

## *Committee of the Whole*



### **Meeting Agenda** **Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**  
**Commission Room**  
**Centennial Campus, Raleigh**

**Call to Order** – *Chairman David Hoyle*

#### **Review Public Comments and 2020-2021 Rule Proposals**

- **Wildlife Management (Exhibits D-1, D-2)** – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*
- **Inland Fisheries (Exhibits E-1, E-2)** – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*
- **Lands Management (Exhibits F-1, F-2)** – *Brian McRae, Land and Water Access Section Chief*

#### **Other Rulemaking**

- **Approval of Fiscal Note and Proposed Notice of Text - Wildlife Conservation Land Program – 15A NCAC 10L .0100 Wildlife Reserve** – Consider approval of the fiscal note and consider approval to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* and open the public comment period with one public hearing, for proposed permanent rules addressing the activities required for land to qualify for present-use value taxation as wildlife conservation land that creates and is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation or wildlife activities – *Michael Smallwood, JD, Policy Analyst (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)*
- **Proposed Notice of Text - Totally Disabled Lifetime Licenses – 15A NCAC 10G .0601** - Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* and open the public comment period with public hearing for proposed amendments to 10G .0601, to provide an alternative method for certification of a qualifying disability – *Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT M)*
- **Proposed Notice of Text - Dog Training and Field Trials – 15A NCAC 10B .0114** – Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* and open the public comment period with one public hearing for proposed

amendments to 10B .0114, to provide for the issuance of Field Trial Permits via online portal at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) – *Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT N)*

- **Proposed Notice of Text - Taxidermist Records and Reporting Requirements – 15A NCAC 10H .1003** - Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* and open the public comment period with one public hearing, for proposed amendments to 10H .1003 to institute taxidermy reporting requirements pursuant to the taxidermy cervid certification – *Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT O)*
- **Temporary Rulemaking - Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves – 15A NCAC 10H** - Consider request to approve publishing Notice of Text on the OAH website for temporary rules for the licensing and regulation of controlled rabbit hunting preserves as provided for in SL 2019-204 – *Michael Smallwood (EXHIBIT P)*

**WRC Forestry Program Presentation** – *Chris Jordan, Game Lands and Forest Resources Manager, and Casey Phillips, Recovery and Sustainment Program Forester*

### **Updates**

- **2019-2020 Deer and Bear Harvest** – *Brad Howard*
- **Wake County Firearms Education and Training Center** – *Erik Christofferson, Deputy Director of Operations*
- **Agency Research and Capital Needs Project** – *Gordon Myers, Executive Director*

**Consider Motion to Go Into Closed Session** – Consider recommendation to go into closed session, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with agency counsel to preserve attorney-client privilege to discuss potential litigation involving delineation of waters

**Other Business** – *Chairman Hoyle*

**Adjourn**



# EXHIBIT D-1

February 27, 2020

## Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Wildlife Management Regulations for 2020-2021

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Proposed Text</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Comment Type</i>
H1	Update rule text regarding big game harvest reporting to require month and date validation on the harvest report card authorization line, eliminate the 24-hour time period for registration, and require that all big game, not otherwise required to be reported, must be registered by 12:00 noon the day following harvest. Additionally, rule is updated to require any big game harvested and transferred to another person or otherwise left unattended by the successful hunter to be registered, with the harvest authorization number physically attached to the animal.	209	70	Online: 153 Comment Card: 139
H2	Prohibit the use of cervid excrement (urine, feces, saliva, and other bodily fluids) for taking or attracting wildlife.	198	182	Online: 206 Comment Card: 154
H3	Adjust the current blackpowder firearms season in those parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties enrolled in the maximum deer either-sex firearms season to allow for take of either sex deer during the entire blackpowder firearms season.	189	16	Online: 103 Comment Card: 124
H4	Amend the alligator rule to clearly articulate that the agency may specify size restrictions and allowable manner of restraint on alligator take permits.	171	18	Online: 88 Comment Card: 121
H5	Establish a season and daily bag limit for the take of bullfrogs and to clarify that artificial lights for taking bullfrogs are legal.	183	33	Online: 100 Comment Card: 130
Other (H6)	Please enter any general comments or proposals for Wildlife Management not related to the above rule proposals in the field below.	0	0	Online: 112 Comment Card: 0

\*\* Letters and emails were included in the full summary and are reflected in the columns above.

Wildlife Management District Report Summary for 2020

Proposal	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7	District 8	District 9	Out of State
H1	<b>Position Count:</b> 05 :Agree 02 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 19 :Agree 08 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 15 :Agree 05 :Disagree 05 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 15 :Agree 06 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 30 :Agree 05 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 30 :Agree 14 :Disagree 15 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 16 :Agree 03 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 35 :Agree 13 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 39 :Agree 11 :Disagree 07 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 05 :Agree 02 :Disagree 04 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 02 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 20 :Online 08 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 17 :Online 07 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 12 :Online 11 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 19 :Online 17 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 21 :Online 24 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 11 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 16 :Online 32 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 22 :Online 29 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 09 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
H2	<b>Position Count:</b> 06 :Agree 03 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 20 :Agree 15 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 19 :Agree 13 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 14 :Agree 11 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 26 :Agree 16 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 26 :Agree 26 :Disagree 12 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 12 :Agree 19 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 33 :Agree 30 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 36 :Agree 29 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 05 :Agree 11 :Disagree 0 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 07 :Online 02 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 29 :Online 06 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 23 :Online 08 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 14 :Online 11 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 20 :Online 22 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 27 :Online 23 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 21 :Online 10 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 25 :Online 35 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 25 :Online 37 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 14 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
H3	<b>Position Count:</b> 04 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 17 :Agree 0 :Disagree 04 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 0 :Disagree 06 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 13 :Agree 0 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 19 :Agree 01 :Disagree 04 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 27 :Agree 02 :Disagree 15 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 14 :Agree 01 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 43 :Agree 02 :Disagree 04 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 40 :Agree 09 :Disagree 07 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 02 :Agree 01 :Disagree 04 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 02 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 14 :Online 06 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 11 :Online 04 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 11 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 08 :Online 15 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 13 :Online 17 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 09 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 15 :Online 31 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 21 :Online 29 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
H4	<b>Position Count:</b> 3 :Agree 3 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 13 :Agree 04 :Disagree 06 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 11 :Agree 01 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 03 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 20 :Agree 0 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 30 :Agree 02 :Disagree 13 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 13 :Agree 02 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 39 :Agree 01 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 30 :Agree 02 :Disagree 11 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 02 :Agree 0 :Disagree 05 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 02 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 16 :Online 06 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 09 :Online 05 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 11 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 08 :Online 14 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 13 :Online 18 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 08 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 10 :Online 30 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 11 :Online 26 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
H5	<b>Position Count:</b> 05 :Agree 01 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 16 :Agree 0 :Disagree 04 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 12 :Agree 03 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 11 :Agree 04 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 19 :Agree 06 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 25 :Agree 05 :Disagree 15 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 17 :Agree 02 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 36 :Agree 05 :Disagree 04 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 39 :Agree 07 :Disagree 09 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 03 :Agree 0 :Disagree 04 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 02 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 13 :Online 06 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 12 :Online 05 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 11 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 11 :Online 15 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 14 :Online 17 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 09 :Online 11 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 12 :Online 30 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 16 :Online 33 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email

# EXHIBIT D-2

February 27, 2020



## PROPOSED CHANGES TO *WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS FOR 2020-2021* AND RULE TEXT FOR COMMISSION ACTION

- H1)** Update rule text regarding big game harvest reporting to require month and date validation on the harvest report card authorization line, eliminate the 24-hour time period for registration, and require that all big game, not otherwise required to be reported, must be registered by 12:00 noon the day following harvest. Additionally, rule is updated to require any big game harvested and transferred to another person or otherwise left unattended by the successful hunter to be registered, with the harvest authorization number physically attached to the animal.  
*15A NCAC 10B.0113 (pages 2-5)*
- H2)** Prohibit the use of cervid excrement (urine, feces, saliva, and other bodily fluids) for taking or attracting wildlife.  
*15A NCAC 10B.0201 (page 6)*
- H3)** Adjust the current blackpowder firearms season in those parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties enrolled in the maximum deer either-sex firearms season to allow for take of either sex deer during the entire blackpowder firearms season.  
*15A NCAC 10B.0203 (pages 7-12)*
- H4)** Amend the alligator rule to clearly articulate that the agency may specify size restrictions and allowable manner of restraint on alligator take permits.  
*15A NCAC 10B.0224 (page 13)*
- H5)** Establish a season and daily bag limit for the take of bullfrogs and to clarify that artificial lights for taking bullfrogs are legal.  
*15A NCAC 10B.0226 (page 14)*

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0113**            **BIG GAME KILL HARVEST REPORTS**

2 ~~(a) Upon killing a bear, deer, or wild turkey and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the~~  
3 ~~successful hunter shall validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card furnished with the big game hunting~~  
4 ~~license by cutting or punching out the validation box that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested.~~  
5 ~~In lieu of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, antlerless deer may be recorded as outlined on the Bonus~~  
6 ~~Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card acquired from the Wildlife Resources Commission or a Wildlife~~  
7 ~~Service Agent. Deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) program, not~~  
8 ~~validated with either a Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, shall~~  
9 ~~be validated by affixing a Commission issued DMAP tag to the deer as required by G.S. 113-291.2(e).~~

10 ~~(b) Before any harvested bear, deer, or wild turkey is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption~~  
11 ~~and within 24 hours of the kill, the animal shall be registered through the Electronic Big Game Reporting~~  
12 ~~System. The hunter may field dress the animal at the site of kill or before registering it by bleeding and~~  
13 ~~removing the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory organs. However, the hunter may not further process~~  
14 ~~the carcass in a manner that obscures its species identity, age, or sex before registering the animal. When~~  
15 ~~the kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the~~  
16 ~~animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered. When a hunter harvests a big game animal~~  
17 ~~in a remote area and plans to remain in the remote area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time limit to~~  
18 ~~register the kill is extended until the hunter leaves the area. Upon leaving the remote area, the hunter shall~~  
19 ~~register the kill within 24 hours.~~

20 ~~(c) When a hunter registers a kill, the Electronic Big Game Reporting System shall issue an authorization~~  
21 ~~number to the big game hunter. The hunter shall record the authorization number obtained through the~~  
22 ~~Electronic Big Game Reporting System in the space provided immediately adjacent to the validation box~~  
23 ~~that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest~~  
24 ~~Report Card. Any hunter validating a deer harvest with a Commission issued DMAP tag shall record and~~  
25 ~~maintain the issued authorization number to serve as proof of registration. The authorization number shall~~  
26 ~~thereafter constitute authorization for the continued possession of the carcass. Possession of a harvested~~  
27 ~~bear, deer, or wild turkey without the validated Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer~~  
28 ~~Harvest Report Card where applicable, including the authorization number obtained through the Electronic~~  
29 ~~Big Game Reporting System, is unlawful.~~

30 ~~(d) Persons who kill a big game animal and leave it unattended shall identify the carcass with their name,~~  
31 ~~their hunting license number, and the date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, the animal need~~

1 only be identified with the authorization number received by registering the kill. It is unlawful for a person  
2 to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card on which the  
3 species validation box has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number received by  
4 registering the kill has not been recorded, or to possess a used or affixed Commission issued DMAP tag  
5 without a valid authorization number, unless the animal is in the person's possession or is identified as  
6 described in this Paragraph and not more than 24 hours have passed since the harvest.

7 ~~(e) Persons who are by law exempt from the big game hunting license by G.S. 113-276 shall obtain a Big  
8 Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card for License Exempt Hunters  
9 from a Wildlife Service Agent or possess a valid Commission issued DMAP tag. Upon harvesting a bear,  
10 deer, or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate and register the kill as provided by this Rule.~~

11 ~~(f) Persons who use special tags issued pursuant to G.S. 113-291.2(e) to validate the harvest of a deer shall  
12 follow the tagging and reporting requirements set forth by statute and shall not take any action under this  
13 Rule.~~

14  
15 (a) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Rule:

16 (1) "Authorization number" means the number or code issued by the Electronic Big Game  
17 Reporting System upon completion of big game harvest registration, that shall serve as proof  
18 of registration and allow continued possession of the carcass.

19 (2) "Big Game" means bear, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer, as defined in G.S. 113- 129.

20 (3) "Big Game Harvest Report Card" means the reporting card supplied to the hunter by the  
21 Commission as part of the big game license, upon which the successful hunter validates and  
22 records the authorization number for a big game harvest.

23 (4) "Field Dress" means the bleeding or removal of the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory  
24 organs.

25 (5) "Validate" or "validation" means cutting or punching-out the day and month the harvest  
26 occurred on the appropriate line of the Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless  
27 Deer Harvest Report Card or by affixing a Commission-issued Deer Management Assistance  
28 Program (DMAP) tag, as required by G.S. 113-291.2(e).

29 (6) "Register" or "Registration" means the process by which the harvest of big game is reported  
30 through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System and an authorization number is issued.

1           (7) “Remote Area” means an area where access to the big game harvest reporting system is  
2           unavailable.

3           (8) “Site of kill” or “site of harvest” means the location that a person takes possession of  
4           harvested big game.

5           (9) “Successful hunter” means a person that has lawfully taken and reduced to possession a big  
6           game animal.

7           (b) Validation. The successful hunter shall validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus  
8           Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card before moving any big game from the site of kill. Deer harvested  
9           pursuant to the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), that are not validated by the Big Game  
10           Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, shall be validated by affixing a  
11           Commission-issued DMAP tag.

12           (c) Field Dressing. Harvested big game may be field dressed at the site of kill or before registration. Further  
13           processing that obscures the identification of the harvested animal’s species, age, or sex shall be prohibited  
14           without a valid authorization number.

15           (d) Registration. Harvested big game shall be registered via the Electronic Big Game Reporting System at  
16           www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-800-446-8663. Harvested big game shall be registered before the animal  
17           is:

18           (1) skinned; or

19           (2) dismembered; or

20           (3) left unattended by the successful hunter; or

21           (4) placed in the possession of another person.

22           Harvested big game animals that are not skinned, dismembered, left unattended by the successful hunter,  
23           or placed in the possession of another person, shall be registered by 12pm noon the day following the  
24           harvest.

25           (e) Registration in Remote Areas. Big game harvested in remote areas shall be registered by 12pm noon,  
26           the day after leaving the remote area. Notwithstanding the registration requirements in Paragraph (d) of this  
27           Rule, big game harvested in remote areas that cannot be transported as an intact carcass may be skinned  
28           and dismembered before registration.

29           (f) Authorization number. The authorization number shall be recorded in the space provided for the  
30           appropriate harvested big game animal on the Big Game Harvest Report Card or on the Bonus Antlerless



1 Deer Harvest Report Card. Successful hunters validating a deer harvest by affixing a Commission-issued  
2 DMAP tag shall record and maintain the authorization number upon registration.

3 (g) Unattended Harvests. Successful hunters that leave a harvested big game animal unattended or in the  
4 possession of a person shall identify the carcass by attaching the authorization number issued at the time of  
5 registration.

6 (h) Exceptions. Requirements of this Rule shall not be applicable to special deer tags issued pursuant to  
7 G.S. 113-291.2(e).

8 (i) Any person hunting big game animals, including license exempt individuals, shall have a valid Big Game  
9 Harvest Report Card, valid Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, or special tag pursuant to NCGS  
10 113-291.2 in their possession. The Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest  
11 Report Card is part of the big game license and shall not be transferrable.

12 (j) Any persons who has requested a Big Game Harvest Report Card by phone or internet but has not yet  
13 received the Big Game Harvest Report Card by mail, shall validate the kill by affixing the harvest id number  
14 provided by the Commission to the carcass and shall register in accordance with parts (d) or (e) of this rule.  
15 The hunter shall retain all authorization numbers from reported harvests and shall transcribe those  
16 authorization numbers to the Big Game Harvest Report Card upon receipt of the card.

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19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291;*

20 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

21 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; July 1,*  
22 *1989;*

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

24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010; June 1, 2009; May 1, 2007;*  
25 *May 1, 2004; July 1, 2000.*

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0201 PROHIBITED TAKING AND MANNER OF TAKE**

2 (a) It is unlawful for any person to take, or have in possession, any wild animal or wild bird listed in this  
3 Section except during the open seasons and in accordance with the limits herein prescribed, or as prescribed  
4 by 15A NCAC 10B .0300 pertaining to trapping or 15A NCAC 10D applicable to game lands managed by  
5 the Wildlife Resources Commission, unless otherwise permitted by law. Lawful seasons and bag limits for  
6 each species apply beginning with the first day of the listed season and continue through the last day of the  
7 listed season, with all dates being included. When any hunting season ends on a January 1 that falls on a  
8 Sunday, that season shall be extended to Monday, January 2.

9 (b) On Sundays, hunting on private lands shall be allowed under the following conditions:

- 10 (1) archery equipment as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, falconry, and dogs where and  
11 when allowed the other days of the week are lawful methods of take, except as prohibited in  
12 G.S. 103-2:
- 13 (2) firearms are lawful methods of take when used as described in G.S. 103-2; and
- 14 (3) migratory game birds may not be taken.

15 (c) On Sundays, hunting on public lands is allowed with the following restrictions:

- 16 (1) only falconry and dogs used in conjunction with falconry are lawful methods of take; and
- 17 (2) migratory game birds may not be taken.

18 These restrictions do not apply to military installations under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal  
19 government.

20 (d) Those animals not classified as game animals in G.S. 113-129(7c), and for which a season is set under  
21 this Section, may be taken during the hours and methods authorized for taking game animals.

22 (e) Where local laws govern hunting, or are in conflict with this Subchapter, the local law shall prevail.

23 (f) No person shall possess or use any substance or material that contains or purports to contain any  
24 excretion collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the  
25 purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife,

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28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 103-2; 113-291.1(a); 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.3;*  
29 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
30 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2016; August 1, 2012; July 10, 2010; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1987.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden,  
29 Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife  
30 Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the  
31 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  
2 known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and  
3 Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part  
4 of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

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

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

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

25 (C) Youth either-sex deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer  
26 hunting by permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County  
27 designated by agents of the Commission; the third Saturday in October for youth  
28 either-sex deer hunting by permit only on Mountain Island State Forest in Lincoln  
29 and Gaston counties; and the second Saturday in November for youth either-sex deer  
30 hunting by permit only on apportion of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott

1 Reservoir, Wilkes County designated by agents of the Commission. A youth is  
2 defined as a person under 18 years of age.

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

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

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

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

14 (G) All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph  
15 (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba,  
16 Lincoln, and Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties: Buncombe: That  
17 part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US  
18 25, and north of NC 280; and Henderson; That part east of NC 191 and north and  
19 west of NC 280.

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

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

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

26 (A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first  
27 open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons described in  
28 Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing  
29 of blackpowder firearms and archery season identified in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule  
30 to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the  
31 open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule

1 except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South  
2 Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on  
3 these Game Lands).

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

7 (2) Restrictions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (2) Restrictions

1 (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery season in  
2 any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule that has either-sex  
3 days for all lawful weapons and in ~~and east~~ of the following counties: Polk,  
4 Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, ~~Watauga, and Ashe.~~ and Cleveland. Deer  
5 of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this season only in all other  
6 counties.

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

11 (3) As used in this Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm with  
12 a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in  
13 or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such  
14 replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed  
15 ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or  
16 cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or  
17 any other propellant loaded through the muzzle or cylinder and that cannot use fixed  
18 ammunition."

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

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

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

29 (3) Restrictions:

30 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of  
31 dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during

1 the urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or  
2 wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

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

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

23  
24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*

25 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

26 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July*  
27 *1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*

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

29 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

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

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



1           *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
2           *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on*  
3           *July 17, 2003);*  
4           *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1,*  
5           *2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1,*  
6           *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*

7  
8  
9   **15A NCAC 10B .0224 AMERICAN ALLIGATOR**

- 10 (a) The season for taking American alligators shall be September 1 to October 1.  
11 (b) Take shall be by permit only.  
12 (c) The bag limit shall be one per permit and the season limit is one.  
13 (d) American alligators ~~shall be restrained before being killed. American alligators shall~~ may only be  
14 restrained using one of the following methods in accordance with the provisions of the permit:  
15       (1) a hand-held restraining line or catch pole;  
16       (2) a snatch hook attached to a hand-held restraining line or rod and reel;  
17       (3) a harpoon or gig attached to a hand-held restraining line;  
18       (4) a baited wooden peg less than two inches in length attached to a hand-held restraining line; or  
19       (5) archery equipment with an arrow-attached restraining line.  
20 (e) If a minimum size limit is applicable to the county or municipality for which the permit is issued, the  
21 size limit and non-lethal method(s) of restraint shall be specified on the permit.  
22 (f) American alligators restrained by any method specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule shall be killed  
23 immediately upon capture except when a minimum size limit is specified on the permit. When a minimum  
24 size limit is specified on the permit, animals not meeting the minimum size limit shall be released  
25 immediately at the site of capture.  
26 (g) American alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.  
27 (h) The use of baited hooks is prohibited.

