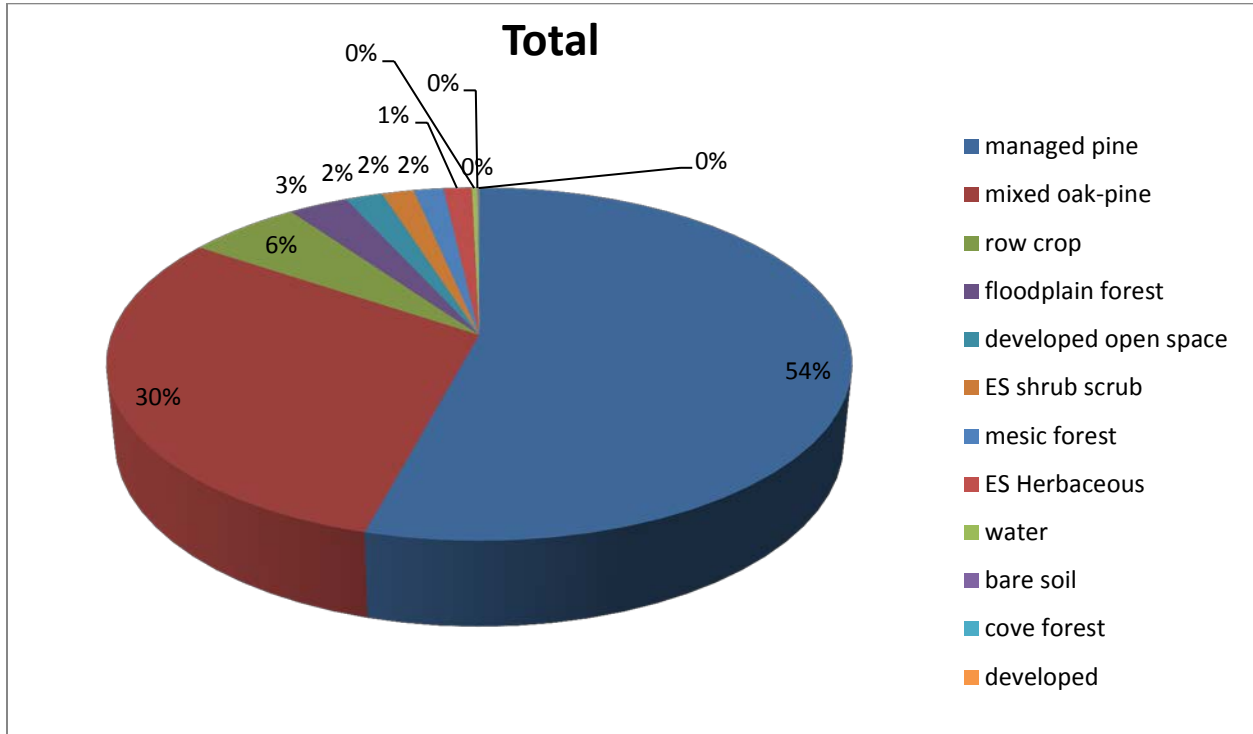
- Duke Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA) Escrow
- Duke Energy Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) Grant
- NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- WRC Wildlife Endowment Fund
- Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Grant
- Federal State Wildlife Grant
- Special State Budget Appropriation
- Proposed Catawba Water Fund
- NC Environmental Enhancement Program

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

Acquisition of the Johns River FERC tracts is highly significant as part of the total conservation and public access project planned for the Johns River corridor and will likely be the last opportunity to place significant additional land in this area into public ownership. Acquisition of these tracts is critically important in providing protection for the Johns River corridor and will result in the addition of 2,540 acres to Johns River Game Land. Two smaller tracts totaling 46 acres, while not suitable as game lands, offer the opportunity to establish 2 new public fishing access areas near the confluence of Johns River and Wilson Creek. The tracts applicable for addition to Johns River Game Land, except Tract 2123, have direct access to DOT maintained roads, with approximately 4 miles of road frontage. Legal access to Tract 2123 will need to be confirmed before acquisition. The 2 smaller tracts (2168.03 and 2168.04), which would serve as public fishing access areas, both have direct access to DOT maintained roads.

The tracts are mostly forested with managed pine forest predominant. Habitat conditions found on the tracts based on SEGAP analysis and 2010 aerial photography review are shown in Figure 1 below. Some of the managed pine has been established within the past 10 years, while some is nearer harvest age. Approximately 140 acres of agricultural fields (row crops) are located on the tracts and are tended by local farmers under lease agreements. It's likely that some of these lease agreements would continue in the near future.

Figure 1. Habitat types on the Johns River FERC tracts based on SEGAP data and review of 2010 aerial photography.



Management objectives will include restoring managed pines to more diverse mixed pine-hardwood stands, which most likely occurred prior to plantation establishment, through a combination of timber harvest and prescribed burning. The acreage currently in row crop production will be restored to more desirable herbaceous early successional habitat in phases as manpower and budgets allow.

Common game species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon, mourning dove, and gray squirrel. Waterfowl are found seasonally along Johns River and at times will offer some hunting opportunity. Johns River is the longest free flowing river remaining in the NC Catawba River Basin and harbors approximately 70 aquatic species. There are excellent fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass, trout, rockbass, bluegill, and redbreast sunfish. Wildlife Action Plan priority species, both aquatic and terrestrial, are listed in the attached table:

Public recreational opportunities will include hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird watching, photography, and general nature study.

Additional Comments: Five-year stewardship expenditures are estimated at approximately \$335,000. Revenue is estimated at \$75,000. See attached tables for details.

Program Potential: Game Land (Johns River) Wildlife Conservation Area
 Fishing Access Area None

Potential Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates): Pittman-Robertson Federal Assistance Grant (75% federal: 25% state)

Relative Priority Evaluation Score (attach worksheet):

Recommendation: Pursue Acquisition Defer Do not Pursue Acquisition

Map Attached: Yes No

Johns River FERC Tracts (Burke & Caldwell County) - Wildlife Action Plan Priority Species			
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FED LISTED	STATE LISTED
MUSSELS			
<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	Brook Floater		E
<i>Villosa constricta</i>	Notched Rainbow		SC
NONGAME FISH			
<i>Cambarus (Puncticambarus) johni</i>	Carolina Foothills Crayfish		
<i>Etheostoma thalassinum</i>	Seagreen Darter		
<i>Moxostoma pappillosum</i>	V-lip Redhorse		
BIRDS			
<i>Scolopax minor</i>	American Woodcock		
<i>Setophaga citrina</i>	Hooded Warbler		
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-Pee-wee,		
<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	Brown-Headed Nuthatch		
<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Wood Thrush		
<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>	Eastern Whip-Poor-Will		
<i>Antrostomus carolinensis</i>	Chuck-Will's-Widow		
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker		
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker		
<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Red-Headed Woodpecker		
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo		
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel		
<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Field Sparrow		
<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Prairie Warbler		
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-Breasted Chat		
<i>Geothlypis formosa</i>	Kentucky Warbler		
MAMMALS			
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat		
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	Spotted Salamander,		
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Marbled Salamander		
<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i>	Three-Lined Salamander		
REPTILES			
<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle		
<i>Virginia valeriae</i>	Smooth Earth Snake		
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster</i>	Mole Kingnake		
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Eastern Kingsnake		

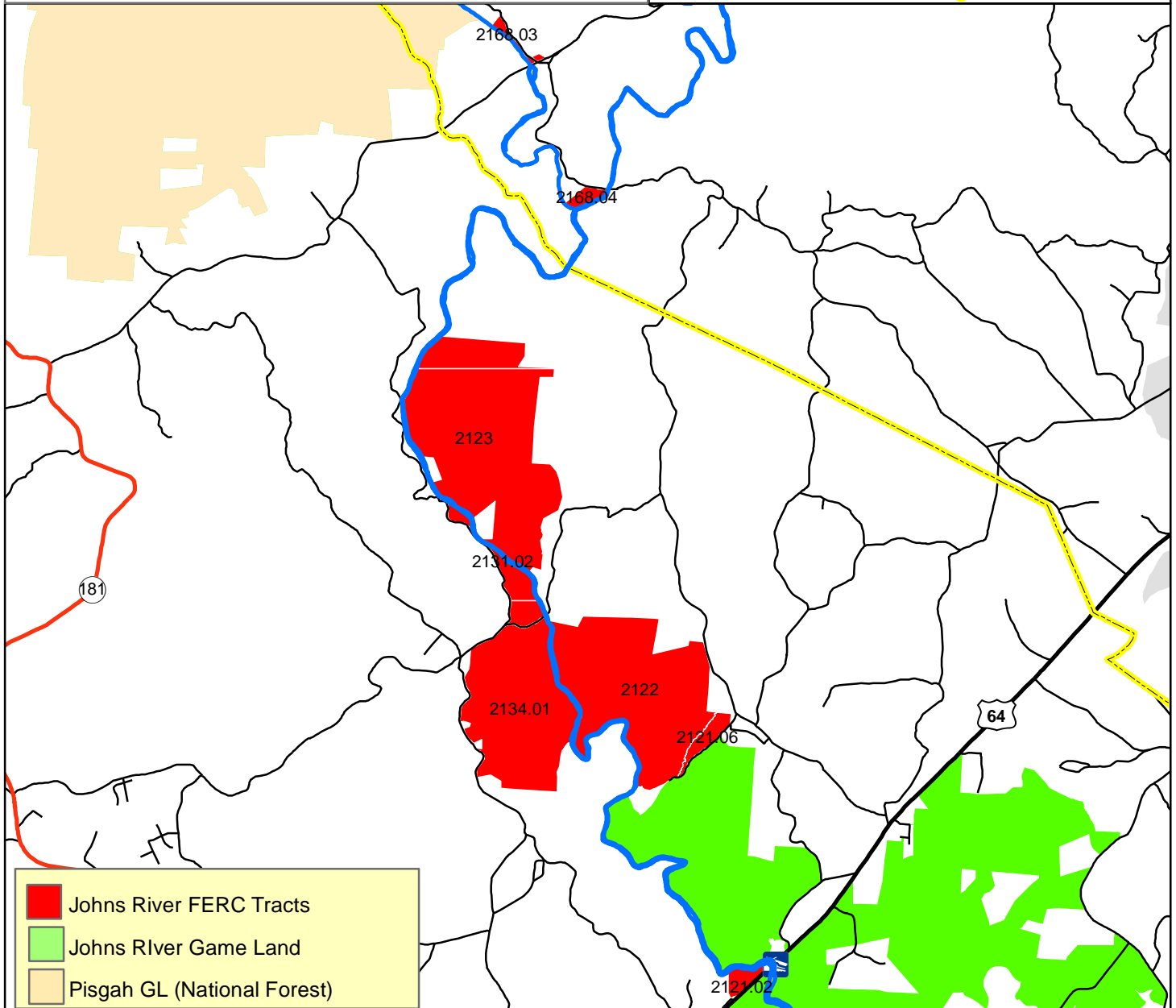
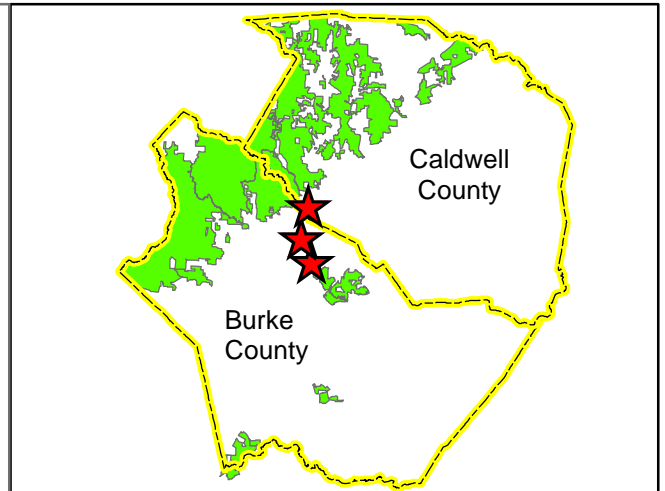
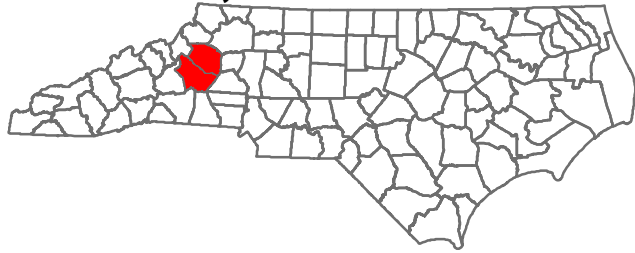
WORKSHEET

Relative Priority Evaluation for Conservation Lands

Tract Name (Johns River) Johns River FERC Tracts (Burke & Caldwell Counties)

Criterion	Score (1-5) 5=Excellent 1=Poor
1. Augments existing protected lands by addressing an inholding or adjacent tract, provides key access, buffers or connects existing WRC-managed lands.	<u>5</u>
2. Represents good hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other resource-based recreational opportunities.	<u>5</u>
3. No conflicting surrounding land uses.	<u>4</u>
4. Serves as a wildlife corridor between areas already protected for conservation purposes and provides connectivity to priority Wildlife Action Plan habitats.	<u>5</u>
5. Augments land conservation efforts on a landscape scale by providing nuclei (“anchors”) for regional conservation efforts, corridors, key linkages between conservation areas, or keystone tracts.	<u>5</u>
6. Fills a need identified by the Wildlife Action Plan, such as critical, rare or unique habitats; natural heritage elements; or significant aquatic/terrestrial resources.	<u>5</u>
7. Is this an area in which we would like to establish a new game land, wildlife conservation area, or fishing access?	<u>Yes</u>
8. Is it large enough to be a new game land, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion (goal 3,000-5,000 acre minimum)?	<u>NA</u>
9. Is area adequate for fishing access development with suitable parking, and if not, are there possibilities for expansion?	<u>Yes</u>
TOTAL SCORE	<u><u>29</u></u>

