



## **Public Hearings in Western North Carolina Rescheduled; Remaining Hearings Scheduled for Piedmont and Coastal Regions**

The Wildlife Commission has rescheduled public hearings on proposed regulations in Haywood, Burke and Surry counties due to inclement weather. The new dates are: Feb. 15, Haywood County; Feb. 21, Surry County; and Feb. 22, Burke County. During the hearings, the agency is seeking public comment on proposed changes related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2018-19 seasons. The comment period, which has been extended, is open until Feb. 22, 2018. Remaining public hearing dates and locations, as well as details on all proposed regulations and comment form, can be found [online](#).



## **Help Conserve Wildlife; Donate on Line 30 on State Income Tax Form**



With tax season underway, the Wildlife Commission is asking taxpayers to help conserve North Carolina's nongame and rare wildlife species by making a donation to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund on line 30 of their state income tax form. Donations are tax-deductible and help the agency fund projects that conserve nongame wildlife — birds, mammals, fish, mollusks, reptiles

amphibians and crayfish without a designated hunting or fishing season. [MORE](#)



## **Inland Waters Closed to Spotted Seatrout Harvest**

Recreational harvest of spotted seatrout in inland waters under the jurisdiction of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has closed by rule following a proclamation from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) that closed all coastal and joint waters to spotted seatrout harvest. DMF issued the proclamation due to widespread cold stun events. [MORE](#)



## **Wildlife Commission Seeks Public Comment through Feb. 9 on Draft Coyote Management Plan**

The Wildlife Commission is seeking public comment through Feb. 9, 2018 on its draft [Coyote Management Plan](#). Comments can be submitted by email to [coyotemgtplan@ncwildlife.org](mailto:coyotemgtplan@ncwildlife.org) or mailed to N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Coyote Management Plan, MSC 1722, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1722. [MORE](#)



## **Wildlife Commission Seeks Public Comment through Feb. 2 on Draft Game Land Management Plans**

The Wildlife Commission is accepting public comments through Feb. 2 on draft management plans for seven game lands across the state. They are: Brunswick-Columbus County Complex; Buffalo Cove-Mitchell River-Thurmond Chatham; Chowan Swamp-Chowan; Goose Creek; Johns River-South Mountains; Pee Dee River; and Pisgah. [MORE](#)

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## **Nomination Period for Wildlife Conservation Award Ends Jan. 31**

Know someone who is a leader in nongame wildlife conservation? If so, the Wildlife Commission is accepting nominations through Jan. 31, 2018 for the 2018 [Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award](#). The agency presents this award annually to people who provide leadership in the conservation of wildlife diversity in North Carolina. Nominators must submit a completed [nomination form](#) and a detailed essay of the nominee's contributions to nongame wildlife conservation in the state. [More information](#)

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## ***Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine Available Digitally for only \$10 a Year**

The Wildlife Commission's award-winning magazine, *Wildlife in North Carolina*, is available in a digital edition for just \$10 a year. For \$15 a year, you can receive both the print magazine and the digital edition. Every issue includes exceptional color photography and informative, well-written articles on hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation. Along with six issues a year, subscribers receive spring and fall outdoor guides. [MORE](#)

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## Urban Bear Study Segment Airs on UNC-TV

A recent segment on UNC-TV's SciTechNow highlighted two Wildlife Commission biologists, their work with bears and on a 5-year urban bear study in Buncombe county currently underway in collaboration with North Carolina State University. Through GPS enabled collars placed on bears, biologists can study the bears' movements as they travel around Buncombe County, learning things such as where bears are finding food and where they are building dens. [Watch the 6-minute video to learn more about the urban bear study.](#)



## Wild Turkey Hunting Seminars Start March 1

The Commission and the [National Wild Turkey Federation](#) are offering 11 free turkey hunting seminars across the state in March. To help increase **new hunter recruitment**, each hunter who attends is encouraged to bring along someone who has never hunted before. Each seminar is open to all ages and skill levels, and [pre-registration is required](#).

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## Visit Wildlife Commission during Carolina Outdoor Expo in Greenville, Jan. 26-28

Come join the Wildlife Commission at the Greenville NC Convention Center on Jan. 26-28 for the Carolina Outdoor Expo. [Walter "Deet" James](#), Hunting Heritage Biologist, will be speaking about his passion for hunting Wild Turkey and Deer. Additional agency staff will on hand to answer your hunting and fishing questions, and you can purchase hats and t-shirts at our N.C. Wild Store. [MORE](#)

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## Prescribed Burns Benefit Habitat and Wildlife

Where there's smoke, there's fire. And where there's fire, at least on a Wildlife Commission game land, there's usually a prescribed burn — one of the best and most cost-effective methods of managing habitat for wildlife. A prescribed burn, or an intentional burning of vegetation under strict and specific circumstances, helps restore and maintain wildlife habitat. [Learn more about the benefits of prescribed burns](#) (video).

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## Other News and Events

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Fishing Programs in Fayetteville](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Wildlife Programs in Corolla](#)

[Wildlife Commission Releases Final Versions of Five Game Land Management Plans](#)

[Wildlife Commission Reopens Shell Rock Landing Boating Access Area in Hubert](#)



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