28  
29   *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*  
30           *Eff. August 1, 2018.*

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0226 BULLFROGS**

2 (a) The open seasons for taking of bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*, shall be as follows:

3 (1) Except as provided in subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule, there shall be no closed season for  
4 taking bullfrogs.

5 (2) On Wildlife Resources Commission Property, as defined in G.S. 113-129, bullfrogs may be  
6 taken from April 1 to August 31 with a valid license that entitles the licensee to access and  
7 use Wildlife Resources Commission Property.

8 (b) Bag Limit: It shall be unlawful to take more than 24 bullfrogs in a 24-hour period that runs from 12  
9 noon to 12 noon.

10 (c) Artificial lights may be used to take bullfrogs.

11

12



# EXHIBIT E-1

February 27, 2020

## Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Inland Fishing Regulations for 2020-2021

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Proposed Text</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Comment Type</i>
F1	Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Fires Creek in Clay County, adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area.	130	2	Online: 32 Comment Card: 104
F2	Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on West Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County, adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be S.R. 1312 to the confluence with North Fork French Broad River.	134	2	Online: 33 Comment Card: 105
F3	Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on South Prong Lewis Fork in Wilkes County, adding approximately 0.2 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155 intersection.	129	1	Online: 28 Comment Card: 104
F4	Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Puncheon Fork in Madison County removing 0.6 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek.	112	13	Online: 27 Comment Card: 103
F5	Clarify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Mitchell River in Surry County. This proposal will not add or remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will remain 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330.	123	1	Online: 27 Comment Card: 102
F6	Define "artificial fly" when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.	126	14	Online: 35 Comment Card: 105
F7	Define "single hook" when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as a fish hook with only one point.	135	5	Online: 35 Comment Card: 105
F8	Specify that the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing when Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing. The reservoirs are: Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake.	127	2	Online: 28 Comment Card: 103
F9	Remove the restriction that only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed at Randleman Reservoir and implement the general statewide regulation for Largemouth Bass. The daily creel limit is five fish, and there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches.	130	16	Online: 31 Comment Card: 120
F10	Modify the current rule applying to all black bass species making the rule specific to Largemouth Bass and relocating rule text for other black bass species to new, separate rules.	153	4	Online: 39 Comment Card: 121
F11	Establish a rule specific to Smallmouth Bass and relocate rule text specific to Smallmouth Bass from the current rule applying to all black bass species.	146	5	Online: 36 Comment Card: 119
F12	Update the Inland Game Fishes Designation for black bass to include Alabama Bass, <i>Micropterus henshalli</i> .	146	4	Online: 35 Comment Card: 118
F13	Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass.	156	13	Online: 45 Comment Card: 123

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Proposed Text</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Comment Type</i>
F14	Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, <i>Micropterus coosae</i> , but only two of them may be less than 14 inches and a five-fish daily creel limit.	134	8	Online: 32 Comment Card: 113
F15	Remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line.	144	14	Online: 36 Comment Card: 125
F16	Clarify that the 20-fish daily creel and 8-inch minimum length limit for crappie applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County.	133	2	Online: 25 Comment Card: 114
F17	Remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Bodie Bass on Arrowhead Lake (Anson County) and High Rock Pond (Caswell County). The general statewide regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit and a four fish daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids will apply.	129	8	Online: 25 Comment Card: 114
F18	Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir by implementing a 16-inch minimum size limit. The daily creel limit will be four fish.	129	8	Online: 24 Comment Card: 114
F19	Decrease the general statewide daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon from seven fish to four fish.	143	5	Online: 35 Comment Card: 115
F20	Designate Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters.	134	15	Online: 31 Comment Card: 118
F21	Establish a general statewide regulation for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead by implementing a 10-fish daily creel limit in combination. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.	135	12	Online: 29 Comment Card: 118
F22	Increase the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish from six to seven fish in waters 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. The daily creel will no longer apply to White or Blue Catfish.	139	8	Online: 31 Comment Card: 117
F23	Add Blue Catfish to the list of species for which no permit shall be issued to stock into inland fishing waters.	137	8	Online: 31 Comment Card: 116
F24	Prohibit the harvest and possession of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom in inland fishing waters.	125	5	Online: 27 Comment Card: 110
F25	Add the Redtail Catfish to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina.	147	8	Online: 33 Comment Card: 122
Other (F26)	Please enter any general comments or proposals for Inland Fishing not related to the above rule proposals in the field below.	0	0	Online: 26 Comment Card: 0

\*\* Letters and emails were included in the full summary and are reflected in the columns above.







**Inland Fisheries District Report Summary for 2020 (Continued)**

Proposal	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7	District 8	District 9	Out of State
F22	<b>Position Count:</b> 01 :Agree 0 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 06 :Agree 03 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 04 :Agree 0 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 19 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 21 :Agree 0 :Disagree 14 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 02 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 32 :Agree 0 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 36 :Agree 03 :Disagree 06 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 0 :Agree 0 :Disagree 02 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 0 :Online 01 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 04 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 02 :Online 03 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 02 :Online 08 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 02 :Online 17 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 16:Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 29 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 09 :Online 30 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 0 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
F23	<b>Position Count:</b> 02 :Agree 0 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 05 :Agree 02 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 04 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 18 :Agree 01 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 17 :Agree 02 :Disagree 14 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 12 :Agree 01 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 32 :Agree 0 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 36 :Agree 02 :Disagree 07 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 01 :Agree 0 :Disagree 02 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 01 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 05 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 03 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 02 :Online 08 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 16 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 05 :Online 14 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 29 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 08 :Online 31 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
F24	<b>Position Count:</b> 01 :Agree 0 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 04 :Agree 0 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 04 :Agree 01 :Disagree 02 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 15 :Agree 01 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 19 :Agree 0 :Disagree 14 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 11 :Agree 01 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 31 :Agree 0 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 30 :Agree 02 :Disagree 10 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 0 :Agree 0 :Disagree 02 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 0 :Online 01 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 03 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 03 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 02 :Online 08 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 15 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 15:Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 28 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 08 :Online 28 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 0 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email
F25	<b>Position Count:</b> 02 :Agree 0 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 08 :Agree 01 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 09 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 10 :Agree 0 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 15 :Agree 01 :Disagree 01 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 17 :Agree 02 :Disagree 14 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 12 :Agree 0 :Disagree 0 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 31 :Agree 01 :Disagree 03 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 42 :Agree 03 :Disagree 06 :No Position	<b>Position Count:</b> 01 :Agree 0 :Disagree 02 :No Position
	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 01 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 05 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 05 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 02 :Online 08 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 15 :Comment Card 01 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 04 :Online 15 :Comment Card 14 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 09 :Comment Card 0 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 03 :Online 29 :Comment Card 03 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 10 :Online 35 :Comment Card 06 :Letter/Email	<b>Comment Types:</b> 01 :Online 0 :Comment Card 02 :Letter/Email



## EXHIBIT E-2

February 27, 2020



### PROPOSED CHANGES TO *INLAND FISHERIES REGULATIONS* FOR 2020-2021 AND RULE TEXT FOR COMMISSION ACTION

- F1)** Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Fires Creek in Clay County, adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 7)*
- F2)** Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on West Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County, adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be S.R. 1312 to the confluence with North Fork French Broad River.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 10)*
- F3)** Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on South Prong Lewis Fork in Wilkes County, adding approximately 0.2 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155 intersection.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 12)*
- F4)** Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Puncheon Fork in Madison County removing 0.6 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 9)*
- F5)** Clarify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Mitchell River in Surry County. This proposal will not add or remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will remain 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 10)*
- F6)** Define “artificial fly” when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 4)*

- F7)** Define “single hook” when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as a fish hook with only one point.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 4)*
- F8)** Specify that the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing when Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing. The reservoirs are: Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanssee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout (page 21)*
- F9)** Remove the restriction that only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed at Randleman Reservoir and implement the general statewide regulation for Largemouth Bass. The daily creel limit is five fish, and there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Largemouth Bass (page 16)*
- F10)** Modify the current rule applying to all black bass species making the rule specific to Largemouth Bass and relocating rule text for other black bass species to new, separate rules.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0305 Largemouth Bass (page 16)*
- F11)** Establish a rule specific to Smallmouth Bass and relocate rule text specific to Smallmouth Bass from the current rule applying to all black bass species.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass (page 22)*
- F12)** Update the Inland Game Fishes Designation for black bass to include Alabama Bass, *Micropterus henshalli*.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0301 Inland Game Fishes Designated (page 15)*
- F13)** Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass (page 23)*
- F14)** Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, *Micropterus coosae*, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches and a five-fish daily creel limit.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0323 Redeye Bass (page 24)*
- F15)** Remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie (page 18)*

- F16)** Clarify that the 20-fish daily creel and 8-inch minimum length limit for crappie applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie (page 18)*
- F17)** Remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Bodie Bass on Arrowhead Lake (Anson County) and High Rock Pond (Caswell County). The general statewide regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit and a four fish daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids will apply.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass (page 20)*
- F18)** Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir by implementing a 16-inch minimum size limit. The daily creel limit will be four fish.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass (page 20)*
- F19)** Decrease the general statewide daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon from seven fish to four fish.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0308 Kokanee Salmon (page 19)*
- F20)** Designate Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0301 Inland Game Fishes Designated (page 15)*
- F21)** Establish a general statewide regulation for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead by implementing a 10 fish daily creel limit in combination. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0324 Catfish (page 25)*
- F22)** Increase the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish from six to seven fish in waters 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. The daily creel will no longer apply to White or Blue Catfish.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes (page 26)*
- F23)** Add Blue Catfish to the list of species for which no permit shall be issued to stock into inland fishing waters.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0209 Transportation of Live Fish (page 13)*
- F24)** Prohibit the harvest and possession of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom in inland fishing waters.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes (page 27)*
- F25)** Add the Redtail Catfish to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina.  
*15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes (page 14)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129  
2 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)  
3 Meadow Fork  
4 Pine Swamp Creek  
5 Piney Fork  
6 Prathers Creek  
7 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park  
9 (2) Ashe County  
10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
11 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)  
12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)  
14 Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)  
15 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)  
16 Trout Lake  
17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)  
19 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)  
20 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)  
21 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)  
22 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)  
23 Nathans Creek  
24 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)  
25 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)  
26 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)  
27 Roan Creek  
28 Three Top Creek  
29 (3) Avery County  
30 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
31 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)  
32 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)  
33 (B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
34 Wilson Creek (game land portion)  
35 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
36 Boyde Coffey Lake  
37 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state  
38 line)  
39 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,  
40 except where posted against trespassing)  
41 Milltimber Creek  
42 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family  
43 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)  
44 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against  
45 trespassing)  
46 Squirrel Creek  
47 Wildcat Lake  
48 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
49 Birchfield Creek  
50 Cow Camp Creek  
51 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)  
52 Gragg Prong  
53 Horse Creek  
54 Kentucky Creek  
55 North Harper Creek  
56 Plumtree Creek

- 1 Roaring Creek  
2 Rockhouse Creek  
3 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)  
4 South Harper Creek  
5 Webb Prong
- 6 (4) Buncombe County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 9 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
10 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)  
11 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)  
12 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)  
13 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)  
14 Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)  
15 Lake Powhatan  
16 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against  
17 trespassing)  
18 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)  
19 Stony Creek  
20 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of  
21 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 22 (5) Burke County
- 23 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
24 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 25 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 27 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)  
29 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)  
30 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake  
31 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 32 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 34 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
35 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts  
36 A and B of this Subparagraph
- 37 (6) Caldwell County
- 38 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
39 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 40 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
41 Boone Fork Pond  
42 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)  
43 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)  
44 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted  
45 against trespassing)  
46 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
- 47 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
48 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)  
49 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)  
50 Rockhouse Creek
- 51 (7) Cherokee County
- 52 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
53 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)  
54 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)  
55 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)  
56 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)

- 1 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 2 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Apalachia Reservoir
- 4 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 5 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 6 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 7 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 8 (8) Clay County
- 9 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 10 Fires Creek (~~USFS Rd. 340A~~ [Rockhouse Creek](#) to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek
- 11 Picnic Area)
- 12 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 13 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 14 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- 15 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 16 (9) Graham County
- 17 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 19 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 21 Cheoah Reservoir
- 22 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 23 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 24 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 25 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
- 26 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 27 West Buffalo Creek
- 28 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 29 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Little Buffalo Creek
- 31 South Fork Squally Creek
- 32 Squally Creek
- 33 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 34 Deep Creek
- 35 Franks Creek
- 36 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 37 (10) Haywood County
- 38 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 39 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 40 Logan)
- 41 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 42 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 43 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 44 trespassing)
- 45 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 46 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 47 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 48 except Middle Prong)
- 49 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 50 Hemphill Creek
- 51 Hurricane Creek
- 52 (11) Henderson County
- 53 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 54 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 55 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 56 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)

- 1 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)  
2 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)  
3 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)  
4 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)  
5 (12) Jackson County  
6 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
7 Flat Creek  
8 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)  
9 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
10 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of  
11 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])  
12 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Balsam Lake  
14 Bear Creek Lake  
15 Cedar Cliff Lake  
16 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)  
17 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)  
18 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)  
19 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)  
20 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against  
21 trespassing)  
22 Tanasee Creek Lake  
23 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)  
24 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge  
25 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)  
26 Wolf Creek Lake  
27 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Gage Creek  
29 North Fork Scott Creek  
30 Tanasee Creek  
31 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)  
32 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)  
33 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
34 Buff Creek  
35 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)  
36 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)  
37 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)  
38 (13) Macon County  
39 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
40 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)  
41 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
42 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)  
43 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)  
44 Cliffside Lake  
45 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)  
46 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)  
47 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)  
48 Queens Creek Lake  
49 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
50 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)  
51 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)  
52 Kimsey Creek  
53 Overflow Creek (game land portion)  
54 Park Creek  
55 Tellico Creek (game land portion)  
56 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)



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

- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
2 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
- 3 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
4 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)  
5 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 6 (18) Rutherford County  
7 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted  
9 against trespassing)
- 10 (19) Stokes County  
11 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 13 (20) Surry County  
14 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
15 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)  
16 Mitchell River (~~6 mile~~ 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge  
17 on S.R. 1330 ~~bridge below Kapps Mill Dam~~)  
18 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)  
20 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards  
21 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])  
22 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)  
23 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)  
24 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)  
25 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 26 (21) Swain County  
27 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)  
29 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
30 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)  
31 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)  
32 Cheoah Reservoir  
33 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)  
34 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)  
35 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 36 (22) Transylvania County  
37 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
38 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek  
39 and Grogan Creek)  
40 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
41 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107  
42 bridge)  
43 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)  
44 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
45 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)  
46 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork) French  
47 Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area  
48 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)  
49 West Fork French Broad River (~~Camp Cove Branch S.R. 1312~~ to confluence with North  
50 Fork French Broad River)  
51 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
52 All waters located on Gorges State Park  
53 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)  
54 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
55 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)

- 1 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against  
2 trespassing)
- 3 (23) Watauga County
- 4 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
5 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding  
6 tributaries)  
7 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee  
8 Lake)
- 9 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
10 Lake Coffey  
11 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and  
12 S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)
- 13 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
14 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an  
15 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)  
16 Beech Creek  
17 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)  
18 Buckeye Creek Reservoir  
19 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)  
20 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)  
21 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against  
22 trespassing)  
23 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)  
24 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)  
25 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork  
26 New River)  
27 Norris Fork Creek  
28 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower  
29 boundary of Brookshire Park)  
30 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co.line)
- 31 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
32 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)  
33 Howard Creek  
34 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)  
35 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)  
36 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)  
37 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 38 (24) Wilkes County
- 39 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
40 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park  
41 lower boundary)  
42 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain  
43 Club)  
44 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)  
45 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin  
46 River)  
47 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong  
48 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 49 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
50 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)  
51 Bell Branch Pond  
52 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)  
53 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence  
54 with North Fork Reddies River)  
55 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)

- 1 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where
- 2 posted against trespassing)
- 3 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
- 4 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1736)
- 5 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.
- 6 1559)
- 7 Pike Creek
- 8 Pike Creek Pond
- 9 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies
- 10 River)
- 11 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to [U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155-bridge](#)
- 12 [intersection](#))
- 13 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
- 15 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
- 16 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
- 17 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
- 18 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 19 (25) Yancey County
- 20 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
- 22 Upper Creek
- 23 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
- 25 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- 27 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
- 28 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
- 29 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
- 30 except where posted against trespassing)
- 31 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 32 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
- 33 Lickskillet Creek
- 34 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

36 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*  
 37 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
 38 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*  
 39 *October 1, 1992;*  
 40 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
 41 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
 42 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
 43 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*  
 44 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
 45 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
 46 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
 47 *2003);*  
 48 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
 49 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
 50 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
 51 *Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2019~~ 2019;*  
 52 *[Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.](#)*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0209 TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE FISH**

2 (a) Fish Transport: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to transport live freshwater nongame  
3 fishes, or live game fishes in excess of the possession limit, or fish eggs without having in possession a permit obtained  
4 from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

5 (b) Fish Stocking: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to stock any life stage of any species of  
6 fish in the inland fishing waters of this State without having first procured a stocking permit from the North Carolina  
7 Wildlife Resources Commission.

8 (c) Permits for stocking fish shall be issued as follows:

9 (1) Application for a stocking permit shall be made on a form provided by the Commission. The  
10 applicant shall specify the purpose for the stocking, species to be stocked, the source of the stock,  
11 the number of individual specimens to be released, and the location where release is desired.

12 (2) Before issuing a stocking permit, the Executive Director shall review the application and determine,  
13 based on principles of wildlife management and biological science, that the proposed stocking will  
14 not:

15 (A) threaten the introduction of epizootic disease or

16 (B) create a danger to or an imbalance in the environment inimical to the conservation of  
17 wildlife resources.

18 (3) Based on the determination made in Subparagraph (2):

19 (A) If the Executive Director determines that either or both conditions cannot be met under any  
20 circumstances, the application shall be denied.

21 (B) If the Executive Director determines that both conditions may be met only by the  
22 introduction of fewer than the number requested, a permit only for the number that may be  
23 safely released shall be issued.

24 (C) If the Executive Director determines that the number requested may be safely released, he  
25 shall issue the permit.

26 (4) Any stocking permit issued by the Commission may impose the following conditions or restrictions:

27 (A) Location where the permitted number of fish may be stocked.

28 (B) Certification that fish are free of certifiable diseases by the vendor or a laboratory qualified  
29 to make such determination.

30 (C) Documentation of the date, time and location of the release.

31 (D) Access by the Commission to the property where fish introductions occur to assess impacts  
32 of the introduction.

33 (E) All conditions required shall be included in writing on the permit.

34 (5) Based on the criteria in Subparagraph (2), no permit shall be issued to stock any of the following  
35 species in the areas indicated:

36 SPECIES	LOCATION
37 Salmonids except brown, brook, and rainbow trout	Statewide
38 Flathead catfish	Statewide
39 <u>Blue Catfish</u>	<u>Statewide</u>

40 (d) For purposes of this Rule, stocking is the introduction or attempted introduction of one or more individuals of a  
41 particular species of live fish into public waters for any purpose other than:

42 (1) As bait affixed to a hook and line, or

43 (2) A release incidental to "catch and release" fishing in an area within the same body of water where  
44 the fish was caught, or within an adjacent body of water not separated from that body by any natural  
45 or manmade obstruction to the passage of that species.

46 (e) The release of more than the daily creel limit, or if there is no established creel limit for the species, more than  
47 five individuals of the species, shall constitute prima facie evidence of an intentional release.

