



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
October 3, 2024 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
Virtual Meeting
Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER – *Chairman Monty Crump*

This 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.newwildlife.org.

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 JULY 25, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the July 25, 2024 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

FY 2025 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Review and consider approval for the FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan – *Elizabeth Davis, Internal Auditor* **(EXHIBIT B)**

LAND AND WATER ACCESS DIVISION

Land Acquisitions and Property Matters

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

- West Tract – Cherokee County **(C-1)**
- Turkey Ridge – Callaway Mountain Tract – Yancey County **(C-2)**
- White Oak Mountain Tract – Haywood County **(C-3)**
- Marshall Tract – Bladen County **(C-4)**

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County – Review public comments and consider final adoption of a temporary rule to require motorboats to travel perpendicular to the shore and at no-wake speed within the Restricted Area at White Lake in Bladen County – *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2)*

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2025-2026 Annual Cycle Inland Fisheries Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt proposed changes to Inland Fisheries rules – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2025-2026 Annual Cycle Land and Water Access Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt proposed changes to Land and Water Access rules – *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access Division Chief (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2025-2026 Annual Cycle Wildlife Management Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt proposed changes to Wildlife Management rules – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief (EXHIBITS G-1, G-2)*

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Crump*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Ingram*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A



MINUTES July 25, 2024 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the July 25, 2024 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.org.

Commissioner Monty Crump led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner John Alexander gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Steve Windham and Joe Budd were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Wes Seegars	Jim Ruffin	John Stone	JC Cole
Mark Craig	Thomas Fonville	Ray Clifton	Hayden Rogers	Mike Alford
David Hoyle	Tom Berry	Kelly Davis	John Alexander	Reid Smith
John Coley	Brad Stanback	Landon Zimmer	Tom Haislip	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

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

RECEIVE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEW OF 2024 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMISSIONER HAYDEN ROGERS – Pursuant to NCGS §138A-15(c), Margo Minkler, Ethics Liaison, read into the Minutes relevant portions of the evaluations by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the 2024 Statement of Economic Interest for Hayden Rogers, Governor At Large Appointee

MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2024 MEETING

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Landon Zimmer, the Minutes of the June 6, 2024 meeting was approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

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

ADMINISTRATION

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.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Ad Hoc Agency Supplemental Funding Model Committee – July 24, 2024 – David Hoyle, Chair, reported the Ad Hoc Committee to Assess the Agency Supplemental Funding Model met on July 24, 2024. After reviewing the Committee's charge, staff provided an overview of their assessment process and presented the following supplemental funding proposals for the Committee's consideration: A nonmotorized vessel permit for self-powered vessels on state waters. A Conservation Pass to be required for non-licensed individuals to access and use certain WRC game lands and shooting ranges. A Conservation Membership Program to provide a donation pathway for the public to support the Agency's conservation mission. It was noted that these proposals address activities that the Wildlife Resources Commission currently supports. The assessment concluded that each proposal stands to increase both revenue and the Agency's constituency base, in fulfillment of the Committee's charge. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that staff pursue the implementation of all three options. There being no further business the committee meeting was adjourned.

Boating Safety Committee – July 24, 2024 – J.C. Cole, Chair, reported the Boating Safety Committee met on July 24, 2024. *Betsy Haywood, No Wake Zone Coordinator*, walked the committee through a permanent rulemaking adoption for Pender County, permanent rulemaking notice of text for Brunswick, Carteret, Alexander, and Mecklenburg and Gaston counties; and emergency, temporary, and permanent rulemaking for Bladen County to address safety concerns at White Lake. *Major Mark Dutton* then provided a brief but impressive update on the Law Enforcement Division's efforts for the July 4th Operation Dry Water efforts to reduce boating while impaired. There being no further business the committee adjourned.

Land Acquisition & Property Committee – July 24, 2024 – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported the Executive Committee met on July 24, 2024. The Land Acquisition and Property Committee reviewed and approved three Phase I land acquisition proposals, and one phase II proposal. There being no further business the committee adjourned.

