



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
December 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor
Raleigh, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner Ray Clifton*

INVOCATION – *Commissioner John Alexander*

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 OCTOBER 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the October 26, 2023 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the November 16, 2023 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)*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

LAWRENCE G. DIEDRICK SMALL GAME AWARD – Present the 2023 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Awards to Louis Bacon, Dillon Epp and Theron Terhune, Orton Plantation, and Richard Broadwell and Family – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Land Acquisitions & Property Committee – December 6, 2023 – Tom Berry, Chair

Boating Safety Committee – December 6, 2023 – J.C. Cole, Chair

Habitat, Nongame, Endangered Species Committee – December 6, 2023 – Kelly Davis, Chair

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee – December 6, 2023 – Landon Zimmer, Chair

Rules Committee – December 6, 2023 – David Hoyle, Vice Chair

Ad hoc Agency Supplemental Funding Model Committee – October 26, 2023 – David Hoyle, Chair

Ad hoc Agency Supplemental Funding Model Committee – December 6, 2023 – David Hoyle, Chair
Committee of the Whole – December 6, 2023 – Monty Crump, Chair

**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Current Status of North Carolina’s Crayfish – Michael Perkins,
Foothills Region Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Biologist**

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 D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, D-5)**

- Jordan Timber – Scotland County **(D-1)**
- Upper Reedy Creek Tract – Warren County **(D-2)**
- Lee Tract – Bladen County **(D-3)**
- TAGM Three Top Addition – Ashe County **(D-4)**
- Lowland Marina – Pamlico County **(D-5)**

**Other Property Matters – Consider approval of the following other property matters - Ben Solomon
(EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5)**

- Burningtown Easement Request – Right-of-way request from Duke Energy at Needmore Game Land **(E-1)**
- Roanoke Marsh Easement Request – Right-of-way request at Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land **(E-2)**
- Dominion Easement Request – Right-of-way request from Dominion Energy at Lantern Acres Game Land **(E-3)**
- Star TMC Easement Request **(E-4)** Right-of-way request from Star TMC at Suggs Mill Pond Game Land
- King-Parton Easement Request – Right-of-way request from at Needmore Game Land **(E-5)**

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10K Hunter Education Course Rules – Review public comments and consider request to readopt 10K .0101 through .0103 Hunter Education Course rules as part of the periodic review – *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)*

Petition for Rulemaking – 10F .0314 New Hanover County – Consider petition received on October 5, 2023 requesting rulemaking to extend the no-wake zone on Bradley Creek – *Melva Bonner (EXHIBIT G)*

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County – Review public comments and consider final adoption with changes since published in the NC Register, of amendments to establish a No-wake Zone on Lockwood Folly River around a portion of Rourk’s Landing Subdivision; a technical correction to correct the name of the Morningstar Marinas in Southport adjacent to the ICW; technical correction to define the location of the Sunset Beach Bridge and Boating Access Area on the ICW and location of the Ocean Isle Beach Odell Williamson Bridge and Boating Access Area on the ICW; and codify the no-wake zone within 250 feet west and 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge and Boating Access Area on the ICW, within 50 yards of the Oak Island Boating Access Area in Southport adjacent to the ICW, within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area adjacent to the ICW in Bolivia, within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing Boating Access Area in Shallotte on the ICW; and within 50 yards of Rices Creek Boating Access Area in Winnabow, and within 50 yards of the Pireway Boating Access Area on Waccamaw River in Ash, and within 50 yards of the Dutchman Creek Boat Ramp in Southport – *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator (EXHIBITS H-1, H-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0316 Forsyth, Rockingham, and Stokes counties – Review public comments and consider final adoption of an amendment to establish a No Wake Zone on Belews Lake at Carolina Marina in Rockingham County within 50 yards of the fuel dock, north and east to the cove north of the Marina where the boat ramp, Dry Stacks, and outdoor boat storage facilities are located – *Betsy Haywood (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County – Review public comments and consider final adoption of an amendment to establish a No Wake Zone on Lake Rhodhiss within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, and within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area and Conley Creek Boating Access Area; and on Lake Hickory within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals in Hickory, within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area in Granite Falls, and within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area in Granite Falls. – *Betsy Haywood (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0380 Town of Rhodhiss – Review public comments and consider final adoption of an amendment to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore on Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss in Burke and Caldwell counties, beginning west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 Bridge, westward to the Rhodhiss Dam – *Betsy Haywood (EXHIBITS K-1, K-2)*

Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County – Consider publishing Notice of Text with an open comment period and public hearing, to revise the Rule to define the restricted area and allowed boating and water recreation activities at White Lake; and to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore

on the Cape Fear River in Council to mitigate boater safety hazards within 100 yards east and 100 yards west of the Elwell Ferry and Elwells Ferry Boating Access Area, and codify the waters within 50 yards of the Tar Heel Boating Access Area in Tar Heel and waters within 50 yards of the Tory Hole Boating Access Area in Elizabethtown; and codify the waters within 50 yards of the Hunts Bluff Boating Access Area on the Black River, in Kelly – *Betsy Haywood* (**EXHIBIT L**)

2024 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE – Consider approval of the revised 2024 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule – *Cameron Ingram, Executive Director* (**EXHIBIT M**)

CONSIDERATION OF NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-335, consider appointment of members to the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee – *Cameron Ingram* (**EXHIBIT N**)

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Crump*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Ingram*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A

December 7, 2023



MINUTES

October 26, 2023

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

Chairman Monty Crump called the October 26, 2023 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.

Commissioner David Hoyle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wes Seegars gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Ray Clifton, Steve Windham, John Stone, Hayden Rogers, JC Cole, and Mike Alford were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Jim Ruffin	John Coley	Wes Seegars
Mark Craig	Thomas Fonville	Kelly Davis	
David Hoyle	Tom Berry	Tom Haislip	
Brad Stanback	John Alexander	Landon Zimmer	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15. Chairman Crump recused himself from discussion and action on Exhibit C.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2023 MEETING

On a motion by Jim Ruffin and second by John Coley, the Minutes of the August 24, 2023 meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

EXHIBIT A is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

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

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

Motion after receiving the Financial Status Report On a motion by Landon Zimmer and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved a motion to move \$3 million per month from the Endowment Fund's Bond Index Fund to the Equity Index Fund through October 2024.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2023 THOMAS L. QUAY WILDLIFE DIVERSITY AWARD PRESENTATION – *Cam Ingram, Executive Director*, presented the 2023 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award to David Allen.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Education and Communication Committee Report – October 25, 2023 – *Tom Haislip, Chair*, reported the Education and Communication Committee met on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Staff presented an update on the newly formed Operations and Program Development Team of the Wildlife Education Division. The team provides broad-scale, statewide program planning and development for the Wildlife Education Division toward the agency's relevancy and R3 efforts. This team has several exciting projects to build and strengthen partnerships to better engage with and influence people through the Commission's programs and opportunities. The committee also received a presentation on the agency's partnership with Agricultural Education and FFA. The Wildlife Education team leads the annual effort of Wildlife Camp at the FFA camp facility at White Lake with Ducks Unlimited, the National Wildlife Turkey Federation, the NC Forest Service, NC State Parks, the NC Wildlife Upland Federation, and the US Department of Agriculture. At this event, students receive hands-on experience with fish sampling with a biologist on a shocking boat, trapping with USDA, boater safety with enforcement, deer necropsy, and other wildlife-related work activities to inspire them towards careers in conservation.

Migratory Birds and Waterfowls Committee Report – October 25, 2023 – *John Coley, Chair*, reported the Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee met Wednesday, October 25, 2023 and welcomed partners from Ducks Unlimited – *Deanne Drouillard, Manager of Eastern Region Partnerships for DU Canada*, and *Emily Purcell, Director of Conservation Programs for the*

Southeastern U.S. Deanne provided an overview of the Fall Flights program. The Commission has contributed almost \$2 million to this program since 1969 to secure, restore, and maintain wetland habitat, mostly in Canada's maritime provinces which support a great number of nesting green-winged teal and other dabbling ducks. Deanne also extended an invitation for the Commission to come back to Canada to see some of the great work we have been funding. Emily then provided an update on the Eastern Mallard Study, supported by DU, Inc. and partnering states, including North Carolina. More than 1,100 GPS transmitters will be deployed on hen mallards to study reproductive parameters, seasonal survival, movement ecology and habitat use. *Doug Howell, Migratory Game Bird Coordinator*, provided a summary of a 2023 tundra swan mortality event caused by lead exposure in a 500-acre impoundment on Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Doug and other WRC staff are coordinating with the refuge and others to complete a soil survey to determine lead concentrations and distribution in the impoundment. Staff are also working with the Service to have a contractor remove common carp from Lake Mattamuskeet and experimentally treat the lake to remove cyanobacteria. Both the carp and cyanobacteria impact submerged aquatic vegetation, which is an important food source for waterfowl and other species.

Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – October 25, 2023 – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported the Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee met Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Dr. Chris Moorman of NC State University presented on the results of the Wild Turkey Ecology Study funded by the Commission and conducted by NC State. The study spanned three years and will continue to provide us with extremely valuable information about the wild turkey population in North Carolina and insights into management of our turkey population. This information will continue to contribute to conversations and decisions on wild turkey management, including harvest, for years to come. The Committee also recognized the attendance of both the NWTf State Chapter President Tim Draughn and National President Bryan Perry, the NWTf provided more than \$100,000 towards this study and their contribution and dedication to the wild turkey resource and of course this study in North Carolina is greatly appreciated. Finally, *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access (LAWA) Division Chief*, gave a brief update on the ongoing efforts of the LAWA staff at the Caswell Small Game Focus Area.

Fisheries Committee Report – October 25, 2023 – *Tommy Fonville, Committee Member*, reported the Fisheries Committee met Wednesday, October 25, 2023. Before proceeding with the scheduled agenda, Chairman Stone recognized special guest Representative Jay Adams, co-chair of the House Wildlife Committee. Representative Adams briefly addressed the Commission prior to returning to the legislature. *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Assistant Division Chief*, began the agenda with a presentation of a video that highlighted the efforts of Commission staff to restore Muskie back to the French Broad River through stocking and habitat restoration. The video was followed by *Scott Loftis, Aquatic Habitat Research Coordinator*, providing an update on fish usage of the restored habitat sloughs at Mud Creek on the French Broad River. *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, gave updates on the 2024 Roanoke River Striped Bass Harvest season, the 2023 recreational flounder seasons, the recent DMF proclamation to close the Striped and White Mullet fisheries in joint and coastal fishing waters through the end of the year, recent findings of zebra mussels and apple snails, both of which are aquatic nuisance species recently found in NC for the first time, and the Setzer Hatchery renovation including staff efforts to minimize the eventual impacts of the hatchery being shut down for construction in late 2024.

Next, Corey Oakley presented a video that highlights the Commission's F1 bass stocking project at Lake Norman, Lake Gaston, and Jordan Lake and the Commission's partnership with Bass Anglers for NC Lakes to help raise annual funding for the stocking project. Chuck Murray,

president of NC B.A.S.S. and cofounder of Bass Anglers for NC Lakes presented the Commission with a check for \$30,000.

Big Game Committee Report – October 25, 2023 – *David Hoyle, Chair*, reported the Big Game Committee met Wednesday, October 25, 2023, and the meeting began with an update on Chronic Wasting Disease in the State by *Chris Kreh, Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief*. Chris confirmed that we have a new CWD positive in the 2023 hunting season which is the first positive in Johnston County. Staff are already working hard to obtain and submit samples this hunting season, and we will see if there are additional positives as we get results from those samples. Next, *Catherine Larose, NCSU*, and *Kathryn Jewell, Social Scientist*, gave very interesting and informative presentations on social science studies related to hunters' knowledge, opinions, and understanding of Chronic Wasting Disease. The information gleaned from these studies will be beneficial to our approach to CWD and deer management. Finally, *Justin McVey, Agency Elk Biologist*, presented the results of the elk study conducted by the University of Tennessee. This was a very informative presentation and subsequent discussion about the elk herd and future elk management options including hunting. The chair recommended that the committee use this information to continue discussions on how and when an elk hunt in North Carolina might be conducted. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee of the Whole Report – October 25, 2023 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Committee of the Whole met Wednesday, October 25, 2023 with a packed agenda. We began with proposed annual cycle rulemaking for notice of text. *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst*, and *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*, both presented rules for adoption and for notice of text. *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*, presented a proposed lease renewal for the Hinson Lake lodge. *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator*, and *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, then presented potential changes to license fees to keep up with CPI-U and inflation. Jason then presented a recommendation to transfer \$3 million per month from the Bond Index Fund to the Equity Index Fund through October 2024. Executive Director Ingram presented the proposed 2024 Commission meeting schedule, and then recognized staff who have just received prestigious awards: Sgt. Dustin Durham and Master Officer Charles Vaughn were awarded the 2023 Governor's Award for Excellence for Safety and Heroism; Travis Wilson was named the 2023 Governor's Conservation Achievement Award Natural Resources Scientist of the Year; Master Officer Ryan Biggerstaff was named the 2023 Governor's Conservation Achievement Award Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the Year; and Doug Besler was named the 2023 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Fisheries Biologist of the Year. Finally, the Committee went into closed session to discuss ongoing litigation with our attorney. The Committee returned from closed session and, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – CMDE – Connecting Through Communication, Marketing & Digital Engagement– *Fairley Mahlum, Office Director* gave a presentation titled “Connecting Through Communication, Marketing & Digital Engagement.” The presentation provided an overview of the Office's approach, process and tools used to communicate messages to specific target audiences. Highlights of recent successes were showcased including high levels of engagement with the agency's newsletter and social media channels, 2023 marketing campaigns and the employment of new web-based technologies like QR Codes and Flipping Book.

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Other Property Matters – With Chairman Crump recused, on a motion by Tom Berry and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission approved the Hinson Lake Lodge Lease Renewal presented in **(EXHIBIT C)** by *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

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

RULEMAKING

Notice of Text – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Inland Fisheries Rules – On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by Kelly Davis, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to Inland Fisheries rules presented in **(EXHIBIT D-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed 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.

Notice of Text – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Land and Water Access Rules – On a motion by John Alexander and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for amendments to Land and Water Access rules presented in **(EXHIBIT E-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed rules presented in **(EXHIBIT 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.

Notice of Text – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Wildlife Management Rules – On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to Wildlife Management rules presented in **(EXHIBIT F-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed rules presented in **(EXHIBIT F-2)** by *Chris Kreh, Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief*

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

Notice of Text – 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Administrative Rules – On a motion by Jim Ruffin and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to Administrative rules presented in **(EXHIBIT G-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed 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.

Adoption – 10B .0500 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Rules – On a motion by Wes Seegars and a second by Tom Berry, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT H-1)** and approved adoption of 10B .0501 and .0503 to regulate activities that aid in the transmission of CWD and assist with detection and the isolation of the disease presented in **(EXHIBIT H-2)** by *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst*

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

On a motion by John Alexander and second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the following staff recommendations in **(EXHIBITS I, J-1, J-2)**

Notice of Text – 10A .0500 Declaratory Rulings Rules –the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to 10A .0501 through .0503 presented in **(EXHIBIT I-1)** by *Melva Bonner*

Notice of Text – 10E Public Fishing and Boating Access Areas Rules –the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to 10E .0101 through .0104 presented in **(EXHIBIT J-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed rules presented in **(EXHIBIT J-2)** by *Melva Bonner*

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

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties – On a motion by Tommy Fonville and a second by John Coley, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT K-1)** and approved final adoption of the rule proposed by the Lake Wylie Marine Commission, for a restricted area with swim beach at the South Point Access Area on Lake Wylie in Belmont in Gaston County, north of a rope in a cove east of the access area; and codification into the North Carolina Administrative Code the address of the no-wake zone within 50 yards of the South Point Access Area boat ramps presented in **(EXHIBIT K-2)** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*

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

Technical Correction – 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and a second by John Alexander, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period for a technical correction to the coordinates of the no-wake zone at Motts Creek, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, where the Oregon Inlet U.S. Coast Guard Station, Oregon Inlet Fishing Center and Marina, Oregon Inlet Public Boat Ramp, kayak launch area, and U.S. Coast Guard Station and Launch Area are located presented in **(EXHIBIT L)** by *Betsy Haywood*

2024 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE – On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by Mark Craig, the Commission approved proposed 2024 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule presented in **(EXHIBIT M)** by *Cameron Ingram, Executive Director*

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Crump presented a comprehensive overview of the Ground-breaking ceremony held on October 6th for the forthcoming law enforcement training facility at the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Samarcand Training Academy in Moore County. He expressed gratitude towards the board members who participated in the event. Furthermore, Chairman Crump provided insights into his role as a guest speaker at the Hoffman Field Trial Jamboree 2023, emphasizing the significance of the opportunity and the valuable connections made during the event.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Director Ingram expressed sincere gratitude and recognition to the agency staff and Commissioners for their unwavering dedication, investing a substantial amount of effort and resources to advance the agency's legislative objectives. Despite not attaining all our legislative priorities this year, notable accomplishments were secured for the agency. A landmark achievement this year was the allocation of resources in the budget, marking the first time in 45 years, to establish 16 new wildlife law enforcement positions, accompanied by recurring funding, signifying a significant stride forward.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m. All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Monty Crump, Chairman Date

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director Date

EXHIBIT B

December 7, 2023



MINUTES

November 16, 2023

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

Chairman Monty Crump called the November 16, 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. 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. Tommy Fonville, Tom Berry, Ray Clifton, Steve Windham, John Stone, and JC Cole were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Wes Seegars	Landon Zimmer	Mike Alford
Mark Craig	Brad Stanback	Hayden Rogers	
David Hoyle	Jim Ruffin	John Alexander	
John Coley	Kelly Davis	Tom Haislip	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

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

RULEMAKING

Notice of Text – 10H .0100 Controlled Hunting Preserves for Domestically Raised Game Birds Rules – On a motion by John Alexander 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 10H .0101. **(EXHIBIT A-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed rules. **(EXHIBIT A-2)**

EXHIBITS A-1, A-2 are 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 10:08 a.m. All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Monty Crump, Chairman

Date

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

Date

	2023
Row Labels	Sum of AMOUNT
REVENUE	\$ 58,286,940.35
ADJUSTMENTS TO CASH BASIS EXPENDITURE	\$ 43,048.00
AGENCY FEDERAL FUNDS TRANSFER/RECEIPTS	\$ 11,943,004.02
AGENCY OPERATING TRANSFER IN	\$ 20,395,226.69
AGENCY REIMBURSEMENTS/PRIOR YR RECEIPTS	\$ 393,997.94
CERTIFICATION FEES	\$ 60.00
CITIES, TOWNS & OTHER LOCAL FUNDS	\$ 1,194.51
CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS	\$ 298,228.57
FINES, PENALTIES & ASSESSMENT FEES	\$ 13,073.33
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$ 148,566.42
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 64.20
NON-BUSINESS PERMIT/LICENSE FEES	\$ 13,274,191.25
OTHER LIABILITIES	\$ (87.54)
OTHER LICENSES, FEES AND PERMITS	\$ 48,926.00
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 123,748.56
PAYABLES CLEARING	\$ (977.00)
REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 4,255.00
RENTALS AND SALE OF LAND	\$ 5,737.40
SALE OF GOODS OR PUBLICATIONS	\$ 495,676.83
SALE OF SERVICES	\$ 4,246,564.78
STATE CAPITAL GRANTS	\$ 52,441.39
STATEWIDE OPERATING TRANSFERS	\$ 6,800,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 58,286,940.35

Row Labels	Sum of AMOUNT
EXPENDITURE	\$ 59,495,758.55
AGENCY OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT	\$ 22,162,109.87
ART, OTHER ARTIFACTS & LITERATURE	\$ 255.28
ASSETS & OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 18,693.78
BUILDINGS PURCHASED	\$ -
CLOTHING & RECREATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 80,313.13
COMMUNICATION AND IT SERVICES	\$ 1,283,345.23
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 4,400.00
DISCRETIONARY GRANTS TO NGOS	\$ 9,209.09
EDUCATIONAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO G	\$ 884,263.95
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT COSTS	\$ 6,151,433.94
EPA SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 133,776.84
EQUIPMENT	\$ 2,446,190.54
FACILITY & HARDWARE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,429,126.57
FOOD & DIETARY SUPPLIES	\$ 8,117.37
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLIES	\$ 261,574.13
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	\$ 542,099.58
LAND	\$ 12,861.50
LEGAL, LICENSES & PERMIT COSTS	\$ 4,763.55
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS	\$ 56,169.58
MEDICAL/PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES	\$ 4,043.55
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$ 117,606.47
OTHER AIDS AND GRANTS TO GOVERNMENTAL OI	\$ 1,123,275.88
OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 508,168.24
OTHER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$ 81,639.77
OTHER PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 188,059.78
OTHER SERVICES	\$ 111,653.20
OTHER STRUCTURES & IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 384,654.65
PENSIONS & BENEFIT CLAIMS PAYMENTS	\$ 384,163.05
PURCHASED CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 4,466,474.28
PURCHASES FOR RESALE	\$ 162,442.38
RENTALS/LEASES	\$ 1,056,515.64
REPAIR SERVICES	\$ 548,677.85
RESEARCH/DEV & EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 196,754.29
SPA & LEO SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 13,197,927.44
SUPPLEMENTS TO REGULAR WAGES	\$ 412,807.57
TRAVEL & OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	\$ 165,629.11
UTILITY/ENERGY SERVICES	\$ 251,356.44
VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 645,205.03
Grand Total	\$ 59,495,758.55