48  
49 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-274; 113-292;  
50 Eff. February 1, 1976;  
51 Amended Eff. June 1, ~~2005~~ 2005;  
52 Readopted Eff. August 1, 2020.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

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

- 4 (1) piranha;
- 5 (2) "walking catfish" (*Clarias batrachus*);
- 6 (3) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
- 7 (4) black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- 8 (5) bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- 9 (6) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
- 10 (7) rudd (*Scardinius erythrothalamus*);
- 11 (8) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 12 (9) tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*);
- 13 (10) ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*);
- 14 (11) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 15 (12) Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*);
- 16 (13) red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*);
- 17 (14) virile crayfish (*Orconectes Gremicambarus virilis*);
- 18 (15) rusty crayfish (*Orconectes Procericambarus rusticus*);
- 19 (16) Australian red claw crayfish or "red claw" (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species of "giant"  
20 crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*);
- 21 (17) white amur or "grass carp" (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*);
- 22 (18) swamp or "rice" eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- 23 (19) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 24 (20) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*); ~~or~~
- 25 (21) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family ~~Dreissenidae.~~  
26 Dreissenidae; or  
27 (22) redbtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*).

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

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

34  
35 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*  
36 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
37 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*  
38 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
39 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*  
40 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*  
41 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*  
42 *Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2019.~~ 2019;*  
43 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED**

2 The following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes:

- 3 (1) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to rainbow, brown and brook trout;
- 4 (2) muskellunge, chain (jack) and redbfin pickerel;
- 5 (3) yellow perch, when found in inland waters, walleye and sauger;
- 6 (4) black bass, including Alabama, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and redeye bass;
- 7 (5) black and white crappie;
- 8 (6) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), pumpkinseed,
- 9 warmouth, rock bass, (redeye), flier, Roanoke bass, and all other species of the sunfish family
- 10 (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule;
- 11 (7) spotted sea trout (speckled trout), when found in inland fishing waters;
- 12 (8) flounder, when found in inland fishing waters;
- 13 (9) red drum (channel bass, red fish, puppy drum), when found in inland fishing waters;
- 14 (10) striped bass, white bass, white perch and Morone hybrids (striped bass-white bass), when found in
- 15 inland fishing waters;
- 16 (11) American and hickory shad, when found in inland fishing waters;
- 17 (12) kokanee ~~salmon~~-salmon; and
- 18 (13) black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead,
- 19 when found in inland fishing waters.

20

21 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-129;*

22 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

23 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2005; June 1, 2004; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1990; July 1, 1983; January 1, 1981;*

24 *January 1, ~~1980-1980~~;*

25 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2020.*

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

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

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

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

- 16 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- 17 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- 18 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- 19 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- 20 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River  
21 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank  
22 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,  
23 Scuppernong River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy  
24 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

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

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

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

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

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

35 ~~(k)(j)~~ In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is  
36 no minimum size limit for Black Bass, Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in  
37 length may be possessed and only one Black Bass—Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass greater than 22 inches may  
38 be possessed.

39 ~~(l)(k)~~ In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is  
40 16 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

41 ~~(m)(l)~~ In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no Black Bass  
42 Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

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

45  
46 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

47 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*



1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
2 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent*  
5 *amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*  
6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*  
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
8 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
9 *2003);*  
10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*  
11 *March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*  
12 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
13 *Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2019~~ 2019;*  
14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE**

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this  
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), and (f). There  
4 is no closed season.

5 (b) In Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the daily creel limit is 20 fish.

6 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 30 fish.

7 (d) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:

8 (1) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;

9 (2) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;

10 (3) Cashie River and its tributaries;

11 (4) Middle River and its tributaries;

12 (5) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and

13 (6) Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County.

14 (e) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:

15 ~~(1) Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line;~~

16 ~~(2) Badin Lake;~~

17 ~~(3) Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties);~~

18 ~~(4) Lake Tillery;~~

19 ~~(5) Blewett Falls Lake;~~

20 ~~(6)~~(1) Lake Norman;

21 ~~(7)~~(2) Lake Hycó;

22 ~~(8)~~(3) Lake Ramseur;

23 ~~(9)~~(4) Cane Creek ~~Lake;~~Lake (Union County);

24 ~~(10)~~(5) Lake Hampton (Yadkin County);

25 ~~(11)~~(6) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam and all tributaries;

26 ~~(12)~~(7) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam and all tributaries;

27 ~~(13)~~(8) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam and all tributaries;

28 ~~(14)~~(9) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam and all tributaries;

29 ~~(15)~~(10) Cape Fear River and all tributaries;

30 ~~(16)~~(11) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam and all tributaries;

31 ~~(17)~~(12) Lumber River including Drowning Creek and all tributaries;

32 ~~(18)~~(13) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County,

33 Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule; and

34 ~~(19)~~(14) all public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge.

35 (f) In John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit is 25 fish and the minimum size limit is nine inches.

36  
37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

38 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

39 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015;*

40 *Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2019~~; 2019;*

41 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1                           **15A NCAC 10C .0308    KOKANEE SALMON**

2    The daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon is ~~seven~~four fish. There is no minimum size limit for ~~these fish.~~Kokanee  
3    Salmon. There is no closed season for Kokanee Salmon.

4  
5    *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
6                            *Eff. November 1, ~~2013.~~ 2013;*  
7                            *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam, the season  
27 for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed year-round.

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

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

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

42  
43 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;  
44 Eff. November 1, 2013;  
45 Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;  
46 Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2019.~~ [2019](#);  
47 [Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.](#)

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 Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (1) Bear Creek Lake;

27 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

28 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;

29 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

30 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;

31 (6) Cliffside Lake;

32 (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

33 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and

34 (9) Wolf Lake.

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

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

38  
39 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;  
40 Eff. November 1, 2013;  
41 Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;  
42 Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2019~~ 2019;  
43 Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

13 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;  
14 Eff. August 1, 2020.  
15

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

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

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

6  
7 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;  
8 Eff. August 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS

2 The daily creel limit for Redeye Bass is five fish. There is no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, but only two of  
3 them may be less than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

4  
5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
6 *Eff. August 1, 2020.*



1 **15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH**

2 The daily creel limit for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow  
3 Bullhead is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit or closed season for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead,  
4 Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead.

5  
6 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;  
7 Eff. August 1, 2020.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES**

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

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

7 (c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties  
8 and waters with open season designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0407.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 37 (1) Lake Norman;
- 38 (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- 39 (3) Lake Wylie;
- 40 (4) Badin Lake;
- 41 (5) Lake Tillery;
- 42 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- 43 (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- 44 (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish  
2 specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure  
3 its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in  
4 Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its  
5 identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession.

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

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

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

13  
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;*  
15 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;*  
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;*  
18 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*  
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
20 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*  
22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
23 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
24 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
25 *2003);*  
26 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
27 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
28 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, ~~2005~~; 2005;*  
29 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2020.*



# EXHIBIT F-1

February 27, 2020

## Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Game Lands Regulations for 2020-2021

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Proposed Text</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Comment Type</i>
G1	Create the designation of a "Sensitive Habitat Zone" that can restrict access or usage in specific areas on game lands. Proposals for this designation will be presented at a public input meeting and at an official Commission meeting for final approval.	145	55	Online: 67 Comment Card: 136
G2	Allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.	184	17	Online: 69 Comment Card: 137
G3	Clarify NCAC rule text that posted impoundments and Wildlife Resources Commission managed hunting blinds at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands are permit-only areas during designated veterans/military waterfowl days.	147	13	Online: 48 Comment Card: 120
G4	Expand the timeframe in which pursuing or taking foxes with dogs is prohibited on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land.	143	24	Online: 48 Comment Card: 126
G5	Expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land by allowing it to occur on designated trails from January 2 – March 31 and on Sundays April 1 – May 15 and September 1 – January 1.	123	63	Online: 67 Comment Card: 123
G6	Prohibit target shooting on Sandy Mush Game Land.	136	36	Online: 53 Comment Card: 121
G7	Prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Pee Dee River Game Land.	160	117	Online: 109 Comment Card: 154
G8	Designate deer hunting on the Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land as permit-only.	138	32	Online: 49 Comment Card: 126
G9	Designate bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract of Carteret County Game Land as permit-only.	135	29	Online: 46 Comment Card: 124
G10	Align the squirrel season with the rabbit season and deer with visible antlers season at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area at Sandhills Game Land.	153	10	Online: 45 Comment Card: 120
G11	Restrict the use of bicycles to designated trails only on the State-owned Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. This restriction will not apply to hunters using bicycles during open days of applicable hunting seasons.	190	11	Online: 67 Comment Card: 135
G12	Clarify NCAC rule text that deer of either sex may be taken during the blackpowder firearms season at Buffalo Cove Game Land and South Mountains Game Land.	161	7	Online: 55 Comment Card: 120
G13	Clarify NCAC rule text that hunting and trapping at J. Morgan Futch, Roanoke River Wetlands, and Texas Plantation game lands is by permit only.	153	15	Online: 57 Comment Card: 120 Letter/Email: 45
G14	Clarify NCAC rule text that at Sandhills Game Land deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment during the archery season, with blackpowder firearms during the blackpowder season, and by permit during the deer with visible antlers season. Also clarify that only deer with visible antlers may be taken during the extended primitive weapons season.	153	14	Online: 54 Comment Card: 123
Other (G15)	Please enter any general comments or proposals for Game Lands not related to the above rule proposals in the field below.	0	0	Online: 65 Comment Card: 0

\*\* Letters and emails were included in the full summary and are reflected in the columns above.





# EXHIBIT F-2

February 27, 2020



## PROPOSED CHANGES IN GAME LAND REGULATIONS FOR 2020-2021 AND RULE TEXT FOR COMMISSION ACTION

### Game Lands

- G1. Create the designation of a “Sensitive Habitat Zone” that can restrict access or usage in specific areas on game lands. Proposals for this designation will be presented at a public input meeting and at an official Commission meeting for final approval.

**Justification:**

Increased use and visitation to sensitive areas on game lands has the potential to degrade habitat and threaten the population status of sensitive plants and animals. This designation would protect these habitats by prohibiting entry within specified dates posted at specific sites.

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use (page 6)*

- G2. Allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

**Justification:**

The rule will allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas during Veterans/military Waterfowl Days.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 12 and 35)*

- G3. Clarify NCAC rule text that posted impoundments and Wildlife Resources Commission managed hunting blinds at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands are permit-only areas during designated veterans/military waterfowl days.

**Justification:**

This proposal will clarify the definition of permit-only areas at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 18, 20, and 34)*

- G4. Expand the timeframe in which pursuing or taking foxes with dogs is prohibited on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land.

**Justification:**

The current prohibition on using dogs for hunting foxes is from March 15 through July 15. This rule would extend that timeframe to be from February 15 through August 1.

This rule was proposed by a fox hunting group as it would provide greater protection for foxes during the time that is critical for breeding and rearing success.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 14)*

- G5. Expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land by allowing it to occur on designated trails from January 2 – March 31 and on Sundays April 1 – May 15 and September 1 – January 1.

**Justification:**

Horseback riding is currently only allowed on designated trails from May 16 – August 31. This proposal would expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land and provide more access to the South Mountain State Park equestrian trail system.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 31)*

- G6. Prohibit target shooting on Sandy Mush Game Land.

**Justification:**

Sandy Mush Game Land is within 45 miles of the Wayne E. Smith Cold Mountain Shooting Range. Currently, popular shooting areas on this game land contain no back-stop berms and are often located near boundaries with private property, occupied dwellings, and roads. By prohibiting target shooting on this game land and allowing it only at the Wayne E. Smith Cold Mountain Shooting Range, users will have a safe environment for target shooting and user group conflicts can be avoided.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 30)*

- G7. Prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Pee Dee River Game Land

**Justification:**

Landowners adjacent to the Diggs Tract at Pee Dee River Game Land have complained about trespass and unleashed dogs on their property. Also, recently acquired tracts to this game land are not conducive to pursuing big game with dogs because of their linear shape, lack of road frontage, being only accessible by boat, and lack of interior road infrastructure.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 26)*

- G8. Designate deer hunting on the Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land as permit-only.

**Justification:**

The 1,000-acre Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land offers exceptional deer hunting opportunities. Hunter participation will be managed through the permit hunts program where a quota will be set to prevent excessive hunting pressure and overcrowding.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 18)*

- G9. Designate bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract of Carteret County Game Land as permit-only.

**Justification:**



Public land bear hunting opportunities in the vicinity are absent, making the tract a potentially high-demand bear hunting destination. The proposal would allow for management of hunter participation through the Permit Hunting Opportunities program to prevent overcrowding and maintain hunt quality.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 16)*

- G10. Align the squirrel season with the rabbit season and deer with visible antlers season at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area at Sandhills Game Land.

**Justification:**

The 2020 squirrel season on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area opens on November 16<sup>th</sup>, while the rabbit season and the deer with visible antlers season opens on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Aligning the start dates for these seasons will provide an extra day of opportunity for squirrel hunters and reduce confusion among users.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 29)*

- G11. Restrict the use of bicycles to designated trails only on the State-owned Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. This restriction will not apply to hunters using bicycles during open days of applicable hunting seasons.

**Justification:**

The Mountains to Sea Connector Trail (MTSCT) goes through the southernmost portion of the Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. The most recently constructed segment of the MTSCT has a high level of mountain bike use, and staff have observed bicyclists pedaling off the MTSCT, creating new trails, and negatively affecting soil stability and habitats. These new trails have been found in wildlife openings, on firebreaks, and on trails/roads not designed for a high level of mountain biking use. Restricting bicyclists to designated trails only on the Linville River Tract will limit erosion and habitat degradation.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 27)*

- G12. Clarify NCAC rule text that deer of either sex may be taken during the blackpowder firearms season at Buffalo Cove Game Land and South Mountains Game Land.

**Justification:**

This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 15, 30, and 31)*

- G13. Clarify NCAC rule text that hunting and trapping at J. Morgan Futch, Roanoke River Wetlands, and Texas Plantation game lands is by permit only.

**Justification:**

This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 22, 27, and 32)*

- G14. Clarify NCAC rule text that at Sandhills Game Land deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment during the archery season, with archery equipment and blackpowder firearms during the blackpowder season, and by permit during the deer with visible antlers season. Also clarify that only deer with visible antlers may be taken during the extended primitive weapons season.

**Justification:**

This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.  
*15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 29)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any  
 26 posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while  
 27 deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-  
 28 415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan,  
 29 Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows,  
 30 or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is  
 31 incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at: [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8)  
 32 [bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327\\_113&rgn=div8](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8). On  
 33 Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyc0, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S.  
 34 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119,  
 35 no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals,  
 36 except under the following conditions:

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

6 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

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

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

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

19 (g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing  
20 animals is permitted on game lands during the applicable open seasons, except that trapping is prohibited:

- 21 (1) on the field trial course of the Sandhills Game Land;
- 22 (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- 23 (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south,  
24 US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- 25 (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke County; and
- 26 (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

27 On those areas of state-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed  
28 under a permit system.

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

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

36 (i) Camping.

- 37 (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.

1 (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources  
2 Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at  
3 any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31.

4 After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

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

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

11 (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;

12 (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;

13 (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and  
14 lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;

15 (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or

16 (5) deafness.

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

19 (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and

20 (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular  
21 travel.

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

26 (l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds,  
27 domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or  
28 feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild  
29 fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given  
30 when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native  
31 wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife  
32 Resources Commission.

33 (m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use  
34 on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this  
35 Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but  
36 shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans

1 with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian  
2 use on any area where foot travel is allowed.

3 (n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by  
4 the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the  
5 game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel  
6 chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel  
7 and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on  
8 game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use.  
9 Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules and map book.  
10 This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or  
11 cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may  
12 accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all times in visual or verbal contact  
13 with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while assisting a disabled person,  
14 provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under  
15 this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission in the passenger  
16 area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle. It is unlawful for anyone other  
17 than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a Disabled Access Permit to hunt,  
18 during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as  
19 a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

20 (o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water.  
21 For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque  
22 covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while  
23 in a public place.

24 (p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting  
25 ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for  
26 other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating  
27 concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except  
28 for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted,  
29 provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the  
30 time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the  
31 grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the  
32 shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of  
33 the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent,  
34 impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle  
35 or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized  
36 parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting  
37 range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other



1 permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would  
2 cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller  
3 may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a  
4 shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public  
5 safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission  
6 employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing  
7 substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours  
8 of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting  
9 range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is  
10 required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use  
11 of the area.

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

15  
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*  
17 *143-318.10;*  
18 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
19 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*  
20 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*  
21 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*  
22 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
23 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*  
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*  
26 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
27 *2003);*  
28 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*  
29 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*  
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*  
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.*  
32

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (e) Definitions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (A) Six Days per Week Area

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

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

19 (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

20 (A) Six Day per Week Area

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

23 (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and  
24 the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

25 (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties

26 (A) Six Days per Week Area

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

29 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

30 (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, and Washington 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 (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County

35 (A) Six Days per Week Area

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

- 1 (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 2 (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- 3 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 5 Antlers Season.
- 6 (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 7 (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 8 (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 9 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March
- 10 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 11 (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes is shall be prohibited from March February
- 12 15 through ~~July 15.~~ August 1.
- 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 open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 18 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 19 (8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County
- 20 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 21 (B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 22 (9) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- 23 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 24 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 25 (10) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- 26 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 28 Antlers Season.
- 29 (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and
- 30 the first three hunting days of the second week of the December Bear Season. If any of
- 31 these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those 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 Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
- 37 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on

- 1 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October  
2 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with  
3 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible  
4 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be  
5 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest  
6 October 1 through the Saturday of the second week ~~thereafter, and during the Deer With~~  
7 ~~Visible Antlers season.~~ thereafter.
- 8 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer With  
9 Visible Antlers Season.
- 10 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and  
11 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 12 (12) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County
- 13 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
15 Antlers Season.
- 16 (13) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties
- 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 through the second Friday thereafter.
- 20 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 21 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 22 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 23 (iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 24 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl  
25 hunting after November 1.
- 26 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 27 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 28 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 29 (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of  
30 Falls Lake.
- 31 (H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not  
32 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable  
33 seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of  
34 bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September  
35 1 through May 14.
- 36 (I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are  
37 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 the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
7 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 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 open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
21 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 22 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 23 (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- 24 (17) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
- 25 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
27 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 28 (C) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during  
29 the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding is  
30 allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that  
31 are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land  
32 shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 33 (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock  
34 hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of  
35 SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the  
36 intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to

- 1 the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR  
2 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- 3 (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after  
4 November 1.
- 5 (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are  
6 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 7 (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- 8 (18) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
- 9 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
11 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 12 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 13 (D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays during  
14 the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- 15 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 16 (19) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
- 17 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
19 Season.
- 20 (20) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
- 21 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
23 Antlers Season.
- 24 (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first three hunting days during the November bear season  
25 and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December bear season except  
26 that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway  
27 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the  
28 Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County  
29 bear season.
- 30 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 32 (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays  
33 only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on  
34 those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 35 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 36 (21) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
- 37 (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 first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible  
4 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 (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.
- 10 (23) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- 11 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 15 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 16 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 17 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 18 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl  
19 seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish  
20 Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- 21 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas.  
22 During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 23 (24) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
- 24 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by  
26 permit only from November 1 through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons.
- 27 (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the  
28 guides do not use a firearm.
- 29 (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- 30 (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of  
31 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) Three Days per Week Area



- 1 (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
- 2 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 3 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age  
4 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
- 5 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 6 (26) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
9 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 10 (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- 11 (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- 12 (27) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
15 season.
- 16 (28) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- 17 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 18 (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders  
19 during scheduled permit hunts.
- 20 (29) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- 21 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
23 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 24 (30) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- 25 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
27 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 28 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 29 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 30 (31) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico 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) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl  
35 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 36 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 37 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

- 1 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 2 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October ~~and~~ through the end of ~~the~~ all
- 3 waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl
- 4 impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith
- 5 Creek, and Hobucken.
- 6 (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except
- 7 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping
- 8 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1
- 9 through March 15.
- 10 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 11 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 12 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1
- 13 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting
- 14 opportunity permit.
- 15 (32) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 18 Antlers Season.
- 19 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 20 (33) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- 21 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 23 Antlers Season.
- 24 (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little
- 25 Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 26 (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
- 27 prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of
- 28 Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- 29 (34) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- 30 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 32 Antlers Season.
- 33 (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 34 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
- 35 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 36 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.