Johns River FERC Tracts Johns River Game Land Burke & Cladwell Counties 2,590 Acres

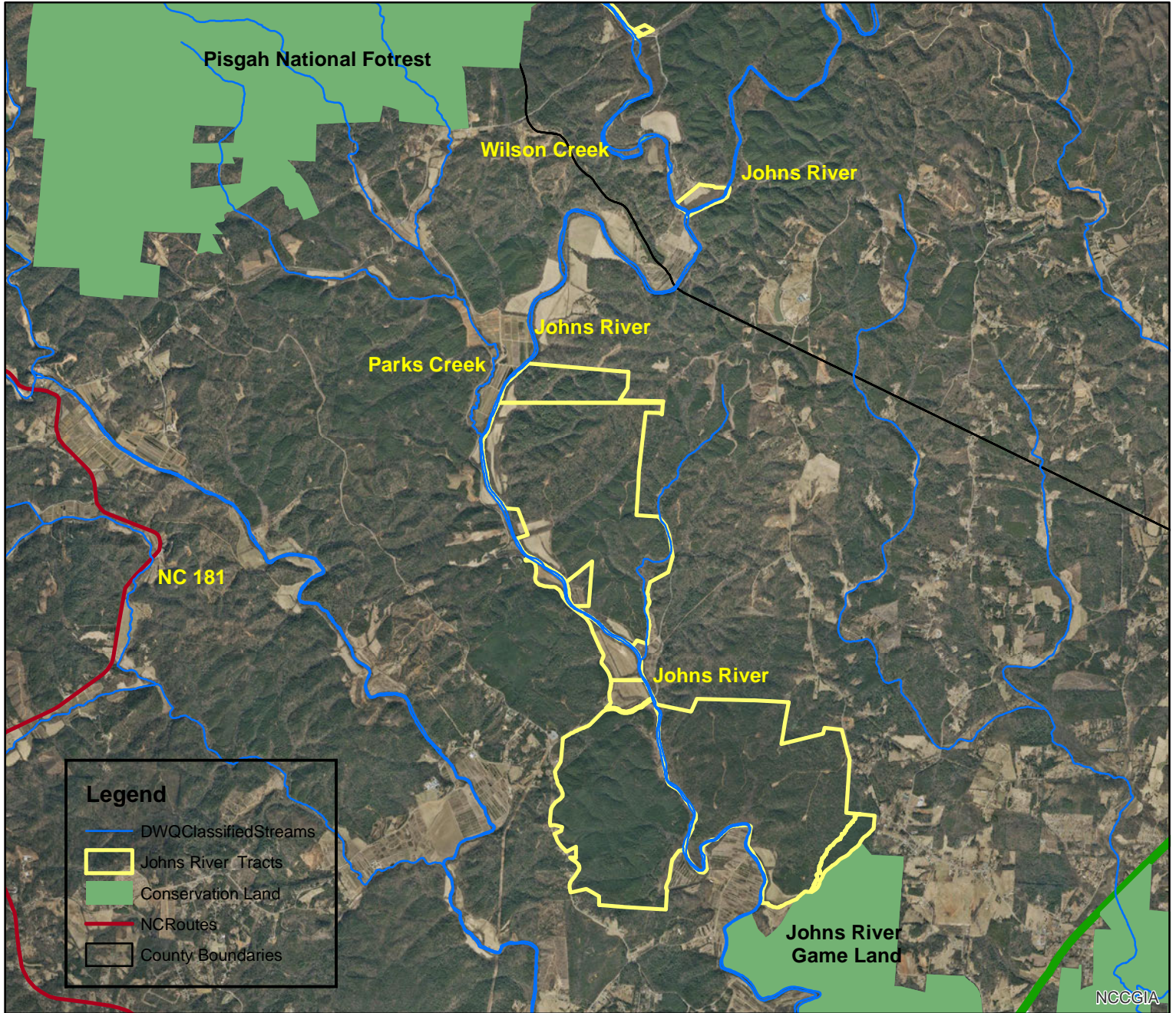
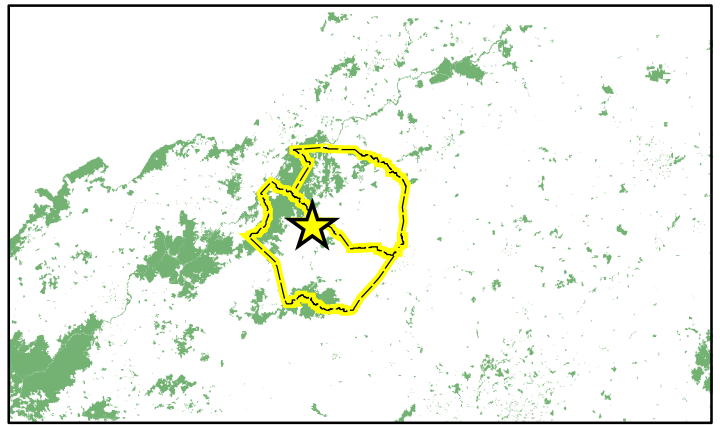
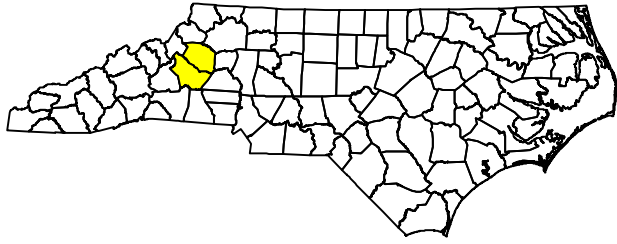


April 21, 2015

0 1.25 2.5 Miles



**Johns River Tracts
Johns River Game Land
Burke and Caldwell counties
2,557 Acres**



October 5, 2017

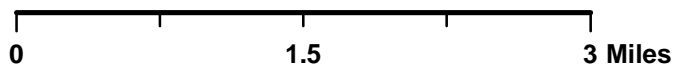


EXHIBIT I

October 5, 2017



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

September 22, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian McRae
WRC Land & Water Access Chief

FROM: Brent Wilson
WRC Coastal EcoRegion Supervisor

SUBJECT: Raynor Easement Acquisition

PROPOSED ACTION: Acquisition and Granting of a Deeded Right-Of Way

LOCATION: Joe Henry Lane, Gates County

With the assistance of the Coastal Land Trust, the WRC acquired a 960 acre parcel, formerly owned by International Paper, in Gates County along the North Carolina-Virginia state line in December 2016, as an addition to Chowan Swamp Game Land. The 149 acre portion east of Somerton Creek does not have a direct connection to a state road or a deeded access from a state road to the game land tract. Currently, vehicular access is through private land on a path off the end of Joe Henry Lane, historically used to reach tracts in both states, but only by the allowance of the landowner, which could be terminated at any time.

The Nature Conservancy is in negotiations with International Paper to purchase a tract of land in Virginia that abuts the state boundary. The intent is to transfer the land to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, however they will not accept the parcel without a deeded access. Consequently, the WRC has received a request from The Nature Conservancy to grant a 20 foot-wide ingress and egress easement across approximately 1,450 feet of the Somerton Creek East Tract to access the tract in Virginia. Nine hundred fifty feet would be over an existing road and 500 feet following the route of a proposed road. In exchange, the WRC would receive a 50 foot-wide deeded administrative

access easement across 600 feet of private ownership belonging to Margie Boone Raynor, from SR 1227 (Joe Henry Lane) to the game land boundary. International Paper has negotiated the proposed easement across the Raynor tract and agreed to prepare the legal documents for recording. The Nature Conservancy has agreed to cover the survey costs and purchase the easement. The cost to the WRC would be development of approximately 1,100 feet of new road. Once the Virginia tract is acquired, it is the intent of WRC staff to negotiate a road maintenance agreement with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Attachments: Raynor Easement into Tract 1551
Joe Henry Lane Aerial Photo

IP Realty Holdings LLC

City of Suffolk, VA

Gates County, NC

State Line is Boundary Between IP Realty Holdings LLC and State of North Carolina

Boone Residual

Raynor

Boone Residual

End State Maintenance

LAT 36.549699
LONG -76.886268





Raynor Easement
Approximately 0.7 Acres
(600 feet x 50 feet)

State of North Carolina

Raynor

JOE HENRY LANE
NCSR 1227

**Raynor Easement into Tract 1551
Gates County, NC / City of Suffolk, VA**

-  Raynor-Parcel 1 of Boone Heirs Subdivision
-  Residual-All Boone Heirs
-  Public Road
-  Existing Private Paths

Note: All Lines Approximate



WOODLINE FORESTRY LLC

May 2017

Raynor Easement into Tract 1551

1 inch = 330 feet

Joe Henry Lane Aerial Photo



Legend




- easement grantor**
-  NCWRC
 -  Raynor
 -  game land property boundary



EXHIBIT J

October 5, 2017



☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

September 21, 2017

Memorandum

TO: Brian McRae
WRC Land & Water Access Chief

FROM: Brent Wilson
WRC Coastal EcoRegion Supervisor

SUBJECT: PO-2 Commission Approval for Disposal of House and Lot on Texas Plantation

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY: State of NC, Wildlife Resources Commission

LOCATION: 2880 Fort Landing Road, Texas Plantation Game Land

STRUCTURE: Residential Structure Purchased with Adjacent Land in 4/2/2015, Complex # 1-89-25, Tax Value: \$79,160

This correspondence is to request an agenda item for the October Commission Meeting for the purpose of disposal of surplus property, that being the house with corresponding 1.28 acre lot acquired with the purchase of the Texas Plantation Game Land property in Tyrrell County. The WRC has no identified need for the structure or associated lot and currently is a liability, as staff time has been used to maintain the building grounds. The lot does not provide vehicular access to internal roads on the game land tract, does not contribute to ongoing management activities and is external to the remainder of the game land, so would not interfere with management activities if in private ownership.

2880 Fort Landing Road
Texas Plantation Game Land



Lot & house for disposal

Fort Landing Rd

Legend

----- roads

lot

property boundary

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 500 Feet

EXHIBIT K-1

October 5, 2017



PROPOSED CHANGES IN GAME LAND REGULATIONS FOR 2018-2019 RECOMMENDED BY AGENCY STAFF FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND PRESENTATION AT NINE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Applying to Game Lands Generally

- 1) Allow for the take of feral swine on game lands during the open season for any game bird using any legal manner of take allowed during those open game seasons.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 25)

Applying to Specific Game Lands

- 1) Prohibit target shooting on the Sand Banks tract of Chowan Swamp Game Land.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 8)
- 2) Establish the Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County as a permit only area and prohibit target shooting. Further, prohibit horseback riding except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Land license.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 9)
- 3) Designate the Little Macedonia Tract of Green Swamp Game Land as a permit-only area for bear, deer, and turkey.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 11)
- 4) Prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Little Macedonia Tract of Green Swamp Game Land.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 11)
- 5) Establish the Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County as a six-day-per-week area with an introductory either-sex deer season.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 12)
- 6) Remove the rule that prohibits the hunting of quail and woodcock, and the training of dogs on birds on the CURE portion of the Sandhills Game Land.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 20)

- 7) Create a Designated Camping Area on the Shocco Creek Game Land to allow hunter camping during open hunting seasons.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page, 21)

- 8) Remove the restriction on grouse hunting, quail hunting, woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training on the CURE portion of South Mountains Game Land (SMGL) in Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 21)

- 9) Implement game land regulation changes to provide regulatory alignment with the proposed deer season regulations that apply to private lands proposed by the Wildlife Management Division. These proposals include changes in season length and dates. There would be no changes in the season opening dates for archery, but where other seasons would begin later, archery seasons would be longer than currently established seasons. These proposals also shift either-sex days to the front of Introductory, Conservative, and Moderate antlerless deer seasons.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 4-24)

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
3 alcohol or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the
4 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 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
12 hunting or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game
13 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 occurring after the end of the regular waterfowl seasons only, youths may hunt
20 on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this
21 Paragraph shall apply. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the
22 trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the
23 portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." No person shall attempt to obscure the sex
24 or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that
25 has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods
26 without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be
27 made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to
28 take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods.

29 (e) Definitions:

- 30 (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be
31 taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day,
32 Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- 33 (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any
34 game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,
35 Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this
36 Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be
37 practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed

1 under each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays,
2 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 during the open seasons.

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

7 (g) Bear Sanctuaries. On Three Days per Week Areas and Six Days per Week Areas, bears shall not be taken on
8 lands designated and posted as bear sanctuaries except when authorized by permit only elsewhere in this Chapter.
9 Feral Swine shall not be taken with the use of dogs on bear sanctuaries. Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run
10 unleashed between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15 on bear sanctuaries in and west of the
11 counties and parts of counties described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

12 (h) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

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

14 (A) Six Days per Week Area

15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
16 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in
17 that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days
18 of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie,
19 Rowan, and Stanly counties.

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

21 (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

22 (A) Six Day 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 three hunting days during the November Bear Season
26 and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

27 (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties

28 (A) Six 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) Target shooting is prohibited.