Small Game & Wild Turkey Committee – July 24, 2024 – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported the Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee met on July 24, 2024. *Hannah Plumpton, Upland Game Bird Biologist*, presented a comprehensive review of the agency’s wild turkey data and management, focusing on harvest statistics and the various surveys used to monitor turkey populations. She outlined the next steps in turkey management, including a planned survey of turkey hunters. *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*, discussed plans to conduct wild turkey information forums early next year to inform and engage with hunters about turkey population status and future management strategies. *Chris Turner, Supervisor of the Game Bird and Wildlife Health Program*, provided an overview of the methods used to monitor small game populations in the state and the implications of survey results for these populations. Additionally, *Chris Kreh, Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief*, presented staff recommendations to revise the Wild Turkey Management Goal for the Commission to better address the status of our turkey management and potential future actions.

Motion from the Small Game & Wild Turkey Committee – On a motion by Jim Ruffin and a second by Mike Alford, the Commission approved a motion to adopt a new Wildlife Turkey Management Goal: To provide quality spring gobbler hunting opportunities by conserving North Carolina’s wild turkeys.

Fisheries Committee – July 24, 2024 – *John Stone, Chair*, reported the Fisheries Committee met on July 24, 2024. *Chairman Stone* presented the committee with information on potential trophy trout management. After substantial discussion, the committee passed a motion to direct fisheries staff to investigate options for implementing trophy trout management and to report back to the committee with a recommended approach. *Kevin Dockendorf, Coastal Fisheries Research Coordinator*, presented ongoing work to understand an often overlooked sunfish species, the Flier. He shared how the Flier is mainly distributed in swampy backwater areas of the coastal plain and that staff are learning more about this species throughout the state. The committee viewed a clip from a Carolina All Out episode on Fliers; the full show can be seen on the Commission’s website, www.ncwildlife.com. Topics of Municipal Lake Fishing: Hidden Gems for Largemouth Bass and Update on Ongoing Species Management Plans were postponed due to time constraints.

Committee of the Whole – July 24, 2024 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Committee of the Whole met on July 24, 2024 and started with a brief presentation from the NC Wildlife Federation’s Manley Fuller, who talked about their initiative One Mission, One Commission. *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst*, presented rulemaking notice of text for rules requiring action under the periodic review of rules. Next, she presented permanent rulemaking adoptions for Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species, Land and Water Access 2024-2025 deer season companion rules, Commercial Use Permitting, and temporary rules for the Needmore Game Land. *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, presented the public comments for temporary rulemaking to close flounder season for 2024. After consideration of those comments, a lot of good discussion, and review of the data recently presented to the Marine Fisheries Commission, the Committee determined closure of the flounder season for 2024 is an unbalanced allocation issue. If that data suggested that closing the season was necessary as a conservation issue, the MFC would also close the commercial season. The Committee therefore

recommended a 4-day season as recommended by staff. Lastly, The Committee reviewed the updated Agency Organizational Overview and Commissioner Orientation Package and reminded Commissioners of Executive Orders 34 and 75 and to sign the acknowledgement form outlining the requirements and expectations in their packets. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Executive Committee– July 24, 2024 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Executive Committee met on July 24, 2024 and went into Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute §143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with agency counsel to preserve attorney-client privilege on ongoing litigation and (a)(6) of the same statute to review Executive Director’s 2023/2024 performance evaluation. The Committee came out of closed session, and, having no further business, adjourned.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Billions in Benefits: Valuing Fish and Wildlife Management – *Cristina Watkins, Lead Social Scientist*, gave a presentation titled “Billions in Benefit: Value Fish & Wildlife Management.” This presentation highlighted recent efforts by the WRC to conduct economic impact analysis research and discussed results from several projects assessing the economic impacts of wildlife and fisheries conservation and wildlife associated outdoor recreation.