- 1 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
2 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 3 (E) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and  
4 the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season, except  
5 for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- 6 (35) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
9 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 10 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 11 (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 12 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 13 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 14 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 15 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 16 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 17 (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 18 (36) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- 19 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
21 Antlers Season
- 22 (37) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 23 (38) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- 24 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
26 Antlers Season.
- 27 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- 28 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 29 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 30 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 31 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
32 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 33 (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east  
34 of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and  
35 bear hunting are permit only.
- 36 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:

- 1 (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch  
2 extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road  
3 extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and  
4 (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving,  
5 Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden  
6 Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River,  
7 south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting  
8 is by permit only.
- 9 (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the  
10 last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting  
11 opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 12 (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and  
13 within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 14 (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 15 (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 16 (39) Hyco Game land in Person 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 through the second Friday thereafter.
- 20 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 21 (40) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only ~~Permit Only~~  
22 ~~Area.~~
- 23 (41) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- 24 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 25 (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- 26 (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31,  
27 except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the  
28 permits.
- 29 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 30 (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is  
31 limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 32 (42) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake 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 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- 37 (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

- 1 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and  
2 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 3 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail  
4 and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is  
5 permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for  
6 use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed only during  
7 June, July, and August, and on Sundays the remainder of the year except during open turkey  
8 and deer seasons. People age 16 or older who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely  
9 within the game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 10 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 11 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- 12 (G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not  
13 apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable  
14 seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 15 (43) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- 18 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
19 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 20 (44) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County
- 21 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 22 (B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- 23 (C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable  
24 Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.
- 25 (D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating  
26 the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- 27 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
28 Antlers season.
- 29 (F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.
- 30 (G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.
- 31 (45) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties
- 32 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
34 Antlers Season.
- 35 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 36 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.
- 37 (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

- 1 (46) Lee Game Land in Lee County  
2 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
4 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
5 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 6 (47) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County  
7 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible  
9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (48) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County  
11 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (49) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties  
15 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
17 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
18 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.  
19 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.  
20 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 21 (50) Mayo Game Land in Person County  
22 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
23 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
24 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
25 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:  
26 (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;  
27 (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and  
28 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.  
29 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 30 (51) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County  
31 (A) Three Days per Week Area  
32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
33 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.  
34 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and  
35 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 36 (52) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania  
37 counties

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible  
3 Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.  
4 (53) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.  
5 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
6 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and  
7 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.  
8 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.  
9 (54) Neuse River Game Land in Craven 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) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the  
14 game land that lies west of NC-43.  
15 (55) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties  
16 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
18 Antlers Season.  
19 (56) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County  
20 (A) Three Days per Week Area  
21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the  
22 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Friday before Thanksgiving Day.  
23 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning  
24 the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday thereafter.  
25 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second  
26 Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.  
27 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
28 Antlers Season.  
29 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.  
30 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.  
31 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:  
32 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and  
33 (ii) Swimming.  
34 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.  
35 (57) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties  
36 (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) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or  
4 shoreline.
- 5 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
- 6 (58) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or  
11 shoreline.
- 12 (59) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
15 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 16 (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North  
17 of US-74.
- 18 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 19 (E) Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and only during the  
20 following times:
- 21 (i) during June, July, and August; and
- 22 (ii) on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey  
23 seasons are closed.
- 24 (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be  
25 prohibited.
- 26 (60) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- 27 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible  
29 Antlers Season.
- 30 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- 31 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 32 (61) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison,  
33 McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- 34 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible  
36 Antlers Season.



- 1 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River  
2 (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 3 (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke  
4 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open  
5 day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this  
6 restriction.
- 7 (62) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 8 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
10 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 11 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31  
12 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited  
13 from November 1 through May 15.
- 14 (63) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- 15 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
17 Antlers Season.
- 18 (64) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- 19 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
21 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 22 (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- 23 (65) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- 24 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 25 (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- 26 (66) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- 27 (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- 28 (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business  
29 or by permit holders.
- 30 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however,  
32 that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-  
33 owned portion of the game land.
- 34 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 35 (67) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- 36 (68) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- 37 (A) Three 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 (69) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 4 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 5 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the  
6 Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 7 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning  
8 the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week  
9 thereafter.
- 10 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second  
11 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 12 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 15 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 16 (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- 17 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 18 (70) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- 19 (71) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
- 20 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
22 Antlers Season.
- 23 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 24 (72) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties
- 25 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 26 (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22  
27 through March 31 except as follows:
- 28 (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of  
29 the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with  
30 blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the  
31 blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving  
32 Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from  
33 the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following  
34 Thanksgiving Day;
- 35 (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through  
36 the third Saturday thereafter;

- 1 (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from second ~~Monday~~  
2 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving  
3 Day;
- 4 (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding  
5 Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 6 (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- 7 (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen  
8 Program Permit Hunt; and
- 9 (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or  
10 nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- 11 (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday  
12 before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the  
13 J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 14 (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth  
15 Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds,  
16 the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be  
17 taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit  
18 during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated  
19 in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday  
20 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 21 (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding  
22 Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on  
23 the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day  
24 through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open  
25 hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With  
26 Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday  
27 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 28 (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- 29 (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing  
30 days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 31 (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 32 (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited  
33 unless participating in authorized field trials.
- 34 (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are  
35 limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 36 (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
- 37 (73) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
3 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
4 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.  
5 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.  
6 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.  
7 (74) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.  
8 (A) Three Days per Week Area  
9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible  
10 Antlers season.  
11 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and  
12 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.  
13 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed  
14 in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).  
15 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove  
16 season.  
17 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.  
18 (75) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.  
19 (76) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties  
20 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
22 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
23 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.  
24 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
25 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.  
26 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.  
27 (77) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties  
28 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
29 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the  
30 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of  
31 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on  
32 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October  
33 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with  
34 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible  
35 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be  
36 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest

- 1                                    October 1 through the Saturday of the second week ~~thereafter, and during the Deer With~~  
2                                    ~~Visible Antlers season thereafter.~~
- 3                                    (C)    Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer With  
4                                    Visible Antlers Season.
- 5                                    (D)    Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:  
6                                    (i)     January 2 through March 31;  
7                                    (ii)    May 16 through ~~August 31~~ August 31;  
8                                    (iii)    Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and  
9                                    (iv)    Sundays only – September 1 through January 1.  
10                                    ~~and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
- 11                                    (78)    Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
- 12                                    (A)    Six Days per Week Area
- 13                                    (B)    Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
14                                    Antlers Season.
- 15                                    (C)    The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- 16                                    (D)    Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- 17                                    (E)    Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken only on the following days:  
18                                    (i)     the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;  
19                                    (ii)    Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and  
20                                    (iii)    Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 21                                    (F)    Target shooting is prohibited.
- 22                                    (G)    Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 23                                    (79)    Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties
- 24                                    (A)    Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 25                                    (B)    Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31  
26                                    through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 27                                    (C)    Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:  
28                                    (i)     hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and  
29                                    (ii)    persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
- 30                                    (D)    During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels  
31                                    on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only  
32                                    by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by  
33                                    the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 34                                    (E)    During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed  
35                                    waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters  
36                                    possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife  
37                                    Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

- 1 (80) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties  
2 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
4 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.  
5 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 6 (81) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County  
7 (A) Hunting is by permit only  
8 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited
- 9 (82) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 10 (83) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County  
11 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
13 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.  
14 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (84) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties  
16 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
18 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
19 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and  
20 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or  
21 older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.  
22 (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is  
23 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive  
24 days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- 25 (85) Tillery game Land in Halifax County  
26 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
28 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.  
29 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.  
30 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.  
31 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.  
32 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 33 (86) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties  
34 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible  
36 Antlers Season.

- 1 (C) 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 (87) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- 4 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 5 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
6 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 7 (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following  
8 days:
- 9 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 10 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 11 (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 12 (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- 13 (88) Vance Game Land in Vance County
- 14 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
16 Antlers Season.
- 17 (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the  
18 Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- 19 (89) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
- 20 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
22 Antlers Season.
- 23 (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and  
24 the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- 25 (90) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
- 26 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 27 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 28 (91) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
- 29 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 30 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
31 Antlers Season.
- 32 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl  
33 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 34 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 35 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 36 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

- 1 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October ~~and~~ through the end of ~~the~~ all  
2 waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
- 3 (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:  
4 (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting  
5 Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to  
6 G.S. 113-264(d);  
7 (ii) hunting is by permit only; and  
8 (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 9 (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.  
10 (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 11 (92) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties  
12 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.  
13 (B) 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 (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is  
16 prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.
- 17 (93) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County  
18 (A) Six Days per Week Area  
19 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible  
20 Antlers Season.
- 21 (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed  
22 applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of  
23 hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and  
24 are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or  
25 by phone.
- 26 (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a  
27 valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:  
28 (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;  
29 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;  
30 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;  
31 (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;  
32 (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);  
33 (6) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and  
34 (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.
- 35 (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the  
36 Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise  
37 the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid



1 need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes  
2 issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public  
3 interest.

4 (k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any  
5 legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands  
6 that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.

7 (l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on  
8 any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where  
9 prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

10 (m) Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans/Military Waterfowl  
11 Days, veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists  
12 with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

13 ~~(n)~~-(n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for  
14 participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during  
15 the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited  
16 weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

17 ~~(o)~~ (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

18 ~~(p)~~ (p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on  
19 Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

20  
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
22 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
23 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;*  
24 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September*  
25 *1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*  
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*  
27 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*  
29 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
31 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*  
32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
33 *January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
34 *1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October*  
35 *1, 2004;*  
36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*  
37 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019.*

# EXHIBIT L-1

## February 27, 2020



### Fiscal Note for Proposed Wildlife Conservation Land Program Rules for the Wildlife Resources Commission

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10L .0101 Wildlife Conservation Land  
15A NCAC 10L .0102 Protected Animal Species  
15A NCAC 10L .0103 Priority Wildlife Habitats  
15A NCAC 10L .0104 Wildlife Reserve

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**Impact Summary:** State Government: Yes  
Local Government: No  
Private Impact: Yes

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2; 105-277.15

### 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. 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).

### INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP), born out of G.S. 105-277.15, allows

landowners who have owned their property for at least five years to apply for a reduced property tax assessment, if they manage the land for protected wildlife species or priority wildlife habitats. Several additional requirements must also be met to qualify for this reduced assessment, including the completion of a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) with the WRC.

SL 2018-95, found in Appendix A, expanded the land uses that can qualify for reduced tax assessment under this program. It provided that land that is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or wildlife activities can qualify if specified activities are maintained on the land. SL 2018-95 also directs the WRC to adopt rules necessary to administer the inspection and activity requirements by which land can qualify under this expansion.

The expansion of this reduced tax assessment program is the focus of this fiscal note. The impacts of this expansion, including the conservation outcomes as well as the economic impacts to landowners and local governments form the baseline for analysis. While the proposed Rules restate the requirements of the WCLP program as found in SL 2018-95 for the convenience of the our regulated community, the impact analysis is limited to the defining of the required management activities and establishing the process and requirements for the quinquennial inspection.

The full text of the rules proposed for adoption can be found in Appendix B.

## **RULE DESCRIPTION**

Please see below for a brief description of each proposed rule:

**15A NCAC 10L .0101** – Incorporates into rule the basic framework by which land can qualify for reduced tax assessment, pursuant to G.S. 105-277.15. Sets out the three different land management activities that qualify for the Wildlife Conservation Land Program.

**15A NCAC 10L .0102** – Provides clarification to G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(1), setting forth what animals qualify as a “protected animal” for the purposes of qualifying land as wildlife conservation land.

**15A NCAC 10L .0103** – Provides clarification to G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(2) on how management strategies to conserve priority wildlife habitat can qualify land as wildlife conservation land.

**15A NCAC 10L .0104** – Establishes in rule the land management activities set out in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(3) for land that is actively and regularly used as a “reserve” to qualify as wildlife conservation land. Defines the land management activities that must be present and maintained on qualifying land. This Rule is the primary focus of this fiscal note and represents an expansion of the categories of land that qualify as wildlife conservation land.

## **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAND PROGRAM**

*Prior to SL 2019-95*

The WLCP, established by the WRC in response to SL 2008-171 (codified as G.S. 105-277.15), allows landowners meeting the specified use requirements of the WCLP to apply for a reduced tax assessment in the county for which the land is located.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, land enrolled in the N.C. Present-Use-Valuation (PUV) program and classified as agricultural, horticultural, or forest land is assessed by counties at a reduced value. The WCLP is similar to PUV in that landowners must still apply to their county tax office for a property tax deferment, but the WCLP is separate and distinct from the PUV program. However, qualifying wildlife conservation land must be appraised and assessed as if it were classified under PUV as agricultural land.

In order to qualify, land must be managed under a WHCA with the WRC that meets one or both of the following land use criteria:

1. Land used to conserve priority wildlife habitats identified in G.S. 105-277.15; and/or
2. Land used for the protection of a wildlife species listed in 15A NCAC 10L. 0100.

The WHCA must document the presence of a protected wildlife species or the existence of one or more of the priority habitats and describe the management strategies in place or planned with appropriate timelines to ensure the continued existence of the priority habitat and/or the protected species.

### *WCLP Post SL 2018-95*

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2019, SL 2018-95 extended the reduced tax assessment treatment and classification to land that is “...*actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation or wildlife activities,...*”.

Additionally, it required the WRC to adopt rules necessary to administer the inspection requirements of and activities mandated therein. As such, the WCLP, as it existed prior to SL 2018-95 has been incorporated into proposed Rules 15A NCAC 10L .0101 - .0103 as a practical approach to these similarly managed qualifications and requirements. This establishes a comprehensive regulatory scheme while providing clear guidance for our regulated public. The focus of this fiscal note is the estimated impacts of the WCLP expansion pursuant to SL 2019-95 and not the previously established aspects of the WCLP, which were incorporated into rule for convenience and practicality.

As noted above, the WRC was tasked with promulgating rules for the inspection and use requirements set out in SL 2018-95. These requirements can be found in proposed Rule 15A NCAC 10L .0104 - Wildlife Reserve. Landowners that desire to qualify for a reduced tax assessment under this criteria must manage the land, pursuant to a WHCA, as a reserve for

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<sup>1</sup>Landowners must also demonstrate that the land in question meets specified size and ownership requirements set out in G.S. 105-277.15. However, the WRC has no statutory role in evaluating these requirements.

hunting, fishing, shooting, or wildlife observation or activities. Additionally, land enrolled under this criteria must be inspected by a certified wildlife biologist at least once every five years to ensure that at least three of the seven specified management activities are maintained. These seven management activities are supplemental food, supplemental water, supplemental shelter, habitat control, erosion control, predator control, and census of animal population on the land.

WRC staff, as required by SL 2018-95, had the difficult task of defining these management activities for our regulated public. The proposed definitions can be found in 15A NCAC 10L .0104(b)(1-7), included in Appendix B. The WRC employed a comprehensive and exhaustive methodology in arriving at these definitions, including a collaborative staff task force comprised of wildlife, fisheries, and land management professionals. Additionally, a comparative analysis of other states with similar reduced tax assessment programs was conducted. Furthermore, in establishing these definitions, an emphasis was placed on furthering legislative intent of tax-based incentives to encourage the conservation of land for wildlife purposes, thus striking a balance between the cost of compliance with required management activities and potential reduced tax assessment savings. After several meetings, staff decided that the proposed definitions represent a balanced, science-based approach for North Carolina landowners.<sup>2</sup>

The WRC was also directed to promulgate rules for the quinquennial or once every five years inspection of land to ensure that the chosen land activities are active and maintained. The WRC has proposed in rule that these required inspections can be conducted by a wildlife biologist employed by a state or federal agency, a Certified Wildlife Biologist® credentialed by the Wildlife Society, or a Certified Fisheries Professional credentialed by the American Fisheries Society. Currently, there is no fee associated with inspections conducted by WRC wildlife biologists. However, as a range of wildlife biologists and Certified Fisheries Professionals can conduct the five-year inspection, it is unknown if and what charges or fees may apply.

## **IMPACT ANALYSIS**

### *State Impact*

In order to develop the required WHCA, a wildlife biologist employed by the WRC must inventory the land proposed to be in the WCLP and then draft the agreement. This requires the wildlife biologist to travel to the location, perform a comprehensive review of the land, and then incorporate the unique aspects of the land and the landowner's chosen land management activities into the agreement. It is estimated that this process requires about eight hours of work time for the land review and an additional eight hours to draft the agreement, totaling two days of work time in total. Establishing \$45,00 as a reasonable average of the annual salary of WRC wildlife biologists and excluding the minimal costs of gas, supplies, etc., the two days of work to complete the WHCA represents a \$346 cost to the WRC and State. However, at this time the WRC does not know and has no mechanism to estimate how many landowners may request to enroll into this expansion of the WCLP. Understanding this, the associated costs of developing a WHCA represents a minimal cost or impact to the State.

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix C for an excerpt of the WCLP guidance document which contains additional information regarding the seven management activities.

Additionally, if WRC wildlife biologists were to conduct any of the five-year inspections there would be a cost to the agency and State. It is estimated that this inspection would require six hours of work. That includes the physical inspection of the land and completing the required form. Building off the above annual salary for a WRC biologist, this six-hour commitment of work time represents a \$130 cost to the WRC and State. Of course, the WRC has no mechanism to determine how many, if any at all, five-year inspections WRC wildlife biologists would be asked to conduct.

No other fiscal impacts to the State are expected from these proposed Rules.

#### *Local Impact*

Proposed Rules 15A NCAC 10L .0101 - .0104 have no direct impact on local government tax revenues, as the WRC is only mandated to adopt rules for land management activities and inspection requirements. Due to this limited role, this fiscal note does not analyze or contemplate the broader fiscal impact of the wildlife conservation land expansion on local government. Furthermore, the ultimate decision as to land qualifying for a reduced tax assessment lies with the tax assessor in the county where the land is located.

#### *Private Impact*

Overall, the statutory expansion of land that can be assessed on a reduced tax basis as wildlife conservation land pursuant to SL 2018-95 is a benefit to private citizens. However, as previously mentioned, the impact analysis of this fiscal note is limited to the defining of the required management activities and associated inspection processes and requirements.

As noted before, the WRC staff had the difficult task of defining the seven required management activities promulgated as part of this statutory expansion. The importance of these definitions and how they affect private individuals cannot be understated. They must clearly convey the WRC's expectations of the regulated public (i.e. private individuals) as far as what is being agreed to in the WHCA, as well as the efforts or actions that are expected to be implemented and maintained when the property is inspected for compliance with said WHCA.

In arriving at the proposed definitions, the WRC employed a comprehensive and exhaustive methodology, including a collaborative staff task force comprised of wildlife, fisheries, and land management professionals. However, enacting legislative mandates on the ground at the WRC inevitably requires trade-offs, usually between perceived legislative intent juxtaposed with biological realities. Understanding this, staff focused on definitions that would provide a true benefit to wildlife on the land while not precluding participation due to seemingly burdensome and costly standards or requirements.

For example, there was in-depth discussion surrounding the first three activities: supplemental food, supplemental water, and supplemental shelter (G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(3)). As these activities are described as *supplemental*, it was decided that this meant a sustained or perpetual supply of food, water, or shelter that was *in addition to* what was already naturally available on the landscape. As such, adding birdseed or deer feed to the land as supplemental food may technically fulfill the requirement of the law, but it does not provide a lasting benefit to the wildlife on the land or conservation in general. However, planting a wildlife food plot fulfills the law and increases the available nutrition for wildlife, as well as influence movements, abundance, and visibility of wildlife.

Additionally, it is understood that several of the required activities may overlap, supplemental food could indirectly be provided as a result of habitat control. Understanding this, staff aimed to define these requirements so that there was a clear distinction between activities.

In the end, WRC staff are confident that the proposed definitions represent a balanced, science-based approach for North Carolina landowners, encouraging participation and resulting tax-savings while furthering conservation goals.

