

Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point

Environmental Affairs Dept. Natural Resources Manager,
PSC Box 8003, Marine Corps Air Station,
Cherry Point, NC 28533-0006
Phone 252-466-3593

Cedar Island, Mattamuskeet and Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuges

85 Mattamuskeet Rd., Swan Quarter, NC 27885
Phone 252-926-4021

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, NC 27954
Phone 252-473-1131

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

5770 US Hwy 52 North, Wadesboro, NC 28170
Phone 704-694-4424

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 329, Columbia, NC 27925
Phone 252-796-3004

Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 430, Windsor, NC 27983
Phone 252-794-3808

U.S. Forest Service

160 Zillicoa St., Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801
Phone 828-257-4200

Blue Ridge Parkway

Permits and information about special parkway regulations governing access to adjoining game lands may be obtained from: The Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service, 199 Hemphill Knob Rd., Asheville, NC 28803. Phone 828-271-4779.

BIG GAME

BEAR

Nonresidents hunting bear must possess a bear hunting license (See page 9).

Restrictions It is unlawful to do any of the following:

- Take a cub (less than 75 pounds) or a female bear with cub(s).
- Hunt bear on a designated bear sanctuary. (See the information below on bear sanctuaries.)

Information on the use of dogs to hunt bears and the use of unprocessed foods is on page 49.

BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Season limit 1

WESTERN BEAR SEASON

Oct. 16 – Nov. 18
Dec. 11, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018. In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, Cleveland.

Note: Further game land restrictions may apply. See the Game Lands section for specific game land rules.

PIEDMONT BEAR SEASONS

Nov. 11, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

In the following counties:

Alamance	Granville	Person
Anson	Guilford	Randolph
Cabarrus	Lee	Rockingham
Caswell	Mecklenburg	Rowan
Chatham	Montgomery	Stanly
Davidson	Orange	Union
Durham		

Oct. 14, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

In the following counties:

Franklin	Moore	Vance
Harnett	Richmond	Wake
Johnston	Scotland	Warren
Hoke		

Nov. 18, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

In the following counties:

Alexander	Forsyth	Lincoln
Catawba	Gaston	Stokes
Davie	Iredell	Yadkin

EASTERN BEAR SEASONS

Nov. 13, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

In the following counties:

Bladen	New Hanover
Brunswick	Onslow
Carteret	Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bear is prohibited here.)
Columbus	Pender
Cumberland	Sampson
Duplin	

Dec. 4 – 23, 2017

In the following counties:

Robeson

Nov. 13 – 18, 2017 and Dec. 11 – 23, 2017

In the following counties:

Beaufort	Halifax	Pasquotank*
Camden*	Hyde	Pitt
Chowan*	Jones	Tyrrell
Craven	Lenoir	Washington
Dare	Martin	Wayne
Edgecombe	Nash	Wilson
Greene	Northampton	

**Per local law, bear season opens Nov. 10 in these counties.*

Nov. 11 – 18, 2017 and Dec. 11 – 23, 2017

Bertie	Gates	Perquimans
Currituck	Hertford	

Bear Sanctuaries Bear may not be taken in those parts of counties included in the following sanctuaries:

Sanctuary	Applicable County or Counties
Bachelor Bay Bear Sanctuary	Bertie, Martin and Washington
Bombing Range Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)	Dare
Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)	Avery, Burke and Caldwell
Columbus County Bear Sanctuary	Columbus
Croatan Bear Sanctuary	Carteret, Craven and Jones
Fires Creek Bear Sanctuary	Clay
Flat Top Bear Sanctuary	Mitchell and Yancey
Green Swamp Bear Sanctuary	Brunswick and Columbus
Gull Rock Bear Sanctuary	Hyde
Harmon Den Bear Sanctuary	Haywood
Panther town-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary	Jackson
Mt. Mitchell Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)	McDowell and Yancey
North River Bear Sanctuary	Camden and Currituck
Pisgah Bear Sanctuary	Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania

Pungo River Bear Sanctuary	Hyde
Rich Mountain Bear Sanctuary	Madison
Sherwood Bear Sanctuary	Haywood
Standing Indian Bear Sanctuary	Macon
Suggs Mill Pond Bear Sanctuary	Bladen
Thurmond Chatham Bear Sanctuary	Wilkes
Wayah Bear Sanctuary	Macon

The following additional restrictions apply to bear sanctuaries:

- It is unlawful to take feral swine on bear sanctuaries except during the deer archery season, deer blackpowder season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.

- Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
- Dogs may not be used to pursue bear.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

DEER

YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAY

September 23, 2017

On this day, youth under the age of 18 may use any legal weapon to hunt deer of either sex. See page 42 for description of legal weapons. Hunters age 18 and older may only use the weapon legal for the type of season open in their county on this day. All hunters must wear hunter orange on this day, even if the hunter is using archery equipment.

EASTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Sept. 29, 2017
 Blackpowder: Sept. 30 – Oct. 13, 2017
 Gun: Oct. 14 – Jan. 1, 2018

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Oct. 27, 2017
 Blackpowder: Oct. 28 – Nov. 10, 2017
 Gun: Nov. 11 – Jan. 1, 2018

NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Nov. 3, 2017
 Blackpowder: Nov. 4 – Nov. 17, 2017
 Gun: Nov. 18, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018

WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 9 – Oct. 1, 2017, Oct 15 – Nov. 19, 2017, and Dec. 10, 2017 – Jan. 1, 2018 (antlered deer only)
 Blackpowder: Oct. 2 – Oct. 14, 2017
 Gun: Nov. 20 – Dec. 9, 2017 (except in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties where the gun season is extended to Jan. 1)

Seasons See the maps on the preceding pages for either-sex season dates for deer and exceptions to the season listed above.

- Seasons for deer with visible antlers and other weapons seasons on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located except for Buffalo Cove Game Land, Nicholson Creek Game Land, Rockfish Creek Game Land, Sandhills Game Land and South Mountains Game Land. See the Game Lands section for additional restrictions on these Game Lands seasons. Refer to the “Game Lands” section for Gun Either-Sex Deer Season dates on game lands.

General Restrictions

- Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes hunting with archery equipment on Sundays. This also includes anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day, regardless of age of the hunter or weapon used. Landholders, their spouses and children hunting on land held by the landholder do not have to wear hunter orange.
- Deer with visible antlers may be taken during any open deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during either-sex deer seasons. See next column for information about either-sex seasons.
- Visible antlers are defined as bony structures that protrude through the skin. Knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet are not considered visible antlers.
- It is unlawful to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears.

Processed food products or any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products.

- The placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer is allowed anywhere in the state, except on game lands.

Weapons and Dogs

- Archery. During the archery season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows and crossbows (both described on page 42). It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.
- Blackpowder. During the blackpowder season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), and blackpowder firearms as defined on page 42. It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.
- Gun. During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), blackpowder firearms, shotguns, rifles, and handguns. Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during this season in counties indicated on the map on page 54, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 43 for details.

Bag Limits

- The big game hunting license authorizes the hunter to harvest up to six deer. All six deer can be antlerless for all areas of the state. The season limit for antlered deer in the Eastern Deer Season is four. The season limit for antlered deer in the Central, Northwestern, and Western deer seasons is two.
- There is no daily bag limit.
- The possession limit for antlered deer is the same as the season limit.
- The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in areas with a maximum either-sex season, or in those areas participating in the Urban Archery Season, is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license and any Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards he may have procured. The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in all other areas is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license.
- Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards allow for the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card. These are NOT valid for use on game lands. Unlimited Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are available to each hunter. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are valid during archery, blackpowder, and gun season in those areas with a maximum either-sex gun season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are also valid in cities, towns and villages participating in the Urban Archery Season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards can be obtained at most wildlife service agents, or online at ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834.
- Antlerless deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and tagged with harvest tags provided with the program are not included in normal statewide bag limits.
- Note: Antlerless deer may be taken only in those areas and during those times described elsewhere in this publication.

(continued on page 57)