Row Labels	Sum of AMOUNT
REVENUE	\$2,569,178.67
AGENCY FEDERAL FUNDS TRANSFER/RECEIPTS	\$1,262,458.08
AGENCY OPERATING TRANSFER IN	\$1,230,446.59
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	\$274.00
STATE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPROP 1	\$76,000.00
Grand Total	\$2,569,178.67
Row Labels	Sum of AMOUNT
EXPENDITURE	\$3,307,962.14
AGENCY OPERATING TRANSFER IN	\$0.00
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED	\$2,175,259.11
COMMUNICATION AND IT SERVICES	\$319.36
FACILITY & HARDWARE SUPPLIES	\$17,940.84
LAND	\$59,861.73
OTHER STRUCTURES & IMPROVEMENTS	\$796,628.24
PURCHASED CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$199,965.98
REPAIR SERVICES	\$57,986.88
Grand Total	\$3,307,962.14

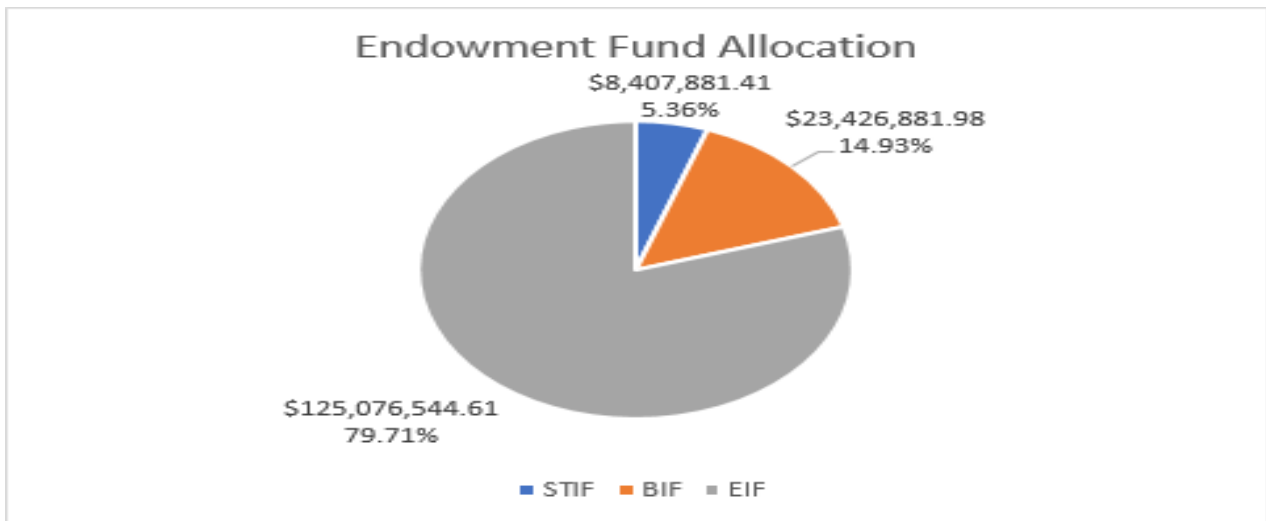
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

Fund Balance*: Oct 2023 \$156,911,308.00

* 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.



	Principal	Nonexpendable	Expendable	Total
Adult	\$ 82,054,785.90		\$ 41,236,891.55	\$ 123,291,677.45
Magazine	\$ 1,573,477.50		\$ 702,220.96	\$ 2,275,698.46
Contributions	\$ 830,981.50		\$ 2,232,848.40	\$ 3,063,829.90
Diversity	\$ 178,588.88		\$ 2,618.59	\$ 181,207.47
Infant	\$ 21,033,882.00	\$ 5,240,995.30		\$ 26,274,877.30
Youth	\$ 2,967,250.00	\$ 244,611.20		\$ 3,211,861.20
				\$ 158,299,151.78
Total	\$ 108,638,965.78	\$ 5,485,606.50	\$ 44,174,579.50	\$ 158,299,151.78

*** Include Deposit/s In Transit

Exhibit D-1

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name:

Jordan Timber

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): April 13, 2022

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

NC Land and Water Fund	\$1,000,000.00
Total	\$1,000,000.00

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details: TNC plans to commit \$2,200,000.00 in bargain sale to the project.

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	Elizabeth Giri and A. Franklin Dean	March 2, 2023	\$3,200,000.00

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	\$258,750.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit D-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
Boundary Establishment	15	Miles	\$250	\$3750.00
Reforestation	600	Acres	\$350	\$210,000.00
Wiregrass plugs	300	Acres	\$150	\$45,000.00
TOTAL				\$258,750.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				\$0.00

August 17, 2022
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Brady Beck
Date First Presented to Commission:	August 17, 2022
Tract Name:	Jordan Timber
County:	Scotland
Acreage:	2000.00
Listed Price:	\$1,000,000.00
Tax Value:	
Property Owner/Representative:	The Nature Conservancy
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

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

Funding Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bargain 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:

The Nature Conservancy purchased the 2000 acre property from Jordan Timber in 2020. Purchase price was \$4 million. TNC intends to sell the property to WRC at a bargain sale of \$1 million. Much of the property is under a fiber agreement between Jordan and TNC that will allow most of the loblolly plantations on the property to be clearcut. TNC is initiating Longleaf Pine and wiregrass plantings following the clearcuts. These two activities along with reintroducing prescribed fire to the property will go a long way towards restoration of habitat on most of the acreage.

August 17, 2022

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

Tract Name:	Jordan Timber
County:	Scotland

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Jordan Timber tract will create a 2000 acre connector between Block T, B, and C of the Sandhills GL. Longleaf habitat restoration will be a main focus of future management of the tracts. Several T&E /SGCN species are present on the property including Carolina Pigmy Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake, Southern Hognose Snake, Northern Pinesnake, and Pinewoods Darter. Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers have been sighted within 1/4 mile of the property and will benefit directly from Longleaf Pine restoration and prescribed fire.

Tract Name **Jordan Timber**
 Date **February 15, 2022**
 Staff Completing Form **Brady Beck**

Species	0.741
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2

Comments
 The 2000 acre Jordan tracts are strategically located between Blocks C, T, and B of the Sandhills Game Land. Acquisition and restoration of this property will create a habitat corridor connection these three GL blocks. Existing loblolly pine plantations will be converted over time to Longleaf Pine/wiregrass habitat along with the reintroduction of prescribed fire. SGCN species such as Bachman's sparrow, Northern Pine Snake, and Southern Hognose Snake among many others will benefit from Longleaf Pine habitat restoration.

Habitat	0.667
Size	2
Quality	1
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

Comments
 The parcels total 2000 acres and are predominantly loblolly pine plantations. Biodiversity of the parcels will be increased over time as loblolly plantations are converted to Longleaf Pine/wiregrass and with the reintroduction of prescribed fire. Connectivity of GL blocks will be greatly improved through this acquisition.

Public Access	0.556
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	1

Comments
 Hunting opportunities are good for most common game species of the Sandhills. There are two beaver ponds on the property that provide waterfowl hunting opportunities. There is no boating access.

Wildlife Uses	0.600
Hunting	3
Viewing	2
Fishing	1
Boating	1
Education	2

Comments
 Wildlife use of this property will increase with habitat restoration. There are marginal fishing opportunities in two beaver ponds, and no boating access. Education opportunities would likely center around Longleaf Pine habitat restoration efforts as a demonstration area.

Other Values	0.556
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Comments
 The property has a fiber agreement that would be transferred to WRC upon acquisition. Most of the merchantable timber will have been removed through that agreement allowing Longleaf restoration to occur.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.800
Existing Infrastructure	2
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	2
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

Comments
 Logging trails are numerous on the property and can be improved for public use, administrative use, or firebreaks. Acquisition of this property will create a protected habitat corridor between Blocks C, T, and B of the Sandhills Game Land.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.750
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	2

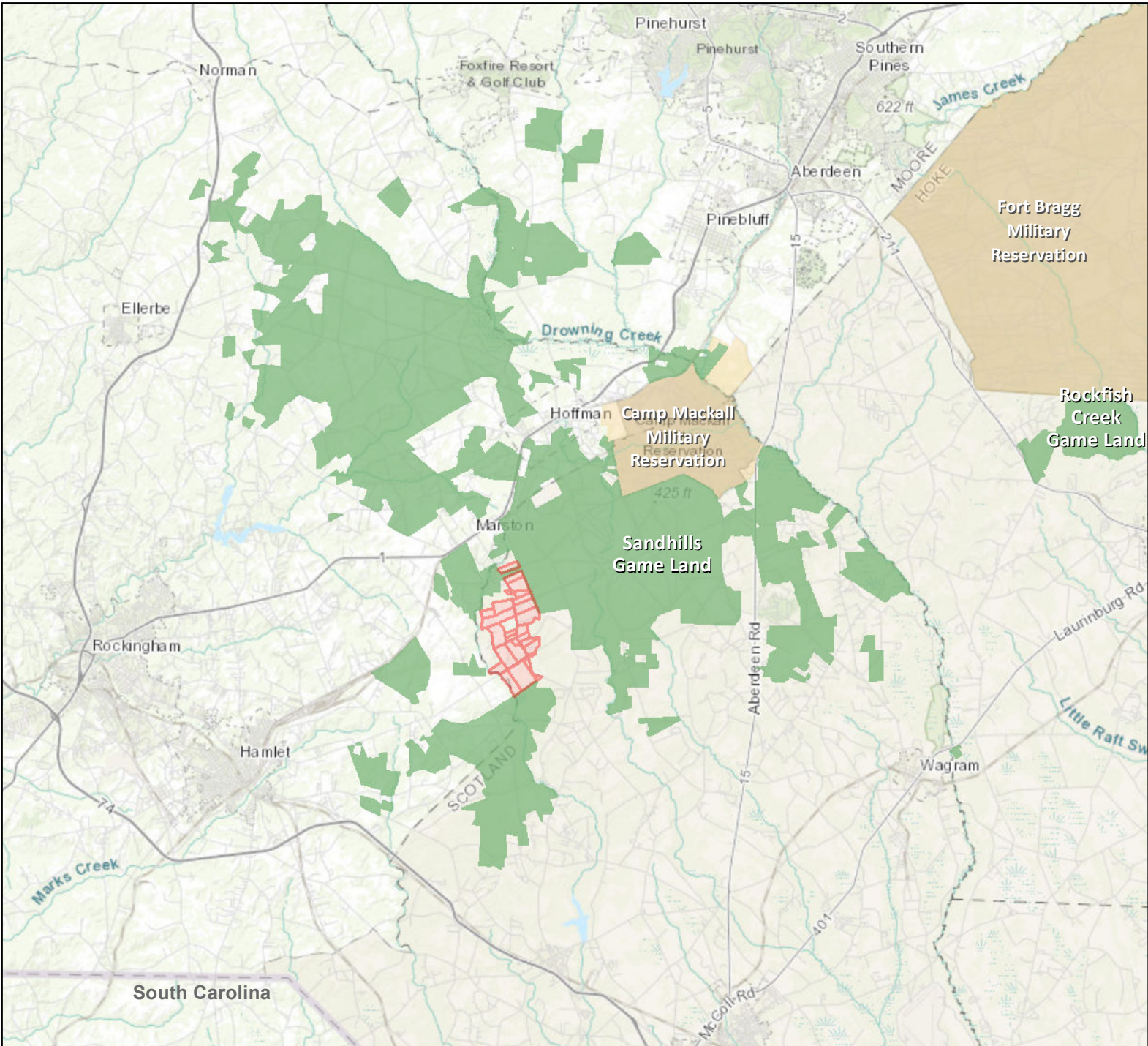
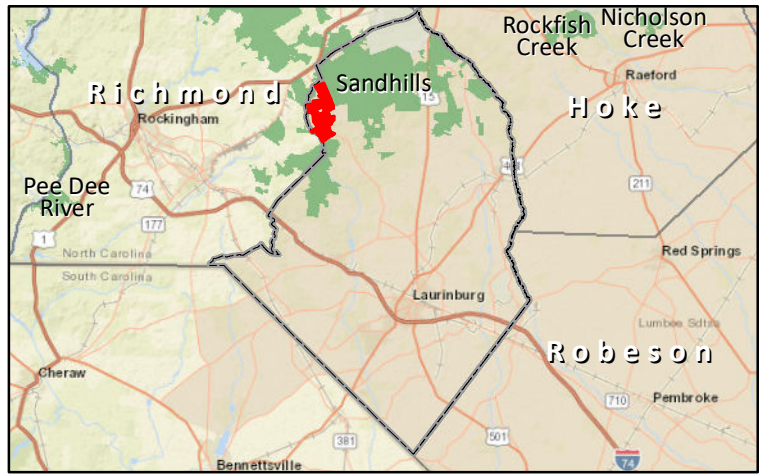
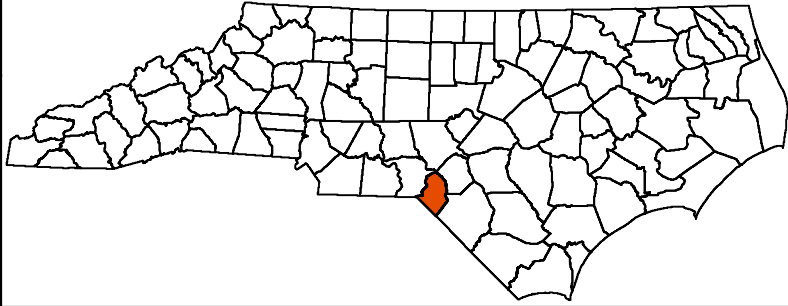
Comments
 Long term restoration projects will improve habitat for a broad suite of Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass SGCN's as well as common game species. Acquisition of this property ensures public and military training access and reduces the threat of incompatible development.


Threats	0.400
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	1
Manageability	2
Management Cost	1

Comments
 The property is rural and threat of development is relatively low, but existed prior to TNC acquisition. Several years ago a mega landfill was proposed in this area, its status is unknown at this time.

Overall Score	4.269
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Jordan Properties LLC Tracts Scotland County ~2,000 Acres



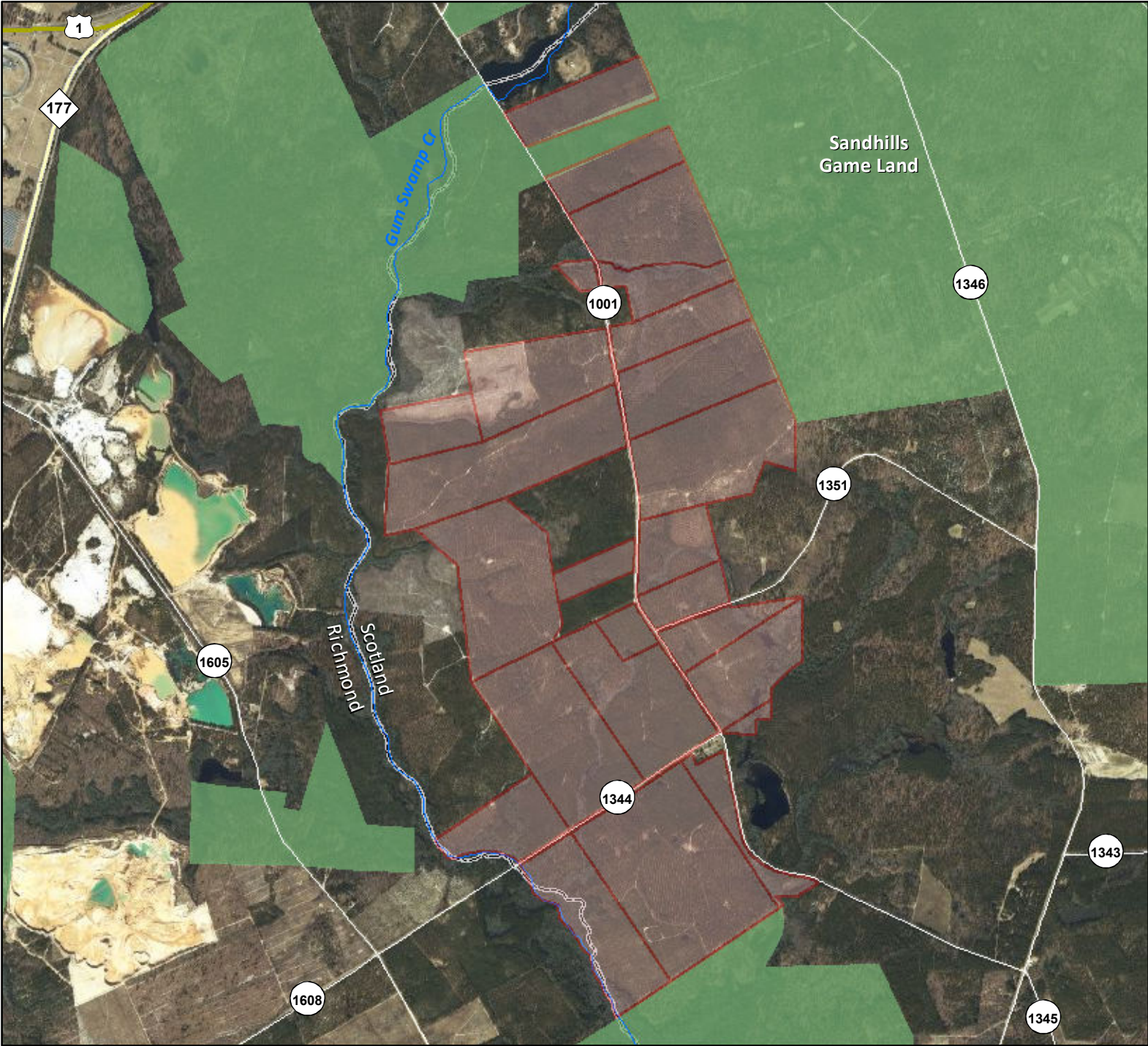
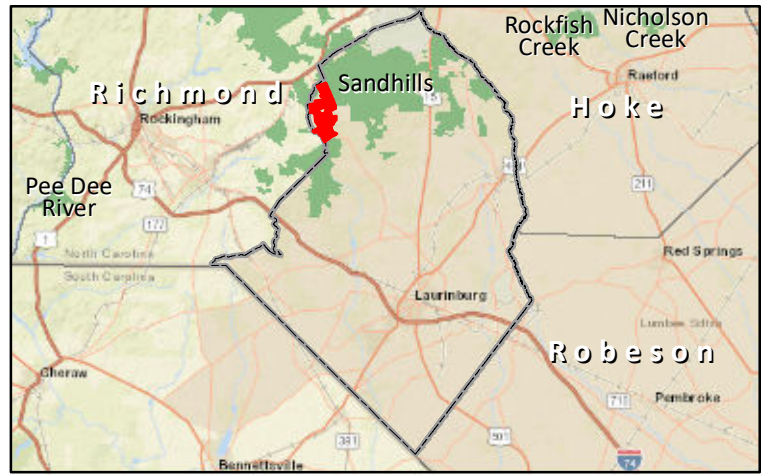
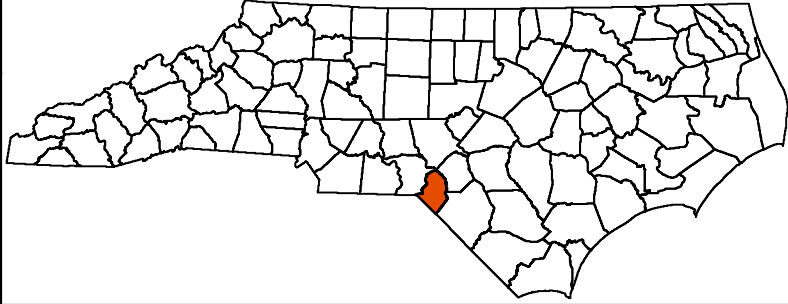

 Jordan Properties Tracts
 Federal Lands



Game Land

0 2.5 5
 Miles



Jordan Properties LLC Tracts Scotland County ~2,000 Acres



-  Jordan Properties Tracts
-  Game Land

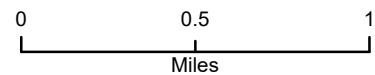


Exhibit D-2

December 7, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Upper Reedy Creek Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): July 13, 2022

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

Pittman Robertson \$ 1,253,364.00

TOTAL COST \$ 1,253,364.00

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
<i>The State Property Office</i>	<i>Andy Piner</i>	<i>02/14/2023</i>	<i>\$795,000</i>

Timber appraisal conducted by WRC staff: \$381,661.65

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

Federal Assistance Grant – 75% federal: 25% state

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 11,970.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit D-2

December 7, 2023

WORKSHEET Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections (Five Years Post Acquisition)

STEWARDSHIP						
Estimated Stewardship Expenditures						
Tract Name	Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost	
Upper						
Reedy Creek (Embro GL)	Est. (New) Boundary	3.2	Mi.	300.00	\$	960.00
	Est. Parking Area	1	Ea.	4500.00		4500.00
	Install Gates	2	Ea.	1500.00		3000.00
	Remove (Shared) Boundary	1.3	Mi.	200.00		260.00
	Maint. Roads/Trails	1.3	Mi.	2500.00		3250.00
Total					\$	11970.00

REVENUE						
Estimated Revenue Projections						
Tract Name	Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue	
Upper						
Reedy Creek (Embro GL)					\$	
	Total					\$

December 7, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Chris Baranski
Date First Presented to Commission:	July 13, 2022
Tract Name:	Upper Reedy Creek
County:	Warren
Acreage:	485.84 acres
Listed Price:	N/A
Tax Value:	\$469,170
Property Owner/Representative:	Paylor Spruill
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NC Land and Water Fund
<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"/>	PR	Source:
<input type="checkbox"/>	State	Match:

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" 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:

A site visit on this property was performed on May 26th by Chris Baranski, Chris Dawes, Ben Solomon, Andrew Mynatt, and Charles Davis. Acquisition of this tract would add ~486 acres to the adjacent Country Club Tract (~779 ac.) of the Embro Game Land making it ~62% larger and sharing ~1.3 miles of Game Land boundary. Significant aquatic resources downstream would be enhanced/conserved by the added watershed protection along Reedy Creek (~1.8 mi.), a permanent tributary (~0.62 mi.), and intermittent tributaries (~1.21 mi.). Grant funding potential could account for about 21% of the tract acreage (~100.6 ac., 200-ft. and 300-ft. buffers). The Spruill family has expressed high interest for the property to be conserved in perpetuity and managed by the WRC as part of the Embro Game Land. The landowner accepts the surveyed acreage as 485.84 ac. The three tracts being sold as one were tax value assessed at different times (Warren County GIS Property Report); Tract G7 1, 2018, 402 ac. @ \$385,920.00 (\$960.00/ac.), Tract G7 2, 2019, 52 ac. @ \$49,920.00 (\$960.00/ac.), and Tract G7 4, 2022, 26.3 ac. @ \$33,330.00 (\$1,267.00/ac.).