LAND AND WATER ACCESS DIVISION

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission approved to proceed with acquisition of the following property presented in **(EXHIBIT C)** by *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- **Greens Thoroughfare – Craven County (C)**

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

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Final Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0321 Pender County, Town of Surf City – On a motion by Tom Haislip and a second by Mike Alford, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT D-1)** and approved amendments to create two no wake zones along the Surf City waterfront in parts of Topsail Sound and Topsail Creek, north and south of the Intracoastal Waterway from east of the N.C. Highway 210 Surf City Bridge, and to incorporate into the NC Administrative Code (NCAC) four boating access areas (BAA’s) in Pender County presented in **(EXHIBIT D-2)** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Applications – 15A NCAC 10F .305 Brunswick County and Town of Sunset Beach; Adopt Fiscal Note for Two Locations in Town of Sunset Beach – On a motion by Mark Craig and a second by David Hoyle, the Commission denied the application for rulemaking by the Town of Sunset Beach for a no-wake zone in part of South Jinks Creek presented in **(EXHIBIT E-1)**, denied of the application for rulemaking by the Town of Sunset Beach for a no-wake zone in a portion of Fox Creek between 28th and 40th Street presented in **(EXHIBIT E-2)**, denied the Fiscal Note for the Town of Sunset Beach at South Jinks Creek and Fox Creek presented in **(EXHIBIT E-3)**, and approved technical corrections to the Brunswick County Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0305 presented in **(EXHIBIT E-4)** by *Betsy Haywood*

EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Applications – 15A NCAC 10F .0330 Carteret County – On a motion by Mark Craig and second by David Hoyle, the Commission denied of the application from Carteret County for rulemaking to create a no-wake zone at Raymond’s Gut in Peletier presented in **(EXHIBIT F-1)** and approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing to incorporate ten Carteret County Boating Access Areas into the NCAC presented in **(EXHIBIT F-2)** by *Betsy Haywood*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0332 Alexander County – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for a restricted area at the request of Duke Energy LLC, at Wittenburg Access Area on Lake Hickory in Bethlehem in Alexander County presented in **(EXHIBIT G-1)**; and approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing to extend the no-wake zone on Lake Hickory in Taylorsville in Alexander County, beginning at the Rink Dam and extending southeast ending within 50 yards of the new docks at the Sand Bar Marina and Grill; and to incorporate into the NCAC the Dusty Ridge Boating Access Area in Taylorsville and Wittenburg Boating Access Area in Bethlehem presented in **(EXHIBIT G-2)** by *Betsy Haywood*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Applications – 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Lake Wylie Marine Commission - On a motion by Landon Zimmer and a second by Tom Haislip the Commission approved the application from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission 15A NCAC 10F .0333 to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing to create a no-wake zone within 50 yards of Joyner’s Marina adjacent to the no-wake zone east of Buster Boyd Bridge presented in **(EXHIBIT H-1)**; denied the application from the Lake Wylie Marine Commission to extend the no-wake zone around the west side of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties presented in **(EXHIBIT H-2)**; denied the application from Lake Wylie Marine Commission for a no-wake zone in the waters north and east of Sunset Island presented in **(EXHIBIT H-3)**; and approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with open comment period and public hearing for technical corrections to the Rule to replace the South Carolina coordinate for the eastern side of the Buster Boyd Bridge no-wake zone with a point in North

Carolina; and to strike from the NCAC 10F .0333(a)(13) Other Facilities and 10F .0333(a)(14) Marked Swimming and Mooring areas presented in **(EXHIBIT H-4)** by *Betsy Haywood*

EXHIBITS H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – Periodic Review Rules – On a motion by Hayden Rogers and a second by John Coley, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for 10G .0501, and 10J .0103 and .0104 presented in **(EXHIBIT I)** by *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10I Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern species Rules – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT J-1)** and approved request to amend 10I .0102 through .0105 presented in **(EXHIBIT J-2)** by *Melva Bonner*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – Land and Water Access Rules – On a motion by David Hoyle and second by John Coley, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT K-1)** and approved request to amend the 2024-2025 deer season companion rules presented in **(EXHIBIT K-2)** by *Melva Bonner*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10H .1800 Commercial Use Permitting Rules – On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by David Hoyle, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT L-1)** and adopted 10H .1801 through .1803 presented in **(EXHIBIT L-2)** by *Melva Bonner*

