



**AGENDA**  
**N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**April 18, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**  
**301 North Water Street**  
**Hotel Ballast, Cape Fear/Starboard Room**  
**Wilmington, North Carolina**

**CALL TO ORDER** – *Chairman Monty Crump*

**This electronic meeting is being streamed live for the public to attend and recorded as a public record. The recording of the meeting will be available at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org).**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *Commissioner Landon Zimmer*

**INVOCATION** – *Commissioner Mike Alford*

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT** – *Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison*

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

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES** – Take action on the December 19, 2023 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES** – Take action on the February 22, 2024 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT B)**

**FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT** – Receive Financial Status Report on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund. – *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer (EXHIBIT C)*

**ENDOWMENT FUND EXPENDABLE INCOME ALLOCATION** – Consider Approval of Calendar Year 2023 Investment Income Allocation – *Jason Cottle (EXHIBIT D)*

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

**Habitat, Nongame, & Endangered Species Committee** – **April 17, 2024** – *Kelly Davis, Chair*  
**Migratory Birds & Waterfowl Committee** – **April 17, 2024** – *John Coley, Chair*

**Fisheries Committee – April 17, 2024 – John Stone, Chair**  
**Big Game Committee – April 17, 2024 – David Hoyle, Chair**  
**Land Acquisition & Property Committee – April 17, 2024 – Brad Stanback, Vice Chair**  
**Committee of the Whole – April 17, 2024 – Monty Crump, Chair**

**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Law Enforcement Technology in the 21st Century – Lieutenant Scott Strickland, District 6, Law Enforcement Division**

## **LAND AND WATER ACCESS DIVISION**

### **Land Acquisitions and Property Matters**

**Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, E-6)**

- Hancock Tract – Halifax County (E-1)
- Klatt Wetland Tract – Macon County (E-2)
- Huckleberry Hill – Surry County (E-3)
- Mayo Tract – Beaufort County (E-4)
- Southport White Springs Tract – Brunswick County (E-5)
- Taylor Swamp Tract – Hertford County (E-6)

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**2024-2025 Webless Migratory Birds, Resident Canada Geese, Extended Falconry, and Waterfowl Seasons – Review U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service frameworks, receive public comments, and select the 2024-2025 season dates and bag limits for webless migratory birds, resident Canada geese, extended falconry, and waterfowl – Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4)**

**2024 Migrant Peregrine Falconry – Consider staff recommendations to establish a season for taking up to 5 migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry in 2024 – Brad Howard (EXHIBIT G)**

**Species Conservation Plan – Consider staff recommendation for final adoption of the Virginia Big-eared Bat Conservation Plan – Dr. Sara Schweitzer, Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief (EXHIBIT H)**

## **WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING**

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County – Review public comments and consider final adoption of amendments to create a no-wake zone at the Elwell Ferry adjacent to the Elwell’s Ferry Boating Access Area (BAA) on the Cape Fear River, clarify the description and regulated activities in the Restricted Area at White Lake, and incorporate into the NC Administrative Code (NCAC) BAA’s on the Cape Fear River and one BAA on the Black River – Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2)**

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County – Review public comments and consider final adoption of an amendment to correct a coordinate at a point near the mouth of Motts Creek at Cape Hatteras National Seashore – Betsy Haywood (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)**

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County – Review public comments and consider final adoption of rulemaking as the result of a Petition, to extend the**

no-wake zone in Bradley Creek shore to shore to a point closer to the mouth of the creek – *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBITS K-1, K-2)

**Permanent Rulemaking Application and Fiscal Note – 15A NCAC 10F .0321 Pender County** – Consider an application by the Town of Surf City to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing, to create two no-wake zones in parts of Topsail Sound and Topsail Creek, north and south of the Intracoastal Waterway from east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge to points approximately 500 yards eastward; and to incorporate into the NC Administrative Code (NCAC) four BAA’s in Pender County. Review and consider approval of fiscal note– *Betsy Haywood* (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)

## **RULEMAKING**

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10A .1601 License Fees Rule** – Review public comments and consider request to adopt 10A .1601 License Fees rule – *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst* (EXHIBITS M-1, M-2)

**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10H .1800 Commercial Use Permitting Rules** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for 10H .1801 through .1803 Commercial Permitting rules. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Melva Bonner* (EXHIBITS N-1, N-2)

**Temporary/Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 2024-2025 Land and Water Access Rules** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for the 2024-2025 Annual Cycle deer season companion rules. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Melva Bonner* (EXHIBITS O-1, O-2)

**Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C .0422 Striped Mullet and White Mullet Rule** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for 10C .0422 Striped Mullet and White Mullet rule – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief* (EXHIBIT P)

**Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C .0218 Harvest Reporting Requirements Rule** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for 10C .0218 Harvest Reporting Requirements rule – *Christian Waters* (EXHIBIT Q)

**COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN** – *Chairman Crump*

**COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – *Executive Director Ingram*

**ADJOURN**

# EXHIBIT A

April 18, 2024



## MINUTES

December 19, 2023

### N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Webinar Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the December 19, 2023 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) webinar meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Crump announced that the webinar meeting audio is being streamed live and will be available on [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org). He reminded Commissioners to speak their names before making motions or comments and to mute their devices when not speaking. Crump announced that by the statutory requirement, the roll will be called for attendance and for each vote.

#### ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Mark Craig, David Hoyle, John Coley, Tom Berry, Jim Ruffin, Ray Clifton, John Stone, and Hayden Rogers were absent.

#### COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Kelly Davis	Tom Haislip
Thomas Fonville	Landon Zimmer	Mike Alford
Wes Seegars	John Stone	John Alexander
Brad Stanback	JC Cole	

#### MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

#### RULEMAKING



**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text - 15A NCAC 10A .1601** – On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by Wes Seegars, The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period for proposed amendments to administrative rules presented in **(EXHIBIT A-1)** and approved fiscal note for proposed rules presented in **(EXHIBIT A-2)** by *Carrie Ruhlman, Policy Development Manager*

**EXHIBITS A-1 & A-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Periodic Review of Rules** – On a motion by John Alexander and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved the staff recommendation to request an extension for the readoption of 15A NCAC 10G section .0400 from the NC Office of Administrative Hearings presented in **(EXHIBIT B)** by *Carrie Ruhlman*

**EXHIBIT B** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN** – Chairman Crump shared his appreciation to the board for attending the Special Commission Meeting and thanked staff for their preparations.

**COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Director Ingram stated he had no further comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.  
All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

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Monty Crump, Chairman

Date

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Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

Date

# EXHIBIT B

April 18, 2024



## MINUTES

February 22, 2024

### N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the February 22, 2024 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at [www.newildlife.org](http://www.newildlife.org).

Commissioner Kelly Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner John Alexander gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

*Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison*, called the roll. David Hoyle, John Coley, John Stone, Mike Alford, and Hayden Rogers were absent.

### COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Jim Ruffin	Ray Clifton	John Alexander
Mark Craig	Thomas Fonville	Kelly Davis	JC Cole
Wes Seegars	Tom Berry	Tom Haislip	Joe Budd
Brad Stanback	Landon Zimmer	Steve Windham	

### MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

**NOTICES OF COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS** – Received Notices of Appointment by Governor Roy Cooper of N. Wes Seegars, District 3; Monty Crump, District 6, and Bradford G. Stanback, District 9 for terms ending April 25, 2029; (**EXHIBITS A-1, A-2, A-3**); Appointments by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger of Mark Craig, Thomas A. Berry, John M. Alexander, Landon Zimmer, and Joseph R. Budd for terms ending June 30, 2025 (**EXHIBITS A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8 Appointments Bill**); and Appointments by House Speaker Tim Moore of John T. Coley IV, Vernon Ray Clifton, Jr., Tommy Fonville, John A. Stone, and Reid M. Smith for terms ending June 30, 2025 (**EXHIBITS A-9, A-10, A-11, A-12, A-13 Appointments Bill**) – *Margo Minkler*

**EXHIBITS A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9, A-10, A-11, A-12, and A-13** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**RECEIVE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEWS OF 2023 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FOR COMMISSIONER JOSEPH R. BUDD** - Pursuant to NCGS §138A-15(c), *Margo Minkler, Ethics Liaison*, read into the Minutes relevant portions of the evaluations by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the 2023 Statement of Economic Interest for *Joseph R. Budd, President Pro Tempore Phil Berger Appointee*.

## MINUTES

**DECEMBER 7, 2023 MEETING** – On a motion by *Landon Zimmer* and second by *Jim Ruffin*, the Commission approved the Wildlife Resources Commission Minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting as presented in **EXHIBIT B**.

**EXHIBIT B** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## ADMINISTRATION

**FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT** – *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, presented a status report in **EXHIBIT C** on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

**EXHIBIT C** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

**Education and Communication Report – February 21, 2024** – *Tom Haislip, Chair*, reported the Education and Communication Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Staff presented an update on the Pathway to Relevancy Project and the team's efforts in developing an education and engagement program action plan. Led by the Education Division and involving representation from across the agency, the team has recently conducted a gap analysis to identify opportunities for strengthening the agency's engagement with current customers. The committee also received a presentation on a recently completed range survey aimed at improving the range

user experience and ensuring optimal service for this user group. The Wildlife Education Division team has utilized these findings to standardize range operation hours, ensuring facilities run efficiently while providing a safe environment for shooting sports enthusiasts across North Carolina. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the Upland Bird Learn to Hunt Program, a new course offered during the past hunting season. Held at the John Lentz Hunter Education Complex and on the Sandhills Game Lands, participants received both classroom and field training on various aspects of upland bird hunting, culminating in a hunt. The team is collaborating with various partners to develop additional Learn to Hunt Programs, furthering efforts to engage individuals in conservation.

**Fisheries Committee Report – February 21, 2024** – *Brad Stanback, Chair*, reported the Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. *Chris Smith, Fisheries Biologist*, presented data indicating that the Roanoke River Striped Bass population is in decline, leading to the decision not to hold a harvest season in 2024. Staff will continue annual monitoring of the population, with supplemental stocking scheduled for Spring 2024 and 2025. *Casey Joubert, Fisheries Biologist*, then presented data showing that over 258,000 anglers in North Carolina fish for striped bass in reservoirs, generating a total economic impact of \$430 million to our state. Survey data will be integrated into the Commission’s Inland Morone Management Plan, slated for completion later this year. Next, *Kyle Rachels, Fisheries Biologist*, discussed the significance and uniqueness of the Lumber River fishery. In 2022, nearly 40,000 anglers spent a cumulative 96,000 hours fishing the Lumber River, primarily from the bank and by local anglers. *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, provided an update on renovation plans for the Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery in Brevard. Permitting and planning are projected to conclude by late 2024, with construction slated to commence in early 2025. Trout stocking will experience necessary reductions during the renovation, and CMDE staff will devise a communication plan to inform the public about changes and renovation progress. Christian also mentioned that MFC and DMF will be discussing mullet management at their February Meeting, while announcements regarding Flounder season dates and Spotted Seatrout management changes will be made later in the year.

**Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee Report – February 21, 2024** – *Landon Zimmer, Chair*, reported the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, presented a comparison of current and prior fiscal year-to-date expenditures and revenues in both the general fund and capital improvement fund categories, providing commentary on any categories experiencing increases or decreases exceeding one million dollars. An update was also provided on the current value and asset allocation of the agency’s Endowment fund, including the amount of expendable income currently available for use. *Steve Chase, Internal Auditor*, presented a summary of the preliminary testing of the Go Outdoors NC reporting features, which did not yield any significant audit findings. Additionally, Chase provided a briefing on the Purchasing Card Compliance Review program, noting that a review of purchasing card transactions from July 1 to December 31, 2023, was conducted with no exceptions noted. In response to a question regarding Wisconsin’s declining hunting license revenue, *Carrie Ruhlman, Policy Development Manager*, presented a graphic illustrating license trends and population growth in North Carolina over the last 20 years. The data indicate an increase in both hunting and fishing licenses individually, but a decline in combination licenses.

**Boating Safety Committee Report – February 21, 2024** – *JC Cole, Chair*, reported the Committee met on February 21, 2024. *Sergeants Kennedy, Moss, and Criscoe* gave the committee an excellent presentation on the Law Enforcement Division's boat operation training, boating incident investigations, port security, and the future of our boating safety training and work. Our boating program is one of less than 20 programs nationwide that are accredited by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

**Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – February 21, 2024** – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported the Committee met on February 21, 2024. *Hannah Plumpton, Upland Game Bird Biologist*, provided updates on the 2023 Brood Survey Results, the 2023 Turkey Season Harvest Timing, and highlights from the National Wildlife Turkey Federation Convention in Nashville. Hannah noted that *Sampson Parker, Master Officer of District 6*, received the NWTF North Carolina Wildlife Officer of the Year award for 2023. She also noted that *Chris Henline, LAWA Burnsville Depot Team Leader*, won the Joe Kurz Wildlife Manager of the Year Award. This national award is presented annually to wildlife technical staff who have distributed excellence in wild turkey management and restoration. *Chris Kreh, Assistant Chief*, then opened a dialogue for discussion concerning the current turkey management goal and much of the data Hannah presented. The Committee had an excellent dialogue and charged the staff to review the current goal and report back potential modifications that might be considered related to our statewide goal. The committee also charged the staff to continue to review data and examine any potential modifications to the turkey seasons that might be considered as we move forward. Finally, *Daron Barnes, LAWA Chief*, gave a brief update on the ongoing efforts of the LAWA staff at the Caswell Small Game Focus Area. Daron reported that we are entering burn season and the first burn on the area was conducted yesterday. Our continued efforts to improve the small game habitat in this area will benefit a host of species, including turkeys, as well as our constituents.

**Committee of the Whole Report – February 21, 2024** – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported that the Committee met on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. The meeting commenced with a review of public comments concerning the proposed annual cycle rule changes for the Inland Fisheries, Land and Water Access, and administrative rules for 2024-2025, declaratory rulings, and public fishing and boating access rules. All rules were recommended by the committee as presented, except for the proposed western deer hunting rule. The committee recommended adding the Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week as youth days in the western deer season to address the main concern voiced during our western public hearing, thereby allowing youth under 18 to use any lawful weapon on those two days. Additionally, the committee reviewed proposed rule changes related to Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species, along with the associated fiscal note for notice of text. Finally, the committee reviewed and approved a Phase I land acquisition for a potential boating access area at Holden Beach.

**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Environmental Health and Safety** – *Allen Strickland, Environmental Health, and Safety Director*, gave a presentation titled “Environmental Health and Safety” The presentation provided an overview of the program's approach to injury prevention and environmental compliance. Highlights of recent successes were showcased, including a new fall protection program and a new respiratory protection program. Additionally, an overview of the agency's environmental compliance success was given.

## **RULEMAKING**

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Inland Fisheries Rules** – On a motion by Wes Seegars and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT D-1)** and adopted proposed changes to Inland Fisheries rules presented in **(EXHIBIT D-2)** by *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*.

**EXHIBITS D-1, D-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Land and Water Access Rules** – On a motion by Joe Budd and a second by John Alexander, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT E-1)** and adopted proposed changes to Land and Water Access rules presented in **(EXHIBITS E-2)** by *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access Division Chief*.

**EXHIBITS E-1, E-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Wildlife Management Rules** – On a motion by Brad Stanback and a second by Steve Windham, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT F-1)** and adopted proposed changes to Wildlife Management rules presented in **(EXHIBIT F-2)** by *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*.

**EXHIBITS F-1, F-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Administrative Rules** – On a motion by Ray Clifton and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT G-1)** and adopted proposed changes to Administrative rules presented in **(EXHIBIT G-2)** by *Ben Meyer, Law Enforcement Division Colonel*.

**EXHIBITS G-1, G-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved the following rulemaking items presented in **H-2, I-2** presented by *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst*:

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10A .0500 Declaratory Rulings Rules** – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT H-1)** and adopted proposed changes to 10A .0501 through .0503 Declaratory Ruling rules as part of the periodic review presented in **(EXHIBIT H-2)**.

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10E Fishing and Boating Access Areas Rules** –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT I-1)** and adopted proposed changes to 10E .0101 through .0104 Fishing and Boating Access Areas as part of the periodic review presented in **(EXHIBIT I-2)**.

**EXHIBITS H-1, H-2, I-1, I-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Notice of Text – 10I Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species Rules** – On a motion by Kelly Davis and a second by John Alexander, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed rule amendments to 10I .0102 through .0105 presented in **(EXHIBIT J-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed rules presented in **(EXHIBIT J-2)** by *Melva Bonner*.

**EXHIBITS J-1, J-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN** – *Chairman Crump* commenced his remarks by extending a warm welcome back to Commissioner Joe Budd, who has rejoined the board. Commissioner Budd brings a wealth of experience and insight, and we are thrilled to have him back. In closing, Chairman Crump shared details of the upcoming away Commission Meeting that will be held in Wilmington.

**COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – *Director Ingram* began his comments by emphasizing the mission of NCWRC: To conserve North Carolina’s wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation. Next, he shared Sampson Parker, Master Officer of District 6, received the NWTf North Carolina Wildlife Officer of the Year award for 2023 and Chris Henline, LAWA Burnsville Depot Team Leader, was honored with the prestigious Joe Kurz Wildlife Manager of the Year Award. In closing, Director Ingram shared the sad news of the passing of former District One Commissioner Ray White. He served with distinction from 1997 to 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at **9:47 a.m.** All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

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Monty Crump, Chairman Date

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Cameron Ingram, Executive Director Date

## NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

CAFR 52G - STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES and CHANGES  
in FUND BALANCES  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS AS OF FEB 29, 2024

	FY 2024 General Fund	FY 2024 Capital Improvement Fund
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Federal funds	\$20,479,624.73	\$1,799,055.88
Local funds	\$1,681.91	\$0.00
Investment earnings	\$334,535.51	\$0.00
Sales and services	\$7,336,573.60	\$0.00
Rental and lease of property	\$42,946.80	\$0.00
Fees, licenses and fines	\$21,155,356.33	\$0.00
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$430,876.35	\$50,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$230,029.86	\$274.00
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$436,969.47	\$0.00
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$2,668.95	\$0.00
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$58,089,439.82	\$4,409,446.59
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$11,566,511.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$120,107,214.33</b>	<b>\$6,258,776.47</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Personal services	\$27,167,538.00	\$0.00
Employee benefits	\$13,025,350.43	\$0.00
Contracted personal services	\$6,776,177.95	\$232,801.38
Supplies and materials	\$6,284,064.71	\$17,940.84
Travel	\$282,348.06	\$0.00
Communication	\$698,525.09	\$0.00
Utilities	\$456,047.94	\$0.00
Data processing services	\$453,231.78	\$0.00
Other services	\$2,402,041.65	\$74,572.08
Claims and benefits	\$1,014,588.48	\$0.00
Principal Retirement	\$8,428.00	\$0.00
Interest and Fees	\$372.00	\$0.00
Other fixed charges	\$180,168.70	\$2,940.00
Capital outlay	\$5,764,818.40	\$5,037,479.89
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$3,600,302.39	\$0.00
Insurance and bonding	\$34,425.40	\$0.00
Other expenditures	\$2,405,578.64	\$0.00
Reimbursements	(\$507,758.81)	\$0.00
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$548,326.89	\$0.00
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$39,774,456.54	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$110,369,032.24</b>	<b>\$5,365,734.19</b>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$9,738,182.09	\$893,042.28
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2023	\$21,214,381.32	\$3,362,551.08
<b>FUND BALANCE - FEB 29, 2024</b>	<b>\$30,952,563.41</b>	<b>\$4,255,593.36</b>



# NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

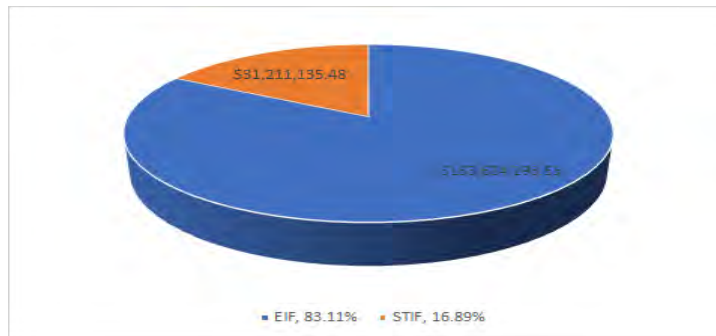
**Fund Balance\*: Feb 2024     \$184,835,429.03**

\* Based On Financial Institutions' Data And Does Not Include Time-Lag Entries.

§ 143-250.1. Wildlife Endowment Fund

- (d) (3). No expenditure or disbursement shall be made from the principal of the Wildlife Endowment Fund except as otherwise provided by law.
- (d) (4). The income received and accruing from the investments of the Wildlife Endowment Fund must be spent only in furthering the conservation of wildlife resources and the efficient operation of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in accomplishing the purposes of the agency as set forth in G.S. 143-239.
- (g) The Wildlife Endowment Fund and the investment income therefrom shall not take the place of State appropriations or Agency receipts placed in the Wildlife Resources Fund, or any part thereof, but any portion of the income of the Wildlife Endowment Fund available for the purpose set out in subdivision (4) of subsection (d) shall be used to supplement other income of and appropriations to the Wildlife Resources Commission to the end that the Commission may improve and increase its services and become more useful to a greater number of people.

### ASSET ALLOCATION



2024 February		ANI		
Status:	Principal	Nonexpendable	Expendable	Total
Adult	\$ 84,046,063.90		\$ 59,643,307.74	\$ 143,689,371.64
Magazine	\$ 1,573,477.50		\$ 1,098,533.89	\$ 2,672,011.39
Contributions	\$ 836,670.00		\$ 2,766,596.96	\$ 3,603,266.96
Diversity	\$ 207,469.05		\$ 35,689.97	\$ 243,159.02
Infant	\$ 21,440,763.50	\$ 9,475,120.87		\$ 30,915,884.37
Youth	\$ 3,023,368.00	\$ 766,365.65		\$ 3,789,733.65
				\$ 184,913,427.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 111,127,811.95</b>	<b>\$ 10,241,486.52</b>	<b>\$ 63,544,128.56</b>	<b>\$ 184,913,427.03</b>
				\$ -
			Total from detail area >>	\$ 184,913,427.03
				\$ -

\*\*\* Include Deposit/s In Transit



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Cameron N. Ingram, Executive Director

### Expendable Income Earned in Calendar Year 2023

	<b>Amount of Expendable Income Earned</b>
Adult Lifetime Licenses	\$ 20,499,451.38
Magazine Subs Lifetime	\$ 396,210.25
Contributions - General	\$ 207,169.18
Contributions - Diversity	\$ 316,889.78
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 21,419,720.59</u></b>

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

# Exhibit E-1

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

---

**Tract Name:**

Hancock Tract

**WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date):** July 12, 2023

**Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):**

Pittman-Robertson Grant	\$117,500.00
Total	\$117,500.00

**Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Explain Details

**Total Cost Based on Appraisal?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
The State Property Office	Andy Piner & Associates	February 19, 2024	\$117,500.00

**Appraisal Handled by State Property Office?**  Yes  No  N/A

**Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):**

75% Pittman Robertson: 25% State

**Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):**

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$892.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$30,000.00

# Exhibit E-1

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

#### Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Establish new boundary	1.1	Mile	\$300.00	\$330.00
Remove shared boundary	0.71	Mile	\$200.00	\$142.00
Develop an access path	0.14	Mile	\$3,000.00	\$420.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$892.00</b>

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Timber Thinning	40 acres	acres	\$750.00	\$30,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$30,000.00</b>

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

<b>WRC Staff Contact:</b>	Chris Baranski
<b>Date First Presented to Commission:</b>	July 12, 2023
<b>Tract Name:</b>	Hancock Tract (Watson Timber Co. Tract)
<b>County:</b>	Halifax
<b>Acreage:</b>	45.63 acres
<b>Tax Value:</b>	
<b>Property Owner/Representative:</b>	James Meadows (Watson Timber Co.)
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

**Primary Purpose:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

**Program Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

**Type of Acquisition:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

**Type of Parcel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

**Grant Potential:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NCLWF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (overwrite this cell)

**Owner Interest:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Tax Value:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed 2023
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tax Value \$65,600

**Stewardship Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Match:

**Funding Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargain Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

**Recommendation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

**Additional Comments:**

The Hancock Tract is a small (45.63 ac.) parcel adjacent to the intensively managed Longleaf Tract of the Tillery Game Land. We were approached by Watson Timber Co. of their intent to sell the tract and they wanted to offer it to the WRC as an addition to the game land before they put it on the open market. The seller is aware of the lengthy process and time duration required for the state to acquire land, and in discussion with James Meadows the company seems agreeable to this wait. On May 25th, 2023, the property was investigated by Chris Baranski and Andrew Mynatt. There is no NCLWF grant funding potential for this tract because of the tiny amount of frontage on Jeep Creek (~370 ft.) and the acreage that would qualify (~2.6 ac., 300-ft. Buffer).

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

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**Tract Name:** Hancock Tract (Watson Timber Co. Tract)

**County:** Halifax

**Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):**

The Hancock Tract is a 45.63-acre property that lies on the southeast corner of the Tillery Game Land adjacent to the intensely managed Longleaf Tract where an isolated example of remnant longleaf (Wet Pine Flatwoods) exists, and considerable acreage of longleaf pine has been restored in recent decades. It abuts the extreme southeastern corner of this game land block sharing ~0.71 mi. of game land boundary.

This small tract lacks a diversity of cover types and habitats, with 39.73 acres forested and 5.9 acres open field (currently in cotton production). The timber is essentially entirely loblolly pine (21-year old stand) that was established after the site was clearcut in 2002. In 2018, all except ~3.5 ac. nearest to Jeep Creek was first-time thinned. It has grown well, with most loblollies 10-12" DBH though many are 15-17" DBH. It will be in need of thinning again within the next 5 years. A timber cruise report in February 2023 indicated ~1,978 tons of standing pine pulpwood and ~116 tons of standing hardwood pulpwood. By the time it gets thinned again there will be a considerable amount of C-N-S and it will probably bring around \$30,000 (+/- \$750/ac.) This timber would greatly benefit from prescribed fire now, and especially after re-thinning, as the herbaceous/shrub component is unique and hardwood sapling encroachment is low. Fireline establishment would be inconsequential, as the tract is already bordered by existing game land firelines along our boundary and by woods paths/open corridors that could be easily widened between this property and the adjacent private property. Upon final harvest, the stand will be restored to longleaf pine. Understory and groundcover plant species indicative of a Wet Pine Flatwoods community and remaining boundary witness trees suggest that longleaf pine could have been the overstory tree species here historically.

We would likely manage the field acreage as a Dove Area. The property line is across a much larger agricultural field, cornering at a field road. We propose to establish a vegetated border (25-35 ft. wide) along this section of boundary, separating it visually and permanently from the much larger field it is a part of. This would be a span of ~1,300 ft. and eventually become forested.

Game land user and administrative access can be created to the field with only minor effort, consisting of mulching out an existing skid trail through the pine thinning and minimal dozer work/earth-moving. This proposed access road/path is ~800 ft., of which only ~465 ft. would be new (on the tract) and require building, while the remainder (~335 ft.) would be on an existing fireline on game land.

Acquisition of this parcel creates a buffer to existing game land and will provide some additional hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, and small game, but particularly for dove hunting.

Tract Name	Hancock Tract (Watson Timber Co. Tract)
Date	June 7, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Baranski, Mynatt, and Dawes

<b>Species</b>	<b>0.407</b>
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	0

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>0.722</b>
Size	0
Quality	3
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

<b>Public Access</b>	<b>0.333</b>
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0

<b>Wildlife Uses</b>	<b>0.467</b>
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

<b>Other Values</b>	<b>0.778</b>
Timber Harvest	3
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

<b>Feasibility &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>0.867</b>
Existing Infrastructure	2
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

<b>Restoration/Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>0.917</b>
Species Restoration	3
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	3

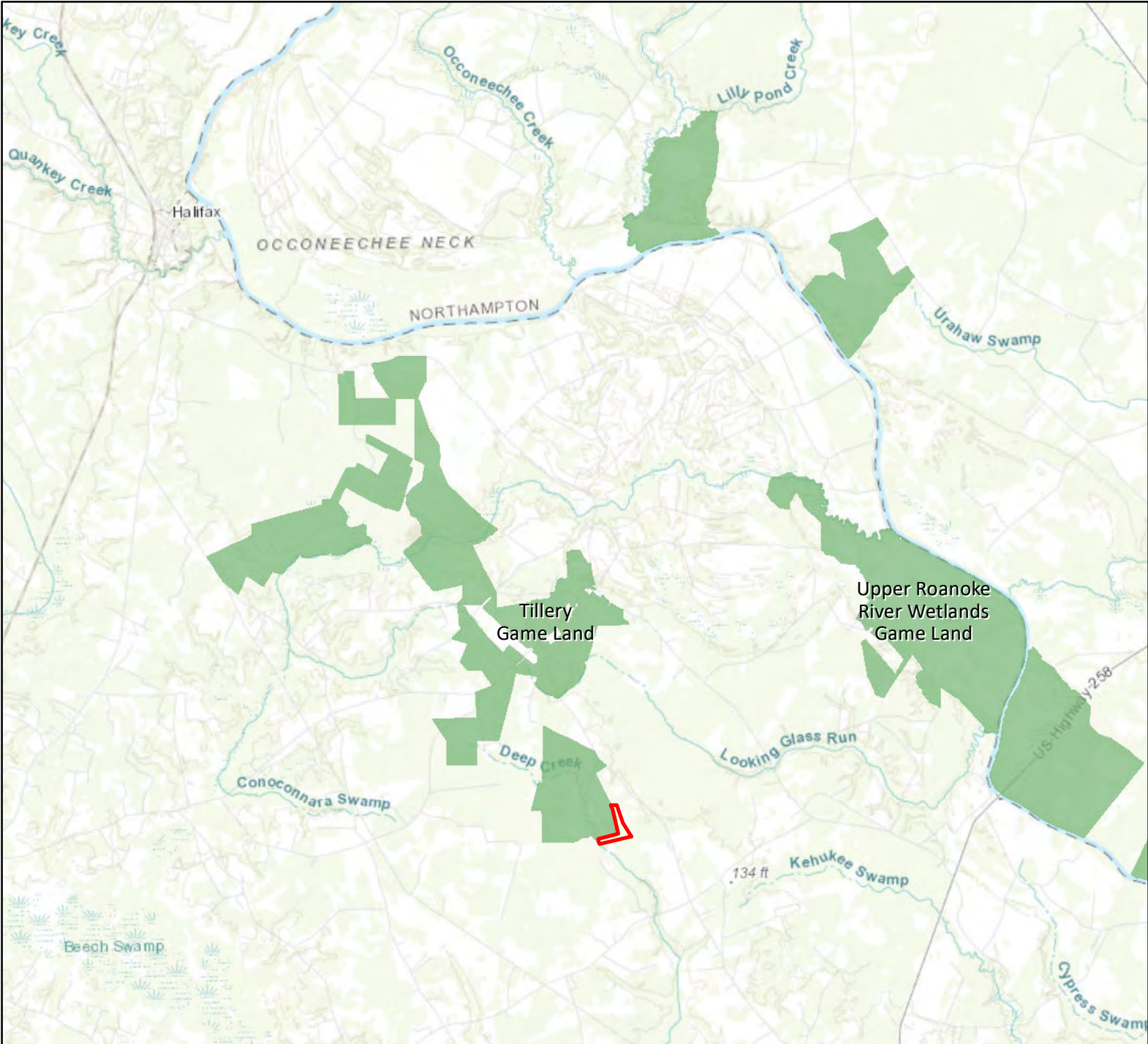
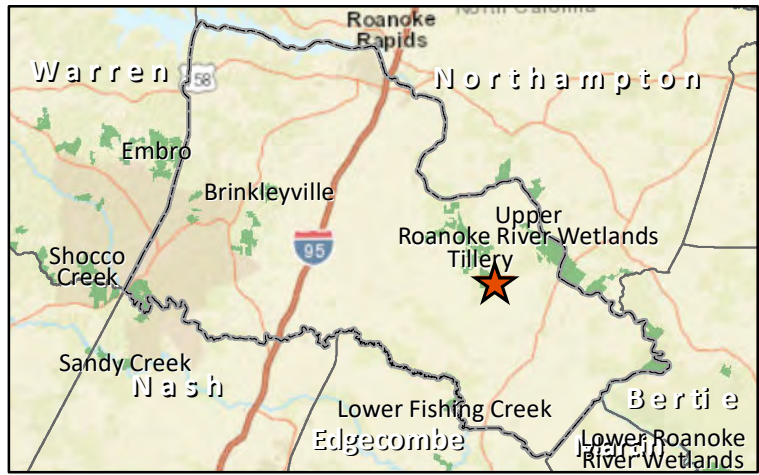
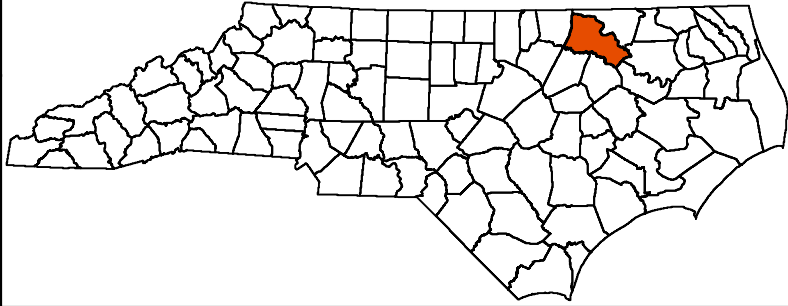
<b>Threats</b>	<b>0.267</b>
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	1
Manageability	0
Management Cost	1



<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>4.224</b>
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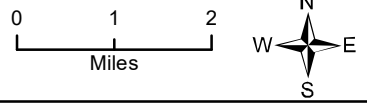
<b>Comments</b>
<p>At under 46 acres (mostly all 21-year-old loblolly pine plantation), this tract does not have a large diversity of land cover/habitat types and associated species, but it is strategically located immediately adjacent to a large block of the Tillery Game Land that does. It provides perpetual protection and buffer to existing state-owned property and some increased public access. Additional hunting opportunities for a variety of game species (deer, turkey, rabbit, woodcock, quail, and dove) would be provided.</p> <p>Timber harvest (loblolly pine second thinning) should occur in the next 5 years, and upon eventual final harvest, longleaf pine will be restored. Prescribed burning is possible at present without additional timber work or extensive new fireline construction. The herbaceous plant species and overall wildlife diversity on the property can be enhanced readily. The relative ease and low-cost of management in the near future would yield tremendous habitat benefits.</p> <p>There are no appreciable aquatic resources on the tract, though these exist not far down the watershed. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program identifies a significant natural community known as Wet Pine Flatwoods (which is extremely limited in this part of NC) less than a half a mile to the west on WRC property.</p> <p>The biggest threat to the tract would be if it were sold to a private individual and converted/developed (immediately adjacent to the existing game land). It is priced very reasonably and would certainly sell quickly on the open market.</p>



**Hancock Tract**  
**Halifax County**  
**45.63 Acres**

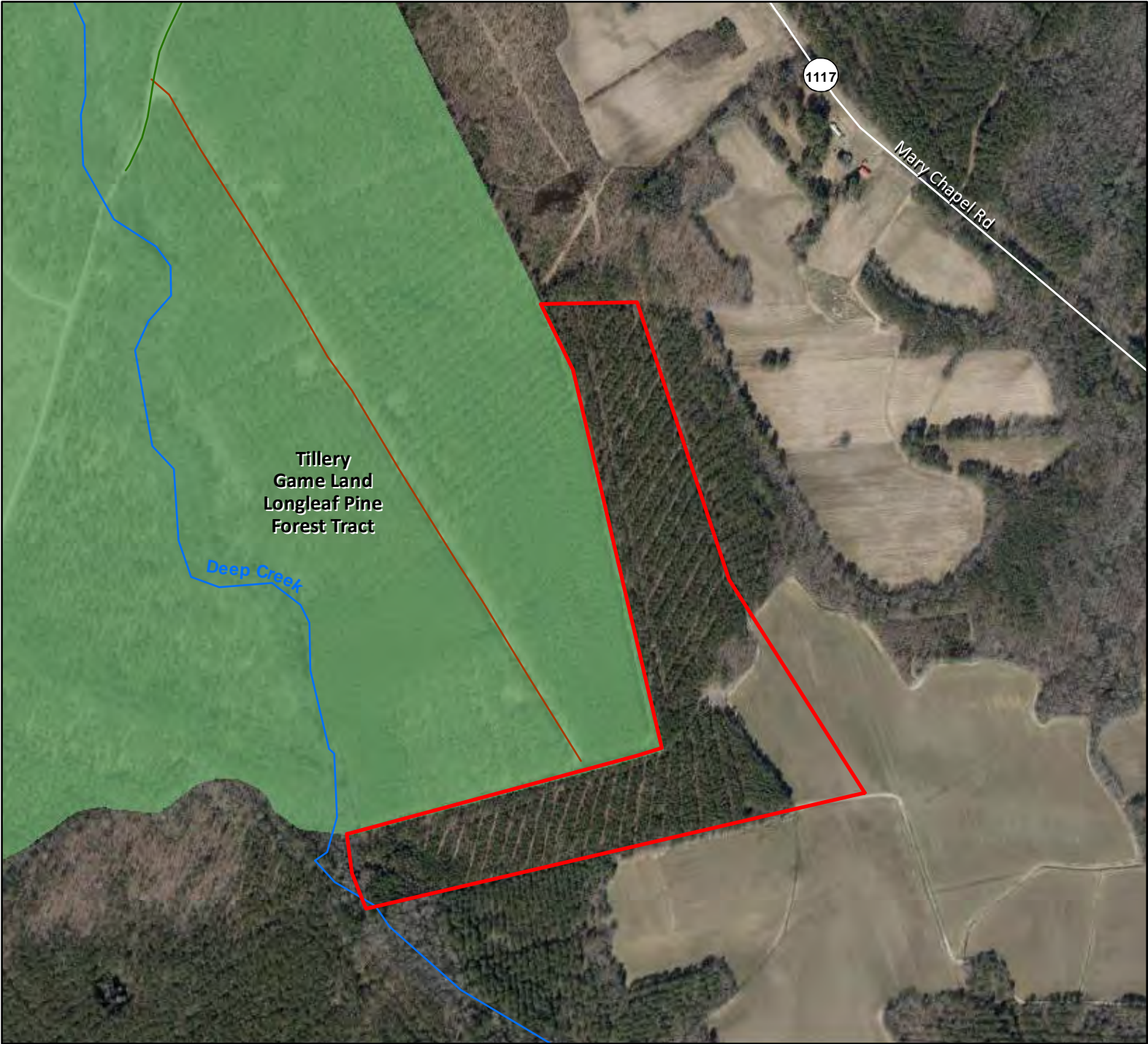
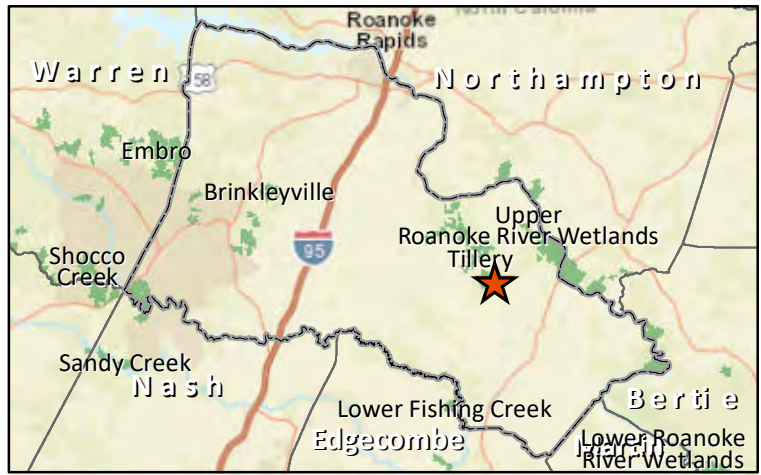
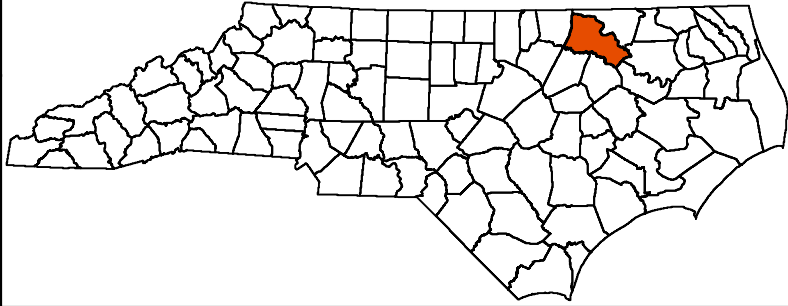






-  Hancock Tract
-  Game Land

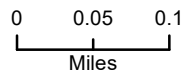




**Hancock Tract  
Halifax County  
45.63 Acres**



-  Hancock Tract
-  Disabled Sportsman Access Rd
-  Game Land
-  Hunter Vehicle Access Rd



# Exhibit E-2

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

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**Tract Name:**

Klatt Wetland

**WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date):** August 24, 2023

**Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):**

USFWS Section 6 Grant	\$183,000.00
Total	\$183,000.00

**Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale?**  Yes  No  N/A

**If Yes, Explain Details:** Mainspring Conservation Trust will provide approximately \$280,000 in bargain sale for this acquisition.

**Total Cost Based on Appraisal?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office?  Yes  No  N/A

**Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):**

75% Pittman Robertson: 25% State

**Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):**

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$23,000.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

# Exhibit E-2

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

#### Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Establish new boundary	11,419	Ft	\$1.50	\$17,000.00
Gravel Parking Area	1.0	area	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$23,000.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$0.00

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

<b>WRC Staff Contact:</b>	David Stewart
<b>Date First Presented to Commission:</b>	August, 24, 2023
<b>Tract Name:</b>	Klatt Wetland Tract - Needmore Game Land
<b>County:</b>	Macon
<b>Acreage:</b>	46
<b>Tax Value:</b>	Appraised \$516,755
<b>Property Owner/Representative:</b>	Mainspring Conservation Trust Emmie Cornell
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

**Primary Purpose:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

**Program Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

**Type of Acquisition:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

**Type of Parcel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

**Grant Potential:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation

**Owner Interest:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Tax Value:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

**Stewardship Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	State	Match:

**Funding Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bargain Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

**Recommendation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

**Additional Comments:**

Mainspring Conservation Trust was able to purchase this tract and now wishes to sell the tract to NCWRC. The tract is currently enrolled in the NCWRC Game Land Program. The tract abuts Lower Little Tennessee River Aquatic Habitat, a NCNHP natural area rated Exceptional due to the richness and importance of aquatic species and habitats. The tract has great potential for wetland restoration and will also provide excellent public access to a adjacent Needmore Game Lands tract which was previously inaccessible to the public.

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

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**County:**

Klatt Wetland Tract Needmore Game Land
Macon County

**Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):**

The Klatt Wetland Tract is a 46 acre tract located in Macon County, 5 miles North of Franklin off Highway 28. The Tract is owned by Mainspring Conservation Trust and is currently enrolled in the Game Lands Program. The tract is the largest remaining unconserved wetland on the Little Tennessee River north of Franklin. The tract is located in the heart of Mainspring’s Cowee to Nantahala Focus Area, adjacent to the Needmore Game Lands and only 1.35 miles upstream from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian’s Cowee Mound and several other conserved properties. This wetland property includes 1,830 feet of river frontage on the 22-acre wetland tract and over 24 acres of intact forested upland across Highway 28. It also shares 890 feet of boundary with a standalone Needmore Game Lands tract without public road access that has received an “exceptional” Natural Heritage Program rating due to the element occurrences in the wetland areas. In terms of the surrounding aquatic habitat, this reach has been documented to contain all of the fish and mussel species native to the river currently listed or proposed for listing by the USFWS or the State of North Carolina. Particularly notable is the proximity of spawning habitat for spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*). The riparian area has a nice buffer of mature Shingle Oak trees, frequently associated with culturally significant areas to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, along with other riparian species like Iron Wood and Silverbell trees. The federally and state threatened Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*) is thought to live in the wetland areas on the property, although it has yet to be documented. The significant value of this stretch of river to the Cherokee is evident from the multiple fish weirs, some still visible, which were constructed to target migrating redhorse. All 6 species of redhorse (*Moxostoma*) known from the Little Tennessee, including the undescribed sicklefin redhorse, have been documented from the area. The Little Tennessee River valley is one of the most archaeologically significant regions in North Carolina. The archaeological sites recorded in the valley represent settlements from all periods of Native American history, from 8000 BC onward, including several of the major Cherokee towns of the 16th to 18th centuries. Acquisition of this property is significant as part of the total management project being carried out in the mountain Eco region. NCWRC ownership of the Klatt Wetland Tract will increase conservation ownership of properties in the immediate area such as the Needmore Game Land, Nantahala National Forest, Mainspring Conservation Trust Lands, EBCI lands and various private holdings that are in conservation ownership or have conservation easements that are located in the vicinity. In a broader sense, NCWRC ownership of the tract will help ensure ecosystem integrity at the landscape level by increasing connectivity of lands in conservation ownership. Management objectives will focus on expanding on the management that is currently being implemented on Needmore Game Lands. Other objectives may include wetland restoration/enhancement projects. NCWRC ownership would ensure that critical habitat is conserved. Public recreational opportunities may include hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, bird watching, photography, and general nature study. Educational opportunities may exist as priority wildlife habitats are managed for or maintained. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, as well as various songbirds, salamanders, and small mammals. The Klatt Wetland Tract will make a great addition to Needmore Game Land.

Tract Name	<b>Klatt Wetland Tract - Needmore Game Land</b>
Date	<b>August 9, 2023</b>
Staff Completing Form	<b>David Stewart</b>

<b>Species</b>	<b>0.778</b>
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3

<b>Comments</b>
Over ten (10) listed aquatic SGCN species occur adjacent to or within close proximity to the tract in the Little Tennessee River. Several sportfish species occur adjacent to or within close proximity to the tract, these include: Smallmouthbass, Walleye, and Redbreast Sunfish

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>0.833</b>
Size	0
Quality	3
Diversity	3
Rare/Important	3
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

<b>Comments</b>
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, as is diversity. The properties provide good connectivity and buffer to the Little Tennessee River and Needmore Game Land.

<b>Public Access</b>	<b>1.000</b>
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	3

<b>Comments</b>
The property provide excellent legal access to Needmore Game Land. The Cody Tract of Needmore GL does not have legal public access without the Klatt Wetland Tract.

<b>Wildlife Uses</b>	<b>1.000</b>
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	3
Education	3

<b>Comments</b>
The property offers excellent hunting, fishing, boating, and hiking opportunity, as well as opportunity for wildlife viewing. Educational opportunities also exist.

<b>Other Values</b>	<b>0.889</b>
Timber Harvest	2
Local Economy	3
Quality of Life	3

<b>Comments</b>
Timber harvest opportunities are possible. The tracts recreational opportunities could help benefit local economies and the conservation of the tract could help the quality of life for visitors as well as locals.

<b>Feasibility &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>0.867</b>
Existing Infrastructure	1
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	3

<b>Comments</b>
Conflicts among game land users and adjoiners should be minimal. The activities that takes place on the tract will be compatible with the existing Needmore Game Land. The tract is in good proximity to users.

<b>Restoration/Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>1.000</b>
Species Restoration	3
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	3
Threat Mitigation	3

<b>Comments</b>
Restoration and habitat management potential on the tract is good. Threat mitigation is very good, the threat of development of the tract is great.

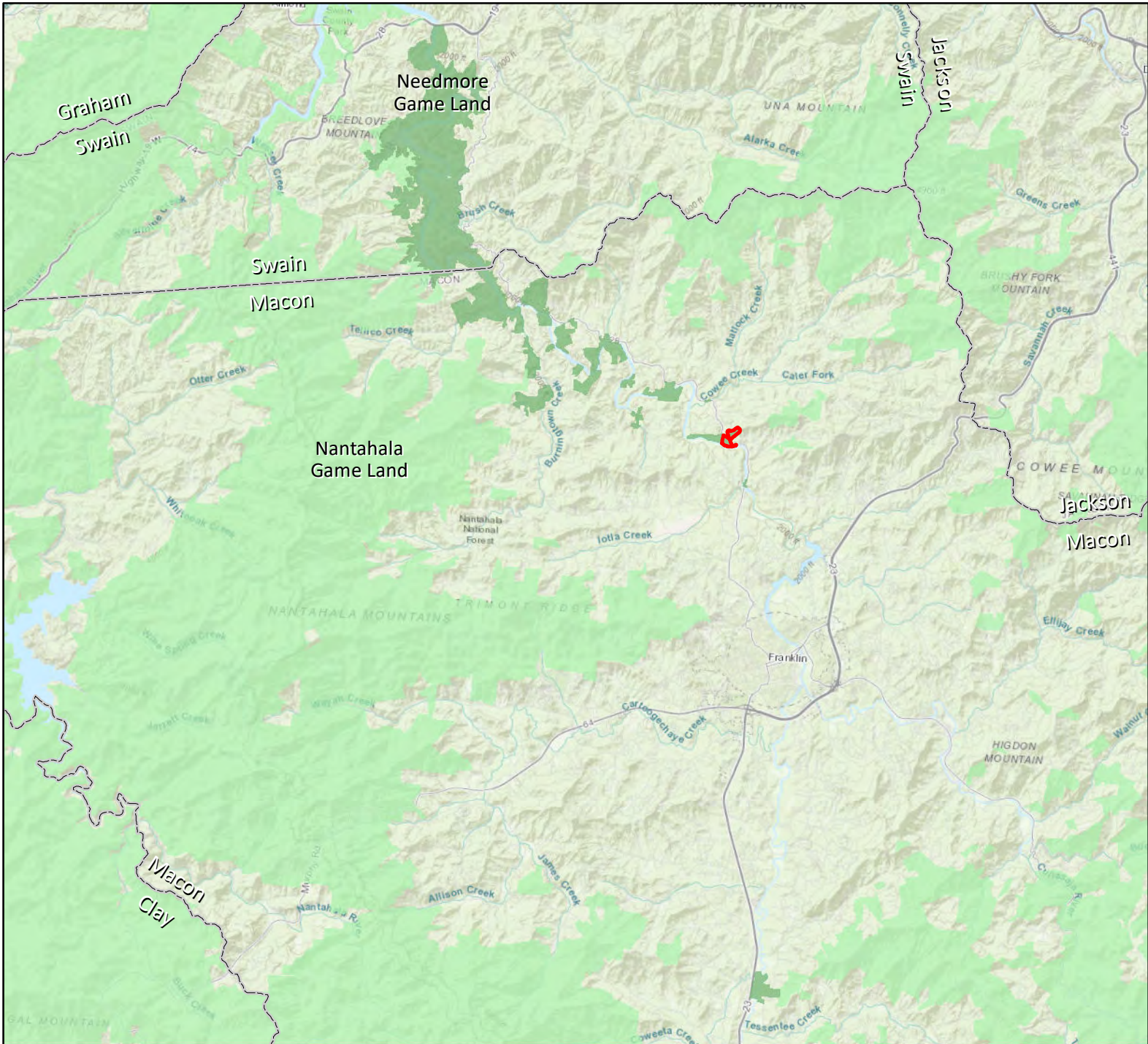
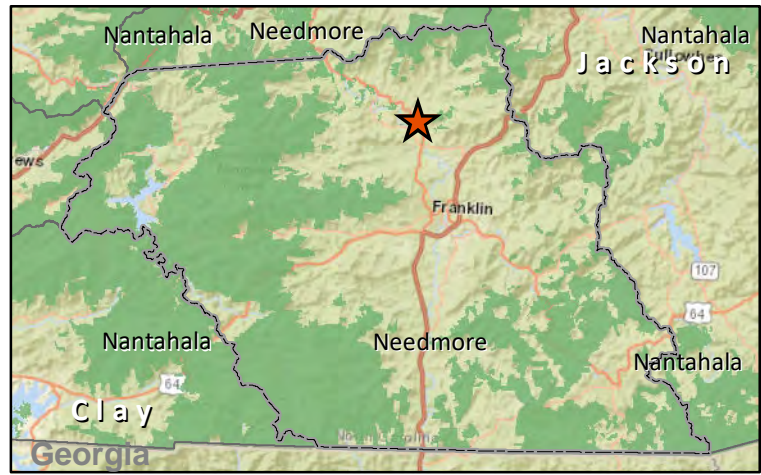
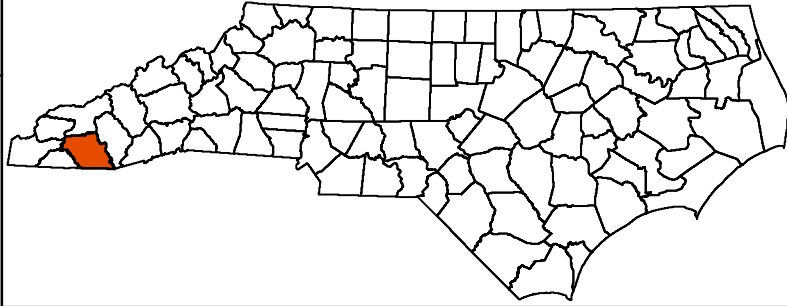
<b>Threats</b>	<b>0.600</b>
Number	3
Severity	3
Imminence	3
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

<b>Comments</b>
The biggest threat in this area is loss of habitat due to residential development. Acquisition of the property would stop that threat on this tract.

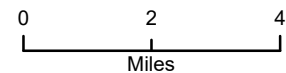
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>5.767</b>
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**Klatt Wetland Tract  
Macon County  
+/- 46 Acres**

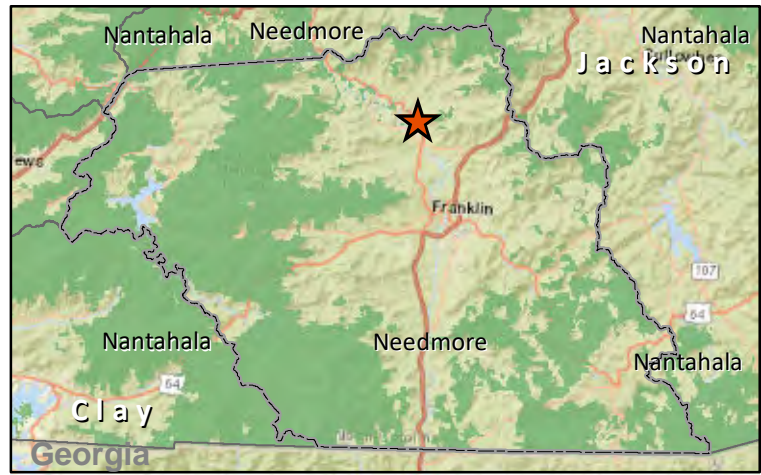
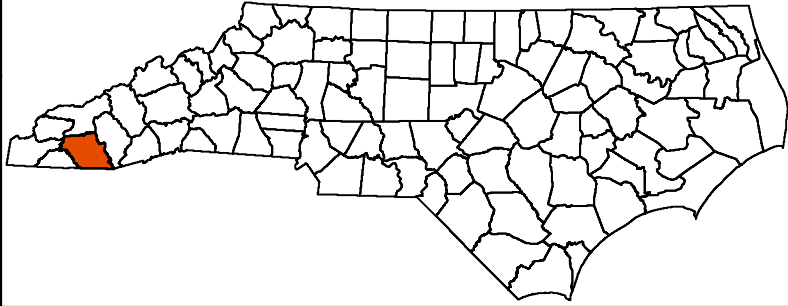




- Klatt Wetland Tracts
- Needmore Game Land

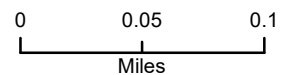




**Klatt Wetland Tract  
Macon County  
+/- 46 Acres**



-  Klatt Wetland Tracts
-  Game Land





# Exhibit E-3

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

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**Tract Name:**

Huckleberry Hill

**WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date):** April 17, 2024

**Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):**

Donation from Piedmont Land Conservancy

**Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Explain Details

**Total Cost Based on Appraisal?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office?  Yes  No  N/A

**Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):**

75% Pittman Robertson: 25% State

**Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):**

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$17,912.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

# Exhibit E-3

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

#### Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Establish new boundary	10,275	Feet	\$1.50	\$15,412
Parking Area	2	Each	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$17,912.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$0.00

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
Land Acquisition Investigation Form  
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

<b>WRC Staff Contact:</b>	Paul Thompson, Kin Hodges
<b>Date First Presented to Commission:</b>	April 17, 2024
<b>Tract Name:</b>	Huckleberry Hill LLC
<b>County:</b>	Surry
<b>Acreege:</b>	(+/-) 308
<b>Tax Value:</b>	\$744,470
<b>Property Owner/Representative:</b>	Piedmont Land Conservancy (Tesla Jefferson)
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

**Primary Purpose:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

**Program Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

**Type of Acquisition:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

**Type of Parcel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

**Grant Potential:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	LWF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

**Owner Interest:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Tax Value:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	2018	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>		PUV?

**Stewardship Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	75%	Source: PR
<input type="checkbox"/>	25%	Match: State

**Funding Considerations:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargain Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

**Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

**Recommendation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

**Additional Comments:**

The Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) has plans to purchase this tract and donate it to WRC. PLC will most likely secure the needed funds for purchase and asked WRC to provide closing costs.

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

---

<b>Tract Name:</b>	Huckleberry Hill LLC
<b>County:</b>	Surry

**Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):**

The property provides 3,250 feet of direct road frontage along Kapps Mill Rd. Approximately 2.5 miles of DH trout water currently exists along the Mitchell River immediately upstream of tract. Acquisition will secure additional angler access directly downstream and provide an additional 3,000 feet of river access. The acquisition will further protect Brook Floater and Thicklip Chub, both SGCN and found downstream from property. Hunters and other wildlife enthusiasts will benefit from direct access to 308 additional acres added to Mitchell River Game Land. Popular game species likely occurring on this tract include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and gray squirrel. A small dilapidated house will need to be removed.

Tract Name	Huckleberry Hill
Date	April 17, 2024
Staff Completing Form	Paul Thompson

<b>Species</b>	<b>0.444</b>
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2

<b>Comments</b>
Moderate biodiversity is based on the size of the property and the diversity of community types. Property has a mix of closed canopy forest types with multiple drainages.

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>0.611</b>
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	2
Buffer	2

<b>Comments</b>
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, with a diversity of habitat types. The tract will provide a buffer along the Mitchell River.

<b>Public Access</b>	<b>1.000</b>
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	3

<b>Comments</b>
The property will provide excellent public access for hunting and viewing, fishing , and canoeing.

<b>Wildlife Uses</b>	<b>0.867</b>
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	3
Education	1

<b>Comments</b>
The property provides excellent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Educational opportunities could exist on this tract. Excellent fishing access immediately downstream of existing DH water. Canoeing and kayaking opportunities exist.

<b>Other Values</b>	<b>0.556</b>
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

<b>Comments</b>
The tract can produce good timber, but size and protection of riparian areas may limit harvests. The tract will create additional opportunities and may improve the quality of life for those utilizing this area.