December 7, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Upper Reedy Creek
County:	Warren

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

This available property (three combined parcels, 480.3 - 485.84 total acres, Tax Map vs. Survey) lies in Warren County directly to the east of and adjacent to the existing Country Club Tract of the Embro Game Land. (Acquisition of these parcels would increase the size of the Country Club Tract by ~62% creating a much larger contiguous block with ~1.3 miles of shared boundary.) Currently, most of this land is actively managed with timber harvesting, very similar to that which occurred on the nearby acreage acquired by WRC in 2007-2008 from International Paper.

The three parcels (~402 ac., ~52 ac., and ~26 ac.) are being sold together as a single tract. The asking price has not been specified. There was one structure (house) on the southern end of the property, near Warrenton Embro Rd., but it has been demolished and has mostly healed-over. There are ~1.6 miles of fairly well-maintained roads/paths from a single access point behind a gated closure. Wide, daylight, herbaceous-dominated road shoulders account for ~10.5 ac. of the property. The western boundary of the tract is ~1.8 miles of frontage on Reedy Creek. The other permanent tributary totals ~0.62 mile, and the intermittent tributaries total ~1.21 miles. There is also significant acreage of floodplain with interspersed beaver swamps and wetlands totaling ~37 acres. The drains and riparian areas (~56 ac.) are mostly intact and buffered, while the majority of the uplands are either recently clearcut (post-2019; ~180 ac.) and sparsely planted back in loblolly pine, and 16 or 17-year-old loblolly pine plantation first-time thinned (post-2019; ~193 ac.). Except for the bottomland hardwood riparian buffers, there is only a very small amount (~5 ac.) of mature upland timber (oak-dominated). The loblolly pine will require thinning within the next decade, while the regenerating clearcut may be best left to further establish as mixed upland hardwood/pine forest. A very large percentage of this property will be in need of prescribed fire and burning could be accomplished rather easily.

The hunting opportunities on this property are extensive and it would provide excellent deer and turkey hunting, as well as small game (particularly for rabbits), with some potential for quail and certainly woodcock and squirrel. Waterfowl hunting in the beaver swamps along Reedy Creek is likely very good. Water resources are unlikely to provide much fishing interest.

The Reedy Creek headwaters within the Tar-Pamlico River Basin are in a Tier 1 priority area due to the occurrence of at least two rare freshwater mussels species, one fish species, one amphibian species, and one crayfish species not far downstream (documented less than 3 miles). Further downstream at the confluence with Little Fishing Creek are additional significant aquatic species including the Atlantic Pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*, proposed for Federal listing and State Endangered) and the Carolina Madtom (*Noturus furiosus*, Federal and State Endangered).

The property has great grant potential, particularly for water quality and aquatic species protection downstream. Three hundred-foot buffers on Reedy Creek and two hundred-foot buffers on the perennial stream were measured and total ~101 acres (~21% of the property).

It is a unique opportunity for WRC to acquire a large contiguous parcel adjacent to an existing game land. This tract is a very high priority for acquisition and addition to the Embro Game Land. Acquisition of this property will support increased connectivity of protected lands in the Upper Tar. The most significant current threat to this property is potential subdivision and future development. Ensuring that upland forest stands managed for wildlife habitat are enhanced and maintained and that bottomlands and riparian areas here are protected will help support many aquatic and terrestrial (SGCN) species on the local landscape.

Tract Name	Upper Reedy Creek
Date	June 13, 2022
Staff Completing Form	Chris Baranski & Chris Dawes

Species	0.926
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	3
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	3
Game Species	2

Comments
Likely/Potentially occurring SGCN's: Tri-colored Bat, Southeastern Bat, Yellow Bat, Little Brown Bat, Big Brown Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Gadwall, Black Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Rusty Blackbird, Swainson's Warbler, Whip-poor-will, Chuck-will's-widow, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Spotted Turtle, Box Turtle, Northern Two-lined Salamander, Mole Kingsnake, Eastern Ribbon Snake ---- [Natural Heritage Element Occurrences downstream and nearby: Erynnis martialis (Mottled Duskywing Moth) S2/G3, Necturus lewisi (Neuse River Waterdog) S3/G3, Lampetra aepyptera (Least Brook Lamprey) S2/G5, Villosa constricta (Notched Rainbow) S3/G3, Strophitus undulatus (Creeper) S2/G5, Orconectes carolinensis (North Carolina Spiny Crayfish) S3/G3]

Habitat	0.778
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	3
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

Comments
At almost 500 acres this is a sizeable property with substantial connectivity to the Country Club Tract of the Embro Game Land and would add a significant buffer on the east side of Reedy Creek. Quality, diversity, and rare or important habitats and species are comparable to the majority of the rest of the Upper Tar Game Land Complex.

Public Access	0.556
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	1

Comments
Public access is good for hunting and wildlife-associated recreation and could be controlled by seasonal and permanent gates. There is little to offer as far as navigable or fishable water resources.

Wildlife Uses	0.600
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	1
Education	1

Comments
Hunting opportunities are excellent for deer, turkey, and rabbit, and to a limited extent on portions of the property for squirrel, quail, and woodcock. Extensive beaver swamps along Reedy Creek have created prime waterfowl habitat. There is no boating access but kayaking for duck hunting and limited fishing in the larger open-water beaver impoundments could occur.

Other Values	0.778
Timber Harvest	3
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Comments
Timber harvest (pine thinning) will be needed in the near future on ~193 acres. The ~180 acres that were recently clearcut will not be manageable for another two decades and should be left to reforest naturally as a mixed stand.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.933
Existing Infrastructure	3
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

Comments
There is only one access into the property via a fairly well-maintained road through the middle of the property. It has one large culvert that appears sound. Some roadwork could be done, and gravel added to improve it to all-weather status. Multiple uses on the tract, and with adjoining private land and the adjacent Game Land, are highly compatible.

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

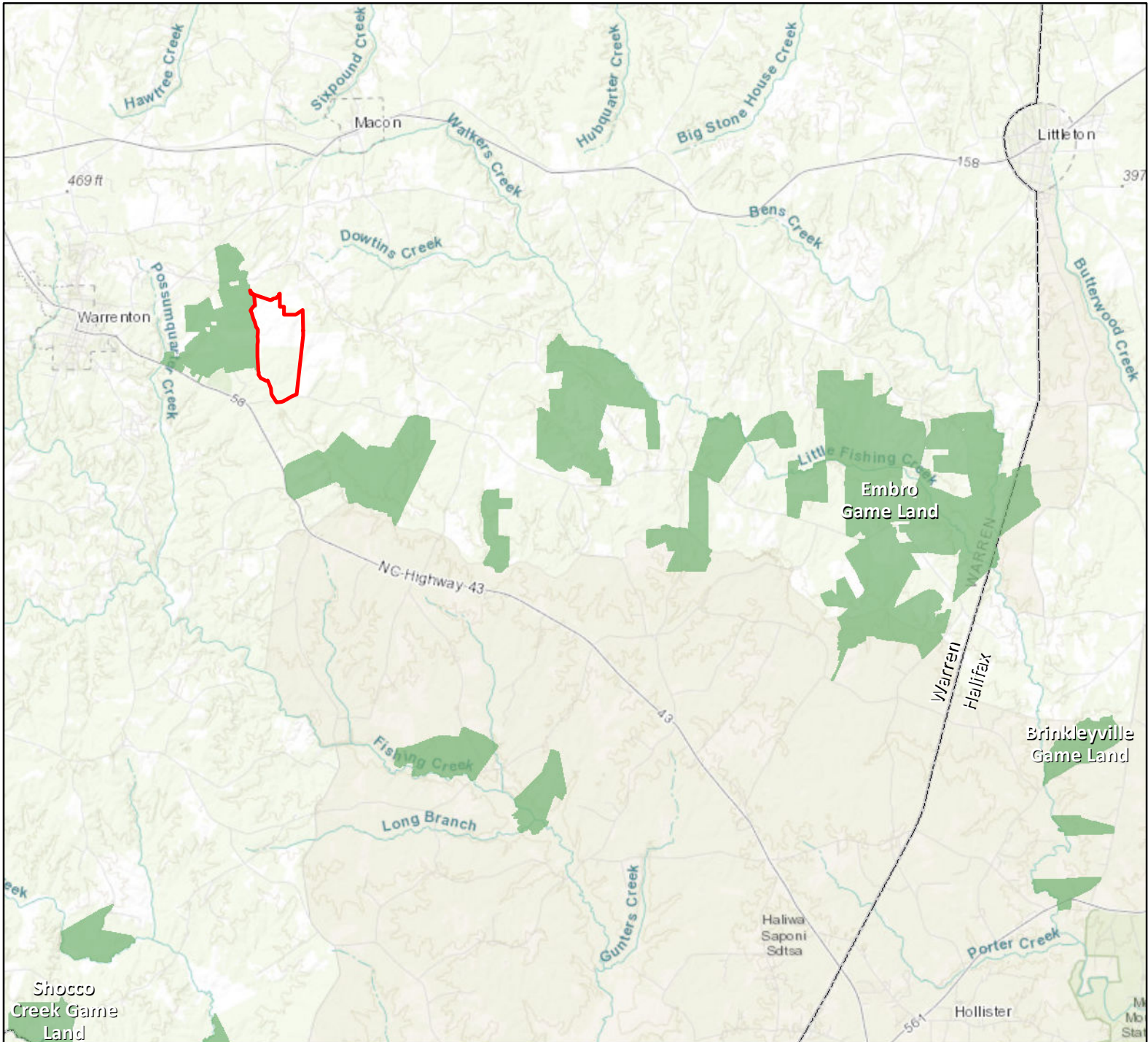
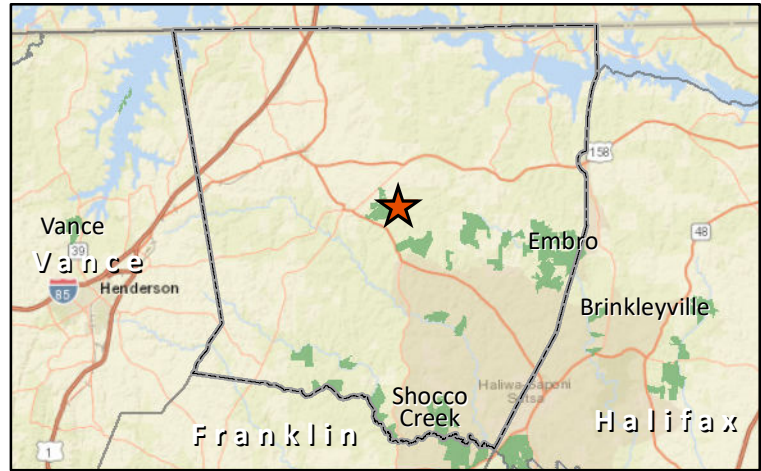
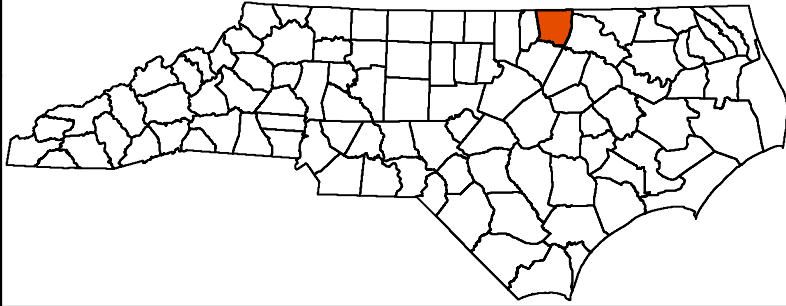
Comments
Long-term timber mgmt. and Rx fire in the uplands will improve wildlife habitat/diversity for a broad suite of SGCN's and common game species. Short-term, a considerable acreage of early successional habitat exists. Acquisition will increase public access to GL's and eliminate the threat of development.



Threats	0.267
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	1
Manageability	0
Management Cost	1

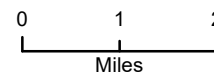
Comments
The property is rural, and the threat of development is relatively low, as it has been used for hunting and managed with timbering for recent known history. The costs for any immediate management or infrastructure improvement by WRC is inconsequential.

Overall Score	5.220
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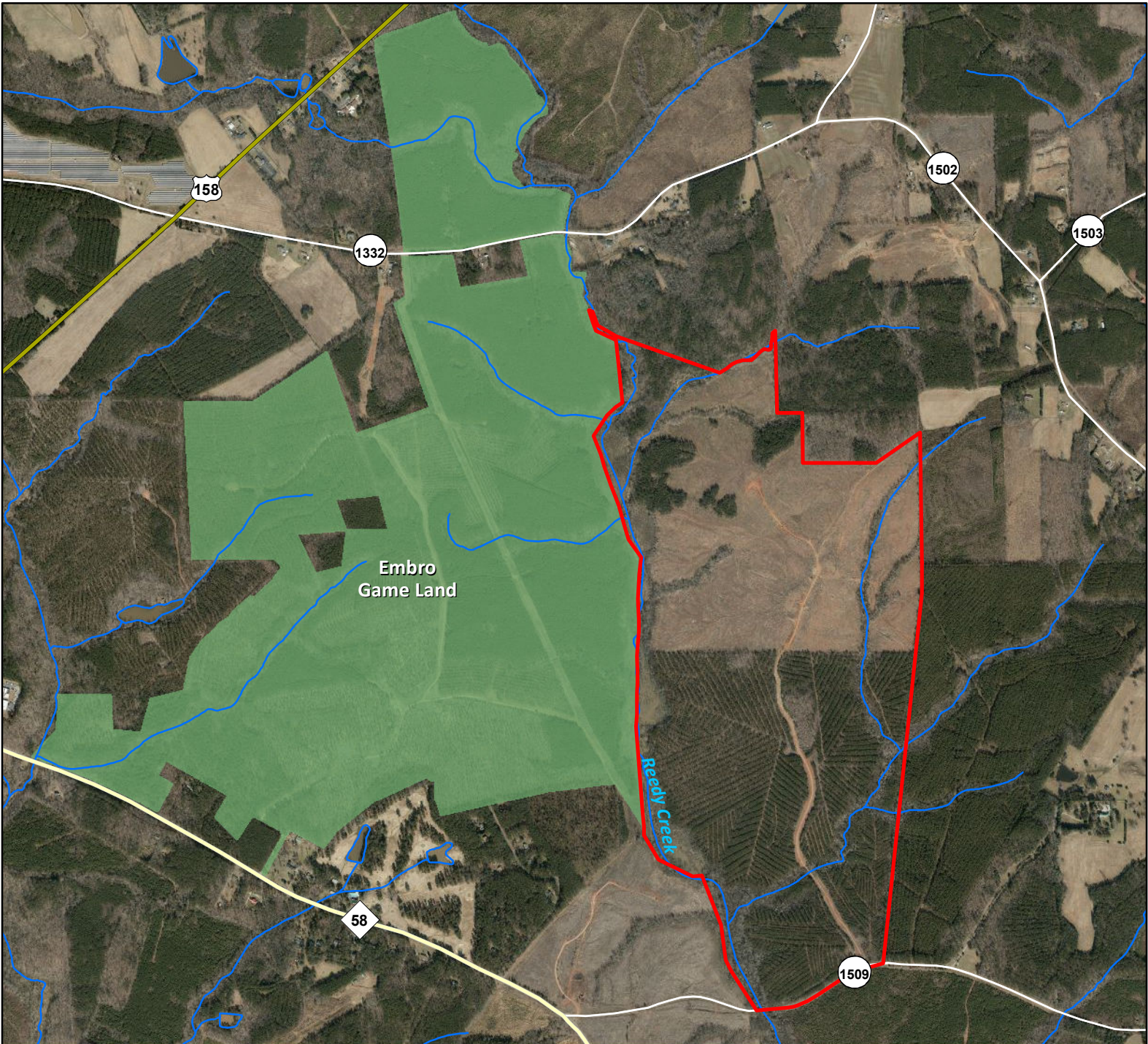
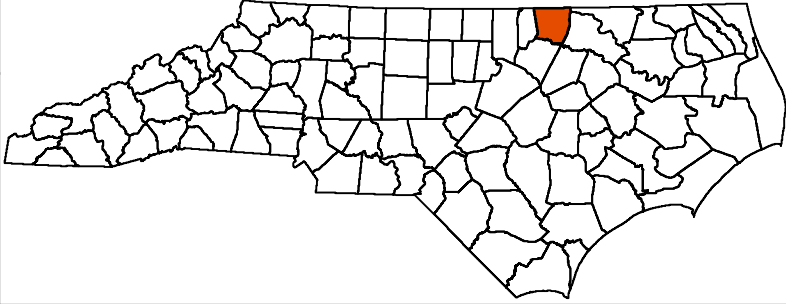
**Reedy Creek Tract
Warren County
~485 Acres**





 Reedy Creek Tract
 Game Land



Reedy Creek Tract
Warren County
~485 Acres



-  Reedy Creek Tract
-  Game Land

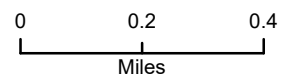


Exhibit D-3

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name:

Lee Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): April 19, 2023

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

Pittman Robertson	\$70,000
Total:	\$70,000

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
State Property Office	Shackelford Appraisals, LLC	June 12, 2023	\$57,000.00

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	\$4,650.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit D-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	Expense Type	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Marking	0.50	miles		\$300	\$150.00
Parking Area	1	Ea.		\$4,500.00	4,500.00
TOTAL					\$4,650.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				\$0.00

April 19, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Chesley Ward
Date First Presented to Commission:	April 19, 2023
Tract Name:	Lee Tract
County:	Bladen
Acreage:	11.36
Tax Value:	\$20,806
Property Owner/Representative:	Owner - Guy Lee / Representative - Eddie Nye, Nationwide Realty, LLC
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

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

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

2019	Year Assessed
No	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

PR	Source:
75/25	Match:

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" 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:

Acquisition of this parcel will bring the Suggs Mill Pond Game Land boundary to the public right-of-way on Live Oak Methodist Church Road, providing better access and longleaf pine plant community restoration opportunities.

April 19, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Lee Tract
County:	Bladen

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Lee tract is a +/- 11.36-acre property in Bladen County that is adjacent to Suggs Mill Pond Game Land. It shares +/- 1,880 feet of common boundary with the game land and has +/- 570 feet of frontage along Live Oak Methodist Church Road.