One associated cost that landowners desiring to enroll land into the WCLP based on the statutory expansion may incur is in regards to the required five-year inspection. However, this depends on the individual and who they request to complete this inspection. As the five-year inspection can be completed by a wildlife biologist employed by a state or federal agency, a Certified Wildlife Biologist® credentialed by the Wildlife Society, or a Certified Fisheries Professional credentialed by the American Fisheries Society. Currently, there is no fee associated with inspections conducted by the WRC. However, it is unknown whether there would be a fee associated with a five-year inspection conducted by another agency or individual.



# APPENDIX A

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2017

### SESSION LAW 2018-95 HOUSE BILL 320

#### AN ACT TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF LAND THAT CAN QUALIFY FOR PRESENT-USE VALUE TAXATION AS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 105-277.15 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 105-277.15. Taxation of wildlife conservation land.**

(a) **Definitions.** The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) **Business entity.** – Defined in G.S. 105-277.2.
- (2) **Family business entity.** – A business entity whose members are, directly or indirectly, individuals and are relatives. An individual is indirectly a member of a business entity if the individual is a member of a business entity or a beneficiary of a trust that is part of the ownership structure of the business entity.
- (3) **Family trust.** – A trust that was created by an individual and whose beneficiaries are, directly or indirectly, individuals who are the creator of the trust or a relative of the creator. An individual is indirectly a beneficiary of a trust if the individual is a beneficiary of another trust or a member of a business entity that has a beneficial interest in the trust.
- (4) **Member.** – Defined in G.S. 105-277.2.
- (5) **Relative.** – Defined in G.S. 105-277.2.

(b) **Classification.** – Wildlife conservation land is designated a special class of property under Article V, Section 2(2) of the North Carolina Constitution and must be appraised, assessed, and taxed in accordance with this section. Wildlife conservation land classified under this section must be appraised and assessed as if it were classified under G.S. 105-277.3 as agricultural land.

(c) **Requirements.** – Land qualifies as wildlife conservation land if it meets the following size, ownership, and use requirements:

- (1) **Size.** – The land must consist of at least 20 contiguous acres.
- (2) **Ownership.** – The land must be owned by an individual, a family business entity, or a family trust and must have been owned by the same owner for the previous five years, except as follows:
  - a. If the land is owned by a family business entity, the land meets the ownership requirement if the land was owned by one or more members of the family business entity for the required time.
  - b. If the land is owned by a family trust, the land meets the ownership requirement if the land was owned by one or more beneficiaries of the family trust for the required time.
  - c. If an owner acquires land that was classified as wildlife conservation land under this section when it was acquired and the owner continues to use the land as wildlife conservation land, then the land meets the ownership requirement if the new owner files an application and signs





# APPENDIX A

- the wildlife habitat conservation agreement in effect for the property within 60 days after acquiring the property.
- (3) Use. – The land must meet all of the following requirements:
- a. The land must be managed under a written wildlife habitat conservation agreement with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission that is in effect as of January 1 of the year for which the benefit of this section is claimed and that requires the owner to do one or more of the following:
1. Protect an animal species that lives on the land and, as of January 1 of the year for which the benefit of this section is claimed, is on a North Carolina protected animal list published by the Commission under G.S. 113-333.
  2. Conserve any of the following priority animal wildlife habitats: longleaf pine forest, early successional habitat, small wetland community, stream and riparian zone, rock outcrop, or bat cave.
  3. Create and actively and regularly use as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or wildlife activities, provided that the land is inspected by a certified wildlife biologist at least quintennially to ensure that at least three of the seven activities listed in this sub-sub-subdivision are maintained to propagate a sustaining breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wild animals for human use, including food, medicine, or recreation. The Commission shall adopt rules needed to administer the inspection requirements of and activities mandated by this sub-sub-subdivision.
    - I. Supplemental food.
    - II. Supplemental water.
    - III. Supplemental shelter.
    - IV. Habitat control.
    - V. Erosion control.
    - VI. Predator control.
    - VII. Census of animal population on the land.
- b. ~~It~~ For land used pursuant to sub-sub-subdivisions 1. or 2. of sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision, it must have been classified under G.S. 105-277.3 when the wildlife habitat conservation agreement was signed or the owner must demonstrate to both the Wildlife Resources Commission and the assessor that the owner used the land for a purpose specified in the signed wildlife habitat conservation agreement for three years preceding the January 1 of the year for which the benefit of this section is claimed.
- (d) Restrictions. – The following restrictions apply to the classification allowed under this section:
- (1) ~~No~~ For land used pursuant to sub-sub-subdivision 3. of sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of this section, no more than 800 acres of an owner's land in a county may be classified under this section. For all other land classified under this section, no more than 100 acres of an owner's land in a county may be classified under this section.

# APPENDIX A

- (2) Land owned by a business entity is not eligible for classification under this section if the business entity is a corporation whose shares are publicly traded or one of its members is a corporation whose shares are publicly traded.

(e) **Deferred Taxes.** – The difference between the taxes that are due on wildlife conservation land classified under this section and that would be due if the land were taxed on the basis of its true value is a lien on the property. The difference in taxes must be carried forward in the records of each taxing unit as deferred taxes. The deferred taxes for the preceding three fiscal years are due and payable in accordance with G.S. 105-277.1F when the land loses its eligibility for deferral as a result of a disqualifying event. A disqualifying event occurs when the property no longer qualifies as wildlife conservation land.

(f) **Exceptions to Payment.** – No deferred taxes are due in the following circumstances and the deferred taxes remain a lien on the land:

- (1) When the owner of wildlife conservation land that was previously classified under G.S. 105-277.3 before the wildlife habitat conservation agreement was signed does not transfer the land and the land again becomes eligible for classification under G.S. 105-277.3. In this circumstance, the deferred taxes are payable in accordance with G.S. 105-277.3.
- (2) When land that is classified under this section is transferred to an owner who signed the wildlife habitat conservation agreement in effect for the land at the time of the transfer and the land remains classified under this section. In this circumstance, the deferred taxes are payable in accordance with this section.

(g) **Exceptions to Payment and Lien.** – Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, if land loses its eligibility for deferral solely due to one of the following reasons, no deferred taxes are due and the lien for the deferred taxes is extinguished:

- (1) The property is conveyed by gift to a nonprofit organization and qualifies for exclusion from the tax base under G.S. 105-275(12) or G.S. 105-275(29).
- (2) The property is conveyed by gift to the State, a political subdivision of the State, or the United States.

(h) **Administration.** – An owner who applies for the classification allowed under this section must attach a copy of the owner's written wildlife habitat agreement required under subsection (c) of this section. An owner who fails to notify the county assessor when land classified under this section loses its eligibility for classification is subject to a penalty in the amount set in G.S. 105-277.5."

**SECTION 2.** This act is effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2019.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

s/ Philip E. Berger  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved 10:54 a.m. this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018

# APPENDIX B

1 **15A NCAC 10L .0101 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAND**

2  
3 (a) Wildlife Conservation Land is land that meets the size and ownership requirements in G.S. 105-277.15  
4 and on which one or more of the use requirements in subsection (b) of this Rule are met and maintained by  
5 the owner under a written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement with the NC Wildlife Resources  
6 Commission that is submitted by the landowner to the county where an application for reduced property  
7 tax assessment is requested.

8 (b) Wildlife Conservation Land is a type of land on which one or more of the following three types of  
9 management actions are maintained by the owner:

- 10 (1) The protection of priority species;  
11 (2) The conservation of priority wildlife habitats; or  
12 (3) Land managed and actively used as a wildlife reserve.

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14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*  
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## APPENDIX B

1 **15A NCAC 10L .0102 PROTECTED ANIMAL SPECIES**

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3 (a) Protected animal species shall include those designated by the Commission as endangered, threatened,  
4 or special concern pursuant to G.S. 113-333 in 15A NCAC 10I .0100.

5 (b) At least one protected wildlife species has been identified on the land at the time the benefit is claimed.

6 (c) The landowner shall manage the land to protect the species through appropriate strategies identified in  
7 the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement.

8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*

## APPENDIX B

1 **15A NCAC 10L .0103 PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITATS**

2

3 (a) At least one of the priority habitats in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(2) shall be present on the land or planned  
4 for establishment, subject to qualifications specified in G.S. 105-277.15 (c)(3)(b).

5 (b) The management strategies are in place or are planned with appropriate timelines to ensure the continued  
6 existence of the priority habitat as identified in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement.

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8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*

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## APPENDIX B

### 1 15A NCAC 10L .0104 WILDLIFE RESERVE

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3 (a) A wildlife reserve is a type of wildlife conservation land that is created to be actively and regularly used  
4 as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or wildlife activities, upon which wildlife  
5 management activities are conducted to ensure the propagation of a sustaining breeding, migrating or  
6 wintering population of indigenous wild animals. Land primarily managed and maintained primarily for  
7 human uses such as large lawns, golf courses, horse pastures, production agricultural fields, monoculture  
8 hayfields, solar energy, and commercial timber stands shall not qualify as wildlife reserve land.

9 (b) At least three of the following activities shall be maintained on the land as agreed upon in the written  
10 Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement:

11 (1) "supplemental food" is annual or perennial noninvasive plantings that provide a direct or  
12 indirect source of food or nutrition for wildlife resources.

13 (2) "supplemental water" is artificial water features or sources that are created or installed for  
14 the benefit of wildlife resources.

15 (3) "supplemental shelter" is natural or artificial structures that are created or installed to  
16 provide shelter from the weather, nesting sites, or escape cover from predators.

17 Supplemental shelter may include the addition of natural or artificial structures into aquatic  
18 habitats.

19 (4) "habitat control" is managing upland, wetland, riparian, or aquatic vegetation or physical  
20 aquatic habitat using practices to establish, restore, enhance, or maintain the natural  
21 community type(s) listed in Paragraph (b) of this Rule.

22 (5) "erosion control" is the implementation of practices to prevent, reduce, or minimize soil  
23 erosion. Practices may include streambank and in-stream channel stabilization. Practices  
24 established for erosion control shall not be known to harm wildlife or include invasive plant  
25 species.

26 (6) "predator control" is a practice implemented to reduce the abundance of a species or suite  
27 of species that preys on any life stage of wildlife species for which the land is managed.  
28 Predator control includes removal of invasive animal species to manage or protect wildlife  
29 or wildlife habitats.

30 (7) "census of animal population on the land" is conducting or participating in periodic surveys  
31 and inventories to determine the presence, number, composition, biological condition, or  
32 human use of wildlife.

## APPENDIX B

1 (c) Qualifying land shall be inspected at least once every five years following the date that the conservation  
2 agreement is signed to ensure that at least three of the seven activities in Subparagraphs (b)(1) through (7)  
3 of this Rule are maintained.

4 (1) a wildlife biologist employed by a state or federal agency, a Certified Wildlife Biologist®  
5 credentialed by the Wildlife Society, or a Certified Fisheries Professional credentialed by  
6 the American Fisheries Society shall perform the inspection of qualifying land.

7 (2) inspections shall be recorded by the wildlife biologist on a form provided by the  
8 Commission. The landowner shall submit the completed form to the county Tax Assessors  
9 office during the open enrollment period for the year that the inspection is due.

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11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*

12

# APPENDIX C

## Wildlife Reserve Land Management Activities

### Appendix III: Wildlife Reserve Land Management Activities

The Wildlife Reserve Land (Criterion 3) of the Wildlife Conservation Lands Program (WCLP) is land that is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or wildlife activities. Land primarily used and managed to maintain other human uses such as large lawns, golf courses, production agricultural fields, monoculture hayfields, and commercial timber stands provide limited wildlife habitat value and will not qualify as wildlife reserve land.

To qualify for this criterion the land must meet all ownership types, acreage minimum, and ownership tenure requirements of the WCLP and be managed according to a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) between the landowner and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). The WHCA must document that at least three of the seven management activities prescribed by law exist or will be implemented on the enrolled acreage. General descriptions of the seven management activities are provided below.

#### Supplemental Food

Supplemental food is defined as annual or perennial noninvasive plantings established and maintained to provide a direct or indirect source of food or nutrition for wildlife resources. The typical description of this activity is a “food plot”. Plot location should receive enough sunlight to successfully grow the plants to be established. This may require trees and debris be removed to make plots viable. In addition, soil condition should be evaluated and amended to ensure proper fertility and pH. Areas with heavily compacted soil, such as pastures and logging decks, may require sub-soiling or other methods to break up compacted soils and increase productivity. NCWRC biologist will provide plot specifications to meet desired goals.

- Plot established with herbaceous species: Clover, millet, grain sorghum, wheat, corn, soybeans, peas, turnips, chicory and alfalfa are just a few of the species which are typically planted for food plots. These plots serve as an attractant for hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Depending on the acreage of the plot and the condition of the surrounding landscape some nutritional benefit may be realized from these plots as well. There is a great deal of information available from academic research and commercial vender advertisements to assist with seed selection. Where possible, incorporate no-till planting techniques to maintain soil health and fertility, increase invertebrate populations, reduce weed competition and limit erosion in the plots.
- Plot established with native pollinator habitat: Plantings dominated by native wildflower species can provide significant benefit for native bees, wasps, butterflies and moths. These plantings also provide seed for songbirds and increase food for insectivores. Plantings should include multiple species which flower throughout the spring, summer and fall. A minimum of 9 native flowering herbaceous species should be included in these mixtures. Native flowering shrubs may be included in plots to add bloom diversity and structure. Site preparation is critical in getting these species established and care



# APPENDIX C

should be taken to effectively control weeds before planting. More information can be found at online at the [NC Pollinator Conservation Alliance](#) and the [Xerces Society](#) websites.

- Mast producing tree/shrub establishment: Trees that produce fruits consumed by wildlife are referred to as mast producing species. Common mast species include persimmon, oak, hickory, pear, crabapple, and beech. Less often thought of mast species include grape, dogwood, elderberry, sumac and native plums. Species of plants to establish will depend on the wildlife species of interest.

## Supplemental Water

Supplemental water includes existing man-made water features as well as those that will be installed or maintained for the benefit of wildlife resources. Surface water and wetlands are critical for many species of native living creatures. Care should be taken to maintain these habitat types to enhance recreation opportunities and increase species diversity. NCWRC biologist will provide management specifications to meet desired goals.

- Perennial pond/lake: The vast majority of ponds and lakes in North Carolina are man-made. Terms such as fish pond, farm pond or reservoir are often used to describe these bodies of water. Water quality should be protected in these ponds/lakes. Where possible, shrubby cover should be maintained along the banks, and natural woody debris should be retained to increase habitat and invertebrate diversity.
- Impoundment w/ control structure: Impoundments which are installed with water control structures can provide important habitat for waterfowl, wading birds and amphibians. Vegetation management and drawdown periods can greatly impact habitat quality within these impoundments. Food value can be improved by planting grain crops during the draw down or using moist soil management to improve vegetation diversity. Impoundment design and water level management may be tailored to provide breeding habitat for amphibians such as frogs and salamanders.
- Intermittent pools: These pools do not have a water control structure but do periodically dry up. Their intermittent nature results in no fish inhabiting the pools. The absence of fish predation makes these pools important for amphibians. Installing and managing these often-overlooked wetlands can benefit declining species.
- Other waterbodies and wetland features may qualify as supplemental water. The NCWRC must approve additional qualifying sources in writing for inclusion in the WHCA.

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## Supplemental Shelter

Supplemental shelters are natural or artificial structures created and installed to provide shelter from the weather, nesting sites, or escape cover from predators. Structures installed in aquatic habitats meet criteria for this activity. The prescribed quantity and recommended design of structures will be dependent on the current condition of the property as well as the needs of targeted wildlife species. NCWRC biologist will provide detailed specifications for type, location and quantity of structures to meet desired goals. Simply installing a structure is not the end of the responsibility. To make sure use of the structure is maximized, annual inspection and maintenance is needed. The following links provide valuable information on building, installing and maintaining various types of shelter.

- [Building Songbird Boxes](#)
- [North Carolina Wood Ducks](#)
- [Building an Osprey Platform](#)
- [Bat Houses](#)
- [Woodland Wildlife Nest Boxes](#)
- [Nests for Native Bees](#)
- [Snags and Downed Log](#)
- [Brush Pile Construction](#)
- [Pond Management Guide](#)

There are many types and designs of supplemental shelter. It is the landowner's responsibility to confirm that any changes to shelter specification are approved in writing by NCWRC staff. This approval will be retained, attached to WHCA and available during periodic agreement review.

## Habitat Control

Habitat control is managing upland, wetland, riparian, or aquatic sites using practices to establish, restore, enhance, or maintain a natural community type(s) identified in the [2015 NC Wildlife Action Plan](#). These natural communities provide critical habitat for many species of native animals both common and rare. In fact, some species of wild animals require a specific natural community to survive. These animals which have a very specific habitat type are often referred to as specialists. Where these natural communities exist on the landscape efforts to maintain their uniqueness should be a priority. NCWRC biologist can aid in identify these natural communities and develop detailed specifications to maintain their natural significance.

Some examples of habitat control to manage a natural community include:

- Prescribed burning in open forest stands to enhance groundcover
- Establish native herbaceous vegetation to develop early succession habitats
- Tree and shrub planting to improve diversity and structure

# APPENDIX C

- Fence livestock from surface water areas to enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- Manage forest to develop and maintain climax natural community
- Herbicide treatment to control undesirable vegetation
- Manage early succession with disking or prescribed burning
- Manage early succession or bog with rotational grazing
- Install structures to allow passage for aquatic or semi aquatic species

There are many types of natural communities and even more methods to enhance and maintain these areas. Management options should be discussed with NCWRC biologists and decisions of selected management methods documented in writing as part of the habitat agreement. Clearly document methodology, goals and maintenance needs to ensure the requirements of the WHCA are met.

## **Erosion Control**

Erosion Control is the implementation of practices to prevent, reduce, or minimize soil erosion. Erosion reduces habitat quality in both terrestrial and aquatic systems. Movement of soil by wind and water reduces fertility and soil biology of upland sites. Sediment washing into creeks, streams and rivers is the top water pollutant in North Carolina. Limiting erosion can increase dissolved oxygen levels in a water course, improve aquatic organism reproductive success and maintain potability for a wide range of species. Practices established for erosion control shall not be known to harm wildlife or include invasive plant species. NCWRC Biologist can provide guidance in developing specifications to address erosion concerns.

Examples of management practices to address erosion on your property include:

- Streambank stabilization
- In-stream channel stabilization
- Grading, shaping and establishing vegetation to reduce erosion
- Grade, stabilize, water control structures on active roads
- Filter strip installation
- Riparian buffer installation
- Sediment catch basin installation
- Exclude future traffic from road
- Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff)

## **Predator Control**

Predator control is implemented to reduce the abundance of a species or suite of species that preys on any life stage of wildlife species for which the land is managed. While predators are most often thought of as an animal that catches, kills and eats another animal, nest predators

# APPENDIX C

which destroy nests or consume eggs of ground nesting birds and reptiles should not be overlooked as a source of significant mortality. For the purpose of the WHCA, predator control also includes removal of non-native invasive animal species to manage or protect wildlife and their habitats. All laws must be adhered to where predator control is part of a WHCA.

- Trapping - In Season by licensed trapper: While not as common as it once was, trapping is still an activity which many citizens participate in. Whether a landowner traps on their own property or allows a licensed trapper to access their property this can be an effective tool to remove fur bearing predators from a tract of land. For more information visit the [Trapping in North Carolina](#).
- Trapping for species conservation: There are some situations in which landowners may trap predators outside of normal trapping seasons. Most often these conditions require a special permit or must occur in a depredation scenario. More information can be found on the [NCWRC depredation webpage](#).
- Swine trapping/shooting to protect habitats: Feral swine are a very destructive non-native animal species. Their voracious feeding style can damage soil, degrade plant communities and directly impact populations of ground nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and insects. Swine are prolific breeders, having multiple litters of piglets each year and the young can reproduce as early as 6 months old. More information can be found at the [NCWRC feral swine webpage](#).
- Predator hunting: A single landowner's effort to kill predators by hunting will have little impact on the population across the landscape. In most instances quality habitat with prey populations will attract predators from surrounding properties. Killing one or two individual predators from a property will allow space for another individual to move in. Successful predator control requires intensive effort maintained over long periods. Seasons and regulations for most predator species can be found on the [NCWRC small game and other seasons webpage](#).
- Other predator control measures may qualify under this management activity. These must be defined and approved in the WHCA.