<b>Feasibility &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>0.533</b>
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	2
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	1
Proximity to Users	2

<b>Comments</b>
Compatibility with multiple use should not be an issue, nor compatibility with adjoining lands. Property is close in proximity to Elkin.

<b>Restoration/Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>0.500</b>
Species Restoration	1
Habitat Restoration	1
Access Improvement	3
Threat Mitigation	1

<b>Comments</b>
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species may exist. The property will provide new access to this section of game land and provide additional angling and boating access.

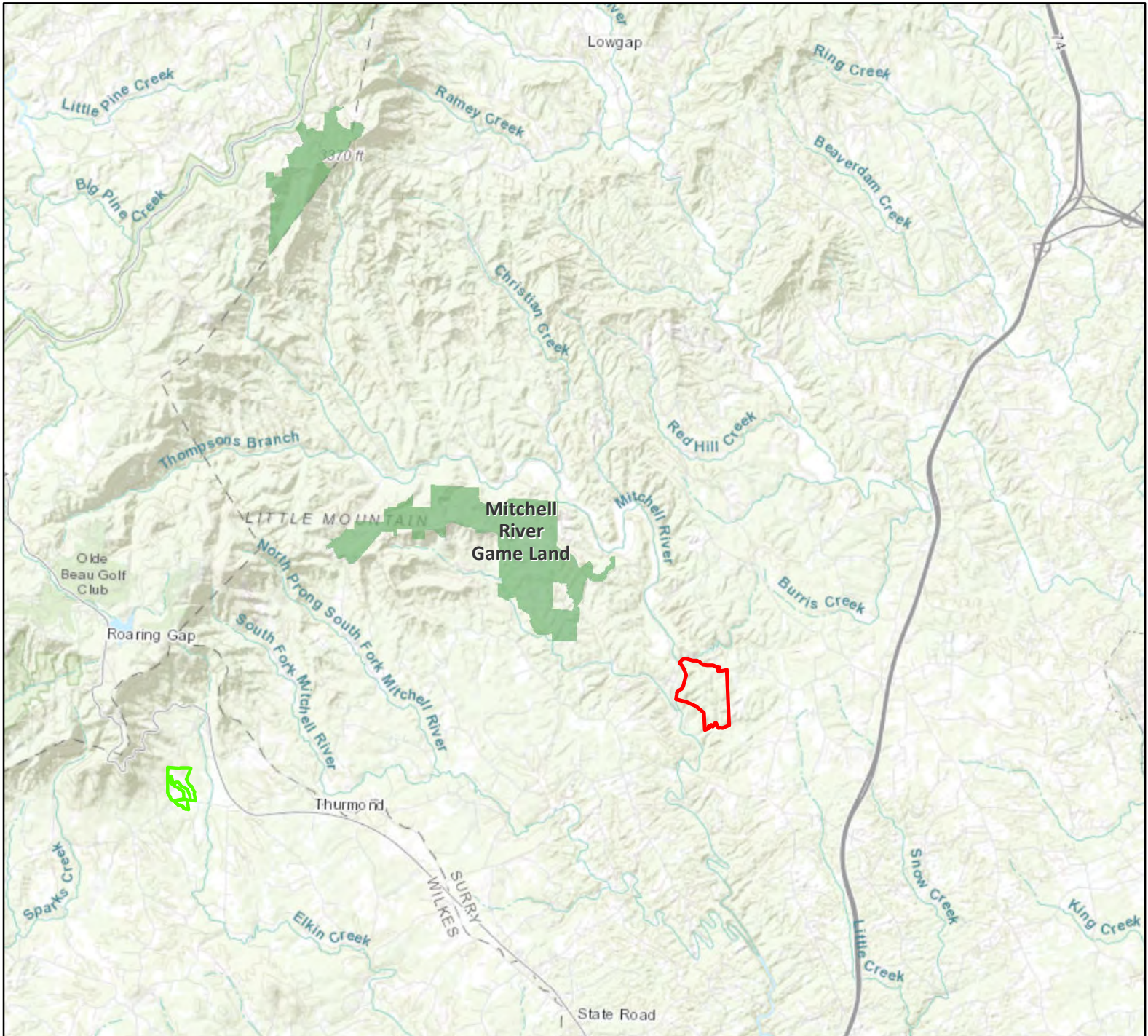
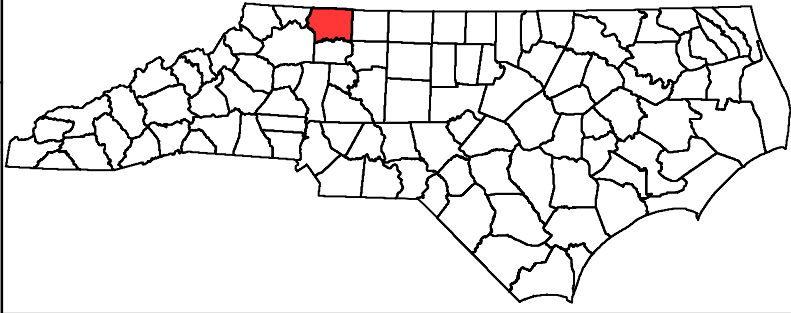
<b>Threats</b>	<b>0.067</b>
Number	1
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0



<b>Comments</b>
This will be a donation from PLC.


<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>4.444</b>
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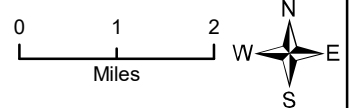


**Huckleberry Hill Tract  
+/- 306 acres  
Surry County**



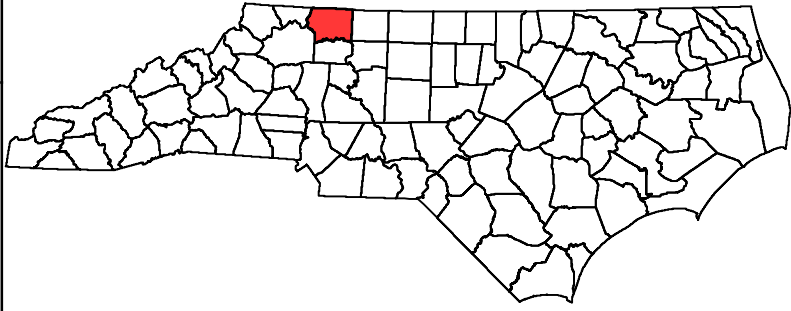
-  Huckleberry Hill Tract
-  Wood Tract ~87 ac. (separate Phase I item)



 Game Land

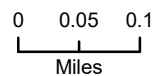




**Huckleberry Hill Tract  
+/- 306 acres  
Surry County**



-  Huckleberry Hill Tract
-  Game Land





# Exhibit E-4

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

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**Tract Name:**

Mayo Tract

**WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date):** August 24, 2023

**Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):**

Pittman-Robertson Grant	\$112,000.00
State Funds	\$8,000.00
Total	\$120,000.00

**Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Explain Details

**Total Cost Based on Appraisal?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
The State Property Office	Glenn Real Estate Group, Inc	March 8, 2024	\$112,000.00

**Appraisal Handled by State Property Office?**  Yes  No  N/A

**Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):**

75% Pittman Robertson: 25% State

**Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):**

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$6,424.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00



# Exhibit E-4

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

#### Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Establish new boundary	2.2	Mile	\$1,056.00	\$2,323.00
Boundary maintenance	1.0	Mile	\$1,056.00	\$1,056.00
Fireline Development	2.2	Mile	\$225.00	\$495.00
Prescribed burning years 1-5	85	Acre	\$30.00	\$2,550.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$6,424.00</b>

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
Land Acquisition Investigation Form  
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

<b>WRC Staff Contact:</b>	Richard Clark/Brent Wilson
<b>Date First Presented to Commission:</b>	8/24/2023
<b>Tract Name:</b>	Mayo-Goose Creek
<b>County:</b>	Beaufort
<b>Acreage:</b>	85
<b>Tax Value:</b>	\$85,627
<b>Property Owner/Representative:</b>	Alfred Mayo/Mary Waters
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

**Primary Purpose:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

**Program Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

**Type of Acquisition:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

**Type of Parcel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

**Grant Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (overwrite this cell)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (overwrite this cell)

**Owner Interest:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Tax Value:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	2022	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>		PUV?

**Stewardship Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Match:

**Funding Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

**Recommendation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

**Additional Comments:**

Tract would be added to Goose Creek Game Land tract 4.

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

---

<b>Tract Name:</b>	Mayo-Goose Creek
<b>County:</b>	Beaufort

**Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):**

The mayo tract is approximately 85 acres in size and located in Beaufort County, NC adjacent Goose Creek GL tract 4. The tract was clearcut in 2016-17 and has not been replanted lending to natural regeneration. Tract contains no infrastructure. Acquisition would move boundary closer to Tetterton Road and reduce potential residential development following Game Land Management Plan recommendations. SGCN list attached.

Tract Name	Mayo-Goose Creek
Date	April 24, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Richard Clark

<b>Species</b>	<b>0.222</b>
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

<b>Comments</b>
Will provide hunting opportunities for deer, waterfowl, turkey, quail, small game. Acquisition would also provide for SGCN preservation.

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>0.556</b>
Size	1
Quality	1
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

<b>Comments</b>
Tract has been clearcut with natural regeneration directly adjacent to Goose Creek tract 4.

<b>Public Access</b>	<b>0.222</b>
Hunting/Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0

<b>Comments</b>
Acquisition would have no major change to public access.

<b>Wildlife Uses</b>	<b>0.467</b>
Hunting	2
Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	3

<b>Comments</b>
Acquisition would expand outdoor opportunities on GCGI.

<b>Other Values</b>	<b>0.333</b>
Timber Harvest	0
Local Economy	1
Quality of Life	2

<b>Comments</b>
Timber recently harvested in 2016-17 with natural regeneration.

<b>Feasibility &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>0.867</b>
Existing Infrastructure	1
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	3

<b>Comments</b>
Limited infrastructure exists with no need of improvement/expansion. Adjoins existing GCGI tract 4.

<b>Restoration/Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>0.667</b>
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	1
Threat Mitigation	3

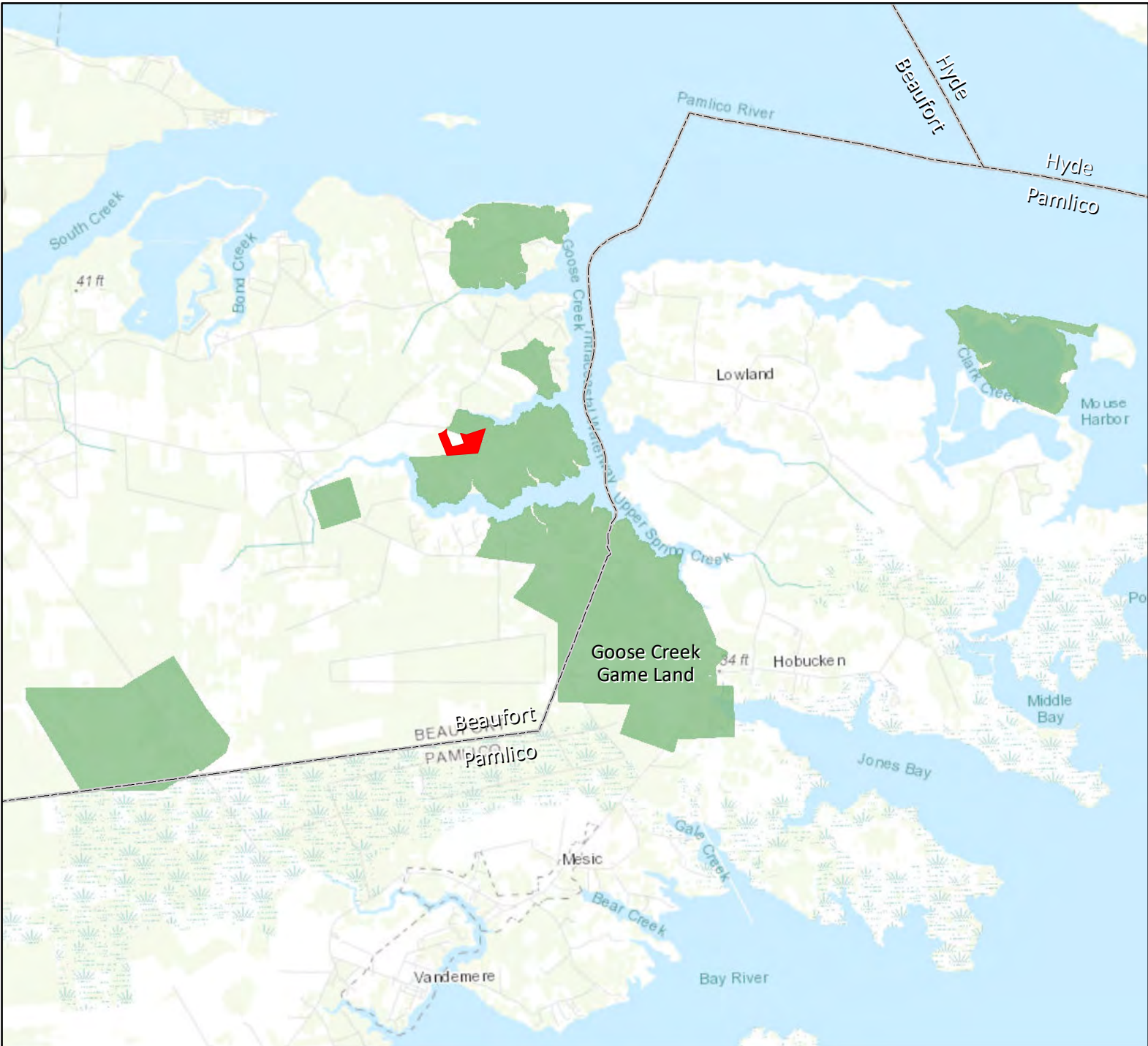
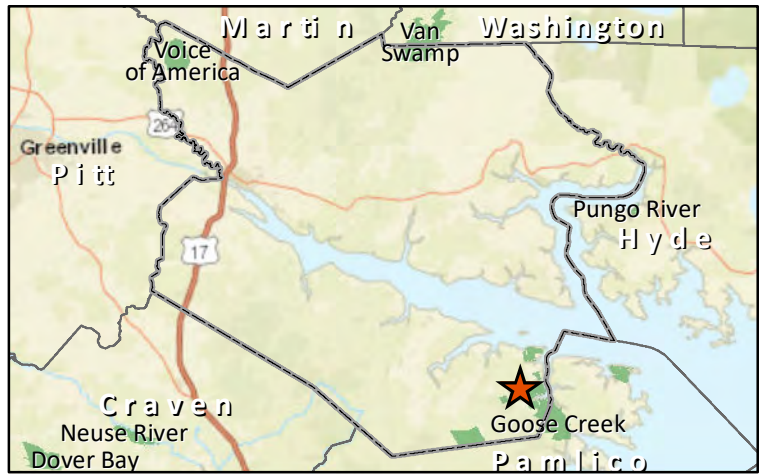
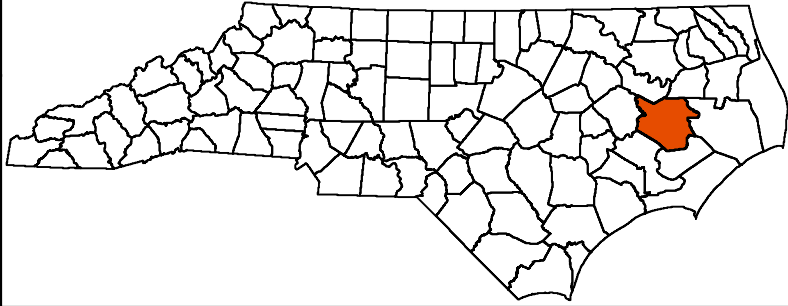
<b>Comments</b>
Would provide opportunity for habitat restoration as well as protection from residential development.

<b>Threats</b>	<b>0.800</b>
Number	3
Severity	3
Imminence	3
Manageability	2
Management Cost	1

<b>Comments</b>
Largest threats include loss to development, sea level rise, or wildfire. Reintroduction of regular prescribed burning operations will reduce losses from wildfire, while acquisition will eliminate loss to residential development.

<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>2.533</b>
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**Mayo Tract**  
**Beaufort County**  
**+/- 83 Acres**

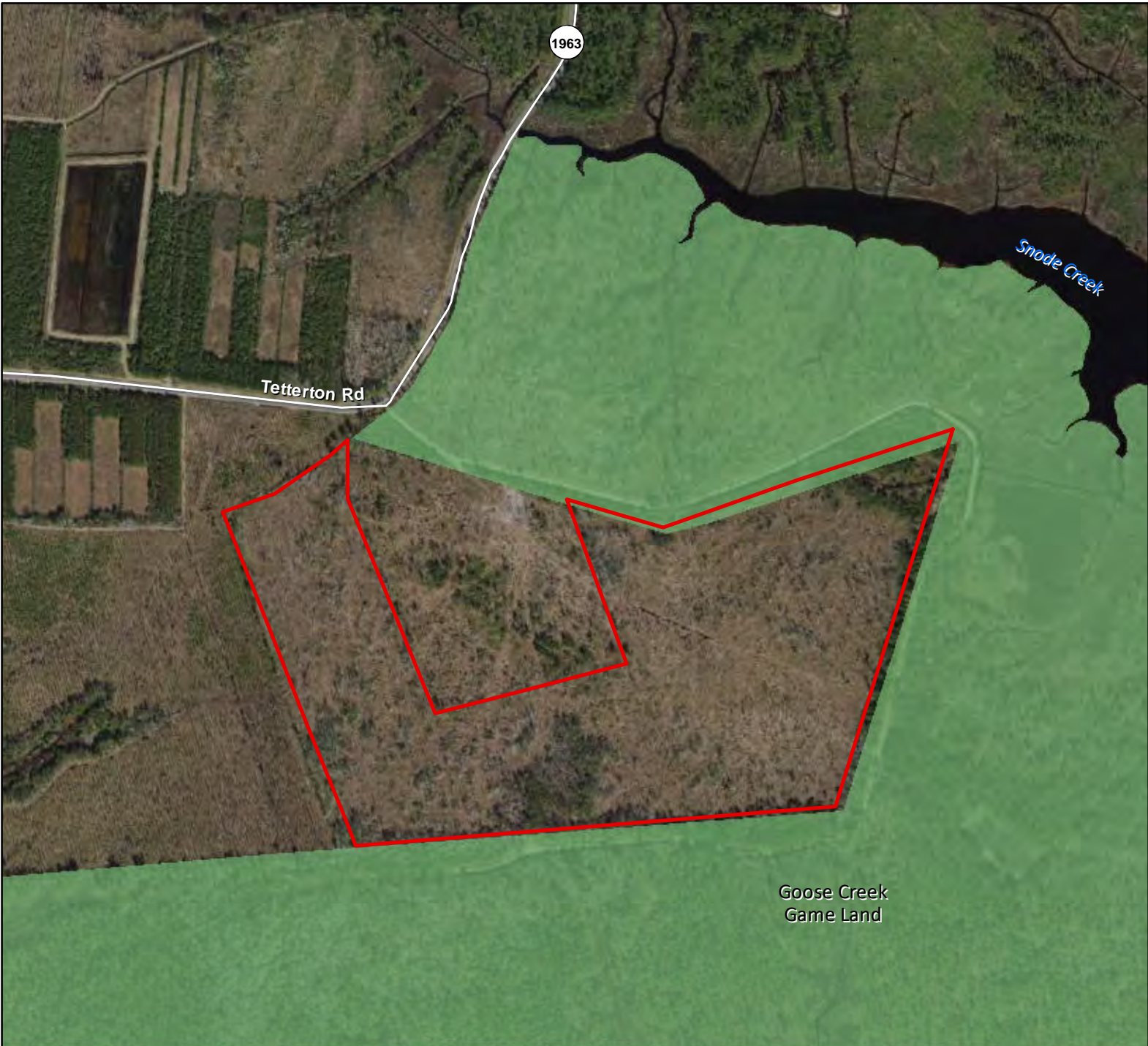
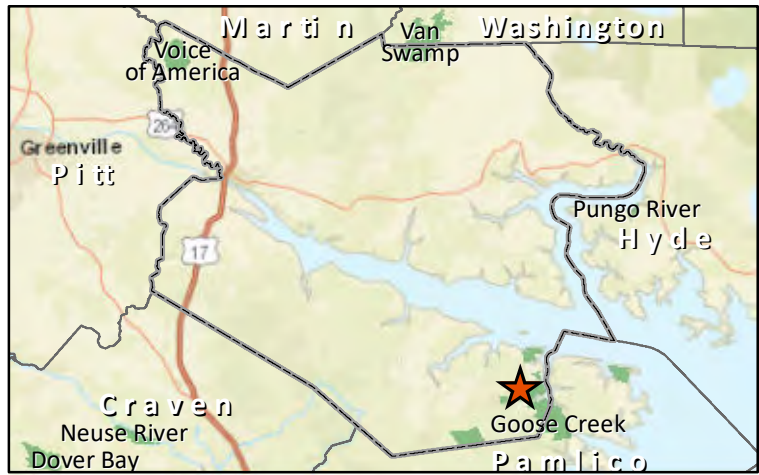
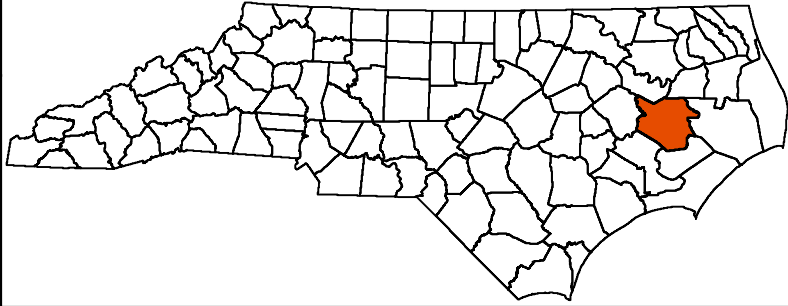




-  Mayo Tract
-  Game Land

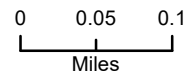




**Mayo Tract**  
**Beaufort County**  
**+/- 83 Acres**



 Mayo Tract  
 Game Land



# Exhibit E-5

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

---

**Tract Name:**

Southport White-Springs Tract

**WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date):** December 19, 2020

**Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):**

NC Land and Water Fund	\$318,000.00
NC Environmental Enhancement Grant	\$250,000.00
NAWCA Grant	\$68,054.00
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	\$636,054.00

**Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Explain Details

**Total Cost Based on Appraisal?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
The State Property Office	Glenn Real Estate Group, Inc	September 29, 2023	\$660,000.00

**Appraisal Handled by State Property Office?**  Yes  No  N/A

**Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):**

75% Pittman Robertson: 25% State

**Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):**

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$10,702.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

# Exhibit E-5

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

#### Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Establish new boundary	5.4	Mile	\$1,056.00	\$5,702.00
Parking Area Establishment	1.0	Parking Area	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$10,702.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$0.00



**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

<b>WRC Staff Contact:</b>	Kacy Cook
<b>Date First Presented to Commission:</b>	December 10, 2020
<b>Tract Name:</b>	Southport
<b>County:</b>	Brunswick County
<b>Acreage:</b>	441.65
<b>Tax Value:</b>	\$1,185,560
<b>Property Owner/Representative:</b>	Town of Soutport
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

**Primary Purpose:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

**Program Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

**Type of Acquisition:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

**Type of Parcel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

**Grant Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCLWF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Section 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAWCA

**Owner Interest:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	High
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Tax Value:**

2020	Year Assessed
NA	PUV?

**Stewardship Considerations:**

75%	Source: PR
25%	Match: State

**Funding Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

**Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

**Recommendation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

**Additional Comments:**

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

---

<b>Tract Name:</b>	Southport
<b>County:</b>	Brunswick

**Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):**

The Southport Tract is adjacent to the NCWRC Green Swamp Game Land and the 10,877 acre Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point (MOTSU). MOTSU contains a population of red-cockaded woodpecker (E, E) and is habitat for up to 90 species of amphibians and reptiles, 44 of which are state listed and/or Wildlife Action Plan priority species. Game species in this area include fox squirrel, bobcat, long-tailed weasel, deer, rabbit, wild turkey, and wood duck. This tract is an important buffer in addition to its habitat benefits. Only seven populations of Carolina gopher frog remain in NC. The Game Land and MOTSU contain isolated wetlands used for breeding by Carolina gopher frogs (T, FSC). The Southport Tract has a number of gopher frog breeding ponds and significant upland habitat. Eastern chicken turtle (SC) has also been found on the tract. The largest pond on the Southport tract was the only pond where any gopher frog egg masses were found in the last five years of surveys of all ponds in this area. As such mining, wells, solar facilities, or other hydrology altering activity on the tract could lead to the extirpation of this entire gopher frog population. Conservation would facilitate prescribed burning on adjacent Game Lands and would restore habitat. The entire tract is the southern half of the White Springs Pond Complex Natural Heritage Natural Area of the second to highest ranking. It is primarily 14 year old pocosin forest with a component of 14 year old pine flatwoods and upland longleaf pine forest. The longleaf portions of the tract can be readily restored, have been burned a number of times, and are dominated by wiregrass and other native longleaf understory plants.

Tract Name	Southport
Date	December 2, 2020
Staff Completing Form	Kacy Cook

<b>Species</b>	<b>1.000</b>
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3

<b>Comments</b>
Current habitat for gopher frog (T, FSC) and chicken turtle (SC). Future habitat for red-cockaded woodpecker (E, E) and up to 90 species of amphibians and reptiles, 44 of which are state listed and/or Wildlife Action Plan priority species.

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>0.944</b>
Size	3
Quality	3
Diversity	3
Rare/Important	3
Connectivity	2
Buffer	3

<b>Comments</b>
Tract contains the only isolated wetland pond where gopher frogs laid eggs in the last five years, of all the ponds used by this gopher frog population.

<b>Public Access</b>	<b>0.889</b>
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	2

<b>Comments</b>
This portion of Green Swamp Game Land offers the only public hunting south of Highway 17 in the county. By road the closest Game Land is 22 miles away. Proximity to urban areas will lead to high use.

<b>Wildlife Uses</b>	<b>0.933</b>
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	2
Education	3

<b>Comments</b>
Proximity to urban areas will lead to high use of these wildlife experiences. A kayak and potentially a boat launch may be a possibility.

<b>Other Values</b>	<b>0.778</b>
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	3
Quality of Life	3

<b>Comments</b>
Young timber, habitat considerations, and size of the tract may limit timber harvest. Access to hunting opportunity will be beneficial.

<b>Feasibility &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>0.867</b>
Existing Infrastructure	3
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	1
Proximity to Users	3

<b>Comments</b>
North and southern tract borders paved roads. There is a small development to the south but water and road offer fire breaks. Remaining adjoining land is not residential. The tract is near urban areas.

<b>Restoration/Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>1.000</b>
Species Restoration	3
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	3
Threat Mitigation	3

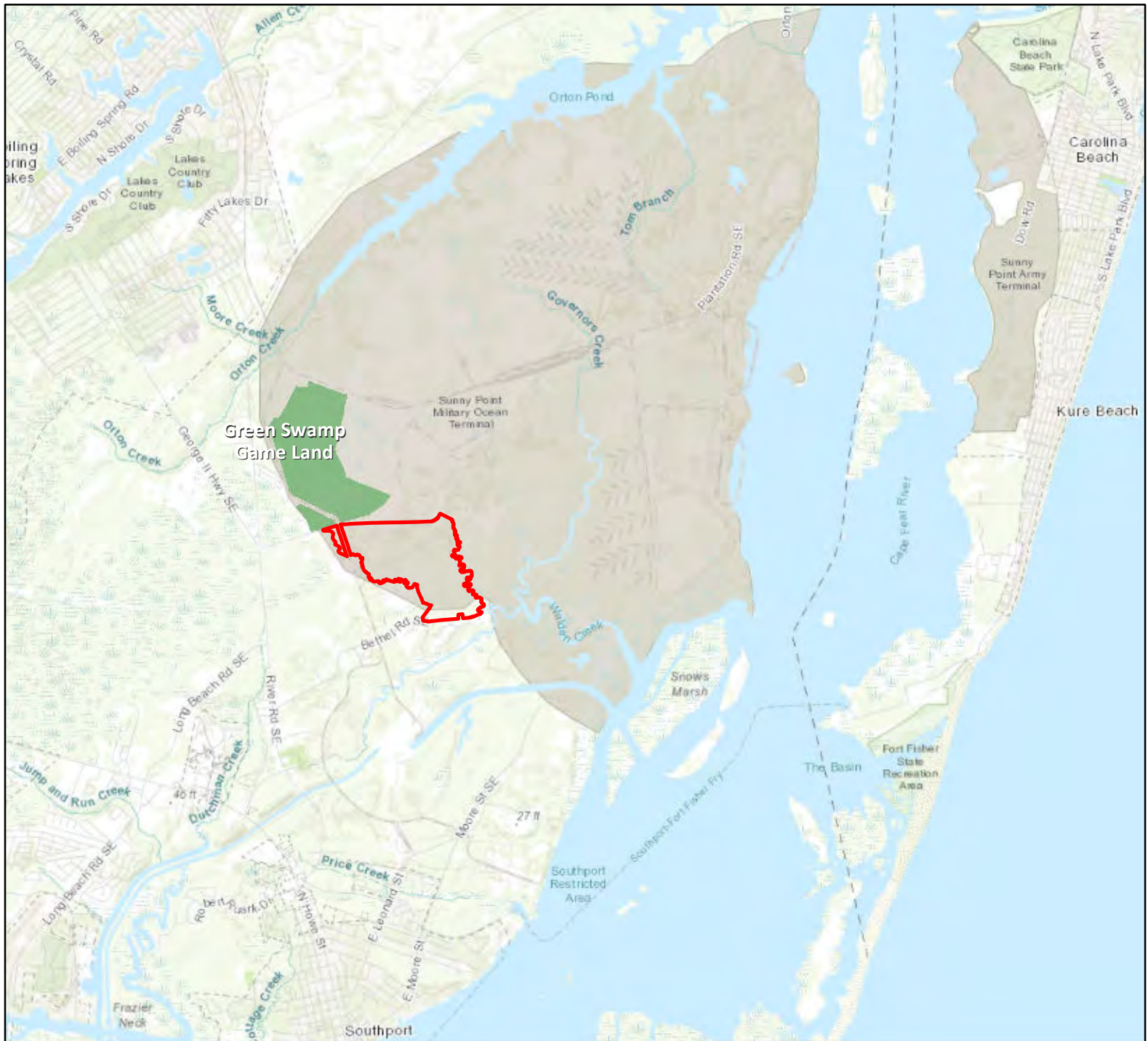
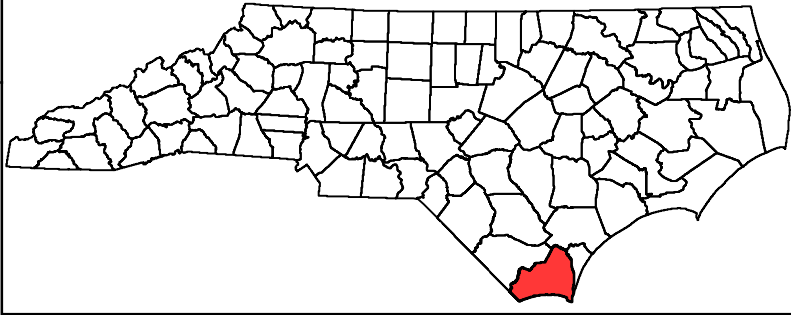
<b>Comments</b>
The tract has been burned a number of times and the longleaf has been thinned. Adjacency to Game Lands will facilitate more prescribed burning.


<b>Threats</b>	<b>0.600</b>
Number	3
Severity	3
Imminence	3
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

<b>Comments</b>
Without proper restoration and management, the gopher frog population in this area could be extirpated. The town could soon be looking to sell this tract because they recently decided they have no use for it.

<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>5.811</b>
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**Southport Tract  
Brunswick County  
424 Acres**

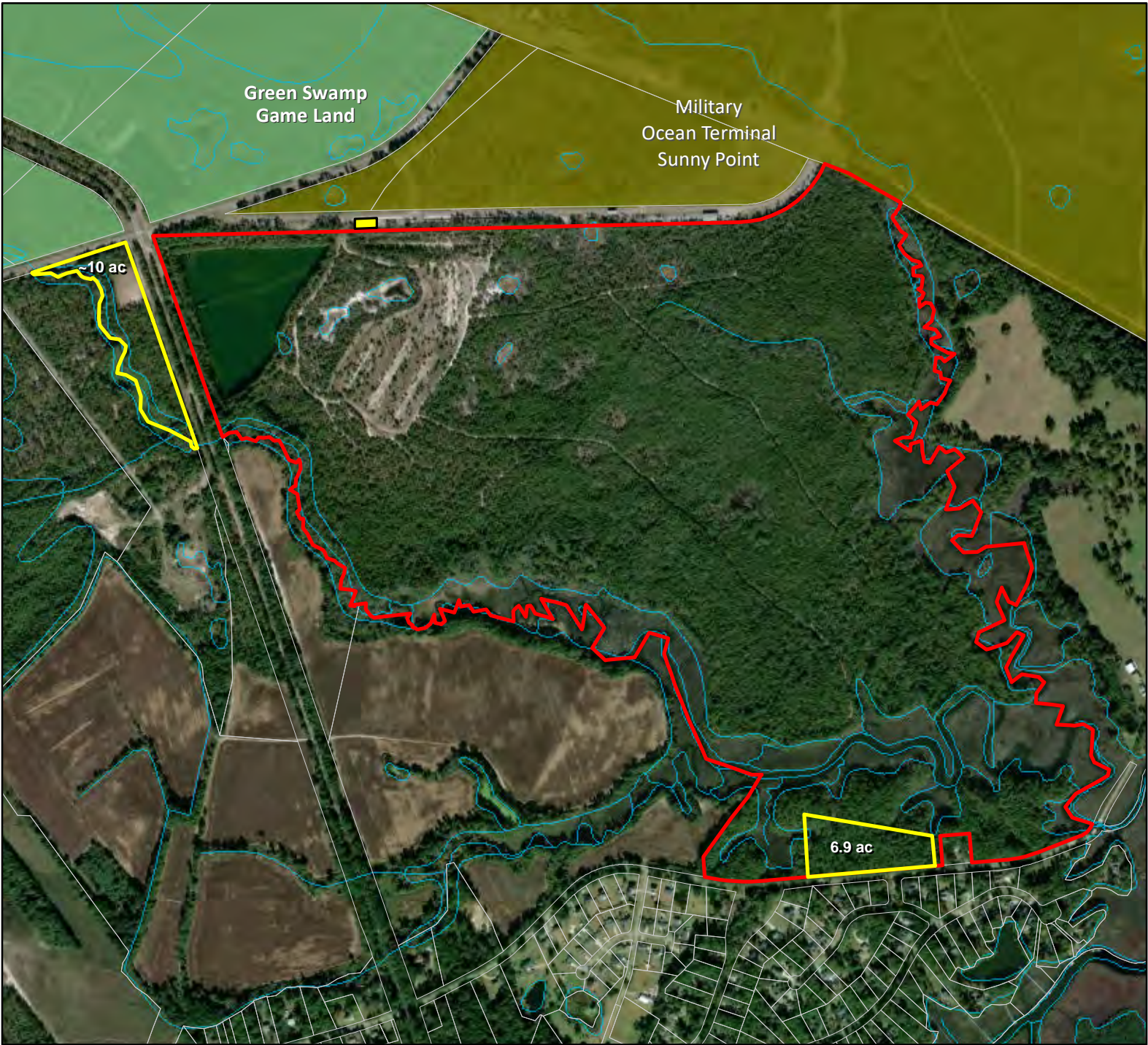
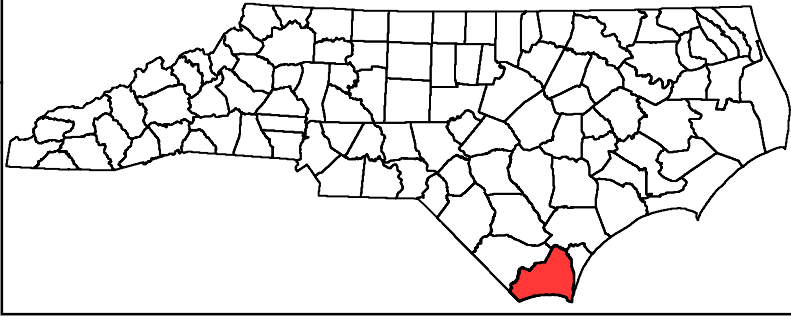




 Southport Tract



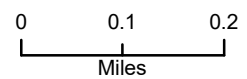


# Southport Gopher Frog Site Brunswick County +/- 424 Acres



-  Gopher Frog Site
-  Proposed Carved Out Areas

 Southport Tract Parking Area





# Exhibit E-6

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

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**Tract Name:**

Taylor Swamp

**WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date):** April 17, 2024

**Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):**

Re-allocation from Department of Environmental Quality

**Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Explain Details

**Total Cost Based on Appraisal?**  Yes  No  N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office?  Yes  No  N/A

**Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):**

75% Pittman Robertson: 25% State

**Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):**

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$607.50
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

# Exhibit E-6

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

### Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

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#### Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Establish new boundary	1.8	Mile	\$150	\$270.00
Boundary Maintenance	1..8	Mile	\$135	\$243.00
Boundary Removal	0.7	Mile	\$135	\$94.50
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$607.50</b>

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

<b>WRC Staff Contact:</b>	David Turner/Ben Solomon
<b>Date First Presented to Commission:</b>	April 17, 2024
<b>Tract Name:</b>	Taylor Swamp - Nucor Hertford Chowan River Wetland Tract
<b>County:</b>	Hertford
<b>Acreage:</b>	150.27
<b>Tax Value:</b>	
<b>Property Owner/Representative:</b>	State of NC - Department of Environmental Quality
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	

**Primary Purpose:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

**Program Potential:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

**Type of Acquisition:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

**Type of Parcel:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

**Grant Potential:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (NC EEP/NAWCA)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

**Owner Interest:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

**Tax Value:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

**Stewardship Considerations:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	State	Match:

**Funding Considerations:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargain Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

**Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

**Recommendation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

**Additional Comments:**  
This 150-acre tract is owned by the State and allocated to the Department of Environmental Quality. If accepted, the property would transfer to the NCWRC. The property shares 0.7 miles of boundary with the Collins-Cooper Tract of Chowan Swamp Game Land.

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**  
**Land Acquisition Investigation Form**  
**– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –**

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<b>Tract Name:</b>	Taylor Swamp - Nucor Hertford Chowan River Wetland Tract
<b>County:</b>	Hertford

**Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):**

The tract lies within the Colerain/Cow Island Swamp and Slopes Natural Heritage Area classified as having high ecological significance and is adjacent to the Chowan River Aquatic Habitat having very high ecological significance. The tract has a Biodiversity Relative Conservation Value of 8.5(0- low-10 high values). The tract is largely comprised of cypress-gum floodplain forests and tidal swamp forests with NC Gap Landcover data suggesting that Coastal Plain Nonriverine Wet Flat Forest are also present. The tract is part of the National Audubon Society's Chowan River Bottomlands Global Important Bird Area. The NC Division of Marine Fisheries recognizes the Chowan River as an anadromous fish spawning area and is nominated as a strategic habitat area.

Tract Name	Taylor Swamp - Nucor Hertford Chowan River Wetland Tract
Date	February 1, 2024
Staff Completing Form	David Turner

<b>Species</b>	<b>0.593</b>
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2

<b>Comments</b>
At least 24 Species of Greatest Conservation Need were identified as possibly occurring in habitats on or in the river adjacent to the tract. Included are prothonotary warbler, bald eagle, Rafinesque's big-eared bat, and greater siren. Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon may occupy the river. Bear use the site, especially in the fall feeding on swamp black gum berries. The forested habitats are important for neo-tropical migrant songbirds. Deer numbers would be extremely low due to the perennial wet nature of the swamp habitats. The shoreline is important for spawning river herring.

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>0.722</b>
Size	1
Quality	3
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

<b>Comments</b>
The tract consists of mature cypress-gum swamp and wind driven tidal wetlands. The tract is contiguous to a 84-acre tract of the Chowan Swamp Game Land.

<b>Public Access</b>	<b>0.778</b>
Hunting/Viewing	1
Fishing	3
Boating	3

<b>Comments</b>
Public access is by boat only. The two closest Boating Access Areas are Cannons Ferry, 2.3 miles to the southeast and upstream 5 miles to the Gatesville BAA.

<b>Wildlife Uses</b>	<b>0.200</b>
Hunting	1
Viewing	1
Fishing	1
Boating	0
Education	0

<b>Comments</b>
Fishing along the river regularly occurs. Some hunters will pursue squirrels and bear along the shoreline by boat.

<b>Other Values</b>	<b>0.111</b>
Timber Harvest	0
Local Economy	0
Quality of Life	1

<b>Comments</b>
The tract is considered a reallocation from the Department of Environmental Quality. As already protected land, NCWRC ownership will allow for public hunting opportunities.

<b>Feasibility &amp; Logistics</b>	<b>0.467</b>
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	0
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	1

<b>Comments</b>
There are no roads on the tract. This score is reduced by the fact that access is by boat only restricting use by some.

<b>Restoration/Mitigation Potential</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Species Restoration	0
Habitat Restoration	0
Access Improvement	0
Threat Mitigation	0

<b>Comments</b>
The mature cypress-gum swamps are providing habitat for neo-tropical migrants associated with that type of habitat. The tract supports the local black bear population.

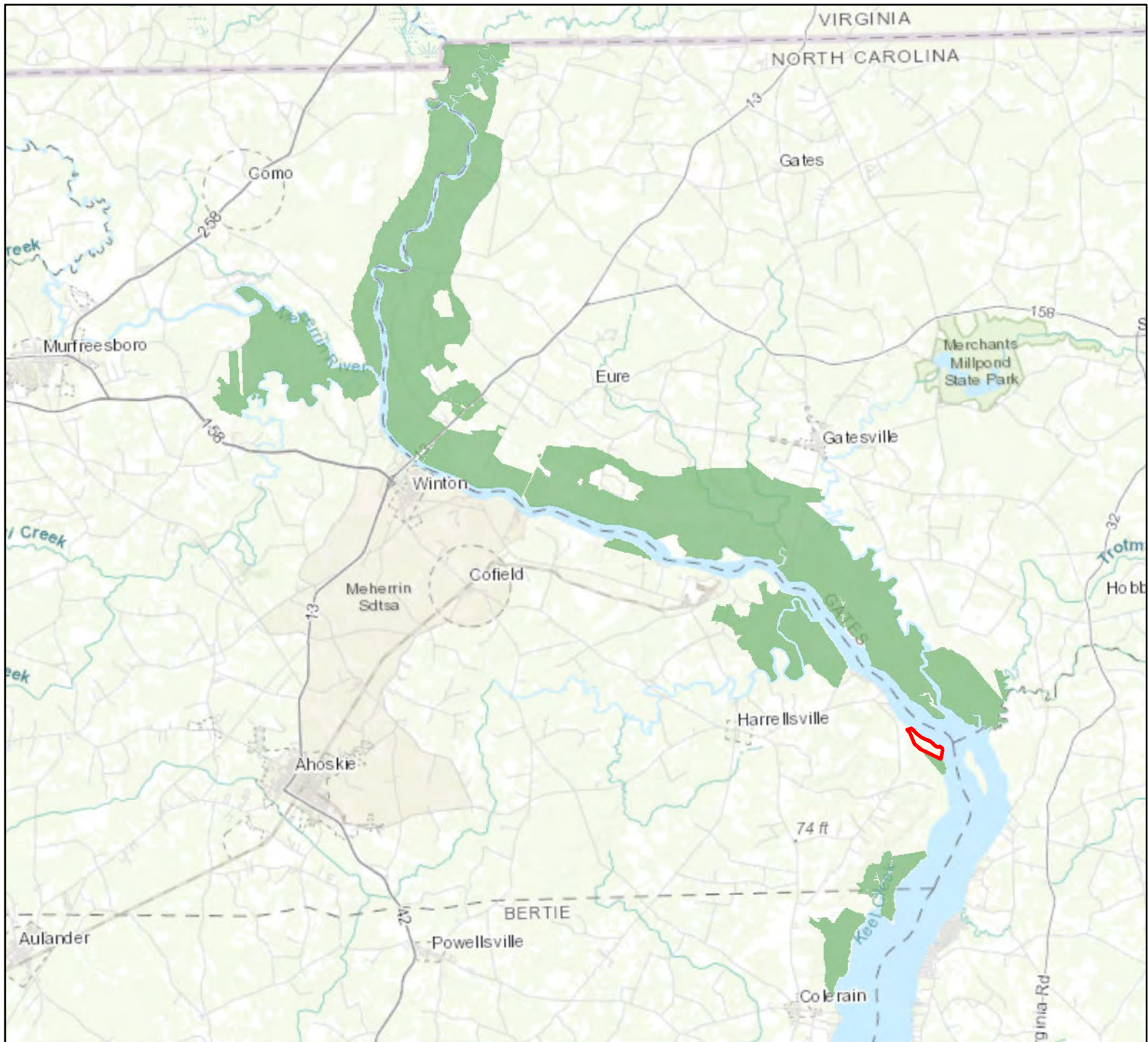
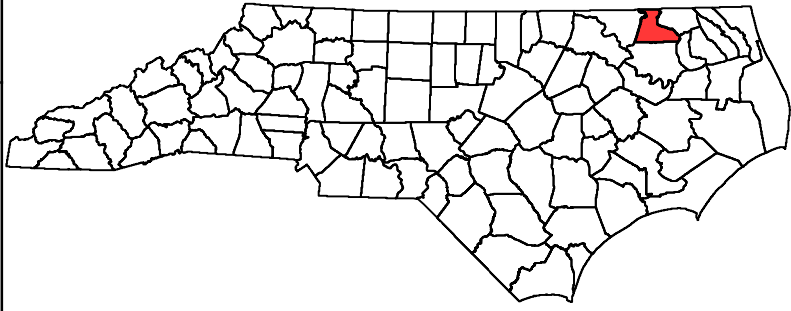
<b>Threats</b>	<b>0.000</b>
Number	0
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0



<b>Comments</b>
The tract is currently allocated to the Department of Environmental Quality. Therefore, no threats to habitat loss is noted. The threat of sea-level rise in the long term may impact the habitat type that is presently there.

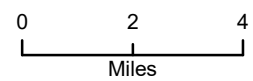
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>2.870</b>
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**Taylor Swamp Tract**  
**Hertford County**  
**+/- 150 Acres**

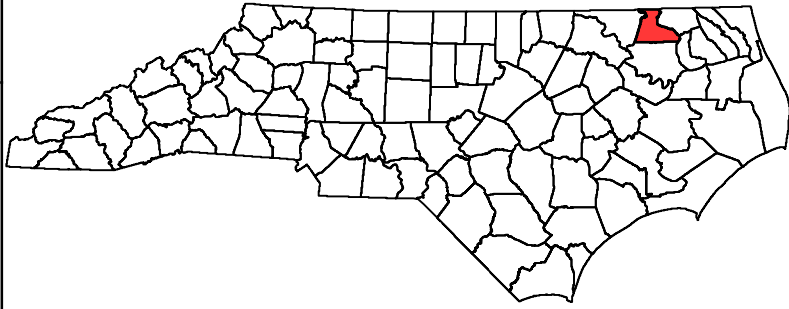




-  Taylor Swamp Tract
-  Game Land

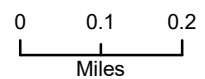




**Taylor Swamp Tract  
Hertford County  
+/- 150 Acres**



-  Taylor Swamp Tract
-  Game Land



# EXHIBIT F-1

April 18, 2024



## **Proposed** Regulations Frameworks for 2024–25 Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

### *Special September Teal Season*

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and September 30, an open season on all species of teal may be selected by the following States in areas delineated by State regulations:

*Atlantic Flyway:* Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 16 consecutive hunting days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

### *Waterfowl*

Atlantic Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:* 60 days. The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which can be female), 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). The season for scaup may be split into 2 segments, with one segment consisting of 40 consecutive days with a 1-scaup daily bag limit, and the second segment consisting of 20 consecutive days with a 2-scaup daily bag limit.

*Closures:* The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5. In States that include

mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and West Virginia may split their seasons into 3 segments. Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont may select seasons in each of 3 zones; Pennsylvania may select seasons in each of 4 zones; and New York may select seasons in each of 5 zones; and all these States may split their season in each zone into 2 segments. Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia may select seasons in each of 2 zones; and all these States may split their season in each zone into 3 segments. Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia must conduct an evaluation of the impacts of zones and splits on hunter dynamics (e.g., hunter numbers, satisfaction) and harvest during the 2021–25 seasons.

#### Scoters, Eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks

A craft under power may be used to shoot and retrieve dead or crippled sea ducks in the Sea Duck Area in the Atlantic Flyway. The Sea Duck Area includes all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York; in New Jersey, all coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80.165, 80.501, 80.502, and 80.503; in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in South Carolina and Georgia; and in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia; and provided that any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States. Sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 total sea ducks and no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders [one hen eider], and 3 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.

## Canada Geese

### Special Early Canada Goose Seasons:

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected for the Eastern Unit of Maryland. Seasons not to exceed 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York (Long Island Zone only), North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Seasons may not exceed 25 days during September 1–25 in the remainder of the Flyway. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

*Daily Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 15 Canada geese.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during any special early Canada goose season, shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

### Regular Canada Goose Seasons

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* Specific regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State. These seasons may also include white-fronted geese in an aggregate daily bag limit. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

### North Carolina

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Northeast Hunt Unit:* A 30-day season may be held between the Saturday prior to December 25 (December 21) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

### Light Geese

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.



## Brant

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* States may select a 30-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

## Swans

*General Swan Season:* In portions of the Atlantic Flyway (Delaware, North Carolina, and Virginia) and the Central Flyway (North Dakota, South Dakota [east of the Missouri River], and that portion of Montana in the Central Flyway), an open season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States that authorize the take of no more than 1 swan per permit. A second permit may be issued to hunters from unused permits remaining after the first drawing.

Each State choosing a general swan season must evaluate hunter participation, species-specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in providing measurements of harvested swans for species identification. Each State should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance with the State's program for swan harvest reporting. Each State must achieve a hunter compliance of at least 80 percent in providing species-determinant measurements of harvested swans for species identification. Each State must provide to the Service by June 30 following the swan season, a report detailing hunter participation, species specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in reporting harvest.

*Tundra Swan Season:* In lieu of a general swan hunting season, states may select a season only for tundra swans. States selecting a season only for tundra swans must obtain harvest and hunter participation data.

These general swan seasons and tundra swan seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

### In the Atlantic Flyway

- The season may be 90 days, between October 1 and January 31.
- In Delaware, no more than 347 permits may be issued.

- In North Carolina, no more than 4,721 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 532 permits may be issued.

### ***Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules***

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 31 in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Seasons may not exceed 70 days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 common moorhens and purple gallinules, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

*Zoning:* Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

### ***Rails***

*Outside Dates:* States included herein may select seasons between September 1 and January 31 on clapper, king, sora, and Virginia rails.

*Hunting Seasons:* Seasons may not exceed 70 days and may be split into 2 segments.

#### **Daily Bag Limits**

*Clapper and King Rails:* In Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, 10, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, 15, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

*Sora and Virginia Rails:* In the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways and the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, 25 rails, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. The season is closed in the remainder of the Pacific Flyway.

### ***Snipe***

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and February 28, except in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia, where the season must end no later than January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Seasons may not exceed 107 days and may be split into two segments. The daily bag limit is 8 snipe.

*Zoning:* Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

### **American Woodcock**

*Outside Dates:* States in the Eastern and Central Management Regions may select hunting seasons between September 13 and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Seasons may not exceed 45 days in the Eastern and Central Regions. The daily bag limit is 3. Seasons may be split into two segments.

*Zoning:* New Jersey may select seasons in each of two zones. The season in each zone may not exceed 36 days.

### **Doves**

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 31 in the Eastern Management Unit, and between September 1 and January 15 in the Central and Western Management Units, except as otherwise provided, States may select hunting seasons and daily bag limits as follows:

#### Eastern Management Unit

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* States may select hunting seasons in each of two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods. Regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within specific hunting zones.

### **Special Falconry Regulations**

In accordance with 50 CFR 21.29, falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State except for Hawaii. States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

*Extended Seasons:* For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be

divided into a maximum of 3 segments.

*Framework Dates:* Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10.

*Daily Bag Limits:* Falconry daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 birds, singly or in the aggregate, during extended falconry seasons, any special or experimental seasons, and regular hunting seasons in all States, including those that do not select an extended falconry season.

*Regular Seasons:* General hunting regulations, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.

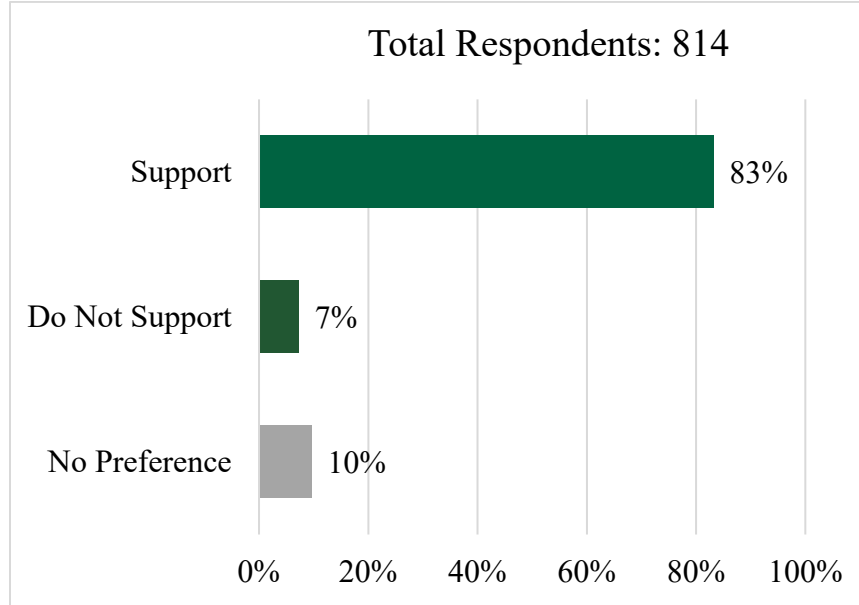
## EXHIBIT F-2

April 18, 2024

### 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

#### Dove Gun Season

(Includes Mourning Dove and White-Winged Dove)



Choices	Responses	
Support	83%	677
Do Not Support	7%	59
No Preference	10%	78
<b>Total</b>		<b>814</b>

**Frameworks:**

90 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

September 2nd – October 5th

November 9th – November 30th

December 16th – January 31st

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	53	146	137	50	78	85	35	33	21	4	35	677
Do Not Support	3	9	13	4	4	14	2	6	1	1	2	59
No Preference	8	26	15	1	9	7	4	4	1	0	3	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>814</b>



## Dove Gun Season Comments

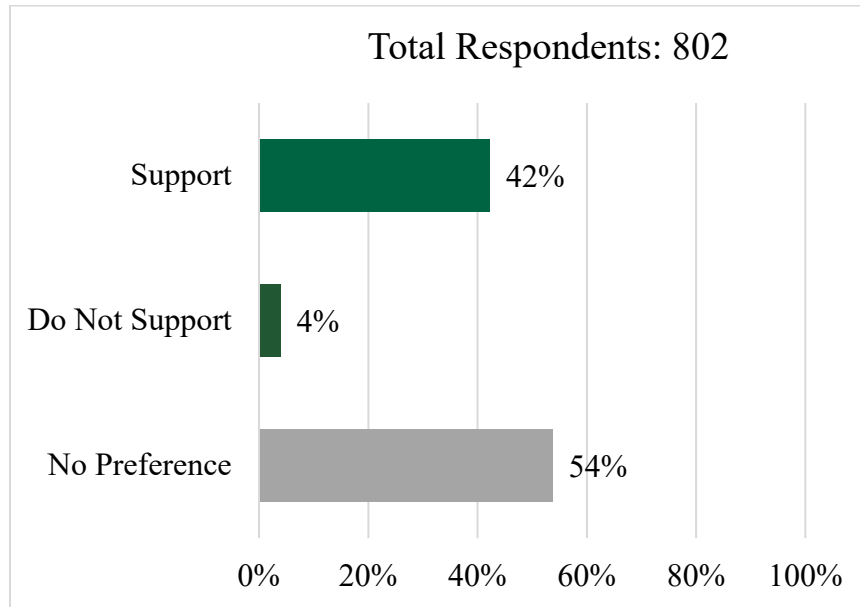
Number	Comment
1	Wish a lot of the dove season has more open dates on Texas plantation and other limited use game lands.
2	Open and let run through the end of small game season in Feb. Less confusion; most birds killed 1st week anyway.
3	No October and move those dates to December.
4	Reduce bag limit to 12 birds.
5	Neither support nor agree. Agnostic.
6	I feel in some seasons past our flight has migrated on by the first season opener in September. But it's too hot to hunt in August so it's no bother to me.
7	What is wrong with keeping it simple with one season from the first Saturday in September until January 1st? Why complicate our game seasons? Looking for more opportunities to write tickets for hunting when the season is closed?
8	NCW: Get some dove fields in the Washington/Greenville area.
9	Not sure why the season needs breakup? Just seems to put more hunters in the zone of hunting out of "season". What is the purpose of this change?
10	Reduce days in January to add days in October.
11	The 1st Dove season needs to be longer because that is when hunters will be hunting doves. Move the days from the 2nd season into the 1st season and only have the two season dates.
12	I believe dove season should open up the Saturday before Labor Day every single year even if it falls on August 31 <sup>st</sup> .
13	Would be interested in a shorter September -October season and maybe a little later into February for the purpose of killing more adults than the juveniles that are taken earlier.
14	Why can't we go for a couple weeks into February which with the 2 youth days we would still be done by March? 107 days up to march. We only get 90 done in January.
15	Sept season should go away and make Sunday's hunting days.
16	What is the point of breaking the season into three segments? There is no benefit you can argue.
17	Would rather it come in on Saturday- the later season doesn't matter to anyone.
18	Might well ban it like you do the fish.
19	I do not support any season framework that prohibits Sunday hunting. There is no scientific evidence that this reduces pressure on game animals and unnecessarily limits hunter access. Lack of access to hunting is one of the primary reasons people do not take up hunting or stop hunting.
20	I'd personally rather see an extra week into October for doves instead of the November stretch when a lot of birds are already gone.
21	Should open September 1 <sup>st</sup> .
22	Labor Day dove hunt is my single most important hunt each year. It starts on the Saturday prior. Having a hunt that only starts on Monday defeats the whole weekend. At least move it back to 9/1.
23	All of September, then Thanksgiving until January 31 <sup>st</sup> .
24	Allow Sunday Hunting.
25	No split season. It's too much to know when and if you can hunt.
26	Do away with September season and add a week to end of season.
27	There's no real change in this season from previous seasons as best I can tell.
28	Love it opening on the Saturday before Labor Day but am fine with it opening a day later than usual on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
29	Please open the season in the morning - 30 min after daylight, not afternoon only.
30	Need hunting on Sundays!
31	I guess I prefer starting on Sept 1 like every other state. I don't really hunt the later seasons, so more opportunity early is better.
32	The hours of hunting needs to be changed from 1/2 before sunrise to NOON! By the time us senior hunters are able to get up and ready to hunt, the doves have all been harvested.
33	Please consider Sunday hunting for doves and the opener to be on a Friday.
34	It would be beneficial to make the seasons longer.
35	The opening day should be allowed to come in on August 31 (Saturday) so the public can have a Saturday/Monday hunt.