1.5 acres has a relative conservation value of 10 on a 1 to 10 scale from the Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat Assessment conducted by the NC Natural Heritage Program. Another 4 acres of the tract has a value of 7 from that same assessment. 190 feet of Lake Run passes through the tract, which would be protected if acquired. Lake Run is the drainage out of Little Singletary Lake, which is connected to the Cape Fear River by Ellis Creek.

Approximately 5.5 acres of the property will provide opportunity to be restored to a longleaf pine community type. Mature longleaf pines are currently scattered across the upland portions of the tract.

WRC biologists have identified thirty Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are likely to occur on the Lee tract as it currently exists.

Tract Name	Lee tract
Date	April 19, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Chesley Ward

Species	0.407
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1

Comments
Overall biodiversity for terrestrial and wetland species is low because there are only two habitat types on the property and the tract is only 11.36 acres in size. Thirty Species of Greatest Conservation Need are likely to exist on the property because of the longleaf pine community type on the uplands coupled with its location to much more, better, and more diverse habitats on the adjacent Suggs Mill Pond Game Land. The Lake Run makes up the aquatic habitat where the Banded Sunfish is likely to occur and good waterfowl hunting opportunities exist in the run and the adjacent floodplain.

Habitat	0.389
Size	0
Quality	1
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	2
Buffer	2

Comments
Due to the size and quality of the habitats on this property, it scores low for most of the metrics in this section. It provides good connectivity to Suggs Mill Pond Game Land and provides additional buffer to aquatic resources and prescribed burning on the game land.

Public Access	0.222
Hunting/Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
Access to the property for hunting, trapping, & wildlife viewing is good because it is adjacent to the public right-of-way and access is good. There are no fishing & boating opportunities.

Wildlife Uses	0.200
Hunting	1
Viewing	1
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
Average hunting opportunities exist for deer, turkey, a handful of small game species. Good waterfowl hunting opportunities exist in a small area along the Lake Run. Wildlife viewing opportunities are similarly average.

Other Values	0.333
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	1
Quality of Life	1

Comments
There is good opportunity to manage and harvest timber resources but the size is small.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.600
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	2
Proximity to Users	1

Comments
The property would connect the Suggs Mill Pond Game Land boundary to the public right-of-way.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.583
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	1

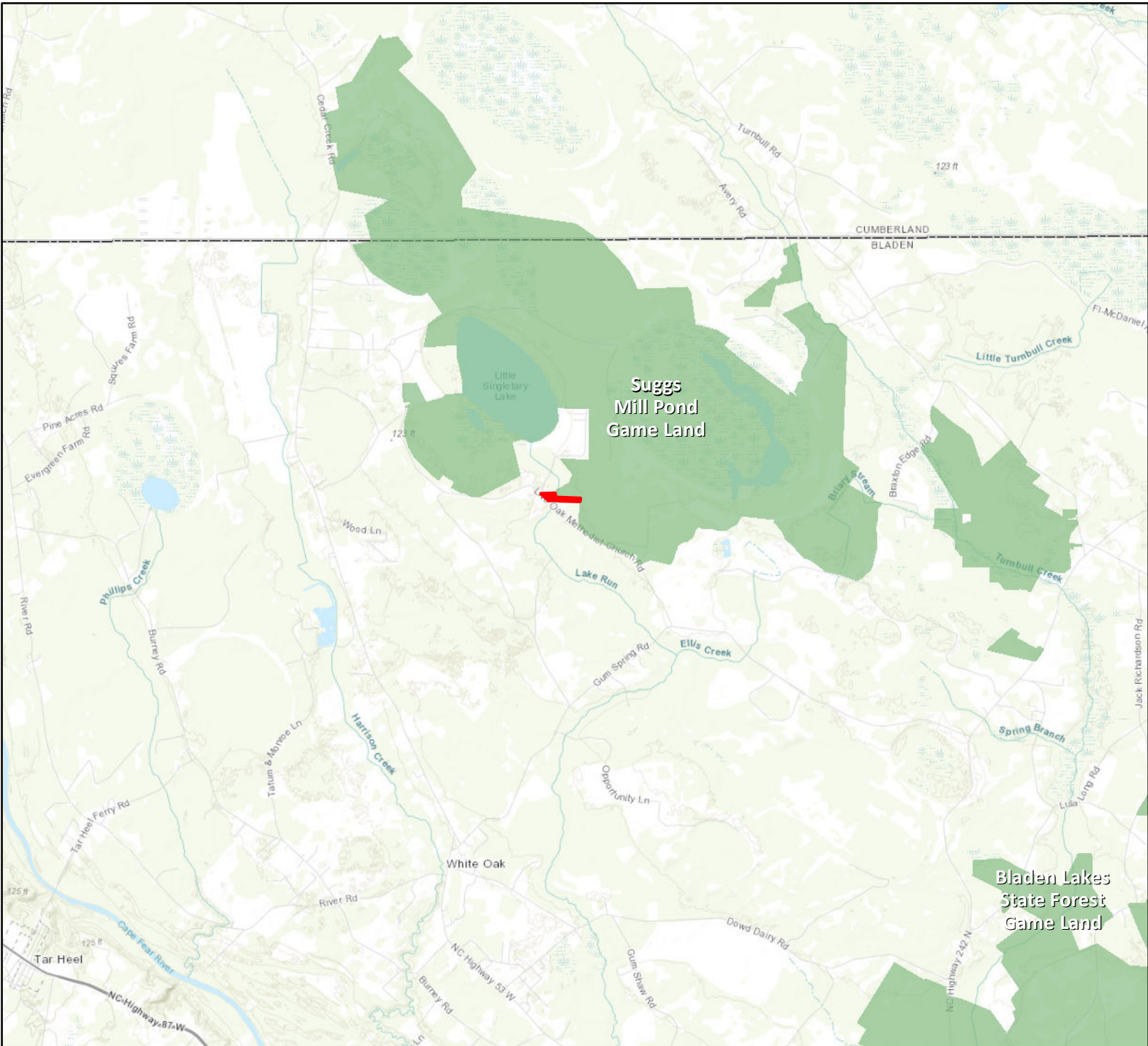
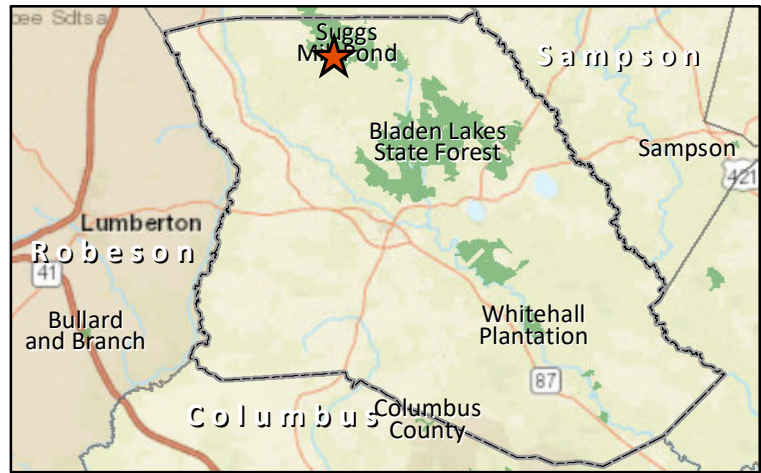
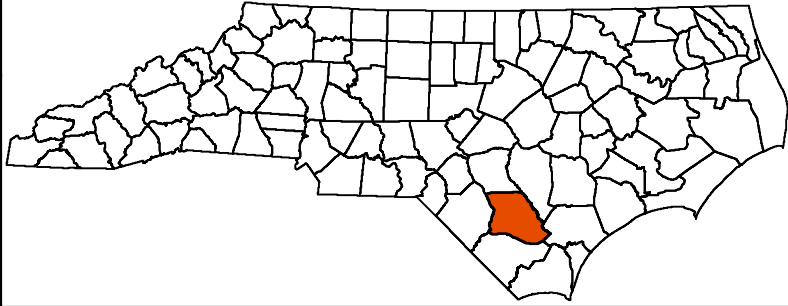
Comments
Good opportunities exist for species & habitat restoration & improvement. Timber thinning & burning will significantly improve overall conditions for the longleaf pine habitat on the property as well as the ecotone with the adjacent wetland.

Threats	0.333
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	2
Manageability	0
Management Cost	1

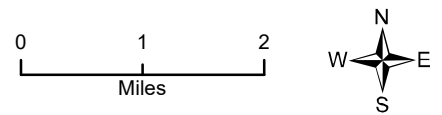
Comments
Clearcut timber harvest and conversion to a residential site are the threats to this property. Imminence is near since many small parcels of land are being sold and converted to residential sites along the NC-53 corridor from Fayetteville to Elizabethtown. This tract will most likely become residential outside of WRC ownership.

Overall Score	2.402
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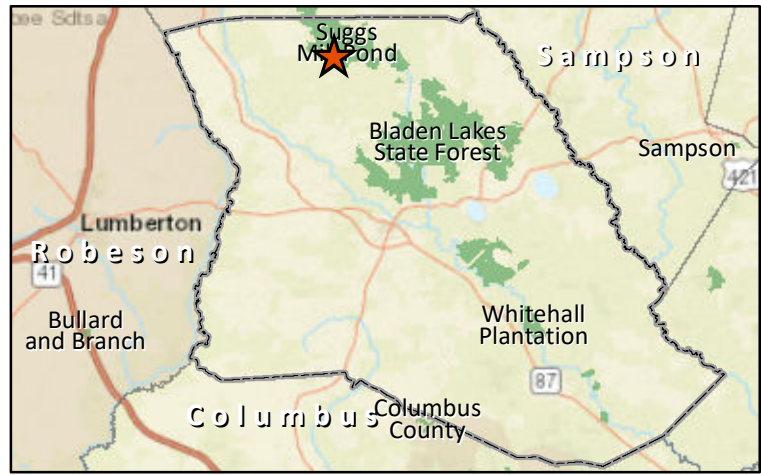
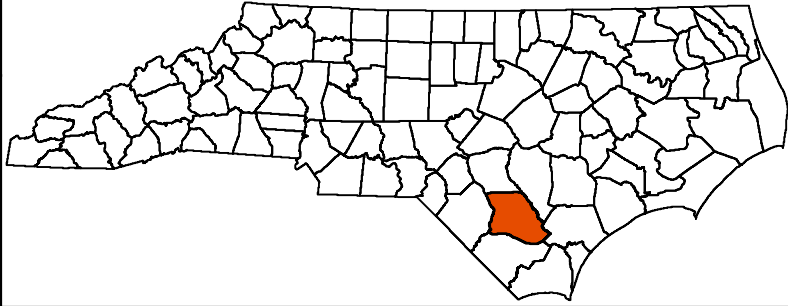
**Lee Tract
Bladen County
11 Acres**



-  Lee Tract
-  Game Land



**Lee Tract
Bladen County
11 Acres**



-  Lee Tract
-  Game Land

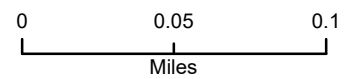


Exhibit D-4

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name:

TAGM Tract

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

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

Donation from Blue Ridge 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	\$17,833.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit D-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
Boundary Marking	6500	ft	\$1.00	\$6,500.00
Parking Area	0.33	mile	\$25,000.00	\$8,333.00
Establish Parking Area	1	Ea.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
TOTAL				\$17,833.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				\$0.00

December 7, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson
Date First Presented to Commission:	July 12, 2023
Tract Name:	TAGM (Three Top Mountain GL)
County:	Ashe
Acreage:	102 acres
Tax Value:	\$257,400
Property Owner/Representative:	Blue Ridge Conservancy (Eric Hiegl)
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

<p>Primary Purpose:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Management <input type="checkbox"/> User Access <input type="checkbox"/> WRC Facility	<p>Program Potential:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Game Land <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Conservation Area <input type="checkbox"/> Access Area <input type="checkbox"/> None
<p>Type of Acquisition:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purchase <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement	<p>Type of Parcel:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tract <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Corridor
<p>Grant Potential:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> CWMTF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Owner Interest:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Tax Value:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> ? Year Assessed <input type="checkbox"/> PUJ?	<p>Stewardship Considerations:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Source: Federal Aid: 75% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Match: State: 25%
<p>Funding Considerations:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/> Bargain Sale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner Contribution	<p>Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
<p>Recommendation:</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pursue <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Pursue <input type="checkbox"/> Defer	

Additional Comments:

Blue Ridge Conservancy (BRC) has a purchase contract on the 102 acre TAGM property with plans to close at end of March. BRC plans to purchase the tract with a Land Water Fund grant and private funds. The tract adjoins current Three Top Mountain GL. This tract will be a great addition to Three Top Mountain GL for resource protection and solidifying WRC ownership

December 7, 2023

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

Tract Name:	TAGM
County:	Ashe

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The property adjoins Three Top Rd, but due to topography access is via deeded ROW along an existing soil road. There is potential for upgrading the soil road to provide public access, but this will need further investigating. The 102 acre TAGM property consists primarily of Southern and Central Appalachian Oak and Northern Hardwood Forest types. A large utility corridor is maintained through the property and provides approximately 6 acres of shrub-scrub habitat. There have been recent timber harvests throughout the property and will provide opportunities to maintain areas in young forest types. The entire property is part of the Three Top Mountain Natural Area with several significant natural communities noted by Natural Heritage (both R and C ratings are "Exceptional"). SGCN have not been documented on the tract. Those SGCN likely found on the tract include ruffed grouse, box turtle, wood thrush, worm-eating warbler, northern pygmy salamander, northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and little brown bat. Common game species found on the tract include white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and gray squirrel. Management objectives will include maintaining/restoring priority wildlife habitats, and continuing to provide public access and increased opportunity for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.

Tract Name
Date
Staff Completing Form

TAGM
January 17, 2023
Paul Thompson

Species	0.222
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Moderate biodiversity is based on large abundance of closed canopy Appalachian oak forest. This property lacks any available aquatic habitats. Neither rare species nor habitats have been documented on the tract.

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

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good. Recent timber harvests and the utility corridor provide some habitat diversity. The property has been noted by Natural Heritage to have several unique habitat communities. The property does provide good connectivity and buffer for these natural communities that are also found on Three Top Mountain GL.

Public Access	0.333
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
This tract will provide a connection to other portions of Three Top Mtn GL and provide public with additional access. No water is located on the tract, so there are no fishing/boating opportunities.

Wildlife Uses	0.333
Hunting	2
Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
The property offers good hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Educational opportunities will be low. No significant water is located on the tract, so there are no fishing/boating opportunities.

Other Values	0.556
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Comments
The tract can produce good timber, but the value can only be considered low due to recent harvests and likely NHP dedication restrictions. There would be significant benefit to the local economy, especially if the Northern Peaks Trail is constructed.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.733
Existing Infrastructure	2
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	2
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	2
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

Comments
A system of logging roads provide access to the interior. The existence of multiple uses on the tract and the compatibility with adjoining land shouldn't create any issues. This tract will help solidify WRC ownership and become part of a large corridor at Three Top Mountain.

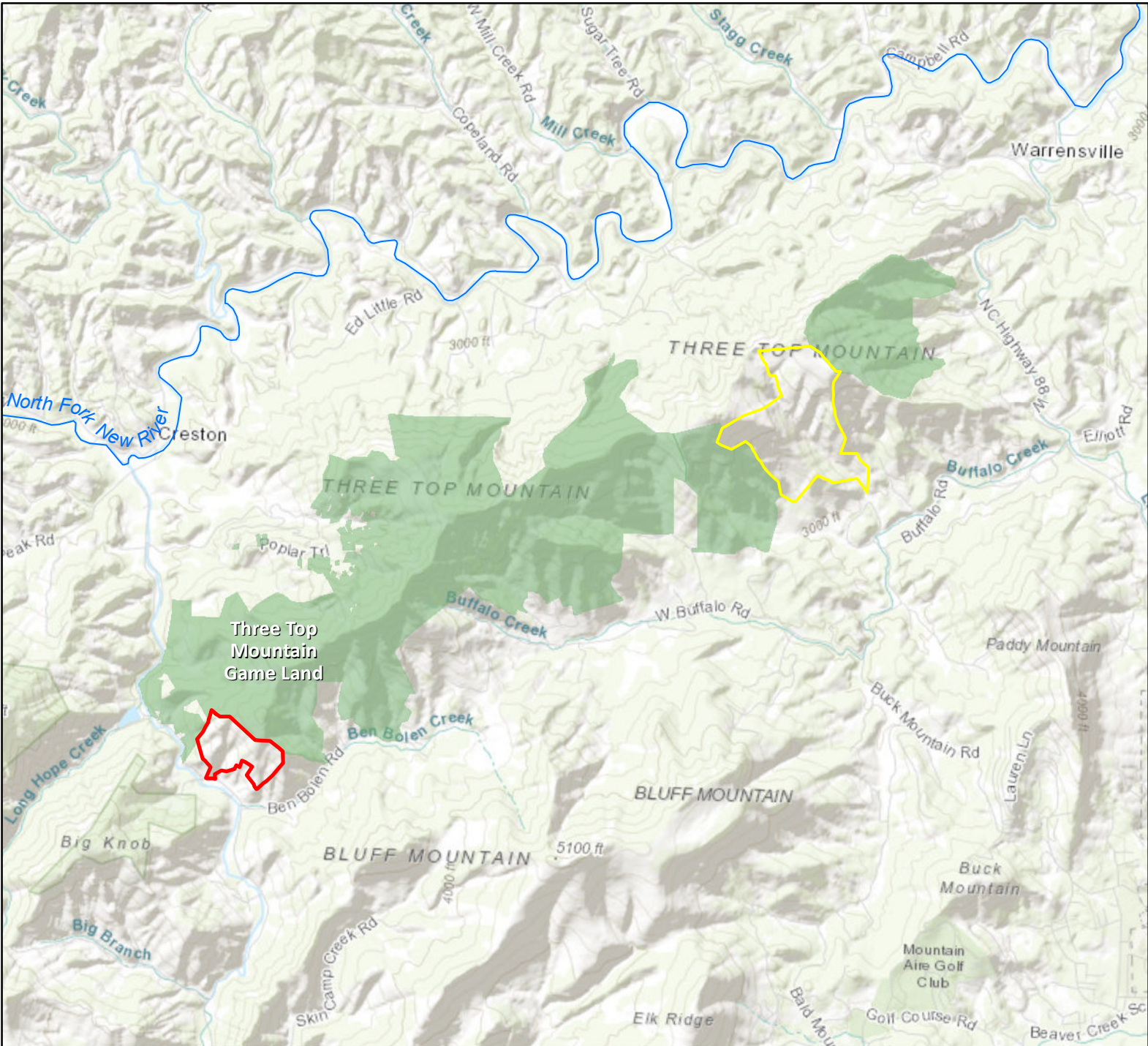
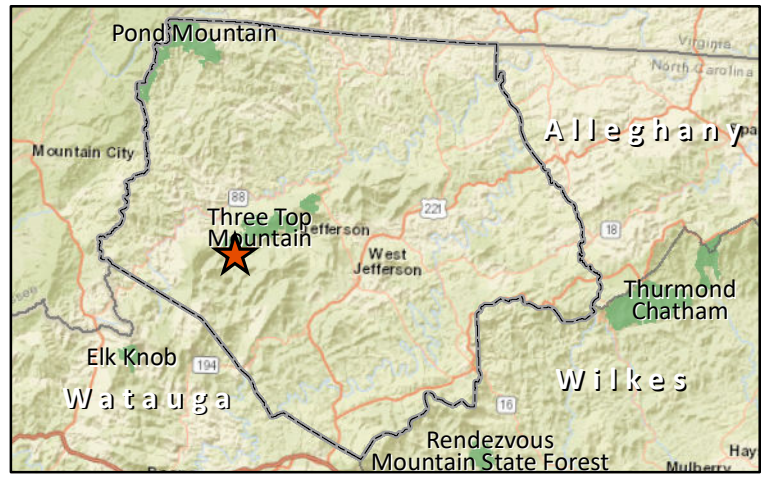
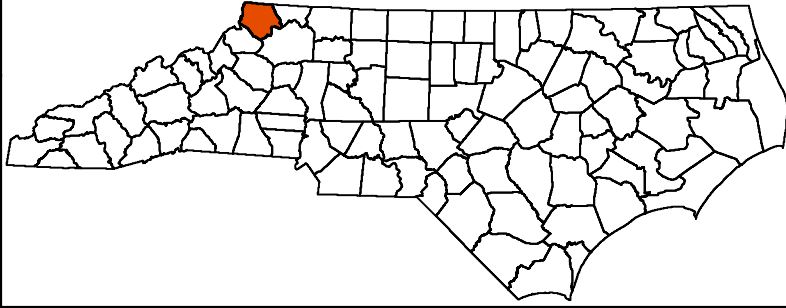
Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.750
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	3


Comments
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate. This tract will ensure continued public access across the Three Top Mtn GL, thus the rank is high.