32 (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, and Washington counties

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 (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County

37 (A) Six 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 (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- 4 (A) Three 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) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 8 (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 9 (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 10 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March
11 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 12 (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes is prohibited March 15 through July 15.
- 13 (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
- 14 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days~~ and ~~the last six open days~~ of
16 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 18 (8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County
- 19 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 20 (B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 21 (9) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- 22 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 23 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 24 (10) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- 25 (A) Three 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) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season
29 and the first three hunting days of the second week of the December Bear Season. If any
30 of these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those
31 days.
- 32 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 33 (11) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
- 34 (A) Six 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 Saturday after~~ Thanksgiving Day through the ~~third first~~ Saturday ~~after~~
37 Thanksgiving in January. Deer may be taken with ~~bow and arrow~~ archery equipment on

- 1 open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the ~~third Saturday~~
2 ~~thereafter~~ Friday before Thanksgiving, and ~~Monday on or nearest October 15 to the~~
3 ~~Saturday before Thanksgiving~~ and during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season. Deer
4 may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the ~~Monday on or~~
5 ~~nearest October 1~~ Saturday before Thanksgiving through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~
6 ~~thereafter~~ Friday after Thanksgiving, and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- 7 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~ first open day of the applicable Deer With
8 Visible Antlers Season.
- 9 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
10 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 11 (12) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County
- 12 (A) Three 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 (13) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~first six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
18 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 19 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 20 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 21 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 22 (iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 23 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
24 hunting after November 1.
- 25 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 26 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 27 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 28 (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of
29 Falls Lake.
- 30 (H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not
31 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable
32 seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of
33 bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from
34 September 1 through May 14.
- 35 (I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
36 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

- 1 (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area
2 and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited
3 in this camping area.
- 4 (14) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
5 (A) Six 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 (15) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
10 (A) Six 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) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
14 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west
15 of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road,
16 and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
17 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 18 (16) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
19 (A) Six Days per Week Area
20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day of days~~ and the ~~last six open days~~
21 ~~of the~~ applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
22 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 23 (17) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
24 (A) Three Days per Week Area
25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last first six open day days~~ of the applicable Deer
26 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
27 (C) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during
28 the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding
29 is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails
30 that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game
31 land shall possess a Game Lands license.
32 (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock
33 hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection
34 of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the
35 intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to
36 the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR
37 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.

- 1 (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after
2 November 1.
- 3 (F) 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 (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- 6 (18) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
9 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 10 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 11 (D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays during
12 the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- 13 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 14 (19) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
- 15 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
17 Season.
- 18 (20) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
- 19 (A) Six 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) Bear hunting is restricted to the first three hunting days during the November bear season
23 and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December bear season
24 except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of
25 Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine
26 Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for
27 the Gates County bear season.
- 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) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays
31 only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on
32 those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 33 (F) Target shooting is prohibited in the area west of Sand Banks Road, east of the Chowan
34 River and north of US 13/158 to the NC-VA state line.
- 35 (21) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
- 36 (A) Six Days per Week Area

- 1 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
2 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 3 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~ first open day of the applicable Deer With
4 Visible Antlers Season.
- 5 (22) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus 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 (23) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- 10 (A) Six 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) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 14 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 15 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 16 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 17 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of the waterfowl
18 season, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish
19 Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- 20 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted
21 areas. During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 22 (24) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
- 23 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by
25 permit only from November 1 through the end of the waterfowl season.
- 26 (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the
27 guides do not use a firearm.
- 28 (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or
29 shoreline.
- 30 (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day
31 of their hunt.
- 32 (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand
33 or blind to a tree.
- 34 (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
35 season.
- 36 (25) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County
- 37 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

- 1 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People
- 2 age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Land license.
- 3 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 4 ~~(25)~~(26) Dare Game Land in Dare County
- 5 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last six~~ first open day ~~days~~ of the applicable Deer
- 7 With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 8 (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- 9 (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- 10 ~~(26)~~(27) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- 11 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 13 season.
- 14 ~~(27)~~(28) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- 15 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 16 (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit
- 17 holders during scheduled permit hunts.
- 18 ~~(28)~~(29) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- 19 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last six~~ first open day ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer
- 21 With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 22 ~~(29)~~(30) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- 23 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six~~ open day ~~and the last six open days~~ of the
- 25 applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 26 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 27 ~~(30)~~(31) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- 28 (A) Six 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) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
- 32 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 33 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 34 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 35 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 36 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October and through the end of the
- 37 waterfowl season, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl

- 1 impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith
2 Creek, and Hobucken.
- 3 (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except
4 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the
5 trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period
6 November 1 through March 15.
- 7 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
8 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 9 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1
10 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting
11 opportunity permit.
- 12 ~~(31)~~(32) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~ first open day of the applicable Deer With
15 Visible Antlers Season.
- 16 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 17 ~~(32)~~(33) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick 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)~~ On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little
22 Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting for bear, deer, and turkey is
23 permit only.
- 24 ~~(D)~~ Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
25 prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of
26 Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- 27 ~~(33)~~(34) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- 28 (A) Six 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) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 32 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
- 33 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 34 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 35 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
36 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.

- 1 (E) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season
- 2 and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season,
- 3 except for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- 4 ~~(34)~~(35) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- 5 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
- 7 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 9 (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 10 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 11 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 12 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 13 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 14 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 15 (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 16 (36) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- 17 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer with Visible
- 19 Antlers Season
- 20 ~~(35)~~(37) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 21 ~~(36)~~(38) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- 22 (A) Six 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 may 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) 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) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east
- 32 of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and
- 33 bear hunting are permit only.
- 34 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
- 35 (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch
- 36 extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road
- 37 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 the
7 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 Commission.
- 9 (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on
10 and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 11 (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 12 (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 13 ~~(37)~~(39) Hyco Game land in Person County
- 14 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
16 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 18 ~~(38)~~(40) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - Permit Only Area.
- 19 ~~(39)~~(41) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- 20 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 21 (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- 22 (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31,
23 except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the
24 permits.
- 25 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 26 ~~(40)~~(42) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake 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) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- 31 (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 32 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 33 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 34 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail
35 and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is
36 permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for
37 use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed only during

1 June, July, and August, and on Sundays the remainder of the year except during open
2 turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older who ride horseback on trails occurring
3 entirely within the game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license.

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 ~~(41)~~(43) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties

10 (A) Six Days per Week Area

11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers
12 Season.

13 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
14 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

15 ~~(42)~~(44) 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 ~~(43)~~(45) 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 ~~(44)~~(46) Lee Game Land in Lee County

34 (A) Six Days per Week Area

35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
36 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

37 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

- 1 ~~(45)~~(47) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
- 2 (A) Six 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 ~~(46)~~(48) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
- 6 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With
- 8 Visible Antlers Season.
- 9 ~~(47)~~(49) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
- 10 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days~~ and the last ~~six open days~~ of
- 12 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 13 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 14 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 15 ~~(48)~~(50) Mayo Game Land in Person County
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days~~ and the last ~~six open days~~ of
- 18 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 19 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 20 (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 21 (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 22 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 23 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 24 ~~(49)~~(51) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
- 25 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last first six open day days~~ of the applicable Deer
- 27 with Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 28 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31,
- 29 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 30 ~~(50)~~(52) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
- 31 counties
- 32 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first last open day of the applicable Deer With
- 34 Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.
- 35 ~~(51)~~(53) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
- 36 (A) Six Days per Week Area

- 1 (B) 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 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 4 ~~(52)~~(54) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County
- 5 (A) Six 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 ~~(53)~~(55) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties
- 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 ~~(54)~~(56) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 13 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with ~~bow and arrow~~ archery equipment on open hunting
15 days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 ~~through to the~~ third ~~fourth~~ Friday
16 before Thanksgiving.
- 17 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days
18 beginning the ~~fourth~~ third Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first Wednesday ~~of~~
19 ~~the second week~~ thereafter.
- 20 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
21 Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.
- 22 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~ first open day of the applicable Deer With
23 Visible Antlers Season.
- 24 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 25 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 26 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:
- 27 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
28 (ii) Swimming.
- 29 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 30 ~~(55)~~(57) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck 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) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
35 shoreline.
- 36 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
- 37 ~~(56)~~(58) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season.
- 4 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
- 5 shoreline.
- 6 ~~(57)~~(59) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
- 9 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 10 (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties
- 11 North of US-74.
- 12 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 13 (E) Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and only during the
- 14 following times:
- 15 (i) during June, July, and August; and
- 16 (ii) on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey
- 17 seasons are closed.
- 18 ~~(58)~~(60) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- 19 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~first open day of the applicable Deer With
- 21 Visible Antlers Season.
- 22 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- 23 ~~(59)~~(61) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison,
- 24 McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- 25 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~first open day of the applicable Deer With
- 27 Visible Antlers Season.
- 28 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River
- 29 (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 30 ~~(60)~~(62) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 31 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last six first open day days~~ of the applicable Deer
- 33 with Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 34 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August
- 35 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited
- 36 from November 1 through May 15.
- 37 ~~(61)~~(63) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season.
- 4 ~~(62)~~(64) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- 5 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last six~~ first open day ~~days~~ of the applicable Deer
- 7 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 8 (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- 9 ~~(63)~~(65) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- 10 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 11 (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- 12 ~~(64)~~(66) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- 13 (A) Hunting is by Permit only.
- 14 (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business
- 15 or by permit holders.
- 16 (C) 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, provided,
- 18 however, that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on
- 19 the state-owned portion of the game land.
- 20 ~~(65)~~(67) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- 21 ~~(66)~~(68) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- 22 (A) Three 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 ~~(67)~~(69) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 26 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with ~~bow and arrow~~ archery equipment on open hunting
- 28 days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through to the fourth-third Friday
- 29 before Thanksgiving.
- 30 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days
- 31 beginning the ~~fourth-third~~ Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first Wednesday ~~of~~
- 32 ~~the second week~~ thereafter.
- 33 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
- 34 Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.
- 35 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first last open day of the applicable Deer With
- 36 Visible Antlers Season.
- 37 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

- 1 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 2 (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- 3 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 4 ~~(68)~~(70) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- 5 ~~(69)~~(71) Sampson Game Land in Sampson 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) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10 ~~(70)~~(72) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties
- 11 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22
- 13 through March 31 except as follows:
- 14 (i) deer may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of the ~~bow and~~
- 15 ~~arrow archery~~ season through the ~~fourth~~ third Friday before Thanksgiving; with
- 16 blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the
- 17 blackpowder firearms season through the second Saturday before Thanksgiving;
- 18 and with all legal weapons from the second Monday before Thanksgiving
- 19 through the Saturday following Thanksgiving;
- 20 (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season
- 21 through the third Saturday thereafter;
- 22 (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from second Monday
- 23 before Thanksgiving, through the Saturday following Thanksgiving;
- 24 (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding
- 25 Thanksgiving through the Saturday following Thanksgiving;
- 26 (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- 27 (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen
- 28 Program Permit Hunt; and
- 29 (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or
- 30 nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- 31 (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday
- 32 before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving, except on the J.
- 33 Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 34 (D) The ~~bow and arrow archery~~ season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to
- 35 Sept. 10 to the ~~fourth~~ third Friday before Thanksgiving and, except on the J. Robert
- 36 Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving through the first
- 37 Saturday in January. Deer may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting

1 days during the ~~bow and arrow~~ archery season, the Deer with Visible antlers season, and
2 the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph.

3 (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the ~~fourth~~third Saturday
4 preceding Thanksgiving through the first Wednesday ~~of the second week~~ thereafter and,
5 except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving
6 through the first Saturday in January. Deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on
7 all open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and the Deer With Visible
8 Antlers season.

9 (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.

10 (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and
11 closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

12 (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

13 ~~(I) The following areas are permit only for all quail and woodcock hunting, and dog training~~
14 ~~on birds:~~

15 ~~(i) In Richmond County: that part east of US 1;~~

16 ~~(ii) In Scotland County: that part west of SR 1328 and north of Gardner Farm Lane~~
17 ~~and that part east of SR 1328 and north of Scotland Lake Lane.~~

18 ~~(I)~~ Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited
19 unless riding in authorized field trials.

20 ~~(J)~~ Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
21 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

22 ~~(K)~~ Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

23 ~~(71)~~(73) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties

24 (A) Six Days per Week Area

25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day~~ days ~~and the last six open days~~ of
26 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

27 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.

28 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

29 ~~(72)~~(74) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.

30 (A) Three Days per Week Area

31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~first open day of the applicable Deer with Visible
32 Antlers season.

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 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed
36 in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).

- 1 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of
- 2 dove season.
- 3 ~~(73)~~(75) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.
- 4 ~~(74)~~(76) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties
- 5 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
- 7 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 9 (D) 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 ~~(75)~~(77) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- 12 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the
- 14 ~~Monday before Saturday after~~ Thanksgiving through the ~~third Saturday after~~
- 15 ~~Thanksgiving~~ first Saturday in January. Deer may be taken with ~~bow and arrow~~ archery
- 16 equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 ~~through to~~
- 17 ~~the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday~~
- 18 Friday before Thanksgiving and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Deer may
- 19 be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the ~~Monday on or nearest~~
- 20 ~~October 1 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday of the second week~~
- 21 through the Friday after Thanksgiving Day thereafter, and during the Deer With Visible
- 22 Antlers season.
- 23 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~first last~~ open day of the applicable Deer With
- 24 Visible Antlers Season.
- 25 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 26 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 27 ~~(E) That part of South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford~~
- 28 ~~counties is closed to all grouse hunting, quail hunting, woodcock hunting, and all bird~~
- 29 ~~dog training.~~
- 30 ~~(76)~~(78) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
- 31 (A) Six-Day 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) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- 35 (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- 36 (E) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may 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 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.

4 (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

5 ~~(77)~~(79) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties

6 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

7 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
8 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

9 (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:

10 (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and

11 (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.