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

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10D .0252 Needmore Game Land – On a motion by Mike Alford and second by John Alexander, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT M-1)** and approved request to amend the Needmore Game Land rule to match the 2024-2025 western deer season framework presented in **(EXHIBIT M-2)** by *Melva Bonner*

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

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0307 Flounder – On a motion by Wes Seegars and a second by Mark Craig, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT N-1)** and approved request to amend the flounder rule presented in **(EXHIBIT N-2)** by *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

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

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Emergency Adoption and Temporary/Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10F .0304 Bladen County – On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by John Alexander, the Commission approved the request to adopt an emergency amendment and notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for changes to the White Lake restricted area presented in (EXHIBIT O) by *Betsy Haywood*

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

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Crump reported on recent events, including attending the 60th Law Enforcement Basic Graduation, where he commended the graduates for their dedication and commitment to wildlife conservation and enforcement. He also expressed appreciation for the hard work of the training staff and emphasized the importance of their role in the agency’s mission. He also discussed the Commissioner field trip to NCSU Yates Mill Aquatic Conservation Center, noting that the visit provided valuable insights into aquatic management and conservation efforts, and he expressed appreciation to the staff for their informative presentations.

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

Internal Audit Plan

Fiscal Year 2025

EXHIBIT B

October 3, 2024

Project Name	Preliminary Objective/Description	Preliminary Budget Hours	Strategic Goal Alignment
Operational/Integrated Audits			
GoGas Operational Audit	Evaluate agencywide GoGas processes for efficiency and effectiveness.	400	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
Brandt Operational Audit	Evaluate Brandt's adherence to contract terms, verify the accuracy of agency revenue received, assess customer satisfaction with NC Go Outdoors.	600	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
Consults			
Dispatch Consult	Evaluate data management and record retention within Law Enforcement Dispatch to ensure compliance with requirements and best practices.	200	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
Subrecipient Monitoring	Evaluate and advise on processes for subrecipient risk assessment and monitoring.	80	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
EAGLE	Internal controls advisement and testing	80	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.

Project Name	Preliminary Objective/Description	Preliminary Budget Hours	Strategic Goal Alignment
Follow Ups			
Purchase Card Follow Up	Assess progress made on corrective actions for Purchase Cards to ensure risks have been appropriately addressed	100	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
Civil Rights Follow Up	Ensure recommendations for Civil Rights processes have been implemented and are following federal requirements.	100	GOAL 2: Expand the constituency base by providing and promoting opportunities for every adult and child, regardless of physical abilities, to experience North Carolina's wildlife resources.
Unassigned Follow Ups	Additional follow up work as a result of completed engagements	60	TBD
Investigations			
Investigation	Hold for potential investigations	100	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.

Project Name	Preliminary Objective/Description	Preliminary Budget Hours	Strategic Goal Alignment
Risk Assessment			
Annual Risk Assessment	Annual procedures performed to update understanding of agency functions, priorities, and risks to define the audit universe and develop audit projects.	300	N/A-Global Standard requirement
NC Council of Internal Audit Requirements			
Self-Assessment Maturity Model (SAMM)	Self-assessment mandated by the Council of Internal Auditing.	30	N/A – Required by NC Council of Internal Audit
Productivity Tool Reporting	Requirement to enter and report time spent against engagements, special projects, leave, training, and administrative time.	20	N/A – Required by NC Council of Internal Audit
Annual and Quarterly Attestations	Requirement to complete the annual Audit Plan Attestation and quarterly Audit Report Attestations.	10	N/A – Required by NC Council of Internal Audit

Project Name	Preliminary Objective/Description	Preliminary Budget Hours	Strategic Goal Alignment
Quality Assurance and Improvement Program			
Audit Policies and Procedures	Development of the Internal Audit Policy and Procedure Manual	80	N/A-Global Standard requirement
Self-Assessment	Internal Self-Assessment to ensure conformance with the Global Standards	40	N/A-Global Standard requirement
Strategic Plan	Development and monitoring of the Internal Audit Strategic Plan	100	N/A-Global Standard requirement
Special Projects			
Purchase Card Dashboard	Continuous monitoring activity	40	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
GoGas Dashboard	Continuous monitoring activity	40	GOAL 7: Create a work environment where priorities are clear; the decision-making process is efficient and effective; and employees feel a sense of creativity, accountability, value and satisfaction in their achievements and their contributions to the agency's mission.
IT Audit Universe	Creation of a comprehensive IT Audit Universe to assist in the Annual Risk Assessment evaluation.	40	N/A-Global Standard requirement