Threats	0.000
Number	0
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

Comments
Blue Ridge Conservancy has a purchase contract on this tract with a closing date in the near future, so threats will be avoidable.

**TAGM LLC Tract
Ashe County
102 Acres**

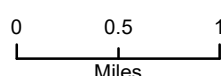





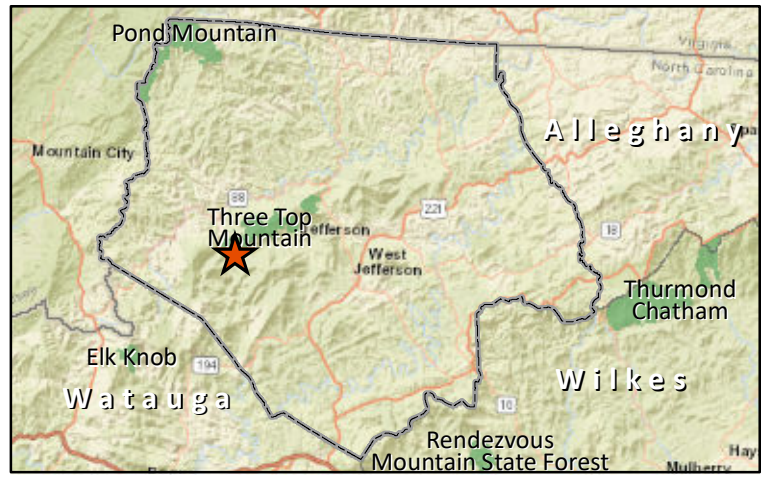
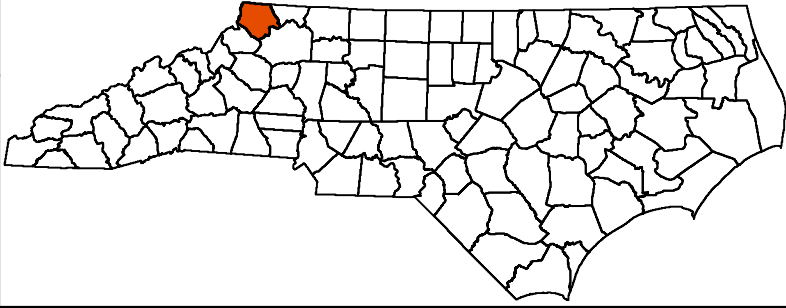
TAGM LCC Tract



Game Land

Three Top East Addition (Pending)

**TAGM LLC Tract
Ashe County
102 Acres**



-  TAGM LLC Tract
-  Game Land

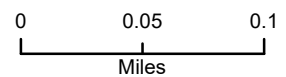


Exhibit D-5

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name:

Lowland Marina

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): April 13, 2022

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

CRFL Grant	\$365,000.00
State Funds	\$365,000.00
Total	\$730,000.00

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	December 7, 2022	\$730,000.00

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

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

MBA Grant and State Funds

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$7,000.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit D-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 Parking Area	1	Ea.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Repair of Existing Pier	1	Ea.	\$2,000	\$2,000.00
TOTAL				\$7,000.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				\$0.00

December 7, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Brent Wilson
Date First Presented to Commission:	
Tract Name:	Lowland Marina
County:	Pamlico
Acreage:	7.7, according to deed
Listed Price:	Not currently listed
Tax Value:	\$184,016
Property Owner/Representative:	Goose Creek Lodge LLC c/o David Swain
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	2019	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>		PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Source: MBA4 grant and state funds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Match: 75%:25%

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" 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:
 Tract was purchased by the current owner in 2014 for \$200,000 with numerous property improvements made, most notably removal of old watercraft and mobile homes, improvement of the parking area and boat launch facility.

December 7, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Lowland Marina
County:	Pamlico

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The acquisition would provide for a public launch site in Lowland with potentially over two acres that could be developed for parking. Historically, waterfowl hunter access to the Pamlico Point Impoundments of Goose Creek Game Land, as well as sea duck hunters and fishing access to the Pamlico Sound in the Lowland vicinity was by a private landing on Oyster Creek Road. Most of the boat launches for staff management activities also originate from Oyster Creek Landing. The Oyster Creek Landing ownership changed 2 years ago, with the current owner threatening to close to public use. The WRC offers 700+ potential waterfowl hunts through the permit opportunities program for the Pamlico Point Impoundments, which has notoriety statewide and beyond. Significant management expense is committed at Pamlico Point Impoundments alone, not only for waterfowl hunting opportunity but also providing critical habitat for overwintering waterfowl and migratory shorebirds, so is essential to continue. The closest WRC BAA is Smith Creek at 11 miles from Pamlico Point, which is not a viable trip in poor watercraft navigation weather, especially occurring well before dawn in the case of waterfowl hunters. While the overall tract score the assessment worksheet is low, since many resource values are not applicable for the intended use, but it scores well in appropriate categories.

Tract Name	Lowland Marina
Date	March 31, 2022
Staff Completing Form	Brent Wilson

Species	0.000
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	
SGCN Species	
Game Species	
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	
SGCN Species	
Game Species	
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	
SGCN Species	
Game Species	

Comments
N/A

Habitat	0.000
Size	
Quality	
Diversity	
Rare/Important	
Connectivity	
Buffer	

Comments
N/A

Public Access	1.000
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	3

Comments
Will allow for public access anticipated to be lost by closure of a private boat launch servicing a highly utilized area.

Wildlife Uses	0.600
Hunting	3
Viewing	
Fishing	3
Boating	3
Education	

Comments
Potentially a primary water access point for game land users and for public fishing opportunity.

Other Values	0.556
Timber Harvest	
Local Economy	3
Quality of Life	2

Comments
Largely rural with agriculture and fishing-related businesses as the primary employers, Pamlico County is ranked by the NC Dept. of Commerce as a Tier 2 county based on economic well-being. Economic contributions in the form of purchases by non-county resident hunting and fishing participants is significant.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.400
Existing Infrastructure	1
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	2
Inholding/Corridor	
Proximity to Users	3

Comments
Existing ramp that may need augmentation to accommodate anticipated level of use during permit waterfowl hunts. About one-half of the site is developed and has been maintained as either gravel or mowed grass. Additional area would need to be cleared for supplemental parking.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.000
Species Restoration	
Habitat Restoration	
Access Improvement	
Threat Mitigation	

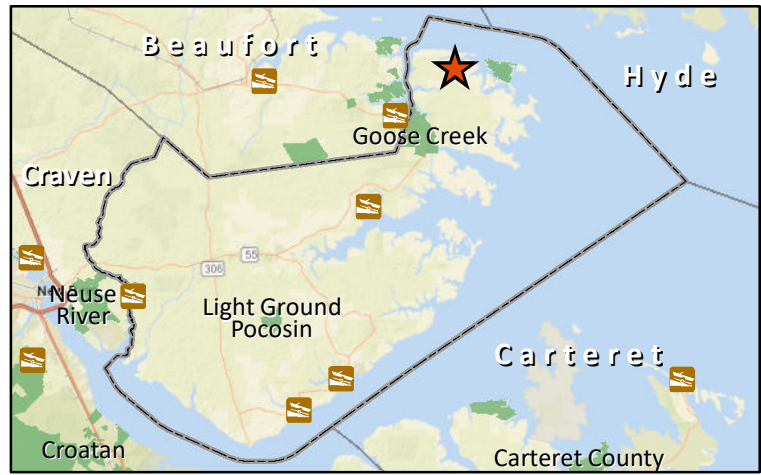
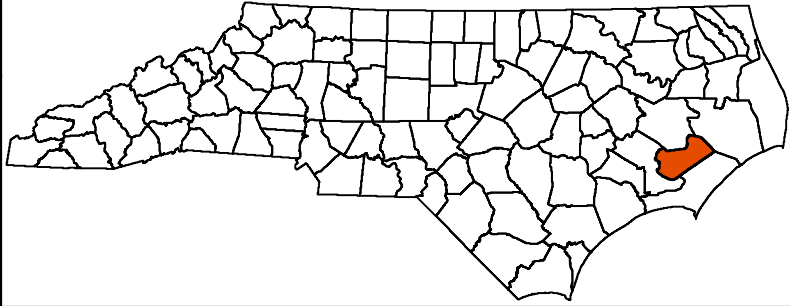
Comments
N/A

Threats	0.400
Number	
Severity	3
Imminence	3
Manageability	
Management Cost	

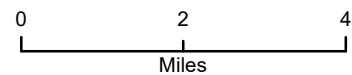
Comments
Closure timeline of the current Oyster Creek Road access is undetermined but would have significant negative public access and public relations consequences with WRC constituents. Although not currently pursuing a sale, the owner of this alternate site recognizes our potential public access issue and has been accommodating to discuss WRC property acquisition interests. While Mr. Swain is still able to enjoy his property, he is not a young man and the next generation may have different ideas about use of the property if a decision is deferred until much later.

Overall Score	2.156
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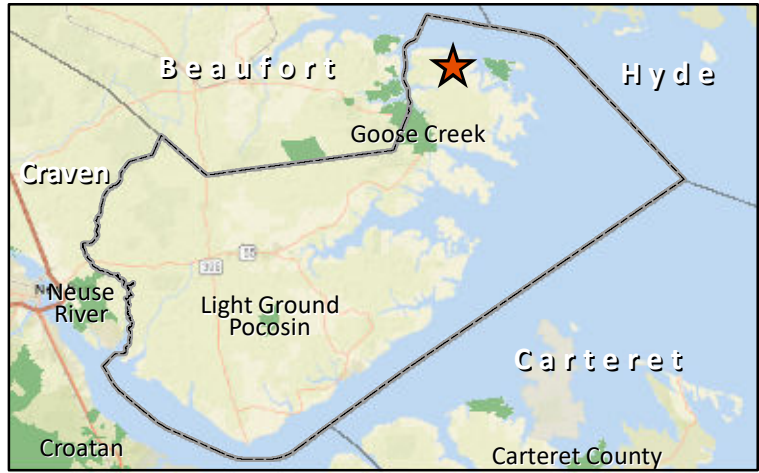
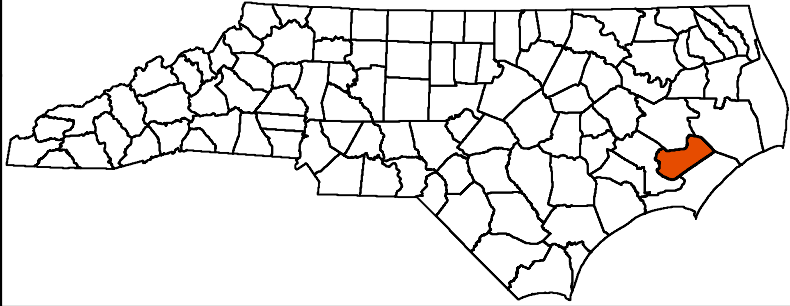
**Lowland Marina
Pamlico County
7.7 Acres**




- Lowland Marina Tract
- Game Land
- Boating Access Area



**Lowland Marina
Pamlico County
7.7 Acres**



 Lowland Marina Tract

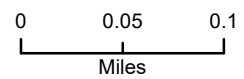


EXHIBIT E-1

December 7, 2023



☒ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ☒

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

December 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daron Barnes, Division Chief
Land and Water Access

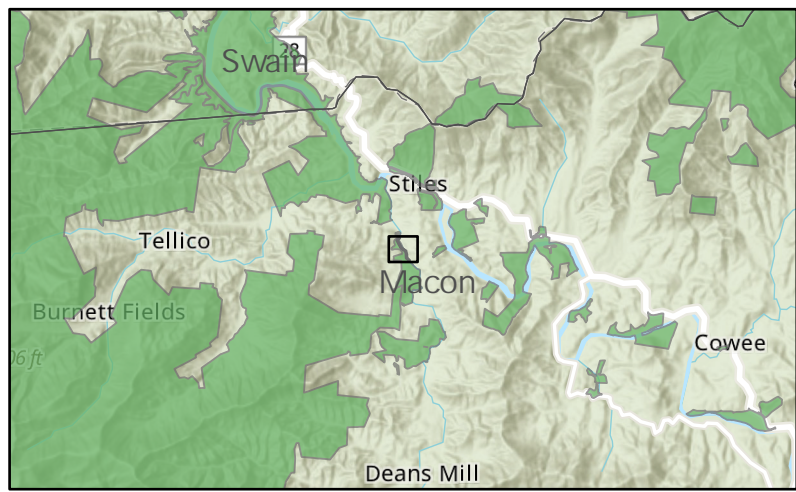
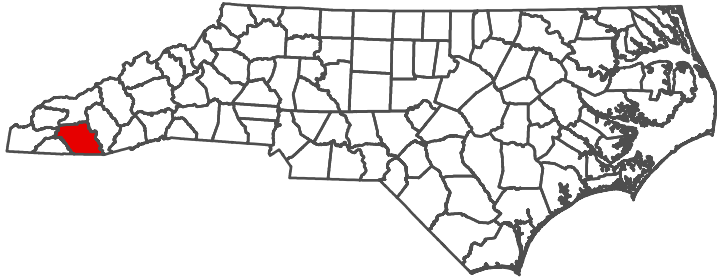
FROM: Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager
Land and Water Access




SUBJECT: Burningtown Easement Request - Macon County

Duke Energy seeks a Right of Way easement on Needmore Game Land in Macon County. Duke plans to relocate the existing power line in this area. The easement will grant Duke the ability to install the new overhead line, trim and cut down trees, limbs and undergrowth, and access the power line for maintenance purposes.

The easement value will be determined by the State Property Office at fair market value.

Burningtown Easement Request Needmore Game Land Macon County



-  New Install Line
-  Easement Request - 20' buffer from centerline
-  NCWRC Game Lands

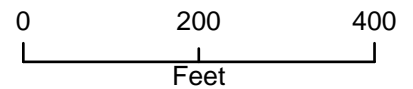


EXHIBIT E-2

December 7, 2023



☒ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ☒

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

December 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daron Barnes, Division Chief
Land and Water Access

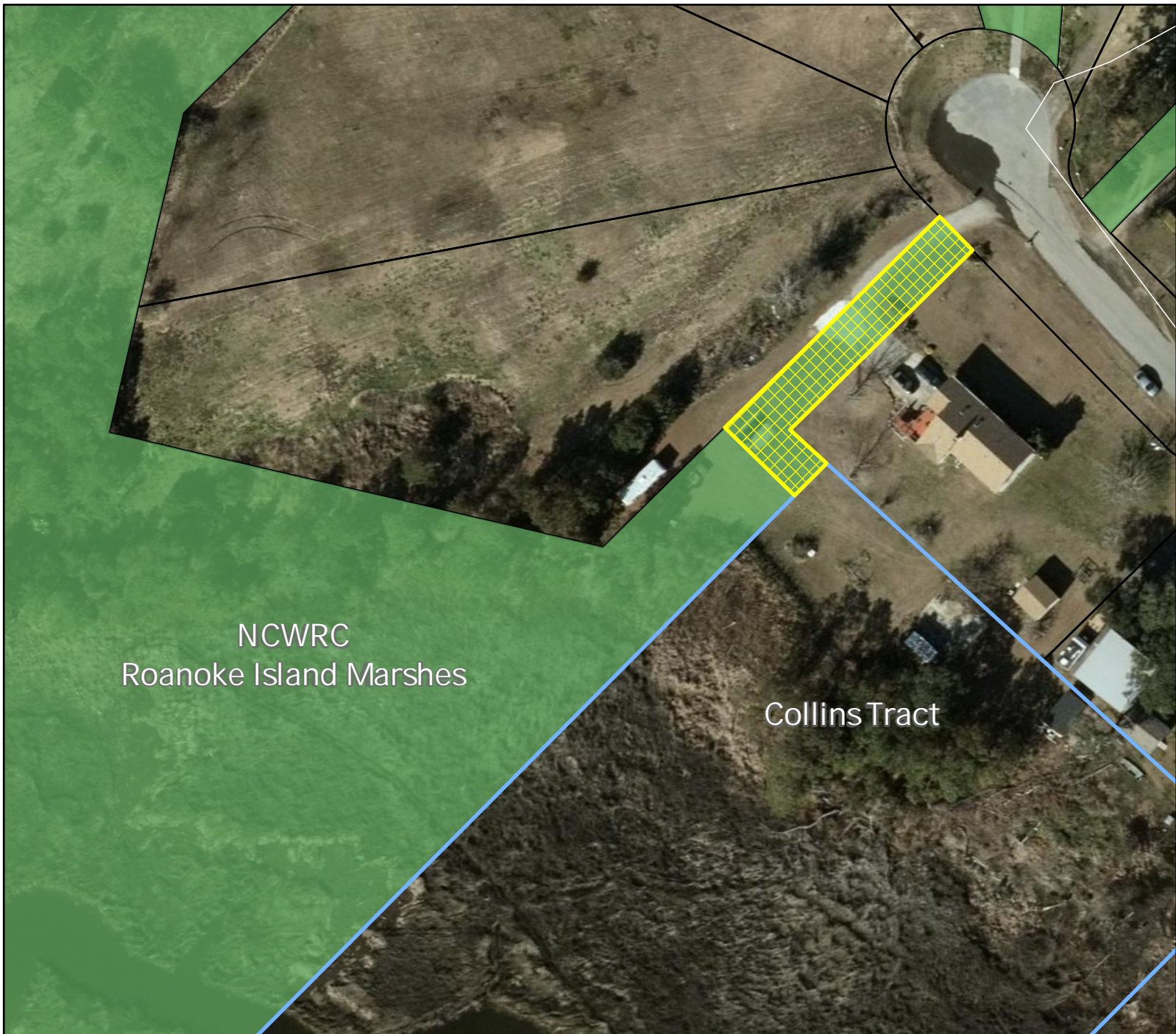
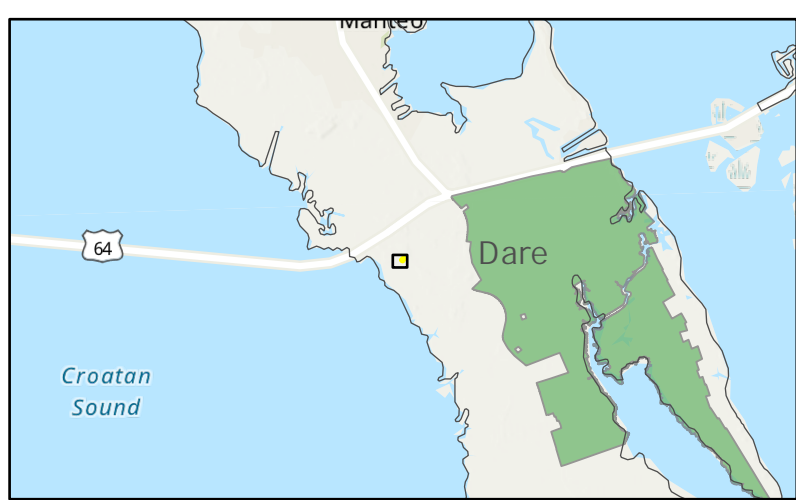
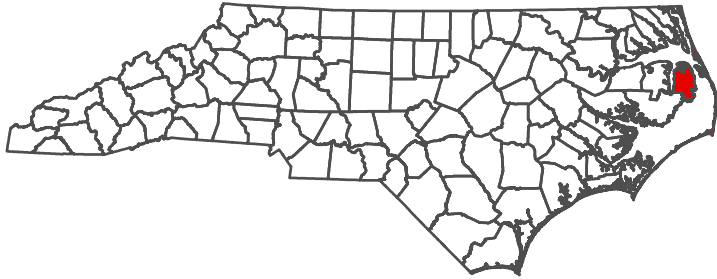
FROM: Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager
Land and Water Access



SUBJECT: Roanoke Marsh Easement Request - Dare County



A private landowner seeks a Right of Way easement on Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County. The landowner requests an easement for ingress, egress and utilities.

The easement value will be determined by the State Property Office at fair market value.