12 (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of
13 vessels on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl
14 hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity
15 Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

16 (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed
17 waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters
18 possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife
19 Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

20 ~~(78)~~(80) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties

21 (A) Six Days per Week Area

22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last six~~ first open day ~~days~~ of the applicable Deer
23 With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.

24 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

25 ~~(79)~~(81) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County – hunting is by permit only.

26 ~~(80)~~(82) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting is by permit only.

27 ~~(81)~~(83) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County

28 (A) Six Days per Week Area

29 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~ first six ~~open day~~ ~~days~~ of the applicable Deer
30 With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.

31 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.

32 ~~(82)~~(84) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties

33 (A) Six Days per Week Area

34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six~~ open day ~~days~~ ~~and the last six open days~~ of
35 the applicable Deer With Visible 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 16
3 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 is
5 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive
6 days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.

7 ~~(83)~~(85) Tillery game Land in Halifax County

- 8 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last six open days~~ of
10 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 11 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 12 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 13 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

14 ~~(84)~~(86) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties

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

20 ~~(85)~~(87) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties

- 21 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first ~~six open day days and the last open six days~~ of
23 the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 24 (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following
25 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) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 29 (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.

30 ~~(86)~~(88) Vance Game Land in Vance County

- 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) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the
35 Nutbush Peninsula tract.

36 ~~(87)~~(89) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties

- 37 (A) Six 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 may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season
4 and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

5 ~~(88)~~(90) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.

6 ~~(89)~~(91) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow 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) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
11 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:

12 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

13 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

14 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

15 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October and through the end of the
16 waterfowl season, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.

17 (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:

18 (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting
19 Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to
20 G.S. 113-264(d);

21 (ii) hunting is by permit only; and

22 (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

23 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

24 ~~(90)~~(92) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen County

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 ~~(91)~~(93) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County

29 (A) Six Days per Week Area

30 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the ~~last~~ first open day of the applicable Deer With
31 Visible Antlers Season.

32 (i) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed
33 applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates
34 of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt,
35 and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator
36 agent or by phone.

1 (j) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a
2 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 (k) 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 compromise
12 the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid
13 need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes
14 issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the
15 public interest.

16 (l) 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 (m) 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 where
21 prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

22 (n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for
23 participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during
24 the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited
25 weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

26 (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

27 (p) When waterfowl hunting is specifically permitted in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days
28 fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
31 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;*
33 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995;*
34 *September 1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*
35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*
36 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*

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*Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,
2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1,
2014; January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009;
May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1,
2006; June 1, 2005; October 1, 2004*

EXHIBIT K-2

October 5, 2017



Fiscal Note for Proposed Lands Management Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman
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 of the proposed rule amendments to the game land rule 15A NCAC 10D .0103, with the proposed text included in Appendix A.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

The proposed changes to this rule cover multiple general topic areas, including: establishment of new game lands, feral swine, target shooting, quail, grouse, woodcock, bird dog training, deer, bear, and permit requirements.

For the reasons outlined below, the WRC believes that the proposed rule changes will have minimal fiscal impacts.

Establishment of New Game Lands

This proposed amendment will establish the Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County and Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County. Proposed amendments are necessary to designate these new properties as game lands and to establish appropriate rules for their management and use.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$17,395 for establishing the two new game lands. For the Dan River Game Land, this will include placement and maintenance of boundary markings to facilitate identification of property (\$3,034), purchase and maintenance of gates to control vehicle access (\$1,000/gate), and creation of parking areas (\$1,000/area) for public access (\$3,034 + \$3,000 + \$2,000 = \$8,034). For the Headwaters State Forest Game

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.

Land, the agency estimates a one-time cost of approximately \$9,361 to establish boundary markings, on this property.

Local Impact

The proposed addition of Dan River Game Land will have a local government impact by reducing property tax receipts. The proposed addition of Headwaters State Forest Game Land will have no impacts as it is already state-owned land. However, these new game lands have the potential to bring outdoor enthusiasts to the area and expend financial resources in the surrounding communities. The agency is unable to quantify this potential economic benefit at this time.

Private Impact

Private individuals will incur no costs as a result of this proposed amendment. They will however have increased opportunities for wildlife-based recreation and 1,700 acres of undeveloped land will be conserved for present and future generations for wildlife-based recreation. The agency is unable to quantify this benefit.

Feral Swine

This proposed amendment will allow for the take of feral swine on game lands during the open season for any game bird, using any legal manner of take allowed during those open game seasons. Currently, the take of feral swine is allowed on game lands only during the open season for any game animal. By adding game bird seasons to the current rule, licensed hunters will have the opportunity to harvest feral swine on game lands during the spring wild turkey season and migratory bird seasons.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment could have a positive impact on state resources by reducing the population of this very destructive, invasive species, which can carry diseases that are detrimental to domestic swine and cattle.

Local Impact

This proposed amendment could have a positive impact on local resources by reducing the population of this very destructive, invasive species, which can carry diseases that are detrimental to domestic swine and cattle.

Private Impact

Private individuals may benefit from increased opportunities to hunt feral swine. However, due to lack of data, the agency is unable to quantify this benefit. Private agricultural enterprises may benefit from a decrease in the population of feral swine, which are very destructive to crops, forests, grazing lands and carry diseases detrimental to domestic swine and cattle.

Target Shooting

This proposed amendment will explicitly prohibit target shooting on the Sand Banks tract of the Chowan Swamp Game Land. This area is frequently used by the public as an unauthorized shooting area and has become a safety hazard for other users and individuals traveling on Sand Banks Road. This change is necessary to improve overall safety and reduce undesirable impacts to game land resources, game land users, adjacent landowners, and the public.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Agency staff are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. Individuals utilizing this area for target shooting regularly deposit tires and a variety of other material used as targets on the property, which then must be cleaned up by staff. Time required to maintain this area, while not precisely known, is estimated to cost the agency \$1,008 per year ($\$21/\text{hr} \times 16 \text{ hrs/clean up} \times 3 \text{ clean-ups/year} = \$1,008$). Explicitly prohibiting target shooting may result in a reduction of this activity, which would be a cost savings to the agency in staff time. However, if individuals continue to target shoot on this game land, and enforcement officers encounter the activity, individuals can be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor with a fine of \$25 and court costs.

Additionally, targets are often placed on trees in the area, many of which have been damaged to the point that mortality is imminent. This proposed amendment may help to eliminate the damage and death caused to live trees that are currently being used as targets. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

This proposed amendment will have no local government impact.

Private Impact

This proposed amendment could affect private individuals who want to target shoot, as they will now need to travel to an official shooting range. The closest WRC range to the Sand Banks tract is 45 miles. Depending on where the individual is traveling from, this could impose a minimal financial burden. Due to lack of data, the agency is unable to quantify this potential cost. However, the improved safety anticipated by this amendment is expected to exceed the potential cost to individuals.

Permit Requirements

This proposed amendment will designate the newly acquired Little Macedonia Tract of Green Swamp Game Land as a permit-only area for hunting bear, deer, and turkey. To help conserve the resources and provide for quality user experiences it is anticipated that 70 permits will be available each year. There are also nineteen different parcels of private property adjacent to this tract. If hunting opportunities on this property are left unrestricted and not managed, conflicts between hunters and adjacent landowners would likely be a regular occurrence. This amendment

is also being proposed to help maintain cooperative relationships with adjacent landowners.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency imposes a \$5 administrative fee for permit hunt applications. The Little Macedonia tract is expected to offer 70 permit hunt opportunities each year. If the agency assumes that all 70 permits will be claimed, the anticipated revenue will total approximately \$350 per year ($\$5/\text{permit} \times 70 \text{ permits}/\text{yr} = \$350/\text{yr}$).

Local Impact

The proposed amendment will have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Because the agency is proposing to limit hunting opportunities on the Little Macedonia Tract, private individuals will incur the \$5 fee associated with applying for permit hunt opportunities. The total annual impact to private individuals is anticipated to be approximately \$350 per year ($\$5/\text{permit} \times 70 \text{ permits}/\text{yr} = \$350/\text{yr}$). However, it should be noted that these opportunities are voluntary. It is assumed that hunters who choose to purchase a permit value the hunting opportunity at or above the cost of the permit.

Camping

This proposed amendment will create a designated camping area on the Shocco Creek Game Land to allow hunter camping during open hunting seasons. Currently camping is prohibited on the Shocco Creek Game Land. The desire for a designated hunter camping area was identified by sportsmen during the public comment process of the Upper Tar Game Land Complex Management Plan.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$3,000 to state resources for the establishment of this campground, which will include materials (\$1,100), labor ($\$21/\text{hr} \times 32 \text{ hrs} = \672), and equipment (\$1,228). This will be a primitive campground and maintenance will be performed once per year. The cost of maintenance, including labor ($\$21/\text{hr} \times 16 \text{ hrs} = \336) and equipment ($\$0.46/\text{mi.} \times 30 \text{ mi.} = \14) is estimated at \$350 per year.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment will have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Creating a designated campground will enhance opportunities for sportsmen, by providing them with an option to decrease their overall travel costs while hunting on the Shocco Creek Game

Land. Due to lack of data, the agency cannot quantify this benefit.

Pursuing or Chasing Deer and Bear

This proposed regulation will prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the newly acquired Little Macedonia Tract of Green Swamp Game Land. The size of the property, lack of an extensive road system, adjacent land use, lack of historical hunting practices, and plans for a WRC work depot at this location, indicate this property is not conducive to pursuing deer or bear with the use of dogs.

Fiscal Impact

Because this is a new tract of land and this addition is not changing an existing regulation, there are no anticipated fiscal impacts to state resources, local governments, or private individuals.

Quail, woodcock, grouse, and bird dog training

These proposed amendments would remove the restriction on grouse hunting, quail hunting, woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training on the CURE portion of South Mountains Game Land and Sandhills Game Land in Cleveland, McDowell, Rutherford, Richmond, and Scotland counties. These restrictions were initiated in 2004 in an effort to allow for maximum recruitment of quail populations after habitat enhancement at this site.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment will remove the permit hunt requirements for these Sandhills Game Land. Historically, a limited number of permit opportunities have been offered on this property. Individuals apply (\$5 administrative fee per application) for 25 available permits and are randomly selected to receive a permit. Based on permit hunt data from the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seasons, an average of 65 applications are received for the 25 available permits. A loss of approximately \$325 ($\$5/\text{application} \times 65 \text{ applicants/year} = \$325/\text{year}$) in administrative fees is anticipated due to the removal of the restriction on hunting these species.

Local Impact

This proposed amendment will have no local government impact.

Private Impact

These amendments will increase opportunities for upland bird hunting and dog training, which will benefit game land users. Additionally, individuals will not incur the \$5 fee to hunt upland game birds on the CURE portion of the Sandhills Game Land, and thus may realize the anticipated benefit of approximately \$325 per year ($\$5/\text{application} \times 65 \text{ applications} = \325).

EXHIBIT L-1

October 5, 2017



Proposed Rules for Amendment Under 15A NCAC 10F .0300 - Local Water Safety Regulations

Title 15A NCAC 10F .0300 - Local Water Safety Regulations

All 15A NCAC 10F. 0300 Water Safety Rules have been reviewed as part of the 2016 Periodic Review process. Twenty-four of these rules proposed for amendment are not required to be readopted, but are proposed for revisions to incorporate the following changes:

- Revise language and terms for consistency;
- Clarify no-wake zone boundaries by including coordinates;
- Correct names of locations and correct county location of Rule;
- Remove applicant's responsibility for maintenance of markers;
- Remove the word "motorboat", as the statutory definition of "vessel" includes motorboats;
- Include appropriate federal approval for placement of markers.

Staff recommends approval to proceed with publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register*, holding one public hearing, and opening the comment period for the following Rules. The complete Rule text can be found in Appendix A of **Exhibit L-2**, the fiscal note review.

15A NCAC 10F .0311 GRANVILLE, VANCE AND WARREN COUNTIES

Update language for consistency, include coordinates, remove maintenance of markers.

15A NCAC 10F .0311 Granville, Vance and Warren Counties

15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Update language, add coordinates, remove "motorboat," remove maintenance, include federal approval.

15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County

15A NCAC 10F .0309 COLUMBUS COUNTY

Clarify description of restricted areas.

15A NCAC 10F .0309 Columbus County

15A NCAC 10F .0310 DARE COUNTY

Add coordinates, correct names, renumber Rule, remove "motorboat" and maintenance, add federal approval.

15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County

15A NCAC 10F .0316 ~~FORSYTH-~~ FORSYTH, ROCKINGHAM AND STOKES COUNTIES

Clarify language.

15A NCAC 10F .0316 Forsyth, Rockingham and Stokes Counties

15A NCAC 10F .0317 STANLY COUNTY

Remove Mountain Creek Cove as a no-wake zone and reletter Rule, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0317 Stanly County

15A NCAC 10F .0322 UNION COUNTY

Clarify language for consistency, correct names, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0322 Union County

15A NCAC 10F .0324 DAVIDSON COUNTY

Clarify language, add coordinates, add no-wake zone on Badin Lake at Lakeshore Drive Cove to the Davidson County Rule and remove it from the Montgomery County Rule, renumber Rule, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0324 Davidson County

15A NCAC 10F .0327 MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Remove no-wake zone on Badin Lake at Lakeshore Drive Cove and add it to the Davidson County Rule, add coordinates, clarify descriptions.

15A NCAC 10F .0327 Montgomery County

15A NCAC 10F .0329 ROWAN COUNTY

Clarify descriptions, add coordinates, remove maintenance, remove federal approval.

15A NCAC 10F .0329 Rowan County

15A NCAC 10F .0332 ALEXANDER COUNTY

Clarify language, add coordinates, correct names, remove “motorboat,” remove maintenance, remove federal approval.