36	It would be great if opener was the Saturday before Labor Day, so Labor Day can be spent with the family.
37	MOST PEOPLE ONLY HUNT OPENING SATURDAY WHICH THEY WILL LOSE THIS YEAR DUE TO IT FALLING ON AUGUST 31 <sup>ST</sup> .
38	Would prefer conversation about opening the season on August 31st this year only due to leap year date offset. Traditionally, the season has been open for the full 3 day weekend of Labor Day.
39	Should always open Saturday before Labor Day.
40	I think that the daily limit on doves should be reduced to 8 doves a day.
41	Middle and Late Seasons re not really used by many hunters.
42	Hate that the season comes in on a Monday, takes away the ability to hunt twice on a holiday weekend.
43	Labor Day, though rooted in tradition, is too darned hot to hunt. Conversely, the nicest days to hunt are in October, and that's when we close the season; suggest we start two weeks later and add that to the end of the first segment. But--no comments have any effect on the dove season, I realize that...
44	Season should start on the Saturday preceding Labor Day.
45	Is it a federal requirement for Sept 1st at the earliest? Why can't we always just open dove season on the Saturday before Labor Day, even if that Saturday is August 31st? Most people hunt that weekend and to only give folks one day on opening weekend (Labor Day weekend) really kind of stinks.
46	Love Labor Day as opening day!
47	Take the first week in November and move it to December.
48	If any changes move some of December to October dates.
49	Open it and leave it open. Closing and opening is stupid. That is just a way to catch hunters doing something wrong when they don't realize it.
50	I know that dove season always starts the first weekend in Sept. but if the Sat. before the Mon. isn't in Sept., then you can't hunt on Sat. This is the most popular weekend for hunting. Why not allow Sat. & Mon. when the calendar falls that way?
51	Traditional opening day of dove season is first Saturday in September not Labor Day.
52	With the dove population showing a steady decline for a couple decades now why do we leave the season at 90 days. I feel we should drop that back down possibly to 60-70 days. Hopefully help the population a little.
53	Need to start the first season a week or 2 later to allow more migratory birds to come- with global warming it is too hot the first week of September! Birds are more active mid-September.
54	I suggest a 2-week opening season starting as usual. A second split from October 1-October 31. Then A third split from November 15 till our available days are done. The present season is horrible for our migration patterns. I will add that I am an avid dove hunter. I have been thinking this was a needed change. Presently the last three weeks of September and the last week of January are useless.
55	Opening day needs to be a Saturday. September 7th is best.
56	I support the opening dates except for the second season, I believe it would be better to add an additional week onto the first season ending later in October, therefore starting the November season that much later or adjust the last season.
57	The season should start later and end later. Migratory trends show that the birds are not arriving until late. The early December season is weak, and the birds are continuing to arrive in February. I would like to see the season extended into February and start later in December. .
58	Open it for Sunday.
59	Would like to be able to hunt on Sunday.
60	Would rather see opening day on a Saturday.
61	I would like to see the season start on 8/31 so we could have our Saturday shoot. Starting on Monday robs us of a day.
62	Migratory birds have not made it to North Carolina until late December or early January. The season needs to be moved back by 2 to 3 weeks.
63	Opening day needs to be the Saturday before Labor Day. This upcoming season would open August 31 <sup>st</sup> .
64	Would love to see it allowed that Sunday the first or even Saturday the 31st of August. Opening weekend is a special time. It makes it hard if you have to wait until Monday with school schedules and work.
65	Since we lose that Saturday before Labor Day either open on August 31 or let us hunt on that Sunday.
66	Starting time opening day should not be before 12 noon.
67	Should start Aug 31.
68	First segment needs to be longer.
69	Dove population has decreased in my area. Maybe this will help bring the population back.

70	I support this initiative; I allows a better spread of opening weekend.
71	Recommend September 4th - October 7th for the first segment.
72	Dove season should not have 3 segments. The season should come in September 2 and the final day should be January 31.
73	I think the dates are ok, but what is the harm of starting dove hunting on Aug 31st? It's a big weekend for my family and cutting out the Saturday before Labor Day will give us less day.
74	Open on Sept. 1 which is a weekend to support more people hunting and allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
75	Nov 9 too early. should move first week or two of Nov to Dec.
76	End the 1st segment a week later and start the 2nd segment a week later. Overall adding a week to the first segment and removing a week from the second segment.
77	I support what the biologists propose.
78	Would like it to be open on Sundays.
79	It wouldn't hurt to start the season a week earlier and close it a week earlier since our black powder season generally starts the end of September.
80	I cannot use the November season at all because I am baiting deer with corn which makes it illegal to hunt the doves on my property during gun deer season. I feel that the middle season should be shortened to two weeks around thanksgiving and the remainder be added to October season. I only hunt doves in the September season before I bait corn for deer and in late January when all the corn has been eaten by the deer. I never get to use the November season or that part of the December/January season until all of the corn is gone. This season schedule has been the same my entire life, I just don't use a lot of days that are given because of this. Thanks.
81	Should start on August 31 which is Saturday before Labor Day. You need to plan your seasons around the weekend before since folks plan their days off around that weekend.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Woodcock Gun Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	42%	339
Do Not Support	4%	32
No Preference	54%	431
<b>Total</b>		<b>802</b>

**Frameworks:**

45 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 13th

Latest closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

December 11th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC-Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	29	66	65	23	41	46	13	18	14	4	20	339
Do Not Support	2	7	6	2	2	5	1	2	4	0	1	32
No Preference	31	107	87	30	47	54	27	23	5	1	19	431
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>802</b>

## Woodcock Gun Season Comments

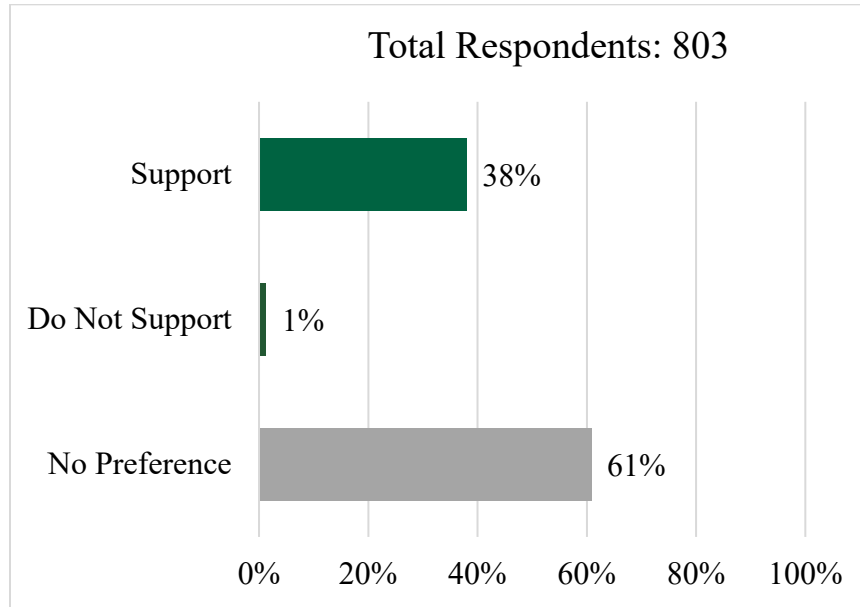
Number	Comment
1	That's a short season for a game animal that's rarely hunted in my opinion. Should at least run through February with rabbit season.
2	Move the opening date of woodcock season as late as you can to include the 45 days. The woodcock do not arrive here in most cases until later. I find more woodcock in late January and February than any other time. I find very few woodcock in December and I hunt every day of the season except Sunday's. If the latest closing date is January 31st than make that the closing date for the season covering the 45 days.
3	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
4	Needs to extend to end of Feb same as quail season and allow Sunday Hunting.
5	The later the better.
6	Why would you shorten the season?
7	I believe it's more of a cold weather type hunt and it would be better for the Hunter and the dogs.
8	I believe that most of the birds in the western Carolina region leave the area by the time the season starts.
9	Open Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
10	Would appreciate two weeks earlier.
11	While certainly not a biologist and the science may prove differently, I would consider myself one of the few serious Woodcock hunters in the state (hunting somewhere between 20-30 days of the season). I would be in support of moving the season starter up a week and closing it down a week earlier. This past season we were pointing out what I would consider pre-nesting birds the last week of the season. I say this because a week later (early Feb) in the same area, I was working my dogs and had dogs point two different nested hens (birds in almost the same places in the cover as they were the week previous). The hens already had 3-4 eggs in their nests. While that last week of January can be very productive in the Eastern part of the State, I would much rather give up successful hunts for the continued conservation of the species.
12	Was the woodcock harvest that significant to warrant this reduction of season?
13	The season starts too early. Very few birds down early in December. Plus, it isn't all that safe during deer season. On the back-end 31 Jan is too early to stop the season. Some of the best flights of birds come after the season closes. This is especially true if there is a warm winter on the east coast.
14	Should split the season. Many times, we miss the migration.
15	Should open later and close later.
16	Season should run until the end of squirrel.
17	Season should be moved into February, when most of the birds show up.
18	Please consider mountain woodcock season. Here at higher elevations the woodcock are all gone by the typical opening day in December.
19	Needs to start later and end later the woodcock and ducks arrive her later every year.
20	Needs to line up with grouse and common snipe season. I live in the mountains and generally see them in November, but no other time. Also, you can't tell the difference (from snipe) when they jump, only after you harvest one.
21	Needs to extend to end of Feb same as quail season and Allow Sunday Hunting.
22	Needs to be later. See more WC in feb than any time before then.
23	Move the opening date of woodcock season as late as you can to include the 45 days. The woodcock do not arrive here in most cases until later. I find more woodcock in late January and February than any other time. I find very few woodcock in December and I hunt every day of the season except Sunday's. If the latest closing date is January 31st than make that the closing date for the season covering the 45 days.
24	January 31 makes it tough on my bird dog! He doesn't understand why I don't shoot during quail season.
25	It is absurd to end the season on a Friday. Take a day from the early season and finish on a Saturday as we have ALWAYS done until a few years ago.
26	If the data allows it. Now with deer rifle season lasting until January 1st. Could the proposal be made to either extend the woodcock season to the end of February or push the opener to January and last until the end of February?
27	I would like to see the season start in November and run through January.
28	I would like to season run until the end of February.



29	I think Woodcock season should be the same as grouse and quail. Seeing more and more Woodcock in the woods into the month of February. And as you know, grouse and quail are getting harder and harder to find.
30	I think this one would be better in 2 segments, something between September-November in addition to something between December-January.
31	I have hunted woodcock seriously, over pointing dogs in Pender County for 14 seasons. I would like to see a split season that runs from 11/15-11/30 and 12/26-1/31. Many of our birds migrate through before the current opening date. By the end of January, we are hunting the beginning of the bird's northern migration.
32	Consider longer season.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Snipe Season



Choices	Responses	
	Support	38%
Do Not Support	1%	10
No Preference	61%	488
<b>Total</b>		<b>803</b>

**Frameworks:**

107 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: February 28<sup>th</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

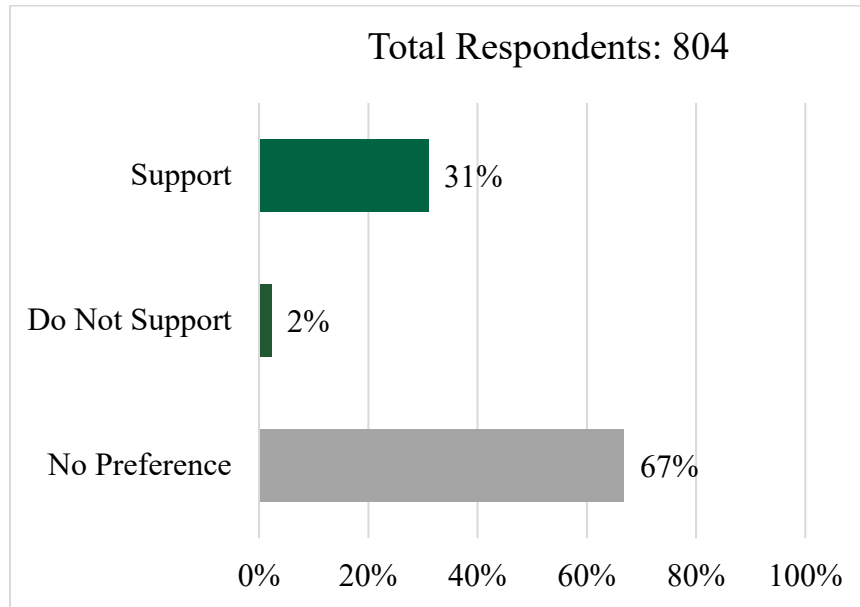
October 28th – February 28th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	34	55	54	23	33	41	13	18	12	4	18	305
Do Not Support	1	3	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	10
No Preference	27	125	101	33	55	55	27	24	11	1	22	488
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>803</b>

### Snipe Season Comments

Number	Comment
1	Keep it simple. Later is better. longer would be better.
2	I live near the Intracoastal waterway, and I feel like this species is being targeted now more than ever. Hoping for a later season to reduce the number of people targeting them.
3	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
4	Far too long. Need a much shorter season since birds don't really come to NC until late December and January.

**2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons  
Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Gun Season**



Choices	Responses	
	Support	31%
Do Not Support	2%	18
No Preference	67%	537
<b>Total</b>		<b>804</b>

**Frameworks:**

70 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

September 2nd – November 21st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	23	48	42	18	27	31	13	15	10	4	18	249
Do Not Support	2	6	4	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	18
No Preference	36	125	116	36	62	71	27	27	13	2	22	537
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>804</b>

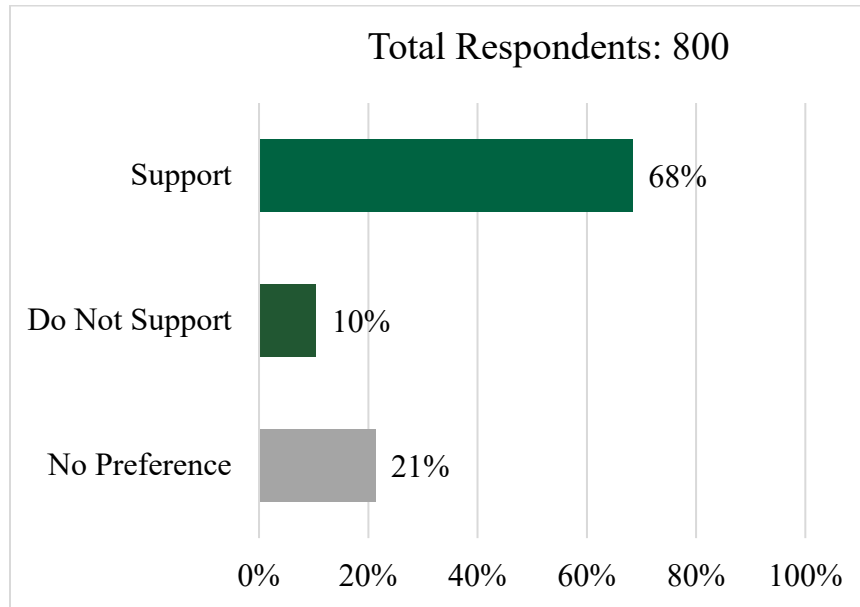
### Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Gun Season Comments

Number	Comment
1	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
2	Would like to see it open later and close later
3	Wish the season would last until the end of December. Later start date if needed
4	The seasons are good, but it would be nice to use our allowed split to offer the season for the full week of Thanksgiving
5	Should be moved back to December/January
6	I would like to see the season open longer.
7	I would like to see rail season start in September and run through December.
8	I believe these species are being over targeted in southeast North Carolina and would love to see the season be pushed back later to reduce the number of people targeting them.



## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### September Teal Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	68%	547
Do Not Support	10%	83
No Preference	21%	170
<b>Total</b>		<b>800</b>

**Frameworks:**

16 consecutive hunting days (East of US Hwy 17 only)

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: September 30<sup>th</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

September 12th – September 30th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	48	136	103	41	54	70	19	24	14	4	34	547
Do Not Support	7	25	16	4	7	6	4	8	3	1	2	83
No Preference	5	17	38	14	28	27	17	11	6	0	7	170
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>800</b>

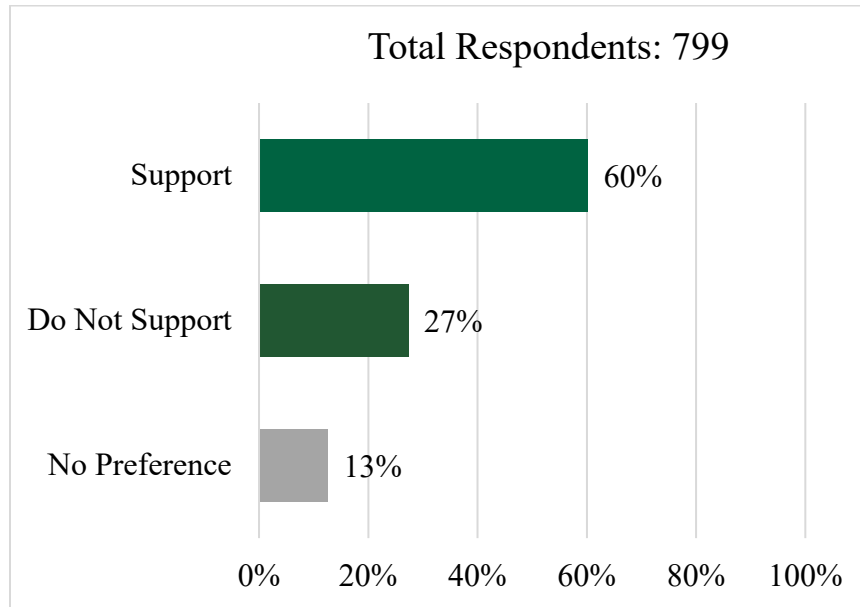
## September Teal Season Comments

Number	Comment
1	1 week is enough
2	A permit drawing system for Pamlico Point Impoundment would be crucial during teal season....way too packed in there
3	A Western Teal Season sure would be nice.....Restrict the shooting hours of Early Goose to sunset and only allow 3 shells. Then you can have both.....easy fix
4	Add 2 days due to no compensation days for no Sunday hunting for migratory waterfowl. It is not 16 consecutive days when you cannot hunt Sunday
5	Add season west of 17
6	Adequate season
7	All opening and closing dates should be on a Saturday.
8	Allow Sunday hunting
9	Because we don't shoot anything when we try to teal hunt it is too hot, we don't need this hunting day.
10	But there needs to be a option to be able to hunt teal in the western region of NC, at times there as many teal in the mountains as the coast
11	Can you open the season throughout the state, if not, why?
12	Can't complain, thanks for the dates
13	Cancel September season and extend into February
14	Change season to October 5th-23rd East of I95
15	Current season is fine as is.
16	Do not specifically hunt teal, but this seems good
17	Does not apply to me
18	During this time, over years of waterfowl hunting, I have noticed that we do not get many teal in the Craven, Pamlico, and Carteret areas. I would like to see this shifted to the earliest being October.
19	Early teal season in the western part of the state. Although we are well away from the main flyway areas over the past several years, we have seen a good number of teal on our mountain and piedmont lakes and rivers during the September goose season. An early teal season would give western NC hunters a chance to harvest some teal before they continue south. We rarely see teal during the regular duck seasons due to them normally being thru our area august-september.
20	Early teal should be statewide.
21	Early October suits this season better.
22	Expand to allow hunting east of 95
23	get rid of early teal season and add a week to the end of duck season
24	Have teal open a week earlier on the 5th and end sooner than the 30th. Bulk of teal numbers i see pass through in late august and early September
25	I believe it should be the whole month of September
26	I believe the season should move to the last week of september into the first week of October
27	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
28	I don't understand why you can only hunt teal East of Hwy 17. Unless there is a very good reason for this it should be East of Hwy 95. I recommend that this change be made because everyone does not own a boat.
29	I have seen teal down here in October could the season be a little longer
30	I live west of Hwy 17 and there are opportunities to hunt teal that we miss out on by the time season opens in October.
31	I think it should begin 09-01 and be statewide.
32	I think this needs to begin on Sept 1st to give the hunters that only have weekends to hunt more than 2 opportunities to go. Or open hunting on Sundays.
33	I think this season is too long. We are not in a teal area
34	I usually do not hunt during this season.
35	I would like to see the area opened to everything east of 95.
36	I would love to see the boundary spread west as far as the Interstate 95 corridor.
37	I'd like to see it west of 17 as well
38	Include further west game zones. There is no longitudinal restrictions in bordering states.

39	It should begin the first week of september with Dove.
40	Later, if possible, the birds arrive in Nov and Dec
41	Make a boundary for along Dan River see bunch of teal during teal season but can't hunt em
42	Need Sunday Hunting!
43	Needs to be later. Not enough Teal arrive during that time frame in Eastern NC
44	Needs to be pushed back later than september due to weather still being warm. Weather needs to start being a bit colder before the birds really start showing up
45	Never hunted them
46	No need for september season
47	No significant Teal numbers in September, move to October
48	open Friday sept 6th or keep it Sept 1, but if you change it open it up on the first weekend in Sept
49	Open it statewide.
50	Open teal season early in western NC too.
51	Open teal season statewide.
52	Please consider east of I-95.
53	Please elect to have Sunday hunting for Ducks.
54	Pointless season.
55	Prefer opening Sep 1.
56	Really don't see teal around my area this early and other hunter who do participate are shooting unauthorized ducks out of season without repercussions
57	Same response mostly. Very few ducks in public access areas in September in my region. However, I have no objection to separate "teal" only season for those it would benefit
58	See General Duck Season comment. Western NC sees bluewing teal in Sept and early Oct. Please give us an opportunity to hunt these birds.
59	September 7- September 30
60	Should be all east of I95
61	Start at September 1st would be nice
62	Start September 7th
63	Suggest the opening dates be moved back to October.
64	Sundays need to be open for hunting.
65	Support but would like to see the addition of wood duck hunting in September like they have in Kentucky and Tennessee. Teal migration is so weak in the Atlantic flyway, especially in September, that it would be good to have another option- even if only for a few days.
66	Take a week off of teal and add it to the general duck season.
67	Teal season could be done away with for all I'm concerned. Way to hot and if there's any birds, they are not plumaged.
68	Teal season should be open for inland counties west of highway 17. There are teal inland to be hunted and presents a fair opportunity for them to be harvested for people in this area.
69	Teal season statewide needs to be considered
70	Teal seemed plentiful this year in my area. Good to see.
71	The full month is better.
72	There are very limited teal east of 17 in September.
73	Think you could add those days to the end of our season
74	This season is pointless for the majority of NC duck hunters. You are catering to hunters with means way above the average hunter
75	Too early.
76	Too early. Lots of hunters kill to many ducks in this early opener and other duck speculate shot as well. Do away with this early split to help populations.
77	Too hot during these dates
78	too many season days given to this
79	Very few people hunted how many actually are hunting early season two
80	We need Sunday waterfowl hunting, plenty of other states do it. It would allow me to travel the state to hunt for a weekend rather take time off work
81	We should be able to hunt anywhere
82	West of 17 needs an early wood duck season

83	The whole month of Sept. Not a lot of birds hunted anyway.
84	Why can't they open on a Saturday.
85	Why can't the western counties have an early teal season?
86	Why can't we expand west of Hwy 17?
87	Why no teal season inland?
88	Why only east of Hwy 17? Needs to be statewide.
89	Why only east of US 17? Why not for the entire state?
90	Why start it the 12th. Why not the first day of September unless it is on a Sunday.
91	Wish it was statewide for early teal season.
92	would like teal season in WNC. we see teal during this time, WHY CAN'T WE HAVE IT HERE IN WNC?
93	Would like to be able to hunt on Sundays.
94	Would like to be able to hunt waterfowl on Sundays.
95	Would like to see Wood Ducks incorporated into this season for Western Carolina Region.
96	Yes, I would say as late in September as possible.
97	You could shift the entire segment one week later. Length of segment is good.

**2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons  
General Duck Gun Season – Coastal Zone**



Choices	Responses	
Support	60%	481
Do Not Support	27%	218
No Preference	13%	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>799</b>

**Frameworks:**

60 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 21st

Latest closing date: January 31st

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

October 25th – October 26th

November 9th – November 30th

December 18th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	39	104	101	36	47	59	26	25	19	2	23	481
Do Not Support	20	68	43	14	26	23	3	6	0	3	12	218
No Preference	3	9	11	5	14	22	12	13	6	0	5	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>799</b>

## General Duck Gun Season – Coastal Zone Comments

Number	Comment
1	(November 23rd - December 24th) (December 26th - January 31st).
2	1 solid season, Saturday before Thanksgiving until January 31 <sup>st</sup> .
3	1. I wish the first season would be the weekend before the 2nd season opener. 2. Have the second season start on 11/8 instead of 11/9. 3. Have the third season start on 12/19 instead of 12/18.
4	3 weeks between 2nd and 3rd is too long.
5	A few years ago, when it started earlier in October, I found that everyone around McDowell had a lot more success as it's been getting cold mid-October.
6	Add 2 October dates to December and only have 2 splits or have the 2 days be a Friday and Saturday between splits.
7	Again, start the 2nd season a week later than proposed and add those days onto the start of the 3rd season.
8	Again, do not end the season on a weekday. That is absurd.
9	Allow hunting on Sundays.
10	allow Sunday hunting.
11	Allow Sunday Hunting.
12	Back up all dates 2 weeks. Ducks are here mainly between mid-November and December.
13	Been waterfowl hunting here since 1999 and the migration has consistently gotten worse every year. Get rid of the October and November seasons. Run the season from middle of December to middle of February. We don't get decent numbers of birds till around Christmas anyway. Early season is a joke.
14	Bring the October season back to the beginning of the month like in past years.
15	Cancel the October season and extend the Season into February.
16	Change season Nov 16th- 30th. Dec 9th-Jan 31st Only 2 splits of teal season is changed to October and can hunt east of 95.
17	Climate has changed along with the migration. The last split should begin December 22 and go into February. Eliminate the first season add those 2 days to the last segment.
18	Close some of the gaps in the late season due to accessibility due to weather, work, travel to hunt.
19	Do 2 segments.
20	Do away with October dates and add to the end of the season.
21	Do away with the 1st season and include the days in the last season because that is when our ducks arrive in North Carolina.
22	Do away with the First Season (Oct 25-Oct 26). Add extra days into the last season into the month of February.
23	Do away with the November split and bring in the season Dec 1 until January 31
24	Do away with the October season. Add to the November season.
25	Do not support split season ducks were here in late November and December and have been always. There were no ducks here in January. They are changing their migration pattern and are not coming there are fewer ducks coming to North Carolina each year. The wood duck hunting is the only thing keeping the duck hunters going in the swamp. I hope it changes the split season doesn't offer good hunting for people who own impoundments and have their impoundments just sitting there for two weeks while we're waiting for ducks to come in January, which are no longer coming.
26	Does not apply to me.
27	Don't agree with 2nd split opening on a weekday. This is unfair to the typical working class in my opinion. No other concerns other than that.
28	Don't have the Oct season. Just add it to the Dec dates.
29	Don't like the October split. Wish we had more days in December.
30	Duck season needs to be shifted to end in February. The weather patterns these days seem to bring the birds down late in January. I propose Jan 1 to Feb 15 for the last run.



31	Duck season should be extended into February still retain our 60-day season but maybe start a week late or two.
32	Due away with October season and add to last season.
33	Due to climate changes which are ever changing, I believe we should extend the duck season two weeks into February. This will give hunters a chance for colder weather and possibly more access to migrating birds.
34	Early season (October) should be 3 days length minimum. It used to be 4 days.
35	Early season dates too late. 2nd split shouldn't start until late November and run through January 31.
36	Eliminate October hunting days and fold into December.
37	Eliminate some of the early season days and move the season back to February.
38	Eliminate the Oct dates and add those dates to the end of the proposed November season.
39	Eliminate the October early season, and add a day to last season, so there is one more Saturday in the late season.
40	Eliminate the October season and add the days into the November or December season.
41	Eliminate the two days in October and add more days in December.
42	Extend late season farther into February.
43	Far too many days and too long.
44	First opener is too warm, would prefer the first days (October) added on to the December/January split.
45	The first segment should be at least 3 days, one of which being a Saturday. Thanks.
46	The first split at the beginning of October seemed more productive.
47	Get rid of early season and add a week in February.
48	Get rid of November season and extended last split into February, most birds that are not local birds do not show up till late January anyways. Getting rid of the November split will take away a lot of pressure on birds for better hunting in the other splits.
49	Get rid of October season.
50	Get rid of the 2-day October split. Friday is hard for a majority of waterfowlers to use. Plug the 2 days onto the end of the November split. Also, remove the no hunting on Sunday. Individuals that work 5 days a week only have 1 day to hunt on the weekend.
51	Get rid of the early season, add to late season.
52	Get rid of the November season.
53	Get rid of the Oct season and don't open general until thanksgiving. Extend season into February. Extend split in Dec and Jan making for a shorter season overall.
54	Get rid of the October and November seasons and open on November 30th till February 15th for in state residents, out of state hunters may only hunt till January 31st.
55	Get rid of the October dates or November and put them in December.
56	Get rid of the October season.
57	Git rid of early season and extend late season. Less mid-season dates.
58	Have one continuous season. Start the season as late as possible to still get 60 days and end on January 31st.
59	I agree with having separate weekends for the inland and coastal zones.
60	I agree with the General dates, however I do prefer to have the season begin and end on Saturday if possible.
61	I believe that the early season should be 10-03 thru 10-05.
62	I believe the Coastal and Inland Duck zones should overlap to keep pressure off ducks and provide better opportunities during the next split. Hunters from across the state are hunting both zones as they have different dates and are putting too much pressure on calendar migrators. By moving the coastal zone October season back to align with the same dates as the inland zone it would allow for better hunting at the November opener as ducks would have been rested longer.
63	I believe the October season is not necessary and I believe November season should be eliminated or shortened. If that were the case, give us 2 weeks extra on the 3rd split. Even if that means season comes in later in December.
64	I believe the October season should be pushed earlier allowing October full moon migrators to arrive and hold longer till opening day in November.

65	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting. I also do not believe that the two-zone structure meets the stated goal of increasing hunting opportunities as there is not a significant variance in the dates and the days in October are less than ideal. Typically, October is too early for our seasons as, based on my experience, we have not received any migrating birds yet. It is typically very warm, and we are primarily hunting local birds and maybe a few remaining teal in the coastal regions. The framework must include Sunday hunting. There is no evidence that supports the belief that hunting 7 days a week places more pressure on game birds than hunting 6 days a week. Research being done by Dr Bradley Cohen at Tennessee Tech University using GPS telemetry supports this. The Sunday hunting prohibition is based on religious purpose and the study commission by the WRC several years ago showed there was support for Sunday hunting in North Carolina. Most hunters are only able to hunt on weekends so prohibiting Sunday hunting reduces their opportunity to hunt. I would propose the following season dates: November 16 - December 1 and December 19 - January 31. This season structure provides a similar calendar length for the final season segment as the current proposal as well as a similar length on the split. It eliminates the October season and pushes back the beginning of the November opener by about 1 week. By allowing Sunday hunting in this structure, hunters who can only hunt on weekends or mid-week holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day, MLK) gain opportunities to hunt from 15 days to 22 days which is 25% of the season to 36.7% of the season, respectively. This also pushes more of the available hunting days later in the season when conditions are better. Hunting on game lands that currently use a 3 day a week structure would remain the same in this framework, but some half would allow Saturday hunting and the other half would also Sunday hunting. For example. Mon, Wed, Sat and Tue, Thur, Sun.
66	I do not support the 2-day season in October. No need.
67	I do not support the break in the season. What is the reason for the break in season from 12/1 - 12/17? This seems arbitrary and can be confusing. Also, it limits the amount of time hunters have afield. I don't believe this break would have a significant effect on the harvest #s.
68	I don't support having 3 season segments. The season should start October 25 and end January 31
69	I don't think we need the October duck season because you never shoot a duck.
70	I feel like the season needs to go into February.
71	I feel that ducks seem to not really arrive until after the first of January and that the October or November season should be removed and added on in February.
72	I like pushing the start back a little to help with late cold snaps to get the ducks moving.
73	I like the 60/6 framework selfishly, but I think it's time we take a more intentional approach to conservation. I worry if we don't get ahead of it, we'll be in a 30/3 situation before we know it. I live in Craven County, and 90% of my hunting is for divers on open water. I don't know if we'll ever see population sizes and limits of scaup like we did 15 years ago. I don't know the answer, but I would support a 45/4.
74	I prefer the 1st season to come in earlier than October 25th.
75	I saw the most bird activity on the early side of the split.
76	I still do not understand the reasoning for the split season at I95.
77	I support but it would be nice to have an early split like in 2020-21, let the second split come in maybe the weekend before Thanksgiving, close out the second split the Saturday after Thanksgiving like it currently is, then run the season from the first full December weekend till 1/31. I hate that we can't hunt more in December. Seems like we always get a good front near then and we use days in November where there may be migrators, but weather events usually aren't in our favor till Thanksgiving.
78	I support eliminating the October season in exchange for 2 additional days of hunting in either November or December.
79	I support the season date outline but propose to allow Sunday Hunting. To keep the current framework, you could substitute a weekday for Sunday to not allow hunting, for example Wednesday. Most states allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl and there is currently no biological reason not to allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl. It would also increase the opportunity for parents and kids and adult/child hunting opportunities for those that only have Saturday and Sunday off of work by doubling the days to hunt waterfowl. As is I must consider if it's worth

	the investment into waterfowl hunting for myself and my two boys for the next 20 years, or if it's best to invest in another outdoor activity that provides more opportunity.
80	I support the second season but would like to see the first season removed and added to the beginning of the third season and the third season start two weeks later and end two weeks into Feb.
81	I support this as there isn't any better option with the days the federal government allows but would like to see the state push the federal regulations for extending the season till 1-2 weeks into February as that seems to be the time that we have are best bird numbers.
82	I think ducks regardless of species...should be treated just like flounder.....you only should be allowed one per season....unless of course you possess a commercial license whereas you would be entitled to kill as many as you like....with whatever caliber you choose....no magazine restrictions and use whatever shot you prefer.!!
83	I think the season should be longer and end in February.
84	I wish we could get rid of the October season and add days in December since NC is always 80 degrees in October and snakes are still out...
85	I wish you would offer a season limit with tags, not just a daily. I don't get time to go, but who wants to go and only gets to shoot one or 2 scaup. I would take a tag system where I get 8 scaup for the season, say 12 mallards and 20 misc. ducks like bufflehead, ruddy and widgeon. BUT if someone is caught with a duck and no tag, hit them with a huge fine and take hunting privilege from them for 5 or 10 years. I love to duck hunt, but doing all the work for one scaup is just silly.
86	I would like to see an early wood duck season in October.
87	I would move the season in later.
88	I would prefer the early teal season to end earlier, and I would prefer the 1st of October split to start in early October like it used to. Let us shoot some local ducks in early October and then push the November split back a little (maybe the 16th) and let us get a real push of ducks and let the numbers build before opening the November split. If we push the November opener a week then we could reduce the gap from Nov 30 to Dec 18th. The season dates we used 2 or 3 years ago were superior to the dates we used last year.
89	I would prefer that the Nov season would be 16th - 30th and the Dec season begins on the 11th. Th believe the 2.5-week gap is too long.
90	I would prefer to see the third split open on December 14 to allow for an additional Saturday for the third split. I would rather lose some days in the second (November split) to allow for extra days in the third split.
91	I would rather have the 4-day October season like we used to have. The week/weekend after Columbus Day.
92	I would rather see the October 2 day season earlier in the month, like 11th 12th. I support the other 2 segments dates.
93	I'd rather see a week in October vs. opening on the 11/9. Or, open 11/16 and close 12/7...then re-open on the 12/21 - 02/05
94	In Bertie NC I would rather do away with the October season and extend it for the first few weeks in February. Youth season this year my kids had a blast and had plenty of ducks. It would be nice to allow Sunday morning duck hunting. With working all the time, I find it hard to go on Saturdays, so Sunday hunting will allow me to take the kids. We buy a duck stamp every year and only get to go a few times a year. I'm good with the bag limit also. It would be also nice to allow baiting going hunting and only killing 2 wood ducks is tough some mornings.
95	In general, would prefer to see the end of the season pushed back a week into first week of February to coincide with peak numbers.
96	In my opinion, the season lasts long enough, but starts too early. I would really love to see some of the days in October/November removed and added into February. I feel that we typically do not have successful hunts (except for a few local wood ducks) until the second split (mid-December). Many times, the general success of a season unfolds in the month of January, and there is constant anticipation through November for the weather to turn cold so we can start seeing fowl. It's often times frustrating to end the season, put your gear away and be watching ducks fly in the area all through February, while many days of the season in November are spent fishing in 68 degree weather, rather than hunting. Again, this is just an opinion/observation that I

	believe is shared amongst other NC waterfowlers. Thank you all for providing a platform for comments.
97	In NC the per day limit for general duck season is 6 ducks. There are restrictions on certain types of ducks, for example those 6 can only include 3 wood ducks. Regardless of what duck hunters may say, I can promise you that west of the outer banks, NOBODY is coming anywhere near that per day number of 6 birds. But the math you guys have done apparently supports that bag limit. So, it seems to me that we ought to be able to hunt a lot more days than we are now in NC. Our group is probably the biggest hardest hunting group of guys in the state, excluding OBX. When 5 guys hunt every day of the season in multiple locations, traveling as much as 2.5 hours away to hunt ducks where they are, and all we scrape out is 125 ducks a year together, something isn't adding up. Either there's nowhere near as many ducks as you guys think there are, which I understand would mean a smaller bag limit is needed, or there are as many ducks as you guys think there are, but to expect that each man can get anywhere close to 6 ducks on ANY day, not every day, but ANY day he goes hunting is just not possible. So, if we're allowed more ducks, but the number of ducks that can usually possibly be killed a day is less than 6, sounds like more days to hunt are in order. My proposal is to cut the second split out. Those two weeks don't do anything for the population around here. If you can't cut the split out, give us 2 weeks in February. That's plenty of time before ducks go back to laying in late February or early March. I would even support lowering the limits to 4 ducks a day to extend the season. IF you left the wood duck limit at 3 of those 4.
98	In Piedmont, we shall only have wood ducks to hunt on 11/9/2024. Begin the "middle season" on November 18 and add the "days saved" to the beginning of the final segment of the season.
99	Inland and costal should start on same date.
100	Instead of October 25-26, start the December season on December 16 <sup>th</sup> .
101	It doesn't get cold enough to duck hunt in NC until January- February so during the actual duck season there's rarely ducks here.
102	It would be nice to be able to duck hunt on Sunday. The average duck hunter only goes 3-4 times per season, mostly because of having such limited time to hunt if they work. To raise awareness and add people to the conservation of the species, allowing hunting on Sunday's would open more opportunity for people to hunt more and potentially care more about conservation.
103	It would be nice to be able to hunt on Sundays.
104	It would be nice to open the coastal November on the 2nd vs the 9th. The reason being is we have a ton of birds down at that time. My decades of experience show late October through the first two weeks of November produce the most birds for us. It starts getting stale towards the middle/later part of November later.
105	Just get rid of October!! Make the season shorter, open it to Sunday, only until noon.
106	Less days in November go back to traditional days around thanksgiving and then open in early December through January. Coastal zone has no ducks in November
107	Make migratory bird hunting in the afternoon illegal.
108	More opening days and opportunities for hunting in the later season given the last few years would be plenty more than ideal. I think if the entire month of December and January were open it would be for the best to harvest birds.
109	Move early Nov to early Dec.
110	Move First Season to Weekend Before Second Season - Oct 26th is too early - Migration needs more time.
111	move October to December.
112	Move the 3rd segment to Dec 14th to Jan 29. Better utilization of more calendar weekend days for working hunters.
113	Move the first week in November to December
114	Move the October season back to earlier in the month
115	Move the two October dates to the beginning of the third segment.
116	NC waterfowl doesn't show up until late November. I purpose doing away with oct and nov season and opening day Dec 7 thru Feb 16. And allowing Sunday hunting. We as hunters would like Sunday waterfowl hunting because we are also workers!
117	NCWRC should allow permit hunts on BOTH Oct 25 and Oct 26. Alternatively, this season should be extended to 3 days to allow additional permit hunting opportunities.

118	Need more time from mid-November to mid-December, not as much early November
119	Need our 4-day season back at the beginning of October please!
120	Need Sunday hunting. Going after church on my one day off a week.
121	Need to be able to harvest more blue bills!
122	Need to move the early season up in October and shorten the November season to add days in December due to the daylight migrating ducks.
123	Need to open hunting on Sundays.
124	Need to roll into February when it starts getting colder. Ducks don't migrate otherwise
125	Need to shorten the season to 45 days or less.
126	Needs to go take first season and add it to the end taking it into February
127	No ducks in NC from Oct 25 to mid-Nov. Have one season Nov - Jan.
128	No need for the Oct. Dates.
129	No need for two days of early season would rather have Sundays available.
130	No need to have an open season in November until the week of Thanksgiving. Add as many days to the December season in lieu of wasting the days in early November.
131	November is too long, and why are we opening 3rd split on a Wednesday?
132	November season needs to be put back to December.
133	The November split starts too early and lasts too long. Move 7-10 days from early November and apply to an earlier start in December.
134	Oct 25-26. Nov. 16 - Nov. 30, Dec. 12 - Jan. 31.
135	October dates are pointless and opening after the split on a Wednesday I don't agree with, why not take Oct dates away and open 2 days sooner after the split (Dec 16th).
136	October dates should be 1-2 weeks earlier.
137	October season needs to be at the beginning of October. Also, we need a youth day during the December break and one at end.
138	OK with the 2 days in late October 25 & 26, Mainly good for Wood Duck hunting. Suggest for the middle segment, November 9th to November 30 <sup>th</sup> . Do not allow duck hunting on both Saturday and Monday for this time. Take these three days and add them onto the front of the last segment. This would allow the start of the last segment to begin on Saturday December 14th, allow duck hunting on all days of the week except Sunday for the last segment. Another thing, I support no duck hunting on Sunday! Both the ducks and the duck hunters need a break.
139	Old season first of October.
140	Open and leave open.
141	Open late split Dec. 14 to give an extra weekend during the late split. Adjust days from earlier season(s).
142	Open Sunday hunting.
143	Open Sunday Hunting.
144	Open Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
145	Open Sunday Waterfowl Hunting- Do not open the second season until Nov 16.
146	Open Sunday Waterfowl Hunting- Do not open the second season until Nov 16.
147	Open Thanksgiving Day and run to Sunday. Close from December 2-6. Open back on Dec 7 and run through January 31. Still a 60-day season. Don't close on Sundays. Youth days are the weekend before opener and after closing. Same goes for veterans days.
148	Open the seasons on a Saturday.
149	Open up Sunday hunting in NC. The working man only has one day to enjoy the sport.
150	Our seasons do not reflect the migration patterns in our area. We need to extend our seasons past January into February. And give a longer break between splits. I am an avid trout fisherman spend almost all my weekends on the water i have hunted ducks since i could walk my uncle used to piggyback me into a swamp. I spend a majority of my time in the Pamlico sound like I stated almost every weekend for the last 17 years. Our birds what few we still have tend to show up late January dependent on weather further north which obviously have changed. I don't even consider hunting ducks until the last 2 weeks of the season and that's only if it is cold. Just last weekend there were more bluebills in rose bay then i have seen all year. We need to change with the weather patterns in our area and really need to do some changing. Declining numbers is a real concern but more eel grass in the sound maybe one o two stands between great island and

	shell narrows and they're so small they can't sustain. We need to look into regulating erosion control issues in the agriculture industry their pesticides and selective herbicides have taken a number on our sounds and wetlands. Also, the great refuge in that area. Carp are not the main issue. I know you folks know this hopefully we can see these changes over the next few years and restore a once thriving waterfowl population. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO! I KNOW YOU ALL CARE AND DO YOUR BEST!
151	Over the past 5 years it seems that more ducks show up after the season is over. I say do away with teal season and the October seasons all together and start the season the week of Thanksgiving through mid-February (with a few breaks in between).
152	Over time migration patterns and the timing of migration have evolved. I would prefer to eliminate the 2-day October season as well as shorten the 2nd segment by one week and add those days to the 3rd segment.
153	Personally, I would rather skip October and a week or two in November and add that time to February.
154	Please allow Sunday hunting for Ducks.
155	Please allow Sunday waterfowl hunting we are behind the times let our citizens enjoy the sport all weekend.
156	Please extend the last split of season to be entire month of December. Remove the short October season.
157	Please get rid of the October Split and add those days onto the third December split (start 12/17).
158	Please give us our 4 day Beginning October Season
159	PLEASE MOVE THE NOVEMEBR SEGMENT TO 11/16/24 - 12/7/24. WITH WARMER WINTERS THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE SECOND SPLIT TO BEGIN IN EARLY NOVEMBER. in years past it was always middle of Nov through the first Saturday in December
160	Please no Sunday waterfowl ever. It will destroy everything that isn't an impoundment in Hyde County. Birds need rest. Push season back into February if anything.
161	Please start taking the steps needed to move the latest closing date into February or at least put youth and veteran days at the beginning, not the end of the season. I know that this is not just a simple change, but it should be taken into consideration.
162	Please take away 2 or 3 days on the 2nd part of the waterfowl season and extend said season by permitting hunting on Saturdays in the month of Feb. as typically Feb. is colder in the North pushing more birds down providing more opportunities. Thank you.
163	Please take away the two-day season, take away days from the front end of the second segment to allow Sunday waterfowl hunting. It is an absolute joke that a NC resident that is employed cannot hunt on Sundays. Waterfowl hunting involves scouting to find the area the birds are using at that given moment. How is a working person able to be successful waterfowl hunting when they get off work Friday evening and only have Saturday morning to hunt. Saturday morning should be your scouting day and would allow for more successful hunts on Sunday morning. We are one of the few states that don't allow Sunday hunting and it makes no sense to me and many others.
164	Prefer season dates similar to 2023-24.
165	Prefer second season opening earlier in November, as it did in 2023 and is proposed this year.
166	Preferably remove early season or make on weekend dates.
167	Rather see the 2 days in October put on the front end of the 3rd split.
168	Really doesn't matter as long as you keep letting people legally bait ducks where I hunt (in the sounds and rivers) have no ducks until they drain the impoundments. Therefore, u must be rich to kill Ducks in NC...these impoundments are ruining duck hunting. Been duck hunting for 42 years and it has never been this bad!
169	Remove October split and add 2 days to November or December split.
170	Remove the split in October and add it to the third split dates.
171	Remove the two-day season, it's pointless.
172	Run the season the whole length of small game season.
173	Season comes in too early in November. Push date back to Saturday before Thanksgiving and bring opening day for third segment in earlier in December. Ducks over the past several seasons have migrated later with warmer weather trends.



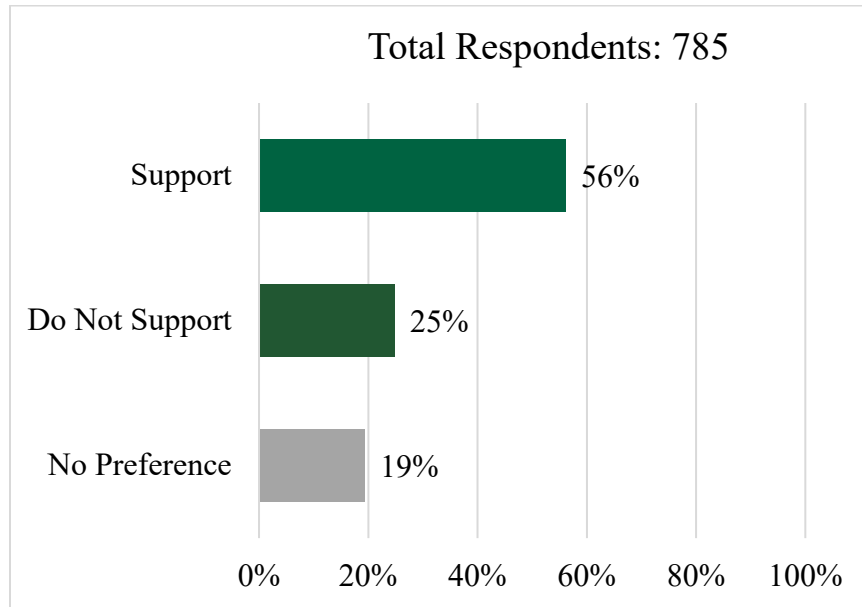
174	Season dates do not allow for majority of migratory birds to migrate down due to weather changes happening late in the season and early new year dates should be extended or moved later in the season/ early next following season.
175	Season needs to be extended back the most birds are here during February.
176	Season needs to be pushed past January 31st. Take away the October season and add it into February.
177	Season needs to start later and end later in the winter.
178	Season needs to stay open past Jan 31. The migration has moved into February. Start the season later or have a longer split to push into February. This will mean the Feds will have to recognize the Jan 31 is an out-of-date end to the season. They need to update the science.
179	The season should run until mid-February.
180	Season should stay as it is with no Sunday option.
181	Seasons should open and close on Saturdays. I believe the last season segment should end the second Saturday in February.
182	Sept 21 to sept 25/ October 25 to oct. 26/ November 9 to nov 30/ December 20 to Jan 31
183	Shift more days from November season to December.
184	Should be extended into Feb.
185	Some counties/zones are split by Interstate 95. The zones should follow the county lines and not split by a highway. It can get confusing.
186	The split is too long. Go back to two week split. Late season opener is on Wednesday. November season opener should be on a weekday and have December opener on 14th. Suggested dates: November 13 - 30th and Dec 14th - Jan 31.
187	The split season between November 30 and December 18 is too long and causes difficulty managing long term waterfowl management areas as the birds develop uncharacteristic behavior and pushes into nocturnal use. I would like to see one of the youth days or veteran hunt day inserted in that middle weekend between the 3-week break. This would provide better youth and veteran hunt opportunity as well as help keep birds from over utilizing the waterfowl management areas.
188	Split seasons are so annoying. Would rather have two if we must.
189	Start later and make the first segment longer.
190	start later in November, add dates to December.
191	start the season later.
192	Strongly support these dates which give us the best chance to hunt when they are here. These dates are excellent.
193	Suggest opening in November and closing last day of Feb.
194	Sunday hunting should be allowed.
195	Sunday hunting should be allowed.
196	SUNDAY HUNTS PLEASE.
197	Sunday needs to be a hunt day. Have a weekday designated as a "rest" day. Season should extend through February with current weather and migration patterns.
198	Sundays need to be open for hunting.
199	Support but would like a 3-day first split.
200	Support if one day of Youth season could be Saturday Dec 14th. If Youth season must fall within 14 days of the end of the general season, would be more in favor of moving last split to 12/14-1/28 to give the birds a slight rest prior to 1st Youth weekend.
201	Take away the first split cause it's too hot and start the second split on Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> .
202	Take away the two-day split in October and add it to November.
203	Take some days off of teal and add to general duck season or include Sunday hunting.
204	Take the 2 days in Oct. and open the Dec. season earlier.
205	The 2-day early season should return to the first weekend in October not the end. Some of the best hunts I have had have been during the old early season period. The new change too closely coincides with the regular season. We have way too many birds moving through in early October to not get a chance to target them.

206	The 3d split should open on December 14th then close on the 29th or 30th. Opening in the middle of week like this hinders others. As a guide it also messes up my dates where I have people wanting to hunt that weekend.
207	The final segment should start on a Saturday, preferably the 14th and the season should end on a Saturday the 25th. Last season these odd start and end dates only punish working men and women who enjoy hunting. There are a lot of us who can only hunt on weekends.
208	The late October season down east is very wasted as the following week regular season opens. A lot of early migrators are missed during that early October season that we lost. Youth days need to be broken up with one residing in the three week break in December.
209	The middle split needs to be moved back as far as possible. Cold weather pushes migration and NC does not have any waterfowl until late in the season. The later the better.
210	The migration seems to arrive later than in the past. We work tirelessly to find birds that aren't here only to see them after the season is over.
211	The more days we can have later in the season, the better.
212	The October dates should be eliminated altogether and consolidate the 3 hunting segments into Nov/Dec/Jan. One option to consider would be to run Nov 9 - Nov 23 split 1; Dec 2 - Dec 23 (break for Christmas Eve/Day) split 2; Dec 26 - Jan 31 split 3. This would provide ducks with more rest days early without being pressured and provide more hunting opportunities later in the season when hunting conditions should be better and migration more complete.
213	The October season is pointless for the majority of NC duck hunters. The November season is nearly pointless for the majority of NC duck hunters. You are catering to hunters with means way above the average hunter. Season needs to run through mid-February.
214	The October season needs to be earlier in the month, strongly support the 3 week break between the last splits, GREAT!
215	The rules should be no duck hunting any day after 12:00 in the afternoon, that way birds can rest and don't get hammered as hard.
216	The season dates need to be pushed back later in the year due to the weather still being warm. The birds (especially migrators) don't really start showing up until it starts getting colder.
217	The season needs to be moved back by 2 to 3 weeks. The migratory population has shifted later in the year due to the change in the weather patterns.
218	The season should be extended on the coast due to changes in migratory habits.
219	The season should be pushed back later due to the colder weather dropping during late January, early February.
220	The season should be pushed back to February 28. The migratory birds don't migrate as early as they used to and all we are seeing in the swamps and wetlands are residential birds until end of December beginning of January.
221	There aren't really any ducks here in October so I'd rather not have the October segment and would rather have a February segment.
222	There should be 4 weeks of the season in November. The final split should end on a Saturday.
223	These segments need to be shifted to the right. In Eastern NC we do not get cold enough this early to get the decent number of migrators. I propose to get rid of the random two days in October. I believe the first split should start no earlier than Nov 18 and run through Dec 22. The second split should open no earlier than Jan 20 and run through Feb 23. Then the two youth/military days on the two following Saturdays after Feb 23.
224	This is all wrong.
225	Too much early season hunting days. Move those days to the end of season when the ducks are here. This year the big ducks showed up the last week of the season. Same thing every year. Why do we keep doing the Sam thing when we all know the ducks don't get here till mid-January every year. So, 2 maybe 3 weeks of real duck hunting. Let's get hunting dates to match our weather and duck patterns please.
226	Unfortunately, the ducks don't really arrive until the last segment.
227	We have to have Sunday waterfowl hunting in NC. I am a working man with a passion for hunting waterfowl. Only being able to hunt weekends, no Sunday hunting severely limits mine and many other opportunities in the field, in an already short season.

228	We need to push seasons back into February, this is ridiculous. Ducks do not show up in Carteret County in any numbers until the last 2 weeks in January. Shifting the season back into February would give us better hunting days.
229	We should remove the early 2-day season and add to the end of the second split.
230	What's the point of a 2-day segment?
231	Why does it open so early in November makes zero sense. 10 days in Nov and the other week should be added onto early December. When people would go and want to go. It was like that just a few years ago. Why the change to early Nov no ducks 75 degrees and no one wants to go. Please add the extra week on to early Dec not early Nov. thank you, Devin.
232	Why just 2 October days? Push those back.
233	Why open for 2 days early oct 25-oct 26 waste of resources.
234	With the migration pattern being later these past couple of years, it would be beneficial to move the season end date into February.
235	With waterfowl migrating later each year due to unseasonal warm weather that is becoming a common occurrence into late December, I believe the duck and goose seasons should be adjusted accordingly. The largest numbers of ducks we see do not arrive until the last few weeks of the season.
236	Would be nice to do away with the October season in eastern NC and possibly give us Sundays to hunt instead.
237	Would like late season January 1 till middle February.
238	Would like to be able to hunt on Sundays.
239	Would like to be able to hunt Sundays for us that only have weekends to be able to hunt.
240	Would like to hunt on Sunday.
241	Would like to see an opening day for the second and third waterfowl seasons begin on a Monday. Suggesting November 11 and December 16.
242	Would like to see early 2 day incorporated into latest season dates.
243	Would like to see Sunday hunting and closed Wednesdays, Thursdays.
244	Would like to see the addition of Sunday hunting as many of our neighboring states and most of the states in this country allow. Sunday hunting allows people who work a "regular" job double the hunting opportunity. My recommendation would be to shorten the November split and allowing Sunday hunting during the November and December splits.
245	Would like to see the general duck season come until later and go into Middle February it seems the divers come in later and during veteran/youth hunting dates are good for divers.
246	Would like to see the season lengthened.
247	would prefer 2 days of October be included in 2nd or 3rd season.
248	Would prefer Oct 25-26, Nov 9-Dec 7, Dec 18-Feb 15.
249	Would prefer October to be earlier in the month. 1st weekend.
250	Would prefer to get rid of the October season and add it to the end of the January season. The migration is showing the number of birds to hunt in October.
251	Would rather be able to hunt later in the season. Move the dates from October to December.
252	would rather see the 1st phase Nov 16th - Dec 7th like it used to be.
253	You have made the early season obsolete. What's the point if it is only a week before the regular season.
254	Your dates screw the working man on opening and closing days which are in the weekdays. Sounds like me, USFW or the NCWRC are trying to control the amount of hunting done on opening and closing days. Ones who benefit are college age kids who are out of school and don't have jobs.
255	Youth hunting before and after should be limited to one week.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### General Duck Gun Season – Inland Zone



Choices	Responses	
Support	56%	440
Do Not Support	25%	194
No Preference	19%	151
<b>Total</b>		<b>785</b>

#### Frameworks:

60 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 21st

Latest closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

#### *The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

October 17th – October 19th

November 9th – November 30th

December 19th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	32	77	96	29	49	62	32	28	14	3	18	440
Do Not Support	9	39	43	13	33	26	5	8	8	2	8	194
No Preference	20	61	16	13	6	13	4	7	1	0	10	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>315</b>

## General Duck Season – Inland Zone Comments

Number	Comment
1	1 solid season; Saturday before thanksgiving until January 31st. Ideal dates would be just January and February for all duck zones.
2	1) Assuming the black duck limit prior to Thanksgiving is closed because of the potential of breeding black ducks along the coast, black ducks should have the federal limit available in the Inland zone, 2) there is an early migration through the western part of NC that can start earlier than Nov. 8 - maybe move the start date back 1 week and take it from the start of the December seasons.
3	A shorter November season and longer late season, past January 31st would be ideal. Warmer climates and weather seem to minimize migration in the earlier seasons.
4	add a week in February. The ducks don't even get here until the end of January.
5	Again, would love to have a break that included the rut
6	Allow hunting on Sundays.
7	Allow Sunday Hunting.
8	Allow Sunday Hunting.
9	Allow Sunday hunting.
10	Back up the dates 1 week. Ducks are here or passing through in mainly between late November and January 1.
11	Be able to hunt on Sundays.
12	Begin the "middle season one-week later 11/18 and add the "days saved" to the final segment of the season.
13	Bring October season back to beginning of the month like in years past.
14	Bring opening day for the second season in later in November and run duck season all the way through December and January. Only have two segments. Ducks have been migrating later due to warmer weather trends over the past several years.
15	Bring the first split back to early October (3-5). This is our best opportunity at teal and wood ducks.
16	Cancel the early season and extend beyond January 31.
17	cancel the October season and extend the season into February.
18	Close the gap in dates in the later seasons.
19	Coming in and out on weekdays is difficult for a lot of people. I understand the feds set the parameters.
20	Could the last season window be extended past January 31, and the first season come in later?
21	Dates should not change.
22	Do 2 segments.
23	Do away with early days and add to December. Two seasons.
24	Do away with October dates and add them to the end of the season.
25	Do away with October season add it to the November season.
26	Do away with the 1st season and include the dates in the last season because that is when our ducks arrive in North Carolina.
27	Do not hunt or live in said area
28	Don't agree with 2nd split opening on a weekday.
29	Duck season needs to be shifted to the end in February. The weather patterns these days seem to bring the birds down late in January. I propose Jan 1 to Feb 15 for the last run.
30	Duck season needs to extend past January 31, or allow hunting on Sundays. Kids dont get time to go because we work 48-70 hours a week.
31	Early season is too short. Dividing the state is also not advantageous and too confusing for the average hunter
32	Early season needs to go back to first week of October, a lot of huntable bluewing teal are in the area,
33	Early season should go back to the first weekend in October. Also, the inland/costal divider line should be moved to Hwy 17 in Washington not I95.
34	Early split is about right. Again the 2nd split should not start until late November through January 31.
35	Eliminate early season, add one more Saturday to the late season.
36	Eliminate October hunting dates and fold into December.
37	Eliminate the November season.
38	Eliminate the October days and add more to December.