## **Census of Animal Populations**

Census of animal populations is conducting or participating in periodic surveys and inventories to determine the presence, number, composition, biological condition, or human use of wildlife. Due to the transient nature of wildlife and typical land ownership patterns across much of North Carolina, qualifying census or survey must be part of an organized effort or protocol approved in the WHCA. Several qualifying efforts are listed below however, other projects may meet the criteria for this management activity. To reduce future misinterpretations

# APPENDIX C

the landowners should confirm, in writing, that the project they wish to participate in meets NCWRC criteria.

## Census / Survey efforts

- [NC WRC Deer Hunter Observation Survey](#)
- [NC WRC Turkey Brood Survey](#)
- [NC WRC Avid Grouse, Quail, Rabbit Hunter Survey](#)
- [NC WRC Deer Management Assistance Program](#)
- [North Carolina's Candid Critters](#)
- [Dragonfly Pond Watch Program](#)
- [Bumble Bee Watch](#)
- [Native Buzz](#)
- [The Great Sunflower Project](#)
- [The Great Backyard Bird Count](#)
- [Christmas Bird Count](#)
- [Hummingbirds at Home](#)
- [NestWatch](#)
- [FrogWatch USA](#)
- [Osprey Watch](#)
- [eBird](#)
- [iNaturalist](#)
- [Project FeederWatch](#)
- [US Nightjar Survey Network](#)
- [North American Breeding Bird Survey](#)
- [Calling Amphibian Survey Program](#)
- Other (Protocol details, approved by NCWRC staff, must be attached):

# EXHIBIT L-2

## February 27, 2020



### **Proposed Adoption of Subchapter 15A NCAC 10L – Wildlife Conservation Land Program Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Hearing, and Comment**

#### **Title 15A NCAC 10L .0100 – Wildlife Conservation Land Program**

Session Law 2018-95 extended the reduced property tax assessment for wildlife conservation land that creates and is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation or wildlife activities. These proposed permanent rules address the activities and inspection requirements for this statutory expansion. They will replace temporary Rule 10L .0101 – Wildlife Reserve, adopted by the Commission at its October 2019 meeting.

#### 10L .0101

Incorporates into rule the basic framework by which land can qualify for reduced tax assessment, pursuant to G.S. 105-277.15. Sets out the three different land management activities that qualify for the Wildlife Conservation Land Program.

#### 10L .0102

Provides clarification to G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(1), setting forth what animals qualify as a “protected animal” for the purposes of qualifying land as wildlife conservation land.

#### 10L .0103

Provides clarification to G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(2) on how management strategies to conserve priority wildlife habitat can qualify land as wildlife conservation land.

#### 10L .0104

Establishes in rule the land management activities set out in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(3) for land that is actively and regularly used as a “reserve” to qualify as wildlife conservation land. Defines the land management activities that must be present and maintained on qualifying land. This Rule is the primary focus of this fiscal note and represents an expansion of the categories of land that qualify as wildlife conservation land.

1 **15A NCAC 10L .0101 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAND**

2  
3 (a) Wildlife Conservation Land is a classification of land that meets the size and ownership requirements specified in  
4 G.S. 105-277.15 and on which one or more of the use requirements in subparagraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this Rule  
5 are met and maintained by the owner under a written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement with the NC Wildlife  
6 Resources Commission that is submitted by the landowner to the county where an application for reduced property  
7 tax assessment is requested.

8 (b) Use Requirements:

- 9 (1) Protection of species on the protected animal list;  
10 (2) Conservation of priority wildlife habitats; or  
11 (3) Land managed and actively used as a wildlife reserve.

12  
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*

1 **15A NCAC 10L .0102** **PROTECTION OF SPECIES ON THE PROTECTED ANIMAL LIST**

2  
3 (a) As specified in 15A NCAC 10L .0101, the protection of species on the protected animal list shall be a qualifying  
4 land use for Wildlife Conservation Land. Eligible species shall be those designated by the Commission in Section  
5 15A NCAC 10I .0100 as endangered, threatened, or special concern.

6 (b) The following conditions shall apply to the qualification of land as Wildlife Conservation Land under the protection  
7 of species on the protected animal list use requirement:

- 8 (1) at least one protected wildlife species shall have been identified on the land;  
9 (2) the landowner shall be required to manage the land to protect the species through established  
10 strategies identified in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement; and  
11 (3) the land shall meet the prior use requirements specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(b).

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13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*  
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1 **15A NCAC 10L .0103**    **CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITATS**

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3 (a) As specified in 15A NCAC 10L .0101, the conservation of priority wildlife habitats shall be a qualifying land use  
4 for Wildlife Conservation Land. Priority wildlife habitats shall mean those habitats specified in G.S.105-  
5 277.15(c)(3)(a)(2).

6 (b) The following conditions shall apply to the qualification of land as Wildlife Conservation Land under the  
7 conservation of priority wildlife habitat land use requirement:

8 (1) at least one of the priority wildlife habitats specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(2) shall have been  
9 identified on the land or planned for establishment;

10 (2) the management strategies identified for the continued existence of the priority wildlife habitat shall  
11 be in place or planned for as specified in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement; and

12 (3) the land shall meet the prior use requirements specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(b).

13  
14 *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*

1 **15A NCAC 10L .0104 WILDLIFE RESERVE**

2  
3 (a) As specified in 15A NCAC 10L .0101, land that is managed and actively used as a wildlife reserve shall be a  
4 qualifying land use for Wildlife Conservation Land. Wildlife reserve shall mean a type of wildlife conservation land  
5 that is created to be actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or  
6 wildlife activities, and upon which wildlife management activities are conducted to ensure the propagation of a  
7 sustaining breeding, migrating or wintering population of indigenous wild animals. Land managed and maintained  
8 primarily for human uses such as large lawns, golf courses, horse pastures, production agricultural fields, monoculture  
9 hayfields, solar energy, and commercial timber stands shall not qualify as wildlife reserve land.

10 (b) As specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(3), to qualify as Wildlife Conservation Land under the wildlife reserve  
11 land use requirement, at least three of the following activities shall be maintained on the land as agreed upon in the  
12 written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement:

13 (1) "supplemental food" shall mean annual or perennial noninvasive plantings that provide a direct or  
14 indirect source of food or nutrition for wildlife resources.

15 (2) "supplemental water" shall mean artificial water features or sources that are created or installed for  
16 the benefit of wildlife resources.

17 (3) "supplemental shelter" shall mean natural or artificial structures that are created or installed to  
18 provide shelter from the weather, nesting sites, or escape cover from predators. Supplemental shelter  
19 may include the addition of natural or artificial structures into aquatic habitats.

20 (4) "habitat control" shall mean the implementation of practices to establish, restore, enhance, or  
21 maintain upland, wetland, riparian, or aquatic vegetation or physical aquatic habitat.

22 (5) "erosion control" shall mean the implementation of practices to prevent, reduce, or minimize soil  
23 erosion. Practices may include streambank and in-stream channel stabilization. Practices established  
24 for erosion control shall not be known to harm wildlife or include invasive plant species.

25 (6) "predator control" shall mean a practice implemented to reduce the abundance of a species or suite  
26 of species that preys on any life stage of wildlife species for which the land is managed. Predator  
27 control includes removal of invasive animal species to manage or protect wildlife or wildlife  
28 habitats.

29 (7) "census of animal population on the land" shall mean conducting or participating in periodic surveys  
30 and inventories to determine the presence, number, composition, biological condition, or human use  
31 of wildlife.

32 (c) Qualifying land shall be inspected at least once every five years following the date that the conservation agreement  
33 is signed to ensure that at least three of the seven activities specified in Subparagraphs (b)(1) through (b)(7) of this  
34 Rule are maintained. The following conditions shall apply to the required inspection:

35 (1) a wildlife biologist employed by a state or federal agency, a Certified Wildlife Biologist®  
36 credentialed by the Wildlife Society, or a Certified Fisheries Professional credentialed by the  
37 American Fisheries Society shall perform the inspection of qualifying land; and

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(2) inspections shall be recorded by the wildlife biologist on a form provided by the Commission. The landowner shall submit the completed form to the county tax assessor's office during the open enrollment period for the year that the inspection is due.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*

**EXHIBIT M**  
**February 27, 2020**



**Proposed changes to 10G .0601 – Totally Disabled License Eligibility for Lifetime Licenses Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Hearing, and Comment**

**Title 15A NCAC 10G .0601 – Totally Disabled License Eligibility**

This Rule is proposed for amendment to provide an alternative method for certification of a qualifying disability. Organizational and clarifying changes are also proposed.

1 **15A NCAC 10G .0601 TOTALLY DISABLED LICENSE ELIGIBILITY**

2 ~~The Wildlife Resources Commission shall accept documentation from individual residents who are certified as totally~~  
3 ~~and permanently disabled by the Social Security Administration, Civil Service Retirement System, Railroad~~  
4 ~~Retirement Board, or the North Carolina State Retirement System for the purpose of obtaining a lifetime totally~~  
5 ~~disabled hunting and fishing license as described in G.S. 113-270.1C, 113-270.1D, 113-271, and 113-351.~~

6 (a) North Carolina residents that are totally and permanently disabled shall be eligible for the totally disabled lifetime  
7 licenses described in G.S. 113-270.1C, 113-270.1D, 113-271, and 113-351.

8 (b) Written certification of a resident's total and permanent disability as specified in Paragraphs (c) and (d) of this  
9 Rule shall be required and submitted to the Wildlife Resources Commission prior to the issuance of a totally disabled  
10 lifetime license.

11 (c) Written certification of a resident's total and permanent disability from the following institutions shall be accepted  
12 for the purposes of qualifying for the totally disabled lifetime licenses specified in Paragraph (a):

- 13 (1) The Social Security Administration;
- 14 (2) The Civil Service Retirement System;
- 15 (3) The Railroad Retirement Board; and
- 16 (4) The North Carolina State Retirement System.

17 (d) Residents not receiving or qualifying for benefits from the institutions specified in Paragraph (c) may submit  
18 written certification from a licensed physician, licensed physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner that the  
19 resident's impairment qualifies under the categories set forth by the Social Security Administration in 20 C.F.R.  
20 416.934 for presumptive disability or presumptive blindness, excluding the impairment categories specifically  
21 applying to infants. 20 C.F.R. 416.934 is hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and  
22 editions. This regulation may be accessed free of charge at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov).

# **EXHIBIT N**

**February 27, 2020**



## **Proposed changes to 10B .0114 – Dog Training and Field Trials Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Hearing, and Comment**

### **Title 15A NCAC 10B .0114 – Dog Training And Field Trials**

This rule is part of the 2017 periodic review, with a re-adoption deadline of December 30, 2022. It is amended to provide for the issuance of Field Trial Permits via the online portal at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org). Organizational and technical changes are also proposed.

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0114 DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS**

2 (a) For purposes of 15A NCAC 10B and 10D, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Commission-sanctioned field trial" means a field trial ~~that, pursuant to a written request from the~~  
4 ~~sponsoring organization, that~~ has been authorized in writing and scheduled for occurrence by an  
5 ~~authorized representative of~~ by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Commission and for which a  
6 Field Trial Permit has been issued.
- 7 (2) "Active participant" means ~~a person~~ an individual participating in a field trial who handles dogs or  
8 uses a firearm.
- 9 (3) "Field Trial Permit" means the permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission that authorizes  
10 an individual to hold a commission-sanctioned field trial for dogs in accordance with governing  
11 laws and the Rules of the Commission.

12 (b) Individuals desiring to conduct a commission-sanctioned field trial shall obtain a Field Trial Permit from the  
13 Wildlife Resources Commission at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity  
14 Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606.

15 ~~(b) (c)~~ Each person Individuals using wildlife to train or run dogs shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

16 ~~(e) A person serving as judge of a commission-sanctioned field trial is exempted~~ (d) An individual who is serving as  
17 a judge of a commission-sanctioned field trial shall be exempt from any license requirements. ~~Judges of non-~~  
18 ~~sanctioned~~ An individual who is serving as a judge of a non-sanctioned field trials trial using wildlife shall possess a  
19 North Carolina hunting license.

20 ~~(d) (e)~~ Except as exempted provided in Paragraph (e) (f) of this Rule, the following applies license requirements shall  
21 apply to active participants in field trials:

- 22 (1) North Carolina residents participating in any field trial that uses wildlife shall have a N.C. hunting  
23 license;
- 24 (2) non-residents participating in a commission-sanctioned field trial that uses wildlife shall possess a  
25 N.C. hunting license or a hunting license from his or her state of residence; and
- 26 (3) non-residents participating in other types of field trials that use wildlife shall possess a N.C. hunting  
27 license

28 ~~(e)-(f) Persons~~ Notwithstanding Paragraph (e) of this Rule, an individual without a license may participate in  
29 commission-sanctioned field trials for beagles conducted without firearms on private field trial areas that ~~are fenced~~  
30 ~~in accordance with~~ meet the fencing requirements specified in G.S. 113-276(k).

31 ~~(f) (g)~~ Except as allowed by rules pertaining to authorized field trials, it is It shall be unlawful to carry axes, saws  
32 saws, or climbing irons while training or running dogs during closed season on game animals. ~~any closed season for~~  
33 game animals.

34 ~~(g) (h)~~ On a commission-sanctioned field trial for retrievers or bird dogs, The following conditions shall apply to  
35 commission-sanctioned field trials for retrievers or bird dogs:

- 36 (1) shotguns containing live ammunition or firearms using only blank ammunition ~~may be used only~~  
37 ~~when the application for and the authorization of the field trial so provide.~~ shall be prohibited unless  
38 specifically authorized by a Field Trial Permit;

1 (2) ~~No~~ no wild waterfowl, ~~quail~~ wild quail, or wild pheasant shall be used in field trials when shotguns  
2 with live ammunition are ~~permitted~~. permitted;

3 (3) ~~All waterfowl, quail and pheasants so used shall be obtained from a licensed game bird propagator.~~  
4 only waterfowl, quail, or pheasants lawfully obtained from a licensed game bird propagator shall be  
5 authorized for use in field trials.

6 (4) ~~Each specimen of waterfowl so obtained~~ waterfowl obtained from licensed game bird propagators  
7 for use in field trials when shotguns with live ammunition are authorized shall be marked by one of  
8 the methods ~~provided by 50 C.F.R. 21.13.~~ specified in 50 C.F.R. 21.13; and

9 (5) ~~Each pheasant or quail so obtained~~ pheasants or quail obtained from licensed game bird propagators  
10 for use in field trials where shotguns with live ammunition are authorized shall be banded by the  
11 propagator prior to delivery with a leg band that is imprinted with the number of his or her  
12 propagation license. The purchaser of the birds shall obtain a copy of the receipt from the propagator  
13 showing the ~~date and~~ date, the number number of birds purchased, propagator license number, and  
14 species of birds purchased. ~~The~~ A copy of the receipt shall be available for inspection by ~~any~~  
15 ~~authorized agent~~ representatives of the Wildlife Resources Commission during the time and at the  
16 place where the trial is being held.

17 ~~(h) Applications for authorization of a field trial shall be submitted in writing to a Wildlife Enforcement Officer at~~  
18 ~~least 30 days prior to the scheduled event.~~

19 ~~(i) Pursuant to G.S. 113-291.1(d), hunters may train dogs using shotguns with shot of number 4 size or smaller during~~  
20 ~~the closed season using domestically raised waterfowl and domestically raised game birds.~~ (i) The following  
21 conditions shall apply when training dogs during the closed season for domestically raised waterfowl and domestically  
22 raised game birds:

23 (1) only shotguns with number 4 size shot or smaller shall be authorized;

24 (2) ~~Only~~ nontoxic shot shall be used when training dogs using domestically raised ~~waterfowl.~~  
25 waterfowl;

26 (3) ~~All~~ all domestically raised waterfowl shall be individually tagged on one leg with a seamless band  
27 stamped with the ~~number of the~~ propagation license number of ~~for~~ the facility from which the  
28 domestically raised waterfowl ~~originated.~~ originated; and

29 (4) ~~All~~ all other domestically raised game birds shall be individually tagged on one leg with a band  
30 indicating the propagation license number ~~for~~ of the facility from which the birds originated.





# **EXHIBIT O**

**February 27, 2020**



## **Proposed changes to 10H .1003 –Taxidermist Records and Reporting Requirements Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Hearing, and Comment**

### **Title 15A NCAC 10H .1003 – Records**

This Rule is proposed for amendment to institute taxidermy reporting requirements pursuant to the establishment of the taxidermy cervid certification requirement and to update the title to read as - *Records and Reporting Requirements*.

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1003 RECORDS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

2 (a) Licensed taxidermists shall keep records of each wildlife specimen delivered and contained within his or her place  
3 of business. Records shall include:

- 4 (1) the species and sex of the specimen;  
5 (2) the date the specimen was delivered;  
6 (3) the name and address of the person delivering the specimen;  
7 (4) the name and address of the person responsible for take of the specimen, if different;  
8 (5) the date and location of the take;  
9 (6) the big game harvest authorization number, if applicable; and  
10 (7) the date and disposition of the mounted specimen.

11 Records shall be maintained chronologically by the date the specimen was delivered. Records shall be retained by the  
12 taxidermist for one year following expiration of the taxidermy license and shall be made available for inspection by  
13 any agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

14 (b) The records required by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under its taxidermy permit regulations for  
15 migratory game birds, as set forth in 50 CFR 21.24, which is hereby incorporated by reference including subsequent  
16 amendments and editions, shall satisfy this Rule, and can be accessed at no cost at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov).

17 (c) Licensed taxidermists required by G.S. 113-273(k) to obtain the taxidermy cervid certification shall report the  
18 following information of each wildlife specimen of the family Cervidae delivered and contained within his or her  
19 place of business to the Wildlife Resources Commission on a form available at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org):

- 20 (1) the county or parish, state, Canadian province, or foreign country where the take occurred;  
21 (2) the big game harvest authorization number or equivalent out-of-state number; and  
22 (3) the species of each cervid.

23 (d) The information required to be reported in Paragraph (c) of this Rule shall be received by the Commission prior to  
24 the renewal of a taxidermy cervid certification.

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**EXHIBIT P**  
**February 27, 2020**



**Temporary Rulemaking Request to Propose Text for  
10H .01500 – Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves**

**Title 15A NCAC 10H .1501 – Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves**

This temporary Rule is proposed for adoption to provide for the licensing and regulation of controlled rabbit hunting preserves as established in SL 2019-204 and sets out operational conditions, and application and recordkeeping requirements.

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1501 Controlled Rabbit Hunting Preserves**

2  
3 (a) For the purposes of this Rule, a controlled rabbit hunting preserve or preserve shall mean an area that  
4 is completely and permanently enclosed with a metal fence designed to prevent the escape or entry of  
5 rabbits at any time where box-trapped rabbits are released for the purposes of hunting with dogs.

6 (b) The following conditions shall apply to the take of rabbits on controlled rabbit hunting preserves:

7 (1) take of rabbits shall be authorized year-round; and

8 (2) dogs shall be the only authorized manner of take.

9 (c) It shall be unlawful for an individual to operate a controlled rabbit hunting preserve without first  
10 obtaining a controlled hunting preserve operator license from the Commission.

11 (d) A controlled hunting preserve operator license issued pursuant to this Rule shall entitle the license holder  
12 to operate a controlled rabbit hunting preserve.

13 (e) Controlled hunting preserve operator licenses shall not be transferable, either by transferring the license  
14 or by relocating the site of the preserve.

15 (f) Application for a controlled hunting preserve operator license shall be made on a form available from  
16 the Commission online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity  
17 Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. The application shall include the following information:

18 (1) the applicant's name, address, telephone number, date of birth; and

19 (2) the preserve name, address, county, acreage, and GPS coordinates of preserve entrance.

20 (g) Unless otherwise exempt from license requirements, every person participating in the pursuit of rabbits  
21 on a controlled rabbit hunting preserve shall have a valid resident or nonresident hunting license or a  
22 controlled hunting preserve hunting license in his or her possession, in accordance with 15A NCAC 10B  
23 .0114.

24 (h) License holders shall keep an accurate record of all rabbits released into or removed from the preserve.  
25 Records shall contain the following information:

26 (1) the number of rabbits released into the preserve;

27 (2) the county of origin; and

28 (3) name, address, and phone number of the individual that provided the rabbits to the preserve.