15A NCAC 10F .0332 Alexander County

15A NCAC 10F .0333 MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

Clarify language and locations, add coordinates.

15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties

15A NCAC 10F .0336 NORTHAMPTON AND WARREN COUNTIES

Clarify locations and add coordinates, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0336 Northampton and Warren Counties

15A NCAC 10F .0341 TOWN OF LAKE LURE

Remove “motorboat,” clarify language.

15A NCAC 10F .0341 Town of Lake Lure

15A NCAC 10F .0343 CHATHAM COUNTY

Remove repetitive definitions, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0343 Chatham County

15A NCAC 10F .0344 TOWN OF RIVER BEND

Clarify descriptions and add coordinates, remove “motorboat,” remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend

15A NCAC 10F .0345 CHATHAM AND WAKE COUNTIES

Clarify descriptions, add coordinates, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0345 Chatham and Wake Counties

15A NCAC 10F .0346 ARROWHEAD BEACH SUBDIVISION

Clarify descriptions, add coordinates, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0346 Arrowhead Beach Subdivision

15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY

Clarify descriptions and add coordinates, remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County

15A NCAC 10F .0357 NASH COUNTY

Clarify language pertaining to regulated area, add coordinates, remove “motorboat,” remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0357 Nash County

15A NCAC 10F .0358 JONES COUNTY

Clarify descriptions and add coordinates, remove “motorboat,” remove maintenance.

15A NCAC 10F .0358 Jones County

15A NCAC 10F .0362 HARNETT COUNTY

Clarify descriptions, add coordinates.

15A NCAC 10F .0362 Harnett County

15A NCAC 10F .0369 TOWN OF SWANSBORO

Clarify boundaries of no-wake zone to meet the setback requirements of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, add coordinates, remove “motorboat,” remove maintenance, add federal approval.

15A NCAC 10F .0369 Town of Swansboro

15A NCAC 10F .0371 BELEWS LAKE IN STOKES COUNTY

Clarify language.

15A NCAC 10F .0371 Belews Lake in Stokes County

15A NCAC 10F .0376 TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE

Clarify descriptions and add coordinates, remove “motorboat,” remove maintenance, add federal approval.

15A NCAC 10F .0376 Town of Emerald Isle



**Fiscal Note Review of
Proposed Wildlife Resources Commission No-Wake Zone Rules**

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County
15A NCAC 10F .0309 Columbus County
15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County
15A NCAC 10F .0311 Granville Vance and Warren Counties
15A NCAC 10F .0316 Forsyth Rockingham and Stokes Counties
15A NCAC 10F .0317 Stanly County
15A NCAC 10F .0322 Union County
15A NCAC 10F .0324 Davidson County
15A NCAC 10F .0327 Montgomery County
15A NCAC 10F .0329 Rowan County
15A NCAC 10F .0332 Alexander County
15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties
15A NCAC 10F .0336 Northampton and Warren Counties
15A NCAC 10F .0341 Lake Lure
15A NCAC 10F .0343 Chatham County
15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend
15A NCAC 10F .0345 Chatham and Wake Counties
15A NCAC 10F .0346 Arrowhead Beach
15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County
15A NCAC 10F .0357 Nash County
15A NCAC 10F .0358 Jones County
15A NCAC 10F .0362 Harnett County
15A NCAC 10F .0369 Swansboro
15A NCAC 10F .0371 Stokes County
15A NCAC 10F .0376 Emerald Isle

Contact: Carrie Ruhlman, Policy Analyst
1701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C 27699-1701
(919) 707-0011
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

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

Authority: G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15

All 10F Rules were reviewed as part of the 2016 Periodic Review process. Twenty-four of the rules proposed for amendment at this time are not required to be readopted. Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0333 is required to be readopted, as it was determined to be “necessary with substantive interest”. All rules are being updated to incorporate the following changes:

- updating language and terms for consistency;
- clarifying no-wake zone boundaries;
- correcting the county location of the no-wake zone;
- removing the maintenance of markers; and
- including appropriate federal approval for placement of markers.

Proposed rules can be found in Appendix A.

State Impact Analysis: The proposed amendments to these rules are anticipated to have a minimal economic impact on the state.

The only proposed amendment that will have a fiscal impact is the deletion of maintenance for markers. This amendment applies only to the following 19 rules:

15A NCAC 10F .0311; .0305; .0310; .0317; .0322; .0324; .0327; .0329; .0332;.0336; .0343; .0344; .0345; .0346; .0357; .0358; .0369; .0376; .0347.

The agency will assume responsibility for marker replacement. In general, replacement is only required when a marker is missing or has been damaged, as these markers typically last 5 – 10 years. Thus, the agency expects only minimal fiscal impacts due to the proposed amendments to these 19 rules. Based on approximate costs for materials and labor, it is estimated that the agency could incur an annual cost of approximately \$5,900 annually to replace missing or damaged markers statewide ($(\$150/\text{marker} + \$150 \text{ materials}/\text{marker}) \times 10 \text{ markers}/\text{year} = \$3,000/\text{year} + ((\$29/\text{hr} \times 2 \text{ techs} = \$58/\text{hr}) \times (5 \text{ hrs}/\text{marker} \times 10 \text{ markers}/\text{year} = 50 \text{ hrs}/\text{yr}) = \$2,900/\text{year}) = \$5,900/\text{year}$).¹

Local Impact Analysis: The proposed amendments to these rules will not impose any costs on local governments. Due to the Commission assuming responsibility for marker replacement, local governments may incur benefits of approximately \$590 annually ($(\$150/\text{marker} + \$150 \text{ materials}/\text{marker}) + (\$58/\text{hr} \times 5 \text{ hours}) = \590) in materials savings and staff time not spent on replacement of individual markers.²

Private Impact: The proposed amendments to these rules have no anticipated private impact. However, a potential benefit of clarifying no-wake zone boundaries is increased boater safety.

Substantial Economic Impact

There will be no substantial economic impact.

¹ Hourly rates for agency staff reflect total compensation for boating technician II.

² Estimates based on Commission staff and materials costs.

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15A NCAC 10F .0311 GRANVILLE, VANCE AND WARREN COUNTIES

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters of John H. Kerr Reservoir in Granville, Vance and Warren Counties:

- (1) Kimball Point, Warren County - Within 50 yards of the shoreline in the northernmost cove of the Kimball Point Recreation Area located at the western end of ~~SR 1204.~~ SR 1204, from the northern end of the cove at 36.54362 N, 78.31753 W, to the southern end of the cove at 36.53987 N, 78.31357 W.
- (2) Camp Kerr Lake, Vance County - Within the waters of the cove where the Camp Kerr Lake boat ramp is ~~located.~~ located, shore to shore beginning at a line from a point on the eastern shore at the mouth of the cove at 36.440345 N, 78.34970 W to a point on the northwest shore of the cove at 36.44159 N, 78.35159 W.
- (3) Lower Mill Creek, Vance County - ~~Beginning at a point on the eastern side.~~ The waters of Lower Mill Creek where it intersects the North Carolina - Virginia state line boundary at a line from a point on the east side of the creek at 36.54308 N, 78.39517 W; to a point on the west side of the creek at 36.54311 N, 78.39629 W, southward shore to shore to its end at the headwaters of Lower Mill Creek, running across the creek with said state line and then running in a southerly direction on both the east and west sides of the creek to the head waters headwaters, and including all waters of the creek south of the state line.
- (4) Flat Creek at ~~NC~~ N.C. Highway 39 Bridge, Vance County - Within 50 yards ~~on either side east and west of the NC~~ of the N.C. Highway 39 Bridge.
- (5) Those waters of Satterwhite Point State Recreation Area, Vance County, including the waters in the vicinity of Satterwhite Point Marina docks at the end of Satterwhite Marina Road, and the waters of the marked swimming area in the cove west of SR 1319, beginning at a line at the mouth of the cove from a point on the north shore at 36.44572 N, 78.37356 W, to a point on the south shore at 36.44442 N, 78.37359 W.

(b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any concrete boat launching ramp located on the reservoir.

(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a designated mooring area established by or with the approval of the US Army Corps of Engineers on the waters of the reservoir.

(d) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any regulated area of the reservoir described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(e) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter a designated swimming area established by or with the approval of the US Army Corps of Engineers on the waters of the reservoir.

(f) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. Each of the Boards of Commissioners of the above-named counties is ~~the designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule for regulated areas within their territorial jurisdiction in accordance with the Uniform System, jurisdiction,~~ subject to the approval of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

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History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. December 1, 1994; March 25, 1978;
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 1998; January 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2013; May 1, 2005; April 1, 1999; July 1, 1998;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December
6, 2016.

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15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the waters and portions of waters described as follows:

- (1) ~~Lockwoods~~ Lockwood Folly River. ~~An area on that portion of~~ The waters of the Lockwood Folly River in Varnamtown, beginning 1500 feet from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W 500 yards north northwest of the boat ramp located at the end of State Road 1123 Fisherman Road, and extending downstream to a point 800 feet at 33.94434 N, 78.22161 W, 275 yards southeast south of said the boat ramp and including the that portion of Mill Creek from its intersection with Lockwood Folly River directly across the channel from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W, beginning at its intersection with the Lockwood Folly River and extending upstream for 100 feet.
- (2) Calabash River. ~~An area located on~~ The portion of the Calabash River beginning 100 feet west of the Billy Cox Landing and extending 100 feet east of Captain Harry's Landing, in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep-sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W.
- (3) State Port Authority Small Boat Harbor. ~~Beginning at the Intracoastal Waterway on the easterly side of the North Carolina State Port Authority Small Boat Harbor; thence runs along and with the easterly boundary of the said boat harbor basin and along the northerly boundary and westerly boundary thereof to a point at the intersection of the westerly boundary of said boat harbor with the highwater mark of the Intracoastal Waterway; runs thence in an easterly direction with the highwater mark of the Intracoastal Waterway to the place and point of beginning, and being the entire small boat harbor in Southport.~~ The waters of the North Carolina State Port Authority Small Boat Harbor in the City of Southport, shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91688 N, 78.02858 W.
- (4) Shallotte River. ~~The~~ The portion of the Shallotte River east of Village Point Road SW in the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W and extending from the northern boundary of the Intracoastal Waterway for a distance of 500 feet to the north, to be marked by appropriate markers. to a point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W.
- (5) Big Davis Creek. ~~That part~~ The waters of Big Davis Creek within 100 yards of Sportsman Inn at Blue Water Point Marina near Long Beach, the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island.
- (6) Town of Ocean Isle Beach. Those waters in the natural and concrete canals, both natural and concrete, which are canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach.
- (7) Town Creek. ~~The 200 yard portion~~ The waters of Town Creek lying in Town Creek Colony as delineated by no wake zone markers. east of Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to

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shore from a point at 34.16793 N, 78.07141 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16906 N, 78.07030 W.

- (8) ~~Town of Oak Island. That part~~ The waters of Big Davis Canal within in the Town of Oak Island ~~Island, shore to shore from its starting with the entrance from at the Intracoastal Waterway at the end west of Yacht Drive SW at a point a 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at 40th Street SE, upstream to the canal end at 40th Street, NE.~~

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. ~~Subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the~~ The following agencies are the designated suitable agencies for the placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule: Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) The Board of Aldermen of Varnamtown ~~as to~~ for areas indicated in Paragraph (a), Subparagraph (1) of this Rule.
- (2) The Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County ~~as to~~ for areas indicated in Paragraph (a), Subparagraphs (2) - (8) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1987;
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; April 1, 1999;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

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15A NCAC 10F .0309 COLUMBUS COUNTY

(a) ~~Regulated Areas~~ Area. This Rule applies to the waters of Lake Waccamaw.

(1) ~~Restricted Area. The portion waters of Lake Waccamaw between the shoreline and the offshore marker poles which were installed in the lake by the State Parks Division of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources is designated as a~~ the restricted area.

(2) ~~Swimming Areas. Areas at public beaches on Lake Waccamaw in which swimming is the principal use of the water, and which are so marked in accordance with the Uniform Waterway Marking System, are designated as public swimming areas.~~

(b) ~~Swimming. Swimming shall not be allowed outside any marked public swimming areas.~~

(c) Boating Prohibited. No person shall operate any vessel within a marked public swimming area.