39	Extend into February.
40	Far too many days and too long
41	First opener is too warm, would prefer the first days (October) added on to the December/January split.
42	Follow the coastal season.
43	Get rid of October dates and add to December.
44	Get rid of October season.
45	Get rid of October season, too dangerous with the amount of horrific on lakes. Add a couple days to last season.
46	Get rid of the 2-day October split. Friday is hard for a majority of waterfowlers to use. Plug the 3 days onto the end of the November split. Also, remove the no hunting on Sunday. Individuals that work 5 days a week only have 1 day to hunt on the weekend.
47	Get rid of the Oct season and don't open general until thanksgiving extend season into February. Extend split in Dec and Jan making for a shorter season overall.
48	Get rid of the October season all together. Give those days in December & January. Start the opening and closing days on the weekends, not in the middle of the week. What are you doing? Who are you helping? The guides on the coast? The young college high school age kids. What about the working man. What does he get. You're trying to control hunting pressure? This framework is a drastic change without us getting to hunt on Sundays! 31st is on Friday. The biologist tries to control too much. This season could go on and close on February 1st which is Saturday. One day is not going to hurt the population. That day is a youth day anyway and if the parents are doing right, they should take their kids out more than just the last two Saturdays of season in February. Most of the birds have gone south or never got here to begin with. So, if the youth can kill birds that late so can the rest of the hunting population. I'm that working guy and I want more opportunities. I take time off I schedule around to get days off to just hunt ducks\$ geese. I averaged right at 30 days a year. But it keeps getting less every year because of time frames and the non-migration of birds to this state.
49	Get rid of the random 2 days in Oct. Open the first split no earlier than Nov 18 through Dec 22. The second split should open no earlier than Jan 20 running through Feb 23. Youth/military days open the 2 Saturdays after Feb 23.
50	Git rid of early season and add days to late season. Less days in mid-season.
51	I believe the October split needs to be the same dates as the coastal
52	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting. I also do not believe that the two-zone structure meets the stated goal of increasing hunting opportunities as there is not a significant variance in the dates and the days in October are less than ideal. Typically, October is too early for our seasons as, based on my experience, we have not received any migrating birds yet. It is typically very warm, and we are primarily hunting local birds and maybe a few remaining teal in the coastal regions. The framework must include Sunday hunting. There is no evidence that supports the belief that hunting 7 days a week places more pressure on game birds than hunting 6 days a week. Research being done by Dr Bradley Cohen at Tennessee Tech University using GPS telemetry supports this. The Sunday hunting prohibition is based on religious purpose and the study commission by the WRC several years ago showed there was support for Sunday hunting in North Carolina. Most hunters are only able to hunt on weekends so prohibiting Sunday hunting reduces their opportunity to hunt. I would propose the following season dates: November 16 - December 1 and December 19 - January 31. This season structure provides a similar calendar length for the final season segment as the current proposal as well as a similar length on the split. It eliminates the October season and pushes back the beginning of the November opener by about 1 week. By allowing Sunday hunting in this structure, hunters who can only hunt on weekends or mid-week holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day, MLK) gain opportunities to hunt from 15 days to 22 days which is 25% of the season to 36.7% of the season, respectively. This also pushes more of the available hunting days later in the season when conditions are better. Hunting on game lands that currently use a 3 day a week structure would remain the same in this framework, but some half would allow Saturday hunting and the other half would also Sunday hunting. For example. Mon, Wed, Sat and Tue, Thur, Sun.
53	I do not support the break in the season. What is the reason for the break in season from 12/1 - 12/17? This seems arbitrary and can be confusing. Also, it limits the amount of time hunters have afield. I don't believe this break would have a significant effect on the harvest #s.
54	I do not understand why the split season at I95
55	I don't hunt in the inland zone so doesn't matter to me.



56	I don't like the October split. Would rather have more time in December.
57	I don't understand why the season is closed 12/1 - 12/18, doesn't make sense to me. Start the season later in November, and keep it open all the way till 1/31. No need for 3 season segments, too complicated and ducks don't always fly south to NC in early November anyway.
58	I only hunt in the coastal zone, so this is OK with me. You may consider my comments in the coastal zone and use them in the Inland zone too.
59	I prefer these dates to align with the coastal zone. Ideally it will reduce pressure on the coastal zone.
60	I support but see my comments on the coastal season dates. Also, why can't we have another zone? Example, west of 95 inland, 95 to 17 is coastal plain and 17 to the ocean is tidewater. Could have an early wood duck season in the coastal plain zone. The reason I am saying this is that grouping a duck hunter from Johnston County with a duck hunter from Manteo doesn't make sense. Both have vastly different experiences and hunt vastly different places, especially in terms of numbers of ducks, species, and weather patterns. Needs to be more split up.
61	I support eliminating the October season in exchange for 3 additional days of hunting in either November or December.
62	I support the season date outline but propose to allow Sunday Hunting. To keep the current framework, you could substitute a weekday for Sunday to not allow hunting, for example Wednesday. Most states allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl and there is currently no biological reason not to allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl. It would also increase the opportunity for parents and kids and adult/child hunting opportunities for those that only have Saturday and Sunday off work by doubling the days to hunt waterfowl. As is I must consider if it's worth the investment into waterfowl hunting for myself and my two boys for the next 20 years, or if it's best to invest in another outdoor activity that provides more opportunity.
63	I usually see the most ducks (on our farm pond) a week after the season closes.
64	I wish we could extend the duck seasons to two weeks into February.
65	I would also support a 45/4 east of 17 as well, but I don't feel the wood duck and game farm mallards are in as much danger as our coastal, Atlantic flyway birds.
66	I would like to change it to the following because with rising temperatures the ducks were not migrating until later in the year. Proposed dates as follows: Oct 17-19; November 23- December 7; December 21 - 15 February.
67	I would prefer to see the third split open on December 14 to allow for an additional Saturday for the third split. I would rather lose some days in the second (November split) to allow for extra days in the third split.
68	I would rather have a 2-day 1st split. The same as how the coastal season is laid out. Giving an extra day to hunt later in the season when more birds are in the area.
69	I would rather skip October and the first 2 weeks in November and add that time to February
70	If you want the October season, move it to early October so we have a chance at Teal.....Run the November season longer into December and end it earlier in January. Late January in WNC is a boat ride and a biscuit every morning
71	Inland and coastal zones are ridiculous.
72	Inland and coastal should start same date.
73	It would be nice to be able to hunt on Sundays.
74	Later October season.
75	Later the better.
76	Limit youth hunting to one week before and after.
77	maintain consistency with the Coastal Zone - start 3rd segment on December 18 <sup>th</sup> .
78	Make the coastal and inland season the same.
79	Middle split or segment of season needs to be pushed farther back to support when migrating birds may have arrived due to cold weather.
80	move early Nov to early Dec.
81	Move First Season to October 3rd-5th to allow inland hunters a chance to kill some blue winged teal. Begin Second Season on November 23rd-December 23rd, Third Season December 27th-January 31st. Other States use this season breakdown and have lots of success. Everyone knows that the best hunting happens later in the year. We do not get a good migration until mid-December/January.
82	Move October back to the beginning of October like it was.

83	Move October season back. No ducks.
84	Move the 3rd segment to Dec 14th to Jan 29. Better utilization of more calendar weekend days for working hunters.
85	Move the Duck season later.
86	Move the early duck season back to the first weekend in October and make it 2 days.
87	Move the October dates to December. Hunting is better later in the year/ beginning of the year
88	Move the October dates to the beginning of the last segment.
89	Must ducks have been moving through in late January to early February. We need an extended portion of hunting through Feb. for everyone.
90	Ned to move the October season earlier and reduce the days in the November season to allow more days in December to be hunted for day light migrating birds.
91	need more days in October. 4 days total maybe.
92	Need Sunday Hunting.
93	Need Sunday hunting.
94	Need Sunday hunting for waterfowl.
95	Need to have a Wednesday in October because of 3 day a week public land.
96	Need to move into February.
97	Need to shorten the total season to 45 days or less.
98	Never hunted ducks.
99	NO ducks in NC Oct 17 - mid-Nov. Have one season Nov - Jan.
100	No ducks in our area anymore.
101	No need for Oct. Dates -- Shorten the split in Dec. to 2 weeks.
102	No October.
103	No one can hunt after 12:00 PM so the birds have time to rest and recuperate.
104	Oct split should be moved back to earlier in the month
105	Oct. 17th is too late. Please go back to very early October for ducks.
106	October dates to December
107	October season is always hot, take it out and add to December season
108	October season should be the first or second week of October like it used to be. And it was 4 days before which allowed two permit opportunities instead of one. What's the point if you are moving it closer to the regular season. Stop taking away hunting opportunities.
109	October should be the first weekend.
110	Open and leave open.
111	Open Sunday hunting.
112	Open Sunday Hunting.
113	Open Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
114	Open Sunday Waterfowl Hunting- Do not open the second season until Nov 16.
115	Open Thanksgiving Day and run to Sunday. Close from December 2-6. Open back on Dec 7 and run through January 31. Still a 60-day season. Don't close on Sundays. Youth days are the weekend before opener and after closing. Same goes for veterans days.
116	Open the season the week of Thanksgiving and add the days to the December season.
117	Open the seasons on a Saturday.
118	Open the seasons, concurrently and all zones.
119	Open up hunting on Sundays in NC because the working man has one day to enjoy the sport.
120	Our seasons do not reflect the migration patterns in our area. We need to extend our seasons past January into February. And give a longer break between splits. I am an avid trout fisherman spend almost all my weekends on the water I have hunted ducks since I could walk my uncle used to piggyback me into a swamp. I spend most of my time in the Pamlico sound like I started almost every weekend for the last 17 years. Our birds what few we still have, tend to show up in late January dependent on weather further north which obviously has changed. I don't even consider hunting ducks until the last 2 weeks of the season and that's only if it is cold. Just last weekend there were more bluebills in rose bay then I have seen all year. We need to change with the weather patterns in our area and really need to do some changing. Declining numbers is a real concern but more eel grass in the sound maybe one or two stands between great island and shell narrows and they're so small they can't sustain. We need to look into regulating erosion control issues in the agriculture industry their pesticides and selective herbicides have taken a

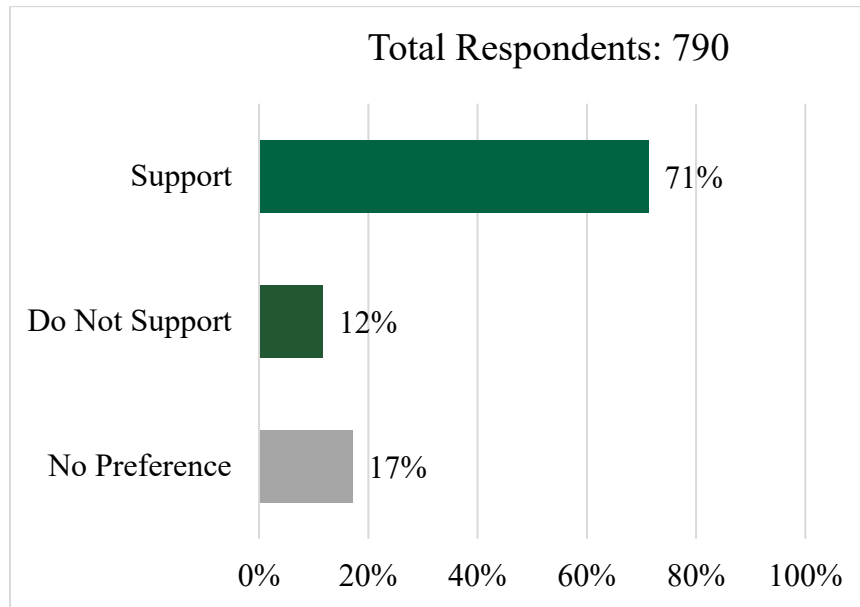
	number on our sounds and wetlands. Also, the great refuge in that area. Carp are not the main issue. I know you folks know this hopefully we can see these changes over the next few years and restore a once thriving waterfowl population. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO! I KNOW YOU ALL CARE AND DO YOUR BEST!
121	Please allow Sunday waterfowl hunting we are behind the times let our citizens enjoy the sport all weekend.
122	Please get rid of the October split and add onto Dec 19th third split start. Makes no sense anymore to go hunt on an 80-degree morning in October.....
123	please move the early segment back to the beginning of October. more teal were around that time of year.
124	PLEASE MOVE THE NOVEMEBR SEGMENT TO 11/16/24 - 12/7/24. WITH WARMER WINTERS THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE SECOND SPLIT TO BEGIN IN EARLY NOVEMBER. in years past it was always middle of Nov through the first Saturday in December
125	Please see previous suggestion in Coastal Zone on revised dates.
126	Please shave a few days from both the first season and 2nd allowing water fowling in Feb. with Saturdays being the day this would greatly help as typically it is colder in the North during Feb. thus "pushing" more birds down providing more opportunities. Thank you.
127	Please start taking the steps needed to move the latest closing date into February or at least put youth and veteran days at the beginning, not the end of the season. I know that this is not just a simple change, but it should be taken into consideration.
128	Prefer a Monday start to the second and third waterfowl seasons.
129	Prefer days be added to 2nd or 3rd season.
130	Prefer season dates like 2023-24.
131	Prefer the early season first week of October like it was previously. Mountain wood ducks (all we get) have left by mid-late October.
132	Preferably remove early season or make on dates that include weekend.
133	Rather see the October days put on the front end of the 3rd split.
134	Recommend no October season.
135	Remove the three-day season, it's pointless.
136	Run the whole length of small game season.
137	Same as coastal answer.
138	Same as coastal needs to go into February.
139	Same as last comment.
140	same as last.
141	Same as previous comment.
142	Same comments as last. We need more duck hunting later in the season vs earlier.
143	same reason for the early 2-day season why only two days - waste of resources.
144	Season should open sooner.
145	The season should run until mid-February.
146	Season should start later and last until the end of February.
147	Season starts too early and ends too early. Weather is later and ducks don't push down til February / March
148	Second weekend of October would be my preference
149	See comments under Coastal Zone.
150	Should be extended into Feb.
151	Similar to my comment in the coastal zone, i would love to see an extension into February, removing some days in November. However, I think there is a greater possibility of hunters shooting some local ducks and early migratory teal/gadwall/wood ducks that may have shown up already. Although before in the coastal zone, I mentioned removing the November portion of the season, and adding it to February, i think this would take opportunity away from inland hunters. I think instead of the October early season, that should move to November and then general duck season would start in the later portion of November, or early December. still extending into February to some extent, but also giving hunters the opportunity to shoot some of the early season birds inland.
152	Splitting the state into two seasons is stupid. Only good to confuse people.
153	start later in November, add days to December.
154	Start later in the year and make the first segment longer.
155	start the second season a week later and add those days onto the start of the 3rd season.

156	Suggest opening Nov.1 and closing Feb.28.
157	Sunday hunting for ducks.
158	Sunday hunting must be legalized. No Sunday hunting severely limits opportunities for the working-class sportsmen of north Carolina.
159	Sunday hunting should be allowed.
160	Sunday hunting with Dec 7 opening day and Feb 16 last day.
161	Sundays need to be open for hunting.
162	Sundays would be a great addition.
163	Take away the first split cause it's too hot and start the second split on Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> .
164	Take away the October season and add it into February.
165	That first split should be as late in October as possible.
166	The 3d split should open on December 14th then close on the 29th or 30th. Opening in the middle of week like this hinders others. As a guide it also messes up my dates where I have people wanting to hunt that weekend.
167	The early season should be around the first of October or last week in September. The other dates I do support.
168	The final segment should start on a Saturday, preferably the 14th and the season should end on a Saturday the 25th. Last season these odd start and end dates only punish working men and women who enjoy hunting. There are a lot of us who can only hunt on weekends.
169	The later we can push back our duck season the better. The real issue that should be considered is Sunday hunting for migratory birds which currently takes away federally allocated days from NC hunters.
170	The middle split needs to be moved back as far as possible. Cold weather pushes migration and NC does not have any waterfowl until late in the season. The later the better.
171	The migration seems to arrive later than in the past. We work tirelessly to find birds that aren't here only to see them after the season is over.
172	The November season using these dates is nothing but a glorified wood duck season. We shot the same woodies we were shooting just two weeks earlier. November season needs to be pushed back 3 weeks to the last part of November and into the first part of December. We got royally screwed out of the November and start of the December season last year. Season came in WAAY too early. Don't EVER do that crap again...i will NEVER support an early November season.
173	The season comes in too early in November, delay it a week and put the days back in December
174	The season dates need to be pushed back later in the year due to the weather still being warm. The birds (especially migrators) don't really start showing up until it starts getting colder.
175	The season dates should be the same.
176	The season needs to be moved back by 2 to 3 weeks as the migratory populations are delayed in their migratory patterns due to weather changes in recent years. The season needs to extend to February 1.
177	The third split needs to last longer. With warmer weather in the 2023-2024 season, it felt like the birds didn't have enough time to migrate down to NC.
178	There aren't really any ducks here in October so I'd rather not have the October segment and would rather have a February segment.
179	There should be an allowance in place for weather because for a good 75% of last season there was no ducks around it was either too cold for ducks or too warm for ducks.
180	Want early season 10-03 thru 10-05.
181	We need to extend duck season into February and take out the hunting days in October.
182	We should remove the October season and add those days to the other splits.
183	What's the point of a 3-day segment?
184	While I would like to see duck season dates later due to a lack of migration until February in central NC, I understand the lack of desire for hunting into breeding pair season. However, I would like the option to hunt on Sundays. As a working man, I'm limited to like 8 hunting days/year by Sundays being closed. The "rest days" are Monday-Friday and this would lessen some pressure on Saturdays.
185	Winter is coming later and later. There are no ducks before the end of November.
186	With NC weather staying so warm throughout "winter" I would suggest a later October dates.
187	With the migration starting later it would be beneficial to end the season in later in February.

188	With waterfowl migrating later each year due to unseasonal warm weather that is becoming a common occurrence into late December, I believe the duck and goose seasons should be adjusted accordingly. The largest numbers of ducks we see do not arrive until the last few weeks of the season.
189	Would like a longer season in October.
190	Would like late season January 1 till middle of February
191	Would like to be able to hunt on Sundays
192	Would like to see a few days in February
193	Would like to see early 3 days incorporated into latest season dates.
194	Would like to see general duck season come in later and go out mid-February seems during youth and veteran hunt dates last 2 seasons have been seeing red heads coming into the Carteret and Onslow area waters would really like to see the season come in November-Feb.
195	Would like to see the early season dates shifted to the end of the season when weather and duck movement are better to support harvestability. Weather and migration seem to have shifted over recent years/seasons.
196	Would like to see the first segment come in later, closer to November.
197	Would like to see the justification for allocating so many days to the November season. Dates should be concentrated around when the best opportunities exist. If this is backed by population surveys showing peak migration in November, then I support it. Otherwise, the November season should be shortened, and December lengthened.
198	Would love to see duck season go into February.
199	Would rather have 2 splits.
200	Would rather have October 3-5.
201	zones should follow the county lines and not split by I -95 !!!!!

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Canada Goose Season – Resident Population Zone (Also includes White-Fronted Geese)



Choices	Responses	
Support	71%	563
Do Not Support	12%	92
No Preference	17%	135
<b>Total</b>		<b>790</b>

**Frameworks:**

80 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: March 10th

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

October 17th – October 26th

November 9th – November 30th

December 18th – February 8th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	44	126	110	37	60	76	33	28	20	3	26	563
Do Not Support	6	24	18	7	11	8	4	7	2	2	3	92
No Preference	11	29	27	9	17	17	4	8	2	0	11	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>790</b>



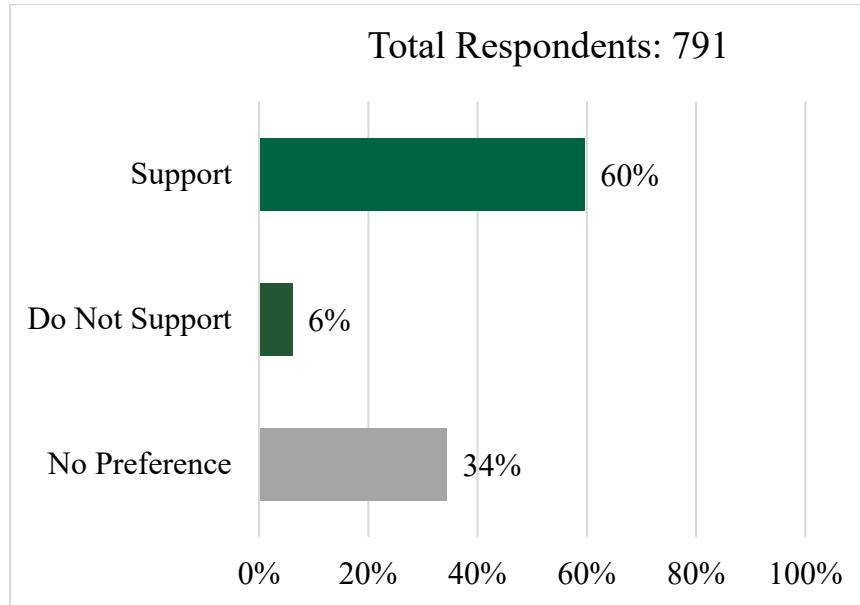
## Canada Goose Season – Resident Population Zone Comments

Number	Comment
1	Add more days into February.
2	Would love to have a break that included the rut.
3	Allow Sunday Hunting.
4	Canada Goose are overpopulated in my opinion. I suggest lengthening the seasons as much as possible.
5	Could even move the October season earlier.
6	December until end of February.
7	The first segment should start at the earliest possible date. What happened to the September season?
8	I do not support 3 season segments. There should be one long consecutive season.
9	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
10	I feel like goose season needs to open as early as possible for the residential season.
11	I'd rather see the October split be done away with and give us those into February like Virginia does.
12	Most are non-migratory birds.
13	Move early Nov to early Dec.
14	Move the 3rd segment to Dec 14th to Jan 29. Better utilization of more calendar weekend days for working hunters.
15	Need Sunday hunting.
16	Need to keep the September season.
17	Needs to be wider - resident Canada geese are almost a nuisance.
18	Open October 1 <sup>st</sup> .
19	Please go back to opening Goose Season on Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup> .
20	Season should be open year-round. They are a problem. Need to be eliminated.
21	September goose season needs to remain.
22	The first season would not hurt to be extended or just continuously from Oct. 17th through November 30th with no break. Our goose population supports this tremendously.
23	We aren't affecting the geese populations so it should open October 1 and run through February.
24	Why not just have one long season to thin the population?
25	Would like to be able to hunt on Sundays.
26	Would like to see Goose adjusted to stay in through Feb. 15th so there is a full week of rest between Duck going out and Feb. Goose. Plus, people are going to think season goes out on Sat. and are going to kill ducks on Feb. 1st not paying attention to dates. I vote for Goose to stay in through Feb. 15
27	Would rather have two splits. Aren't honkers over-populated? Why not a longer season?
28	Would like the first day to start on October 1st
29	Make the season longer, to coincide with dove season, and increase the bag limit.
30	Open Sunday hunting.
31	Needs to come in early September
32	Extend December 18 - 15 February to merry up with the end of duck.
33	We need to extend goose hunting season, not decrease it! Local birds have become a total nuisance for homeowners, farmers, and residents of NC. The populations need to be controlled and limited.
34	I support the season date outline but propose to allow Sunday Hunting. To keep the current framework, you could substitute a weekday for Sunday to not allow hunting, for example Wednesday. Most states allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl and there is currently no biological reason not to allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl. It would also increase the opportunity for parents and kids and adult/child hunting opportunities for those that only have Saturday and Sunday off work by doubling the days to hunt waterfowl. As is I have to consider if it's worth the investment into waterfowl hunting for myself and my two boys for the next 20 years, or if it's best to invest in another outdoor activity that provides more opportunity.
35	Extend the season past February 10 until March, like South Carolina dates, due to lack of migration and overpopulation of resident Canadian Goose.
36	September 1 thru October 31.
37	Is there no longer a September Season? I would prefer a September season vs a October season.
38	Suggest opening Nov. 1 closing March 5.
39	Keep it the way it has been for years by having the season open up in September.

40	Should Open October 1.
41	I would prefer doing away with the October season (because we will have just had 30 days in September) and increasing the opportunity to hunt later into February.
42	With waterfowl migrating later each year due to unseasonal warm weather that is becoming a common occurrence into late December, I believe the duck and goose seasons should be adjusted accordingly. The largest numbers of geese we see do not arrive until the last few weeks of the season.
43	Open season all year.
44	Would rather have longer season due to amount of geese that are in the area.
45	Would be nice to have an earlier season and the goose season open when duck seasons were closed. Having said that, I don't have strong feels as not an avid goose hunter.
46	Allow Sunday hunting. Current blue laws do not represent a separation of church and State.
47	Once again season should start and stop on the weekends.
48	Early November in most of NC will only have wood ducks. Move the season later so that we shall have more hunting days in December and, of course, all of January.
49	Move early Nov to early Dec.
50	I would prefer to see the third split open on December 14 to allow for an additional Saturday for the third split. I would rather lose some days in the second (November split) to allow for extra days in the third split.
51	Open Sunday Waterfowl Hunting- Do not open the second season until Nov 16.
52	Oct 1 to March 10 would be better.
53	Extend goose season through February.
54	Never see any wild Canada geese anywhere in the state.
55	I would like to see goose season end prior to youth days. I feel like this encourages illegal participation during those special days.
56	Change the season to follow the duck season I mentioned.
57	Why not just have one long season to thin the population?
58	Go longer at the end of the season push to end of February.
59	Close the gaps in the dates.
60	Recommend no October season.
61	The Canada goose season needs to be extended the population is getting out of control.
62	I would love to see the latest closing date moved to March instead of February.
63	Allow no plugs during this season.
64	This would be great to extend later into the end of Feb or March to give us all something to do after Duck Season goes out.
65	A season going through all of February would be more ideal with what I have observed with migration.
66	Open the seasons on a Saturday.
67	I wish the resident season was longer going into Oct or Nov as too hot to mess with them in Sept.
68	Open 15 November close 80 days later.
69	December until end of February.
70	Oct 1 to oct 9 nov and dec stay the same.
71	Extend the last season through March 8th when the migrating birds are plentiful.
72	Ideally this aligns with duck season.
73	In the eastern part of North Carolina, we need to be able to shoot more geese instead of one a day.
74	The first season would not hurt to be extended or just continuously from Oct. 17th through November 30th with no break. Our goose population supports this tremendously.
75	We need later dates closer to March 10 to discourage nuisance birds from residing in unwanted areas for the summer.
76	Open late split Dec. 14 to give an extra weekend during the late split. Adjust days from earlier season(s).
77	Be nice to allow goose hunting on the 2nd youth/disabled Veterans Day hunt.
78	Run this season to the latest possible date. Sacrifice the early Nov dates for later (February) instead.
79	No October season add dates to end of February.
80	Would like the late season to go through February.
81	This season should go to the end of February.
82	We need maximum time to thin the resident/nuisance geese population.
83	PLEASE STOP allowing Goose hunting for regular hunters on the Veteran/Youth Hunt days. You wind up having a bunch of adults who have hunted all season long, taking up opportunities and crowding and in

	many cases, SKY Busting public hunting areas when you have Veterans and most importantly Youth Hunters waiting all year for these two dates. Those two Sat's are supposed to be exclusive to Youth and Vets.
84	I do not support the separation of the resident zone and Northeast zone. I live and hunt in the Northeast zone and we have just as many resident Canada Geese as the Resident Zone.
85	Would like to see 1 contiguous season.
86	Eliminate the October days and add them into November and December.
87	Move the 3rd segment to Dec 14th to Jan 29. Better utilization of more calendar weekend days for working hunters.
88	The later the closing date the better for me. Geese mostly visit our farm pond in the weeks after the season closes (Feb 8th).
89	Needs to be wider - resident Canada geese are almost a nuisance.
90	Canada Goose are overpopulated in my opinion. I suggest lengthening the seasons as much as possible.
91	The first split is ok. Second split should start later in November until the 80 days are over.
92	Extend longer into February.
93	The true resident season needs extension for another week into February to really have more access to these resident birds, early season of September is sporadic at getting access to those birds . If you really want to break up or breakdown the population, hunting those birds later allows hunters to break up those breeding pairs. Allows us to kill bird pairings up which breaks up the breeding population and still remove some of the young of the year. This helps in the reduction of the resident group. If you are worried about migrants? A few may be killed too, but not enough to impact migrant population. Migrants are not getting here like they used to. I don't see the bands I was once did. We are not getting the cold weather pushes. Start banding resident birds with colored bands or bands in general. Colored bands would be a direct recognition for hunters and for reporting the resident population that truly lives here. Get the biologist off their butts and start banding those birds and qui guessing at population counts. This state is not the only state I hunt and here and see the same responses from other hunters in other states over the resident population of geese!
94	Season should open sooner.
95	I do not support the break in the season. What is the reason for the break in season from 12/1 - 12/17? This seems arbitrary and can be confusing. Also, it limits the amount of time hunters have afield. I don't believe this break would have a significant effect on the harvest #s.
96	Eliminate the October days and add more in February/March.

**2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons**  
**Canada Goose Season – Northeast Hunt Zone**  
 (Also includes White-Fronted Geese)



Choices	Responses	
Support	60%	471
Do Not Support	6%	48
No Preference	34%	272
<b>Total</b>		<b>791</b>

Frameworks:

30 days

Earliest opening date: December 21st

Closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

December 28th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	48	114	86	26	51	57	26	23	10	3	27	471
Do Not Support	11	7	12	3	4	5	2	1	0	2	1	48
No Preference	3	57	57	25	33	33	20	20	13	0	11	272
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>791</b>

## Canada Goose Season – Northeast Hunt Zone Comments

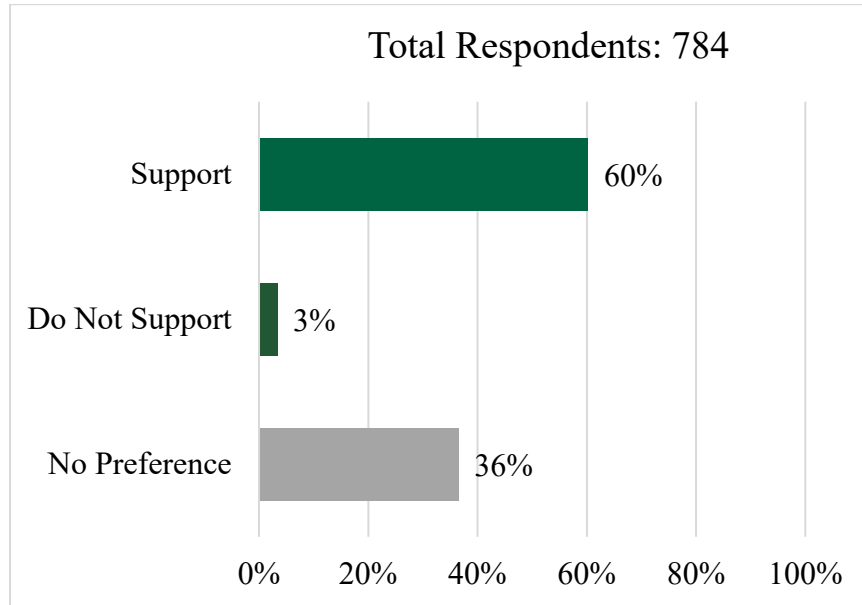
Number	Comment
1	We don't understand the point of this zone.
2	Way too short for the number of birds in the eastern fly zone.
3	This NE zone should match to start and end at a duck season spilt, earlier in December.
4	There is a large goose population in our area, why do we have such a short season? Goose season should be the same as duck season.
5	Needs to be year-round. They are a problem
6	Longer and earlier start of season needed.
7	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
8	Close the season on Canadas in the NE zone.
9	What's the point of such a short season for a species that is so abundant?
10	We really don't have many migratory geese in the northeast town zone anymore and it really doesn't matter. There are more resident geese there than migratory geese.
11	Open Sunday hunting.
12	There shouldn't be any "zones" ...another ridiculous aspect of a mismanaged resource. Hunted in NC for I don't know how long, and geese are plentiful. Saw 1000s in the NE hunt zone every day.
13	Eliminate permits and increase limits to 5/15.
14	I support the season date outline but propose to allow Sunday Hunting. To keep the current framework, you could substitute a weekday for Sunday to not allow hunting, for example Wednesday. Most states allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl and there is currently no biological reason not to allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl. It would also increase the opportunity for parents and kids and adult/child hunting opportunities for those that only have Saturday and Sunday off work by doubling the days to hunt waterfowl. As is I have to consider if it's worth the investment into waterfowl hunting for myself and my two boys for the next 20 years, or if it's best to invest in another outdoor activity that provides more opportunity.
15	With waterfowl migrating later each year due to unseasonal warm weather that is becoming a common occurrence into late December, I believe the duck and goose seasons should be adjusted accordingly. The largest numbers of geese we see do not arrive until the last few weeks of the season.
16	If the migratory population in NC is so at risk just close the season. I'm guessing this one bird limit serves as a "mistake bird".
17	I support this, but I do think the Northeast zone should continue to be conservative in cahoots with the eastern shores of VA and MD.
18	Rather have maximum amount of days.
19	With a better understanding of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation than the majority of the public, it's hard for me to believe that biologists' studies and surveys reflect such a poor population of Canada geese in the Northeast Zone that the season must be so restricted. I don't think that population density and migratory patterns are necessarily the same thing. Season could surely be lengthened there, though this may be a Federal restriction. Also, allow Sunday hunting.
20	Goose should mirror duck season or at least go Dec 18th- Jan 31st but should be allowed same bag limit of 1 per person in November season also. Only small handful of hunters and for limited days even hunt September season so not impacting population enough, should let waterfowl hunters get more days to shoot geese while duck hunting if want to get goose population under control.
21	WHY NOT MORE DAYS. THERE ARE TOOOOO MANY HONKERS.
22	Back up the dates 1 week.
23	Extend season for geese. Not heavily hunted and overpopulated.
24	Extend goose season through February.
25	There are very few migratory geese harvested anymore, the early goose season is not working, let the harvest continue all duck season.
26	Need to have same season as rest of state 60 days of at least 45 days. birds are not getting shot.
27	Why have a season at all with such short window to harvest a bird.
28	Open on the 26th, more opportunity for working hunters around the holiday.
29	Be nice to be able to hunt on youth/disabled veterans days.
30	The entire county of Bertie should be included and not split down the middle.
31	We need time to thin the Canada resident nuisance geese population.

32	I believe there should be a September Canada Goose Season in both the Northeast and Resident Zones. I live and hunt in the Northeast Zone and we have just as many Resident Canada Geese as the Resident Zone.
33	Most of the birds in this area are resident geese - should treat as such.
34	Season needs to be longer.
35	NE zone should follow the rest of the state.
36	Needs to Follow normal Canada Goose Seasons for the rest of the state.
37	Wish we could hunt Canada geese during resident goose season.
38	This NE zone should match to start and end at a duck season spilt, earlier in December.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Light Goose Regular Season

(Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)



Choices	Responses	
	Support	60%
Do Not Support	3%	26
No Preference	36%	286
<b>Total</b>		<b>784</b>

**Frameworks:**

107 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: March 10th

*The proposed 2023-2024 season dates are:*

October 8th – February 8th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	49	110	91	29	45	63	21	25	1	3	21	472
Do Not Support	3	6	5	1	1	3	3	2	0	2	0	26
No Preference	9	62	59	24	38	36	17	17	0	0	17	286
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>784</b>



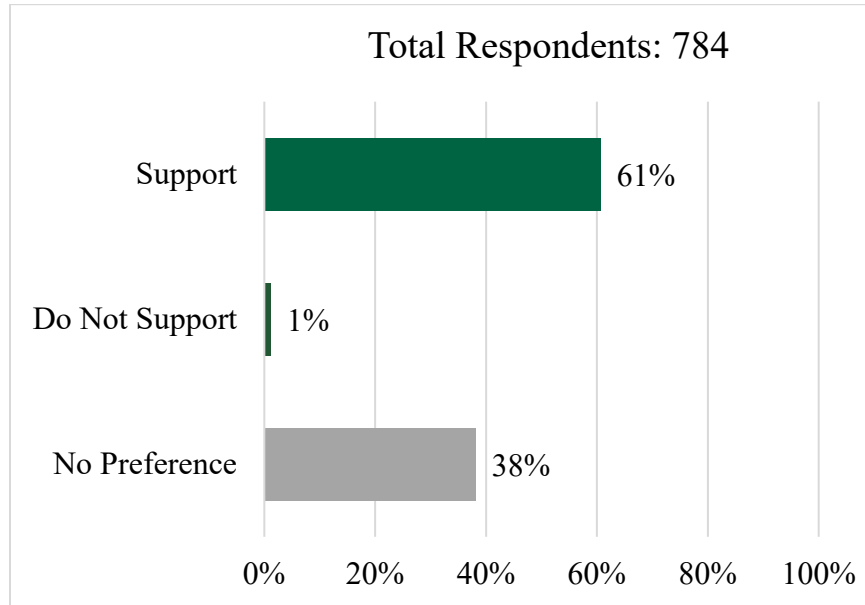
### Light Goose Regular Season Comments

Number	Comment
1	Allow Sunday Hunting.
2	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
3	I feel like we need to extend this season into March. I would be interested in seeing any data alluding to overhunting that would prevent us from having the ability to hunt them in March.
4	I support the time frame and having one long season.
5	Light goose season should occur all dates at the last available dates.
6	Need Sunday hunting.
7	Snow geese are overpopulated. Needs to be one long continuous season.
8	Would like to be able to hunt on Sundays
9	Make dates later in the season. White Geese aren't around here in Oct, so get closer to that 3/10 Date.
10	Open Sunday hunting.
11	Extend season to 15 February.
12	I feel like we need to extend this season into March. I would be interested in seeing any data alluding to overhunting that would prevent us from having the ability to hunt them in March.
13	Light goose season should start in November and run through March 10 <sup>th</sup> .
14	Light goose season should occur all dates at the last available dates.
15	Support, except for Sunday hunting, should be allowed. Some of us don't go to church and we like to hunt. A lot.
16	Shift season 2 weeks later.
17	I believe the season should end on Feb 28 and run back the 107 days.
18	Same as Canada geese, I would like to see some sort of exemption on youth days as I feel like having this season open during those Saturdays encourages illegal participation.
19	Season is fine as is.
20	Push this season to later in Feb or Mar to give additional hunting opportunities past the end of duck season.
21	Need late opening.
22	Close at end of February.
23	Move the season to run through February.
24	Through 3/31.
25	Would like to see this season moved back (i.e. starting in November).
26	Opens way too early. No birds here at that time. Should run till March 10.
27	Sunday hunting should be allowed.
28	Proposed season should be longer.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Light Goose Conservation Order Season

(Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)



Choices	Responses	
	Support	61%
Do Not Support	1%	9
No Preference	38%	299
Total		784

Frameworks:

Must occur when no other waterfowl seasons are open.

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

February 10th – March 31st.

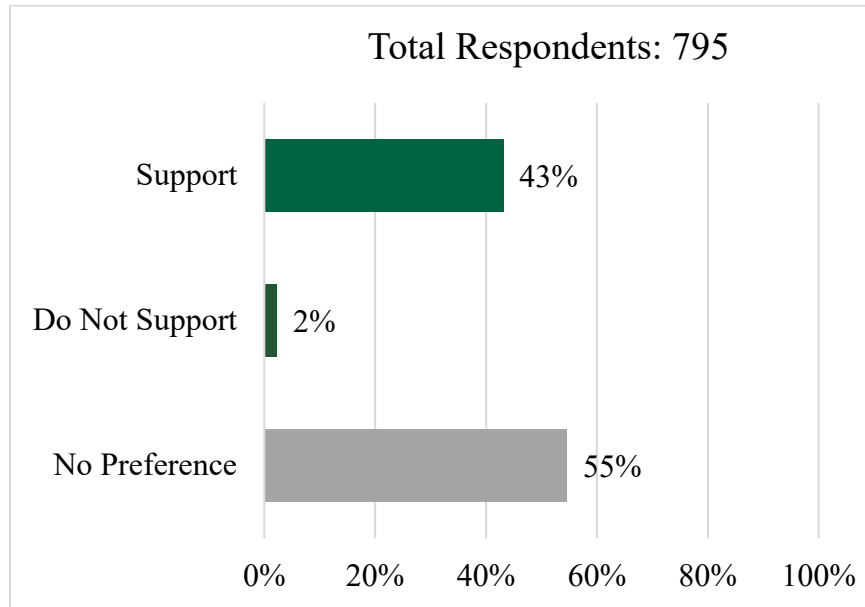
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	49	112	89	27	44	63	25	26	14	4	23	476
Do Not Support	0	1	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	9
No Preference	13	65	63	27	38	35	15	18	9	0	16	299
Total	62	178	155	54	83	101	40	44	23	5	39	784

### Light Goose Conservation Order Season Comments

Number	Comment
1	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
2	Should encourage landowners to open up access.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Brant Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	43%	343
Do Not Support	2%	18
No Preference	55%	434
Total		795

**Frameworks:**

30 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 21st

Closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

December 28th – January 31st.

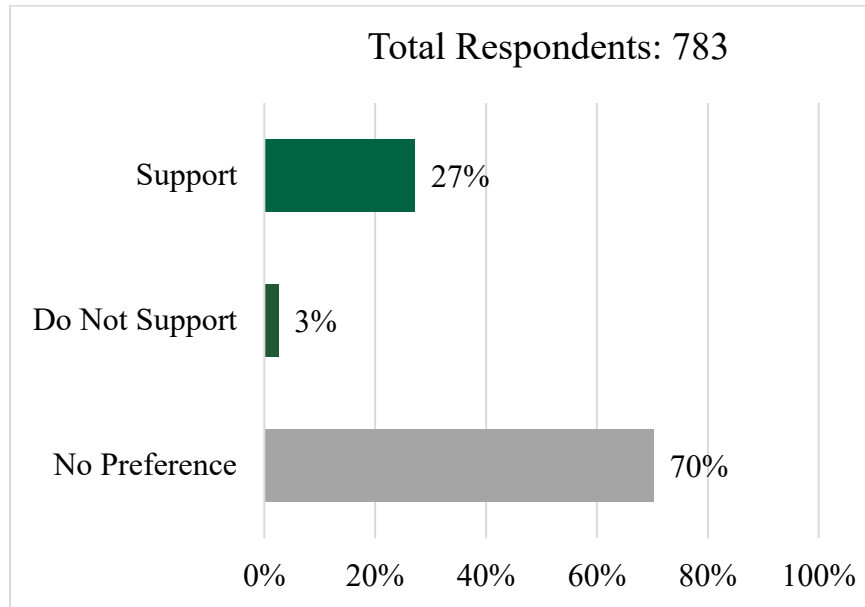
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	36	85	66	18	30	49	14	15	9	3	18	343
Do Not Support	4	4	2	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	18
No Preference	22	89	97	35	51	49	27	28	14	2	20	434
Total	62	178	165	54	84	100	41	44	23	5	39	795

## Brant Season Comments

Number	Comment
1	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
2	Allow Sunday Hunting.
3	Prefer the season to begin with the start of the third waterfowl season and then expire after 30 days.
4	Make same as goose season.
5	A prime example of what worries me about the scaup population.
6	Allow Sunday hunting for brant. Most hunters have to travel to get to the coast. An added morning to hunt on Sunday would generate business for lodging, restaurants, and guides.
7	Shoot'em on Sundays?
8	Not long enough.
9	Have seen very few in my region in the last 10 years.
10	This should open with the opening day of the late split duck season.
11	Close the season, or limit hunters to 2 per season.
12	I do sea duck hunt but have never seen a Brant in NC waters.
13	Needs to start earlier.
14	Brant season should at least last as long as the final split. We don't see many here in NC so 30 days to take them is absurd.
15	Again, with no viable population why have a season?
16	Consider 2 splits of 15 days with an initial 15 days being Dec 16 - Jan 1 to coincide with holiday breaks for young hunters. The remaining 15 days could be allocated to the last 15 days of January. This will help manage pressure on the birds, but also provide more hunt days for youth hunters to harvest brant over Christmas/New Years breaks. To sustain waterfowl hunting, we need to provide more opportunities to get kids engaged and enjoying it and being able to hunt brant provides that opportunity.
17	Our seasons do not reflect the migration patterns in our area. We need to extend our seasons past January into February. And give a longer break between splits. I am an avid trout fisherman spend almost all my weekends on the water I have hunted ducks since i could walk my uncle used to piggy back me into a swamp. I spend a majority of my time in the Pamlico sound like I stated almost every weekend for the last 17 years. Our birds, which we still have, tend to show up in late January dependent on weather further north which obviously has changed. I don't even consider hunting ducks until the last 2 weeks of the season and that's only if it is cold. Just last weekend there were more bluebills in rose bay then I have seen all year. We need to change with the weather patterns in our area and really need to do some changing. Declining numbers is a real concern but more eel grass in the sound maybe one or two stands between great island and shell narrows and they're so small they can't sustain. We need to look into regulating erosion control issues in the agriculture industry their pesticides and selective herbicides have taken a number on our sounds and wetlands. Also, the great refuge in that area. Carp are not the main issue. I know you folks know this hopefully we can see these changes over the next few years and restore a once thriving waterfowl population. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO! I KNOW YOU ALL CARE AND DO YOUR BEST!
18	Sunday hunting should be allowed.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Tundra Swan Season



Choices	Responses	
	Support	27%
Do Not Support	3%	20
No Preference	70%	213
<b>Total</b>		<b>783</b>

**Frameworks:**

90 days, permit only (4,721 permits)

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: January 31<sup>st</sup>

*The proposed 2024-2025 season dates are:*

November 9th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	56	133	110	35	52	692	28	22	12	4	29	550
Do Not Support	2	6	7	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	20
No Preference	3	39	38	10	31	30	12	20	11	1	9	213
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>783</b>

## Tundra Swan Season Comments

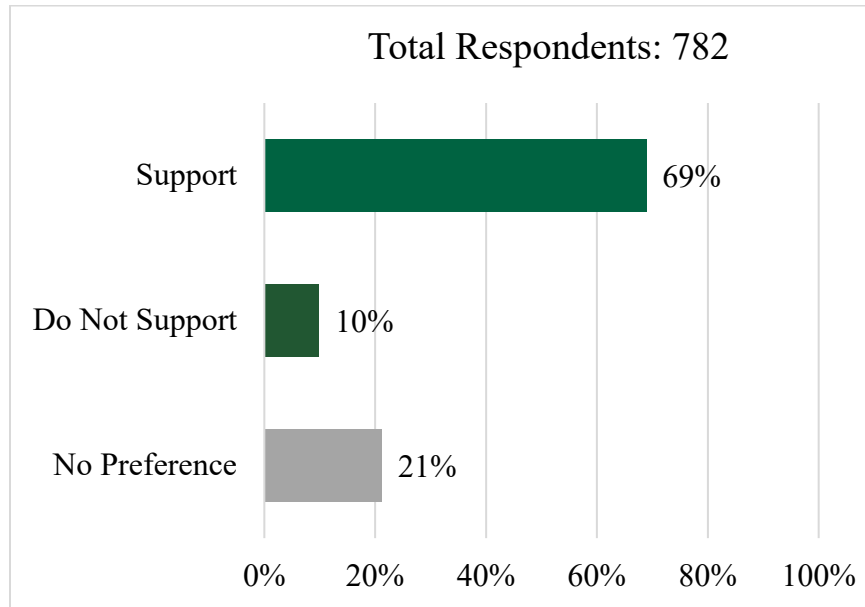
Number	Comment
1	Allow Sunday Hunting.
2	I do not support any framework that prohibits Sunday hunting.
3	I think this season needs to allow more permits as the Swan population supports at least 5000 permits. There's a lot of Hunters in NC.
4	I would like to see more permits provided. I did not see the mortality in 2023 that I have seen in past years.
5	Maybe more permits.
6	More permit opportunities.
7	Need Sunday hunting.
8	No permit should be needed. There should be a tag option for every hunter.
9	Swans are very plentiful in the area more permits need to be issued.
10	The draw system still needs some work.
11	They should cut the amount of permits down. There's so much pressure on the swan around Pongo that they will soon leave like the other migratory birds have they are under a lot of pressure down east and soon they will probably quit coming too just like the geese did
12	Would like to be able to hunt on Sundays.
13	Would rather have shorter season but more permits.
14	Many non-hunters purchase permits in order to prevent hunters from being able to kill swans. If there is a way to limit that it would be great!
15	Add clarity about Youth & Vet Days being legal for Tundra Swan.
16	Open Sunday hunting.
17	Again, stop ending the final split on a weekday.
18	Increase permits to 5000.
19	I support the season date outline but propose to allow Sunday Hunting. To keep the current framework, you could substitute a weekday for Sunday to not allow hunting, for example Wednesday. Most states allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl and there is currently no biological reason not to allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl. It would also increase the opportunity for parents and kids and adult/child hunting opportunities for those that only have Saturday and Sunday off work by doubling the days to hunt waterfowl. As is I have to consider if it's worth the investment into waterfowl hunting for myself and my two boys for the next 20 years, or if it's best to invest in another outdoor activity that provides more opportunity.
20	Every licensed hunter should get 1 permit per season.
21	Would support youth days added to this season.
22	Allow Sunday hunting. Many people interested in hunting swans live outside the areas that swans inhabit. An extra day on a weekend (when most people have off) would allow more opportunity for those to fill their tags.
23	Season to start later than November 9th and end later in Feb.
24	More tags so more teams can be chosen to hunt.
25	Sundays please?
26	Did we lose the total number of permits? I thought there were more issued in the past.
27	More permits.
28	Are we seeing any decline in population? Can you up the permits or allow anyone to get one during the season and tag it?
29	End season middle of February.
30	Does this also include youth hunt days?
31	NC needs more permits issued.
32	Ideally this aligns with duck season.
33	Extend to the end of youth season. (2/8).
34	Get rid of the entire season.
35	Same as general duck.
36	Provide preference points to NC residents.
37	Quit charging for the permit. We are taxed enough.
38	Allow hunting on Sundays



39	Should include February 1st - a Saturday.
40	Need a longer season especially if the number taken is capped at 5000.
41	Would rather have shorter season but more permits.
42	Sunday hunting should be allowed.
43	Season should open earlier.
44	1) Season not long enough given limited permitting & 2) issue 7,500-10,000 permits.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Youth Waterfowl Days



Choices	Responses	
Support	69%	539
Do Not Support	10%	77
No Preference	21%	166
Total		782

**Guidelines for selecting Youth Waterfowl Days include:**

1. The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular hunting season for ducks, mergansers and coots or in the closed portion between season segments.
2. The day(s) must occur on any non-school day. In North Carolina, this includes Saturdays and any statewide holidays.
3. There can be no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days in the Inland duck hunting zone and no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days in the Coastal duck hunting zone (4 total Youth Waterfowl Days).
4. Youth waterfowl days can be held concurrently with Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days.

*The proposed 2024-2025 Youth Waterfowl Days in both the Inland Zone and Coastal Zone are:*

February 1st and February 8th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	42	129	112	33	51	62	35	30	14	4	27	539
Do Not Support	11	23	11	5	10	7	2	1	0	0	7	77
No Preference	8	26	32	16	22	23	12	12	9	1	5	166
Total	61	178	155	54	83	92	49	43	23	5	39	782

## Youth Waterfowl Days Comments

Number	Comment
1	I do support but we could move the youth days back and extended regular season through Feb.8
2	Would like to see more youth days.
3	Please bring the age back to 15 and below 16-year-old teenagers are duck hunting by their selves everywhere and they are so obnoxious
4	Youth waterfowl is starting to get taken advantage of since the age limit was increased. I support all youth hunting 100% but what I have seen over the past couple of years is shameful.
5	These dates need to be moved back by 1-2 weekends at least for better hunts for our youth.
6	I support Veterans but they should other dates than youth dates!!!!!!
7	I do not support extra weekends for youth.
8	Move to the end of the season (15 February)
9	1 day after the regular season? Ridiculous...
10	I support the season date outline but propose to allow Sunday Hunting. To keep the current framework, you could substitute a weekday for Sunday to not allow hunting, for example Wednesday. Most states allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl and there is currently no biological reason not to allow Sunday hunting for waterfowl. It would also increase the opportunity for parents and kids and adult/child hunting opportunities for those that only have Saturday and Sunday off work by doubling the days to hunt waterfowl. As is I have to consider if it's worth the investment into waterfowl hunting for myself and my two boys for the next 20 years, or if it's best to invest in another outdoor activity that provides more opportunity.
11	Put these dates a day before regular duck season starts. It's too cold for youth that late in the year.
12	If vets and youth can hunt into Feb why can't the rest of us that put the money into NC wildlife.
13	Mid-feb date preferred. Ducks need more time to rest after end of third split.
14	Add Friday to youth days to make it more cost effective for travelers. Too expensive to travel with kids for 1 day.
15	With the proposed general season closing Jan 31, this does not give the ducks the rest period that we normally get prior to the first youth day. Would recommend moving the general season last day back to the previous Saturday to allow for 1 week of rest prior to the first youth day or moving the youth days back 1 week each. Rest for the ducks is key to a successful youth hunt to prevent stale birds and these youth days are critical to ensuring our waterfowl tradition carries on by ensuring we do everything possible to ensure quality hunts for kids. I am opposed to the military days as these individuals compete with the youth, especially for spots on public land. Military members have opportunities to hunt throughout the general season and should not be given these extra days which should be reserved solely for the youth.
16	Place them earlier in the season. Migratory waterfowl have been pressured all season and paired up at this time beginning the migration and prep back north.
17	The Veterans are squeezing out the Youth Hunt opportunities, especially in the Public Waterfowl areas. Need to work out another arrangement for the Veterans.
18	My suggestion is to include a "senior day hunt" also for license holders over 75. Or pick another age distinction. I don't think the elderly will severely impact the resource in one day. Would combine Grandparents with children for a day.
19	I support extended days for youth, but I think they need to be during the split as well as the end to give them a chance at less pressured birds.
20	I wish military/veterans and youth days were separated. I used to attempt to bring my kids on youth days to public impoundments. However, it was not an enjoyable experience for them having to race to access a spot. I don't mind doing that when hunting on my own--but it doesn't make for an enjoyable hunt for young kids. I suppose the other option would be to enforce the 4 am entry time into the impoundments.
21	Let the kids hunt on Sunday when they have off school!
22	Due to the calendar year not allowing but 1 day before the end of regular season ending and the 1st Saturday in Feb. I would support Dec 14th and Feb 8th for youth days in both zones, but for sure Coastal Zone.
23	Would there be an option in the future for allowing First Responders to hunt the same days?
24	In relation to comments made about wanting to see general duck season extended into February, this doesn't seem to be fair with these proposed youth days. I'm not sure what would be fair, if youth day would just be at the end of February, after the general duck season or if a "split" in the seasons would be a solution. for

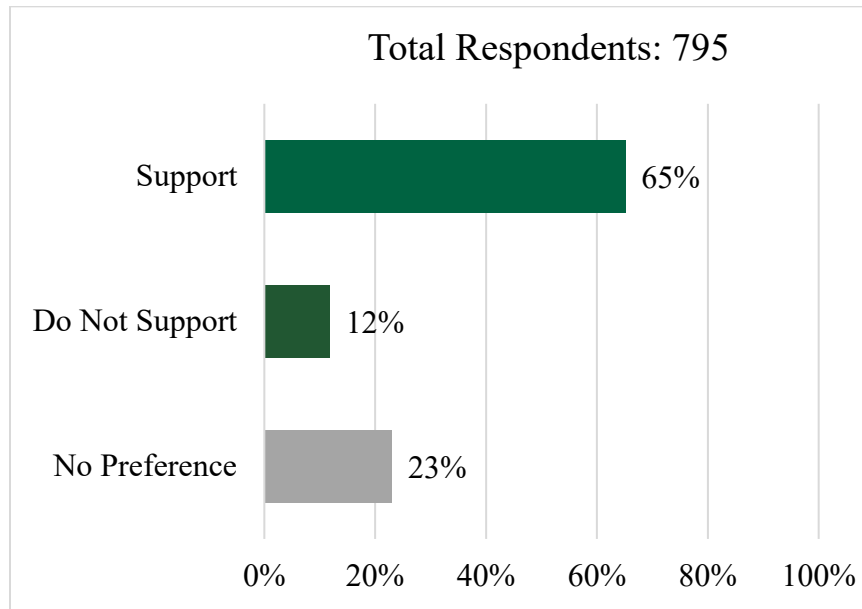
	instance, if general duck season ran until the second to last week in January, then youth day got the last Saturday in January, then general duck season opens back up for a week or two into February.
25	Youth hunting seasons, from personal observations and experiences, are nothing more than CHEAT HUNTING opportunities for adults.
26	One in December and one on February 8.
27	Place a youth day in the December split.
28	Birds are already paired up. Hurting the population.
29	One of these youth days should be used in the early season when the weather is more moderate (i.e., less dangerous) and more ducks are available.
30	Feb 8th and 15th. Need to give the birds rest after regular season for kids to have a good hunt.
31	Youth seasons are heavily taken advantage of. Decrease the timeline.
32	No kids.
33	Youth day should come before opening day.
34	Please separate youth days from veteran days. I have had increasing negative interactions during these days. Please enforce laws on game lands, particularly goose creek. I have reached out to multiple officers over the last three years regarding numerous individuals within the posted waterfowl impoundments hours before 4:00am. I still have not seen any enforcement presence to date. I think visibility of law enforcement could be a positive thing especially on youth days when individuals like me try and teach new hunters how to properly waterfowl hunt in NC. Interactions do not have to be negative, but the past three years have been borderline lawless on game lands.
35	Perhaps consider allowing adding Sunday hunting for those youth days. In other words, Feb 1 and 2 / Feb 8 and 9. Gives an option to pick a better weather day for those the season is meant to benefit.
36	Make 1 youth day during split, weather is rough on youth.
37	Need a week.
38	I don't believe that the youth should be allotted additional days.
39	I'd prefer if the dates for the youth season were February 8th and 15th, I think it would give the ducks a week of rest before being hunted.
40	Youth days should be separated from veteran's days.
41	Put one youth day in the middle of the November 30 and December 18 time off.
42	I do support the youth and veteran's days but recommend some structure, perhaps permits, be places on hunting in areas that are typically permits hunts. My experience is that these are coveted hunting areas that attract large numbers of hunters, and this leads to conflicts. I have personally been threatened by what I assume was a group of active-duty military during the youth hunt.
43	Move to Sat between 2nd and 3rd segment - So After Season Legal Feeding can occur earlier to help duck imprint to Atlantic flyway.
44	These days should be in Dec when regular season is out. These days should also be available to Sr. Citizens who struggle to find accessible hunting.
45	Put them in November.
46	Make the youth days fall in October.
47	I support these dates however it would be better if they were pushed back 2 more weeks each being that adults need a long duck season.
48	Age should be reduced for youth, should add in a senior citizen (70 years +) option.
49	We need one of the youth days in October.
50	February 8 and February 15.
51	Move to the beginning of the season.
52	The youth/veteran day should be in the December split between seasons. This would allow better success for young hunters since the birds have not been pressured for the entire season.
53	These days should be March 1 and March 8. Concurring with the shifted Duck season segments.
54	Need to be only one day and between November and December seasons. The age of youth needs to return to 15 and under. The season does not need to go into February. A lot of the birds are paired up already. Fell that if I can't go into February shouldn't let anyone to do it.
55	February 8 and February 15.