Approvals

Elizabeth Davis, CIA, CFE
Internal Audit Director

Date

Cameron Ingram
Executive Director

Date

Landon Zimmer
Chair of the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

Date

Exhibit C-1

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: West Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): October 2, 2024

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

Donation

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):

Federal Wildlife Restoration Funds – 75% federal: 25% state

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$1,000.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit C-1

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections: WEST TRACT

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	2.5	Mile	\$400	\$1,000.00
TOTAL				\$ 1,000.00

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

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Land Acquisition and Property

Phase 1



Tract Name: **West Tract**

Type of Acquisition:

Purchase

Tract Owner: **GATHERED TRUST LLC**

Acreage: **89.44**

Purpose of Acquisition:

Game Land, Nantahala

County: **Cherokee**

Tax Value: **\$161,040**

Asking Price: **Not Available**

Funding Considerations:

Donation

Date First Presented: **10/02/2024**

Resource Assessment:

This tract lies directly adjacent to USFS Nantahala Game Land. It is near to Golden Wing Warbler Areas, as well as Wildlife Habitat Active Management Areas on USFS Nantahala Game Land. It also is directly adjacent to USFS fire adapted pine areas. The tract is a mixed pine/hardwood stand. Species present include deer, bear, grouse, small game and various songbirds. There are other potential tracts that could become available for acquisition adjacent to this tract.

Public Access:

Currently, public access is through adjacent USFS game land. There are possible administrative access options for this tract.