~~(b) Skiing. Except to leave or return to the shore, or a dock or pier, no skiing is permitted within the restricted area. In leaving or returning to the shore, or a dock or pier, all vessels pulling skiers must be operated on a course perpendicular to the shoreline. Upon dropping skiers, boat speed shall be reduced to a no-wake speed.~~

~~(e)(d) Skiing. No skiing is permitted in the restricted area except to leave from within or return into that area. All vessels pulling skiers shall leave from within the restricted area on a course perpendicular to the nearest shoreline. Upon returning, all vessels pulling skiers shall reduce to no-wake speed when the skiers have entered the restricted area.~~

~~(e)(e) Speed Limit. Within the restricted area all vessels, except those engaged in skiing as regulated by Paragraph (b)(d) of this Rule, shall be operated at a no-wake speed. Operation of any vessel on a course parallel to the shoreline is prohibited in the restricted area.~~

~~(e)(e) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, the Town of Lake Waccamaw, and state parks division State Parks Division are the designated as suitable agencies for placement and maintenance of adequate marking to implement the regulations listed above of markers implementing this Rule.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. April 1, 1990;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

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15A NCAC 10F .0310 DARE COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters and portions of waters:

- (1) Manteo. ~~The waters of Doughts Creek adjacent to off of Shallowbag Bay, Bay~~ and all canals ~~situated within the territorial limits of the Town of Manteo. off of Shallowbag Bay.~~
- (2) Hatteras.
 - (A) The waters of Hatteras Harbor and Muddy Creek bounded on the north and south by the high-water mark, on the west by a straight line between channel markers number 20 and 17 at the entrance to Pamlico Sound, and on the east by the mouth of Muddy Creek at Sandy ~~Bay, Bay~~ at a point at 35.22816 N, 75.68052 W.
 - (B) The waters of Hatteras Inlet North Dock ferry and United States Coast Guard basin-basins ~~and the Hatteras Landing channel, including the vicinity of ending at~~ Coast Guard Beacon Number One in the ~~approach channel as delineated by appropriate markers. Hatteras~~ Landing Channel.
- (3) Mann's Harbor. The waters of Ferry Dock Road ~~Canal. Canal~~, beginning at a point at 35.90654 N, 75.76916 W.
- (4) Nags Head: ~~Head.~~
 - (A) ~~Those~~ The waters contained within in the canals of Old Nags Head Cove Development; in the Town of Nags Head, where the canal entrance meets the Roanoke Sound beginning at a point at 35.94192 N, 75.62571 W;
 - (B) The Roanoke Sound inlets at Pond Island on either side of Marina Drive extending north from ~~US-U.S.~~ 64-264.
- (5) ~~Wanchese: Wanchese.~~
 - (A) The waters of Wanchese ~~Harbor; Harbor~~ beginning at its entrance from Roanoke Sound at a point at 35.84006 N, 75.61726 W;
 - (B) The Canal from its beginning where it connects with the Roanoke Sound south of the dead-end road SR 1141 otherwise known as Thicket Lump Street, extending northwest roughly parallel to ~~SR 1141 SR 1141, and SR 1142, SR 1142~~ otherwise known as Tucker Daniels Road, and SR 1143 otherwise known as Tink Tillet Road, then westward roughly parallel to ~~NC 345, N.C. Highway 345,~~ and finally curving to the southwest roughly parallel to ~~the SR 1289 C.B. Daniels Road otherwise known as C.B. Daniels Road~~ to its end.
- (6) Stumpy Point Canal. ~~That portion~~ The waters of Stumpy Point Canal shore to shore, beginning at 50 yards west of the Wildlife Resources Commission boating access area and extending inland for a distance of 3,600 feet. area.
- (7) Stumpy Point Basin. ~~That portion of the Stumpy Stumpy Point Basin, at the head of the Basin off of Stumpy Point Bay, which is next to east of Highway 264 in the dock area and designated by the appropriate markers. Highway 264~~ where it intersects Stumpy Point Bay at a point at 35.69591 N, 75.77264 W.

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- (8) Town of Southern Shores. The waters contained in the canals and lagoons within ~~the territorial limits of the Town of Southern Shores~~ Shores north of U.S. Highway 158.
 - (9) Colington Harbour. The waters ~~contained in the canals of Colington Harbour~~ Harbour Subdivision on Albemarle Sound.
 - (10) Kitty Hawk. ~~Those~~ The waters contained in the canals of Kitty Hawk Landing ~~Subdivision.~~ Subdivision.
 - (11) Washington Baum Bridge. Those waters of the Roanoke Sound from marker 24B north of the bridge to marker 24A south of the bridge, and 50 yards east of the navigation span west to the shore as designated by the appropriate markers.
 - (12) ~~Colington Island. The waters contained in an area beginning at the bath house and recreation center on the western shore of Colington Island, running 600 feet in a northerly direction and extending 300 feet into Albemarle Sound as marked.~~
 - (13) ~~(12)~~ Kill Devil Hills. The waters of Baum Bay ~~Harbor~~ Harbor, beginning at a point at 36.00572 N, 75.68105 W.
 - (14) ~~The waters of High Bridge Creek.~~
 - (15) ~~(13)~~ Mill Creek ~~Avon~~. The waters of Pamlico Sound at Mill Creek ~~near Avon in Avon, beginning at its entrance at Pamlico Sound at a point at 35.36434 N, 75.50603 W. as delineated by appropriate markers.~~
 - (16) ~~(14)~~ Ginguite Jean Guite Creek ~~Creek~~. The waters of Ginguite Jean Guite Creek from Highway 158 north ~~to where it enters Kitty Hawk Bay at 36.04887 N, 75.72754 W, north to Lot 15 in Martins Point Subdivision~~ a line from a point on the east shore in Southern Shores at 36.10344 N, 75.73999 W to a point on the west shore in Martin's Point Subdivision at 36.10459 N, 75.74168 W.
 - ~~(17)~~ (15) Marina Canal B-Frisco. The waters of Marina Canal and boat basin at Palmetto Shores Subdivision in Frisco, shore to shore beginning at the mouth of the canal starting at the mouth of the canal from the at Pamlico Sound at a point at 35.25428 N, 75.60295 W. to the boat basin adjoining Palmetto Shores Subdivision.
- (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Restricted Swimming Area. No person operating or responsible for the operation of any vessel, surfboard, water skis, or jet skis shall permit ~~the same~~ it to enter ~~any the~~ marked swimming area ~~described in Subparagraph (12) of Paragraph (a) of this Rule~~ at Colington Island on the western shore, from a point where the canal enters the harbor at 36.01797 N, 75.72681 W, north 600 feet to a point at 36.01964 N, 75.72683 W and extending 300 feet west into Albemarle Sound.
- (d) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. ~~Subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the~~ The following agencies are the designated ~~suitable~~ agencies for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule ~~as to the regulated areas listed in the several Subparagraphs of Paragraph (a) of this Rule~~ Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

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- (1) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Manteo ~~as to~~ for the areas indicated in Subparagraph ~~(1); (1)~~ of Paragraph (a).
- (2) the Board of Commissioners of Dare County ~~as to~~ for the areas indicated in Subparagraphs (2) through (7), (9), ~~(11), (13), (15), (16) and (17)~~ and (11) through (15) of Paragraph (a).
- (3) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Southern Shores ~~as to~~ for the areas indicated in Subparagraph ~~(8); (8)~~ of Paragraph (a).
- (4) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Kitty Hawk ~~as to~~ for the ~~areas~~ area indicated in Subparagraph (10) ~~and (14)~~ of Paragraph (a).

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; December 1, 1994; May 1, 1994; March 1, 1993; May 1, 1988;
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 1, 1999; July 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; April 1, 1999;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.*

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15A NCAC 10F .0316 ~~FORSYTH-~~FORSYTH, ROCKINGHAM AND STOKES COUNTIES

- (a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to Belews Lake in Forsyth, Rockingham and Stokes Counties.
- (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp on the waters of Belews Lake in any of the counties listed in (a) of this Rule, or within 50 yards of any bridge crossing any portion of Belews Lake in Forsyth County, ~~when such area has been marked as provided in (c) of this Rule-County.~~
- (c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. ~~With regard to marking the restricted zones described in this Rule, markers may be placed and maintained by the~~ The Boards of Commissioners of Forsyth County, Rockingham County and Stokes County, or their ~~designees, within their respective counties, in accordance with the uniform system~~ designees are the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule. and the following additional requirements. ~~All markers warning of a no-wake speed zone must be buoys or floating signs placed in the water at a distance of not greater than 50 yards from the protected facility. The markers must be sufficient in number and size as to give adequate warning of the restriction to the vessels approaching from various directions.~~ signs.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. May 1, 1976;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.*

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15A NCAC 10F .0317 STANLY COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters and portions of waters described as follows:

- (1) Narrows ~~Reservoir (Badin Lake); Reservoir, otherwise known as Badin Lake;~~
- (2) Lake ~~Tillery; Tillery;~~ Turner Beach Cove ~~as delineated by appropriate markers, shore to shore,~~
south of a point at 35.22529 N, 80.09318 W.
 - (A) ~~—~~ (B) ~~—~~ Mountain Creek Cove as delineated by appropriate markers

(b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp while on the waters of a regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area ~~established with the approval of the Executive Director, or his representative,~~ on the waters of a regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule:

(e) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Stanly County is ~~hereby the~~ designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this ~~Rule in accordance with the~~ Uniform System Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

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15A NCAC 10F .0322 UNION COUNTY

- (a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to Cane Creek Lake ~~which lies within the territorial limits of~~ in Union County.
- (b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp or within 50 yards of the boat ramp at the ~~Family Camping Area located on the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~ Cane Creek Campground, at a point at 34.83488 N, 80.68612 W.
- (c) Speed Limit in Congested Area. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 75 yards of the narrow ~~neck waters that connects the upper and lower portions of Cane Creek Lake.~~ separate Cane Creek Park from Cane Creek Campground, shore to shore from at a point at 34.83843 N, 80.68171 W, northwest to a point at 34.83876 N, 80.68231 W.
- (d) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area ~~established with the approval of the Executive Director, or his representative,~~ on the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (e) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Union County is the designated a ~~suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this Rule. ~~With regard to marking Cane Creek Lake, supplementary standards as set forth in Rule .0301(g)(1) to (8) of this Section shall apply.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. May 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. March 1, 1987; March 25, 1978;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

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15A NCAC 10F .0324 DAVIDSON COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies only to those portions of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake which lie within the boundaries of Davidson County.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed:

- (1) within 50 yards of any marked public boat launching ramp, bridge, dock, marina, boat storage structure, boat service area or pier while on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson County.
- (2) ~~within 50 yards on either side of the buoy located between lots 19 and 39 Silver Hill Township in the middle of Hi Roc Shores Cove on High Rock Lake.~~ the waters of Hi Rock Shores Cove on High Rock Lake shore to shore, northeast of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.67649 N, 80.24446 W to a point on the west shore at 35.67716 N, 80.24537 W;
- (3) within the waters of Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake ~~shore to shore, beginning from a point 50 yards north of the docks at Camp Walter Johnson at 35.67132 N, 80.16602 W and extending to a point 100 yards south of the docks as delineated by appropriate markers. at 35.66995 N, 80.16588 W;~~
- (4) ~~within the waters of Abbotts Creek Cove on High Rock Lake shore to shore, west of a line from a point on the south shore at 35.69427 N, 80.25153 W to a point on the north shore at 35.69495 N, 80.25135 W;~~
- (5) ~~within the waters of Beaverdam Creek Cove on Badin Lake, shore to shore north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.50714 N, 80.09994 W to a point on the west shore at 35.50715 N, 80.10086 W; and~~
- (6) ~~the waters of Lakeshore Drive Cove on Badin Lake, shore to shore north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.50700 N, 80.10092 W to a point on the west shore at 35.50704 N, 80.09992 W.~~

(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a marked mooring area ~~established with the approval of the Executive Director, or his representative,~~ on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson County.

~~(d) Speed Limit at Mouth of Cove. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within 50 yards on either side of the mouth of Beaver Dam Creek Cove located on Badin Lake or in Abbotts Creek Cove of High Rock Lake as delineated by appropriate markers.~~

(e) ~~(d)~~ Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson County.

~~(f)(e)~~ Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Davidson County is the designated a ~~suitable~~ agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, ~~subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, if applicable. With regard to marking the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, all of the supplementary standards listed in Rule .0301(g) of this Section apply.~~ Rule.

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*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. July 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2012; May 1, 2004; December 1, 1995; December 1, 1991; August 1,
1991; September 1, 1982;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December
6, 2016.*

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15A NCAC 10F .0327 MONTGOMERY COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the waters and portions of waters described as follows:

(1) Badin Lake:

(A) ~~Lakeshore Drive Cove as delineated by appropriate markers; _____~~

(B) (A) the waters of Lake Forest Drive Cove shore to shore, west of a point at 35.48739 N, 80.10918 W that is 50 yards east of the Entrance to fueling site and marina west of the main channel of Lake Forest Drive Cove; marina;

(C) (B) Garr Creek; and the waters of Garr Creek shore to shore, north of a line beginning at a point on the east shore at 35.47952 N, 80.13633 W to a point on the west shore at 35.47946 N, 80.13932 W; and

(D) (C) the waters of the channel between Beyer's Island waterfront channel facing and the mainland; mainland, shore to shore beginning at a line from a point on Beyer's Island at 35.49104 N, 80.10218 W to a point on the mainland at 35.49225 N, 80.10240 W, ending at a line westward, from a point on Beyer's Island at 35.48990 N, 80.10582 W to a point on the mainland at 35.49073 N, 80.10702 W.

(2) Lake Tillery:

(A) the waters of Woodrun Cove as delineated by appropriate markers; shore to shore, east of a line from a point on the south shore at 35.33542 N, 80.06573 W to a point on the north shore at 35.33662 N, 80.06534 W;

(B) the waters of Carolina Forest Cove shore to shore and the waters within 50 yards of the boat ramps and boat slips at the end of Arroyo Drive in Carolina Forest Community, from a point on the south shore at 35.36276 N, 80.05386 W, northeast to a point on the north shore at 35.36412 N, 80.05309 W; and as delineated by appropriate markers; and

(C) the waters in the vicinity of the Lilly's Bridge Boating Access Area shore to shore, from a line north of the Route 1110 bridge at a point on the eastern shore at 35.23223 N, 80.06166 W, to a point on the western shore at 35.23289 N, 80.06318 W, to a line southwest of the Lilly's Bridge Boating Access Area, from a point on the eastern shore at 35.23067 N; 80.06262 W, to a point on the western shore at 35.23156 N; 80.06437 W.

(3) Tuckertown Reservoir.

(b) Speed Limit Near Shore Facilities. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any marked boat launching area, dock, pier, bridge, marina, boat storage structure, or boat service area on the waters of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area ~~established with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission~~ on the waters of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

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(e) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County is the designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement of the markers implementing Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), ~~(D)~~, (2)(A) and (B), and Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule in accordance with the Uniform System. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. November 1, 1977;
Amended Eff. December 1, 1990; May 1, 1989; March 25, 1978;
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1999; July 1, 1998;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; April 1, 2003;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2017.