56	Fire/Police/EMS should be allowed to hunt on the youth/veteran days. It would mean a lot since we give so much on nights and weekends not being able to hunt.
57	I proposed revising the season splits for the coastal/inland zones previously and I think one of the youth days should be pulled forward to earlier in the season when hunting opportunities are better and to help reduce stress on waterfowl at the end of the season.
58	Please do not combine youth and military waterfowl hunt days! Military could be a separate day, Like 1 in October or December etc.
59	Put them earlier. They kill the healthiest ducks.
60	Should give just military/veterans an extra day.
61	Need Sunday hunting.
62	Allow hunting on Sundays.
63	Would like to see a few more days between the end of the regular duck season and the opening youth hunt but I see where the framework wouldn't allow that to happen. (Must open on a Saturday and be within 14 days after regular season ends).
64	As stated earlier, please don't allow regular hunters to hunt Geese on these two hunt days.
65	One in December between the regular season, and one the first Saturday in February.
66	Before regular season would give more opportunity for birds.
67	There should be a week of rest between closing of regular season and youth day.
68	Should be during the regular season. 1st day of any of the regular segments. youth only
69	Should separate the youth from military days at least for one weekend. Maybe February 8 and February 15.
70	Give a week of rest to the birds. Make the first day the 8th and the second the following Saturday.
71	Should be later in February.
72	Veterans and youth day should be held different dates and no coincide- it makes it very difficult for hunting public land
73	1 Saturday in between regular duck season in December. The second day should be 1st Saturday in February.
74	Our seasons do not reflect the migration patterns in our area. We need to extend our seasons past January into February. And give a longer break between splits. I am an avid trout fisherman spend almost all my weekends on the water i have hunted ducks since I could walk my uncle used to piggyback me into a swamp. I spend a majority of my time in the Pamlico sound like I stated almost every weekend for the last 17 years. Our birds, which we still tend to show up in late January dependent on weather further north which obviously have changed. I don't even consider hunting ducks until the last 2 weeks of the season and that's only if it is cold. Just last weekend there were more bluebills in rose bay then I have seen all year. We need to change with the weather patterns in our area and really need to do some changing. Declining numbers is a real concern but more eel grass in the sound maybe one or two stands between great island and shell narrows and they're so small they can't sustain. We need to look into regulating erosion control issues in the agriculture industry their pesticides and selective herbicides have taken a number on our sounds and wetlands. Also, the great refuge in that area. Carp are not the main issue. I know you folks know this hopefully we can see these changes over the next few years and restore a once thriving waterfowl population. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO! I KNOW YOU ALL CARE AND DO YOUR BEST!
75	Push to the end of Feb. after extending general duck season two weeks into Feb.
76	This is why the regular season should close at least on the 29th of January.
77	Need to keep all youth days for hunting any species at end of seasons. Feb. 1 & 8 are fine.
78	Think you need to look at having it on the before season opening to really give them first chance at birds like you do for turkey season. A Saturday before can be done with season dates currently offered. Putting them on February is tougher to kill educated birds. It is not easier if the migration doesn't have all the birds over wintering here. It's very weather dependent if there are still birds around to hunt. Let's be real.
79	Youth day hunt or veteran day hunt should be inserted during the 3 week break between November 30 and December 18. This would allow better hunting opportunities and larger club and waterfowl management areas privately owned would be more susceptible to allowing youth and veterans to hunt and at the same time help reduce excessive periods of times birds are allowed to stay in those areas.
80	Kids need their own day away from any adult.

81	Youth days should come earlier in the season to give the youth better chances for success.
	There should be only one day for youth hunts and the youths should be 15 and under. A you that can drive isn't a youth anymore! Also, there should not be any youth hunts in February!! Birds are paired up and need to rest on their migration back north. Youth hunts should be in the weeks between the November and December seasons.
82	Limit youth to one week before and after.
83	Make it later in the month.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)



Choices	Responses	
	Support	65%
Do Not Support	12%	94
No Preference	23%	183
Total		795

**Guidelines for selecting Veterans/Military days include:**

1. The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular hunting season for ducks, mergansers and coots or in the closed portion between season segments.
2. There can be no more than 2 Veteran/Military Waterfowl days in the Inland duck hunting zone and no more than 2 Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days in the Coastal duck hunting zone (4 total Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days).
3. Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days can be held concurrently with Youth Waterfowl Days.

*The proposed 2024-2025 Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days in both the Inland Zone and Coastal Zone are: February 1st and February 8th.*

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	42	118	107	34	49	62	27	33	15	3	5	518
Do Not Support	9	31	16	3	18	7	3	1	1	1	1	94
No Preference	8	31	37	17	21	28	10	17	6	1	0	183
Total	59	180	160	54	88	97	40	51	22	5	6	795



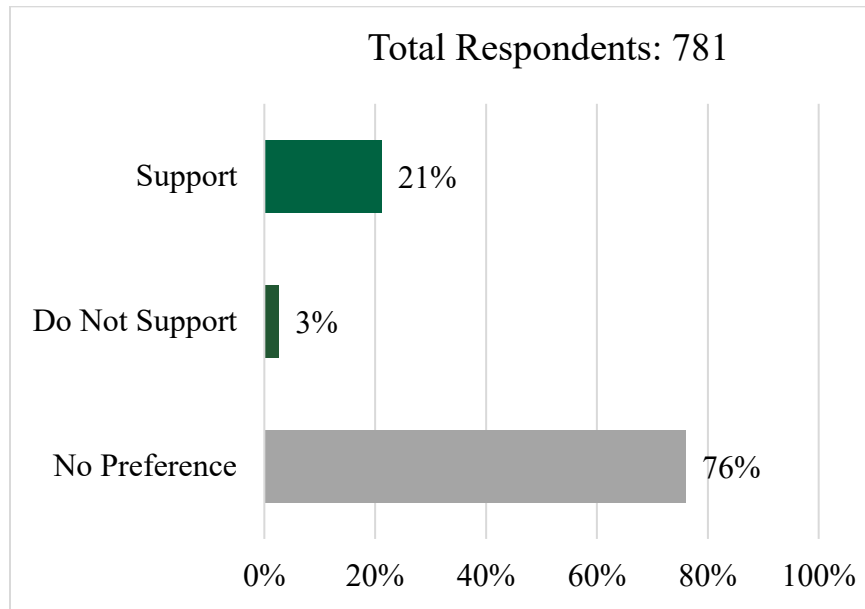
## Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s) Comments

Number	Comment
1	Youth/veteran days should be in the split in December.
2	Would like one day before the season and one date afterward.
3	Why can't we just leave the youth days just for the youth the military guys tend to hunt all the time now as it is why I give them another two weekends I say this with experience my father was in the Marine Corps for 34 years I grew up on military installations. The military guys do not need an extra two weekends to hunt
4	What about first responders???
5	We need a youth day in October.
6	Veterans/Military Families should be allowed 3 weeks before and 3 weeks after regular season
7	Veterans/military dates should be different dates than youth in my opinion
8	Veterans should other dates than youth season dates!!!!
9	Veterans days should be discontinued or at minimum not conflict with youth days
10	Veterans are harvesting too many pair bonded birds compared to youth. Plus, many non-veterans are hunting these days
11	Veterans and youth day should be held different dates- very difficult when hunting public land when dates coincide
12	Veterans and active military members are in it for the freedom.... they should be allowed to hunt on Sunday.
13	Veteran days need to be held after the regular season closes due to ducks actually arriving at that time.
14	Treating citizens unequally is un-American.
15	They are hunters like the rest of us.
16	This is why the regular season should close at least on the 29th of January.
17	These should be open March 1 and March 8. Concurring with Duck season segment shifts.
18	There should be an additional veteran day
19	Take this away or allow first responders to be included.
20	Should not go into February. I don't feel that they need extra days of hunting.
21	should be the first day of the regular seasons.
22	Should be the days before the opening of the last season.
23	Should be later in February.
24	Should be in Dec and open to senior citizens.
25	Should be allowed between November 30 and December 18 during the 3-week break.
26	Should be a week of rest between closing day of regular season and veteran hunt days.
27	Same comments as youth.
28	Same as youth day comment. I'd suggest letting them hunt Saturday and Sunday.
29	Same as my comment on youth dates.
30	reduce age of youth to 15, add in senior citizen option for 70yr plus
31	Push to the end of Feb. after extending General Duck season two weeks into Feb.
32	Prefer that youth days be separate from veteran/military so that youth can take time and be properly introduced without the extra pressure and more experienced shooters.
33	Please separate these days from youth days.
34	Place them earlier in the season. Migratory waterfowl have been pressured all season and paired up at this time beginning the migration and prep back north.
35	Open Thanksgiving Day and run to Sunday. Close from December 2-6. Open back on Dec 7 and run through January 31. Still a 60-day season. Don't close on Sundays. Youth days are the weekend before opening and after closing. Same goes for veterans days.
36	One Saturday in December between the regular season and the first Saturday in February
37	One in December break and one Feb 8
38	Nothing against Vets but why extra days.... maybe disabled vets i can see but why reg vets?
39	Not a veteran, let them decide what works best for them.
40	Need to keep all veterans same season as everyone else. No early starts for anyone. If extra days are given, put them at end of season.
41	Need to find another time that does not overlap the youth days

42	Need Sunday hunting
43	Need a week.
44	Move to the end of the season (15 February).
45	Move to the beginning of the season.
46	Move to Sat between 2nd and 3rd segment - So After Season Legal Feeding can occur earlier to help duck imprint to Atlantic flyway.
47	More than a week
48	Military and youth days need to be separated for the kids benefit
49	Make the veteran's hunt fall in October to coincide with the youth days
50	Make the dates the 8th and 15th. This allows the birds a week of rest instead of shoving it the day after the end of regular season.
51	Make different than youth days. Maybe 2/3 and 2/10 for example.
52	Limit to one week before and after.
53	Like the dates in February for the Vets. Would like to see it for 2 more days.
54	in relation to my previous comments about general duck season and extending into February, i would imagine this would put veterans waterfowl days at the end of February.
55	I wish that the military would get their own days, so the kids have their own day.
56	I wish military/veterans and youth days were separated. I used to attempt to bring my kids on youth days to public impoundments. However, it was not an enjoyable experience for them having to race to access a spot. I don't mind doing that when hunting on my own--but it doesn't make for an enjoyable hunt for young kids. I suppose the other option would be to enforce the 4 am entry time into the impoundments.
57	I think it should be limited to just youth hunting
58	I support our vets, but I don't think they need extra days, we all work as well and are not able to hunt when we want during the season.
59	i support more opportunities
60	I support extended days for youth.
61	I still would like to see the youth and Veterans Day being held separately. Hard for a 12-year-old to compete with a veteran of any age.
62	I believe these days should be separated from the youth days. Too many people are taking advantage of having kids in the blind and shooting their limit and taking away opportunity.
63	I believe there should be more time extended past the last day of the regular season to allow the birds to settle in some so they're not so over pressured.
64	I appreciate their service, but they have 60 days to hunt during the regular season, so they don't need special days! I'm 71 years old. Why isn't there a Senior hunt?
65	I am opposed to additional days for military members as they have opportunities to hunt during the general season and these dates should be reserved solely for youth hunters. Military members compete for spots on public land with the youth hunters on these days and create safety issues competing with kids.
66	Get rid of these, it has hurt the youth days having adults fighting for space. Make these days early season when most kids are in school playing sports if we have to give them a day.
67	Feb 8th and 15th. Need to give the birds rest after regular season to have a good hunt.
68	Earlier, they kill the best ducks.
69	Ducks need a couple more days to rest after third split.
70	Do not believe there should be military or veteran days. They are grown adults and should hunt the season like everybody else. Why not add in law enforcement/Ems/firefighters all. They all risk their lives for people in this country.
71	Do away with these days, they should not interfere with our youth trying to hunt.
72	Birds are paired up. Hurt the population.
73	Before season.
74	As a veteran, thank you for these extra hunting days.
75	Also allowing First Responders to hunt those days as well.
76	along with youth under 16 and seniors above 65 or 70.
77	Allow hunting on Sundays.
78	8th and 15th to provide relief on the game prior to the first Saturday.
79	1 day in between regular duck season in December and first Saturday in February.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Extended Falconry Season for Doves



Choices	Responses	
Support	21%	166
Do Not Support	3%	21
No Preference	76%	166
Total		9

**Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:**

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

*The proposed 2024-2025 Extended Falconry season dates are:*

October 7th – October 19th.

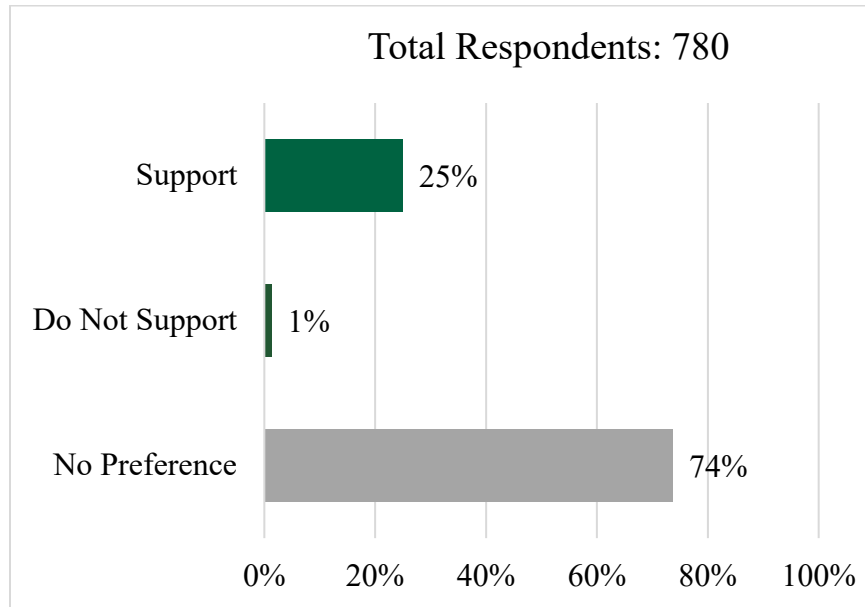
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	18	31	31	7	13	24	11	1	4	2	12	166
Do Not Support	1	2	6	0	3	5	0	0	2	0	1	21
No Preference	43	144	118	46	68	70	0	30	17	3	25	594
Total	62	177	155	53	84	99	0	41	23	5	38	781

### Extended Falconry Season for Doves Comments

Number	Comment
1	It's wild to me that falconry seasons are even a thing. It's a wild bird with such small take, let them hunt year-round.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Extended Falconry Season for Woodcocks



Choices	Responses	
	Support	25%
Do Not Support	1%	10
No Preference	74%	575
<b>Total</b>		<b>780</b>

**Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:**

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

*The proposed 2024-2025 Extended Falconry season dates are:*

December 2nd - December 10th

February 1st - February 22nd.

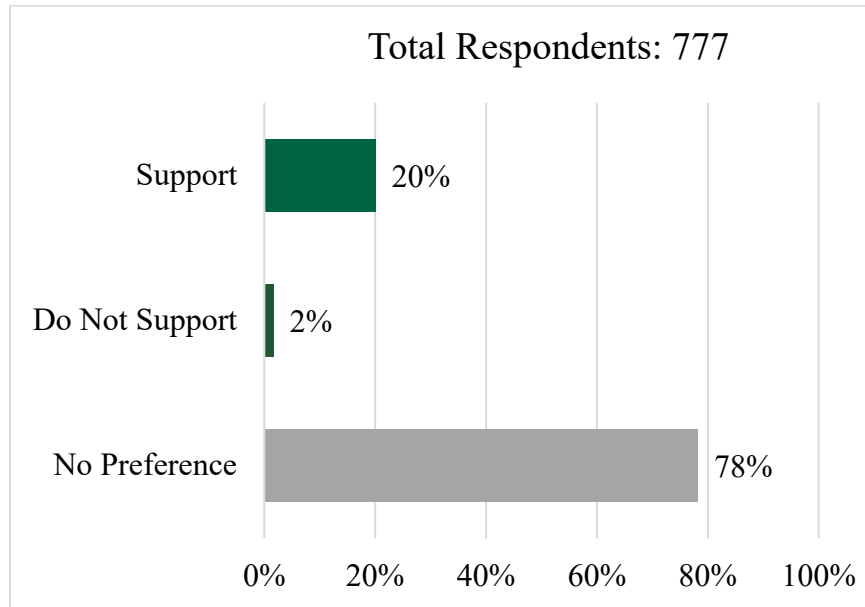
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	19	37	36	8	15	32	12	12	5	3	16	195
Do Not Support	1	0	4	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	10
No Preference	42	140	114	46	68	64	28	31	18	2	22	575
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>780</b>

## Extended Falconry Season for Woodcocks Comments

Number	Comment
	There were no public comments.

## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens



Choices	Responses	
	Support	20%
Do Not Support	2%	13
No Preference	78%	608
Total		777

**Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:**

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

*The proposed 2024-2025 Extended Falconry season dates are:*

December 7th - January 11th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	18	28	26	5	12	23	11	13	5	2	13	156
Do Not Support	1	0	6	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	13
No Preference	43	148	121	48	72	71	30	30	18	3	24	608
Total	62	176	153	53	85	98	41	44	23	5	37	777

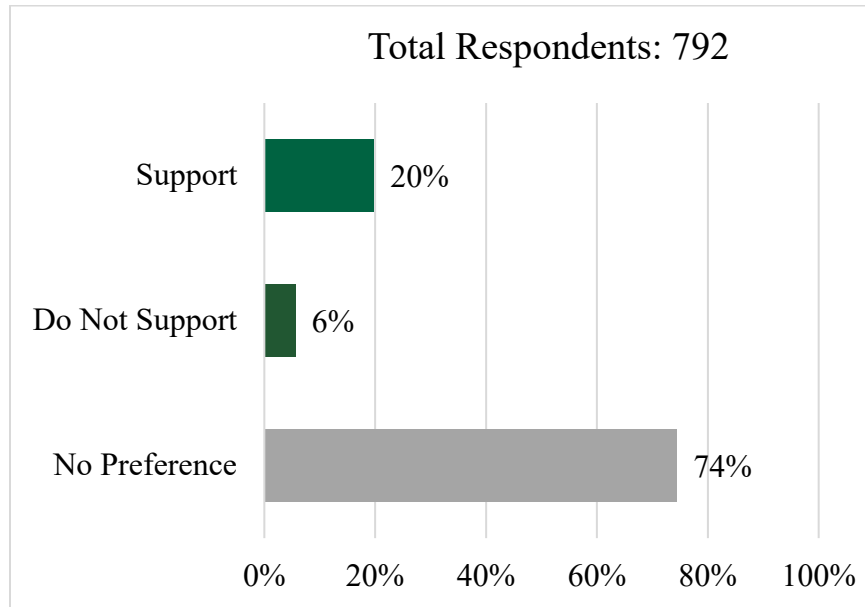
### Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Comments

Number	Comment
	There were no public comments.



## 2024-2025 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

### Extended Falconry Season for Ducks – Inland & Coastal Zones



Choices	Responses	
Support	20%	157
Do Not Support	6%	45
No Preference	74%	590
Total		792

**Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:**

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

*The proposed 2024-2025 Extended Falconry season dates are:*

October 1st - October 12th

February 1st - February 8th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	9	32	32	6	10	22	14	13	5	2	12	157
Do Not Support	3	5	13	4	5	7	1	3	2	03	2	45
No Preference	40	139	133	44	68	69	26	28	16	1	24	590
Total	52	176	178	54	83	98	41	44	23	5	38	792

## Extended Falconry Season for Ducks – Inland & Coastal Zones Comments

Number	Comment
	There were no public comments.

## General Comments on Migratory Game Birds

Number	Comment
1	You guys are the pros and know what you are doing. I support you 100%.
2	We open duck season too early, and we do not need an early Oct season.
3	The new app is ok but why can't it be improved to be able to submit swan tag and deer hunting observations. I had to send both back through the US Mail.
4	Teal hunting should be allowed East of Hwy 95 vice East of Hwy 17. This will allow hunters more opportunity to hunt the birds during the season. When it was a teal test season many years ago it made sense to prevent other ducks from being killed but now it does not. Change teal hunting during the season to East of Hwy 95 because no reason exists not to make the change.
5	Open Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
6	"Land and opportunity is still key. Should make it easier for people to get out in a variety of places at a variety of times so that hunter impact is not concentrated to a few well producing areas. Should partner with private landowners and NGOs to help improve and open access to any available land.
7	I'm a new hunter and hunting any kind of bird besides a turkey seems impossible. I would like to try some of those types of bird hunting but I'm too worried about taking the wrong bird. It's too daunting to step out on my own and try. I think we need more education about waterfowl and how to safely and legally hunt them beyond what's been posted in the past.
8	<p>I found the move to the new online/app access for buying licenses and permits to largely be a very positive move. Regarding the app, the pages for viewing permits, either applied for or awarded could be improved. The summary page should include the date of the permit for pending, awarded, and not awarded permits as well as the location/blind/zone of the permit. Currently, the location is only displayed for awarded permits. I like the filter that shows only awarded permits and I would like to see a similar filter added to show pending permits that have not yet been drawn. I like that move to breaking the drawing up into 3 different groups. It makes it much easier to plan ahead and adjust based on current condition. I would like to see the requirement of defining the party when the permit is submitted be removed. I think this was done to increase fairness to those that may not hunt with 2 partners (3 hunters applying separately have 3 times the chances as a solo hunter) but my, granted, limited experience has shown that very few parties have less than 3 hunters, so I don't think the model has an impact. It does, however, increase permit sales which I do support. With the app, it should be a simple change to allow other members to be added to the permit up until the day before the hunt. They would then also pay their \$8 fee to be added to the permit. Some would disagree, but I would even support raising the fee to \$10 to recover lost revenue from 3 party permits that were not drawn at all. The goal here is to increase hunting opportunities. Conflicts may arise between applying for a permit on October 1st and going on a hunt in late November that prevents someone from hunting. Not only is their opportunity lost but that opportunity for others to hunt is also lost. By allowing party members to be added up to the day before the hunt, a permit holder would be able to still bring two hunting partners if a previously planned partner was unable to attend. I do not have visibility into how many permits were purchased as a solo hunter or as a party with only one member, but I suspect it may be a low percentage of the permits sold. An alternative to this would be to schedule the drawing weekly so that hunters never draw for a hunt that is more than a week in advance. The party could be defined at the time of the drawing in this model but since the date of the hunt is not as far in the future, conflicts would be minimized. I know that Arkansas follows this model with their WRICE program so. With the current app model, this should be an automated process and would not require additional effort from staff once the system is implemented. Finally, the process for purchasing leftover permits is flawed. It is not made clear that party members cannot be added after the permit leader purchases the permit for left over hunts. The interface for purchasing them is the same as used for the initial draw where party members can be added after the permit is purchased. My recommendation for allowing party members to be added until the day before the hunt would eliminate this issue but at a minimum it should be made very, very clear that all members must be added when the permit is purchased. I did have this issue this year and spent several hours discussing it with both the app vendor as well as members of the WRC. I must say that everyone I spoke to was friendly and helpful, so I do commend them for this. I noticed that the format of the survey is new</p>

	<p>this year and most notably is the change to the comments field in each question. The field cannot longer be expanded so we are limited to a very small space to see what we have typed. I would also like to see the results of this survey made public as this is information about a public resource and there is no reason it cannot be shared.</p>
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# EXHIBIT F-3

April 18, 2024



## 2024-25 Migratory Game Bird Gun Season Proposed Frameworks and WMD Staff Recommendations

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Mourning Dove & White-winged dove	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 90 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 2 – October 5, November 9 – November 30, December 16 – January 31	15
King & Clapper Rails	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 2 – November 21	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 25 singly or in the aggregate	September 2 – November 21	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 2 – November 21	15
Woodcock	Outside Dates: September 13 – January 31; 45 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 3	December 11 – January 31	3
Common Snipe	Outside Dates: September 1 – February 28; 107 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 8	October 28 – February 28	8

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Canada Goose (September season)	<p>Outside Dates: September 1 – 30 (statewide); 30 days, daily bag of 15</p> <p>Special methods: During the September Canada goose season only, the following expanded hunting methods are allowed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extended shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset.</li> <li>2. unplugged guns</li> <li>3. electronic calls</li> </ol> <p>Note: The special methods are not allowed in areas with another open waterfowl season, e.g., September teal.</p>	<p>September 2 – 30 (statewide)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset</li> <li>2. allow use of unplugged guns</li> <li>3. allow use of electronic calls</li> </ol> <p>These expanded methods are <u>only</u> to be allowed west of U.S. 17.</p>	15
September Teal	<p>Outside Dates: September 1 – 30; 16 consecutive days, daily bag of 6, east of U.S. 17 only</p>	<p>September 12 – September 30 (East of U.S. 17 only)</p>	6
General Duck Season	<p>Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) – January 31; 2 duck hunting zones with no more than 3 segments in either zone, 60 days &amp; daily bag of 6 ducks in each zone. <u>Species specific bag limits are the same in each zone.</u></p> <p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. For scaup, states can choose a 60-day season with a 1 bird daily bag limit, or a “hybrid” season consisting of 40 consecutive days with a 1-bird daily bag limit and 20 consecutive days with a 2-bird daily bag limit. The season on harlequin ducks is closed.</p>	<p><u>Inland Zone:</u> October 17 – October 19, November 9 – November 30, December 19 – January 31</p> <p><u>Coastal Zone:</u> October 25 – October 26 November 9 – November 30, December 18 – January 31</p>	<p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck and 1 fulvous whistling duck. Prior to January 9 the scaup bag limit is 1, on January 9 and after it is 2. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 23.</p>

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Mergansers	Outside dates: same as general duck season; daily bag of 5 mergansers.	Same as general duck season	5 mergansers no more than 2 hooded mergansers
Coots	Outside dates: same as general duck season; daily bag of 15 coots	Same as general duck season	15 coots
Sea Ducks	Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) – January 31; season must coincide with the general duck season, daily bag of 4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. The sea duck bag limit counts towards the general duck bag limit of 6 ducks.	October 25 – October 26 November 9 – November 30 December 18 – January 31	4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. Sea duck daily bag limits count towards the general duck daily bag limit of 6 ducks.
Canada Geese (Resident Population Zone) – includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese	Outside Dates: October 1 – March 10; 80 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 5 Canada geese or white-fronted geese singly or in the aggregate	October 17 – October 26, November 9 – November 30, December 18 – February 8	5
Canada Geese (Northeast Hunt Zone) – includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese	Outside Dates: Saturday prior to December 25 (December 21) – January 31; 30 days, daily bag of 1 Canada geese or white-fronted geese singly or in the aggregate	December 28 – January 31	1

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Brant	Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) – January 31; 30 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 1	December 28 – January 31	1
Light Geese (includes snow and Ross's geese) – regular season	Outside Dates: October 1 – March 10; 107 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 25 (no possession limit)	October 8 – February 8	25 (no possession limit)
Light Geese (includes snow and Ross's geese) – Conservation Order season	Outside Dates: Must occur when no other waterfowl season is open, no daily bag, no possession limit; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• electronic calls allowed</li> <li>• unplugged guns allowed</li> <li>• extended shooting hours to ½ hour past sunset allowed</li> </ul>	February 10 – March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no daily bag limit</li> <li>• no possession limit</li> <li>• electronic calls allowed</li> <li>• unplugged guns allowed</li> <li>• allow shooting to extend to ½ hour past sunset</li> </ul>
Tundra Swan	Outside Dates: October 1 – January 31; 90 days, no segments allowed, 1 per season with valid permit (4,721 permits available)	November 9 – January 31	1 per season with valid permit



		Staff Recommendations	
Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Youth Waterfowl Day(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 youth days allowed in each duck zone.</li> <li>• The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season or in the closed portion between season segments.</li> <li>• The day must occur on any non-school day. In North Carolina, this includes Saturdays and any statewide holidays.</li> <li>• States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters may not be over the age of 17.</li> </ul>	<u>Inland Zone:</u> February 1 & February 8  <u>Coastal Zone:</u> February 1 & February 8	Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots (in each zone). Must have a valid permit if hunting tundra swans.
Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 veterans/military days allowed in each duck zone.</li> <li>• Includes veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training).</li> <li>• The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season or in the closed portion between season segments.</li> <li>• Can be held concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Day(s).</li> </ul>	<u>Inland Zone:</u> February 1 & February 8  <u>Coastal Zone:</u> February 1 & February 8	Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots (in each zone). Must have a valid permit if hunting tundra swans.

- Federal guidelines allow for shooting hours for all migratory game birds to be from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Possession limit is three times the daily bag for all species.

# EXHIBIT F-4

April 18, 2024

## Extended Falconry Season Highlights & WMD Staff Recommendations for 2024-25 Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Bird Species

### General Restrictions/Guidelines

- Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10
- Total days available for falconry cannot exceed 107 (for each species) and includes regular, i.e., gun seasons, experimental seasons and extended falconry seasons
- The falconry daily bag limit is 3 permitted migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate. The regular, i.e., gun season bag limits for individual species do not apply.
- Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments
- The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit

### WMD Staff Recommendations

If the Commission chooses staff recommended “gun” seasons as presented, we recommend the following extended falconry seasons.

Mourning dove/White-winged dove	<b>October 7 – October 19</b>
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	<b>December 7 – January 11</b>
Woodcock	<b>December 2 – December 10 and February 1 – February 22</b>
Ducks, mergansers and coots	<b>October 1 – October 12 and February 1 – February 8</b>

# EXHIBIT G

April 18, 2024



## **Staff Recommendations to Allow Take of Migrant Peregrine Falcons From the Wild for Use in Falconry - 2024**

The Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils approved an allowable take of 144 Peregrine Falcons by falconers. Based upon this allocation, the USFWS is allowing the take of up to 48 fall migrants in 2024 east of 100 degrees W longitude to Atlantic Flyway states. North Carolina is allocated up to 5 birds.

Based on this allocation of up to 5 birds for take from within North Carolina, WMD staff recommends that the WRC accept the USFWS allocation framework and establish a season in 2024 with the following stipulations.

- Total allowable take is up to 5 birds during the period from September 20, 2024, through October 20, 2024.
- Any bird taken must be a juvenile.
- Take would be allowed only by permit from the WRC and only east of US Highway 17.
- No banded birds could be taken. Any banded birds captured must be released immediately at the site of capture.
- Permits will be issued through our special hunts permitting system (random).
- An individual issued a permit must have the proper state and federal falconry licenses/permits.
- Each person receiving a permit must complete a post-season survey provided by WMD staff and submit that survey no later than December 15, 2024.



## EXHIBIT H

# VIRGINIA BIG-EARED BAT

CONSERVATION PLAN for  
NORTH CAROLINA

APRIL 18, 2024



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

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*All photos by Katherine Etchison/NCWRC, unless otherwise noted below:  
Front cover, bottom photo - Michael Durham*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia big-eared bat (VBEB; *Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) is a federally and state listed endangered subspecies of the Townsend's big-eared bat. This subspecies is found in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Populations of VBEB occur in four genetically and geographically isolated regions (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2008, 2019). North Carolina's VBEB population occurs primarily in Avery and Watauga counties with a few records on the border between Caldwell and Avery counties (Fig. 1). The VBEB was federally listed in 1979 due to habitat loss and increased human visitation to maternity roosts and hibernacula. Virginia big-eared bats were discovered in North Carolina in 1981 in a winter hibernaculum in Avery County, and this hibernaculum is considered the primary hibernaculum for the species in the state. A bat-friendly gate was installed on the hibernaculum in 1986 to prevent human disturbance. Despite much effort, a maternity cave was not discovered until summer 2013 when researchers tracked bats to a small Watauga County cave. In 2017, N.C. State Parks put the cave under protective status as a State Natural Area. Additional hibernacula records of VBEB have been found on the border of Caldwell and Avery counties. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's population monitoring efforts consist of biennial counts at the primary hibernaculum on Grandfather Mountain in Avery County, and two emergence counts per summer at the maternity cave. Small hibernacula (<10 bats) are surveyed at least every four years. Population trends show stability despite fluctuations over time. North Carolina's VBEB have the potential for population growth due to protection of the primary hibernaculum and maternity cave and consistent monitoring should reveal any population changes. Targeted investigation into additional hibernacula and summer roosts will help identify key sites to protect as this population grows.

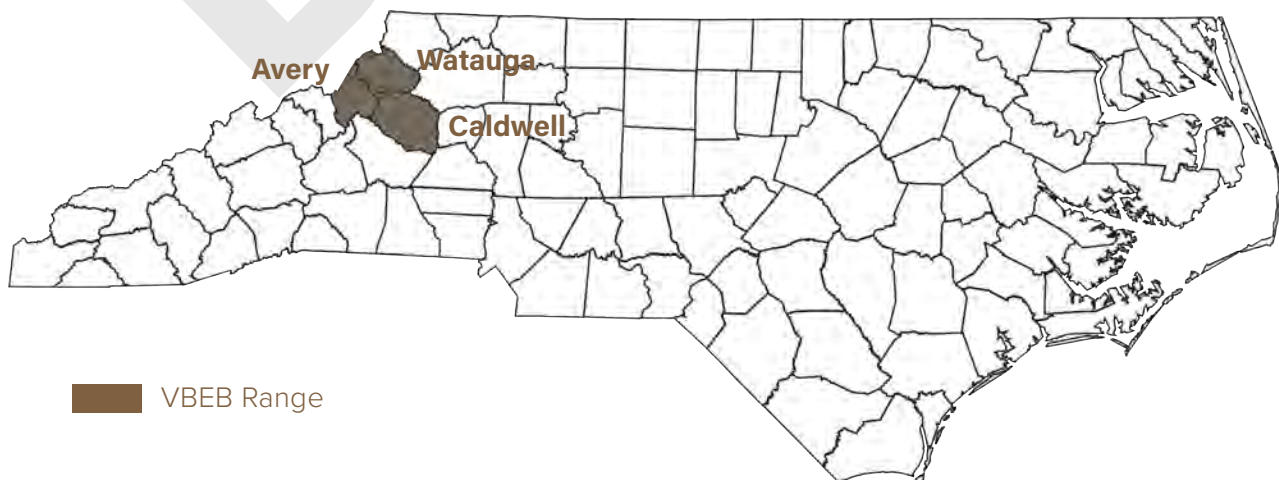


FIGURE 1 – Virginia big-eared bat range in North Carolina

## BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Introduction

The VBEB was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1979 due to habitat loss, vandalism to caves, and increased human visitation to maternity roosts and hibernacula (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2008). This species was discovered in North Carolina during winter 1981 in a protected cave in Avery County (Clark 1987), and this site is considered the primary hibernaculum for VBEB in North Carolina. Virginia

**Virginia big-eared bats were first documented in North Carolina in 1981 in Avery County.**

big-eared bats were largely absent from this cave during summer, and the maternity cave remained a mystery until Indiana State University (ISU) researchers tracked bats via radiotelemetry to a Watauga County cave in 2013 (Weber et al. 2016). The cave came under state protection in 2017 as a N.C. State Parks Natural Area. Though these two

protected caves host the bulk of the North Carolina population, VBEB also rely on secondary roosts in other caves, rock shelters, and buildings. The 2013-2014 ISU radiotelemetry study identified over 30 secondary roosts, many of which are under private ownership. This study also found that tagged bats forage in areas surrounding roost locations (Weber et al. 2016). This conservation plan serves to describe the North Carolina population of the VBEB and identify methods to encourage population growth through land conservation and acquisition, and conservation of roosts and surrounding foraging habitat.

### Listing Status

#### State

- State Listed Endangered
- S1, Critically Imperiled

#### Federal/Global

- Federally Listed Endangered
- G4T4, Apparently Secure Subspecies

### Description and Taxonomic Classification

The Virginia big-eared bat is a medium-sized bat (9 to 11.2 cm [3.5 to 4.4 inches] in length, 5 to 13 g [0.18 to 0.46 ounces]) with ears over 2.5 cm (0.98 inches) in length (Handley 1959). Virginia big-eared bats have brown fur on the dorsal region and tan fur on the ventral region and prominent glandular lumps on the muzzle (Barbour and Davis 1969, Handley 1959).

Virginia big-eared bats belong to the order Chiroptera (Blumenbach 1779), family Vespertilionidae (Gray 1821), and genus *Corynorhinus* (Tumilson and Douglas 1992; formerly *Plecotus*). The VBEB is one of two subspecies of Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), which is distributed throughout western North America from British Columbia, Canada to Oaxaca, Mexico. The Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*) is also a subspecies of Townsend's big-eared bat in northeastern Oklahoma and north-central Arkansas.

## Life History and Habitat

Virginia big-eared bats are colonial, cave-dependent, non-migratory bats (Fig. 2). In winter, bats aggregate in 10 primary hibernacula across their range, one of which is in Avery County, North Carolina (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019). In early spring, pregnant VBEB emerge from hibernacula and move to maternity roosts where they give birth to and rear their single pups (Pearson et al. 1952). Males are mostly solitary during the warmer months (Pearson et al. 1952, Barbour and Davis 1969, Humphrey and Kunz 1976).

In North Carolina, the primary hibernaculum is 14.4 km (8.9 miles) from the maternity roost (Weber et al. 2016). Weber et al. (2016) discovered the maternity cave and 32 secondary roosts during the ISU study in 2013 and 2014. These secondary roosts consisted of 23 natural rock structures (caves or rock shelters) and 10 artificial structures (barns or other buildings). The hibernaculum and maternity cave were used by hundreds of VBEB and had cooler, more stable temperatures, little airflow, and ample space compared to secondary roosts. Secondary roosts were used by 1-9 bats and had warmer, more variable temperatures and less space. Elsewhere VBEB use limestone caves (Barbour and Davis 1969), but North Carolina's known natural roosts are in granitic gneiss and metasedimentary rocks (Weber et al. 2016) perhaps due to a scarcity of limestone caves.

Forests surrounding roosts consist of southern and central Appalachian oak, oak montane, and cove forests (Weber et al. 2016). The diet of VBEB is more than 90% moths (Dalton et al. 1986, Bauer 1992, Sample and Whitmore 1993), many of which are dependent on forest plants for larval growth (Burford and Lacki 1999). Virginia big-eared bats also eat insects in the orders Neuroptera, Coleoptera, Diptera, and Hymenoptera (Hamilton 1943, Ross 1967, Whitaker et al. 1977). The ISU study found that VBEB foraged within 4.7 km (2.9 miles) of roosts (Weber et al. 2016). This species may glean prey from surfaces of vegetation or catch prey in flight (Kunz and Martin 1982). Virginia big-eared bats forage along cliffs and within forests (Adam et al. 1994) and in areas with a mix of open and forested habitats (McGrath and Marsh 1997, Stihler 2011a).



FIGURE 2 - A cluster of hibernating Virginia big-eared bats



## Distribution and Population Status

Virginia big-eared bats were initially found in North Carolina in winter 1981, hibernating in a cave on Grandfather Mountain (Clark 1987), and this site is the primary hibernaculum. Subsequent surveys yielded just a few males at this site during summer, prompting the first study on the distribution of VBEB in North Carolina in 1986. Clark (1987) searched more than 100 caves and 20 mines in Watauga and Avery counties but found no new VBEB roosts. McGrath and Marsh (1996) conducted a 2-year radio telemetry study and tracked VBEB to eight new cave and rock shelter roosts; however, the maternity roost remained unknown. The N.C. Department of Transportation funded a study of VBEB to investigate possible impacts to the population from proposed widening of NC-105 (approximately 3.3 km [2 miles] from the primary hibernaculum), and researchers discovered the maternity cave in Watauga County in 2013 (Weber et al. 2016). This study also identified more than 30 roosts across Avery and Watauga counties in North Carolina, and Carter and Johnson counties in eastern Tennessee (Fig. 3).

The primary hibernaculum contained 34 hibernating VBEB when the species was discovered in 1981 (Clark 1987). Periodic winter counts have been conducted at the primary hibernaculum and a nearby cave that has harbored a small number of VBEB since 2007 and, though counts fluctuate, a general increase has occurred over time (Figs. 4, 5, page 7). The highest count on record occurred in 2023 with 462 VBEB. The ISU researchers noted that an unaccounted-for hibernaculum may exist upslope on Grandfather Mountain because nine tagged bats left the primary hibernaculum and their signals led to this area (Weber et al. 2016). Searches for the hibernaculum were unsuccessful due to ice and snow on steep, rocky terrain (Weber et al. 2016).

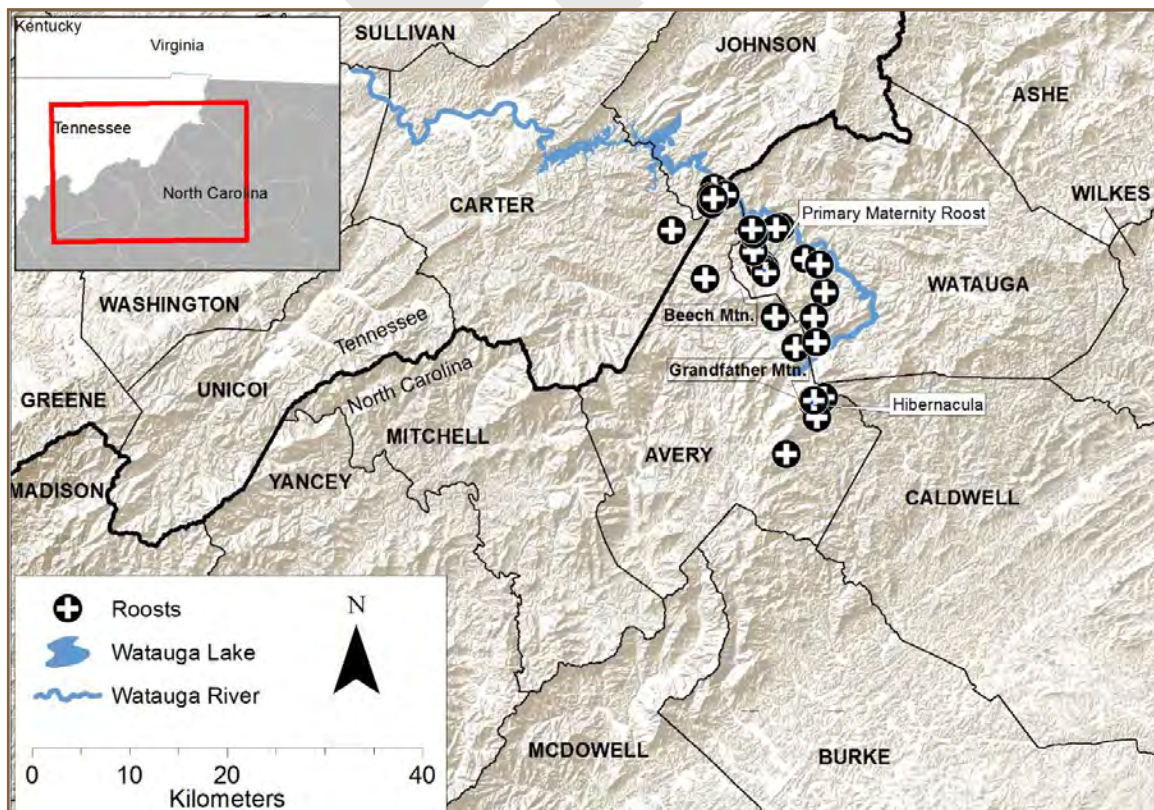


FIGURE 3 - Virginia big-eared bat roost locations (Weber et al. 2016)

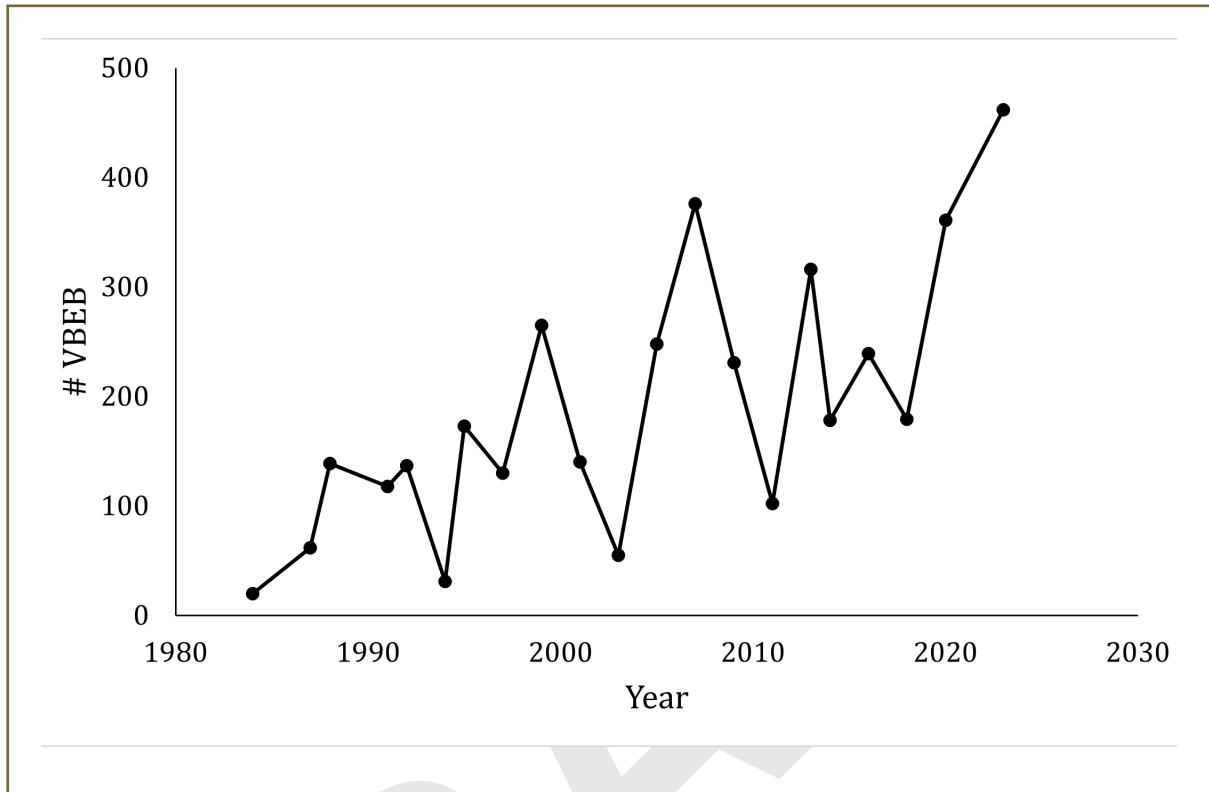


FIGURE 4 – Virginia big-eared bat (VBEB) winter counts by year at the primary hibernaculum in Avery County, NC

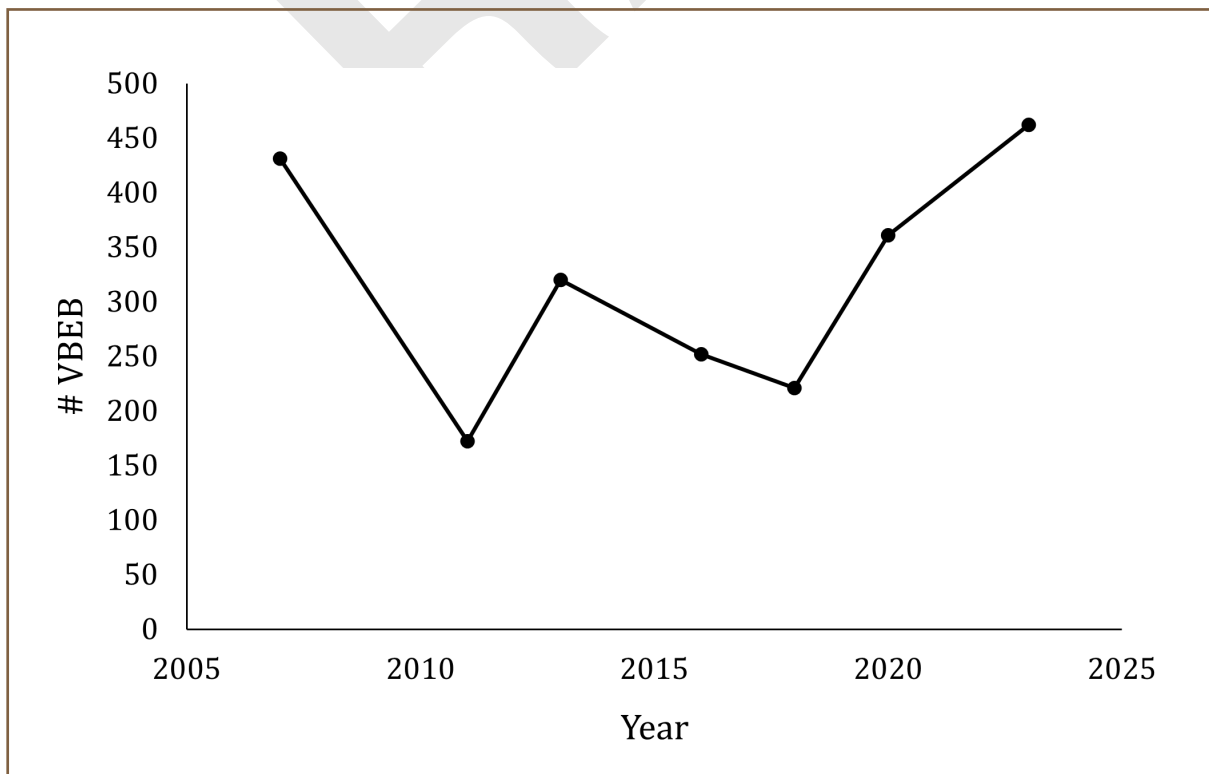


FIGURE 5 – Virginia big-eared bat (VBEB) winter counts by year at both Grandfather Mountain hibernacula, Avery County, NC

The maternity cave has been monitored since its discovery in 2013 using summer emergence counts. Counts fluctuate annually but appear relatively stable at around 350 VBEB or slightly increasing, with a recent 2022 record-breaking year (Fig. 6; min = 263, max = 533 VBEB). One criterion for downlisting the VBEB stated in the 2019 Recovery Plan is stable or increasing counts at both hibernacula and maternity sites over 16 years across each management unit. North Carolina counts have remained stable at the primary hibernaculum over the last 16 years and have increased at the primary maternity cave over the last 10 years (2013-2023).

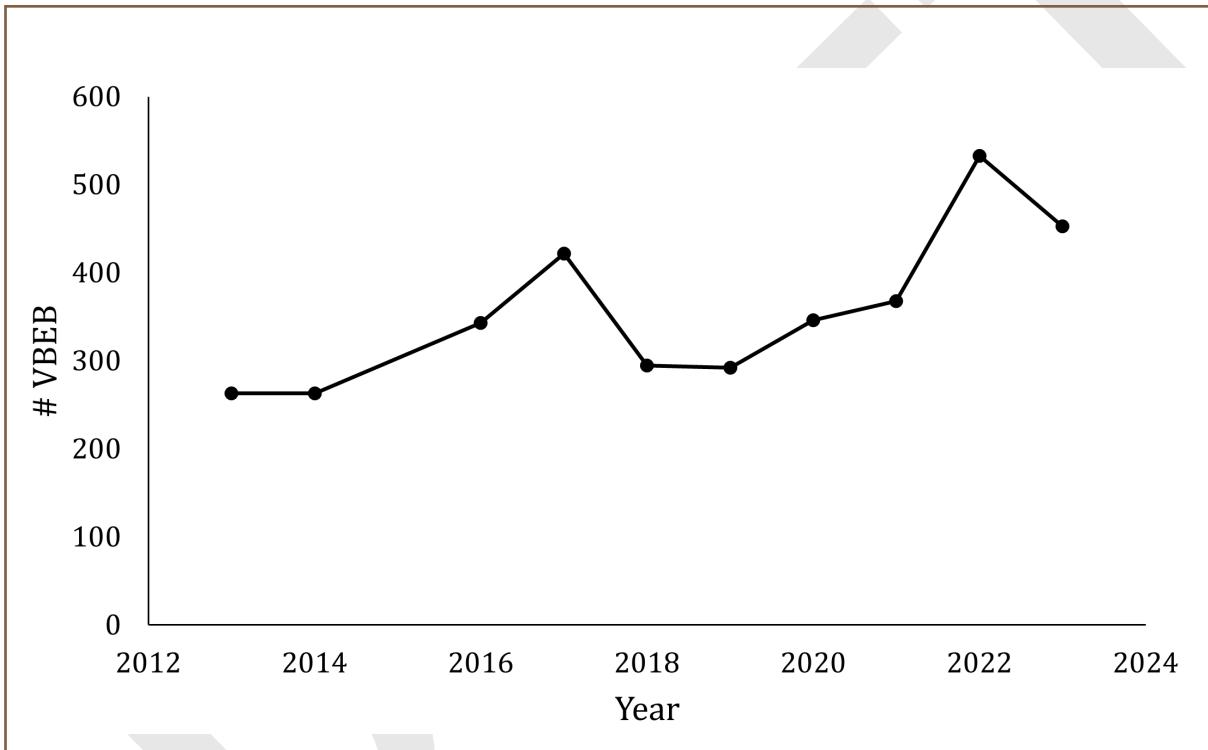


FIGURE 6 – Virginia big-eared bat (VBEB) maternity cave emergence counts by year in western North Carolina.

## THREAT ASSESSMENT

### Reason for Listing

The VBEB was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1979 due to loss of habitat, vandalism to caves, and increased human visitation to maternity roosts and hibernacula (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1984). The bulk of the species' total population is concentrated in 10 hibernacula and 18 maternity sites because it requires caves or cave-like sites meeting specific microclimate conditions (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1984, 2019). Additionally, the VBEB is highly sensitive to human disturbance and will abandon a roost entirely if disturbance becomes too great (Pearson et al. 1952, Graham 1966, Barbour and Davis 1969, Humphrey and Kunz 1976). The combination of large VBEB aggregations at just a few isolated sites with high sensitivity to human disturbance leave them vulnerable to threats. In North Carolina, the VBEB is listed as endangered (15A NCAC 101 .0103(a)(F)) and is a Wildlife Action Plan Species of Greatest Conservation Need (N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission 2015, 2021).

### Present and Anticipated Threats

The 2008 Virginia big-eared bat 5-year review documented a range-wide population increase since the initial listing (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2008). As a result of cave closures and installations of gates and fences, a 77% increase at maternity colonies was noted in West Virginia, which houses most of the VBEB population (Stihler 2011b). Despite range-wide increases, little connectivity exists among populations and the populations each contain genetic distinctions (Fig. 7; Piaggio et al. 2009).

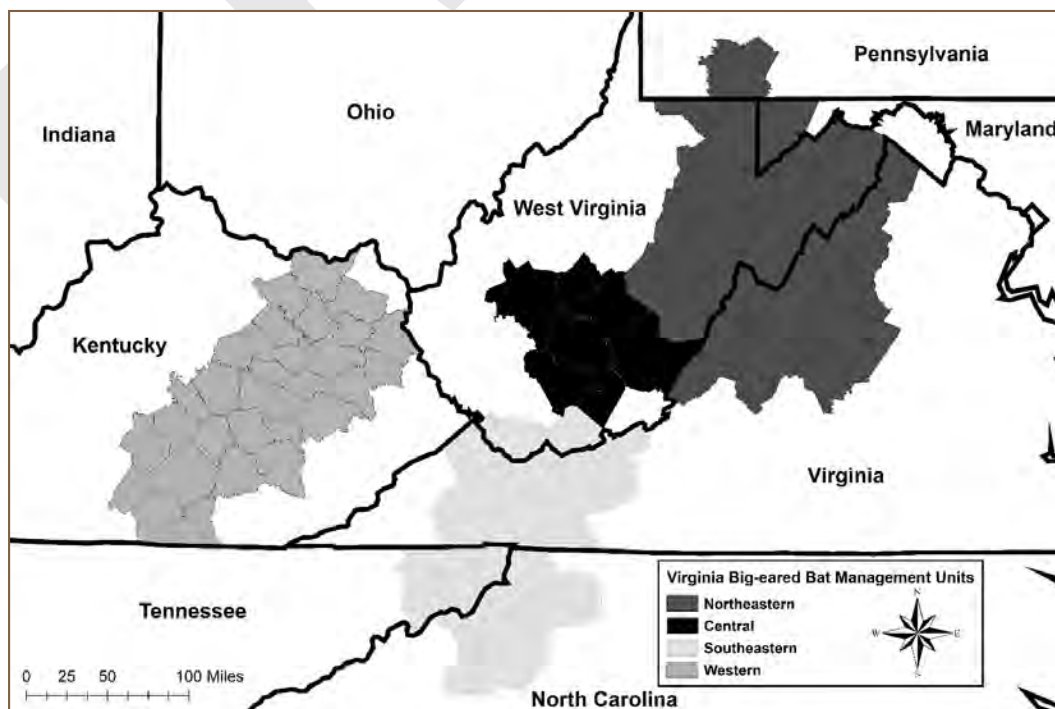


FIGURE 7 – Populations of VBEB throughout the species' range (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)



Threats identified by the 2019 Recovery Plan include “degradation and fragmentation of foraging areas, activities that could damage or degrade surface or subsurface areas of caves, barriers to migration and activities that reduce connectivity between roosting and foraging areas, as well as sources of direct mortality such as predation, roads, wind farms, and oil and brine pits. The effects of small population size and low genetic variability may also be threats” (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019).