29 (i) The records required by this Rule shall be available for inspection by a representative of the Commission  
30 upon request and shall be retained by the license holder for 12 months following expiration of the license.

31 (j) Representatives of the Commission shall be permitted to enter the premises of any licensed controlled  
32 rabbit hunting preserve upon request or during the preserve's operating hours for inspection, enforcement,  
33 or scientific purposes.



# NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Committee of the Whole  
February 26, 2020

Forestry Program and Optimization Project  
Chris Jordan, Game Lands and Forest Resources Manager  
Casey Phillips, RASP Forester

# WRC Forestry Program

Objective: To effectively manage the forested land base of the commission for the benefit of wildlife populations, their associated habitats, and the citizens of North Carolina.



# WRC Forestry Program

Objective: To effectively manage the forested land base of the commission for the benefit of wildlife populations, their associated habitats, and the citizens of North Carolina.

- Through the use of sound and sustainable techniques of wildlife and forestry management, that are proven in science.





# WRC Forestry Program

Objective: To effectively manage the forested land base of the commission for the benefit of wildlife populations, their associated habitats, and the citizens of North Carolina.

- Through the use of sound and sustainable techniques of wildlife and forestry management, that are proven in science.
- Provide forestry and wildlife technical guidance to partner agencies and the public



# Mountain Regional Program

## Land Base

- 86,745 Acres of WRC Managed GL
- 1,041,647 Acres of USFS Managed GL

## Field Staff

- Region Supervisor – Kip Hollifield
- Wildlife Forest Manager/Forester
  - Ryan Jacobs – N. Mountain
  - Jonathan McCall – S. Mountain



# Piedmont Regional Program

## Land Base

204,208 Acres of WRC Managed GL

51,238 Acres of USFS Managed GL

## Field Staff

- Region Supervisor - Chris Dawes
- Wildlife Forest Managers / Assistants
  - Tim McFayden – S. Piedmont
  - Dave Mattocks – S. Piedmont
  - Brandon Minor – N. Piedmont
  - Matt Williams – N. Piedmont
  - Andrew Mynatt - N. E. Piedmont



# Coastal Regional Program

## Coastal Region

- 317,218 Acres of WRC Managed GL
- 161,291 Acres of USFS Managed GL

## Field Staff

- Region Supervisor – Brent Wilson
- Wildlife Forest Managers/Forester
  - Jennifer Prince – N. Coast
  - Travis Kornegay – C. Coast
  - Ken Shughart – S. Coast
  - Casey Phillips – RASP



# Annual Forestry Planning

## Annual Forest Management Plans

- Wildlife forester/manager
- Silvicultural treatments
  - Timber sales
  - Reforestation
  - Timber stand improvement (TSI)
  - Prescribed burning



# Annual Forestry Planning

2019-2020 Proposed Harvesting Budget Sandhills Game Land								
<u>Game Land</u>	<u>Compt #</u>	<u>Stand</u>	<u>Silviculture Needs</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Est MBF</u>	<u>Est Cords</u>	<u>Est Revenue</u>	<u>Est Cost</u>
Sandhills	2	30024131	Convert to LL	60.1	215	350	\$38,600.00	
Sandhills	3	30024669	Thin	31.4	76	100	\$14,880.00	
Sandhills	7	30024715	Thin	112.5	343	250	\$64,740.00	
Sandhills	7	300241255	Thin	16.2	44	250	\$10,920.00	
Sandhills	7	300241256	Convert to LL	9.3	60	150	\$12,600.00	
Sandhills	18	300241170	Thin	34.6	161	215	\$31,560.00	
Sandhills	18	300241171	Thin	52.3	159	285	\$32,040.00	
Sandhills	19	300241142	Thin	48.5	189	100	\$35,220.00	
<b>Totals</b>				<b>364.9</b>	<b>1247</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>\$240,560.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Prescribed Fire (Southern Piedmont)</b>								
<u>Season of Burn</u>			<u>FTA Ac</u>	<u>Game Land Ac</u>			<u>Total Ac</u>	
Dormant			0	8781			8781	
Growing			3060	10160			13220	
<b>Total</b>							<b>22001</b>	

# Past 10 Year Accomplishments

<u>Year</u>	<u>Prescribed Fire</u>	<u>TSI</u>	<u>Reforest Plant</u>	<u>Reforest SP</u>	<u>Reforest Nat</u>	<u>Timber Sale</u>
2009-10	27,897	263	1,217	664	12	3,894
2010-11	25,788	335	357	323	0	4,230
2011-12	33,119	138	534	395	6	3,314
2012-13	28,477	224	661	288	55	5,032
2013-14	32,319	48	465	451	12	3,282
2014-15	33,892	643	800	299	0	3,067
2015-16	34,729	890	1,137	1,014	0	2,385
2016-17	37,574	899	689	1,254	134	2,457
2017-18	31,425	677	1,698	501	11	4,357
2018-19	33,357	733	800	1,721	9	3,721
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>318,577</b>	<b>4,851</b>	<b>8,358</b>	<b>6,910</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>35,739</b>



# Past 10 Year Accomplishments

<u>Year</u>	<u>Est Cost</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Net Rev</u>
2009-10	\$759,045	\$3,685,491	\$2,926,446
2010-11	\$434,085	\$2,208,419	\$1,774,334
2011-12	\$531,113	\$2,293,987	\$1,762,874
2012-13	\$515,540	\$2,616,007	\$2,100,468
2013-14	\$515,859	\$4,453,900	\$3,938,042
2014-15	\$623,566	\$3,623,960	\$3,000,394
2015-16	\$949,842	\$2,829,249	\$1,879,408
2016-17	\$939,120	\$2,820,079	\$1,880,960
2017-18	\$900,524	\$4,890,852	\$3,990,328
2018-19	\$1,058,856	\$4,089,780	\$3,030,924
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7,227,548</b>	<b>\$33,511,725</b>	<b>\$26,284,177</b>





# Increased Efficiency

- Prior to 2015
  - Few Game Lands Inventoried
  - Timber sales managed in Excel



# Increased Efficiency

- Prior to 2015
  - Few Game Lands Inventoried
  - Timber sales managed in Excel
- Currently
  - Accurate and updateable forest inventory
  - Inventory management software for analysis and planning



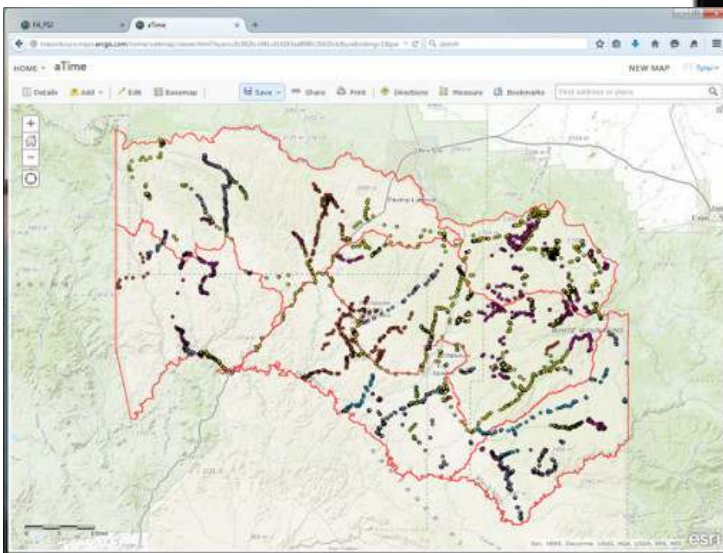
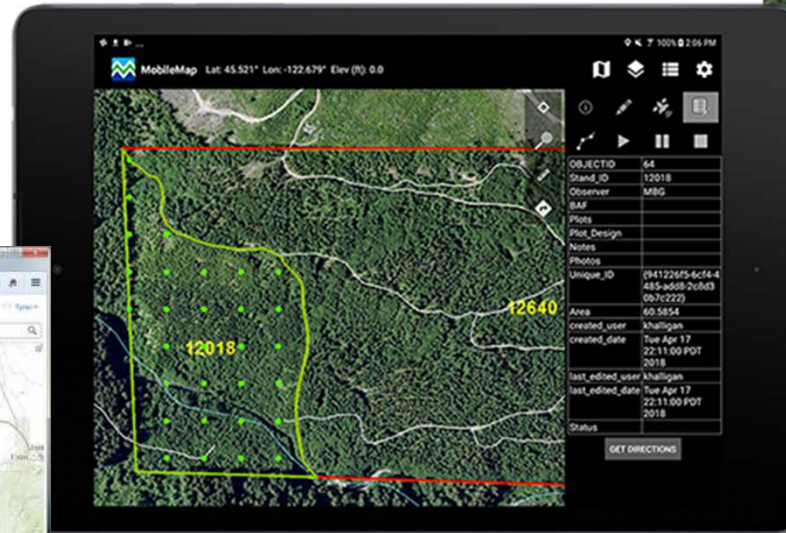
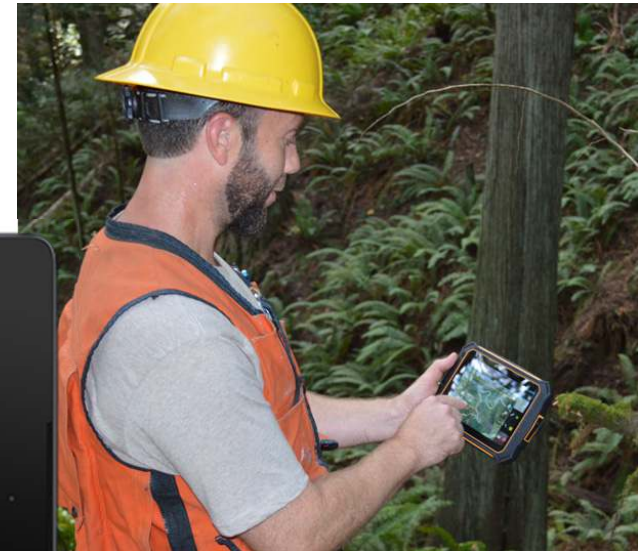
# Increased Efficiency

- Prior to 2015
  - Few Game Lands Inventoried
  - Timber sales managed in Excel
- Currently
  - Accurate and updateable forest inventory
  - Inventory management software for analysis and planning
- Results
  - Less timber sale preparation
  - More work accomplished
  - Goals have grown larger and more complex



# Moving Forward

- Building on Accomplishments
- Integrating Technologies
- Take Program to Next Level



# NCWRC Forestry Program Goals

1. Continue to Meet Our Habitat Management Objectives on Game Lands
2. Improved Effectiveness in Forecasting Our Harvests
3. Objectively Evaluate Alternative Short and Long Term Strategies



# NCWRC Forestry Program Goals

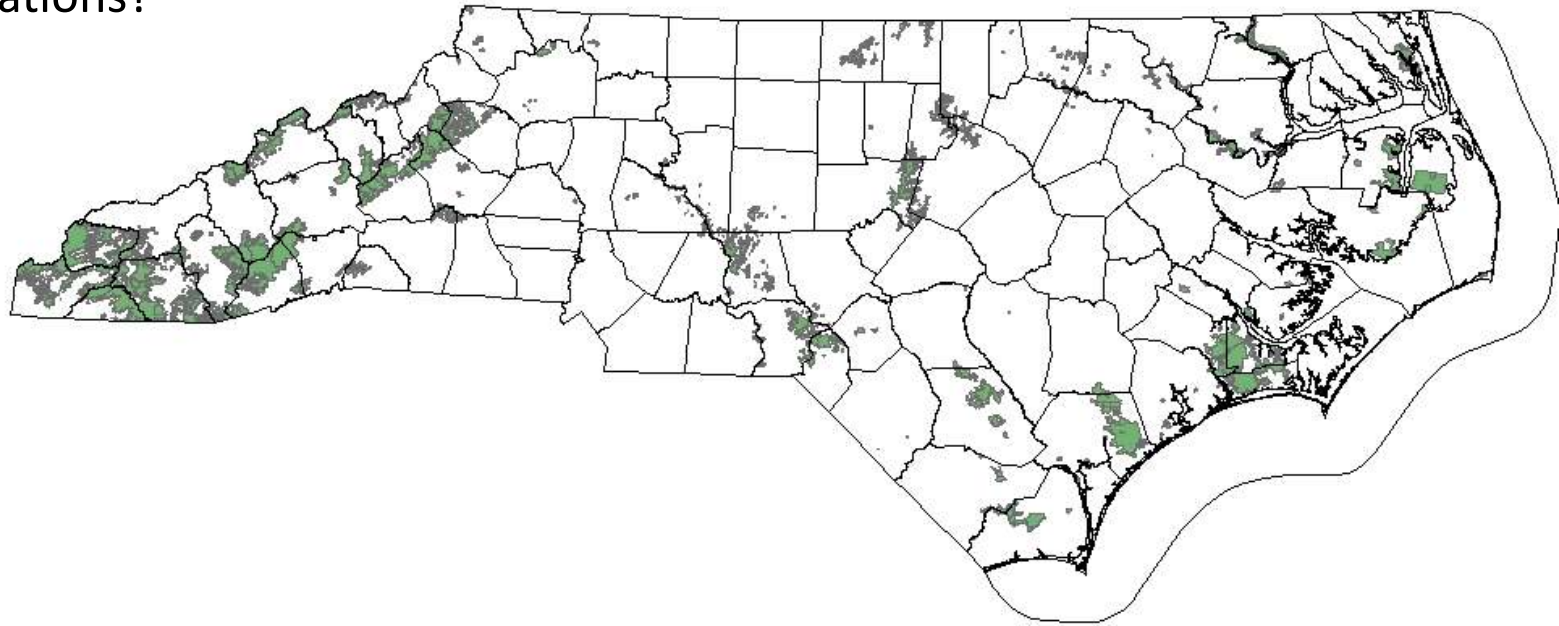
1. Continuing to Achieve Our Habitat Management Objectives on Game Lands
2. Improved Effectiveness in Forecasting Our Harvests
3. Objectively Evaluate Alternative Short and Long Term Strategies

## **Optimize Our Wildlife Habitat and Timber Revenue Objectives**



# 1. Achieving Our Habitat Management Objectives on Game Lands

- Maximizing the Capacity of Our Timber Lands to Produce High Quality Wildlife Habitat
- Are there limitations?



## 2. Improved Effectiveness in Forecasting Our Harvests

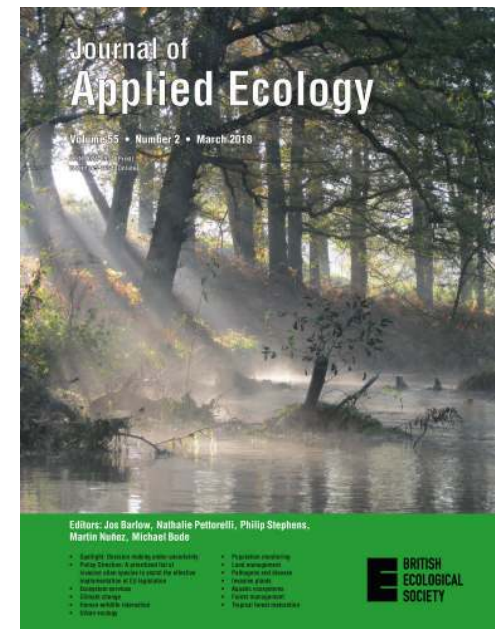
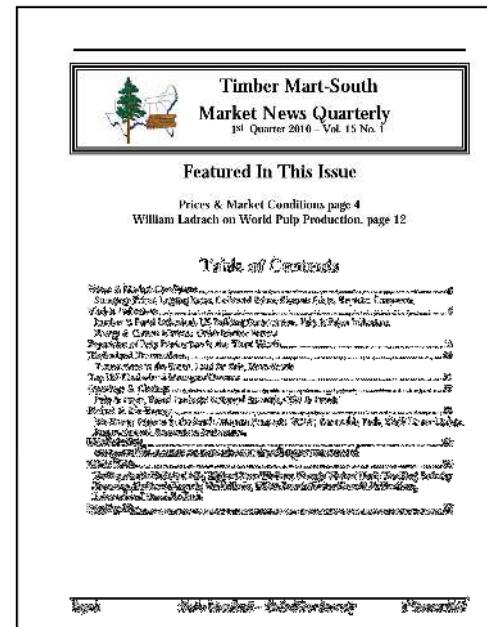
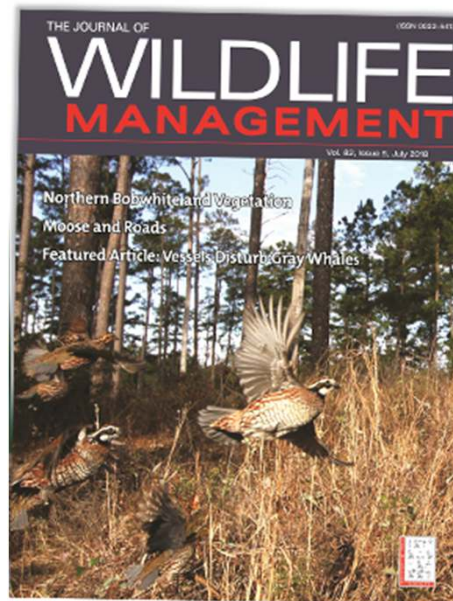
- What is our current method of projecting timber revenue
- What are the limitations of that method

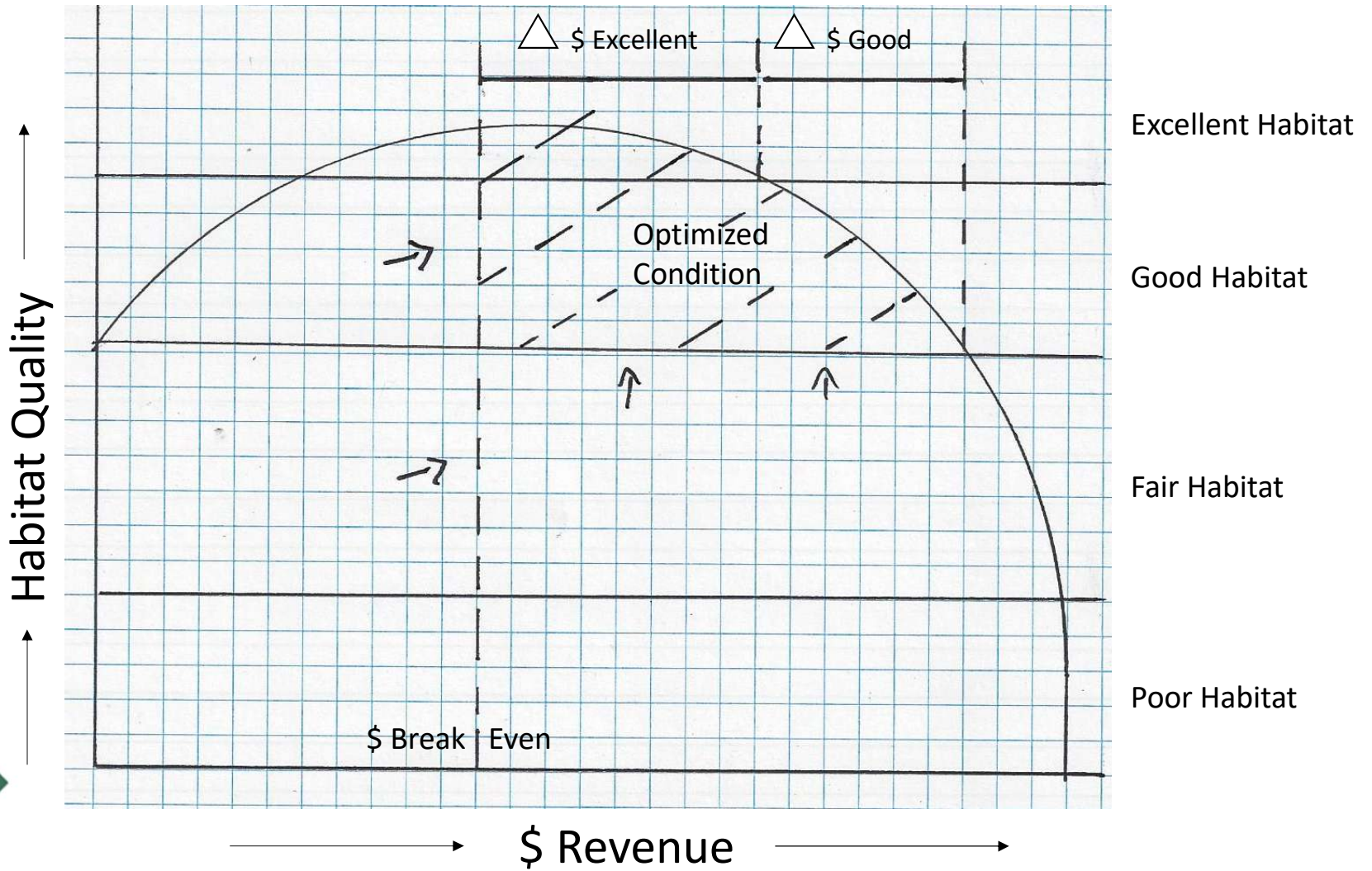




# 3. Objectively Evaluate Alternative Short and Long Term Strategies

- What is the opportunity cost of wildlife management on Game Lands?