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15A NCAC 10F .0329 ROWAN COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies only to those portions of High Rock Lake and Tuckertown Lake ~~which lie within the boundaries of~~ in Rowan County.

(b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp while on the waters of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a marked mooring area ~~established with the approval of the Executive Director, or his representative,~~ on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Speed Limit in Specific Zones. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed ~~within 50 yards of~~ at the following locations on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule:

- (1) Within 50 yards of the Tamarac Marina on Dutch Second ~~Creek;~~ Creek on High Rock Lake, located at 35.61016 N, 80.30773 W;
- (2) The ~~Cove~~ cove on the west-north side of Dutch Second Creek south of Tamarac Marina off east of Clyde Poole ~~Road;~~ Road on High Rock Lake, shore to shore, north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.60800 N, 80.31985 W to a point on the west shore at 35.60741 N, 80.32106 W;
- (3) The waters within 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the I-85 bridge at ~~Yadkin River;~~ over High Rock Lake, from a point east of the bridge at 35.71917 N, 80.38880 W, to a point west of the bridge at 35.71996 N, 80.39023 W;
- (4) The waters within 50 yards east and 50 yards west of Goodman Lake Road Bridge at Crane ~~Creek;~~ Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point east of the bridge at 35.66355 N, 80.35339 W, to a point west of the bridge at 35.66406 N, 80.35438 W;
- (5) The waters within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Bringle Ferry Road Bridge at Dutch Second ~~Creek;~~ Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point northeast of the bridge at 35.60916 N, 80.30626 W, to a point southwest of the bridge at 35.60841 N, 50.30699 W;
- (6) Within 50 yards north and 50 yards south of the Stokes Ferry Road Bridge at Riles ~~Creek;~~ Creek on Tuckertown Lake, from a point north of the bridge at 35.50538 N, 80.21680 W, to a point south of the bridge at 35.50450 N, 80.21720 W;
- (7) The waters within 50 yards north and 50 yards south of the Highway 49 bridge at Tuckertown ~~Lake;~~ Lake from a point north of the bridge at 35.50616 N, 80.18467 W, to a point south of the bridge at 35.50498 N, 80.18467 W; and
- (8) ~~The~~ The waters within 50 yards of the Rowan Shrine Club ~~dock;~~ dock located at 35.66776 N, 80.31425 W on High Rock Lake.

(e) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area ~~established with the approval of the Executive Director, or his representative,~~ on the waters of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(f) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Rowan County is the designated a ~~suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this Rule, ~~subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, if applicable.~~ With regard to marking the

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~~regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, all of the supplementary standards listed in Rule .0301(g) of this Section shall apply. Rule.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. June 18, 1978;

Amended Eff. December 1, 2010; December 1, 1985;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

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15A NCAC 10F .0332 ALEXANDER COUNTY

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to those waters of Lake Hickory ~~set out in this Rule which are located in~~ Alexander County.

- (1) the waters ~~beginning 50 yards from the southeast end of the Rink Dam Marina and ending at Rink Dam;~~ shore to shore at a line 150 yards southeast of the Rink Dam Road bridge on N.C. Highway 1137 in Taylorsville, from a point on the south shore at 35.82843 N, 81.26389 W to a point on the north shore at 35.82919 N, 81.26272 W, northwest to a point at the Rink Dam at 35.83035 N, 81.26669 W;
- (2) the waters within 50 yards of the Taylorsville Beach ~~Marina;~~ Marina and docks, located at 420 Taylorsville Beach Court in Taylorsville;
- (3) the waters within 50 yards of ~~the R&N Marina; and~~ Rivers Edge Marina and docks, located at 5803 Icard Ridge Road in Taylorsville;
- (4) the waters within 50 yards of the Lakeside ~~Marina;~~ Marina and docks, located at 81 Marina Drive in Hickory.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp or while on the waters of any regulated areas designated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Alexander County is the designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, if applicable. ~~Rule.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. March 25, 1979;

Amended Eff. February 1, 1995; February 1, 1987;

Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 2000;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2010; July 1, 2000;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

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15A NCAC 10F .0333 MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters of Lake Wylie in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties:

- (1) McDowell Park – The waters of the coves adjoining McDowell Park and the Southwest Nature Preserve in Mecklenburg County, ~~including the entrances to the coves on either side of Copperhead Island;~~ County shore to shore, east of the mouth of the cove at a line from a point on the south shore at 35.10272 N, 81.03026 W to a point on the north shore at 35.10552 N, 81.02968 W;
- (2) Gaston County Wildlife Club Cove – The waters of the cove ~~at west of the Gaston County Wildlife Club on South Point Peninsula~~ Southpoint Road in Gaston County; County, north of a line at the mouth of the cove from a point on the east shore at 35.15628 N, 81.01427 W to a point on the west shore at 35.15628 N, 81.01615 W;
- (3) Buster Boyd Bridge - The ~~area~~ waters from point 250 feet to the north-east of the Buster Boyd Bridge on N.C. Highway 49 in Mecklenburg County at 35.10293 N, 81.03932 W, and to a point 150 feet to the south-west of the Buster Boyd Bridge; Bridge at 35.10242 N, 81.04089 W;
- (4) Highway 27 Bridge – The ~~area~~ waters shore to shore, beginning from a point 50 yards north of the NC N.C. 27 Bridge in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties at 35.29849 N, 81.00346 W and extending 50 yards south of the southernmost of two railroad trestles immediately downstream from to a point 190 yards south of the NC Highway 27 Bridge; Bridge at 35.29635 N, 81.00424 W;
- (5) Brown's Cove – The area beginning at the ~~most narrow point of the entrance to mouth of Brown's Cove in Mecklenburg County~~ shore to shore, at a point at 35.16454 N, 81.00472 W, west to a point at 35.16480 N, 81.00309 W; and extending 250 feet in both directions;
- (6) Paradise Point Cove – The waters of the Paradise Point Cove in Gaston County between Paradise Circle and ~~Lakeshore Lake Front Drive as delineated by appropriate markers;~~ Drive, west of a line from a point on the south shore at 35.18846 N, 81.04136 W to a point on the north shore at 35.18991 N, 81.04136 W;
- (7) Withers Cove - ~~The area 50 feet on either side of Withers Bridge;~~ The waters from a point 50 feet east of the Withers Bridge on N.C. Highway 1116 in Mecklenburg County at 35.14577 N, 81.00185 W, to point 50 feet west of the bridge at 35.14596 N, 81.00223 W;
- (8) ~~Sadler Island west Island~~ - The waters shore to shore beginning at a line ~~formed~~ from a point on the western shore of Lake Wylie in Gaston County at 35.27481N, 81.0138W east to a point on the eastern shore ~~the Lake shore in Mecklenburg County at 35.27423N, 81.01111W~~ 81.01111 W, extending south on the Lake west of Sadler Island to a line formed from a point on the western shore of Lake Wylie at 35.2708N, 81.01525W on the Lake shore in Gaston County at 35.27079 N, 81.01525 W, east to a point on the west side of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg County at 35.27051 N, 81.01396 W, to a point on the western side of Sadler Island at 35.27056N, 81.01393W; and the waters shore to shore east of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg County from a point at 35.27441 N, 81.01185 W, south-southwest to a line from a point on the south shore of Sadler Island at 35.26635 N, 81.01432 W, south to a point on the Lake shore at 35.26494 N, 81.01368 W;

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- (9) ~~Sadler Island east beginning at a line formed from a point on the western shore of Lake Wylie at 35.27481N, 81.0138W to a point on the eastern shore at 35.27423N, 81.01111W extending south on the Lake to a line formed from a point on the eastern side of Sadler Island at 35.2663N, 81.0143W to a point on the eastern shore of Lake Wylie at 35.26501N, 81.01374W; and~~
- (10) ~~(9) other~~ Other bridges – ~~the~~ The areas ~~that are~~ within 50 feet of any bridge in North Carolina that crosses the waters of Lake Wylie that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in this Paragraph.
- (b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat-launching ramp, dock, pier, marina, boat storage structure, or boat service area.
- (c) ~~Speed Limit Near All Other Bridges~~. ~~No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed within 50 feet of any bridge in North Carolina that crosses the waters of Lake Wylie that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~
- (d) ~~(c)~~ Speed Limit in Marked Swimming or Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any marked mooring area or marked swimming area.
- (e) ~~(d)~~ Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Lake Wylie Marine Commission is the designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. July 1, 1980;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; June 1, 1985; June 1, 1984; March 1, 1983;
Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998;
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 4, 2000;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; June 1, 2004; July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2015;
Amended Eff. October 1, 2015.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0336 NORTHAMPTON AND WARREN COUNTIES

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies ~~only~~ to that portion of Lake Gaston which lies within ~~the boundaries of Northampton and Warren Counties-counties.~~

(b) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a marked mooring area ~~established with the approval of the Executive Director, or his representative,~~ on the waters of ~~Gaston Lake-Lake Gaston~~ in Northampton and Warren ~~Counties-counties.~~

(c) Speed Limit Near Shore Facilities. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any marked boat launching area, dock, pier, bridge, marina, boat storage structure, or boat service area on the waters of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Speed Limit in specific waters. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the following bodies of water.

- (1) Northampton County, the waters of the cove on the north shore of Lake Gaston east of Vincent Drive, shore to shore from a point on the north shore at 36.51652 N, 77.82232 W to a point on the south shore at 36.51580 N, 77.82273 W;
- (2) Warren County, the waters of Big Stonehouse Creek within 50 yards of the culvert under Highway ~~903;~~903 at 36.48789 N, 77.95009 W;
- (3) Warren County, the waters of Songbird Creek within 50 yards of the culvert under Highway ~~903;~~903 at 36.53264 N, 77.97320 W;
- (4) Warren County, the waters of Six Pound Creek within 50 yards of the culvert under State Road ~~1707;~~1334 at 36.52950 N, 78.07283 W;
- (5) Warren County, the waters of Lizard Creek within 50 yards of the culvert under Highway ~~903-1362~~ at 36.52501 N, 77.91187 W.

(e) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area on the waters of ~~Gaston Lake-Lake Gaston~~ in Northampton and Warren ~~Counties-counties.~~

(f) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The ~~Board-Boards~~ of Commissioners of Northampton County and Warren County are the designated ~~as suitable~~ agencies for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and United States Army Corps of Engineers. ~~With regard to marking Gaston Lake, all of the supplementary standards listed in Rule .0301(g) of this Section shall apply.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. March 29, 1981;

Amended Eff. June 1, 1994; March 1, 1993; September 1, 1989;

Temporary Amendment Eff. March 15, 2003;

Temporary Amendment Expired October 12, 2003;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2014; May 1, 2004;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0341 TOWN OF LAKE LURE

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies ~~only~~ to the waters of Lake Lure in the Town of Lake Lure, in Rutherford County.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any boat launching area, dock, pier, marina, boat storage structure, boat service area, swimming area, cove or dam in the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this ~~Rule which has been properly marked and approved by the Executive Director or his representative.~~ Rule.

(c) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked swimming area in the regulated area described by Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) ~~Waterskiers.~~ Water skiers. On the regulated area described by Paragraph (a) of this Rule:

- (1) No more than two skiers may be towed at once by any boat;
- (2) Each skier is required to wear a ski belt or a personal flotation device;
- (3) The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Lake Lure may issue special permission for towing more than two skiers, with or without flotation devices, to persons or groups practicing for or participating in skiing exhibitions or shows.

(e) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Lake Lure is designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule. ~~With regard to marking the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, all of the supplementary standards listed in Rule .0301(g) of this Section shall apply.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. May 1, 1982;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

5A NCAC 10F .0343 CHATHAM COUNTY

~~(a) Definitions. In addition to the definitions set forth in Paragraph (b) of Rule .0301 of this Section, the following definitions apply in this Rule:~~

~~(1) Corps—Corps of engineers, United States Army;~~

~~(2) — Regulated Area— That portion of the B. Everette Jordan Reservoir located within the boundaries of Chatham County.~~

(a) Regulated Area. That portion of the B. Everette Jordan Reservoir otherwise known as Jordan Lake in Chatham County.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed on the regulated area as follows:

(1) within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp;

(2) ~~within the restricted zone~~ the waters within 100 yards of the piers and boat slips adjacent to the Crosswinds Marina Boating Center located north of US 64 and west of SR 1008 as indicated by markers; at 565 Farrington Road in Apex;

(3) within 100 feet of all bridges;

(4) ~~the restricted zone at the Ebenezer Church Road access point.~~

(c) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of any vessel, surfboard or water skis shall permit ~~the same~~ it to enter any marked swimming area located on the regulated area.