Easement Request Roanoke Island Marshes Dare County



 20' Easement
 Request NCWRC
Property

 Collins Tract
 Parcels

0 50 100
Feet

EXHIBIT E-3

December 7, 2023



☒ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ☒

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

December 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daron Barnes, Division Chief
Land and Water Access

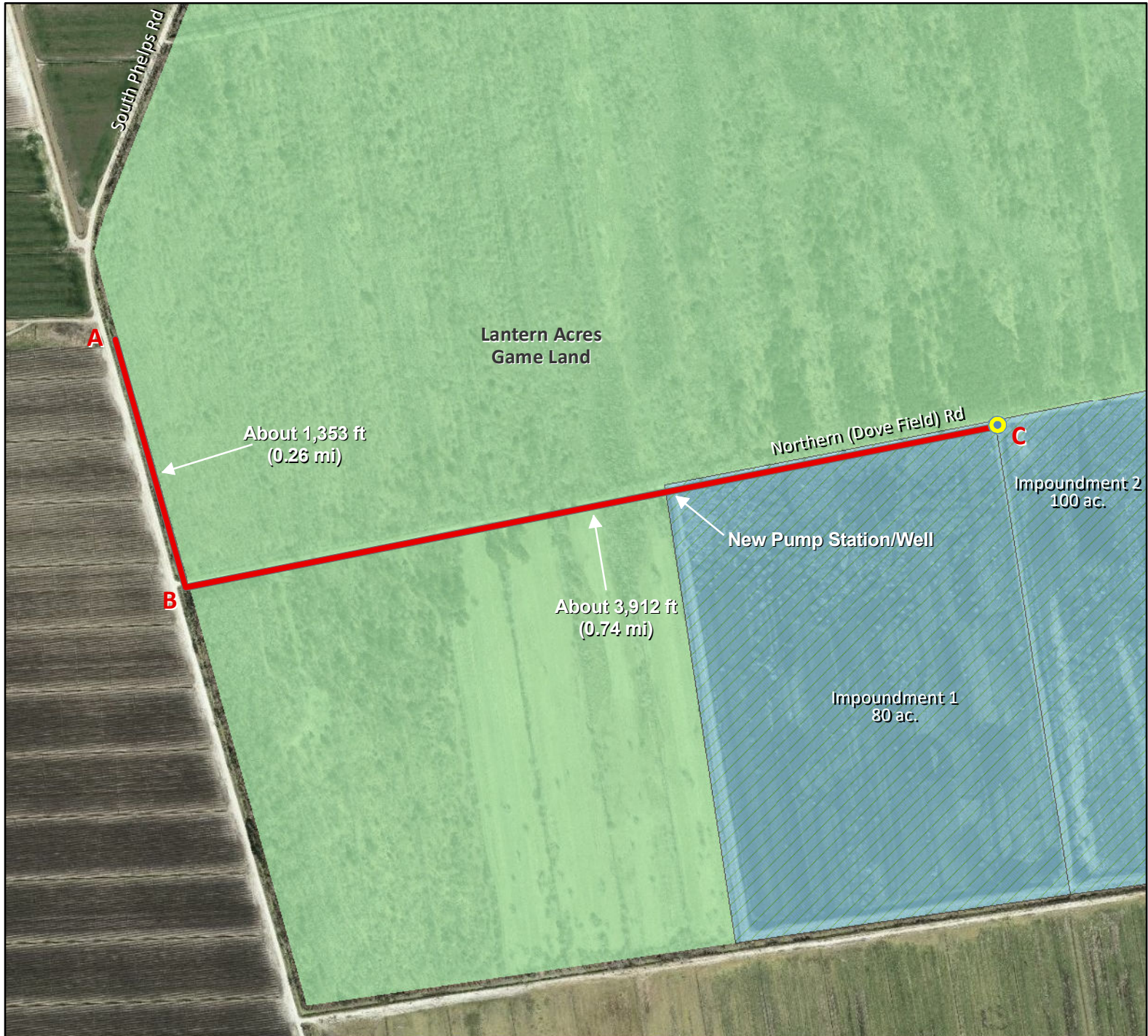
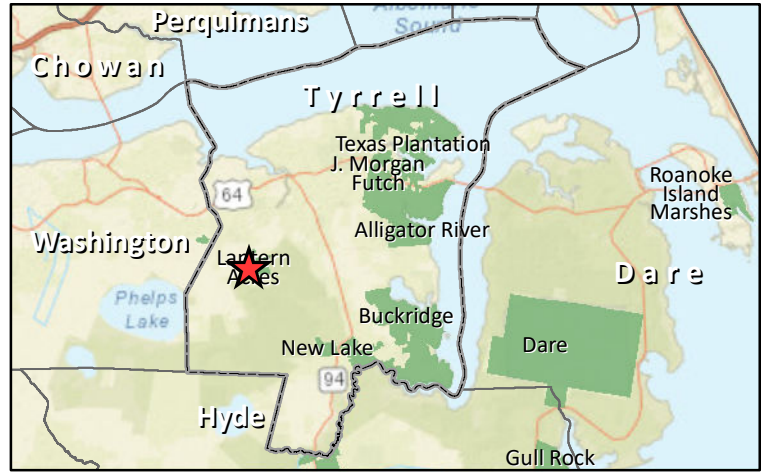
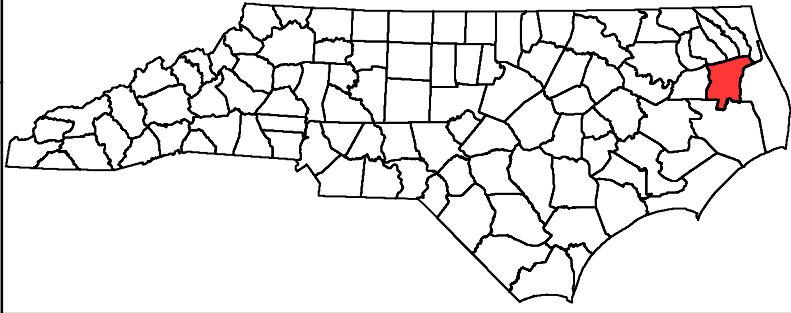
FROM: Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager
Land and Water Access

SUBJECT: Dominion Easement Request - Tyrrell County

The Commission is planning to replace infrastructure at the Lantern Acres Impoundment in Tyrrell County. In order for the Commission to install the needed pump infrastructure, Dominion Energy must install an underground powerline along the access road to the impoundment. Dominion Energy requests a utility easement along approximately 1 mile of the access road.

Staff recommend seeking Commission approval to grant Dominion Energy a ROW utility easement to install utilities for this important project at no cost.

Lantern Acres Game Land Dominion Utility Easement Request Tyrrell County



● Current Pump Station/Well

■ 20-ft Line ROW

Game Land

Waterfowl Impoundment

0 500 1,000

Feet

EXHIBIT E-4

December 7, 2023



☒ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ☒

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

December 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daron Barnes, Division Chief
Land and Water Access

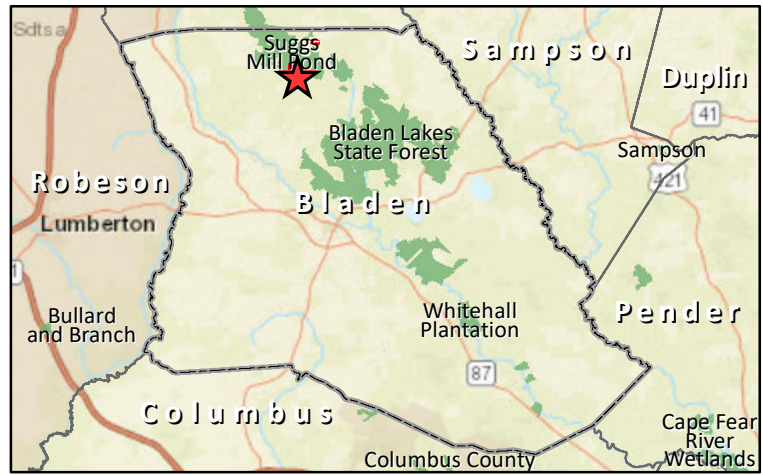
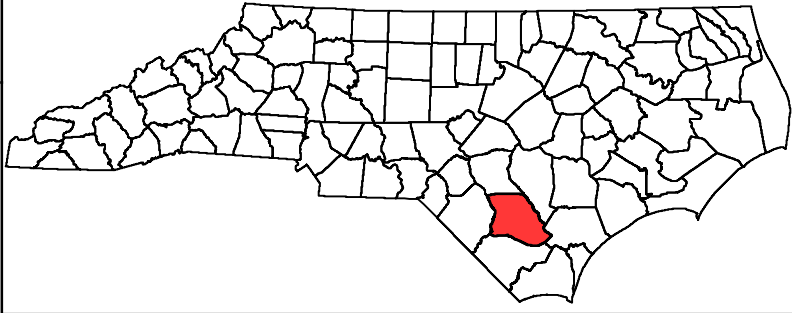
FROM: Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager
Land and Water Access


SUBJECT: Star TMC Easement Request - Bladen County

Star TMC has requested a utilities easement on Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Tyrrell County. The easement will allow Star TMC to install fiber optic cable along two existing game land roads.

The easement value for the 950 yard segment that provides no benefit to the Commission will be determined by the State Property Office at fair market value. The southernmost 3,340 yard segment of the easement was requested by Commission staff for purposes of providing fiber internet to the depot and house. Compensation will not be required for this portion of the easement.

Suggs Mill Pond Game Land Star TMS Easement Request Bladen County





- Star TMS Easement Request
- Game Land Road
- Game Land Trail

- Bear Management Area
- Waterfowl Impoundment

0 500 1,000
Yards




EXHIBIT E-5

December 7, 2023



☒ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ☒

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

December 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Daron Barnes, Division Chief
Land and Water Access

FROM: Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager
Land and Water Access

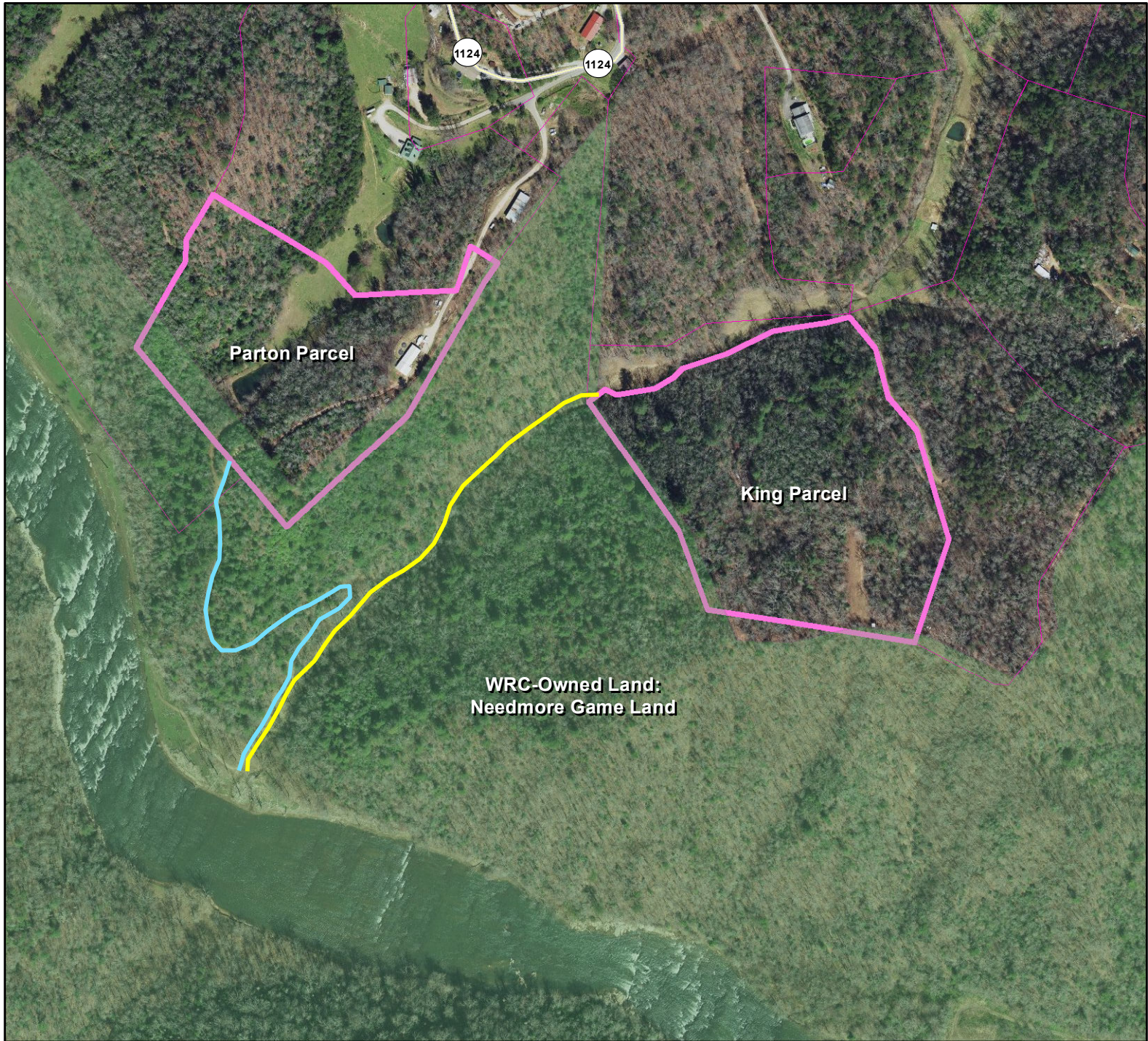
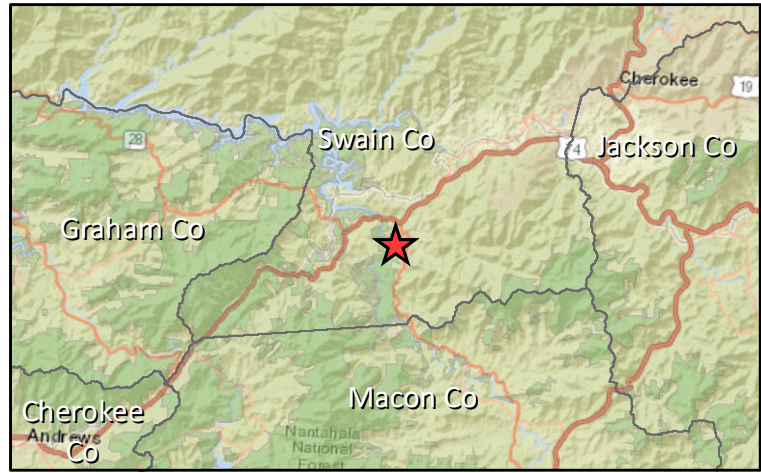
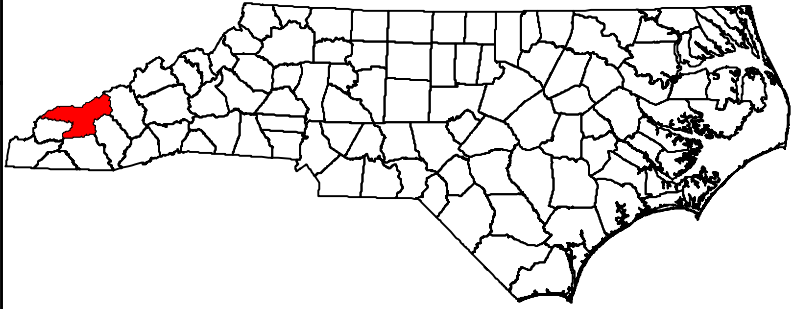
SUBJECT: King-Parton Easement Request - Swain County

The King and Parton families have requested a Right of Way easement on Needmore Game Land in Swain County. The easement would allow ingress and egress from their private properties, across game land, for purposes of accessing the Little Tennessee River. Both families claim to have used the soil roads for well over 100 years, dating back to when the property was owned by Nantahala Power and Light Company.

This property was conveyed from Nantahala Power and Light Company, to Duke Energy, to The Nature Conservancy and finally the Commission, at which time the property was enrolled in game lands. Currently there is no recorded Right of Way permitting either family ingress and egress across game land to the Little Tennessee River by vehicle or ATV. However, historical use of these internal game land roads by the King and Parton families presents the potential for an existing easement by prescription or implication.

The easement value will be determined by the State Property Office at fair market value.

King / Parton Right of Way Request Needmore Game Land Swain County



- King Parcel ROW - 1511 ft
- Parton Parcel ROW - 1606 ft
- Parcels

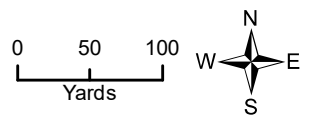


EXHIBIT F-1

December 7, 2023



Public Comments for Proposed Hunter Education Course Rules 15A NCAC 10K .0101 Course Requirements

Choices	Responses	
Support	0%	0
Do Not Support	100%	1
No Preference	0%	0
Total		0

Number	Comment
1	<p>Dear Coordinator, I am opposed to removing the previous mandate and verbiage in the Hunter education course rules related to firearms safety. As a rural property owner I have, up until recently, supported hunting for sport and sustenance and on occasion, allowed several hunters who were respectful and responsible enough to ask, given limited permission to hunt on our cattle farm. Unfortunately, those individuals are no longer able to continue the sport. Over the past two years I am increasingly concerned with the "new" generation of hunters in NC. For the past two years we have been forced to employ 24/7 surveillance of our property and livestock during deer season due to the increased numbers and frequency of hunters that not only are trespassing without ever attempting to ask permission, but who are engaging in hunting well after dark. The hunters are discharging firearms in close proximity to our house between the hours of 9 pm and until as late/early as 3 am. Last November during one of the evening alterations, I was standing under my porch at approximately 12:45 am. I noticed the red infrared light from a rifle scope trained on the head of my wolfhound. Almost immediately upon seeing this and looking towards the direction of the infrared, the person moved the beam from my dog to my center chest and then the center of my forehead. Up until the previously mentioned encounter, I have never felt uneasy nor threatened by any hunter. After that encounter and multiple other encounters with rifles being discharged across our pasture and less than 50 feet from our home, I absolutely feel threatened. It is unfortunate that the sport has become infiltrated with unethical and dangerous actions by individuals who display such disrespect for private property and human lives. It is my fear that removing this requirement will increase the number of incidences like what I have encountered. I would urge you and your agency to actively investigate and monitor the 100 NC counties for such occurrences and to swiftly and harshly enforce the laws in place. However, until and unless hunters begin to exhibit good judgment</p>

	and common sense, I strongly urge you to continue to require at minimum the current firearms safety requirements. Regards, Lisa Stroup
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

15A NCAC 10K .0102 Issuance of Certificate of Competency

No public comments received.

15A NCAC 10K .0103 Instructor Certification

No public comments received.

One public hearing was held on November 9, 2023.

EXHIBIT F-2

December 7, 2023



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10K .0100 Hunter Education Course Rules Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Rules in this Subchapter are determined to be “necessary with substantive public interest” and are required to be readopted as part of the periodic review.

15A NCAC 10K .0101

Proposed rule language has been updated to reduce redundancy with general statute and align with the current rule formatting requirements.

15A NCAC 10K .0101 COURSE REQUIREMENTS (pg. 2)

15A NCAC 10K .0102

Proposed amendments clarify that hunter education courses completed in other states or provinces are recognized if the course meets or exceeds the IHEA standards. Additionally, rule language has been updated to clarify and align with the general statutes and current rule formatting requirements.

15A NCAC 10K .0102 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY (pg. 3)

15A NCAC 10K .0103

The following amendments are proposed in addition to updating rule language to clarify and align with current rule formatting requirements:

- Remove the allowance of an abbreviated HE Instructor course for teachers and individuals certified as instructors in other states; and
- Increase the passing score for hunter education instructors from 75% to 80%.

15A NCAC 10K .0103 INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION (pg. 4)

1 **15A NCAC 10K .0101 COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

2 (a) ~~The Commission shall provide a hunter education~~ Individuals who wish to procure a hunting license, as required
3 by G.S. 113-270.1B, shall attend a Commission-approved basic hunter education course and obtain a certificate of
4 competency.

5 (b) ~~Commission-approved basic hunter education courses include either an instructor-led course with a minimum of~~
6 ~~six hours of instruction or a Commission-approved self-paced, independent study option course that instructs on at~~
7 ~~least the topics identified in Paragraph (b) of this Rule. G.S. 113-270.1A(b). Information on instructor-led~~
8 ~~Commission-approved courses and registration for the self-paced study option can be found at [ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org). is at~~
9 ~~<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting/BeforetheHunt/HunterEducationCourses.aspx>. Both the instructor led and self-~~
10 ~~paced study option courses shall meet the standards adopted by the International Hunter Education Association,~~
11 ~~including all subsequent amendments, found at [http://ihea-usa.org/hunting-and-shooting/hunter-education/ihea-](http://ihea-usa.org/hunting-and-shooting/hunter-education/ihea-standards)~~
12 ~~standards.~~

13 (b) ~~Of the instruction required by Paragraph (a) of this Rule, 60 percent of the time shall be devoted to instruction~~
14 ~~related to the safe handling of firearms. The remaining course time shall include instruction on hunter responsibility~~
15 ~~(ethics), wildlife conservation, and wildlife management; and may include wildlife identification, game care, specialty~~
16 ~~hunting, survival and first aid, water safety, and special concerns (alcohol and drugs, turkey hunting, trapping, all~~
17 ~~terrain vehicles, and hunting dogs).~~

18 (c) ~~The hunter education course shall be administered by an instructor certified by the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

19 (d) (c) ~~The following requirements must be satisfied by the course participant in order to successfully complete a basic~~
20 ~~hunter education course and be entitled to the issuance of a Certificate of Competency:~~

- 21 (1) ~~complete all of the six hours of instruction in the instructor-led course or all the material contained~~
22 ~~in the independent study course; and~~
- 23 (2) ~~score a minimum of 70 percent on the final examination; and examination.~~
- 24 (3) ~~review safe firearm handling skills, except current and former military personnel, current and former~~
25 ~~law enforcement officers, and National Rifle Association certified firearms instructors are exempt~~
26 ~~from this requirement. Exempt individuals must show current documentation of their exempt status.~~

27
28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1A;*
29 *Eff. October 1, 1991;*
30 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2014, April 1, 2003; April 1, 1996.*

1 **15A NCAC 10K .0102 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY**

2 (a) Upon ~~the conclusion~~ successful completion of a basic hunter safety education course, ~~the instructor shall complete~~
3 ~~a card for each participant who successfully completed the course in accordance with 15A NCAC 10K Rule .0101 of~~
4 ~~this Section, and forward the card to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources~~ a certificate of competency shall be issued
5 by the Commission. ~~Commission for processing.~~

6 (b) ~~After receiving the completed card referred to in Paragraph (a) of this Rule, the Commission shall issue a~~
7 ~~Certificate of Competency to each participant who successfully completes the course. This certificate shall include:~~

- 8 (1) ~~— a certification number;~~
- 9 (2) ~~— the participant's name, address, and date of birth;~~
- 10 (3) ~~— the hunter safety course instructor's name; and~~
- 11 (4) ~~— course completion date.~~

12 (c) ~~The Commission shall maintain permanent files of all successful participants in hunter safety courses who were~~
13 ~~issued a certificate of competency. Duplicate certificates may be obtained from the Commission.~~ Commission free of
14 charge upon request.