A disease caused by the fungal pathogen, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Pd*), termed White-nose Syndrome, is a serious threat to several bat species and has resulted in significant population declines in cave-hibernating species (Fig. 8). However, the VBEB population shows no evidence of the disease despite hibernating in caves where the disease occurs (Turner et al. 2011). In North Carolina, though VBEB hibernate in a cave that has been positive for White-nose Syndrome since 2011, no signs of the disease have been observed on VBEB and no mortality has been detected.

The caterpillars of the exotic, invasive spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) cause significant damage to forests through defoliation and mortality. This impact to forest health poses a threat to VBEB due to their use of forests for foraging (Miller et al. 2011). The spongy moth control measure, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (*Btk*), also reduces populations of non-target moths, which could affect the preferred prey base for VBEB (Miller 1990, Sample et al. 1996). Treatments such as Gypchek do not impact non-target moths and are preferred within the range of VBEB because the bat’s prey base would not be affected (Rastall et al. 2003).



FIGURE 8. A hibernating tri-colored bat with White-nose Syndrome

In North Carolina, the concentration of this species in just two primary caves leaves the population vulnerable to local extinction from threats like human disturbance, predation (Fig. 9), or alteration of cave microclimates. Weber et al. (2016) documented presence of seven potential predators of bats at the entrance to the maternity cave during 2013 - 2015 (black bear, bobcat, coyote/domestic dog, long-tailed weasel, raccoon, striped skunk, and Virginia opossum). Raccoons were captured on camera ten times more often than any other potential predator and were most often present during the hours (2100 – 0400) and months (April – September) bats were most active (Weber et al. 2016). Evidence of a predation attempt was only observed in a video recording of a coyote attempting to bite bats from the air as they reentered the cave (Weber et al. 2016).

Additionally, increased development in the area has the potential to negatively impact foraging habitat and create a barrier for migration. Weber et al. (2016) hypothesized road construction could negatively impact VBEB due to vehicle collisions, degrading foraging or roosting habitat, or creating a barrier between summer and winter habitats.



FIGURE 9 – Example of potential predator pressure at the entrance to a maternity cave

## Summary of Threats

1. Low genetic variability and small population size due to minimal connectivity with other VBEB populations
2. Human disturbance to roost sites
3. Predation
4. Microclimate alteration
5. Increased development
6. Spongy moth infestation and control measures

## Historic and Ongoing Conservation Efforts

The primary hibernaculum is on property owned by the State of North Carolina and is protected from unauthorized entry by a bat friendly gate installed in 1986. This gate is the result of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Grandfather Mountain, Inc., and the National Park Service. In 2017, the maternity cave and adjacent parcels (totaling 174 acres [70 ha]) became an N.C. State Parks Natural Area through a coordinated effort among the Blue Ridge Conservancy, N.C. State Parks, the U.S. Fish and

**To achieve downlisting of Virginia big-eared bats, biologists must put in place long-term protections at major maternity and hibernation sites.**

Wildlife Service, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Indiana State University, the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and an anonymous philanthropist. Hibernacula in which small numbers of VBEB have been found are on properties owned by the National Park Service or N.C. State Parks.

Roosts found by Weber et al. (2016) are on properties owned by the National Park Service, N.C. State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service in addition to over 10 roosts on private property. In 2017, flyers describing VBEB were distributed in Watauga and Avery counties requesting sightings be reported to the NCWRC, but no calls have been received at the time of this writing. In 2017, the VBEB species profile was updated on the NCWRC website.

Long-term protections must be in place at major maternity and hibernation sites to achieve downlisting of the VBEB (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019). The major North Carolina hibernacula and maternity sites are owned by the State of North Carolina and are protected. Key foraging habitat must also be protected for downlisting of the species. Weber et al. (2016) conducted foraging telemetry on ten VBEB and only two bats foraged on protected lands near the maternity cave. The other eight VBEB foraged almost entirely on private lands and three of these bats foraged in areas along the Watauga River and Hwy 321 west of Hwy 421, suggesting this may be a key foraging area to focus future conservation efforts (Fig. 10, page 13).

A short documentary film was released in 2019 by Appalachian State University and the Blue Ridge Conservancy which highlighted the discovery and subsequent protection of the VBEB maternity cave (Blue Ridge Conservancy 2019).



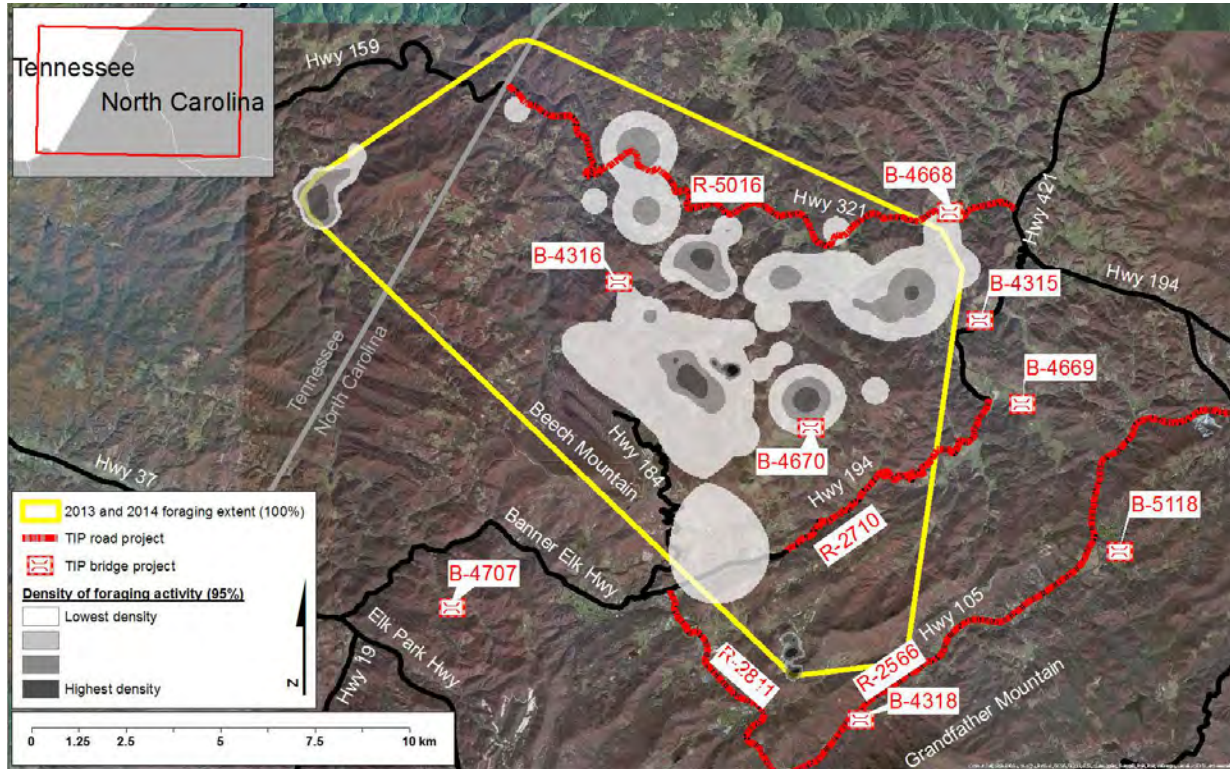


FIGURE 10 – Foraging activity maps for 10 Virginia big-eared bats (Weber et al. 2016). TIP is defined as Transportation Improvement Program by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

## CONSERVATION GOALS

### Overarching Goal

The goal of the Virginia big-eared bat conservation plan is to protect the species' roosting, foraging, and commuting habitats. The long-term goal is to encourage population growth in North Carolina and beyond and recovery of the species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2019).

### Objectives

1. Identify additional key roosts for VBEB
2. Conserve foraging habitat
3. Conserve roosting habitat



## CONSERVATION ACTIONS

### Habitat Protection and Management

- Continue to monitor and maintain the existing cave gate at the primary hibernaculum (Fig. 11). Use protocols detailed by Fant et al. (2009) to install gates or fences at sites threatened by human activities as determined by monitoring for vandalism and human visitation at VBEB caves.
- Secure long-term protection at newly found, important roost sites.
- Protect foraging habitat through land acquisition, private landowner participation in NCWRC's Wildlife Conservation Land Program, conservation easements, or partnerships.

### Incentives (Tax Break, Cost-sharing)

**Wildlife Conservation Land Program.** Reduces tax assessment for landowners with cave or mines on their property that have documented use by aggregations of bats. Restrictions must be made that reduce direct impacts (e.g., disturbance during bat hibernation) and indirect impacts (e.g., habitat changes that make the site unsuitable). This may require permanent gating of the site. A buffer must be created to minimize impacts to the site.

**Conservation Easement.** Provides federal tax benefits to landowners who donate conservation agreements on properties that protect natural habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants and preserve land for public outdoor recreation, educational opportunities, or as historically significant. Administered by non-profit Land Trusts.



FIGURE 11. Installing gates or fences at hibernaculum sites threatened by human activities is one conservation action biologists can do to protect VBEB habitat.

## Monitoring and Research

- Continue biennial winter counts at the primary hibernaculum (Fig. 12).
- Continue periodic surveys at known hibernacula.
- Continue conducting two emergence counts per summer at the maternity cave.
- Continue camera trap monitoring at the maternity cave for signs of human entry or predation.
- Search for additional hibernacula and roosts.
- Periodically survey the maternity cave in winter to check for hibernation use.
- Investigate use of the primary hibernaculum as a maternity site.
- Monitor VBEB responses to transportation improvement projects near known roost or foraging sites.



FIGURE 12. Virginia big-eared bat hibernaculum survey

## Education and Outreach

- Continue sharing status updates with the N.C. Bat Working Group, Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others as appropriate.
- Share the Appalachian State University VBEB documentary.
- Provide technical guidance or presentations on VBEB as requested.

## Summary of Actions Needed

A summary of conservation actions needed to address the goals, the partners involved, and the desired outcomes of each action. These actions are listed generally in order of priority, though all actions are considered important and necessary.

#	ACTIONS	OBJECTIVES	PARTNERS	DESIRED OUTCOMES	DATES ACTIONS PERFORMED
1	Continue to monitor and maintain the existing cave gate at the primary hibernaculum. Install gates or fences at sites with the threat of human disturbance	Prevent human disturbance in caves	N.C. State Parks, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation	Bats continue to hibernate and roost in caves Counts reveal a stable or increasing trend	Yearly
2	Monitor activity at VBEB caves	Detect human and predator visitation before bats become heavily disturbed	N.C. State Parks, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation	Address with gates or other measures	Yearly
3	Secure long-term protection at newly found important roost sites	Ensure bats have long-term access to roost	TBD	Bats continue to use roost Counts reveal a stable or increasing trend	TBD
4	Protect foraging habitat through land acquisition, WCLP participation, conservation easements, and partnerships	Ensure bats have long-term access to foraging habitat	TBD	Bats continue to forage in priority areas	TBD
5	Continue biennial winter counts at the primary hibernaculum	Gather data	N.C. State Parks, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation	Use counts as a population monitoring tool Counts reveal a stable or increasing trend	January or February of odd years
6	Continue periodic surveys at known hibernacula	Gather data	N.C. State Parks, National Park Service – Blue Ridge Parkway	Use counts as a population monitoring tool Counts reveal a stable or increasing trend	Every 4 years
7	Continue conducting two emergence counts per summer at the maternity cave	Gather data	N.C. State Parks	Use counts as a population monitoring tool Counts reveal a stable or increasing trend	Early June and late July/early August annually

#	ACTIONS	OBJECTIVES	PARTNERS	DESIRED OUTCOMES	DATES ACTIONS PERFORMED
8	Search for additional hibernacula and roosts	Gather data	TBD	Understand range expansion or detect other important habitats  Document increased distribution of the VBEB.	TBD
9	Periodically survey the maternity cave in winter to check for hibernation use	Gather data	N.C. State Parks	Detect VBEB hibernating in maternity cave	Every 4 years
10	Investigate use of the primary hibernaculum as a maternity site	Gather data	N.C. State Parks, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation	Understand use of the hibernaculum as a potential maternity site	Summer survey every 4 years
11	Monitor VBEB responses to transportation improvement projects near known roost or foraging sites	Gather data on VBEB in relation to transportation projects near known roost or foraging sites	TBD	Ensure bats have access to key roost and foraging sites.	TBD
12	Continue sharing status updates with the N.C. Bat Working Group, Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others as appropriate	Share information	TBD	Contribute to greater understanding of N.C. VBEB	Yearly
13	Share the Appalachian State University VBEB documentary	Share information	TBD	Contribute to greater understanding of N.C. VBEB  Increase the public's support for VBEB conservation through habitat protections and management	Yearly
14	Provide technical guidance or presentations on VBEB as requested	Share information	TBD	Contribute to greater understanding of N.C. VBEB  Increase the public's support for VBEB conservation through habitat protections and management	Yearly



## GLOSSARY

### **Emergence Count:**

A count of the number of bats exiting a roost at night.

### **Hibernaculum:**

A shelter occupied during winter by a hibernating animal (i.e., caves and mines for hibernating bats).

### **Maternity Colony:**

A roost of females with pups.

### **Population:**

Group of individuals of a single species in a defined area.

### **Roost:**

A place where bats rest during the day.

### **Subspecies:**

A population of species in which individuals show the same structurally definable variation from other populations of the same species but are normally separated geographically or by habitat use.



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# **EXHIBIT I-1**

**April 18, 2024**



## **Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County**

For proposed Rule amendments in Bladen County for a no-wake zone at Elwell Ferry, Restricted Area at White Lake, and no-wake zones at Boating Access Areas in Bladen County, there were no public comments received during the open comment period.

One public hearing was held on March 6, 2024, with no attendees.

# EXHIBIT I-2

April 18, 2024



## FINAL ADOPTION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 15A NCAC 10F .0304 – BLADEN COUNTY

The Notice of Text for adoption of amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County, to define the restricted area and permitted water recreation activities at White Lake, to establish a no-wake zone on the Cape Fear River at the Elwell Ferry and Elwells Ferry Boating Access Area, and codify into the North Carolina Administrative Code the Boating Access Areas in Bladen County, was published in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act.

Staff seeks your adoption of the proposed amendments, subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. The earliest effective date of the Rule will be June 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10F .0304 is amended with changes as published in 38:14 NCR 934 as follows:

**15A NCAC 10F .0304    BLADEN COUNTY**

- ~~(a) Regulated Area. This Rule shall apply to the waters of White Lake in Bladen County.~~
- ~~(b) Restricted Area. The waters of White Lake between the shoreline and the offshore marker poles shall be designated as a restricted area.~~
- ~~(c) Swimming. Swimming, except skin diving, shall not be permitted outside of the restricted area.~~
- ~~(d) Skiing. No skiing shall be permitted in the restricted area, except to leave from within or return into that area. All vessels pulling skiers shall leave from within the restricted area on a course perpendicular to the nearest shoreline. Upon returning, all vessels pulling skiers shall reduce to no wake speed when the skiers have entered the restricted area.~~
- ~~(e) Speed Limit. Within the restricted area all vessels, except those engaged in skiing as regulated by Paragraph (d) of this Rule, shall be operated at a no wake speed. Operation of any vessel on a course parallel to the shoreline is prohibited in the restricted area.~~
- ~~(f) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Bladen County, the Town of White Lake, and the State Parks Division shall be the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule.~~

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply applies to the following waters in Bladen County:

- (1) White Lake. The water between the shoreline and no-wake markers 500 feet from the shoreline is a restricted area.
- (2) Cape Fear River:
  - (A) the waters shore to shore between a point 100 yards east and 100 yards west of the ferry cable at Elwell Ferry and Elwells Ferry Boating Access Area, 2702 Elwell Ferry Road, Council;
  - (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Tar Heel Boating Access Area, 1000 Wildlife Landing Drive, Tar Heel; and
  - (C) the waters within 50 yards of the Tory Hole Boating Access Area, 335 N. Poplar Street, Elizabethtown.
- (3) Black River. the waters within 50 yards of the Hunts Bluff Boating Access Area, 351 Hunts Bluff Road, Kelly.

(b) Restricted Area. Skiing is prohibited in the restricted area described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.

(c) Diving. A person engaged in skin or scuba diving shall display a diver's flag, and no vessel shall approach within 50 feet of a diver's flag, as described in G.S. 75A-13.1.

(d) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (3), and Parts (a)(2)(A) through (C) of this Rule.

(e) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The following agencies shall place and maintain the markers implementing this Rule:

- (1) North Carolina State Parks for the regulated areas designated in Subparagraph (a)(1); and

(2) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the regulated areas designated in Parts (a)(2)(A) through (C), and Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

*Amended Eff. April 1, 1990; August 1, 1988; June 17, 1979;*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;*

*Amended Eff. June 1, 2024; October 1, 2018.*

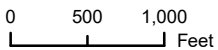


15A NCAC 10F .0304 (a) (1) - Proposed Restricted Area  
White Lake, Bladen County



**Restricted Area**

The water between the shoreline and no-wake markers 500 feet from the shoreline.





**Requested No-Wake Zone**  
**Elwell Ferry, Cape Fear River, Bladen County**





# **EXHIBIT J-1**

**April 18, 2024**



## **Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County**

For the proposed Rule amendment in Dare County to correct the coordinate at a point near the south shore of Motts Creek to 35.79270 N, 75.54903 W, there were no public comments received during the open comment period.

One virtual public hearing was held on January 23, 2024, with one attendee.



# EXHIBIT J-2

April 18, 2024



## FINAL ADOPTION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 15A NCAC 10F .0310 – DARE COUNTY

The Notice of Text for adoption of an amendment for a technical correction to 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County, to correct the coordinate at a point near the south shore of Motts Creek to 35.79270 N, 75.54903 W, was published in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act.

Staff seeks your adoption of the proposed technical correction amendment, subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. The earliest effective date of the Rule will be June 1, 2024.

NCAC 10F .0310 is amended with changes as published in 38:11 NCR 683-684 as follows:

### 15A NCAC 10F .0310 DARE COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to the following waters and portions of waters in Dare County:

- (1) Manteo:
  - (A) the waters of Doughs Creek off Shallowbag Bay and the canals off Shallowbag Bay; and
  - (B) within 50 yards of the Bowsertown Boating Access Area on Croatan Sound at 35.89810 N, 75.67710 W.
- (2) Hatteras:
  - (A) the waters of Pamlico Sound otherwise known as Hatteras Harbor and Muddy Creek bounded on the north and south by the high-water mark, on the west by a straight line between channel markers number 20 and 17 at the entrance to Hatteras Harbor, and on the east by the mouth of Muddy Creek at Sandy Bay at a point at 35.22801 N, 75.68050 W; and
  - (B) Hatteras Ferry Terminal and United States Coast Guard basins ending at Coast Guard Beacon Number One in the Hatteras Channel.
- (3) Manns Harbor:
  - (A) Old Ferry Dock Road Canal, beginning at a point at 35.90654 N, 75.76916 W;

- (B) within 50 yards of the Manns Harbor Boating Access Area on Croatan Sound at 35.91020 N, 75.77150 W; and
  - (C) within 50 yards of the Mashoes Boating Access Area on East Lake at 35.92820 N, 75.81470 W.
- (4) Nags Head:
- (A) the canals of Old Nags Head Cove where the canal entrance meets Roanoke Sound beginning at a point at 35.94192 N, 75.62571 W; and
  - (B) the Roanoke Sound inlets at Pond Island on either side of W. Marina Drive extending north from U.S. Highway 64-264.
- (5) Wanchese:
- (A) Wanchese Harbor otherwise known as Mill Landing Creek, beginning at its entrance from Roanoke Sound at a point at 35.84006 N, 75.61726 W; and
  - (B) the canal from its beginning where it connects with Roanoke Sound south of the dead-end road S.R. 1141 otherwise known as Thicket Lump Drive, extending northwest roughly parallel to S.R. 1141, S.R. 1142 otherwise known as The Lane, and S.R. 1143 otherwise known as Tink Tillet Road, then westward roughly parallel to N.C. Highway 345, and finally curving to the southwest roughly parallel to S.R. 1289 otherwise known as C B Daniels S.R. Road to its end.
- (6) Stumpy Point:
- (A) Stumpy Point Canal shore to shore on Pamlico Sound, beginning 50 yards west of the Stumpy Point Boating Access Area, 321 Bayview Drive; and
  - (B) Stumpy Point Basin off Stumpy Point Bay, east of U.S. Highway 264 where it intersects Stumpy Point Bay at a point at 35.69591 N, 75.77264 W.
- (7) Rodanthe. Within 50 yards of the Rodanthe Boating Access Area in Roanoke Sound, 23170 Myrna Peters Road;
- (8) Town of Southern Shores. The canals and lagoons within the Town of Southern Shores north of U.S. Highway 158;
- (9) Colington Harbour. The waters in the canals of Colington Harbour Subdivision on Albemarle Sound;
- (10) Kitty Hawk. The waters in the canals of Kitty Hawk Landing Subdivision;
- (11) Washington Baum Bridge Boating Access Area. The waters within 150 yards north and south and 300 yards east of the Washington Baum Boating Access Area in Roanoke Sound, at 35.89380 N, 75.63710 W;
- (12) Kill Devil Hills:
- (A) Baum Bay Harbor, beginning at a point at 36.00572 N, 75.68105 W; and
  - (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Avalon Beach Boating Access Area in Kitty Hawk Bay, 2025 Bay Drive.

- (13) Avon. The waters of Pamlico Sound shore to shore beginning at a line from a point on the east shore of Big Island at 35.36653 N, 75.50770 W westward to a point on the mainland at 35.36653 N, 75.50556 W, south to include the waters of the cove between North Albacore Lane and South Albacore Lane and the waters of Mill Creek, and ending east of a line from a point on the south shore of Big Island at 35.36500 N, 75.50820 W southward to a point on the mainland at 35.36358 N, 75.50826 W;
- (14) Jean Guite Creek. The waters of Jean Guite Creek from where it meets Kitty Hawk Bay at 36.04887 N, 75.72754 W, north to a line from a point on the east shore in Southern Shores at 36.10460 N, 75.74192 W to a point on the west shore in Martin's Point Subdivision at 36.10452 N, 75.73948 W;
- (15) Frisco. The waters of the marina canal and boat basin at Palmetto Shores Subdivision, shore to shore beginning at the canal's entrance at Pamlico Sound at a point at 35.25427 N, 75.60301 W; and
- (16) Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The waters of Motts Creek in Roanoke Sound, shore to shore at a line from a point on the north shore where the Oregon Inlet U.S. Coast Guard Station is located, to a point near the south shore of Motts Creek at ~~35.792070 N, 75.54903 W~~, 35.79270 N, 75.54903 W, then northward to include the waters at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center and Marina, Oregon Inlet Public Boat Ramp, kayak launch area, and U. S. Coast Guard Station and Launch Area.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Swimming Area. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter the marked swimming area at Colington Island on the west shore, from a point where the canal enters the harbor at 36.01797 N, 75.72681 W, north 600 feet to a point at 36.01964 N, 75.72683 W and extending 300 feet west into Albemarle Sound.

(d) Placement of Markers. The following agencies shall place markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

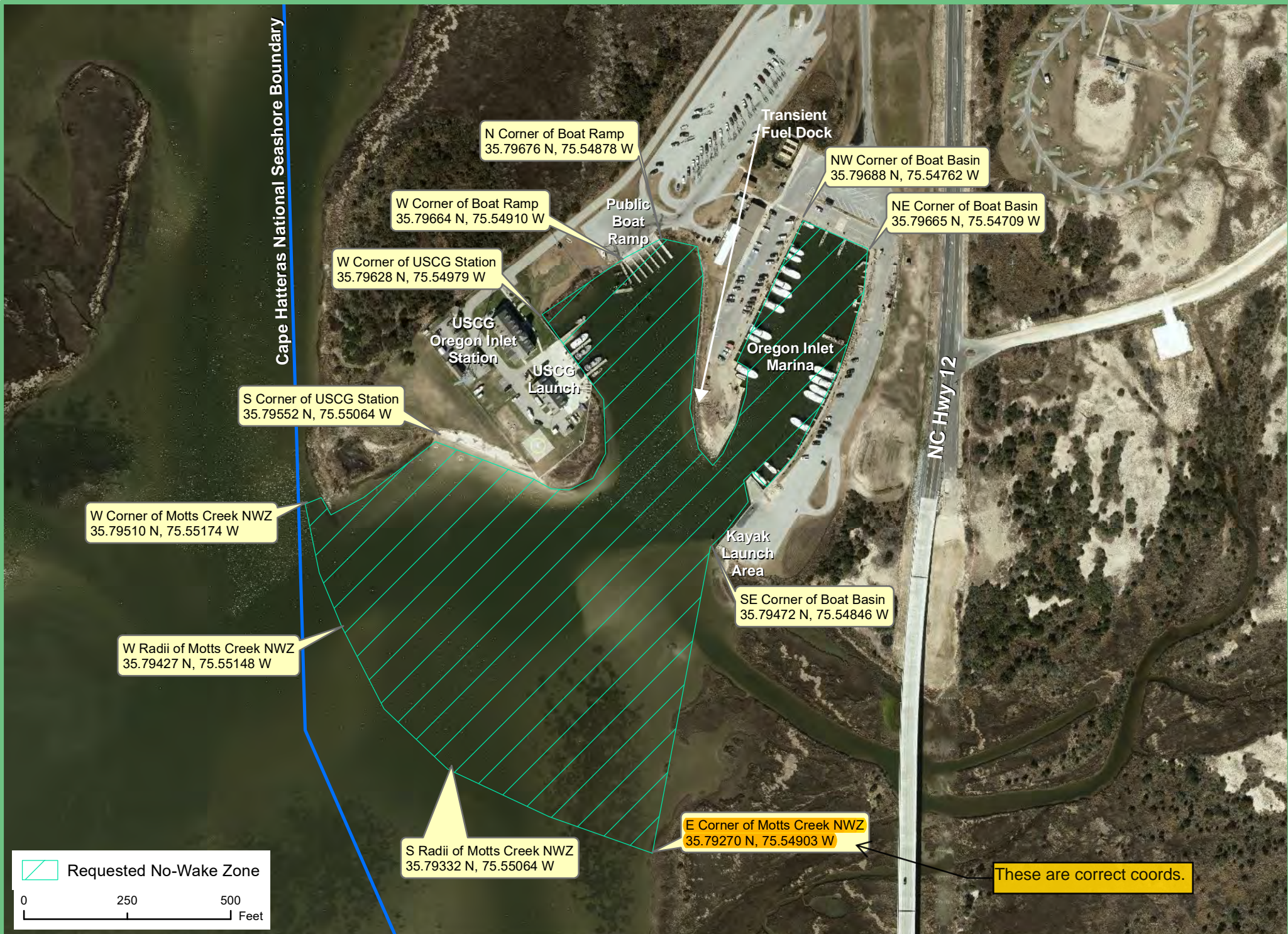
- (1) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Manteo for the areas designated in Part (a)(1)(A) of this Rule;
- (2) the Board of Commissioners of Dare County for the areas designated in Paragraph (c), Subparagraphs (a)(2); (a)(4); (a)(5); (a)(9); (a)(13) through (15); and Parts (a)(3)(A); (a)(6)(B); and (a)(12)(A) of this Rule;
- (3) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Southern Shores for the areas designated in Subparagraph (a)(8) of this Rule;
- (4) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Kitty Hawk for the area designated in Subparagraph (a)(10) of this Rule;
- (5) the National Park Service **shall place and maintain markers** for the area designated in Subparagraph (a)(16) of this Rule; and

- (6) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission **shall place and maintain markers** for the areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(7) and (a)(11); and Parts (a)(1)(B); (a)(3)(B) and (C); (a)(6)(A); and (a)(12)(B) of this Rule.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; December 1, 1994; May 1, 1994; March 1, 1993; May 1, 1988;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. February 1, 1999; July 1, 1998;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; April 1, 1999;*  
*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;*  
*Amended Eff. **June 1, 2024**; September 1, 2023; October 1, 2022; October 1, 2018.*



**No Wake Zone Request**  
**USCG Station, Boat Ramp and Basin, Motts Creek, Roanoke Sound, Dare County**







## 15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County Comments

Number	Comment
1	We believe this potential rule is in response to a complaint about a couple of property owners in the section of waterway. We believe it will only back up traffic and cause a lot of problems if implemented. Please do not pass this rule!
2	I do not agree with the proposed change in the no wake zone of Bradley Creek. I have been boating in and out of that Creek for many years and I have owned a boat for over 20 years in this area. I am very aware of the traffic volume we have up and down the waterway. If this zone is changed, I fear for the boat back up on the waterway which will cause more issues and more accidents I disagree with this change.
3	FOR OVER 30 YEARS THE PREVIOUS NO WAKE ZONE HELD WITH NO ILL EFFECTS OR MAJOR PETITION FROM THE PEOPLE & BOATERS ON BRADLEY CREEK. THEN APPROX 2 YEARS AGO THE NC WILDLIFE COMMISSION CHANGED THE LOCATION OF THE NO WAKE ZONE & NOW SOMEONE IS COMPLAINING. EXTENDING THE NO WAKE ZONE WILL CAUSE UNNECESSARY CONGESTION ON BRADLEY CREEK & WHILE IT MAY SATISFY ONE DOCK OWNER WOULD CAUSE IRRITATION & IMPATIENCE AS WELL AS A BOTTLENECK ON BRADLEY CREEK. WHILE I'M NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE DOCK OWNER, I BELIEVE THE "NO WAKE" ZONE SHOULD BE MOVED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION TO SATISFY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. THIS WOULD ALLEVIATE THE SWAMPING AT THE DOCK IN QUESTION & KEEP THE BOATERS AT 2 MARINAS THAT ALSO HAVE AN OWNERSHIP INVESTED IN THE PROPERTY ALONG BRADLEY CREEK SATISFIED. I GREW UP IN THIS AREA & ON THESE WATERWAYS, MORE REGULATIONS & RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT WHAT IS NEEDED.
4	Pending danger at the mouth of Bradley Creek if this proposed rule change is implemented. I have entered that creek from the waterway year-round for 35 years. A skipper needs room to come off plane once in the creek. This proposal will remove a safe power-down zone and risk a trailing boat having to power down in the unrestricted waterway or a trailing boat colliding into the rear of the forward boat if they turn into the creek on plane. The applicant comments that boats have struck the new no-wake markers. This is not surprising given that they are too close to the entrance to the creek already. Widen the spacing of the no-wake zone signage markers if needed and allowed by the channel depth at that point boats but please don't move them closer to the entrance to Bradley Creek.
5	This will create unsafe boating conditions for vessels entering and leaving Bradley Creek
6	Extending the no wake zone on Bradley Creek risks congestion at the intersection of the creek and the ICW. By having ample room to accelerate or decelerate, the end of the creek being unrestricted allows for a more seamless integration of vessels into the flow of traffic or to depart the main route without impeding other vessels traveling on plane. The change does not mitigate the potential dangers cited in the justification for the change as the creek's navigable waters will continue to be narrow and surrounding area will be shallow.
7	Extending the no-wake zone for Bradley Creek almost to the ICW will cause a hazard during the busy summer months as boats will have to slow down immediately upon entering the creek. This could cause backups into the ICW and make it very dangerous to make a left into the creek with oncoming boat traffic. It is hard enough at times to turn a large vessel into BC on busy weekends and if there are a number of small boats with low HP immediately throttling down, it will be that much more difficult. This extension seems to only be for the benefit of a few homeowners at the end of Bradley Creek Point.
8	This is a TERRIBLE idea. this is going to create a DANGEROUS situation for boat traffic especially in the summer months. We barely have any room to speed or slow down as it is with the increased no wake zone of 2023. Sit out there on a Saturday in June and see how fast everyone is coming or going in the ICW around this intersection and you tell me if you think backing everyone up on the ICW is a good idea
9	My name is Martha Misenheimer. I reside in Wilmington, NC and my phone [REDACTED] I wish to voice my disagreement with the proposed extension of the no wake zone at Bradley Creek near Wrightsville



	<p>Beach. This would create a BOTTLENECK of boats Entering the channel from the intercostal waterway to their destination of Bradley Creek Marina and Creekside Marina. People that built their docs on this channel knew there was boat traffic, and should not expect everyone to change their behavior so their docked boat doesn't move at all. If that's what they wanted they need to be on dry ground. It's upsetting when a few people with, what they call Power, can change things for the masses. [REDACTED] (1/22/24)</p>
10	<p>Subject: Opposition to Proposed Extension of No-Wake Zone at Bradley Creek Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent petition to extend the no-wake zone at the mouth of Bradley Creek by 400 feet closer to the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). While I understand that the intention behind this proposal is to address alleged safety issues, I believe such an extension would have significant negative consequences for boat traffic and overall safety in the area. Firstly, extending the no-wake zone closer to the ICW poses a serious risk by potentially creating dangerous situations for boat traffic. Boaters entering Bradley Creek would be required to slow down immediately, leading to congestion and potential accidents at the entrance to the channel. This would be particularly problematic during the summer months when boat traffic is already heavy due to the proximity of Wrightsville Beach. My second concern is the impact on the already bustling waterway. The proposed extension could result in vessels backing up into the ICW, exacerbating congestion and increasing the likelihood of accidents. This poses a threat not only to boat operators but also to the broader community that relies on safe and efficient water transportation. Moreover, it has come to my attention that the primary motivation behind this proposed regulation is the preference of one or two property owners on Bradley Creek who wish to minimize boat wake near their docks. This raises serious questions about the fairness and legitimacy of the proposed rule. It seems unjust to impose a significant restriction on the entire boating community for the benefit of a select few waterfront property-owners. I also believe that such a regulation could potentially expose the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), and potentially other parties, to liability for creating a hazardous condition. If accidents occur due to the increased congestion and risks associated with the extended no-wake zone, legal repercussions could ensue. Certainly, studies would need to be conducted regarding potential safety hazards. In conclusion, I urge you to reject the proposed extension of the no-wake zone at Bradley Creek. It is crucial to prioritize the safety and well-being of the entire boating community and not succumb to the preferences of a select few property owners. I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that you will make decisions that prioritize the broader public interest. Sincerely, Nick Mendez [REDACTED] (1/19/24)</p>
11	<p>To Whom It May Concern, I'm writing in regards to the further extension of the no wake zone in Bradley Creek. We have been slip owners at Bradley Creek Marina for 5+ years and live on and just up Bradley Creek so our lives revolve around it. The extension of this will literally force boats to come to a slow in quite possibly the busiest stretch of the ICW on the entire NC coast. As a parent with young kids, it's already a gauntlet of boat traffic from 10a-5p every summer day and further compression of the traffic here is going to lead to some serious safety issues. There are two enlarging, and very shallow, sand bars within a 1/4 mile of the entrance and is this going to force more boat traffic there. On that extension of the no wake stretch, literally every slip is protected by an oyster bed or boats are on lifts. This would create a dangerous situation for hundreds of people per weekend while protecting the assets of a few wealthy homeowners. It's not an even split. Please take this into consideration. Thanks, -John Hoover [REDACTED] (1/19/24)</p>
12	<p>I believe this is an unnecessary overreach extending the area of the Bradley Creek Marina and creates a hazard for those entering the Intracoastal waterway</p>
13	<p>I believe this is an unnecessary overreach into the area of Bradley Creek that would create potential hazardous conditions and potential traffic jams exiting the creek area.</p>
14	<p>This will bring the starting point of the new zone within 500 feet of the entrance markers to the creek. The extension of the no-wake zone even closer to the ICW will likely create a dangerous situation for boat traffic, especially in the summer months as vessels will have to slow down immediately entering Bradley</p>

	Creek and possibly backing up into the ICW. I do not believe this change is being made for the sake of safety, but rather at the behest of one or two property owners on the creek.
15	This extension will make our channel more dangerous by forcing boaters to slow down inside the ICW before turning into Bradley Creek. It appears that this change will only benefit private dock owners close to the mouth of Bradley Creek. The WRC does not implement no-wake zones to protect private docks or piers as stated by NCWRC. The documents for the petition do not state any new information supporting this change. Only a petition from a homeowner who complained to a county commissioner about wake affecting his dock and boat is behind this amendment. What proof is there that this change will make boaters safer? The same items used for last year's safety matrix were reused for this petition too. I would suggest a DOT-style survey be done to ascertain the actual impact on boat traffic during high times of use, i.e. summer weekends. Before all the recent private docks were put on the creek, the dredged channel stayed deep because even our larger boats could get on plane while still inside Bradley Creek. This kept the channel nice and deep. The burden of keeping Bradley Creek navigable falls solely on Bradley Creek Yacht Club since we hold the permits. All the private docks benefit from our responsibility for keeping Bradley Creek dredged. The slowing of boat traffic even further will only exacerbate the problem of filling in the channel and adding a large financial burden to Bradley Creek Yacht Club. Albeit not specific to Bradley Creek, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can easily provide data to back this statement.
16	Moving this no wake zone closer to inland waterway will cause back up at entrance and possible collisions at the entrance. Boats should be able to enter the channel and get clear of waterway traffic and currents before powering their craft down. This area has never been no wake and has always had good traffic flow. As everyone knows it's harder to control your vessel without enough power to maneuver. The petitioner has a small island in front of his property as a breakwater.
17	this would likely create a dangerous situation for boat traffic backing up coming of ICW
18	On behalf of the +/- 1000 boaters at Bradley Creek Marina and Creekside Yacht Club, plus hundreds of others who use the creek for fishing/bait hunting/pleasure, I would like to register my opposition to this proposed change. Your proposal mentions "safety", however to me it seems that it will create another safety concern for boaters who have to stop in the water prior to entering Bradley Creek....while dozens of other boats are zooming by in the same area in the ICC. Additionally, I understand that this proposal was initiated at the request of one individual resident on Bradley Creek "to prevent wakes" along his property. This seems to be unfair and inconvenient treatment for the 100's of boaters who use Bradley Creek for the questionable concerns of one resident. Thank You.
19	This change will allow a peaceful boat ride down Bradley Creek without being waked by those speeding to and from the Marina. We enjoy Kayaking and fishing in the marshes. We get rocked with no consideration. When boats are waking, we get rocked and have to stop what we are doing. Also, we enjoy watching the dolphins play at the end of the creek where it meets with the waterway. High wake is a distraction and also dangerous at this intersection.
20	I transit this area roughly 100 times a year, on a year-round basis. I see no safety issues that this restriction will address. I have not witnessed an accident in this area in 20+ years transiting this area. I hold a USCG 100 Ton Masters's license.
21	This change will greatly enhance safety on the affected waters
22	I have the first long dock after the end of the current no wake zone. I am 100% in favor of extending the no-wake zone for safety reasons. Please speed past my dock including at night. When I first bought my house, a boater leaving one of the bars at night ran into my dock knocking out about a 16-foot section. If you are not very familiar with the intracoastal waterway, it is easy to misjudge the channel and hurt yourself and/or others. Please extend the no-wake zone further down for everyone's protection. Thank you.
23	Wholeheartedly.
24	Hopefully this will protect our marshland which is eroding at our point
25	By moving the no wake zone out another 400 ft a greater risk would be presented for boaters entering or leaving the channel as there are 2 separate dry storage facilities making up around 1000 boaters that use the

	creek. These people would be in danger as there are many boaters using the intracoastal leaving or entering the Wrightsville beach no wake zone.
26	People fly into entrance and then abruptly pull back to slow down. It is dangerous. The whole channel needs to be a no wake zone. It makes no sense for a partial no wake zone in this channel.
27	This rule adds to a recently enacted extension of the NWZ. The new NWZ addresses the concerns outlined in the matrix and is not needed. The impact of the new NWZ should be assessed before additional rules are put in place. Additionally, this new rule will require boats to reach no-wake speed while still in the ICW channel.
28	Bradley Creek is a place of beauty and a peaceful place for kayaking and fishing, and a No-Wake Zone in this area would preserve this area for just that.
29	I believe the complaint given is an overreaction, and it does not warrant placing such a restriction on the larger boating community. At that point in the waterway boats have yet to generate enough speed to produce a large wake. If proper procedures are followed to secure one's boat the issue will go away.
30	I grew up on Bradley Creek and have kept a boat there for 40+ years. I strongly disagree that this is a "dangerous" area and in need of an extended no-wake zone. The channel is very clearly marked and deep. Boats travel in a simple East-West direction with no material intersections from other waterways to cause confusion. Extending the no-wake zone will needlessly add multiple minutes travel time to and from the marina. If there are any accidents in Bradley Creek (I have never seen one) it can only be due to incompetence or alcohol. A no-wake zone will not help that and will only cause inconvenience to the hundreds of other responsible boaters that are required to traverse Bradley Creek.
31	I have serious concerns about the idea of extending the no wake zone in Bradley Creek all the way out to the waterway. I have boated these waters for 40 years, and have seen the increase in the number of boaters in that area. My concern is that, if this proposed rule is passed, boat traffic will bottleneck in the area where Bradley Creek meets the ICW as boats slow to no wake speed before turning into Bradley Creek. I have seen situations where boat traffic is already extremely heavy in this area (an example would be a late summer afternoon when a thunderstorm pops up and numerous boats simultaneously descend on this area in an attempt to get back to Bradley Creek and Creekside marinas. I urge the commissioners to vote against extending the no wake zone in Bradley Creek from where it now ends to all the way to the ICW.
32	I think that extending the no wake zone is very beneficial for multiple reasons. Let's start with the facts. We know that no one follows the rules when slowing down at the no wake zones. They either stop too late. Start too soon. Or begin a slow plow throwing a much bigger wake defeating the purpose of the wake zones placement. Another fact is that 4 way intersections are extremely dangerous! Not only in cars but more importantly in boating! Just like any 4 way stop on the hwy there are stop lights or stop signs. There are rules of the road. As this little beach town we call home has grown the waterways rules have not grown with it! I watch boats rip in and out of that intersection every day and it's only a matter of time before a tragedy will occur from negligence and inexperienced boaters, and that's a fact. Slowing these boats down as they enter the waterway will create safer waters and allow boaters to enter the busy waterway safely.
33	Lifelong coastal resident, the petition is obviously due to petitioner's concern with wakes as boaters now power up adjacent to his dock. Petitioner complained to Bradley Creek Marina after implementation of no wake zone that ended at his dock. This is not a safety issue and in fact the exact opposite. The extension of the proposed no wake zone will create a safety hazard at the intersection of Bradley Creek and the heavily used ICW. In fact, the existing no wake zone was implemented without input from the two marinas located on Bradley Creek and we need that decision to be revisited. However, that is a discussion for another day. Thank you for your time and consideration, and as my dad always said most problems with proposed no wake zones can be resolved by owners properly securing the boats to their dock.
34	This rule will create a backup of boats into the main channel of ICWA. It cannot pass
35	As you just outlined, we saw some recent changes to the no wake zone within Bradley Creek albeit those were much needed changes because there was essentially some navigational hazards and some likely property damage stemming from the old lack of a no wake zone. My concern with today's proposal is about safety. I know that the petitioner had initially outlined in his proposal with regard to safety but my biggest

	<p>concern here is the congestion that the extension of the no wake zone will create and that specifically closer to the intercoastal water way, that particular body of water is highly travelled and highly congested especially in the summertime weekends. It's a very difficult intersection to get through and I tell everyone that will listen to the most hairy time in my life is 4:00 PM on a Saturday trying to make it back to my home port, making that turn from that waterway to Bradley Creek and so my feelings is that if we extend this further out that's going to create essentially a traffic jam that's filling out into the waterway and I am fearful for my safety and that of others if everyone is going to slow down or stop based on the new ruling and then of course, you know with the congestion and the very high number of uneducated voters in the Hanover county I feel that this will definitely be a safety concern of perhaps a cause for an accident. I also question the petitioner's reason for outlining that this is a safety concern when the petitioner actually lives in the area of the no wake zone or just short that the newest no wake zone so I feel that this is primarily driven by a property damage issue and not necessarily safety so I am calling that into question. Thank you for your time.</p>
36	<p>Some of the other things that concern me is the fact that this is a state document and looking through your documentation, you've got a lot of errors of this creek meaning Bradley Creek you've got it noted on here that Bradley Creek marina there are two marinas that get people confused. There is Bradley Creek that does not have gas, they are dry slip and they also have in water storage. Creekside is on dryland. We have gas. You have Creekside noted in your professional document as a rest stop. So obviously somewhere along the line there has been some misinformation that has been given. Two incidents were noted as justification in 2019 and if we've only had two in Bradley Creek in that time then that is absolutely amazing and should be noted by wildlife as a safe place to boat. A mile and a half towards the wildlife boat ramp you could ride a BWI and wreck it every fifteen minutes and I'm sure your officers would know that. The description also noted that we were making more boat slips down here. We are not. Creekside is full, we cannot make boat slips. Our docks do not permit us to put anymore boats in the water nor does Bradley Creek. Bradley Creek is not making more boat slips was another justification piece. So I challenge you to go back and look at your document and make corrections there anywhere before anybody does anything. The other thing is Holidays and weekends use to be our busy time. Since Covid that all changed. We have to allocate our resources for putting boats in and out and Covid kind of messed things up for us because of resources so it's not just the weekends are busy days, it's a pretty day when people are supposed to be at work. So going in and out of the marina in the late 1990's there was an incident that killed 3 people in the mouth of Bradley Creek. I'm surprised that was not noted. That was a boat running up on a boat and what the gentleman says is there are about 400 boats that go out on Bradley Creek on the weekends 70% of them go right out of Bradley Creek and Masonboro Island. Coming back from Masonboro Island you've got to cross a pass of boats going south. Your map shows two boats on that map, both of them are heading South. That means someone is going to have to slow down, creep across to get in through that mouth. So right now we didn't really appreciate extending it all the way out but it's kind of a blessing that it did but that will allow boats to come in at a high rate of speed because there is no merge lane on a boat, there is no circle that we can put at the end of Bradley Creek like they are doing all over for cars. You have to maintain your proper speed and know that you can go safe into that or crossing in front of a boat but the boats flying up and down the waterway the notation was given somewhere in your document. There are a lot of people who shouldn't be driving boats, that's occurred since Covid. What I dare say is that both of these marinas and the people coming out of the marinas are safe, they know boating, they know the levels of that creek going in and out in high tide and low tide, they know where they can go, and they keep safety first thought in mind accordingly. You're going to create a nightmare if you extend that 400 feet to keep some guy from his boat rocking on his deck. I dare say that in high tide the coast guard vessel running up and down the intercoastal, high tide and wind going in the right direction, it's going to rock his boat anyway. We appreciate your time and I hope sincerest thought goes into this in terms of the documentation, the thought process, the justification because there are some incorrections here that need to be noted. We appreciate the wildlife and what you all do for us and that's all we have to say. Thanks.</p>
37	<p>I've got my boat over at Bradley Creek Marina and I just wanted to reiterate what the two gentlemen from Creekside were saying. I absolutely agree with them that extending this no wake zone another 400 feet is</p>

	<p>going to cause accidents, potentially death like the gentleman before said. Particularly in the summer months when we have an increased amount of boaters and unexperienced boaters. I'd like to also note that from the current extended no wake zone out to the intercoastal anybody else, homeowner wise has a slip there and I would imagine that the homeowners who put this motion forwards would get a slip there really wouldn't be any more issue for property damage. But yeah, I really just wanted to be short and reiterate that in the summer months there is going to be a significant amount of traffic and potentially accidents caused if we extend this any further. That's it. Thank you so much.</p>
38	<p>I thought about this a great deal, and it seems somewhat analogous to a Friday afternoon on I-40 in Raleigh heading to Wilmington and reducing the speed limit to 25 miles an hour. It's a great concept, save lives potentially but the unintended consequences are going to be backed up traffic everywhere and I think that if we do this that is exactly what we are going to see as the three other folks have made reference to. Heading South on the waterway, you're coming out of a no wake zone out of Wrightsville beach those people are interested in accelerating, they are going to run right into the traffic in Bradley Creek trying to cross into Bradley Creek by turning left or turning right into the creek. Both directions those folks are trying to accelerate, and they are running into a lot of boat traffic. Potentially if we make this change that is going to create a nightmare as everyone said, particularly on weekends and holidays and the intent is probably the safety along the creek, the unintended consequence I think is what everyone else has said, you are going to cause all kinds of back up issues in the water way similar to what you have on the North side of Wrightsville beach where the boat ramp is on a Saturday afternoon. It becomes pretty chaotic trying to get around. That's it. Thank you.</p>
39	<p>To Whom It May Concern: This letter, being directed to your attention, is relevant to the Proposal concerning the No-Wake Zone at Bradley Creek. I have reviewed the Proposal, which advocates the extension of the No-Wake Zone {reference the attached diagram}, and I, along with many others, find the Proposal to be extremely ill-conceived, impractical, irrational, senseless, injudicious, careless, and highly irresponsible. Additionally if the Proposal was adopted, if it were enacted as "law", the NCWRC would be, without a doubt, creating the potential for extremely unsafe, and dangerous situations. How anyone, in their right mind, could promote, endorse, and support such ludicrous, nonsensical, preposterous, absurd, Proposal is unbelievable. In addressing the aforementioned comment, the aforementioned allegation, that the NCWRC would be creating an exceedingly dangerous, and perhaps deadly, condition(s) if this Proposal-to-extend the No-Wake Zone was enacted into Law, it is imperative that the Rulemaking Coordinator be made fully conscious, fully cognizant, of the fact that there are over four hundred and fifty (450+) boats, of varying sizes, at The Bradley Creek Marina, and there are over four hundred (400+) boats, of varying sizes, at The Creekside Yacht Club. As you can easily, and readily, envision, the potential for a lot of boats to be in the waterway from the U.S. 76 bridge to the mouth of Bradley Creek certainly, without question, exists. As you peruse this letter directed to your attention, please just for a moment visualize, imagine,...picture in your mind, five, ten, fifteen, twenty, or more vessels converging at, or near, the mouth of Bradley Creek and The Intercoastal Waterway are in the No-Wake Zone dominion. Surely, and indisputably, the NCWRC Rulemaking Coordinator can comprehend, can grasp, and can recognize that the potential for a disastrous circumstance, and perhaps even a deadly incident, is definitely prevalent, if not predictable! Apparently, this Proposal to extend the No-Wake Zone was initiated, was instigated, by a handful of individuals who have selfishly, thoughtlessly, and inconsiderately deemed that the extension of the Bradley Creek No-Wake Zone is in the best interests of the 'boating community'. These people are mistaken, fallacious, and misguided in their thought process. I have no idea whatsoever what their 'motivation' or impetus might be, but it is quite obvious, quite apparent, that the NCWRC is overtly, and illogically, demonstrating that they are willingly inclined, and predisposed, to succumb, and accede, to a minority subgroup with absolutely no concern whatsoever for the safety of those who own, and enjoy boating, which in this case, comprise that majority group. I have a 'legal background', and, in this regard, I am going to save a copy of this correspondence sent to the NCWRC. At such time that an accident occurs which results in a serious bodily injury to, or the death of, a boater due to the enactment, endorsement, and/or ratification of this ill-advised Proposal to Extend the No-Wake Zone at Bradley Creek, and a law suit ensues, this letter to the Rulemaking Coordinator will be given to the family, the next-of-kin, of the</p>

	<p>boater who was injured, or killed. It is quite likely, and quite conceivable, that this letter will, someday in the future, be labeled "Exhibit 1" and presented as evidence in a court of law as it will reveal, and reflect, the apathy, the indifference, and the unconcern of the NCWRC in this matter. I do appreciate your indulgence in my letter to you. Hopefully, you will allow logic, rationality, wisdom, and judiciousness to prevail as you engage in the decision-making process relevant to the extension of The Bradley Creek No-Wake Zone. Very truly yours, George Hoback. Wilmington, NC (received Mar 8, 2024)(George included a map of Bradley Creek)</p>
40	<p>I sent in support for this ruling earlier., I just wanted to add a comment after listening to the zoom meeting. I know the people at Creekside and Bradley?? Creek. Want to be able to get to the waterway quicker and they talked about stacking of boats. I do get to watch this daily and through the weekend and I disagree that that would happen. My biggest concern is the safety of families that want to drive slow and enjoy, just a nice little boat ride. Watch people, fish and kayaks and see disrespectful voters trying to rush in and out of the creek. I can hear foul language. I just really want this to pass so they'll be no wake. It'll protect the marsh some and allow people to really enjoy this area of rightful beach, and Wilmington , thank you for your consideration</p>

One public hearing was held on March 6, 2024.

# EXHIBIT K-2

April 18, 2024



## PETITION FOR RULEMAKING – CONSIDER FINAL ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 15A NCAC 10F. 0314 NEW HANOVER COUNTY - BRADLEY CREEK

Pursuant to a Petition for Rulemaking under N.C.G.S. 150B-20, Notice of Text for proposed rulemaking was published in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing, to extend the no-wake zone at Bradley Creek in Wilmington and make it shore to shore (15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County).

Staff completed an Assessment Matrix (Attachment A- Matrix and Map). Boating safety hazards were noted the length of Bradley Creek to its mouth, including the narrow navigation channel, tide fluctuations, shoaling, shallow water depth, and hazards to multiple docks on the south side of the creek, that extend to the navigation channel. Congested conditions and night boating at unregulated speed are particularly hazardous. The analysis suggests making the Bradley Creek no-wake zone shore to shore and extending it closer to the mouth of the creek at 34.20794 N, 77.82158 W.

The narrow canal located on the south side of the creek at the end of Westport Drive currently is unregulated. The proposed extension will move the no-wake zone approximately 400 feet southeast of its current point at Channel Marker #4 shore to shore throughout and will mitigate hazards in the canal with its multiple boat slips. Enforcement estimates that travel time through Bradley Creek from the new coordinates to the U.S. Highway 76 Bridge will be 5-9 minutes, depending upon tide and congestion.

The distance from the ICW setback to the proposed location where the revised no-wake zone begins is 190 yards. In the estimation of Enforcement, the distance gives sufficient time for vessels to slow to no-wake speed when entering the creek from the ICW and to get up on plane before entering the ICW. Enforcement officers monitored Bradley Creek during the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and noted no bottlenecks at any time.

Staff requests Commission consideration of this Rule amendment. If the amendment is adopted it will be subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission.



15 NCAC 10F .0314 is amended with changes as published in 38:14 NCR 934-935 as follows:

**15A NCAC 10F .0314 NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply applies to the following waters in New Hanover County:

- (1) the area bounded on the north by the ~~US~~ U.S. Highway 74-76 ~~Bridge~~ bridge crossing the Intracoastal Waterway, on the south by a line shore to shore intersecting Intracoastal Waterway channel marker number 127, on the west by the shore of Wrightsville Sound, and on the east by a line perpendicular to ~~US~~ U.S. Highway 74-76 and intersecting channel marker number 25 in Motts Channel;
- (2) the area of Motts Channel between channel marker number 25 at the Intracoastal Waterway on the west and channel marker number 16 at the entrance from Banks Channel on the east;
- (3) Wilmington, ~~the~~ The waters of ~~the navigation channel~~ shore to shore in that portion of Bradley Creek in the City of Wilmington between the ~~US~~ U.S. Highway 76 ~~Bridge~~ bridge crossing Bradley Creek and channel marker 4, near the mouth of Bradley Creek at 34.20858 N, 77.82272 W; and a point at 34.20794 N, 77.82158 W, near the mouth of Bradley Creek;
- (4) Lee's Cut from its western intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at 34.21979 N, 77.80965 W, to its eastern intersection with Banks Channel at 34.21906 N, 77.79645 W;
- (5) Town of Wrightsville Beach, ~~the~~ The unnamed channel lying between the shore west of Bahama Drive in the Town of Wrightsville Beach and an unnamed island located approximately 500 feet northeast of the ~~US~~ U.S. Highway 74 bridge over Banks Channel; and
- (6) Castle Hayne, ~~the~~ The waters of the Northeast Cape Fear River between the ~~US Hwy.~~ U.S. Highway 117 bridge and the railroad trestle 60 yards east of the Castle Hayne Boating Access Area, Area, 6418 Orange Street, Castle Hayne.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any of the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of New Hanover County shall be the designated agency for placement shall place of the no-wake markers implementing Subparagraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), and (a)(5) of this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

(d) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall place and maintain markers for the area designated in Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

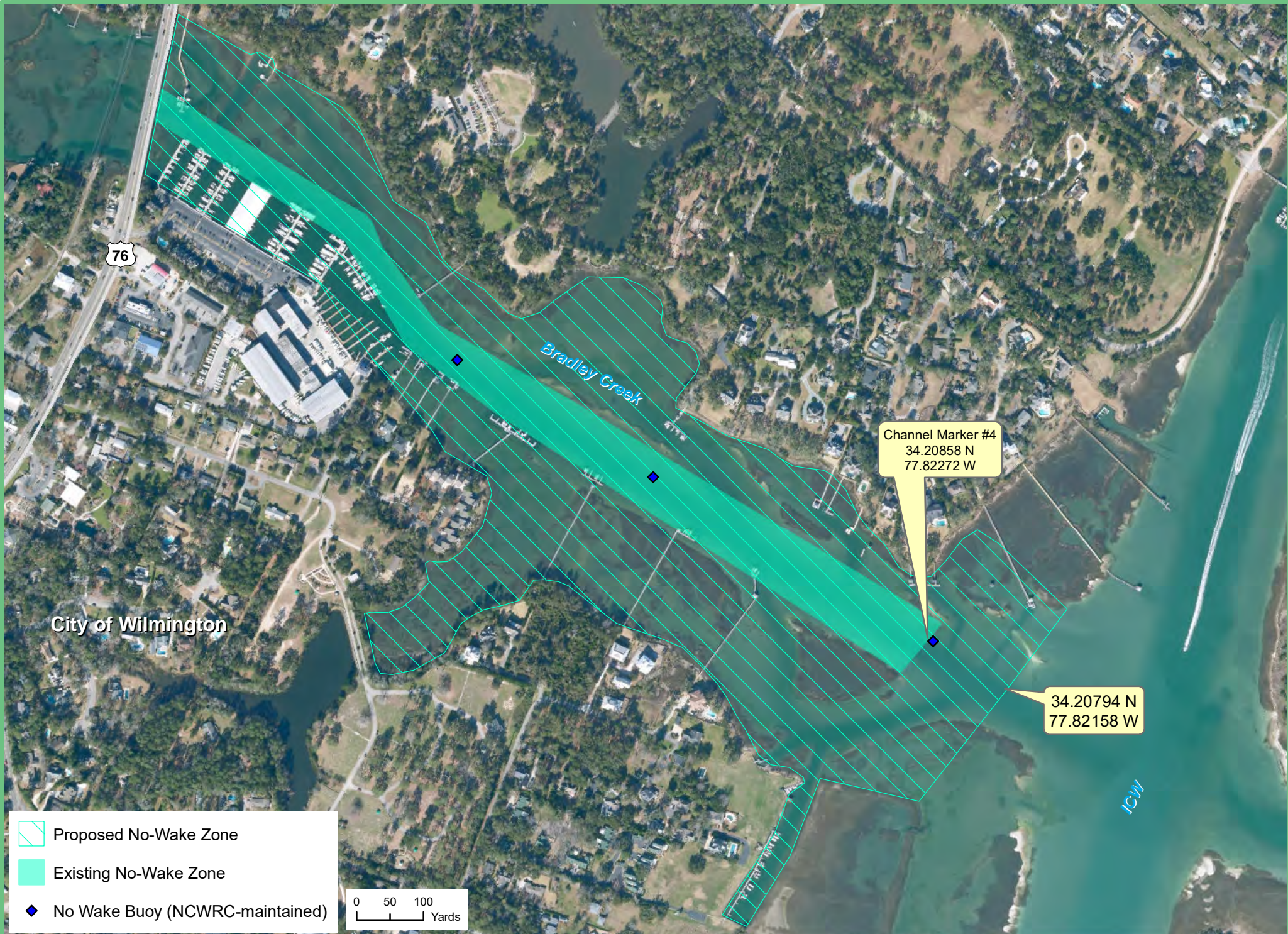
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; May 1, 1989; June 1, 1987; May 1, 1987;*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;*

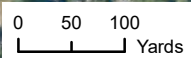
*Amended Eff. June 1, 2024; July 1, 2023; February 1, 2023; October 1, 2018; April 1, 2017.*



15A NCAC 10F .0314 (a) (3) - Proposed Revised and Extended No-Wake Zone  
Bradley Creek, City of Wilmington, New Hanover County



- Proposed No-Wake Zone
- Existing No-Wake Zone
- No Wake Buoy (NCWRC-maintained)







## NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

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### SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: New Hanover County Petition to WRC
- Primary contact information: Major Mark Dutton, NCWRC
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
  - Body of water and County: Bradley Creek New Hanover Co
  - Location: Beginning at the US 76 Bridge on Bradley Creek shore to shore, southeast to a point near the mouth at 34.20794 N , 77.82158 W
  - Popular name of area, if any: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 570 ft Widest Point: 1340 ft + cove&canal
  - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)  
Narrow channel 20-30 feet wide with shallow waters on either side. Heavy vessel traffic going to and from the ICW plus about 170 boats moored in very congested area.