(d) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Chatham County is ~~the~~ designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the corps. ~~With regard to marking the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the supplementary standards listed in Subparagraphs (1) through (8) of Rule .0301(g) of this Section shall apply.~~ United States Army Corps of Engineers.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. March 1, 1983;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2004; September 1, 1989; April 1, 1984; June 1, 1983;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0344 TOWN OF RIVER BEND

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters located in the Town of River Bend in Craven County:

- (1) The waters of Plantation Canal shore to shore, beginning at its entrance from the Trent River at a line from a point on the northeast shore at 35.07214 N, 77.13277 W, to a point on the south shore at 35.07177 N, 77.13304 W, and including the waters of the River Bend Yacht Club Marina Basin;
- (2) The waters of Island Lake shore to shore, and its access waters extending inland from the Trent River, off of the Trent River beginning at points at 35.06504 N, 77.13598 W and at 35.06876 N, 77.13349 W;
- (3) ~~Plantation Canal from its entrance at Trent River to the River Bend Yacht Club Marina Basin.~~

(b) Speed limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Town Council of the Town of River Bend is the designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. June 1, 1983;

Amended Eff. December 1, 1985;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0345 CHATHAM AND WAKE COUNTIES

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant Reservoir, otherwise known as Harris Reservoir, ~~which is located~~ in the counties of Chatham and Wake:

- (1) All waters within 50 yards of any marked boat launching ramp, pier, dock, mooring area, boat storage structure, bridge, or service area.
- (2) In Chatham County, a portion of the waters of the cove at the Cross Point Landing Boating Access Area at Cross Point Road, shore to shore, shore beginning at a line west of a point on the north shore at 35.57351 N, 78.97411 W to a point on the south shore at 35.57187 N, 78.97384 W. 35.57270 N, 78.97398 ~~as delineated by appropriate markers placed and maintained by the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~
- (3) In Wake County, the waters within 150 yards of the Holleman Boating Access Area located at Bartley Holleman Road at 35.60861 N, 78.93899 W. ~~as indicated by appropriate markers placed and maintained by the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

(b) ~~Restricted-Exclusionary Zones.~~ Except for authorized personnel of the power company, no person shall operate a ~~motorboat or vessel~~ in any ~~restricted-exclusionary zone~~ which is marked to prevent entry by boats.

(c) Mast Height. No person shall place or operate on the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule any sailboat or other vessel having a mast or any superstructure extending vertically above water level a distance of 35 feet or more.

(d) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(e) Swimming Areas. No person shall operate any vessel or water skis within a marked public swimming area.

(f) ~~Placement and Maintenance of Markers.~~ The Board of Commissioners of Chatham County and the Board of Commissioners of Wake County are the designated suitable ~~agencies~~ for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of markers implementing this Rule within their respective counties. ~~Provided the said boards exercise their supervisory responsibilities, they may delegate the actual placement and maintenance to some other responsible agency, corporation, group or individual. With regard to marking the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the supplementary standards set forth in Rule .0301(g) of this Section shall apply.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. August 1, 1983;

Amended Eff. February 1, 1990;

Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2013; July 1, 1998;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0346 ARROWHEAD BEACH SUBDIVISION

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters or portions of waters in Chowan County:

- (1) Chowan River: ~~that portion adjoining the shoreline of the Arrowhead Beach Subdivision Park and having dimensions of approximately 350 by 600 feet, containing a marked swimming area and the area within 200 feet of the pier;~~ the waters within 350 feet of the shoreline of the Arrowhead Beach Subdivision Park pier and swim area, from a point in the water southwest of the pier at 36.22691 N, 76.70711 W, to a point in the water northeast at 36.22838 N, 76.70637 W.
- (2) Indian Creek: ~~that the portion adjoining the Arrowhead Beach Subdivision~~ shore to shore from a point at 36.23615 N, 76.69494 W to a point at 36.23084 N, 76.69231 W; and
- (3) Chowan River: the waters of an unnamed canal in Arrowhead Beach Subdivision, shore to shore at its intersection with the Chowan River at 36.22508 N, 76.70787 W.

(b) Swimming Area. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter the swimming area described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.

(c) Obstruction of Swimmers or Boats. No person shall place or maintain within the recreational area described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule any poles, cables, lines, nets, trotlines, fish traps or other obstructions or hazards to swimmers or boats, excepting those necessary to mark the area pursuant to this Rule.

(d) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed in the area described in Subparagraphs (a)(2) and ~~(3)~~ (a)(3) of this Rule.

(e) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The board of Commissioners of Chowan County is the designated a ~~suitable~~ agency for the placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. ~~On condition that the said board of commissioners exercise its supervisory responsibility, it may delegate the actual placement and maintenance of markers to some responsible person or organization.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3: 75A-15;

Eff. August 1, 1983;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;

Amended Eff. January 1, 2017.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters in Craven County:

- (1) ~~that the~~ portion of Northwest Creek ~~between from~~ the entrance buoys at Fairfield Harbour Marina at a line from a point on the east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06343 N, 76.97106 W, to a line from a point on the east shore of Northwest Creek at 35.06895 N, 76.97039 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06776 N, 76.97220 N, east-northeast to include the waters of and the mouth of Spring Creek, and to all of Spring Creek, including the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour, in Craven County; shore to shore including the waters in the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour;
- (2) ~~that area of water between the entrance buoys of the~~ the waters of Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River west of a point at 35.08098 N, 77.05833 W; and including all of Olde Towne Lake and the bulkhead area of Olde Towne Harbour itself;
- (3) ~~Matthews Point Marina. That the~~ triangular area in the waters at the end of the Matthews Point Marina main pier located at the confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of the Neuse River, between a point 300 feet east of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W, and a point 300 feet west of the pier at 34.90610 N, 76.76262 W, and a point 150 feet south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W; ~~W, which is located at the confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of the Neuse River;~~
- (4) ~~that area of water~~ the waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht ~~Club; Club~~ on the Trent River in Trent Woods; and
- (5) ~~that the~~ portion of Slocum Creek in the City of Havelock, shore to shore east of a line from a point on the northern shore at 34.89122 N, 76.92302 W to a point on the southern shore at 34.89102 N, 76.92304 W and extending northeast, shore to shore to a line from a point on the northern shore at 34.8937 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089 W.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

~~(c) Green Springs Boys Club Swimming Area—No person shall operate a vessel within the Green Springs Boys Club Swimming Area along the Neuse River as designated by marker buoys and float lines. Swimming Area. No person operating or responsible for the operation of any vessel shall permit it to enter any swimming area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

~~(d)~~(c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Craven County is ~~hereby the~~ designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing Subparagraphs (a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

(e) The City of Havelock is ~~hereby the~~ designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

APPENDIX A

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. August 1, 1984;
Amended Eff. December 1, 1990; October 1, 1989; June 1, 1989;
Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2016; July 1, 1998;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0357 NASH COUNTY

(a) Regulated Area. ~~The waters of the Tar River Reservoir near the City of Rocky Mount in Nash County. That area of the Tar River Reservoir at the boat launching ramp and bridge located on State Road 1745 (bend of the River Road) and both bridges and ramps on State Road 1603, near the city of Rocky Mount in Nash County.~~

(1) Beginning 50 yards northwest of the bridge located on State Road 1745, otherwise known as Bend of the River Road, from a line northwest of the bridge at a point on the south shore at 35.88349 N, 77.89661 W, northeast to a point in the water at 35.88395 N, 77.89576 W, and ending southeast of the bridge at a point within 50 yards of the Bend of the River boat ramp located at 35.88219 N, 77.89586 W.

(2) Beginning 185 yards northwest of the Sapony Creek Bridge and boat ramp located on State Road 1603, otherwise known as South Old Carriage Road at 35.88545 N, 77.91154 W, shore to shore at a line from a point on the south shore at 35.88543 N, 77.91359 W to a point on the north shore at 35.88639 N, 77.91310 W, and ending at a line east of the bridge from a point on the south shore at 35.88486 N, 77.91149 W to a point on the northeast shore at 35.88565 N, 77.91090 W.

(3)The waters 50 yards southwest of the Low Bridge from a point in the water at 35.85455 N, 77.90780 W to a line northeast of the Low Bridge on State Road 1603, otherwise known as South Old Carriage Road shore to shore, from a point on the east shore at 35.85590 N, 77.90545 W to a point on the northwest shore at 35.85681 N, 77.90763 W.

(b) Speed Limit. It is unlawful to operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The City of Rocky Mount is ~~the~~ designated a suitable agency for the placement ~~and maintenance~~ of markers implementing this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. May 1, 1989;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0358 JONES COUNTY

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to those waters of the Trent River ~~shore to shore in Pollocksville, from a point line 25 yards west of the US Hwy-U.S. Highway 17 bridge from a point on the north shore at 35.01016 N, 77.21939 W to a point on the south shore at 35.00098 N, 77.21940 W, downstream eastward to a point 50-line 100 yards east of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad bridge at Pollocksville, NC.~~ Pollocksville Public Fishing Area, from a point on the north shore at 35.00963 N, 77.31150 W to a point on the southwest shore at 35.00932 N, 72.21719 W.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within ~~any~~ of the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Jones County Board of Commissioners is the designated ~~a suitable~~ agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. May 1, 1989;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0362 HARNETT COUNTY

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to the following ~~public waters of~~ in Harnett County:

- (1) All waters of ~~the Carolina Lakes-Lake Carolina~~ Lake Carolina within 50 yards of any marked boat launching ramp, boat service area, boat pier, boat dock, boat mooring area, boat storage structure, or bridge.
- (2) The ~~marked canal joining between Lake Carolina and Ski Lake from its west end at Lake Carolina at a point at 35.28164 N, 79.03218 W to its east end where it enters to Ski Lake.-Lake at a point at 35.28038 N, 79.02662 W.~~

(b) Restricted Zones. Except for authorized personnel of State, County, and Municipal governments and emergency response personnel, no person shall operate a vessel in any restricted zone marked to prevent entry by boats, including designated swimming areas and danger zones near dams and spillways.

(c) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas delineated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Harnett County is the designated ~~as the~~ suitable agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule. ~~Provided the Board exercises its supervision responsibility, they may delegate the actual placement and maintenance to some other responsible agency, corporation, group, or individual. With regard to marking the regulated areas and restricted zones described in Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule, the supplementary standards set forth in Rule .0301(g) of this Section shall apply.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. August 1, 1990;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0369 TOWN OF SWANSBORO

- (a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to the waters of the White Oak River within approximately 50 yards of the shoreline of the Swansboro Town Limits in Onslow County and outside the United States Army Corps of Engineers Swansboro Channel setback, as marked by no-wake buoys, from beginning at the Highway 24 bridge southward toward Casper's Marina, approximately 50 yards from the east shoreline of the Swansboro Town limits and marked by buoys, and ending at a point 50 yards southwest of the Casper's Marina pier at 34.68672 N, 77.11716 W.
- (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Placement ~~and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Town of Swansboro is the designated a suitable agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers implementing this ~~Rule.~~ Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and United States Army Corps of Engineers.

History Note: Authority G.S. 71A-15; 72A-3;

Eff. October 1, 2004;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2005;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

APPENDIX A

5A NCAC 10F .0371 BELEWS LAKE IN STOKES COUNTY

- (a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies ~~only~~ to the areas described in Paragraphs (b) and (c) in Belews Lake in Stokes County.
- (b) No swimming or boating in exclusionary zone. No swimming or other entry of a person in or upon a boat, raft or other floating object shall be permitted in the exclusionary zone in the cove containing the power station's plant intake on the western side of Belews ~~Lake~~ Lake, approximately 1,000 feet northeast of Belews Creek Steam Station, as marked by warning buoys and signs.
- (c) No swimming or boating in evacuation area in event of alarm. In the event of a siren or audible alarm generated by the Belews Creek Steam Station, all persons swimming, boating or occupying a raft or other floating object on the lake shall evacuate the area on the western side of Belews Lake approximately 4,000 feet northeast of Belews Creek Station as marked by warning buoys and signs.
- (d) Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule shall not apply to persons who, with consent of Duke Energy Corporation, access the area for the purpose of responding to emergency or maintaining or repairing facilities of Duke Energy Corporation.
- (e) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Duke Energy Corporation is designated as a suitable entity for placement and maintenance of buoys, barriers and other signs indicating the areas in which boating or swimming are prohibited by this Rule.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Emergency Adoption Eff. August 1, 2005;
Temporary Adoption Eff. November 1, 2005;
Eff. February 1, 2006;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.*

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10F .0376 TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE

(a) Regulated Area. This Rule applies to the following waters within the territorial jurisdiction of located in the Town of Emerald Isle, as described in Paragraph (e) of this Rule- Isle in Carteret County:

- (1) ~~the entire length of the~~ Bogue Sound Drive Channel, ~~which is .6 miles in length, Channel shore to shore, located adjacent and~~ roughly parallel to the shoreline in the vicinity of Kelly Lane and Bogue Sound Drive; Drive, from a point where the channel enters Bogue Sound at 34.67471 N, 76.98684 W to a point where it enters Bogue Sound at 34.67596 N, 76.97755 W;
- (2) the waters of the Coast Guard Channel from ~~at a point extending from~~ the north entrance of the channel where it intersects Bogue Sound behind 419 Channel Drive-Drive, south of a line from a point on the shoreline at 34.65341 N, 77.09468 W to a point west at 34.65351 N, 77.09468 W, to the west entrance of the channel where it intersects Bogue Sound, near 116 Bogue Court;-Court, east of a line from a point on the shoreline at 34.64765 N, 77.09719 W, to a point northwest at 34.64863 N, 77.09767 W; and
- (3) the waters of Bogue Sound adjacent to Archer ~~Point-Point,~~ south of and including ~~that a~~ portion of the Emerald Isle channel, bounded on the west side by a line running north from 34.67569 N, 77.01537 W to the far side of the channel, and on the east side by a line running northeast from 34.67519 N, 77.01279 W to the far side of the channel.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate any ~~motorboat or~~ vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated area described in Paragraph ~~(e)-(a)~~ of this Rule.

~~(c) Affected Areas are:~~

(d) ~~(c) Placement and Maintenance~~ of Markers. The Town of Emerald Isle is the designated a suitable agency for placement ~~and maintenance~~ of the markers ~~or signs~~ implementing this ~~Rule- Rule,~~ subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. September 1, 2008;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2011; April 1, 2009;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016.

EXHIBIT M

October 5, 2017



PROPOSED 2018 SCHEDULE OF NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETINGS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018