15 (d) The Commission may recognize a certificate of competency from another state or province so long as the hunter
16 education course met or exceeded the standards of the International Hunter Education Association, including
17 subsequent amendments and editions, found at ihea-usa.org/resources/#Standards.

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1A;*
20 *Eff. September 1, 1991;*
21 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2003; May 1, 1995*
22

1 **15A NCAC 10K .0103 INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION**

2 (a) Hunter Education Instructors shall be certified by the Commission prior to delivering basic hunter education
3 courses.

4 (b) To be eligible for Hunter ~~Safety Education~~ Instructor Certification an individual ~~must~~ shall:

- 5 (1) ~~Be be~~ at least 21 years of age upon at the time of application;
- 6 (2) ~~Be a graduate of~~ possess a certificate of competency from a Commission-approved Basic Hunter
7 Education Safety Course approved by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Approved
8 courses must satisfy the requirements set out in 15A NCAC 10K .0101 or be certified by a state or
9 province that meets and or exceeds the requirements set out in 15A NCAC 10K .0101;
- 10 (3) ~~Complete~~ complete and submit to the Commission, the North Carolina Hunter Safety Education
11 Instructors Application; application, available at ncwildlife.org, with the following information:
- 12 (A) Name, address, email, phone number; and
- 13 (B) Date of birth.
- 14 (4) ~~Complete~~ complete the 12-hour Commission-led Hunter Safety Education Instructors Course, and
15 course and score 75 80 percent or higher on the written examination. Teachers certified by the North
16 Carolina Department of Public Instruction and persons who have been certified as hunter safety
17 instructors by another state may take an abbreviated course that is less than 12 hours;
- 18 (5) ~~Submit~~ submit to a background investigation including a records check which reveals no with none
19 of the following disqualifying convictions identified: convictions. Disqualifying convictions are
20 listed as follows:
- 21 (a) ~~a felony; or~~ felony;
- 22 (b) a crime or unlawful act defined as a "Class 1" misdemeanor within the five-year five-year
23 period prior to the date of application; or
- 24 (c) any conviction of the game and fish law which would require a mandatory suspension and
25 or revocation of a license as indicated in G.S. 113-276.3 within the three-year three-year
26 period prior to the date of application.

27
28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1A;*
29 *Eff. May 1, 1996;*
30 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2003.*
31

EXHIBIT G

December 7, 2023



**Petition for Proposed Amendment to
15A NCAC 10F .0314 – New Hanover County
Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and
Presentation at Public Hearing**

In accordance with 15A NCAC 10A .0401 and .0402, the Executive Director received a petition for rulemaking on October 5, 2023. This petition for proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0314 was distributed, via email, to all Commissioners for consideration on October 6, 2023.

The petitioner requested that the no wake zone at the mouth of Bradley Creek be moved 400 feet closer to the ICW to alleviate safety issues. To mitigate safety concerns with the extension, staff recommend extending the no wake zone shore-to-shore.

15A NCAC 10F .0314 NEW HANOVER COUNTY (pg. 2)

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0314 NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

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

- 3 (1) the area bounded on the north by the US 74-76 Bridge crossing the Intracoastal Waterway, on the
4 south by a line shore to shore intersecting Intracoastal Waterway channel marker number 127, on
5 the west by the shore of Wrightsville Sound, and on the east by a line perpendicular to US Highway
6 74-76 and intersecting channel marker number 25 in Motts Channel;
- 7 (2) the area of Motts Channel between channel marker number 25 at the Intracoastal Waterway on the
8 west and channel marker number 16 at the entrance from Banks Channel on the east;
- 9 (3) the waters ~~of the navigation channel~~ shore to shore in that portion of Bradley Creek in the City of
10 Wilmington between the US 76 Bridge crossing Bradley Creek and ~~channel marker 4, near the~~
11 ~~mouth of Bradley Creek at 34.20858 N, 77.82272 W; 34.20794 N, 77.82158 W, near the mouth of~~
12 Bradley Creek;
- 13 (4) Lee's Cut from its western intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at 34.21979 N, 77.80965 W,
14 to its eastern intersection with Banks Channel at 34.21906 N, 77.79645 W;
- 15 (5) the unnamed channel lying between the shore west of Bahama Drive in the Town of Wrightsville
16 Beach and an unnamed island located approximately 500 feet northeast of the US 74 bridge over
17 Banks Channel; and
- 18 (6) the waters of the Northeast Cape Fear River between the US Hwy. 117 bridge and the railroad trestle
19 60 yards east of the Castle Hayne Boating Access Area.

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

22 (c) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of New Hanover County shall be the designated agency for
23 placement of the no-wake markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard
24 and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

25

Number	Comment
1	This section of the upper Lockwood Folly River has become a popular area for kayakers and stand-up paddle boarders.
2	This section of the Lockwood Folly River has become a popular area for kayakers and stand up paddle boarders. The river is narrow and the bends are sharp and blind. I have seen on several occasions near misses with kayakers and speeding boats.The area is simply not conducive to high speed traffic. Thank you for any and all consideration.
3	As a Kayaker I am very much in support of a "no wake zone" in that area. This area is pretty narrow with a marsh on one side and boat docks on the other with a blind curve in the middle. When motor boats fly around the blind curve it is difficult to get out of the way and their wake pushes our kayaks into the docks.
4	To Whom It May Concern: In regard to the amendment number 15A NCAC 10F.0305, the area on the Lockwood Folly River at the areas mentioned in the sharp curves, I would like to confirm how dangerous the area really is. I've witnessed speeding boats barely avoiding collisions. I've witnessed jets skis collide. I've witnessed boats speeding so fast they end up well into the marsh grass. I've witnessed water skies, wake boarders and tubers nearly being ran over by other boats. I've witnessed racing jet skiers collide. I've witnessed people being thrown to the ground on their floating docks. I witnessed a speeding boat hit a dock. Personally, I kayak and I have stayed close to the sides of the river. I have been washed up on the bank because boats don't follow the rule of "Responsible for your own wake law." It would be so helpful if no Wake Signs were installed and monitored, if only a short period of time. The message may get out that there are truly rules on the water. Thank you for your efforts, Sincerely , Evette Squires
5	Commissioners, Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Safety has to be the number one priority when on the water. Fun is up there also but not at the expense of safety. The Lockwood Folly River has become a very popular place. Tubing, Cruising, Fishing, Kayaking and Paddleboarding are very popular activities on the river. It is also a thoroughfare for people going up river to fish (pleasure and charter) as well as people traveling from their residences down river to other destinations and then back home. The residential communities up river as well as the rapidly increasing influx of people moving to Brunswick County have made the Lockwood Folly River a very popular place to enjoy and live. Unfortunately the river has become so popular that safety is now a concern. I have witnessed 4 - 5 close calls and heard of numerous others. My neighbor was almost hit in his boat, anchored while fishing, by another boat traveling up river that never saw him. I witnessed a man get thrown out of his boat after losing control at high speed around one of the blind corners and the boat continued wide open throttle into a neighbors pier. My daughter and girlfriend have been swamped on their paddle boards by a boater who never saw them. Many times I have witnessed boats rounding the corners at high speed that have had to alter course and speed because of anchored vessels or approaching vessels. Anyone can buy a boat. From where I sit, not many people understand the fundamentals of boating. These statements that follow might be speculative but in my opinion, true: Most people don't have a lot of experience on the water. Most people don't pay attention to what other people on the water are doing. Most people aren't aware of the dangers of being on the water. Most people aren't aware that what they are doing is unsafe All of these items listed above make being on the water less safe. Ignorance. Just not knowing. Throw in a couple of blind curves on a narrow unmarked shallow river and an inexperienced boat operator late to the gathering at the sandbar with his family and new 55mph boat and there could be a problem. Now let's include the increased boat/user traffic on summer break, holiday weekends or flounder season. I try really hard to boat towards others as I would like to be boated around. If you want better boaters then be a better boater, right? It takes a lot of work and is a lot of responsibility to be at the helm of a boat and unfortunately most people don't know how to be a better, respectful of others, boater. A close call or accident sometimes changes the way people think on the water. Understanding the situation is key. The

	<p>intracoastal waterway is clearly marked and can be viewed and easily navigated. There is a channel for navigation. A very clear line of sight. Most GPS units have the navigation information loaded so that it can be referenced with the visual part of navigation. Navigation parameters are well defined. This area of the Lockwood Folly River has no markers and is also narrow(less than 100 ft bank to bank). 2 blind corners. There are no signs or channel markers. There are no rules. The situation..... the conditions, the layout..... the lack of a clear line of sight especially at speed, the fluctuating depth, the narrow area of operation, the often crowded conditions. All of these things suggest the need to do something to make it safer. In conclusion, due to the various reasons stated above, I believe a no wake zone is needed in the proposed area to make the area safer, more enjoyable and less stressful for all users. Thank you John Hunt</p>
6	<p>This proposed regulation is a very proactive safety regulation. The number of watercraft is growing every year. These areas on the river have always had limited visibility. The lower tides reduce visibility even more. Just a good common sense thing to do.</p>
7	<p>Rulemaking Coordinator, I'd like to comment on amendment 15A NCAD 10F.0305 for a no wake zone on a portion of Lockwood Folly River in Brunswick county. We live on that section of the river that will be included in the no wake zone if the amendment is passed. In fact, we live just a couple of lots away from the blind, L-shaped curve that will be part of the no wake zone. That area is dangerous because the height of the high corner lots there does not allow for any kind of view of oncoming traffic. Boats round that corner at full speed, never slowing down. Unfortunately, it's an accident just waiting to happen. I also want to call attention to the fact that Lockwood Folly River is not only used by boaters but also by kayakers who come upriver from the intracoastal all the way past Winding River Plantation and back again. We see kayakers all the time going up and down the river. They are kayak owners and renters. My own neighborhood has an active kayak group (mostly women) with a kayak launch on our neighborhood boat ramp. We enjoy our time on the water and want to be as safe as possible. I'm really hoping everything will go through without any problems. Thank you for your consideration. Betty Rogers XXX-XXX-XXXX</p>
8	<p>To Whom it may concern at NC Wildlife: As a resident of Brunswick County for 30+ years, I am strongly in favor of establishing a no wake zone on Lockwood Folly River upriver from Varnamtown. Over those 30 years of living here I have seen a tremendous increase in boat traffic on the river. The two blind curves mentioned in the proposed regulation are extremely dangerous. There have been numerous boating incidents & near misses in this area. A bigger safety issue in my mind is the increased number of kayak's using the river for pleasure and fishing. There is a kayak launch in the Rourks Landing Community & several commercial Kayak outfitters use the river for paid scenic tours of the river. I have seen boats flying around these blind curves "slam on the brakes" when they suddenly come up on a kayak. Over the last few years I have seen a big increase in the number of boats flying up & down the river after dark with no running lights on. I realize that is a separate compounding issue but having an enforceable no wake zone may deter these "nut cases" from getting themselves or someone else killed on this river. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to submit a public comment. I can be reached at XXX-XXX-XXXX if you have any follow up questions concerning my comments. Best Regards, Don Brenton.</p>
9	<p>To Whom It May Concern, My name is Larry Rogers. My wife and I live on the Lockwood Folly River in the Roark Landing subdivision. We bought our home in 1998 and then moved here permanently in 2008 when we retired. Since moving here in '08 we have seen the boat traffic increase dramatically through the Roark Landing area. I have personally witnessed multiple near misses around the two curves that are included in the proposed no wake zone. Please note that the average width of the channel in the proposed area is less than 200 feet. Please also note that we have had multi-engine boats up to 36' flying around these curves. In November 2021 I was almost run over by a 24' center console running at speed. I was slow trolling in the down river curve in question on my 14' Jon boat. I was able to avoid the collision by standing up and waving my arms to get the driver's attention before maneuvering out of the way. The</p>

	<p>driver slowed down, apologized and said he couldn't see my boat because it blended into the docks. I was told by an elderly neighbor in 1999 that a fatality occurred at the upriver curve in question when two boats collided head on. I contacted the sheriff's department to get records of this accident but was told the records were destroyed by flooding during one of the hurricanes. It is my opinion, and the opinion of many of our neighbors, that it is not a question of 'if' but 'when' another fatality will happen. I firmly believe that the proposed no wake zone around these dangerous curves will save lives. Thank you for your time, Larry Rogers</p>
10	<p>I am a Brunswick County NC resident and my family an I have used this proposed no wake area of Lockwood Folly River for many years. I have noticed that there has been a substantial increase in boating traffic in that area, with this increase I have witnessed many near misses in potential boating accidents. I also witnessed one boater being thrown out of his boat while navigating the east end turn in the proposed area at high rate of speed, then his boat crashed into a residential dock. At this point I fear for my children/grandchildren safety while boating in this area. I fill that a no wake for this area is long overdue.</p>
11	<p>I live on Lockwood Folly River, but I kayak from the Rourks Landing, the area in question. I am part of a group of lady kayakers that uses the Rourks Landing boat ramp. Some boats see us ladies getting in and out of our kayaks and kindly slowing down. On the other hand most, boats do not even slow. There have been boaters that even wave to us while kicking up a major wake. It is a shame to say most boaters do not understand the danger their wake can create for a small craft. I have read the proposal and seen the coordinates. Without a map I cannot see the stopping and starting points. I just know as a kayaker my concern are the sharp bends that are blind spots for any small craft. The channel does narrow, and we have found under water hazards, by trying to hug the shoreline. I would like the no wake zone to be extended passed the boat ramp on landing rd, this would give more time for everyone to slow down. Thank you for working to make our waters safe.</p>
12	<p>I live in Rourks Landing and use the community boat ramp. I fully support this No Wake Zone. I would like to add that I believe the No Wake Zone should be extended pass the boat ramp on Landing Rd as this would increase safety for all our neighbors.</p>
13	<p>THE AREA IN QUESTION IS NARROW AND HAS TWO BLIND BENDS IN THE RIVER . THERE IS A BOAT LAUNCH AND A KAYAKL LAUNCH IN THIS AREA . I HAVE WITNESSED THE KAYAKERS LAUNCH AND HAVE TO DEAL WITH EXCESSIVE WAKES UPON ENTERING THE RIVER . I HAVE SEEN EXPERIENCED KAYAKERS TOSSED AROUND MORE THAN THEY SHOULD BE . MOST BOATERS ARE COURTIIOUS , BUT , NOT ALL. A DESIGNATED BOAT WAKE SHOULD MAKE MORE REALIZE THEY SHOULD REDUCE SPEED IN THIS AREA .</p>

One public hearing was held on November 9, 2023.

EXHIBIT H-2

December 7, 2023



FINAL ADOPTION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 15A NCAC 10F .0305 – BRUNSWICK COUNTY

The Notice of Text for adoption of amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County to establish a no-wake zone on a portion of Lockwood Folly River around Rourk's Landing Subdivision; and technical corrections to correct the name of the Morningstar Marinas in Southport adjacent to the ICW, define the location of the Sunset Beach Bridge and Boating Access Area on the ICW, define the location of the Ocean Isle Beach Odell Williamson Bridge and BAA on the ICW, codify the no-wake zone within 250 feet west and 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge and BAA on the ICW, within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor BAA adjacent to the ICW in Bolivia, within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing BAA on the ICW in Shallotte, within 50 yards of Rices Creek BAA in Winnabow, within 50 yards of the Pireway BAA on Waccamaw River in Ash, and within 50 yards of the Dutchman Creek Boat Ramp in Southport was published in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act.

Staff seeks your adoption of these proposed Rule amendments with changes since the Rule was published in the *North Carolina Register*, subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. The earliest effective date of the Rule will be February 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to the waters ~~and portions of waters~~ described as follows:

- (1) ~~Lockwoods~~ Lockwood Folly River in the Town of Varnamtown, from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W, 500 yards northwest of the boat ramp located at the end of S.R. 1123 otherwise known as Fisherman Road, to a point at 33.94498 N, 78.22206 W, 180 yards southeast of the boat ramp, and including the portion of the river otherwise known as Mill Creek where it meets ~~Lockwoods~~ Lockwood Folly River directly across from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W;
- (2) Calabash River in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep-sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W;

- (3) ~~the Small Boat Harbor, Morningstar Marinas Southport,~~ shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91685 N, 78.02865 W;
- (4) Shallotte River east of S.R. 1233, otherwise known as Village Point Road SW south of the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W to point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W;
- (5) Montgomery Slough otherwise known as Davis Creek, within 100 yards of the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island;
- (6) the waters in the natural and concrete canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach;
- (7) Town Creek east of S.R. 1609, otherwise known as Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to shore from a point at 34.16788 N, 78.07139 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16910 N, 78.07030 W;
- (8) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, shore to shore from its entrance at the Intracoastal Waterway west of SW Yacht Drive at a point at 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at NE 40th Street in the Town of Oak Island;
- (9) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of ~~Sunset Beach,~~ Beach in the vicinity of the S.R. 1172 Sunset Beach Bridge and Sunset Beach Boating Access Area at 101 Sunset Boulevard, shore to shore from a point 150 yards east of the ~~Sunset Boulevard Beach South bridge Bridge~~ at 33.88173 N, 78.50995 W, to a point 50 yards west of the bridge at 33.88111 N, 78.51194 W; ~~and~~
- (10) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Ocean Isle ~~Beach,~~ Beach in the vicinity of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge and Ocean Isle Beach Boating Access Area at 67 Causeway Drive, shore to shore from a point 100 yards east of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge at 33.89578 N, 78.43870 W, to a point 100 yards west of the Bridge at 33.89567 N, ~~78.44092 W.~~ 78.51194 W;
- (11) Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision, beginning at a point south of the subdivision at 33.95338 N, 78.22553 W, north and west around two sharp bends in the channel and ending north at a point at 33.95539 N, 78.22900 W;
- (12) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Holden Beach, N.C. Highway 130 Holden Beach Bridge and Holden Beach Boating Access Area at 99 S. Shore Drive, shore to shore between a point 250 feet west and a point 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge;
- (13) Intracoastal Waterway, within 50 yards of the Oak Island Boating Access Area at 4950 Fish Factory Road SE in Southport;
- (14) within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway at 356 Riverview Drive SE in Bolivia;
- (15) within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing Boating Access Area on the Intracoastal Waterway at 1921 Brick Landing Road SW in Shallotte;

(16) within 50 yards of Rices Creek Boating Access Area on Rice Creek at 797 Gordon Lewis Drive SE in Winnabow; ~~and~~

(17) within 50 yards of the Pireway Boating Access Area on Waccamaw River at 9739 Pireway Road NW in ~~Ash.~~ Ash; and

(18) within 50 yards of the Dutchman Creek Boat Ramp on Dutchman Creek in Southport.

(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 be~~ are the designated agencies for the placement or placement and maintenance of 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 Aldermen of Varnamtown for ~~areas~~ placement in the area indicated in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule;

(2) the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County for placement in areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (8) and (a)(11) of this Rule; and

(3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the placement and maintenance of area areas indicated in ~~Subparagraph~~ Subparagraphs (a)(9), (a)(9), (a)(10), and (a)(12) through ~~(17)~~ (18) of this ~~Rule; and~~ Rule.

~~(4) the Town of Ocean Isle Beach for the area indicated in Subparagraph (a)(10) of this Rule.~~

(d) Notwithstanding Paragraphs (a) through (c) of this Rule, no person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed in the waters of South Jinks Creek in the Town of Sunset Beach, beginning at a line north of the feeder channel, from a point on the west shore at 33.87617 N, 78.49297 W to a point on the east shore at 33.87664 N, 78.49164 W, then southeast to a point on the south shore at 33.87325 N, 78.49033 W, and waters south and west of those lines including the feeder channel, four finger canals, and the bay area. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the designated agency for placement and maintenance of markers for this regulated area.