**\*Attach map of designated no-wake zone\***

**\*Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact\***



## NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

**Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request**

**See Enforcement assessment and justification, below.**

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?

YES

NO

**When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.**

**Buoys and signs exist. No additional cost . US Army Corps of Engineers has concurred with extending the NWZ closer to the ICW.**



# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: Creek Side Yacht Club

PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA

NO-WAKE BUOYS

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: \_\_\_\_\_

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: None

Number of Docks: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER (list and describe)

## SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

Identify all potential hazards associated with the proposed no-wake zone (check all that apply)

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Can obstructions be removed?  YES  NO

NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) 90 Feet

SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) 7 feet in channel, 1-2 feet elsewhere



## NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) \_\_\_\_\_

### STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

DAM Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SPILLWAY Location: \_\_\_\_\_

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDGE Roadway: \_\_\_\_\_  
Height above water: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width between piers: \_\_\_\_\_

TRESTLE Height above water: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width between piers: \_\_\_\_\_

POWER LINE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCK Lock Number: \_\_\_\_\_

JETTY \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: \_\_\_\_\_

- Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone?  YES  NO

SANDBAR \_\_\_\_\_

SHOAL \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER (list and describe)



# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

- BOAT INCIDENTS      Date(s): Dates approximate: 2003, 2019
- CITATIONS ISSUED      Violations: Several BWT's, careless and reckless
- VERIFIED COMPLAINTS      List: \_\_\_\_\_

- Rate traffic density in this area HEAVY
- Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES       NO
- Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?  
YES       NO

## SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:  
None
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?  
  
 YES      Identify Violations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO







# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?

YES:

NO:

- Justification:

This is a narrow and shallow channel with a heavy amount of boat traffic (especially during the boating season) coming to and from Bradley Creek Marina and the Intracoastal Waterway. The current revised no wake zone was approved effective July 1, 2023 in the navigation channel only, for purposes of mitigating safety hazards for vessels travelling to and from Bradley Creek Marina at the ICW. The marina is expanding its facilities with an increasing number of vessels. There is shoaling throughout the creek at times. There have been several boating incidents in this channel and several boating while impaired and careless and reckless boating violations/charges. The water's average depth in the center of the channel is approximately 7 feet deep at mid to high tide. The channel is very narrow and the water depth immediately on the outside of the channel is approximately 2 feet and reduces to a mud flat very quickly. This restricts navigating a vessel to stay within the channel causing vessels to pass very closely in a busy cove. Operators not having the ability to discern the changes in depth can create extremely dangerous boat operations especially at night when operated at higher speeds.

Enforcement has assessed the need to create the revised no-wake zone within Bradley Creek shore to shore, including the cove on the south side where the Bradley Drive Bridge is located, and the canal on the south side near the mouth of the creek at the end of Westport Drive, where multiple boat slips are located. This proposed revision will be to extend the no-wake zone shore to shore, approximately 400 feet from its current point at Channel Marker #4, southeast to a point at 34.20794 N, 77.82158 W near the mouth of the creek. Creating the beginning of the no-wake zone closer to the mouth and away from docks, some that extend to the edge of the navigation channel, will lessen the impacts by wakes as multiple vessels must slow as they come in and out of the creek at the Intracoastal Waterway.

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/7/2023

*Major Mark Dutton*

# EXHIBIT L-1

April 18, 2024



## 15A NCAC 10F .0321 – PENDER COUNTY, TOWN OF SURF CITY APPLICATION FOR RULEMAKING FOR PROPOSED PERMANENT RULE AMENDMENTS

The Wildlife Resources Commission received an application from the Town of Surf City in Pender County, requesting rulemaking to codify into the North Carolina Administrative Code a no-wake zone along the Town waterfront in the waters of Topsail Sound and Topsail Creek, northeast of the channel setback of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), from a point east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge eastward 550 yards to a point in Topsail Sound and a portion of Topsail Creek; and a no-wake zone in the waters of Topsail Sound southeast of the channel setback of the ICW, from a point east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge eastward 480 yards to a point in the Sound adjacent to the mouth of Deep Creek.

The Town of Surf City requested no-wake zones to mitigate hazards to navigation and maneuverability, and protections for water recreationists in busy commercial areas that are heavily congested, especially during the summer season.

Because the Town of Surf City is on the ICW under the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USACE Wilmington District was consulted and provided concurrence for rulemaking, provided that the Town work with them for placement of pilings and signage that clearly states that State rulemaking does not encroach on the ICW and setback channel.

Pender County is a coastal county subject to the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) permitting requirements. The WRC's blanket CAMA permit authorizes any coastal county to place or replace Aids to Navigation (ATONS) at no additional cost.

Agency Enforcement has investigated the areas and returned the Assessment Matrix (**Attachment A**). Hazards to boater safety and navigation and other water recreation were noted along the waterfront, at boat rental businesses, Sears Landing and Restaurant, the Surf City Wildlife Access Area, Soundside Park, a rock jetty in Topsail Creek that is at times completely submerged, and bridge pylons that present boating safety hazards.

As part of the agency's periodic review of Rule text, names, addresses and descriptions of the Boating Access Areas in Pender County that are owned or operated by the WRC have been added for codification in the NCAC.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .321, with an open comment period and one virtual public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act. Upon the close of the open comment period, the WRC will consider adoption of the amendments for the Town of Surf City and Pender County.

#### 15A NCAC 10F .0321 PENDER COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule ~~shall apply~~ applies to the following waters in Pender County:

~~(1) the canal adjoining Olde Point Development in Hampstead;~~

(1) Hampstead:

(A) the canal adjoining Olde Point Subdivision adjacent to the ICW near 2019 Kings Landing Road; and

(B) the waters within 50 yards of the Hampstead Boating Access Area adjacent to the ICW at 613 Lewis Road.

(2) NewTopsail Beach, Town of Topsail Beach:

(A)The the First Finger Canal northeast of Godwin Avenue adjacent to Banks Channel; and Drive in New Topsail Beach;

(3) (B) Town of Topsail Beach, the waters on the eastern side of Banks Channel within 100 yards of the shoreline beginning 155 yards west of Bush's Marina, extending northeast ending 75 yards from the shoreline perpendicular to Haywood Avenue; Avenue.

(4)(3) Castle Hayne, the The waters of the Northeast Cape Fear River between the U.S. Highway 117 bridge and the railroad trestle 60 yards east of the Castle Hayne Boating Access Area. Area; and

(5)(4) Town of Surf City, City:

(A) the waters of the channel in Topsail Sound known as Deep Creek, from near its mouth at a point at 34.43199 N, 77.54795 W 34.43208 N, 77.54808 W to its end west of Goldsboro Avenue. Avenue;

(B) the waters of Topsail Sound and Topsail Creek northeast of the channel setback of the ICW, beginning north of the channel setback east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge at a point at 34.42975 N, 77.55213 W, then 550 yards northeastward to a line from the point north of the channel setback at 34.43294 N, 77.54837 W to a point on the island at 34.43327 N, 77.54873 W, then northward including waters of Topsail Sound and a portion known as Topsail Creek to a line from a point on the town shoreline at 34.43425 N, 77.55069 W, to a point on the island at 34.43378 N, 77.55017 W; and

(C) the waters of Topsail Sound southeast of the channel setback of the ICW, beginning south of the channel setback and east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge at a point at 34.42902 N, 77.55200 W including the waters where the Surf City Boating Access Area and Soundside Park are located at 517 Roland Avenue, then 480 yards northeastward to a point south of the channel setback at 34.43167 N, 77.54848 W, adjacent to the mouth of Deep Creek.

(5) Burgaw:

- (A) the waters within 50 yards of the Shelter Creek Boating Access Area on Shelter Creek, at 12380 Shaw Highway.
- (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Sawpit Landing Boating Access Area on the Northeast Cape Fear River, at 527 Whitestocking Road Extension; and
- (C) the waters within 50 yards of the Holly Shelter Boating Access Area on the Northeast Cape Fear River, at 7271 Shaw Highway.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement of Markers. The following agencies shall place markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) ~~The~~ the Board of Commissioners of Pender County for the regulated areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(1), (2), and (4) of this Rule, Part (a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(A) of this Rule; and
- (2) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Topsail Beach for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph Part (a)(2)(B) of this Rule. Rule, and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Surf City for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule shall be the designated agencies for placement of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

(d) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The following agencies shall place and maintain markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Surf City for the markers for the regulated areas designated in Parts (a)(4)(A), (B), and (C) of this Rule; and
- (2) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the markers for the regulated areas designated in Parts (a)(1)(B), and (a)(5)(A), (B) and (C) of this Rule.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

*Eff. May 1, 1976;*

*Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; December 1, 1991; May 1, 1989; October 1, 1985;*

*Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1999;*

*Amended Eff. June 1, 2017; July 1, 2000;*

*Readopted Eff. October 1, 2018.*



# SURF CITY

## RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 01

### Extend Existing No Wake Zone in and Around Soundside Park and Topsail Island Marina

**WHEREAS,** under authority of North Carolina General Statutes Section 75A-15(a), any subdivision of the State of North Carolina may at any time, after public notice make formal application to the Wildlife Resources Commission for special rules and regulations with reference to the safe and reasonable operation of vessels on any water within its territorial limits; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Surf City has given public notice of its intention to make formal application to the Wildlife Resources Commission for special rules and regulations with reference to the safe and reasonable operation of vessels along the Intracoastal Waterway and side channels and adjacent waters of the Intracoastal Waterway in areas surrounding Soundside Park to Sear's Landing and for the implementation of the Uniform Waterway Marker System in all the waters of the Town.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in accordance with G.S. 75A-15, the Town Council of the Town of Surf City requests the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to promulgate special rules and regulations with reference to safe and reasonable operation of vessels in areas adjacent to Soundside Park and Sear's Landing, located in Pender County, the pertinent substance of which proposed regulations is as follows: No Wake Zone in portion of Topsail Sound as depicted on prepared maps

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the said Town Council requests the said Commission to promulgate regulations fully implementing the Uniform Waterway Marker System in all of the waters of the said Town.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 10 day of January 2024, by the Mayor and Town Council of Surf City, North Carolina.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla P. Citarelli, Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa B. Batts, Mayor





# Town of Surf City

Teresa B. Batts, Mayor  
John Koloski, Councilman  
Alicia Hawley, Councilwoman

Jeremy Shugarts, Mayor Pro Tem  
Hugh Cannady, Councilman  
Trudy Solomon, Councilwoman

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## USATONS Markers Statement

Date: January 18, 2024

The Town of Surf City agrees to purchase and place markers that conform to U.S. Aids to Navigation (USATONS) standards upon approval of the No Wake Zone extension. These markers will be placed in and around Soundside Park, Sear's Landing and adjacent waterways to include Topsail Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway.

[REDACTED]  
Kyle Breuer  
Town of Surf City  
Town Manager

---

PHONE ( [REDACTED] )  
FAX ( [REDACTED] )



15A NCAC 10F .0321 - Proposed No-Wake Zone by the Town of Surf City  
 Intracoastal Waterway, Town of Surf City, Pender County





## NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Town of Surf City
- Primary contact information: Kyle Breuer, Town Manager [REDACTED]
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
  - Body of water and County: Topsail Sound, Pender County
  - Location: Areas of Surf City SE and NW of Surf City Swing Bridge(removed); excluding ICW
  - Popular name of area, if any: Waterfront north and south of ICW, east of bridge \_\_\_\_\_
  - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 30ft      Widest Point: 50ft
  - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)  
 Excluding the ICW which does not have USACE concurrence, USACE gives concurrence for rulemaking south of the ICW in areas of Surf City waterfront east of the Surf City bridge, to extend the NWZ at the Surf City BAA and Soundside Park and north of the ICW east of the Surf City Bridge to include a portion of Topsail Creek.

**\*Attach map of designated no-wake zone\***

See map attached.

**\*Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact\***





# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request

Town Manager Kyle Breiter cites 108.7 percent growth in Surf City, 71 percent increase at Hampstead, and 229 percent increase at Holly Ridge between 2010 and 2020; with increased vessel traffic south of the ICW near the Surf City BAA and public boat ramp and Sound Side Park emergency boat lift and launch south of ICW, and Blackbear's Treasure campground just off the ICW, where proposed NWZ will become contiguous with existing NWZ along town waterfront.

North of the ICW, east of the Surf City bridge there is heavy vessel traffic near Bait and Tackle Shop, boat rental business and fishing charters with inexperienced boaters; and in a portion of Topsail Creek to where it meets the ICW there is a restaurant with docks and heavy vessel congestion and multiple docks at Sears Landing along the very narrow section of the creek, in some places less than 20 yards across

See photos of business in the Town of Surf City .

The Town Council agrees to purchase and place eight pilings with ten signs to mark the no-wake zones at an estimated cost of \$10,275.00. A Fiscal Note is required since a local unit of government is incurring expenses for water safety rulemaking.

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?
  - YES  ICW. Pender County is CAMA county, covered under WRC blanket permit and USACE permits
  - NO

**When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.**



# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA

NO-WAKE BUOYS

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: Surf City NC Wildlife access area

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: Surf City NC Wildlife access area

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: Sears Landing

Number of Docks: One(see below)

OTHER (list and describe)

One main dock. Four fingers extending off the main dock that are approximately 20ft in length

## SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

Identify all potential hazards associated with the proposed no-wake zone (check all that apply)

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) Submerged rock jetty and old dock pylons located approximately 170ft north of the Sears Landing Creek. Both are approximately 10ft wide and 155ft from land towards the east. Jetty is completely submerged at certain tide cycles

Can obstructions be removed?  YES  NO

NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) \_\_\_\_\_

SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) \_\_\_\_\_



# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) \_\_\_\_\_

STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

DAM Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SPILLWAY Location: \_\_\_\_\_

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDGE Roadway: Hwy 210  
Height above water: 68ft  
Width between piers: Approximately 140ft

TRESTLE Height above water: \_\_\_\_\_  
Width between piers: \_\_\_\_\_

POWER LINE Estimated between 80-100ft

LOCK Lock Number: \_\_\_\_\_

JETTY \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: Submerged rock jetty located approximately 170ft north of the Sears Landing Creek. Jetty is completely submerged at certain tide cycles

▪ Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone?  YES  NO

SANDBAR \_\_\_\_\_

SHOAL see below

OTHER (list and describe)

Southern most area(west side of ICW) of new proposed no wake zone is extremely shallow and would be unnavigable for most boats especially during low tide.



# NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

## SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

BOAT INCIDENTS      Date(s): One I am aware of, circa summer of 2020

CITATIONS ISSUED      Violations: Operating while impaired

VERIFIED COMPLAINTS      List: \_\_\_\_\_

- Rate traffic density in this area HEAVY
- Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES       NO
- Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?  
YES       NO

## SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?

YES      Identify Violations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO



## NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

### SECTION 6: NO-WAKE ZONE DIMENSIONS AND SCOPE

Evaluate the applicant's proposed no-wake request based on criteria and complete Section 6. If investigated area does not meet criteria for a no-wake zone, move to section 7. If the area meets no-wake zone criteria but the proposed area exceeds the need to address the issues, recommend appropriately sized area and attach map with changes.

#### A. PROPOSED

- If approved, does no-wake zone extend into a designated channel?  
 YES      Distance extended into channel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NO
- Total distance travelled at no-wake speed (in feet): 2255ft
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: 6:30
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 30      Widest: 50
- Does proposed no-wake zone meet criteria for consideration?  
 YES: Appropriately sized  
 YES: Adjusted size recommended  
 NO
- Description/Explanation of adjusted size
  
- Adjusted map attached





## NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

### SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?

YES:

NO:

- Justification:

This area is heavily traveled during the summer months, particularly on the weekends and holidays. In certain places, boats come together from all four directions at once: North and South from the ICW, East from the boat ramp area, and West from the creek where the boat rentals are located. Additionally, there are bridge pylons present in the area that are a distraction to boat operators. I am in favor of the newly proposed no wake zone due to the increase in boat traffic from Pender and neighboring New Hanover and Onslow counties.

Officer: Fred Gorchess

Sergeant: Clayton Ludwick

Date: 3/27/2024

Date: 3/27/2024



**Fiscal Note for No-Wake Zone Rule**  
**15A NCAC 10F .0321 Pender County, Town of Surf City**

**Agency Contact:** Betsy Haywood  
Water Safety Rules Coordinator  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Melva Bonner  
Regulatory Analyst  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

**Authority:** G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15

**BACKGROUND**

The Town of Surf City applied for rulemaking to mitigate hazards to boater safety. The Town Council is concerned about safe and reasonable operation of vessels in busy commercial areas along the waterfront. The Town of Surf City reports data from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau that shows a ten-year population increase from 2010 to 2020 of 108.7 percent in Surf City alone, and a 15.3 percent population increase in Pender County. Regulation of the waters around Surf City Boating Access Area, Soundside Park, Sears Landing and restaurants, Blackbeard’s Treasure Campground, restaurants, boat rentals, and charter fishing businesses will mitigate hazards to vessel safety and navigation and to other water recreationists who use the area.

Because the Town of Surf City abuts the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), which is under the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USACE Wilmington District was consulted before considering rulemaking. The USACE concurrence provided that the Town applicants work with them for appropriate placement of pilings in the water and signage that clearly states that State rulemaking does not encroach upon the ICW and its setback channel. The Town is working directly with the USACE Wilmington District for permitting for marker placement.

Proposed amendments to Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0321 Pender County – Town of Surf City (APPENDIX 1), will create no-wake zones along the shoreline of the Town of Surf City, separated by the ICW and USACE channel setback. One no-wake zone includes the waters of Topsail Sound and Topsail Creek north of the channel setback, beginning at a line from a point east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge at 34.42975 N, 77.55213 W, then northeastward about 550 yards, to a line from a point north of the setback channel at 34.43294 N, 77.54837 W to a point on the island at 34.43327 N, 77.54873 W then northward including the waters of Topsail Sound and a portion of Topsail Creek to a line from a point on the town shoreline at 34.43425 N, 77.55069 W, to a point on the island at 34.43378 N, 77.55017 W.

South-southeast of the ICW, the no-wake zone begins at a line southeast of the channel setback from a point east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge at 34.42902 N, 77.55200 W, then northeastward about 480 yards to a point south of the channel setback at 34.43167 N, 77.54848 W, including the waters of Topsail Sound where the Surf City Boating Access Area and Soundside Park are located at 517 Roland Avenue.

## **IMPACT ANALYSIS**

### *State Impact:*

The proposed amendments have no anticipated State impact.

### *Local Impact:*

The Town of Surf City will be responsible for purchase and placement of pilings and signage. As a result of the proposed amendments, the Town of Surf City is expected to incur an estimated cost of \$10,600 for the no-wake zones north and south of the ICW. This includes eight pilings placed by contractors at a total cost of \$9,600 (\$1,200/piling x 8 pilings=\$9,600), which includes cost of the piling and labor to place each piling and sign. The Town of Surf City will also purchase eight no-wake signs at a cost of \$125 each for a total of \$1,000 (\$125/sign x 8 signs=\$1,000). In addition to these one-time costs for pilings and signage, it is estimated that there will be an annual cost to the Town of Surf City to maintain the signs of no more than \$245 (\$125 to replace one sign + \$120 labor). Labor cost was estimated at \$30/hr<sup>1</sup> x 2 hrs x 2 technicians = \$120. These additional costs will only be incurred if a sign is damaged or missing.

Pender County is a coastal county subject to Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) permitting requirements by the N.C. Department of Coastal Management. The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Commission (blanket) Permit Number 101-20 issued to the Wildlife Resources Commission authorizes any coastal county in the State to replace or install Aids to Navigation (ATONS) at no additional cost.

### *Private Impact:*

The proposed amendments are expected to have minimal private impact. The regulated community will not incur any direct financial cost because of this rule. Their behavior will be restricted in that boaters will be required to reduce speeds in the regulated portions of Topsail Sound and Topsail

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated using 2024 average contractor salary and benefits.

Creek north and south side of the ICW and setback channels. The reduction in speed has the potential to improve boating traffic safety and reduce the potential for damage to vessels and collisions with water recreationists. Given the increasing vessel traffic and congestion experienced in this area, these potential benefits are likely to be realized; however, these benefits could not be quantified.

## APPENDIX 1

### 15A NCAC 10F .0321 PENDER COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to the following waters in Pender County:

- ~~(1)~~ ~~the canal adjoining Olde Point Development in Hampstead;~~
- (1) Hampstead:
  - (A) the canal adjoining Olde Point Subdivision adjacent to the ICW near 2019 Kings Landing Road; and
  - (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Hampstead Boating Access Area adjacent to the ICW at 613 Lewis Road.
- (2) Town of Topsail Beach:
  - ~~(A)~~ ~~the First Finger Canal northeast of Godwin Drive in New Topsail Beach; Avenue adjacent to Banks Channel; and~~
  - ~~(B)~~ ~~Town of Topsail Beach, the waters on the eastern side of Banks Channel within 100 yards of the shoreline beginning 155 yards west of Bush's Marina, extending northeast ending 75 yards from the shoreline perpendicular to Haywood Avenue; Avenue.~~
- ~~(4)~~(3) Castle Hayne. the The waters of the Northeast Cape Fear River between the U.S. Highway 117 bridge Bridge and the railroad trestle 60 yards east of the Castle Hayne Boating Access Area; and Area.
- ~~(5)~~(4) Town of Surf City, City:
  - (A) the waters of the channel in Topsail Sound known as Deep Creek, from near its mouth at a point at 34.43199 N, 77.54795 W 34.43208 N, 77.54808 W to its end west of Goldsboro Avenue. Avenue;
  - (B) the waters of Topsail Sound and Topsail Creek northeast of the channel setback of the ICW, beginning north of the channel setback east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge at a point at 34.42975 N, 77.55213 W, then 550 yards northeastward to a line from the point north of the channel setback at 34.43294 N, 77.54837 W to a point on the island at 34.43327 N, 77.54873 W, then northward including waters of Topsail Sound and a portion known as Topsail Creek to a line from a point on the town shoreline at 34.43425 N, 77.55069 W, to a point on the island at 34.43378 N, 77.55017 W; and
  - (C) the waters of Topsail Sound southeast of the channel setback of the ICW, beginning south of the channel setback and east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge at a point at 34.42902 N, 77.55200 W including the waters where the Surf City Boating Access Area and Soundside Park are located at 517 Roland Avenue, then 480 yards northeastward to a point south of the channel setback at 34.43167 N, 77.54848 W, adjacent to the mouth of Deep Creek.
- (5) Burgaw:
  - (A) the waters within 50 yards of the Shelter Creek Boating Access Area on Shelter Creek, at 12380 Shaw Highway;
  - (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Sawpit Landing Boating Access Area on the Northeast Cape Fear River, at 527 Whitestocking Road Extension; and
  - (C) the waters within 50 yards of the Holly Shelter Boating Access Area on the Northeast Cape Fear River, at 7271 Shaw Highway.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

~~(c) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Pender County for the regulated areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(1), (2), and (4) of this Rule, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Topsail Beach for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule, and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Surf City for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule shall be the designated agencies for placement of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.~~

(c) Placement of Markers. The following agencies shall place markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) ~~The the Board of Commissioners of Pender County for the regulated areas designated in Subparagraphs(a)(1),(2), and (4) of this Rule, Part (a)(1)(A), (a)(2)(A), and Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule; and~~
- (2) ~~the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Topsail Beach for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (a)(3) Part (a)(2)(B) of this Rule, and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Surf City for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule shall be the designated agencies for placement of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Rule.~~

(d) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The following agencies shall place and maintain markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Surf City for the markers for the regulated areas designated in Parts (a)(4)(A), (B), and (C) of this Rule; and
- (2) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the markers for the regulated areas designated in Parts (a)(1)(B), and (5)(A), (B), and (C) of this Rule.

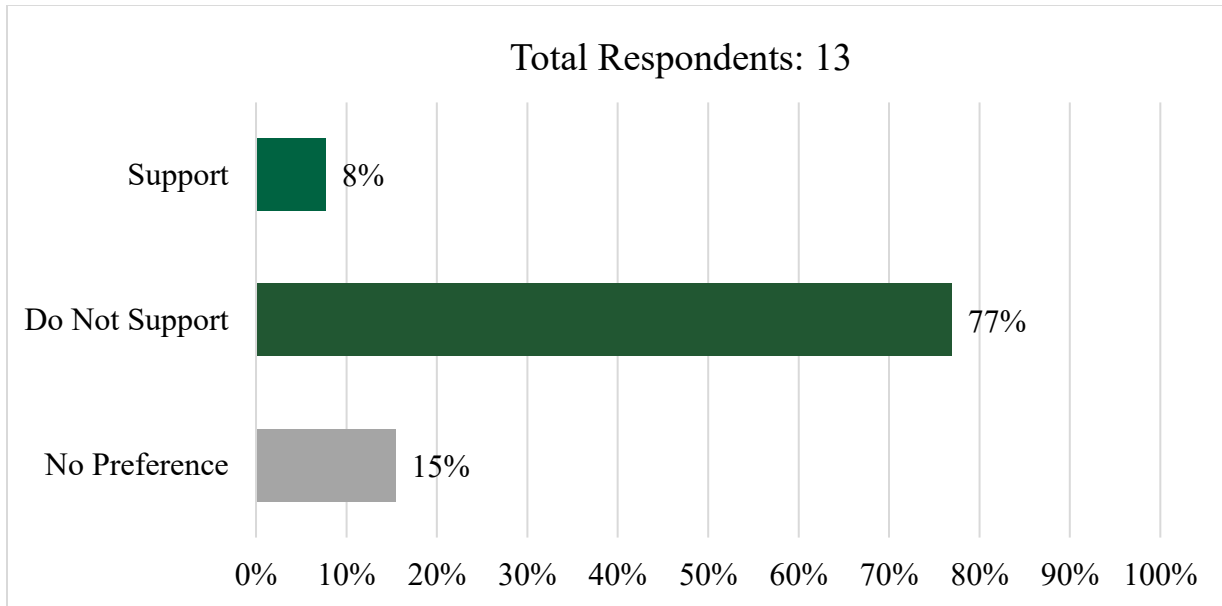
*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;  
Eff. May 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; December 1, 1991; May 1, 1989; October 1, 1985;  
Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1999;  
Amended Eff. June 1, 2017; July 1, 2000;  
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2018.*

# EXHIBIT M-1

April 18, 2024



## Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	10
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>



## 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees Comments

Number	Comment
1	For Guide fees, I do support increased cost. I would like to see the WRC take further action on Guide requirements across the state. ( First Aid certifications and renewals, Review Process and Audit ) Other states have better systems of management, and the cost incurred should be recouped by those making a profit. Regarding Hunting License fees for Residents, we should not increase the cost of annual or lifetime license. We have a hunter recruitment problem, and a barrier to entry being this cost will impact younger hunters from joining. Non-resident license increase should be applied to fishing more so then small game or big game hunting. I see lack of regulation in our fishing populations and need for higher regulatory enforcement. Increased fishing licenses cost should allow more regulations, enforcement, studies etc into our fish populations inshore. The lifetime children / infant licenses should never increase.... I'm disappointed by my recent infant NC Lifetime license (Purchased last year for my son) as the digital new ways of operating results in less tangibles like a certification etc. Gifting of a lifetime license for youth should be the last area increases should be considered.
2	fishing license are hi enuf now they stopd giving us a waiver n forsyth co so now have to pay an can barely afford them now don c why all other counties around us stil get waivers on food stamps or disability but we dont
3	I see no reason to raise the fees to do what we were given the right to do in the first place. But given the understanding that there are restrictions needed to make sure there isn't fowl play amongst other dangerous activities we understand the fees support the personnel jobs. But I don't see the need to raise the fees. This can cause some not to be able to afford to do the things they love most. Or if you're going to raise the fees, don't do it by \$8+! Try maybe a couple of cents to \$1-2!
4	Reinstate the gamelands license for all the non hunting users (dog walkers joggers etc)
5	What will the people get from this increase in price? The state should hire a more creative and productive budget manger.
6	The vast majority of the increase should be on the NONresident licenses. NC residents already pay taxes and other types of monies collected by NC state government. The vast burden of license revenue in most western states is generated by NONresident license fees. Some as much as a 500% difference between resident and nonresident fees. If there is to be any increase it should be on the NONresident license fees!
7	Costs have increased on everyone, including the citizens/hunters & fishermen your going to charge more!!!! Maybe you should do what they're having to do and adjust your spending by priority! You already increased costs not that long ago and services have been in decline for years! Any increases in costs should be on Non-resident purchases! Other states charge significantly higher rates for nonresidents!
8	I think it's pretty bad that you give licences to personnel that are currently serving and not the ones that have served with 20 years service.no one knows about hunting and fishing licences here in the mountains until now. I think you all should include past retired members as well.i hope you will at least discuss matter in a forum and maybe add us retired people as well.i'd like some feedback on this if you will.
9	I think it's pretty bad that you give licenses to personnel that are currently serving and not the ones that have served with 20 years service.no one knows about hunting and fishing licences here in the mountains until now. I think you all should include past retired members as well.i hope you will at least discuss matter in a forum and maybe add us retired people as well.i'd like some feedback on this if you will. 3/3/24
10	Good morning, As a resident and business owner of North Carolina I would like to recommend adding permits that in turn would bring in probably just as much revenue to the state, for kayaking/canoeing, hiking/biking, rafting (commercial and non) and picture taking/general use of the same lands us hunters are charged to use in a way we find it enjoyable to be outdoors. I may be uneducated on how the system has to work to add permits but it seems logical especially when our officers are underpaid or materials to maintain parking areas that these same people use are only going up. Some even going as far as commercially (rafting and tubing) don't have to pay to use these waters on a daily basis that I'm aware of

	<p>but get to rake in the money. Try driving your vehicle on the beach just to go lay out and/or fish. You're going to get charged a daily or yearly fee to be on the shore line no matter what you're there for. We as a state are missing out on the opportunity to not only keep hunting and fishing license affordable but also bring in more revenue from everyone that has the opportunity to be in the outdoors. You say "it takes a hunter to make a hunter" and keep raising the fees while everyone else using the same public lands is getting to do so at no cost to them. Sincerely, Patrick Addington Owner Addington Farms 3/9/24</p>
11	<p>I am against the new prices for licenses. The 10 percent plan would be more acceptable. I have a lifetime license and none of this affects me, however; if you look at your decreasing sales over the past two years you will see that our sport is losing participants. Young teens with an interest in hunting and fishing can't afford the license to enter the field. If you continue increasing license and fees you will inevitably reduce the number of people buying licenses and have to raise fees again. People are hurting out here. Now is not the time for this. My county just doubled our property tax and fire tax and we can't tell our boss we need 2-3 thousand more a year to pay it. Your prices are driving people away from our passion. Like I said before, this won't affect me except on my boat registration which is already too high. Last time they increased boat registration it went from 45\$ for 3 years to 93\$. Over a hundred percent increase. If you need more money you need to use the lowest increase plan which from what I read is the 10 percent plan. I'm not worried about me, I'm worried about the youth, the future of our sports. Without them you have nothing! Thanks David Leonard 3/13/24</p>

One public hearing was held on February 8, 2024.

# **EXHIBIT M-2**

**April 18, 2024**



## **Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees Rule Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption**

The proposed rule amendment increases fees for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications the Wildlife Resources Commission issues and administers, by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since the last fee increase (18.75%), rounded up to the next whole dollar, as allowed by Paragraph (e) of G.S. 113-270.1B.

The proposed fee increase will help the agency address funding issues related to increased operating costs exacerbated by inflation, increased demand for agency services, and stagnant state appropriations. Revenue from the proposed increase will better equip the NCWRC meet the demands on its operating budget and the rising cost of employee salaries and benefits that have increased, on average, by approximately \$5.6 million per year (6.28% per year) since the last fee increase that became effective January 1, 2020.

*15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES (Pgs. 2-5)*

1 **15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES**

2 (a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-  
3 270.1B(e).

4 (b) The following fees shall apply to combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as  
5 set forth in G.S. 113-270.1C:

- 6 (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$35.00.~~ \$42.00.
- 7 (2) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$41.00.~~  
8 \$14.00.
- 9 (3) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$41.00.~~  
10 \$14.00.

11 (c) The following fees shall apply to sportsman licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1D:

- 12 (1) Annual Sportsman License - ~~\$53.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 13 (2) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$212.00.~~ \$252.00.
- 14 (3) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$371.00.~~ \$441.00.
- 15 (4) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$530.00.~~ \$630.00.
- 16 (5) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$1,272.00.~~ \$1,511.00.
- 17 (6) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$16.00.~~ \$19.00.
- 18 (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$106.00.~~ \$126.00.
- 19 (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$106.00.~~ \$126.00.

20 (d) The following fees shall apply to hunting licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.2:

- 21 (1) Resident State Hunting License - ~~\$25.00.~~ \$30.00.
- 22 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$265.00.~~ \$315.00.
- 23 (3) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License - ~~\$22.00.~~ \$27.00.
- 24 (4) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$39.00.~~ \$47.00.
- 25 (5) Nonresident State Hunting Licenses:
  - 26 (A) Season License - ~~\$100.00.~~ \$119.00.
  - 27 (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$80.00.~~ \$95.00.
- 28 (6) Falconry Hunting License - ~~\$25.00.~~ \$30.00.

29 (e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-  
30 270.3:

- 31 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$17.00.
- 32 (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - ~~\$239.00.~~ \$284.00.
- 33 (3) Bear Management Stamp - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.
- 34 (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:
  - 35 (A) Season License - ~~\$100.00.~~ \$119.00.
  - 36 (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$80.00.~~ \$95.00.
- 37 (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.

- 1 (6) Game Land License - ~~\$16.00.~~ \$19.00.
- 2 (7) Falconry License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.
- 3 (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$17.00.
- 4 (9) Resident American Alligator License - ~~\$250.00.~~ \$297.00.
- 5 (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - ~~\$500.00.~~ \$594.00.
- 6 (11) Resident Elk License - ~~\$500.00.~~ \$594.00.
- 7 (12) Nonresident Elk License - ~~\$1,000.00.~~ \$1,188.00.
- 8 (f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.  
9 113-270.4:
- 10 (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$16.00.~~ \$19.00.
- 11 (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$159.00.~~ \$189.00.
- 12 (g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:
- 13 (1) Resident State Trapping License - ~~\$32.00.~~ \$38.00.
- 14 (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - ~~\$300.00.~~ \$357.00.
- 15 (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - ~~\$133.00.~~ \$158.00.
- 16 (h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the  
17 Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:
- 18 (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$25.00.~~ \$30.00.
- 19 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - ~~\$265.00.~~ \$315.00.
- 20 (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$45.00.~~ \$54.00.
- 21 (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
- 22 (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$9.00.~~ \$11.00.
- 23 (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$23.00.~~ \$28.00.
- 24 (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$16.00.~~ \$19.00.
- 25 (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.
- 26 (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.
- 27 (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - ~~\$106.00.~~ \$126.00.
- 28 (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters ~~3-Day~~ Three-Day Fishing License - ~~\$8.00.~~ \$10.00.
- 29 (i) The following shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.2:
- 30 (1) Resident Special Device License - ~~\$80.00.~~ \$95.00.
- 31 (2) Nonresident Special Device License - ~~\$530.00.~~ \$630.00.
- 32 (j) The non-refundable fees fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall  
33 be ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.
- 34 (k) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.  
35 113-272.5:
- 36 (1) Captivity License for Holding - ~~\$50.00.~~ \$60.00.
- 37 (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.

1 (l) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S.  
2 113-273:

- 3 (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$64.00.~~ \$76.00.
- 4 (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$318.00.~~ \$378.00.
- 5 (3) Fur-dealer Station License - ~~\$128.00.~~ \$152.00.
- 6 (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - ~~\$100.00.~~ \$119.00.
- 7 (5) Controlled Hunting Preserve Rabbit Operator License - ~~\$25.00.~~ \$30.00.
- 8 (6) Game Bird Propagation License - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.
- 9 (7) Furbearer Propagation License - ~~\$27.00.~~ \$33.00.
- 10 (8) Taxidermy License - ~~\$50.00.~~ \$60.00.
- 11 (9) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - ~~\$5.00.~~ \$6.00.
- 12 (10) Wildlife Control Agent License - ~~\$50.00.~~ \$60.00.
- 13 (11) Wildlife Control Technician Certification - ~~\$25.00.~~ \$30.00.
- 14 (12) Alligator Control Agent Certification - ~~\$25.00.~~ \$30.00.

15 (m) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:

- 16 (1) Possession Permit - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.
- 17 (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.
- 18 (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.
- 19 (4) Endangered Species Permit - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.
- 20 (5) Field Trial Permit - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$12.00.

21 (n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:

- 22 (1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$69.00.~~ \$82.00.
- 23 (2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$41.00.~~ \$49.00.
- 24 (3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:
  - 25 (A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$292.00.~~  
26 \$347.00.
  - 27 (B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$477.00.~~  
28 \$567.00.
  - 29 (C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -  
30 ~~\$716.00.~~ \$851.00.
  - 31 (D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -  
32 ~~\$1,643.00.~~ \$1,952.00.
  - 33 (E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -  
34 ~~\$32.00.~~ \$38.00.
  - 35 (F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing  
36 License - ~~\$117.00.~~ \$140.00. \$139.00.
  - 37 (G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing

1 License - ~~\$117.00.~~ ~~[\$140.00.]~~ \$139.00.  
2 (4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$477.00.~~  
3 \$567.00.

4 (o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in  
5 G.S. 113-174.2:

- 6 (1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$16.00.~~ \$19.00.
- 7 (2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$32.00.~~ \$38.00.
- 8 (3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$6.00.~~ \$8.00.
- 9 (4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.
- 10 (5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$106.00.~~ \$126.00.
- 11 (6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$159.00.~~ \$189.00.
- 12 (7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$265.00.~~ \$315.00.
- 13 (8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$530.00.~~ \$630.00.
- 14 (9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$16.00.~~ \$19.00.
- 15 (10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.
- 16 (11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$14.00.

17  
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);*  
19 *Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2020;*  
20 *Eff. July 1, 2020;*  
21 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2022.*  
22



# EXHIBIT N-1

April 18, 2024



## Proposed Commercial Activity Permitting Rules

### 15A NCAC 10H .1800

#### Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing

The Commission has the authority under G.S. 113-264 to license, regulate, prohibit, or restrict the public as to the use and enjoyment of Commission property and may charge a reasonable fee for access to or use of the property. Because of the increased demand for access and impact of large user groups, there is a need to regulate and track use by organized entities.

#### **15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES**

This proposed rule establishes Commercial Use Permits, Event Permits and requirements for Use of Commission Property. Specifically, this rule:

- Defines commercial activities, use, and events
- Sets requirements for information needed to obtain a commercial permit
- Sets fees for a commercial use permit (\$100) and event permit (\$50 - \$250 based on the number of participants)
- Establishes \$3 per person fee for each individual participating in the permitted activity or event
- Details general permit, records, and reporting requirements

*15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES (pgs. 2-4)*

#### **15A NCAC 10H .1802 COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS**

This proposed rule sets requirements for Commercial Use Permits, including:

- Activities for which the permit is required
- Reporting requirements
- Insurance requirements
- Clean-up requirements

*15A NCAC 10H .1802 COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS (pg. 5)*

## **15A NCAC 10H .1803 EVENT PERMITS**

This proposed rule sets requirements for Event Permits, including:

- Activities for which the permit is required
- Reporting requirements
- Insurance requirements
- Clean-up requirements

*15A NCAC 10H .1803 EVENT PERMITS (pg. 6)*



1 individuals participating in the event, including event participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators. The event permit  
2 fee schedule is as follows:

- 3 (1) ten to 100 individuals - \$50
- 4 (2) one hundred and one to 250 individuals - \$100
- 5 (3) two hundred and fifty-one to 500 individuals - \$150
- 6 (4) five hundred and one to 1000 individuals - \$200
- 7 (5) over 1000 individuals - \$250

8 (f) In addition to the commercial permit fee, a fee of \$3.00 per individual participating in the permitted activity on  
9 Commission property shall be required and remitted to the Commission no more than 30 days after the event for which  
10 the permit was acquired or every other month during the year for which the commercial use permit is valid.

11 (g) Unless authorized by the Commission, commercial permit holders and their patrons shall not block access or  
12 prevent others from entering or exiting any Commission property.

13 (h) Commercial permits are non-transferable between individuals, businesses, or companies and a separate permit is  
14 required for each commercial activity or event.

15 (i) The Commission may deny permits or issue permit requirements for use of its property based on the time of year,  
16 holidays, safety concerns, biological impacts, compatibility of requested activity with intended use of an area or  
17 property, failure to adhere to the conditions set forth in these Rules and Commission planned or sponsored events.

18 (j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the permit, a Commercial Use Permit shall be valid from January  
19 1 through December 31 of the same year. An Event Permit shall be valid for the duration of the event and expires at  
20 its conclusion.

21 (k) Records of commercial activities shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon  
22 request and during normal operating hours.

23 (l) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a permit holder's  
24 commercial permit, if the permit holder violates any rules set forth by the Commission in this Subchapter or any  
25 conditions of the permit.

26  
27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264;*  
28

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1802 COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS**

2 (a) A commercial use permit shall be required for commercial activities on Commission property, including but not  
3 limited to:

- 4 (1) providing registered and unregistered rental vessels to individuals for use on Commission property;
- 5 (2) leading tours or excursions for unlicensed activities on Commission property;
- 6 (3) dropping off or picking up individuals on Commission property; or
- 7 (4) using Commission property to stage patrons or recreational equipment in preparation for an activity  
8 on Commission property.

9 (b) Individuals holding a commercial use permit shall submit a report to the Commission online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)  
10 by the last day of every other month of the year in which their permit is valid. The report shall contain the following  
11 information:

- 12 (1) individual's name and name of business, company, or organization;
- 13 (2) permit number; and
- 14 (3) number of individuals participating in activity.

15 (c) Individuals applying for a commercial use permit as described in 15A NCAC 10H. 1801 shall verify liability  
16 insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million in aggregate for commercial activities conducted  
17 on Commission property.

18 (d) Commercial use permittees shall be responsible for removing litter and trash left on Commission property by  
19 individuals covered by their permit.

20  
21 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264;  
22

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1803 EVENT PERMITS**

2 (a) An event permit is required for a commercial business conducting an event on Commission property.

3 (b) Individuals holding an event permit shall submit a report for the event within 30 days of the conclusion of the  
4 event, to the Commission online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) with the following information:

5 (1) individual's name and name of business, company, or organization;

6 (2) permit number; and

7 (3) total number of participants.

8 (c) Individuals applying for an event permit as described in 15A NCAC 10H .1801 shall verify \$1 million per  
9 occurrence and \$2 million in aggregate of liability insurance for commercial events to be conducted on Commission  
10 property.

11 (d) Event permit holders shall be responsible for removing all litter and trash left on Commission property by  
12 individuals participating in the event.

13  
14 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264

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# EXHIBIT N-2

April 18, 2024



## REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED COMMERCIAL USE PERMITTING RULES

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES  
15A NCAC 10H .1802 COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS  
15A NCAC 10H .1803 EVENT PERMITS

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

**Authority:** G.S. 113-264(a); 113-134

### I. Summary

The proposed rules create permits and fees for commercial use of NC Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission or NCWRC) property, as defined in G.S. 113-129(18), and allowed by G.S. 113-264(a).

The NCWRC anticipates that the proposed rules will help the agency address issues related to increasing demand for access and use of NCWRC property, including crowding and congestion, safety, habitat degradation, and incompatible uses occurring simultaneously. The potential revenue from the proposed rules will provide State match to leverage the federal funds used on Commission properties for habitat and infrastructure enhancement, property maintenance and repairs.

### II. Background

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The NCWRC is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as



possible, the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and the NCWRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

The Commission is granted the authority by statute to license, regulate, prohibit, or restrict the public as to the use and enjoyment of its property and may charge the public a reasonable fee for access to or use of its property per G.S. 113-264(a). NCWRC Property is broadly defined in this statute and by G.S. 113-129(18) to mean all lands, game lands, wildlife refuges, artificial constructions in boating and fishing access areas, and all other property owned, allocated to, leased, controlled, or cooperatively managed and designated for public use by the NCWRC.

The Commission manages over 250 Boating Access Areas (BAAs), 250 Public Fishing Areas (PFAs), and 2+ million acres of game lands. These span the entire State and provide access to many unique and desirable resources, including rivers, waterfalls, caverns, and trails. Access points like BAAs and PFAs include amenities like paved parking lots and motorboat and/or kayak launches. Because of these resources and the access provided, individuals, groups, and businesses frequent some of the most desirable locations, sometimes making them inaccessible, unsafe, or undesirable for others, including licensed users. Issues including congestion, traffic, erosion, litter, noise pollution, and habitat degradation have all occurred on Commission property.

All activity licenses (hunting, fishing, trapping) sold by the Commission entitle the licensee to access and use NCWRC property. However, over the years, the use of these properties by unlicensed users has increased substantially as most NCWRC property is available for use by the public, free of charge.

Based on data collected in 2018, game lands receive approximately 2.2 million visits annually. It is estimated that 40% of those visits were for licensed activities (hunting and fishing), meaning that the majority of game land visits were for unlicensed uses.<sup>1</sup> Examples of these uses that agency staff have witnessed include hiking, birding, horseback riding, biking, camping, walking, geocaching, off-roading, kayaking/canoeing, tubing, foraging, target shooting, herping, photography, swimming, picnicking, and running.<sup>2</sup> However, staff also routinely encounter commercial activities and events occurring on game lands. Examples of these are included in Table 1.

*Table 1. Identified Commercial Activities/Events on Game Lands*

<b>Commercial Activity</b>	<b>Event</b>
Ecotourism (hiking tours, birding, climbing)	Races (running, biking, kayaking, triathlons)
Bike Rentals	Competitions/tournaments
Kayak Rentals	

<sup>1</sup> Casola, W.R., Peterson, M.N., Sills, E.O., Pacifici, K., Moorman, C.E. (2022). Economic contributions of wildlife management areas in North Carolina. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 132 (September 2023). [http://gambusia.zo.ncsu.edu/readings/Casola\\_etal\\_2022\\_Economic%20Contributions%20of%20Wildlife%20Management%20Areas%20in%20North%20Carolina.pdf](http://gambusia.zo.ncsu.edu/readings/Casola_etal_2022_Economic%20Contributions%20of%20Wildlife%20Management%20Areas%20in%20North%20Carolina.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Internal survey of Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers and Field Staff, 2023.

For BAAs, the agency estimates that about 57% of the approximately 380,000 NC registered vessel owners regularly use BAAs and 64% have used one at least once in the past year.<sup>3</sup> BAAs are built for motorboat launching and have parking lots built specifically to accommodate trailered vehicles. Aside from general parking of un-trailered vehicles, staff frequently report use by groups of individuals partaking in the activities listed in Table 2.<sup>4</sup>

*Table 2. Identified Commercial Activities/Events at BAAs*

Commercial Activity	Event
Kayak/Paddle Board Rentals	Competitions/tournaments
Tubing	
Jet Ski Rentals	
Motorboat Rentals	

The proposed rules seek to regulate some of the unlicensed use of NCWRC property by permitting and charging for commercial use of these areas. This fiscal note examines and summarizes the costs and benefits associated with management and maintenance of Commission property and establishing requirements for commercial users and implementing fees for these activities as authorized by G.S. 113-264(a).

The Commission has determined that the proposed rules have impacts to State Government and private individuals. No immediate or direct impact has been identified to local governments. A summary of the proposed rule amendments and potential impacts is below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A.

### III. Purpose & Goals

The NCWRC provides 250 free Boating Access Areas (BAA) to over 100 different bodies of water in the State and 262 public fishing areas. The agency manages and maintains over 2 million acres of public game lands in 79 NC counties, which include 54 primitive camping areas, 281 parking areas, 78 waterfowl impoundments, 1,878 miles of road, and 49 lakes and ponds, including 35 dams. The agency strives to provide, promote, and develop opportunities for public hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife-associated recreation while conserving, managing, and restoring wildlife habitats, communities and species on land managed by the NCWRC.<sup>5</sup>

Over 250 24-hour BAAs built and maintained by the Commission provide free access to more than 5,000 miles of North Carolina waters. Boating in North Carolina is generally a seasonal (May – September) activity. Almost 1/3 of North Carolina’s approximately 380,000 registered vessels have used these public boat ramps and are satisfied with their experience.<sup>6</sup> The money used to construct and maintain these boat ramps comes from federal grants and state vessel funds, meaning anglers

<sup>3</sup> NCWRC (2024). Boating in North Carolina: Survey of registered vessel owners.

<sup>4</sup> Internal survey of Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers and Field Staff, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/About/documents/Commissioners/Agency-Organizational-Overview-FINAL-2021-REDUCE.pdf?ver=Y\\_Zr9yBV\\_xSTa7DQYZXblQ%3d%3d](https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/About/documents/Commissioners/Agency-Organizational-Overview-FINAL-2021-REDUCE.pdf?ver=Y_Zr9yBV_xSTa7DQYZXblQ%3d%3d)

<sup>6</sup> NCWRC (2024). Boating in North Carolina: Survey of registered vessel owners.

and boaters that register their vessel in the State may benefit from that money by using NCWRC-constructed BAAs.

Over 2 million acres of public and private lands in North Carolina are managed by the NCWRC for public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other wildlife-associated recreation. These lands are designated collectively as Game Lands. The NWRC manages game lands for the conservation of wildlife species and to provide public access for wildlife-associated recreation and other recreational activities appropriate for the specific properties. The management of game lands involves balancing science-based conservation practices with public access and usage.

The Commission has staff throughout the state, mostly within the Land and Water Access Division (LAWA), who manage and maintain these properties. LAWA divides the state regionally into mountains, piedmont, and coast. The mountains region has 38 BAAs, 45 PFAs and 30 game lands, the piedmont region has 61 BAAs, 32 PFAs and 28 game lands, and the coastal region has 122 BAAs, 23 PFAs and 45 game lands. Routine maintenance and upkeep of Commission properties is part of LAWA staff responsibilities, as is routine patrol of these properties by the agency’s law enforcement officers. However, impacts of commercial and event use can create additional work for both Divisions and their limited number of staff and resources.

### Commercial Use

Commercial activity is defined in the proposed rule as an unlicensed activity for which individuals pay to participate or use equipment and that takes individuals or groups to Commission property for participation in the unlicensed activity, the purpose of which is financial gain or benefit of the commercial business. Commercial activities that the agency knows routinely occur on NCWRC properties are included in Table 3. These are unregulated recurring activities that staff have encountered on NCWRC properties.<sup>7</sup> These activities vary throughout the state and typically occur in greater numbers during the summer months.

Because of the significant growth of the State combined with the declining availability of spaces for outdoor recreation, the Commission’s BAAs and game lands have become popular destinations for the outdoor recreationists throughout NC. While the Commission does not discourage these activities on most properties, the areas where they are occurring are not necessarily situated or built to accommodate large numbers of people, and the impacts and pressure caused by commercial activities are becoming more prominent.

*Table 3. Identified Commercial Activities & Impacts*

Activity	Commercial/Event	Location	Impacts
Kayak/Paddle Board Rentals	Commercial	BAAs	Parking, traffic, litter
Bike Rentals	Commercial	Game lands	Trails, erosion, trash, habitat pressure,

<sup>7</sup> NCWRC (2023). Commercial Use Staff Survey.

			parking, noise
Tubing	Commercial	BAAs	Parking, congestion, litter
Boat/Jet Ski Rentals	Commercial	BAAs	Congestion, parking, litter
Ecotourism (destination hiking/climbing/birding/photography)	Commercial	Game lands	Parking, use conflicts, erosion

### *Boating Access Areas*

In most regions of the state, commercial activities at BAAs include kayak, paddle board, boat, and jet ski rentals. While these activities are more popular in the summer months, they occur year-round in some areas. According to NCWRC staff, kayak rental companies use BAAs for patron drop-off and pick-up, or as a meeting place for rental pick-up. These businesses can move anywhere from 25 to over a hundred people through a BAA every day. Boat and jet ski rental companies often have patrons park at a BAA and meet them there with their equipment. These patrons park vehicles for the day, often occupying spaces for trailered vehicles, and limiting room for individuals launching their motorboats. Depending on the location, season, and weather, staff estimate that anywhere from 10 boats/day on a weekday to upwards of 100 boats/day on a weekend are using BAAs to pick-up and drop-off boat renters.<sup>8</sup>

In the mountain region, commercial outfitters may be the biggest users of NCWRC BAAs in the summer months. Tubing and rafting outfitters have been reported to send upwards of 23,000 people each year down western North Carolina rivers from May through September.<sup>9</sup> This user group often dominates the BAAs they use to stage people, tubes, and transportation. Additionally, guided, and self-guided kayak and whitewater trips also pick up and drop off patrons at BAAs. Though nowhere near the quantity of people, during peak months, these outfitters can send 100 – 300 people/day through certain BAAs.<sup>10</sup>

Impacts of the commercial use of BAAs can include limited parking for boaters, congestion at the boat ramp or in the parking lot, litter, and bank erosion. According to a recent Commission boater survey, the main reasons registered vessel owners are dissatisfied with BAAs are lack of parking and overcrowding.<sup>11</sup> Over 400 registered vessel owners provided additional comments with specific complaints about these issues.

### *Game Lands*

Some game lands are highly managed specifically for hunting opportunities and provide access to hunting blinds, managed waterfowl impoundments, or dove fields. Many game lands have secondary roads running to or through them. However, most game lands also have parking areas

<sup>8</sup> NCWRC (2023). Commercial Use Staff Survey.

<sup>9</sup> Personal correspondence with WNC commercial outfitters (May 2022)

<sup>10</sup> Personal correspondence with WNC commercial outfitters (May 2022).

<sup>11</sup> NCWRC (2024). Boating in North Carolina: Survey of registered vessel owners.

and access roads throughout the property. These features are built and maintained by NCWRC staff to provide enhanced area-wide admittance to users. Depending on the property, trails and primitive camping areas may also be developed by staff to enhance user-experience where appropriate. For the most part, hunting and trapping on game lands occurs within set seasons. Those seasons vary regionally, but generally run from September through February.

There are also game lands that are less managed but contain natural geographic features that make them attractive to visitors participating in activities like hiking, birding, biking, climbing, foraging, herping, or nature photography.<sup>12</sup> The majority of the unlicensed commercial activities occurring on game lands takes place in the summer though some activities like birding and photography occur year-round.

Impacts of the more passive commercial uses on game lands, like birding, hiking, climbing and photography are typically minimal and may include crowding, conflicting uses or erosion issues. However, these activities may have larger impacts in areas with particularly sensitive habitats and threatened species. Biking is an activity that often causes more noticeable issues on game lands, including unauthorized trails, erosion, trash, habitat pressure, and parking congestion.

## Event Use

An event is defined in the proposed rules as organized gatherings of more than 10 people on Commission property where money is exchanged for participation in an unlicensed activity. Events that the agency knows occur on various NCWRC properties are included in Table 1 and 2. These are unregulated one-time activities that staff have encountered.<sup>13</sup> These activities vary throughout the state and as the population grows and outdoor recreation expands, so do the number and types of events.

As with commercial use, the significant growth of the state population combined with the declining availability of spaces for outdoor recreation has made the NCWRC's properties popular destinations for outdoor events. The unique natural features and remoteness of some of the Commission's properties offer the outdoor recreationists unique opportunities to partake in activities and competitions on these areas. However, because access to these areas was not originally situated, or built to accommodate large numbers of people, and the impacts and pressure caused by these events (Table 4) are often obvious.

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<sup>12</sup> NCWRC (2022). Wildlife Enforcement Officer Perceptions of Non-Licensed Users on Game Lands. (url link)

<sup>13</sup> NCWRC (2023). Commercial Use Staff Survey.