# What Do We Need to Achieve These Goals?

- How Do We Optimize the Management of NCWRC Forest Resources
- Driven by Ecology & Silviculture
- Based on Future Habitat Conditions
- Inform Decision Making
- Associated Revenue Tradeoffs

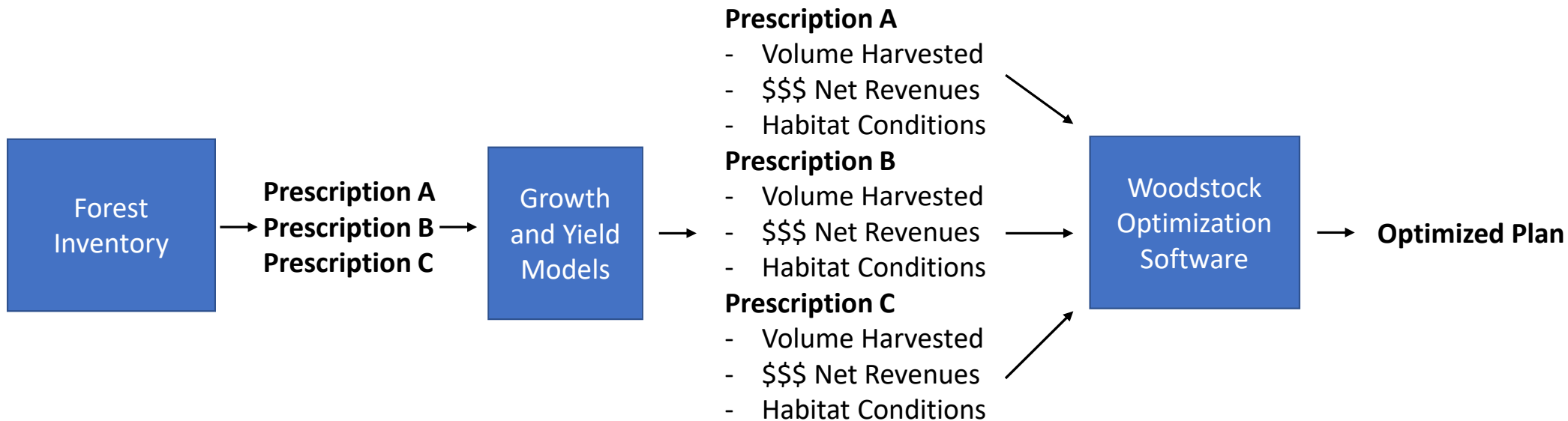


# Forest Habitat Optimization Project

- Joint project with NCSU and NCWRC.
- Faculty in both Forestry and Wildlife Departments.
- Develop a strategic forest plan that efficiently resources to achieve NCWRC goals.
- Uses desired wildlife habitat conditions as the primary driver.
- Built on outputs from linear programming based modeling strategy.

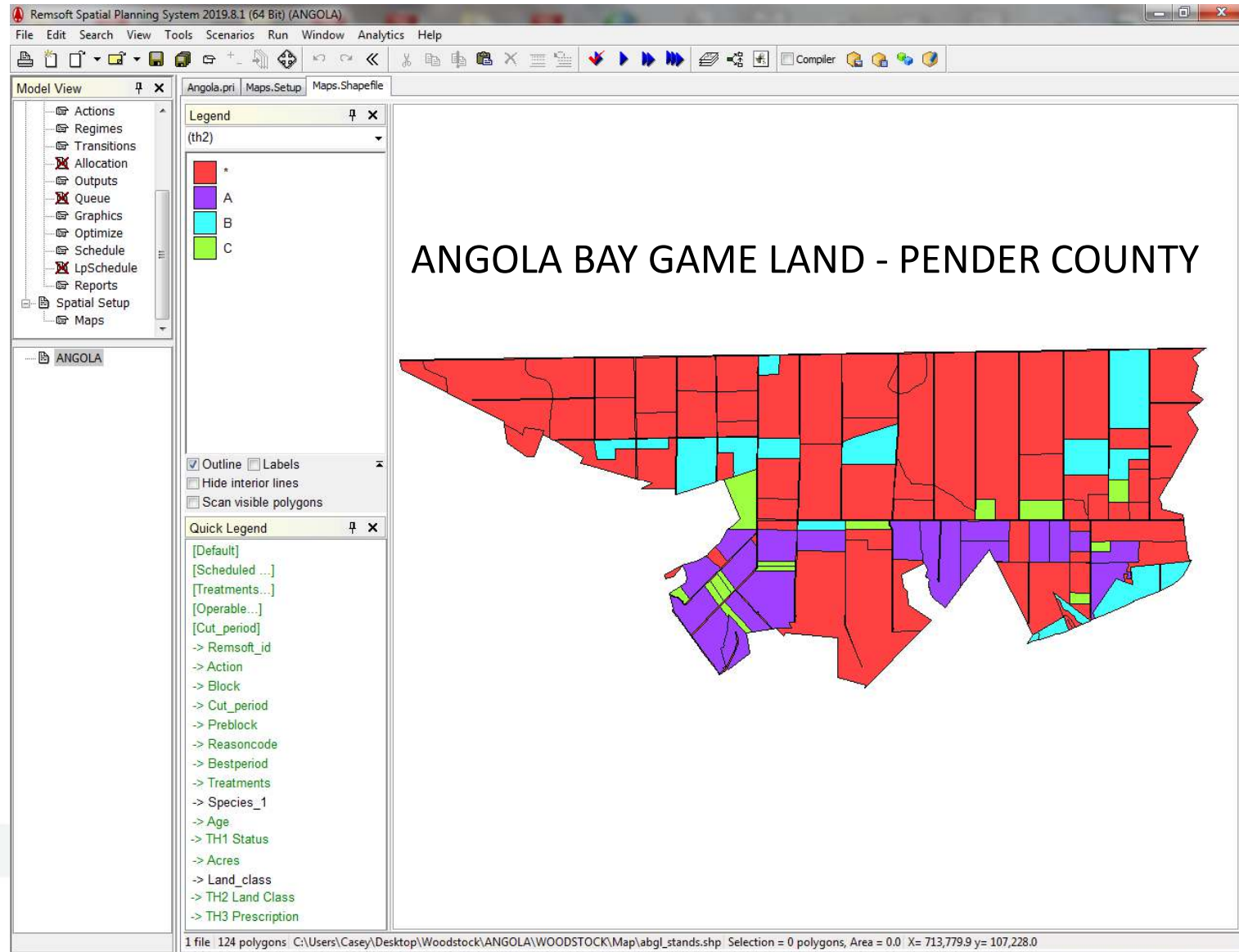


# Forest Habitat Optimization Process



# Optimized Output

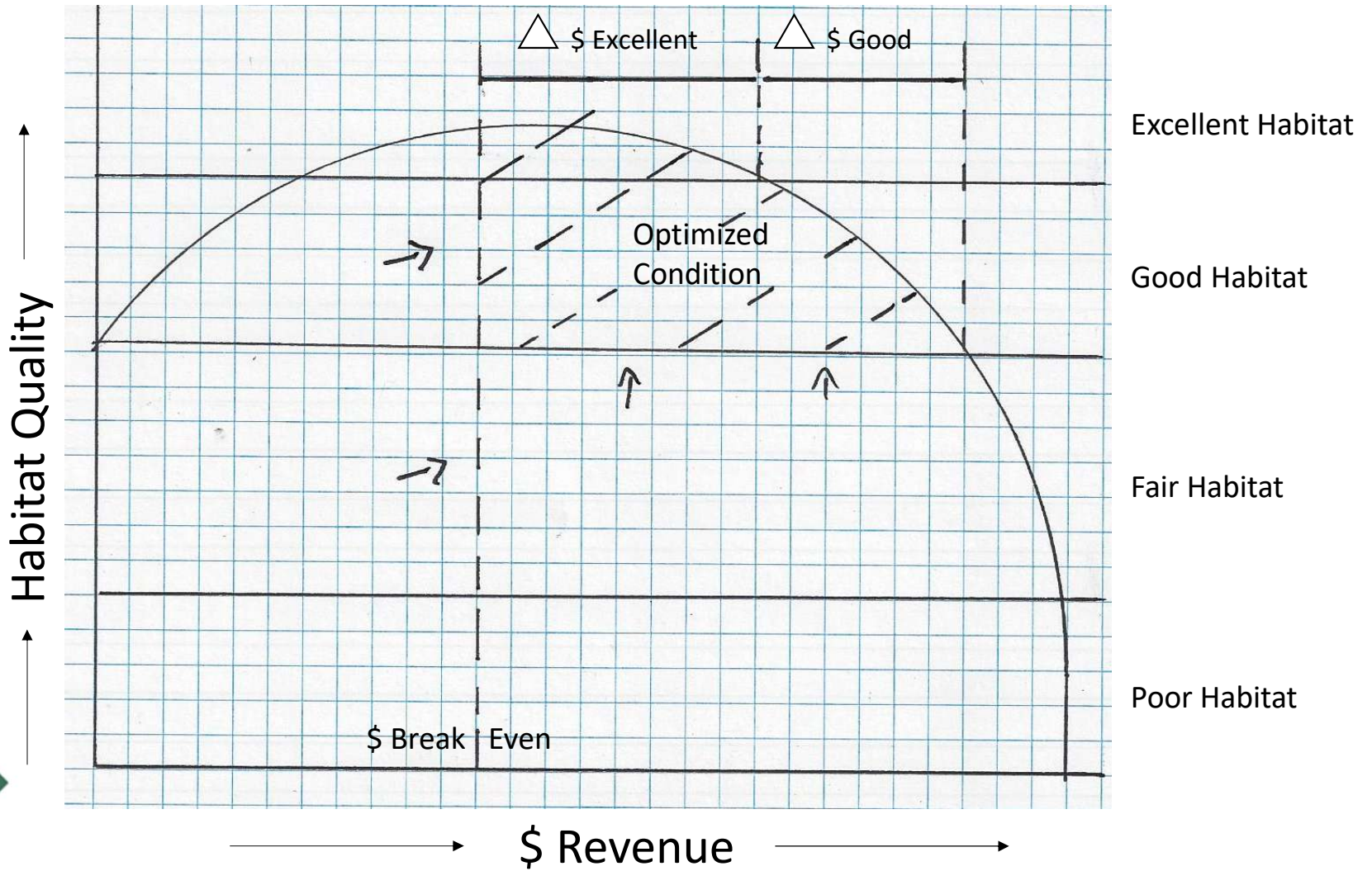
- Spatially Explicit
- Timing of Prescriptions
  - Operational (5 Year)
  - Tactical (10 Year)
  - Strategic (50+ Year)
- Estimated volumes and revenues generated
- Associated wildlife habitat score



# 1. Achieving Habitat Management Objectives

- Every acre of managed land is considered in the model.
- Staff capacity can constrain the model outputs or be ignored.
- Every potential alternative has a habitat condition score tied to it.
- Habitat condition score will be maintained in good condition.







## 2. Improving Our Financial Forecasting

- NCSU forest economist on the research team
- Outputs at operational, tactical, and strategic planning horizons
  - Average volume harvested annually next 5 years
- Plan for future trends
  - Impending revenue troughs
- Manage annual cash flow
  - Non-declining yield constraints
  - Even flow constraints



### Maximized Net Present Value (Intensive Timber Production)

### Maximized Habitat Condition (Wildlife Management)

### Stabilized Cash Flow (Optimal Scenario)

Excellent  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

Habitat Score

Habitat Score

Habitat Score

2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080

2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080

2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080

Cash Flow

Cash Flow

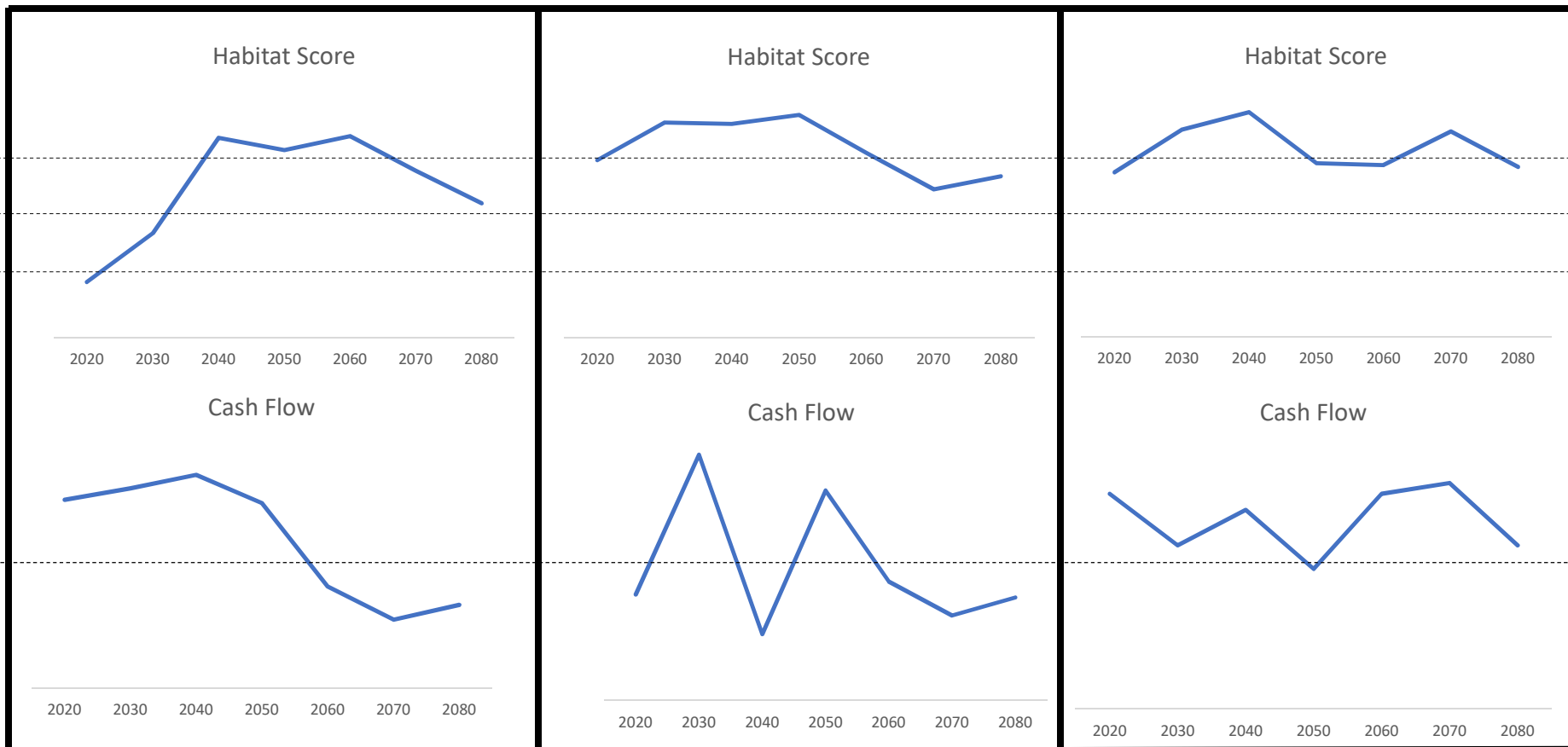
Cash Flow

Operational  
Threshold

2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080

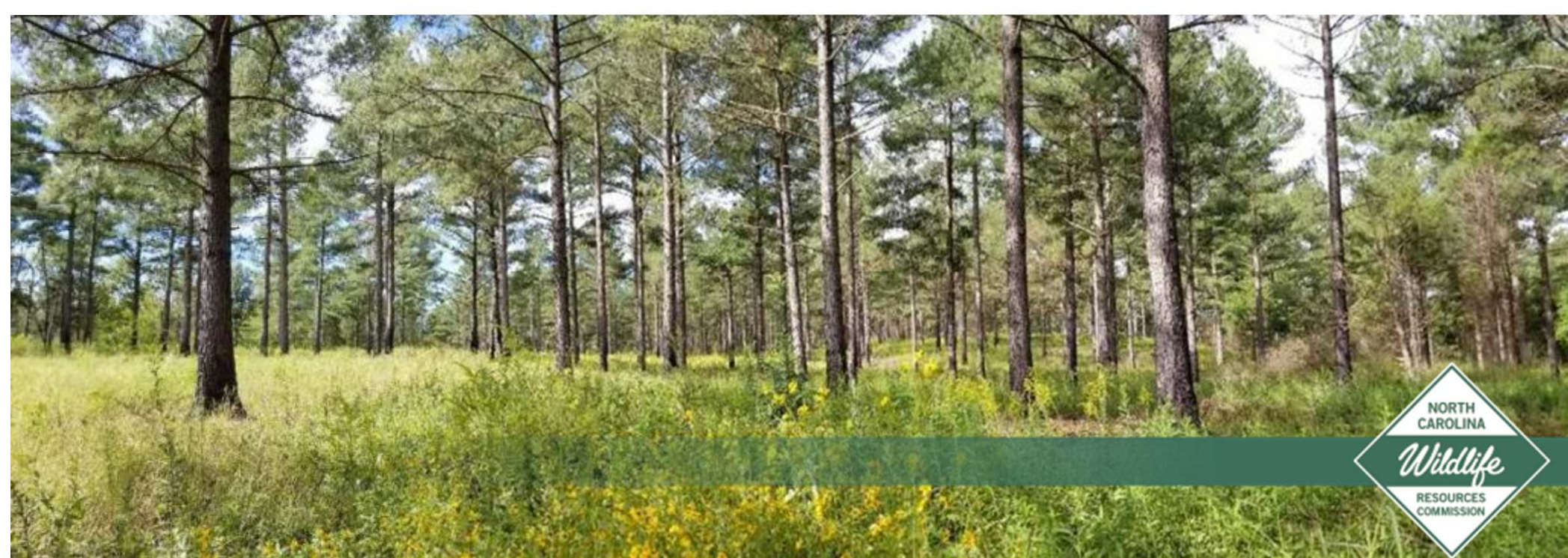
2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080

2020 2030 2040 2050 2060 2070 2080



# 3. Objectively Evaluate Short and Long Term Strategies

- Timber Appraisals of Potential Acquisitions
- Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Opportunity Cost Analysis



# QUESTIONS



## 2019/20 Reported Bear Harvest

*As of Thursday, February 20, 2020:*

		2016-2018 (Past 3-Year Average)		2019		Change in total harvest
		Total harvest	% Female	Total harvest	% Female	
<b>CBMU</b>	Zone 1	501	38%	472	39%	-5.8%
	Zone 2	235	44%	233	39%	-0.9%
	Zone 3	738	45%	760	43%	3.0%
	Zone 4	137	45%	152	45%	10.9%
	Zone 5	448	41%	511	44%	14.1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,059</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>PBMU</b>		48	31%	58	28%	20.8%
<b>MBMU</b>		1,260	36%	1,290	36%	2.4%
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>3,367</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

## 2019/20 Reported Deer Harvest

*As of Thursday, February 20, 2020:*

	2016-2018 (Past 3-Year Average)	2019	Change in total harvest
	Total harvest	Total harvest	
<b>Western</b>	10,665	12,885	20.8%
<b>Northwestern</b>	30,618	33,547	9.6%
<b>Central</b>	40,411	43,870	8.6%
<b>Eastern</b>	70,030	71,633	2.3%
<b>Northeastern</b>	35,787	35,080	-2.0%
<b>Southeastern</b>	34,243	36,553	6.7%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>151,724</b>	<b>161,935</b>	<b>6.7%</b>