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1987;

Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; April 1, 1999;

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

Amended Eff. May 1, 2021; July 1, 2018;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2022;

Temporary Amendment Eff. August 15, 2023.

Eff. February 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10F .0305 - New No-Wake Zone Request
Rourk Landing Estates, Lockwoods Folly River, Brunswick County



EXHIBIT I-1

December 7, 2023



Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10F .0316 Forsyth, Rockingham, and Stokes Counties

There were no public comments.

One public hearing was held on November 9, 2023.

EXHIBIT I-2

December 7, 2023



FINAL ADOPTION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 15A NCAC 10F .0316 – FORSYTH, ROCKINGHAM, AND STOKES COUNTIES ON BELEWS LAKE

The Notice of Text for adoption of an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0316 on Belews Lake in Rockingham County, to establish a no-wake zone at Carolina Marina within 50 yards of the fuel dock, then northwest and east to the cove north of the Marina where the boat ramp, Dry Stacks, and outdoor boat storage facilities are located, 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 Rule amendment with text changes highlighted, subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. The earliest effective date of the Rule will be February 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10F .0316 FORSYTH, ~~ROCKINGHAM~~ ROCKINGHAM, AND STOKES COUNTIES

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to the following waters in Forsyth, Rockingham, and Stokes counties:

- (1) Belews Lake within 50 yards of a public boat launching ramp on the lake, and within 50 yards of a bridge crossing on the lake;
- (2) Belews Lake at Humphrey's Ridge Marina and Grill at 473-499 Humphrey Ridge Drive in Stokesdale, east of a line from a point on the north shore at 36.27962 N, 80.03507 W to a point on the south shore at 36.27804 N, 80.03565 W; and
- (3) Belews Lake at Carolina Marina at 548 Shelton Road in Stokesdale, beginning at a line from a point on the shore ~~where the southernmost fuel dock is located,~~ south of the fuel dock at 36.30303 N, 80.01403 W, to a point 50 yards west from the shore into the channel, then to the ~~north~~ northwest 50 yards west of the shore of the ~~marina,~~ marina at 36.30394 N, 80.01522 W, then to a point on the north shore of the cove at 36.30521 N, 80.01416 W, to include the waters east of the line at the mouth of the cove, where the boat ramp, Dry Stack, and outdoor boat storage facilities are located.

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

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Boards of Commissioners of Forsyth County, Rockingham County and Stokes County, or their designees County shall be the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of shall place and maintain markers implementing this Rule. ~~Markers warning of a no wake speed zone shall be buoys or floating signs.~~

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. May 1, 1976;

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

Amended Eff. February 1, 2024; June 1, 2023; October 1, 2018.

15A NCAC 10F .0316 - No Wake Zone Request
Carolina Marina, Stokesdale, Belews Lake, Rockingham County



EXHIBIT J-1

December 7, 2023



Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County

There were no public comments.

One public hearing was held on November 9, 2023.

EXHIBIT J-2

December 7, 2023



FINAL ADOPTION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 15A NCAC 10F .0338 – CALDWELL COUNTY

The Notice of Text for adoption of amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County, to establish a no-wake zone on Lake Rhodhiss within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, and within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area and Conley Creek Boating Access Area; and on Lake Hickory within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals in Hickory, within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area in Granite Falls, and within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area in Granite Falls was published in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act.

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

15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY

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

- (1) Catawba River;
- (2) Lake ~~Rhodhiss~~; Rhodhiss:
 - (A) within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, 6131 Castle Bridge Drive in Granite Falls;
 - (B) within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area, 6131 Connelly Springs Road in Granite Falls; and
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Conley Creek Boating Access Area, 5475 Waterworks Road in Granite Falls.
- (3) Little Gunpowder Lake; and
- (4) Lake ~~Hickory in the City of Hickory~~; Lake Hickory:
 - (A) within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals, on Limbaugh Lane in the City of Hickory;
 - (B) within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area, at 5450 Hurricane Hill Road in Granite Falls; and
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area, at 5682 Rocky Mount Road in Granite Falls.

~~(b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat launching ramp while on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

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

(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a marked mooring area on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

~~(d) Specific Speed Zones. Lake Hickory within the boundaries of the City of Hickory. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals on Limbaugh Lane.~~

~~(e) (d) Restricted Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

~~(f) (e) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County and the City of Hickory shall be the designated agency for placement of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The following agencies are responsible for placement or placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and United States Army Corps of Engineers:~~

(1) the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County shall place the markers implementing Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3), and Part (a)(2)(A) of this Rule;

(2) the City of Hickory shall place the markers implementing Part (a)(4) (A) of this Rule; and

(3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall place and maintain the markers implementing Parts (a)(2)(B), (C), (D), and (a)(4)(B) and (C) of this Rule.

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

Eff. August 23, 1981;

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

Amended Eff. February 1, 2024; July 1, 2018.

15A NCAC 10F .0338 - New No-Wake Zone Request
Castle Bridge Marina, Lake Rhodhiss, Caldwell County



EXHIBIT K-1

December 7, 2023



Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10F .0380 Town of Rhodhiss

There were no public comments.

One public hearing was held on November 9, 2023.

EXHIBIT K-2

December 7, 2023



FINAL ADOPTION FOR PROPOSED ADOPTION OF 15A NCAC 10F .0380 – TOWN OF RHODHISS

The Notice of Text for adoption of 15A NCAC 10F .0380 Town of Rhodhiss, to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore on Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss in Burke and Caldwell counties, beginning west of a line 165 yards east of the S. R. 1611 Bridge, westward to the Rhodhiss Dam, was published in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act.

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

15A NCAC 10F .0380 TOWN OF RHODHISS

(a) Regulated Area. This rule applies to the waters of Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss in Burke and Caldwell counties, shore to shore, beginning west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 Bridge from a point on the north shore at 35.77322 N, 81.42891 W to a point on the south shore at 35.77179 N, 81.42910 W, westward ending at the Rhodhiss Dam.

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


(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Town of Rhodhiss shall place and maintain the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Eff. February 1, 2024.

Proposed No Wake Zone
Catawba River, Burke and Caldwell Counties



 Proposed No-Wake Zone


 Danger Buoy

EXHIBIT L

December 7, 2023



15A NCAC 10F .0304 – BLADEN COUNTY PROPOSED PERMANENT RULE AMENDMENTS AT ELWELL FERRY, WHITE LAKE, AND FOUR BOATING ACCESS AREAS

The Wildlife Resources Commission received a request from the NC Department of Transportation to establish a no-wake zone on the Cape Fear River in Council, shore to shore, to mitigate boater safety hazards within 100 yards east and 100 yards west of the Elwell Ferry Bridge and Elwells Ferry Boating Access Area.

Agency Enforcement has investigated the area and returned the Assessment Matrix (**Attachment A and Map**). Hazards to boater safety and operation were noted at the cable-operated ferry. The ferry cable stretches approximately 100 yards, shore to shore. The ferry cable is not very visible in the river and vessels have hit the ferry cable.

As part of the revision of 15A NCAC 10F .0304, staff identified three agency-owned or operated boating access areas on the Cape Fear River to be codified in the NC Administrative Code, at the Elwells Ferry Boating Access area, and within 50 yards of the Tar Heel Boating Access Area in Tar Heel, and Tory Hole Boating Access Area in Elizabethtown; and on the Black River in Kelly, within 50 yards of the Hunts Bluff Boating Access Area.

Staff have consulted with Lane Garner, Singletary Lake State Park Superintendent with supervision over White Lake, to clarify and correct the amendment for White Lake within this Rule. NC State Parks plans to remove the wooden poles that surround the restricted area on the lake and replace them with no-wake buoys placed 500 feet from the shoreline. In the restricted area vessel operation shall be at no-wake speed. Skiing is prohibited in the restricted area. A person engaged in diving in White Lake 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. The prohibition against swimming has been removed, as swimming was always intended to be allowed throughout White Lake.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0304 with an open comment period of at least 60 days and one public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act. Upon the close of the open comment period, the WRC will then consider adoption of the amendments for Bladen County at White Lake, Cape Fear River, and Black River.

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 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;

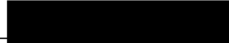
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;

Amended Eff. October 1, 2018.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Primary contact information: _____ 
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Cape Fear River, Bladen County
 - Location: Elwell Ferry and Elwell Ferry Boating Access Area shore to shore
 - Popular name of area, if any: _____
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 275 ft Widest Point: 275 ft
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
 Cable operated ferry across Cape Fear River. Cable stretches approximately 100 yards shore to shore. Vessels have hit the ferry cable as it is not very visible in the river. Ferry cable extends across the waterway, in the air, when ferry is operating. When not in operation, the ferry cable is underwater.

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

NC Department of Transportation has set signs in the water to warn vessel operators of the the ferry cable. The signs are placed far away from the cable, approximately 176 yards. Some vessels have actually run into the cable as they speed through this part of the Cape Fear River. DOT suggests making a no-wake zone 176 yards east and west of the ferry cable and placing additional no-wake signs to appropriately mark the dangers in that part of the river and at the cable location. The no-wake zone will be shore to shore and will incorporate the Elwell Ferry Boating Access Area immediately adjacent to the east of the ferry, at 2702 N Elwell Ferry Road in Council Bluffs. This will provide more safety for vessels entering and exiting the BAA.

A new Rule also would incorporate into the NCAC Lock and Dam #1 BAA on Cape Fear in Riegelwood (USACE); Lock and Dam #2 BAA on Cape Fear (USACE) in Elizabethtown; Tory Hole BAA on Cape Fear (WRC) in Elizabethtown; Tar Heel on Cape Fear (WRC) in Tar Heel; William O Huske Lock and Dam #3 on Cape Fear (USACE) in Fayetteville; Hunts Bluff BAA on Black River (WRC) in Kelly.

- 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.



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: Elwell Ferry Boating Access Area

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: _____

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: _____

Number of Docks: _____

OTHER (list and describe)

Cable operated ferry across Cape Fear River. Cable stretches approximately 100 yards shore to shore.

SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

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

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) Cable operated ferry across Cape Fear River.

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: _____
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)

Cable operated ferry across Cape Fear River. Cable stretches approximately 100 yards shore to shore.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

BOAT INCIDENTS Date(s): 5/8/2023

CITATIONS ISSUED Violations: _____

VERIFIED COMPLAINTS List: _____



- Rate traffic density in this area MEDIUM
- 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:
No wake zone at Boat Access Area (Elwell Ferry Access 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): 300 yds
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: 5 minutes
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 89 yds Widest: 97 yds
- 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:

Cable operated ferry across Cape Fear River. Cable stretches approximately 100 yards shore to shore. Vessels have hit the ferry cable as it is not very visible in the river.

Officer: Samaria K. Burnette

Date: 08/31/2023

Sergeant: William M. Parrish

Date: 9/7/2023

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

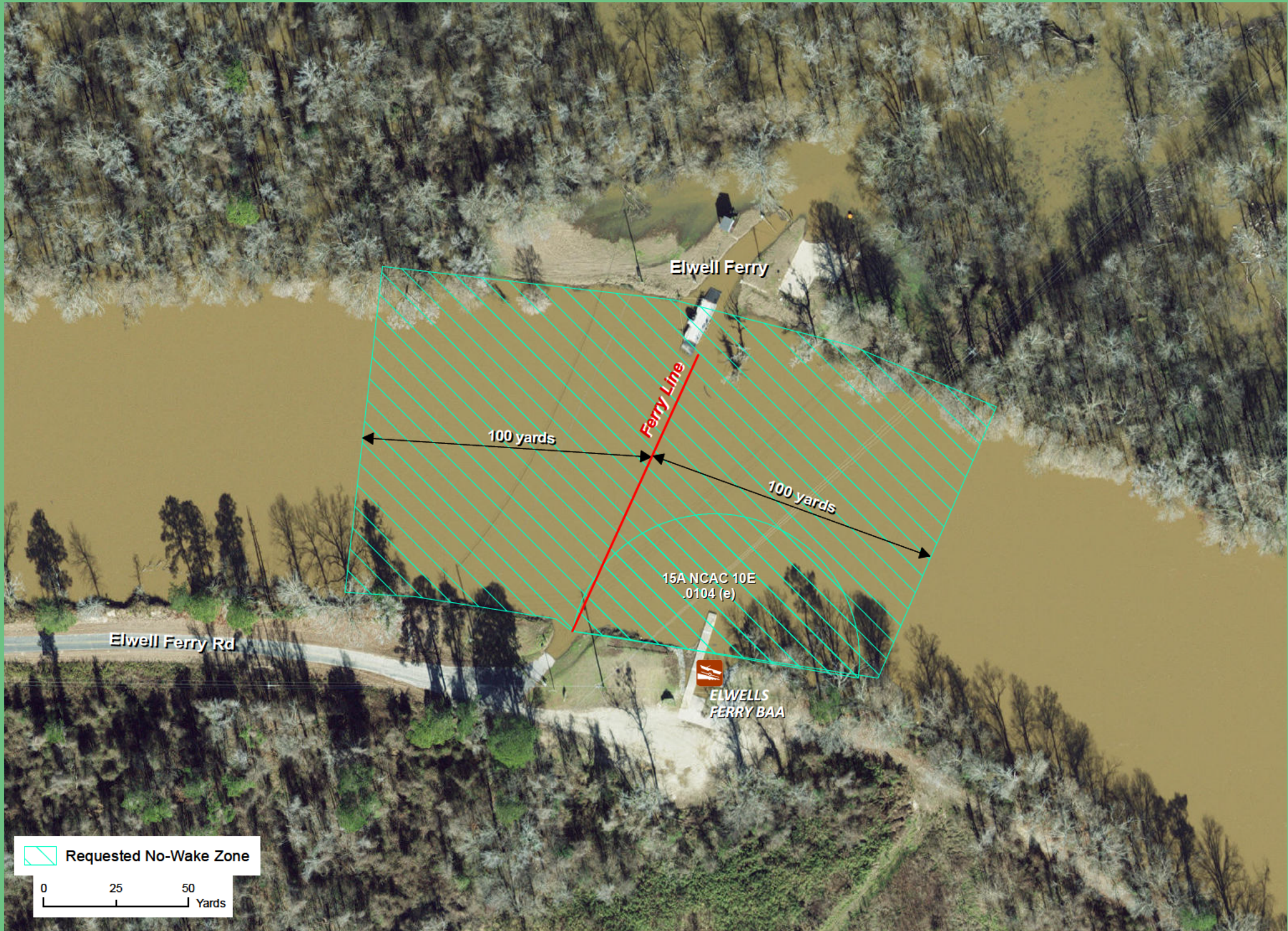


EXHIBIT M

December 7, 2023



2024 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETINGS

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SCHEDULE ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 26, 2023

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 (Away Meeting-Location TBA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

EXHIBIT N

December 7, 2023



CONSIDERATION OF NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-335, consider appointment of members to the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee – Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

NWAC Nominations - 2023

Nominee	Seat	Nominated By	Staff Recommendation
Buckner, Grant	Expert	Brandon Jones	
Cockman, Crystal	Expert	Travis Morehead	
Cooper, David G.	Expert	Lane Sauls	New Appointment
Edge, Amy	Expert/ At-Large	Judith Ratcliffe	
Ewing, Todd	Expert/ Affiliate	Self-Nomination	New Appointment
Fisher, Michael	Expert	Ace Wise	
Fowler, Dr. Cynthia	Expert	Self Nomination	
Fulk, Michael "Mikey"	<i>Not specified</i>	Allison Medford	
McRae, Sarah	Government	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Metallo, Abigail	Affiliate	Jennifer Metallo	
Norman, Makayla	Government	Self-Nomination	
Prater, Ben	Expert	Tracy Davids	
Ratcliffe, Judith	Government	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Rutledge, Dr. Elizabeth "Liz"	At-large	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Smith, Dr. Karyn (DVM)	At-Large	Dr Rebecca Hooper, PhD	

No Affiliated Seat Specified in Nomination (May qualify for Expert or At-large affiliate)

- 1. Michael "Mikey" Fulk, Working Lands Trust**
Nominee: Allison Medford
Current Position: Executive Director

Expertise: Burrowing owl, Black-tailed prairie dogs, Prairie falcons, and the endangered Black-footed ferret.
Governmental Affiliate

2. Sarah McRae, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2019

Current Position: Species Assessment Team (SAT) Biologist

Expertise: Fluvial Ecosystems, Conservation Biology, Ecology and Economics of River Restoration, Riparian Issues, Conservation and Management of Aquatic Ecosystems, Freshwater Mussel Propagation for Restoration, Fish Identification, Habitat Conservation Planning for Endangered Species, Endangered Species Recovery Planning

3. Makayla Norman, Wilkes Soil & Water Conservation District

Nominee: self-nomination

Current Position: Natural Resource Conservationist/Streamflow Rehabilitation Specialist

Expertise: Wildlife habitats, ecosystems, population dynamics, botany and other relative course work, specialize in restoring stream flow

4. Judith Ratcliffe, NC Natural Heritage Program (*Recommended for Re-ppointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2015

Current Position: Environmental Senior Specialist

Expertise: Freshwater Mollusks, Stream Restoration, Stream Ecology, Fish Ecology, Bird Identification, Freshwater Biology

Expert Affiliate

5. Grant Buckner, Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation

Nominee: Brandon Jones

Current Position: Watershed Manager – Northern Basin

Expertise: Biology, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology Concentration, Grant writing to receive funding to oversee and execute aquatic restoration projects

6. Crystal Cockman, Three Rivers Land Trust

Nominee: Travis Morehead

Current Position: Associate Director, Three Rivers Land Trust

Expertise: Environmental Health and Security, Environmental Science, Eastern hellbender, bog turtle, timber rattlesnake, red-cockaded woodpecker, peregrine falcon, Neuse River waterdog, bald eagle, Southern hognose snake, barn owl, Northern pine snake, Carolina gopher frog, magnificent ramshorn

7. David G. Cooper, VHB Engineering, Inc. (*Recommended for Appointment*)

Nominee: Lane Sauls

Current Position: Senior Environmental Scientist, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), Inc.

Expertise: oversee protected species assessments and inventories, habitat assessments, and associated environmental documentation, served as President of the NC Herpetological Society from 2011 – 2014, Chair of the steering committee for NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, and member of the NC State Wildlife Action Plan's Herp Taxa Team

8. Amy R. Edge, Tar River Land Conservancy

Nominee: Judith Ratcliffe

Current Position: General Counsel/Associate Director, Tar River Land Conservancy

Expertise: Keenly aware of issues related to habitat conservation for 8 counties of the Piedmont and upper Coastal Plain of North Carolina

9. Todd Ewing, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (*Recommended for Appointment*)

Nominee: Self- Nomination

Current Position: Program Coordinator, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)/ Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Expertise: Member of Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee, Coordinates Landscape-Scale Conservation for Aquatic Habitats and Aquatic Species across the Southeast (15 States and Two Territories), retired Assistant Chief, Aquatic Wildlife Diversity – NCWRC, oversaw conservation actions for aquatic nongame fish, mussels, crayfish, and aquatic snails, including federally listed species, in North Carolina

10. Michael Fisher

Nominee: Ace Wise

Current Position: Beekeeper

Expertise: 30 years as a beekeeper

11. Dr. Cynthia T. Fowler, Wofford College

Nominee: Self Nomination

Current Position: Professor, Wofford College

Expertise: Ecological anthropologist, studied fire ecology (including fire effects on animals) and sustainable agriculture, teaches a Fire Ecology of the Southern Appalachians course.

12. Ben Prater, Defenders of Wildlife

Nominee: Tracy Davids

Current Position: Southeast Program Director, Defenders of Wildlife

Expertise: Implements conservation programs; focuses on conserving priority imperiled wildlife, including red wolves, Florida panthers, manatees, bats, pollinators, freshwater mussels, freshwater fish, amphibians (Eastern hellbender, green salamander), whales, and migratory shorebirds.

Affiliate or At-large Affiliate

13. Abigail C. Metallo

Nominee: Jennifer Metallo

Current Position: Animal Control Officer (RPD) and Veterinarian Assistant

Expertise: Extensive knowledge base of wildlife, nongame and game alike, writing a plan of conservation success for the greater prairie chicken

14. Dr. Liz Rutledge, North Carolina Wildlife Federation (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2017

Current Position: Director of Wildlife Resources at NCWF

Expertise: Ornithology, Ecological Field Statistics, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ecological Restoration, Current Issues in Natural Resources (Policy), Epidemiology of Wildlife Diseases, Historical Environments, Plant Biology

15. Dr. Karyn Smith, DVM

Nominee: Dr. Rebecca Hooper, PhD

Current Position: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and animal forensic science.

Expertise: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and animal forensic science.