*Table 4. Identified Events & Impacts*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Commercial/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Impacts</b>
Races (running, biking, kayaking, triathlons)	Event	Game lands/BAAAs	Construction, erosion, trash, congestion, conflicting uses, habitat disturbance
Gun runs (orienteering and shooting competition)	Event	Game lands	Construction, erosion, trash, congestion, conflicting uses, habitat disturbance

### *Boating Access Areas*

Events that staff have reported at BAAs include kayaking competitions, where groups of people will congregate and may restrict access for other users. These events have been reported state-wide and depending on location, can either occur frequently throughout the year or seasonally. The common impacts of these events include conflicting uses, trash, and congestion.

### *Game Lands*

Running, biking, and kayak races and triathlons routinely occur on game lands throughout the state. The Green River Game Land for example is a destination for several of these events each year. Both a whitewater kayak event and a variety of multi-sport competitions that include mountain biking and trail running occur on the game land and neighboring property. These events host hundreds of racers and spectators.<sup>14</sup> Linville River and Pond Mountain Game Lands each see several bike races each year, multiple ultramarathons and marathons have been reported on Sandhills Game Land, and the J. Robert Gordon field trial facility is used for annual marathons.

The agency sees a variety of impacts to game lands from these events. While it is noted that some event organizers mitigate impacts by providing trash pick-up or trail maintenance, undesirable impacts to game lands from these activities often include unauthorized construction of bridges, trails and jumps, erosion and creek disturbance, conflicting uses, congestion, litter, and overcrowding. Additionally, staff have noted that another impact of these races may be the attention these game lands get from the outdoors community after the events, drawing more users and impacts that accompany those uses.

The purpose of regulating commercial and event activities on NCWRC property is to balance uses and minimize and mitigate user conflict and undesirable environmental effects of overuse. The potential revenue from the proposed rules will provide State match to help the NCWRC leverage federal funds for habitat and infrastructure enhancement and additional property maintenance and repairs necessitated by increased use of its property.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://greenrace.us/> and <https://greenrivergames.com/>

#### **IV. Impacts - Costs<sup>15</sup>**

##### *State*

Minimal costs to the State are anticipated from the proposed rules.

The proposed rules require individuals and businesses using Commission property for financial gain or benefit to apply for either a commercial use permit or event permit to partake in any unlicensed activity for which individuals pay to participate or use equipment that takes individuals or groups to Commission property to participate in an unlicensed activity. The agency will use its online licensing and permitting system, Go Outdoors North Carolina (GONC), to collect necessary information from the applicant and issue the permit. The GONC vendor will create the application system, but NCWRC staff will need to work with the vendor to manage and test the application. It is estimated to take approximately 25 hours of staff time at a one-time cost to the agency of \$1,463 ( $\$58.50/\text{hour} \times 25 \text{ hrs} = \$1,463$ ) for this task. Additionally, the agency will need the vendor to create a reporting system for permittees to report participants and pay for use. Though reporting systems do exist through GONC, the agency is unsure at this time how much time and effort creating this type of system will require. The GONC vendor does not charge the NCWRC for development of new systems but receives payment through service fees added to the price of licenses and permits sold through GONC. Based on current knowledge of system requirements and experience with system development, the agency estimates approximately 50 hours of staff time to work with the vendor on development and testing of the reporting and payment remittance system through GONC at a one-time cost to the agency of \$2,925 ( $\$58.50/\text{hr} \times 50 \text{ hrs} = \$2,925$ ).<sup>16</sup>

Applications for commercial permits will need to be reviewed by staff as they are submitted. Staff will need to ensure all required information is provided and review the activity, location, and anticipated participant numbers to determine if the request can be granted or will be denied. Based on similar application and permitting processes that the NCWRC conducts, this task is estimated to take, on average, approximately 2 hours per application, at an estimated cost of \$124/application ( $\$62/\text{hr} \times 2 \text{ hrs} = \$124$ ) to the agency.<sup>17</sup>

Enforcement of permit requirements will require effort from law enforcement. However, no additional costs are anticipated as routine patrol and inspections are part of officers' duties.

Depending on the permit issued, reporting and payment for commercial activities is required every other month and reporting and payment for events is required no more than 30 days after the event. Staff will need to check that these requirements are met by using the GONC system to verify information and payment. If requirements have not been met, staff may reach out to the permittee either through the GONC system or by phone. Because the proposed rules are new, a phased implementation process will be used to educate and garner compliance from commercial and event users. This begins with education and verbal warning, then moves to written warning, and finally citation. Because the

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<sup>15</sup> All hourly rates for staff herein reflect total compensation.

<sup>16</sup> Costs calculated based on midpoint salary of Business Officer II.

<sup>17</sup> Cost calculated based on average salary for Ecoregion Supervisor.



potential for permit revocation or non-issuance exists, and businesses will need a permit to operate from NCWRC property, the agency does not foresee non-compliance as a major concern. Thus, on average, the tasks associated with checking and verifying permit compliance are anticipated to take one hour and cost the agency approximately \$41/permit.<sup>18</sup>

### *Local*

Businesses being cited for commercial use of Commission property without a permit, or for non-compliance with their permit could result in an increased caseload for county courts. The agency has no data to estimate this potential increase.

### *Private*

The proposed rules require individuals and businesses to obtain a permit prior to conducting an unlicensed activity on Commission property for which they charge individuals to participate. The proposed annual fee for a commercial use permit is \$100. The proposed fee for an event permit is dependent on the number of individuals attending the event and can range from \$50 to \$250. Additionally, fees are added to all licenses, permits, and applications sold. This fee varies depending on how the applicant makes their purchase. For applications/permits sold directly through the Commission, the agency charges a fee of \$2/transaction. For applications/permits sold online, the Commission charges a fee of \$2 and GONC charges \$3/transaction, for a total of \$5/transaction.<sup>19</sup>

A fee of \$3 per participant will also be required for both permits. Based on staff discussions with outfitters and individuals conducting commercial activities and events on NCWRC property, this per-person fee will be passed on to the customer resulting in a nominal \$3 additional fee per person to participate. While this \$3 increase could dissuade people from choosing to participate in an activity with a particular business or individual, the agency does not believe that will be the case, as other agencies State and Federal agencies, including NC State Parks<sup>20</sup> and the U.S. Forest Service<sup>21</sup> also require a permit and charge a fee for commercial and event use of their properties.

The proposed rules require the permittee to have liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million in aggregate for commercial activities they will conduct on Commission property. While this coverage is a cost to businesses, they likely already carry this coverage. Thus, the agency does not believe that this requirement will be an added cost.

If a business fails to obtain a permit or a permittee fails to comply with the requirements of their permit, they risk citation. The fine for a rule violation is \$25 plus cost of court (\$183 for a misdemeanor), resulting in a total fine of \$208.

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<sup>18</sup> Cost calculated based on midpoint salary of Admin Specialist II.

<sup>19</sup> G.S. 113-270.1(b5) and (b6)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ncparks.gov/about-us/state-parks-reservation-rates-and-activity-fees#PermitFees-1330>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nfsnc/passes-permits/event-commercial#Outfitting>

## V. Impacts - Benefits

### *State*

The Commission has never permitted unlicensed commercial or event use of its property, and thus does not have complete information on the activities occurring. While observational information provides a basis for determining use, most staff observations occur during business hours and cannot completely account for the activities occurring on the 2+ million acres of land managed by the agency. In the summer, it is assumed that many of the activities occur daily and increase on weekends, but no reliable counts on numbers of businesses or patrons are available. Regulating commercial and event use will provide these data and make them available for wildlife and land management decisions in the future.

Permit and participation fees collected will provide a new source of income for the NCWRC. Based on staff observations, the agency estimates that at least 40 – 50 commercial businesses and/or individuals statewide use NCWRC property in a way that would require them to get a commercial use permit. Based on this assumption, the agency would receive up to an additional \$5,000/year in license revenue (\$100/ permit x 50 permits). Assuming an average of 28,200 individuals participating in commercial activities use BAAs and game lands each year (approximately 1,000 kayakers, 500 bikers, 25,000 tubers, 1,000 motorboaters/jet skiers, 200 birders, 500 climbers), an additional \$84,600 in revenue could be expected annually (\$3/person x 28,200 people = \$84,600).

Though more difficult to estimate, based on staff observations, the agency estimates that at least 30 races/competitions are held on BAAs and game lands throughout the state annually. Because the event permit fee varies based on number of participants, and participant estimates from observations vary among and within the identified uses, it is assumed for purposes of estimating potential benefits, that 20 events will have 10 – 100 participants (\$50), five will have 101 – 250 (\$100), three will have 251 – 500 (\$150), and two will have 501 – 1000 (\$200). This breakdown of event permits would create an additional \$7,000 in license revenue for the agency annually ((20 permits x 50/permit = \$1,000) + (5 permits x \$100/permit = \$500) + (3 permits x \$150/permit = \$450) + (2 permits x \$200 = \$400) = \$2,350). The amount of participant revenue generated by these permits would be \$20,250 annually ((20 events x 100 people x \$3/person = \$6,000) + (5 events x 250 people x \$3/person = \$3,750) + (3 events x 500 people x \$3/person = \$4,500) + (2 events x 1000 people x \$3/person = \$6,000) = \$20,250).

With the institution of the proposed rules, the agency will be able to better estimate and anticipate property use. Not only will this assist with land and facility management, but having data on commercial users may help the NCWRC mitigate user conflicts. Additionally, the agency will be better equipped to allocate resources to handle use to avoid conflicts and negative impacts.

It is estimated that approximately \$150,000 per year is spent mitigating unlicensed use of Commission property.<sup>22</sup> Maintenance of roads, trails, and access areas, signage, trash pickup, staff time and travel to and from the properties are a part of regional Land and Water Access Division staff's duties and responsibilities. Historically, this work has been paid for with federal grants that require State match.

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<sup>22</sup> Estimate based on estimated percentage (5%) of annual activity and expense reporting for supplies, materials, hours, equipment, and mileage related to game land, BAA and PFA maintenance in the mountain region applied state-wide.

The 25% State match has been paid with license receipts. While the agency does not believe that implementing the proposed permitting requirements will change the cost of this maintenance, it will help the agency leverage federal money to fund habitat and infrastructure creation and maintenance on these properties, as State match has historically been a limiting factor for securing these funds. Additionally, it will help shift the State funding from license dollars to money contributed by users creating the impacts.

#### *Local*

If a business is cited for failing to obtain a permit or violating the requirements of their permit, they may receive a citation with penalty. Thus, the county court system may realize additional income (\$183 for a misdemeanor). The agency does not have the data to estimate this potential benefit.

#### *Private*

Individuals and businesses may benefit from the proposed rules in that the Commission will be better able to control crowding and overuse of certain areas. This may enhance the user experience for them, their customers, and other individuals using the property.

## **VI. Uncertainties**

#### *State*

It is possible that with the proposed permitting requirements that some individuals and businesses may choose to stop using NCWRC property. On the other hand, simply offering commercial use and event permits could raise awareness of the opportunity to conduct business on these properties and draw more businesses to NCWRC properties. Regardless, neither scenario is of concern or consequence to the agency, as BAAs will continue to be used by registered boaters, game lands will continue to be purchased and managed for wildlife conservation, and the agency will be better able to determine and manage use of its property.

#### *Local*

If the proposed permit requirements cause fewer businesses to use Commission property, local impacts may be noticed. Counties may experience decreased visitation and visitor spending. Conversely, if more businesses become aware that commercial use is allowed on Commission property, local visitation and visitor spending may increase. However, the agency does not anticipate any changes or new impact as other public lands within and outside of the State use similar permit systems for commercial and event use of public property.

#### *Private*

The proposed rules for commercial use have the potential to inhibit businesses from using certain properties. If the Commission determines that certain properties are negatively impacted by the commercial activities occurring at a location, individuals may not receive a permit and may need to find alternative locations to conduct their business. While this may be an issue for very specialized activities and events (i.e. those that are only accessible from Commission property incorporate unique

features of the property itself), there are likely public access points and property for most activities to occur elsewhere. Thus, the agency does not anticipate that the impact will be detrimental to the businesses or individuals. However, without complete knowledge of the activities occurring on Commission property, this potential impact cannot be determined.

Because permits have not been required of commercial and event users in the past, and the Commission does not have complete information on the businesses that use the properties, initial compliance with the proposed rules may require some time. As with its other rules, the agency implements new requirements in phases, first with education or a verbal warning, then with a written warning, and finally with a citation. Once a business has a permit, reporting and payment, as required by the proposed rules, will be up to the permittee. While the agency can't estimate compliance, the consequences of not complying with the proposed rules include a Class III misdemeanor and penalty, permit revocation, and/or denial of future permit applications.

## VII. Economic Impact Summary

### **Quantifiable Impacts**

In estimating the economic impact of the proposed rules, the agency was able to estimate and quantify the following costs and benefits:

#### *State Costs*

- GONC application and permitting system development: \$1,463
- Application review: \$124/application
- GONC reporting and payment system development: \$2,925
- Reporting and payment review: \$41/event permit; \$246/commercial permit (reporting every other month)

The cumulative state costs are expected to be a one-time cost of \$4,388 and annual costs of \$165 per event permit and \$370 per commercial permit.

#### *Private Costs*

- Annual commercial permit fee: \$100/year + transaction fee of \$2 - \$5
- Event permit fee: \$50 - \$250/event + transaction fee of \$2 - \$5
- Participant fee: \$3/person

#### *State Benefits*

- Commercial permit revenue: \$5,000/year
- Commercial permit participant revenue: \$84,600/year
- Event permit revenue: \$7,000/year
- Event permit participant revenue: \$20,250/year

The cumulative state benefits are estimated to be up to \$12,000/year in permit revenue and up to \$104,850/year in participant revenue.

### **Unquantifiable Impacts**

In estimating the potential impacts of the proposed rules, the agency identified the following unquantifiable costs and benefits:

- Improved data on property use for resource allocation and mitigation of conflicts and negative impacts.
- Improved user experience on NCWRC property.

### **Uncertainties**

- Decreased commercial/event use of NCWRC property

- Decreased visitation to counties with NCWRC property

Although many of the impacts associated with these rules are unquantifiable or uncertain with available data, the agency was able to quantify the most obvious and likely most significant costs and benefits. The agency believes that the benefits to the State and individuals are likely to outweigh the costs associated with permitting commercial and event use of NCWRC property.

## Appendix A: Proposed Rule Text

### 15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

(a) The rules in this Section apply to commercial permits issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(b) The use of Wildlife Resources Commission property, as defined by G.S. 113-129, by an individual or business for profit or benefit is unlawful, unless the individual or business using the property for an unlicensed activity first obtains a commercial permit as provided by this Rule.

(c) The following definitions shall apply to all rules in this Section:

(1) "Benefit" means the exchange of money, goods, services, or the growth or promotion of a business or organization.

(2) "Commercial activity" means an unlicensed activity for which individuals pay to participate or use equipment and that takes individuals or groups to Commission property for participation in the unlicensed activity, the purpose of which is financial gain or benefit of the commercial business.

(3) "Commercial business" means any individual or business using Commission property for financial gain or benefit.

(4) "Commercial permit" means either a commercial use permit or event permit for otherwise unlicensed activities.

(5) "Commission property" means Wildlife Resources Commission Property as defined in G.S. 113-129(18).

(6) "Commercial use" means the use of Commission property for financial gain or benefit.

(7) "Commercial use permit" means a permit that allows for the commercial use of Wildlife Resources Commission property.

(8) "Event" means an organized gathering of more than 10 people on Commission property where money is exchanged for participation in an unlicensed activity.

(9) "Event permit" means a permit that allows for the use of Commission property for a one-time event.

(10) "Unlicensed activity" means any outdoor activity that the Commission does not regulate through a Commission-issued license or permit.

(d) Application for a commercial permit shall be made online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or at Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. Information required from the applicant shall include:

(1) the applicant's name, address, telephone number,

(2) name of business, company, or organization;

(3) type of commercial activity or event;

(4) dates of activity or event;

(5) locations of commercial activity or event; and

(6) for event permits, the number of individuals anticipated to partake in the event.

(e) The fee for a commercial use permit shall be \$100.00. The fee for an event permit shall be based on the number individuals participating in the event, including event participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators. The event permit



1 fee schedule is as follows:

- 2       (1)    ten to 100 individuals - \$50  
3       (2)    one hundred and one to 250 individuals - \$100  
4       (3)    two hundred and fifty-one to 500 individuals - \$150  
5       (4)    five hundred and one to 1000 individuals - \$200  
6       (5)    over 1000 individuals - \$250

7 (f) In addition to the commercial permit fee, a fee of \$3.00 per individual participating in the permitted activity on  
8 Commission property shall be required and remitted to the Commission no more than 30 days after the event for  
9 which the permit was acquired or every other month during the year for which the commercial use permit is valid.

10 (g) Unless authorized by the Commission, commercial permit holders and their patrons shall not block access or  
11 prevent others from entering or exiting any Commission property.

12 (h) Commercial permits are non-transferable between individuals, businesses, or companies and a separate permit is  
13 required for each commercial activity or event.

14 (i) The Commission may deny permits or issue permit requirements for use of its property based on the time of year,  
15 holidays, safety concerns, biological impacts, compatibility of requested activity with intended use of an area or  
16 property, failure to adhere to the conditions set forth in these Rules and Commission planned or sponsored events.

17 (j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the permit, a Commercial Use Permit shall be valid from January 1  
18 through December 31 of the same year. An Event Permit shall be valid for the duration of the event and expires at its  
19 conclusion.

20 (k) Records of commercial activities shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon  
21 request and during normal operating hours.

22 (l) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a permit holder's  
23 commercial permit, if the permit holder violates any rules set forth by the Commission in this Subchapter or any  
24 conditions of the permit.

25

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1802 COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS**

2 (a) A commercial use permit shall be required for commercial activities on Commission property.

3 (b) A commercial use permit is required for commercial activities including but not limited to:

- 4 (1) providing registered and unregistered rental vessels to individuals for use on Commission property;  
5 (2) leading tours or excursions for unlicensed activities on Commission property;  
6 (3) dropping off or picking up individuals on Commission property; or  
7 (4) using Commission property to stage patrons or recreational equipment in preparation for an activity  
8 on Commission property.

9 (c) Individuals holding a commercial use permit shall submit a report to the Commission online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)  
10 by the last day of every other month of the year in which their permit is valid. The report shall contain the following  
11 information:

- 12 (1) individual's name and name of business, company, or organization;  
13 (2) permit number; and  
14 (3) number of individuals participating in activity.

15 (d) Individuals applying for a commercial use permit as described in 15A NCAC 10H . 1801 shall verify liability  
16 insurance in the amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million in aggregate for commercial activities conducted  
17 on Commission property.

18 (e) Commercial use permittees shall be responsible for removing litter and trash left on Commission property by  
19 individuals covered by their permit.

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**15A NCAC 10H .1803 EVENT PERMITS**

(a) An event permit is required for a commercial business conducting an event on Commission property.

(b) Individuals holding an event permit shall submit a report for the event within 30 days of the conclusion of the event, to the Commission online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) with the following information:

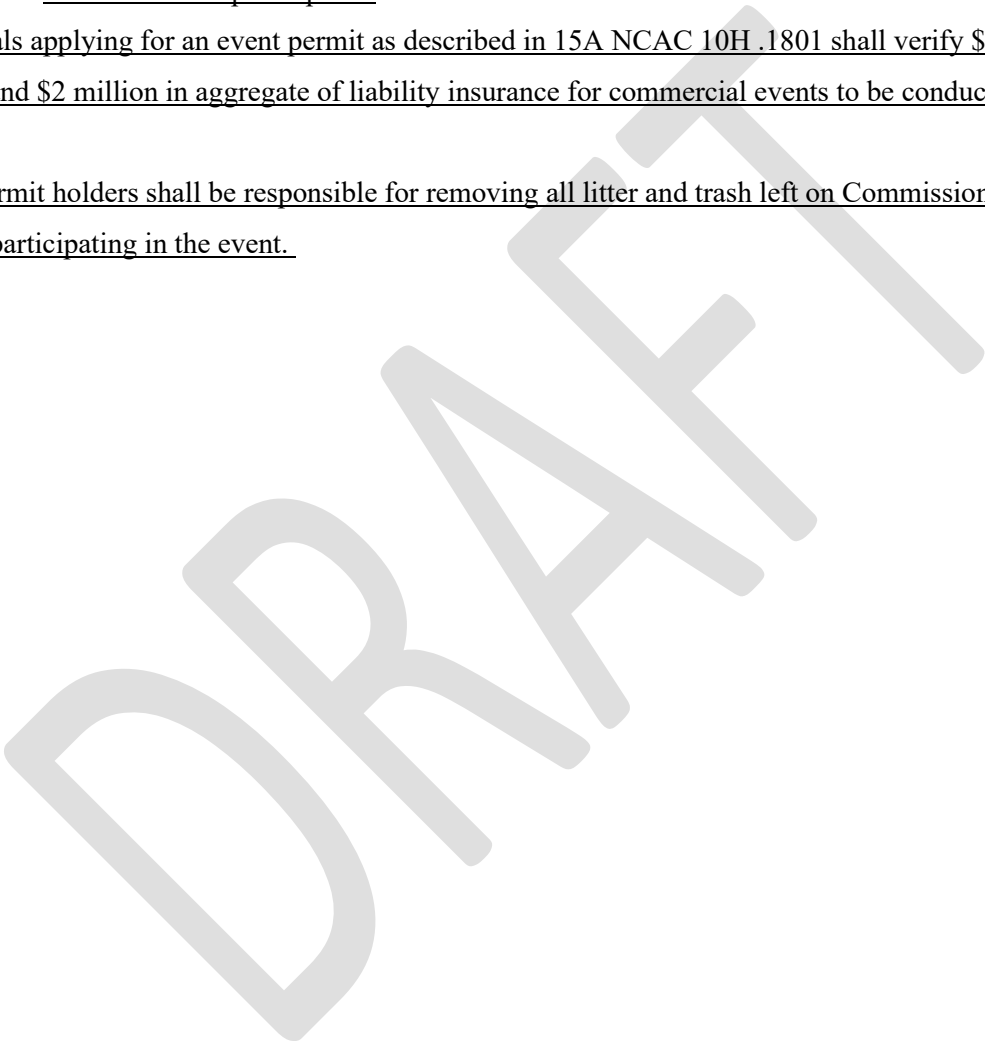
(1) individual’s name and name of business, company, or organization;

(2) permit number; and

(3) total number of participants.

(c) Individuals applying for an event permit as described in 15A NCAC 10H .1801 shall verify \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million in aggregate of liability insurance for commercial events to be conducted on Commission property.

(d) Event permit holders shall be responsible for removing all litter and trash left on Commission property by individuals participating in the event.



# EXHIBIT O-1

April 18, 2024



## **Proposed Temporary/Permanent Amendments to Land and Water Access Rules for 2024-2025 Deer Season Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing**

Buffalo Cove, South Mountains, and Kings Creek Game Lands all have acreage in both the western and northwestern deer zones. The current deer season framework for these game lands is consistent with the western season. Changes to the deer rule adopted as part of the 2024-2025 Annual Cycle shift the western blackpowder and gun season to allow the blackpowder season to begin two Saturdays before Thanksgiving and run for two weeks, and the gun season to begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving and run until January 1. If the 2024-2025 Annual Cycle deer rule changes are approved, the proposed amendments for these game lands are needed to reflect the newly adopted framework.

*15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES*

*15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES*

*15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES**

2 Buffalo Cove game land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following shall apply:

- 3 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the ~~open hunting days from the~~  
4 ~~Monday before~~ begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after~~  
5 ~~Thanksgiving, January 1. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery  
6 equipment ~~on open days~~ beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the ~~Sunday~~  
7 ~~day~~ immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this ~~rule and the Sunday~~  
8 ~~immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through~~  
9 ~~the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery~~  
10 ~~equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season,~~  
11 ~~as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may  
12 be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days~~ beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day  
13 of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule ~~the Monday on or nearest~~  
14 ~~October 1~~ through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~ Friday thereafter.
- 15 (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable  
16 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- 17 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and horseback  
18 riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 19 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

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21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
22 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
23

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES**

2 Kings Creek game land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the  
4 ~~Monday Saturday before~~ after Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after Thanksgiving,~~  
5 January 1. Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on  
6 open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 ~~to~~ through the ~~third Saturday~~  
7 ~~thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. day~~  
8 immediately preceding the Black powder Firearms Season described in the Rule. Deer with visible  
9 ~~antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the~~  
10 ~~Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex~~  
11 Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the  
12 ~~Monday on or nearest October 1~~ two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer  
13 With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~ Friday  
14 thereafter.
- 15 (2) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer~~ may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable  
16 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

17  
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
19 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
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1 **15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL,**  
2 **AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES**

3 South Mountains game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer begins on the Saturday after ~~consists of the~~  
5 ~~open hunting days from the Monday before~~ Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after~~  
6 ~~Thanksgiving, January 1. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery  
7 equipment ~~on open days~~ beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the ~~Sunday~~  
8 ~~day~~ immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this ~~rule and the Sunday~~  
9 ~~immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through~~  
10 ~~the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery~~  
11 ~~equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season,~~  
12 ~~as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may  
13 be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days~~ beginning ~~the Monday on or nearest October 1~~  
14 ~~two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in~~  
15 ~~this Rule through the Saturday of the second week~~ Friday thereafter.  
16 (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable  
17 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.  
18 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:  
19 (a) January 2 through March 31;  
20 (b) May 16 through August 31;  
21 (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and  
22 (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.  
23 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.  
24 (5) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May  
25 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.  
26 (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area  
27 is 14 days within any 30-day period.

28  
29 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
30 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
31



# EXHIBIT O-2

April 18, 2024



## Fiscal Note for 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission - Land and Water Access

- Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS  
15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LANCE IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

**Agency Contact:** Melva Bonner  
Regulatory Analyst  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission



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

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134; 113:264; 113-291.2; 113:291.5; 113-296; 113-305

### BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these

resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, the WRC conducts an annual review of its inland fish, wildlife, and game land regulations to determine whether the rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of managing wildlife resources or Commission property through a biologically sustainable harvest consistent with sound conservation objectives; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources, and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

Many of the proposed rule changes will modify the use of game lands and hunting seasons on game lands, some will increase outdoor recreation opportunities, while others are expected to restrict such opportunities. A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY CATEGORY AND RULE**

### ***USE OF GAME LANDS:***

#### **15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (pg. 16)**

##### ***Hunting Under the Influence:***

The proposed amendment will broaden the prohibition of hunting under the influence of alcohol and narcotics to include all impairing substances. This will allow Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers (WLEOs) to enforce the rule more effectively and provide a safer environment on game lands for all users.

WLEOs periodically encounter individuals hunting on game lands that are under the influence of or in possession of impairing substances. The current rule only prohibits hunting while under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs. Per G.S. 90-87, marijuana is not a narcotic drug; therefore, officers are unable to charge individuals for hunting while under the influence of marijuana and other substances not included in the definition of narcotics.

G.S. 20-4.01(14a) defines an impairing substance as, "Alcohol, controlled substance under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, any other drug or psychoactive substance capable of impairing a person's physical or mental faculties, or any combination of these substances." Amending the language to "under the influence of an impairing substance as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(48b)" will allow WLEOs to enforce this rule more effectively. Having the explicit prohibition on use of other impairing substances could also act as a deterrent to some hunters planning to use these substances before engaging in hunting activities.

##### ***Either-Sex Definition:***

This rule proposal adds the definition of "either-sex" to mean antlered or antlerless.

The Commission does not regulate harvest based on sex or gender. Regulations are based on whether a deer is antlered or not. Current language in the NCAC using either-sex is antiquated and inconsistent with deer management terminology in the southeast. Changing the definition will make rules consistent with the terminology used on the Big Game Harvest Report Card and the regulations digest produced for the Commission’s regulated public each year.

Adding this definition will clarify that the Commission means antlered or antlerless where either-sex already exists in rule. As rules are amended over time, “either-sex” will be modified to state “antlered or antlerless”.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment will allow the agency WLEOs to cite individuals hunting under the influence of marijuana and other impairing substances. With this addition, it is anticipated that additional citations will be issued, requiring additional WLEOs effort in staff time, as some of the cited individuals will likely go to court. Unfortunately, the agency has no way to quantify the anticipated time with available data.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to increase the number of citations issued which will increase the local courts’ revenues from citations. Currently, G.S. 7A-304 imposes a fee of \$183 per citation. In addition, pursuant to G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines issued by WRC would go to the local schools.

#### *Private Impact*

Updating the rule language will allow WLEOs to more effectively enforce the rule and enhance safety on game lands for all user groups. However, this will likely have an adverse impact on individuals hunting under the influence of marijuana, as officers will be able to cite them for violation of this rule. Hunting under the influence -- a violation of WRC rule -- carries a fine of \$25 (G.S. 113-135-1) plus cost of court (approximately \$183).

### **15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY (pg. 24)**

The proposed amendment will prohibit target shooting on the Dover Bay Game Land. Non-licensed use of this game land has substantially increased over the past year. Most target shooters are shooting towards leased hunting property and the path into the game land. Target shooting routinely occurs at or near the parking area, which is unsafe and increases potential conflict.

Opportunities currently exist for target shooting at alternative sites within a reasonable driving distance to the game land that are appropriately constructed and monitored to provide a safe environment. This change is consistent with other game lands where target shooting is prohibited within an acceptable radius of shooting ranges.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

#### Cost

Agency staff are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. Individuals target shooting on this game land regularly leave broken glass, plastic bottles, paper, and steel cans on the property, which must be cleaned up by staff. Game lands staff typically clean frequented target shooting areas at each game land three times per year. Based on the recent increase in non-licensed target shooting in the area, and assuming 100% compliance with the proposed amendment, prohibiting this activity is projected to save the agency approximately \$816/year in staff time ( $\$34/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hours/clean up} \times 3 \text{ clean-ups/year} = \$816$ ). Additional signage will be needed at the game land kiosk to indicate that target shooting is not allowed. Staff will post signage as part of their regular duties. New signage will cost the agency approximately \$0.90 ( $\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 1 \text{ sign}$ ).

#### Benefit

Targets are often placed on trees in the area, many of which have been damaged to the point that mortality has already occurred or is imminent. This proposed amendment should help to eliminate the damage caused to live trees that are currently being used as targets. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impacts.

### *Private Impact*

#### Cost

The proposed amendment could affect private individuals who want to target shoot, as they will now have to travel to a shooting range. Depending on where the individual is traveling from, this could impose an additional financial burden by requiring more money for gas. There is no way to quantify this impact.

#### Benefit

Prohibiting target shooting will improve safety for both target shooters and other users of the game lands. Currently, popular shooting areas on this game land contain no back-stop berms and are located near boundaries with private property, and roads. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

**15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY (pg. 23)**  
**15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE**  
**COUNTIES (pg. 25)**  
**15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY (pg. 27)**

The proposed amendment will restrict the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting, during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands. This proposed amendment, requested by Duke Energy (landowner), is necessary to reduce conflicts between recreational bike riders and hunters during the hunting seasons and damage caused by unauthorized bike trails.

Fiscal Impact

*State Impact*

The proposed amendment may have a limited positive impact on the agency resources by reducing staff time required to address conflicts related to recreational bike riding during hunting seasons. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so there is no way to quantify this benefit.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

*Private Impact*

Cost

The proposed amendment will impact bike riders currently using these three game lands, as they will need to find new locations to recreate. These costs cannot be quantified with available data.

Benefit

The proposed amendment will benefit hunters who are negatively impacted by recreational bike riders. It will also reduce and eventually eliminate the expenses incurred by Duke Energy to routinely rehabilitate unauthorized bike trails, correct erosion issues, and remove bridges, ramps, and jumps. The agency has no way to quantify these benefits.

**15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK**  
**COUNTIES (pg. 29)**

The proposed amendment will establish a “Scouting-only Zone” on North River Game Land for waterfowl impoundments to limit the disturbance to migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds.

A “Scouting-only Zone” is a tool used to manage non-hunting and trapping activities on waterfowl impoundments to decrease disturbances during the migration and wintering periods. The North River Game Land waterfowl impoundments have significant human disturbances including people

walking the dikes of the impoundments and interfering with permitted hunts during the migration and wintering periods. Human presence is a disturbance that most waterfowl species do not tolerate, and they will flee the area.

To mitigate this issue, an observation tower adjacent to the parking area near the impoundments will be installed. This will provide opportunities to view the posted waterfowl impoundments, while limiting the disturbance. The Scouting-only Zone will be limited to the observation tower from November 1 through March 15. Outside of these dates, the area will be open to public use. This Scouting-only Zone will reduce the amount of disturbance to waterfowl, provide a higher quality hunt for permitted waterfowl hunters, and better align management of the posted waterfowl impoundments with the guidelines of the grant used to create the site.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This proposed amendment is anticipated to have an estimated cost of \$5,100 to the agency for the construction of an observation tower and post regulatory signage. Costs include \$5,000 for the construction of the observation tower (labor and materials) and conservation technicians will put up signage as part of their regular duties. New signage (sign, post, and hardware) will cost the agency, at most, \$100 (\$25/sign x 4 signs).

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

#### Cost

Wildlife viewers using the impoundments will have fewer areas to view waterfowl, but the quality of their experience may improve as they will not disturb the waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds from the viewing tower.

#### Benefit

Waterfowl hunters should experience an increased quality of their hunts, as disturbances to waterfowl in the area will be limited and birds should remain in the area. Neither the costs nor benefits can be quantified.

### **15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES (pg. 31)**

The proposed amendment will restrict camping on the Thurmond Chatham Game Land to September 1 through the last day of February, and March 31 through May 14.

The use of camping areas by non-licensed individuals has increased substantially over the years, both during and outside the hunting seasons. WLEOs routinely encounter violations including

illegal drugs, littering, indecent exposure, and extended camping. Trash, tents, drug paraphernalia, and human waste pose safety issues for staff and other users. Restricting camping to dates within the hunting seasons will limit use and undesirable activity, decrease the required maintenance at these areas, and make camping on this game land consistent with other game lands.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the additional time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so this anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

Hunters and other campground users will lose the opportunity to camp outside of the seasons, but the impacts are anticipated to be minimal, as camping is available at nearby Stone Mountain State Park.

### ***HUNTING SEASON CHANGES:***

**15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES (pg. 21)**

**15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES (pg. 26)**

**15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES (pg. 30)**

Buffalo Cove, South Mountains, and Kings Creek game lands have acreage lying in both the western and northwestern deer zones. Currently, the deer season framework for these game lands is consistent with the western season. The proposed amendment will shift the western blackpowder and gun season allowing the blackpowder season to begin two Saturdays before Thanksgiving and run for two weeks, and the gun season to begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving and run through January 1. This amendment will reduce complexity and align the seasons for these game lands to reflect the newly adopted framework.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so there is no way to



quantify this benefit.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in additional visitation to the area and increase revenues of local businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

*Private Impact*

Increased hunter participation during blackpowder season is expected, as a result of the cooler hunting conditions during November and the proximity to the rut. Gun season opportunities will increase as a result of adding days, which will allow opportunities to gun hunt during peak rut, and open days through Christmas and New Year's. This anticipated benefit cannot be unquantified.

**15A NCAC 10D .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES  
(pg. 28)**

The proposed amendment will remove the one day of introductory antlerless deer harvest during the gun season on the Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain Counties and will align Needmore Game Land with the same antlerless deer season structure as Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties.

Currently, antlerless deer harvest during the introductory gun season is limited by 15A NCAC 10D .0251(b) on Nantahala Game Land solely to that portion which is located in Transylvania County. The majority of Nantahala Game Land is outside of Transylvania County and will not have an antlered or antlerless gun season. This proposal will standardize the antlered or antlerless blackpowder and gun seasons between Needmore and Nantahala Game Lands. This is particularly important as both game lands have a shared boundary. If the Nantahala Game Land had a more conservative antlered or antlerless season than Needmore, the additional hunting pressure could result in negative impacts to resources and game land use during that period.

Fiscal Impact

*State Impact*

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so there is no way to quantify this benefit.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

*Private Impact*

A proposed amendment prohibits antlerless deer harvest during the first open Saturday of the deer with visible antlers season and aligns Needmore to the same antlered or antlerless season as

Nantahala Game Land. This will reduce the complexity of regulations between State and Federal game lands that have a shared boundary.

**15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES (pg. 32)**

The proposed amendment will change the gun antlered or antlerless season in the Montgomery County portions of the Yadkin River Game Land from moderate to maximum. This change will align the Montgomery County portion of the Yadkin River Game Land with the rest of the game land and align the antlered or antlerless season dates with surrounding private land seasons.

Fiscal Impact

*State Impact*

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so, there is no way to quantify this benefit.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in additional visitation to the area and increase revenues of local businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

*Private Impact*

The proposed amendment will reduce the complexity of antlered or antlerless harvest dates on the Yadkin River Game Land and deer hunters will have more opportunities to hunt on this portion of game land.

***ESTABLISHMENT OF GAME LANDS:***

**15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY (pg. 22)**

The proposed addition to this rule will establish a 4,830-acre portion of the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area (CSGFA). The CSGFA will be a permit only area for all quail and woodcock hunting and for rabbit and squirrel hunting outside the normal three days per week framework. Hunting for big game and small game, other than those previously mentioned, will still be allowed during the regular hunting days (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturday) without a permit.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

#### Cost

This proposed addition is anticipated to have an estimated one-time cost to the agency of \$10,800 to establish the 50.33 mile perimeter boundary and interior roads of the new CSGFA. These areas are currently marked with signs and painted, but new signage will be needed to clearly post the defined area at a cost of approximately \$6,000 ( $\$3/\text{sign} \times 2000 \text{ signs} = \$6,000$ ). Additional costs of \$4,800 ( $\$30/\text{hr} \times 160 \text{ hours} = \$4,800$ ) are anticipated for staff time to remove the old signage and install the new signage. Game land boundaries are typically painted every five years and they were recently repainted making this rule change less labor intensive.

#### Benefit

Though this area of the Caswell Game Land is currently managed for small game hunting by permit only, the proposed addition is expected to draw more small game hunters to the game land by increasing small game hunting permit opportunities. Hunters pay \$8 plus a transaction fee for permits (transaction fees vary from \$4 to \$0 depending on the sales channel). In 2022-23, a similar area with two lottery hunts, one for rabbit and one for quail had 18 and 163 permit applications respectively, resulting in \$1,448 in permit fees ( $\$8/\text{permit} \times 181 \text{ applications} = \$1,448$ ). Assuming an average \$2 transaction fee on each of those permit applications, the total agency revenue was \$1,810 ( $\$1,448 + \$362 (\$2/\text{transaction} \times 181 \text{ applications} = \$362) = \$1,810$ ).

Due to the increased opportunities, the agency does anticipate some increased revenue because of this amendment. Unfortunately, because there is no way to know how many hunters will participate and the number of permits to be issued, there is no way to accurately quantify this benefit.

### *Local Impact*

The proposed addition is expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in additional visitation to the area and increase revenues of local businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

### *Private Impact*

This proposed addition will increase small game hunting opportunities on Caswell Game Land. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

## **15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY (pg. 33)**

The proposed rule will establish the North Bend Game Land and open it to hunting by permit only. The Commission acquired 1,225 acres from Duke Energy below Lake James in Burke County for the Game Land Program. The North Bend Game Land has proximity to multiple residences, portions of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, and the Fonta Flora Trail. North

Bend will provide unique, quality permit hunting opportunities, and serve user groups from surrounding municipalities such as Marion and Morganton.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

##### Cost

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$80,800 to establish the new game land. This will include boundary survey and markings (\$12,000), new access road (\$22,500), gates to control vehicle access (\$4,500), parking areas (\$40,000), and kiosks (\$1,800).

##### Benefit

The game land will provide revenue through permit hunts. Permits cost hunters \$8 plus a transaction fee (transaction fees vary from \$4 to \$0 depending on the sales channel). Though expected revenue can vary greatly in any given year, as many factors can influence the number of hunts and the interest in those hunts, based on similar game lands, the agency can likely anticipate at least \$330 (\$8/permit x 33 applications = \$264) (average \$2/transaction x 33 applications = \$66) (\$264 + 66 = \$330) in permit and transaction fees for permit hunts at this new game land.

#### *Local Impact*

Creating a new game land will likely increase the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, camping supplies, etc.). Based on data collected on similar sized game lands in North Carolina, the State and local governments could see an increase in tax-based revenue at a minimum of \$25,000<sup>1</sup>. The amount may vary, as each game land's tax-based revenue is specific to its location and size. The Commission is unable to give an exact estimate as tax-based revenue varies depending on activities allowed on the game lands, its proximity to local amenities, and its size.

Additionally, game lands have been shown to generate game land related expenditures. In 2018, a study conducted by N.C. State University estimated that North Carolina game lands received approximately 2.2 million visits. This evaluation estimates that these visits generated \$180 million in game land related expenditures (gross), contributing a net added value of \$140 million to the State's economic activity<sup>2</sup>. This same study found that non-licensed activity users spent an average of \$119.83 per trip while hunters and anglers spent on average \$84.19 per trip.<sup>3</sup>

This game land is likely to increase home values in the area as well, increasing property tax revenue.

#### *Private Impact*

This game land will provide additional opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation. Game land users will have increased opportunities for wildlife-based recreation and 1,225 acres of

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<sup>1</sup> Casola, William et.al. Determining Use, Economic Impacts and Value of Game Lands in North Carolina. October 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

undeveloped land will be conserved. There is currently not a game land in this area of the State and wildlife and outdoor recreationists from surrounding municipalities can take advantage of this public land for hunting, hiking, and nature watching.

Adding an additional game land should bolster recreational activity. The value of game land access to recreationists can be assumed to be at least as much as they spend per trip, although there are additional benefits that are not captured in trip expenditures. This same study found that non-licensed activity users spent an average of \$119.83 per trip while hunters and anglers spent on average \$84.19 per trip.<sup>4</sup>

This game land is likely to increase home values in the area as well. It has been shown that game lands can either raise home values or decrease them. Researchers found that homes in the mountain and piedmont regions have the most increase in home values while homes at the coast had the most decrease.

The concept of willingness to pay (WTP) can provide a more comprehensive estimate of how much users value game lands, including those aesthetic, environmental, and inter-generational benefits that cannot be measured directly in the market through expenditures or home values. However, WTP values come with a greater degree of uncertainty. The estimates are sensitive to research methods used to elicit the values including the design and delivery of the contingent valuation exercise.

The study assessed users' WTP (one time) to conserve 20% of North Carolina's game lands. Values varied by user type. Non-licensed users valued the proposed conservation at \$130 compared to licensed users at \$120. Dual users that pursue both licensed and non-licensed activities valued game lands most highly at \$160. More detailed studies would be needed to determine WTP on an annual or per-acre basis for both users and non-users.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

## **SUMMARY**

### **Quantifiable Impacts**

#### *State*

The following quantifiable costs to the State are anticipated:

- Use of Game Lands
  - Dover Bay Game Land
    - One-time signage change = \$0.90 + negligible staff time
  - North River Game Land
    - One-time observation tower construction and signage = \$5,100
- Establishment of Game Lands
  - Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land
    - One-time signage change = \$10,800
  - North Bend Game Land
    - One-time boundary survey and markings = \$12,000
    - One-time new access road = \$22,500
    - One-time access gates = \$4,500
    - One-time parking areas = \$40,000
    - One-time kiosks = \$1,800

The following quantifiable benefits to the State are anticipated:

- Hunting Season Changes
  - Dover Bay Game Land
    - Clean-up savings = \$816/year
  - Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land
    - Increase in license sales = at least \$1,810
  - North Bend Game Land
    - Increase in license sales = at least \$330

The total quantifiable costs to the State is estimated to be approximately \$96,700 in year one and the total quantifiable benefits to the State is estimated to be approximately \$2,956 annually.

### **Unquantifiable Impacts**

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

#### *State*

- Allowing WLEOs to enforce the rule more effectively and provide a safe environment on game lands for all users has the potential to increase the amount of WLEOs staff time as

some of the cited individuals may go to court.

- Establishing a permit only on the North Bend Game Land will add additional ongoing costs associated with maintenance and enforcement, which will be comparable to other similarly-sized game land areas in the State.

#### *Local*

- Allowing WLEOs to enforce the rule more effectively and provide a safe environment on game lands for all users has the potential to increase expenses (case load) and revenues (court costs) for the local court system.

#### *Private*

- Prohibiting hunting while under the influence of additional impairing substances has the potential to increase out of pocket expenses for impaired hunters, which carries a fine of \$208 (\$25 plus \$183 in court costs).
- Prohibiting target shooting on Dover Bay Game Land may increase the distance target shooters will have to travel to target shoot at nearby ranges.
- Restricting the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will reduce the expenses incurred by Duke Energy to routinely rehabilitated unauthorized bike usage.
- Restricting the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will require bike riders to find new locations to recreate.
- Establishing a “Scouting-only Zone” on the North River Game Land for waterfowl impoundments to limit the disturbance to migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds will decrease the wildlife viewer’s choice of viewing areas, but the quality of their experience may improve.
- Restricting the number of consecutive days for camping will reduce the number of days an individual may hunt who stayed longer than the new limit in the past.

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

#### *State*

- Prohibiting hunting while under the influence of additional impairing substances has the potential to increase revenue to public schools from citations (\$25/citation).
- Prohibiting target shooting on Dover Bay Game Land may help eliminate damage caused to live trees being used as targets.
- Restricting the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will reduce staff time required to address conflicts related to recreational bike riding during hunting seasons.
- Restricting the number of consecutive days one can camp will allow the Commission to have more control over camp site users and control misuse of these camp sites.
- Shifting the hunting season framework for Buffalo Cove, Kings Creek, and South Mountains



game lands to align with the western season, allowing the blackpowder season to begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving and run through January 1 will reduce staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas.

- Removing the one day introductory antlerless deer harvest during gun season on the Needmore Game Land and aligning with the seasons in other counties will reduce staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain the game land.
- Changing the gun antlered or antlerless season in the Montgomery County portion of the Yadkin River Game Land will reduce staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas.
- Establishing the CSGFA for all quail and woodcock hunting and for rabbit and squirrel hunting outside the normal three days per week framework will increase opportunities and increase agency revenue.
- Establishing North Bend Game Land and opening it to hunting by permit will increase agency revenue and bring more hunters to the land.

### *Local*

- Citations for hunting under the influence of impairing substances may increase county court caseloads but will also increase revenues by \$183 per citation (for court costs).
- Establishing North Bend Game Land and opening it to hunting by permit will increase non-traditional and traditional users per trip local revenues.
- Pursuant to G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines would go to the local schools.

### *Private*

- Prohibiting hunting under the influence of additional impairing substances may improve the safety of game land users.
- Prohibiting target shooting on Dover Bay Game Land will improve the safety for users of the game land.
- No bikers on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will improve hunting experience and decrease and eventually eliminate cost of repairs and maintenance for landowner.
- Establishing a “Scouting-only Zone” on the North River Game Land for waterfowl impoundments to limit the disturbance to migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds will increase the quality of waterfowl hunters experience.
- Shifting the hunting season framework for Buffalo Cove, Kings Creek, and South Mountains game lands will reduce the complexity for deer hunters, increase hunter participation during blackpowder season, and increase hunting opportunities as a result of adding days.
- Removing the one-day introductory antlerless deer harvest and aligning the Needmore Game Land will reduce the complexity for deer hunters. The additional six days of blackpowder antlered or antlerless above the one day currently provided, will increase opportunities for harvest.
- Changing the gun antlered or antlerless season in the Montgomery County portion of the Yadkin River Game Land will reduce the complexity of regulations and opportunities.
- Establishing a CSGFA for all quail and woodcock hunting and for rabbit and squirrel hunting outside the normal three days per week framework will increase quality of small game hunting opportunities.
- Establishing the North Bend Game Land will provide additional opportunities for hunting

and outdoor recreation.

While many of the impacts of the proposed amendments are unquantifiable, the Commission believes that ongoing benefits to both the State and local government, and private entities will outweigh the costs.

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

2 (a) The following shall be prohibited on game lands:

- 3 (1) hunting on a designated game land while under the influence of ~~alcohol or a narcotic drug~~; an  
4 impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(48b);  
5 (2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the  
6 Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;  
7 (3) parking a vehicle on game lands in a manner that blocks traffic or gates, or prevents vehicles from  
8 using a roadway; and  
9 (4) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or to a tree on a game  
10 land to hunt. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed  
11 after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

12 (b) Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall be during the open season for game animals and game  
13 birds.

14 (c) Individual game lands or parts of game lands may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this  
15 Subchapter.

16 (d) Persons shall hunt with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.

17 (e) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 18 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;  
19 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on the permitted hunting dates;  
20 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;  
21 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. daily; and  
22 (5) not operate a vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

23 (f) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

- 24 (1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;  
25 (2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;  
26 (3) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-  
27 54.1(b), or an accessory structure thereof; and  
28 (4) hunting migratory game birds.

29 (g) On designated Youth Waterfowl ~~Days~~ Days, the following shall apply:

- 30 (1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset;  
31 (2) Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and  
32 (3) youth may hunt on a game land and on an impoundment without a special hunt permit, including  
33 permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

34 (h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the  
35 Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for  
36 training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from  
37 one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply.

1 (i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and  
2 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment  
3 outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."

4 (j) Definitions:

5 (1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be  
6 taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day,  
7 Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.

8 (2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which  
9 game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,  
10 Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, and New  
11 Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays,  
12 Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's  
13 Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open  
14 days" also apply to antlerless deer hunting seasons listed for each game land. Raccoon and opossum  
15 hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight  
16 on Saturdays.

17 (3) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game  
18 may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday  
19 during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.

20 (4) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which  
21 game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays,  
22 Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

23 (5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game  
24 may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays,  
25 Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day.  
26 Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays,  
27 and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.

28 (6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit" means a written authorization from the Commission  
29 required for take or other activities listed on the permit during open seasons, if applicable, in a  
30 specified area and subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter,  
31 or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available  
32 permits online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The  
33 Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with  
34 G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. The laws and rules regarding the species or activity  
35 shall apply.

36 (7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.

37 (k) Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with

1 dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

2 (l) On permit hunts, ~~deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the  
3 permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next  
4 preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees  
5 prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife  
6 cooperator agent or by phone.

7 (m) The following game lands and refuges are closed to hunting except to individuals who have obtained a valid and  
8 current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

9 (1) Bertie, ~~Halifax~~ Halifax, and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;

10 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;

11 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;

12 (4) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);

13 (5) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and

14 (6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

15 (n) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the  
16 Commission. Written permission may be granted when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge shall not compromise the  
17 primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need  
18 or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of  
19 access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

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

23 (p) The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The  
24 Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be  
25 identified on the permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on the permit.

26 (q) As used in the rules of this Subchapter, horseback riding includes all equine species.

27 (r) When waterfowl hunting is authorized on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open  
28 waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

29  
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

31 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;*

33 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September*  
34 *1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*

35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*

36 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

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

1                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
2                    *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
3                    *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*  
4                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
5                    *January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
6                    *1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October*  
7                    *1, 2004;*  
8                    *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*  
9                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;*  
10                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;*  
11                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021;*  
12                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; November 1, 2022; October 1, 2022; August 23, 2022.*  
13

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES**

2 Buffalo Cove game land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following shall apply:

- 3 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the ~~open hunting days from the~~  
4 ~~Monday before~~ begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after~~  
5 ~~Thanksgiving, January 1. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery  
6 equipment ~~on open days~~ beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the ~~Sunday~~  
7 ~~day~~ immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule ~~and the Sunday~~  
8 ~~immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through~~  
9 ~~the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery~~  
10 ~~equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season,~~  
11 ~~as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may  
12 be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days~~ beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day  
13 of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule ~~the Monday on or nearest~~  
14 ~~October 1~~ through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~ Friday thereafter.
- 15 (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable  
16 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- 17 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and horseback  
18 riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 19 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

20  
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
22 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
23

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY**

2 **(a)** R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

3 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken from the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season  
4 for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Wednesday thereafter.

5 (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through  
6 August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed on  
7 roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian  
8 use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license  
9 as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).

10 ~~(3) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit only for quail and woodcock hunting and~~  
11 ~~bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR~~  
12 ~~1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR~~  
13 ~~1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736~~  
14 ~~to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.~~

15 ~~(4)(3)~~ On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit after November 1.

16 ~~(5)(4)~~ Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May  
17 14.

18 ~~(6)(5)~~ Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

19 **(b)** Hunting shall be by permit for the following species in the area posted as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area:

20 (1) quail and woodcock; and

21 (2) rabbit and squirrel on days outside of the three days per week framework.

22  
23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
24 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*  
26



1 **15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY**

2 Chatham game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer  
4 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through  
6 August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15.
- 7 (3) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open  
8 days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 9 (3)(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

10

11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
12 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

13

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY**

2 (a) Dover Bay game land is a Six Days per Week Area.

3 (b) On this game land ~~deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the days of the applicable Deer  
4 With Visible Antlers ~~season.~~ Season.

5 (c) Target shooting is prohibited.

6

7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

8 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*

9

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE COUNTIES**

2 Harris game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer  
4 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken on the following days:  
6 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;  
7 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and  
8 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 9 (3) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 10 (4) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 11 ~~(5) Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- 12 (5) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open  
13 days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 14 (6) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (7) Target shooting is prohibited.

16

17 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;

18 Eff. October 1, 2022

19

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES**

2 Kings Creek game land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the  
4 ~~Monday Saturday before~~ after Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after Thanksgiving,~~  
5 January 1. Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on  
6 open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 ~~to~~ through the ~~third Saturday~~  
7 ~~thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. day~~  
8 immediately preceding the Black powder Firearms Season described in the Rule. Deer with visible  
9 ~~antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the~~  
10 ~~Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex~~  
11 Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the  
12 ~~Monday on or nearest October 1~~ two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer  
13 With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~ Friday  
14 thereafter.
- 15 (2) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer~~ may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable  
16 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

17  
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
19 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
20

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY**

2 Lee game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer  
4 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open  
6 days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 7 ~~(2)~~(3) Target shooting is prohibited.

8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

10 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

11

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES**

2 Needmore game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all  
4 horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 5 (2) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 6 (3) No antlerless deer may be taken during the first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers  
7 season on Needmore Game Land.

8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

10 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

11

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES**

2 North River game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer  
4 With Visible Antlers Season.

5 (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

6 (3) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit.

7 (4) During the period November 1 through March 15, all activities, except waterfowl hunting and  
8 trapping during the trapping season on North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments, are  
9 restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone.

10 ~~(4)~~(5) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

11

12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

13 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

14

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL,**  
2 **AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES**

3 South Mountains game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer begins on the Saturday after ~~consists of the~~  
5 ~~open hunting days from the Monday before~~ Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after~~  
6 ~~Thanksgiving, January 1. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery  
7 equipment ~~on open days~~ beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the ~~Sunday~~  
8 ~~day~~ immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this ~~rule and the Sunday~~  
9 ~~immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through~~  
10 ~~the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery~~  
11 ~~equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season,~~  
12 ~~as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may  
13 be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days~~ beginning ~~the Monday on or nearest October 1~~  
14 ~~two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in~~  
15 ~~this Rule through the Saturday of the second week~~ Friday thereafter.  
16 (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable  
17 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.  
18 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:  
19 (a) January 2 through March 31;  
20 (b) May 16 through August 31;  
21 (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and  
22 (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.  
23 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.  
24 (5) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May  
25 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.  
26 (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area  
27 is 14 days within any 30-day period.

28  
29 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
30 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*



1 **15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES**  
2 **COUNTIES**

3 Thurmond Chatham game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer  
5 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all  
7 horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback  
8 riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- 9 (3) ~~The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days~~  
10 ~~within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping all~~  
11 ~~personal belongings must be removed from the game land. Camping is restricted to September 1~~  
12 ~~through the last day of February; and March 31 through May 14.~~

13  
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
15 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
16

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY,**  
2 **ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES**

3 Yadkin River game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer~~ may be taken ~~the first open day of the applicable Deer~~  
5 ~~With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery~~  
6 ~~county, and deer of either sex may be taken all~~ on the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible  
7 Antlers ~~Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.~~ Season.
- 8 (2) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

9  
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
11 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

2 North Bend game land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 3 (1) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated trails, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting  
4 during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 5 (2) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February; and March 31 through May  
6 14.
- 7 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 8 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

9

10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

11

# **EXHIBIT P**

**April 18, 2024**



**Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10C .0422  
Striped Mullet and White Mullet Rule  
Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and  
Presentation at Public Hearing**

To be consistent with the preferred management option for the Striped Mullet Fisheries Management Plan Amendment 2, the proposed rule amendment will reduce the daily creel limit for Striped and White Mullet from 200 to 100 fish in aggregate and establish a limit of no more than 400 fish total per boat.

*15A NCAC 10C .0422 STRIPED MULLET AND WHITE MULLET*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0422 STRIPED MULLET AND WHITE MULLET**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for striped mullet and white mullet is ~~200~~ 100 fish per person in aggregate and no more than  
3 400 fish per boat.

4 (b) There is no minimum size limit.

5 (c) There is no closed season.

6

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

8 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*

9 *Eff. March 15, 2023.*

10

# EXHIBIT Q

April 18, 2024



## **Proposed Temporary Harvest Reporting Requirements Rule 15A NCAC 10C .0218 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing**

The North Carolina General Assembly passed Session Law 2023-137 in the fall of 2023, Section 6 of this legislation requires any person who recreationally harvests the following species to report the harvest to the Division of Marine Fisheries:

- Flounder;
- Red Drum;
- Spotted Seatrout;
- Striped Bass; and
- Weakfish.

The N.C Wildlife Resources Commission must implement rules requiring reporting of harvest of these species from inland and joint fishing waters.

*15A NCAC 10C .0218 HARVEST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0218 is proposed for adoption under temporary procedures as follows:  
2

3 **15A NCAC 10C .0218 HARVEST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

4 (a) For the purpose of this Rule, the following definitions shall apply:

5 (1) “Division” means the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

6 (2) “inland fishing waters adjacent to joint or coastal fishing waters” means inland fishing waters  
7 upstream of joint or coastal fishing waters of the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers and  
8 their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its  
9 tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 except in the Lumber River  
10 and its tributaries.

11 (3) "harvest" means catching a fish and reducing it to permanent possession.

12 (b) An individual who harvests the following species from joint fishing waters or inland fishing waters adjacent to  
13 joint or coastal fishing waters shall report the information required in Paragraph (b) of Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0124 to  
14 the Division at <https://www.ncmarinefisheries.net> or record the harvest on a Division-issued report card when harvest  
15 is complete:

16 (1) flounder;

17 (2) red drum;

18 (3) spotted seatrout;

19 (4) striped bass; and

20 (5) weakfish.

21 (c) Individuals using a Division-issued report card shall report the information electronically at  
22 <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries> by midnight the day after harvest is complete.

23 (d) An individual shall not remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of the fish to render it  
24 impractical to identify, count, or measure while fishing or afield and until harvest has been recorded or reported.

25  
26 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-170.3;*  
27