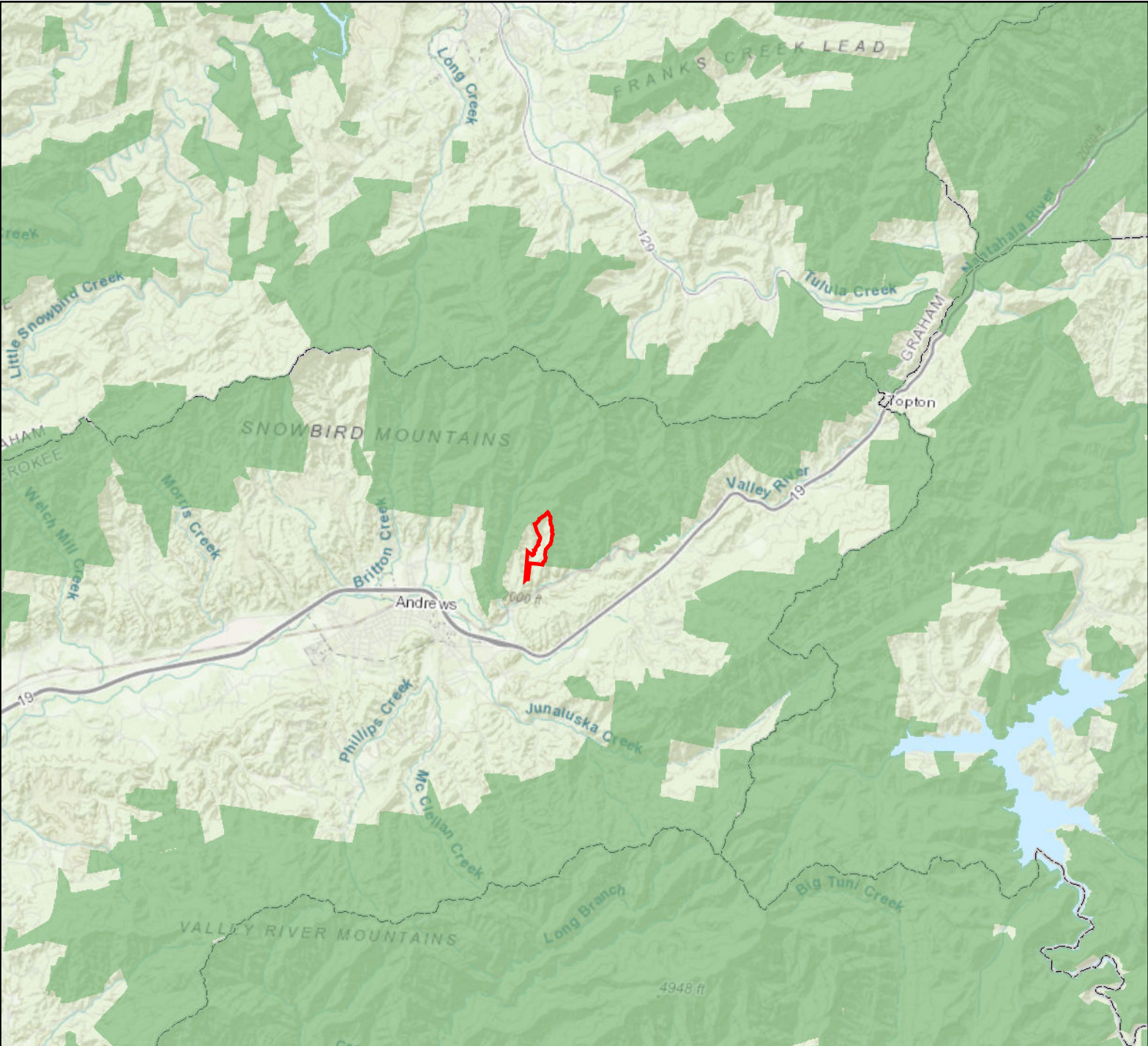
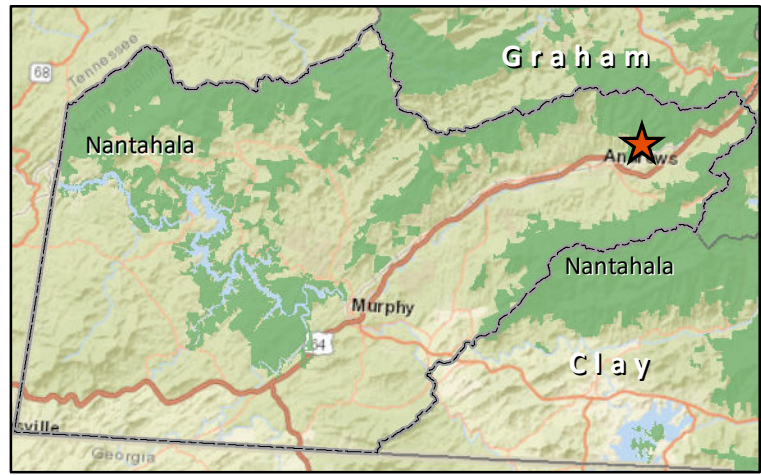
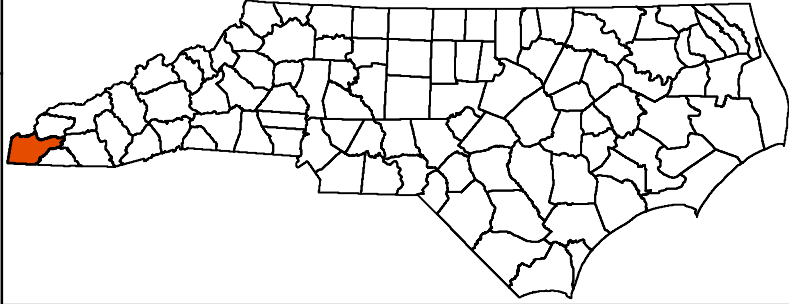
Existing Infrastructure:

No existing infrastructure.

Additional Comments:

Though no direct public access is available at this time, the tract does adjoin USFS Nantahala Game Land. The public can access the tract through the existing game land. Conservation of the tract is important due to the threat of commercial development.

**West Tract
Cherokee County
+/- 89.44 Acres**



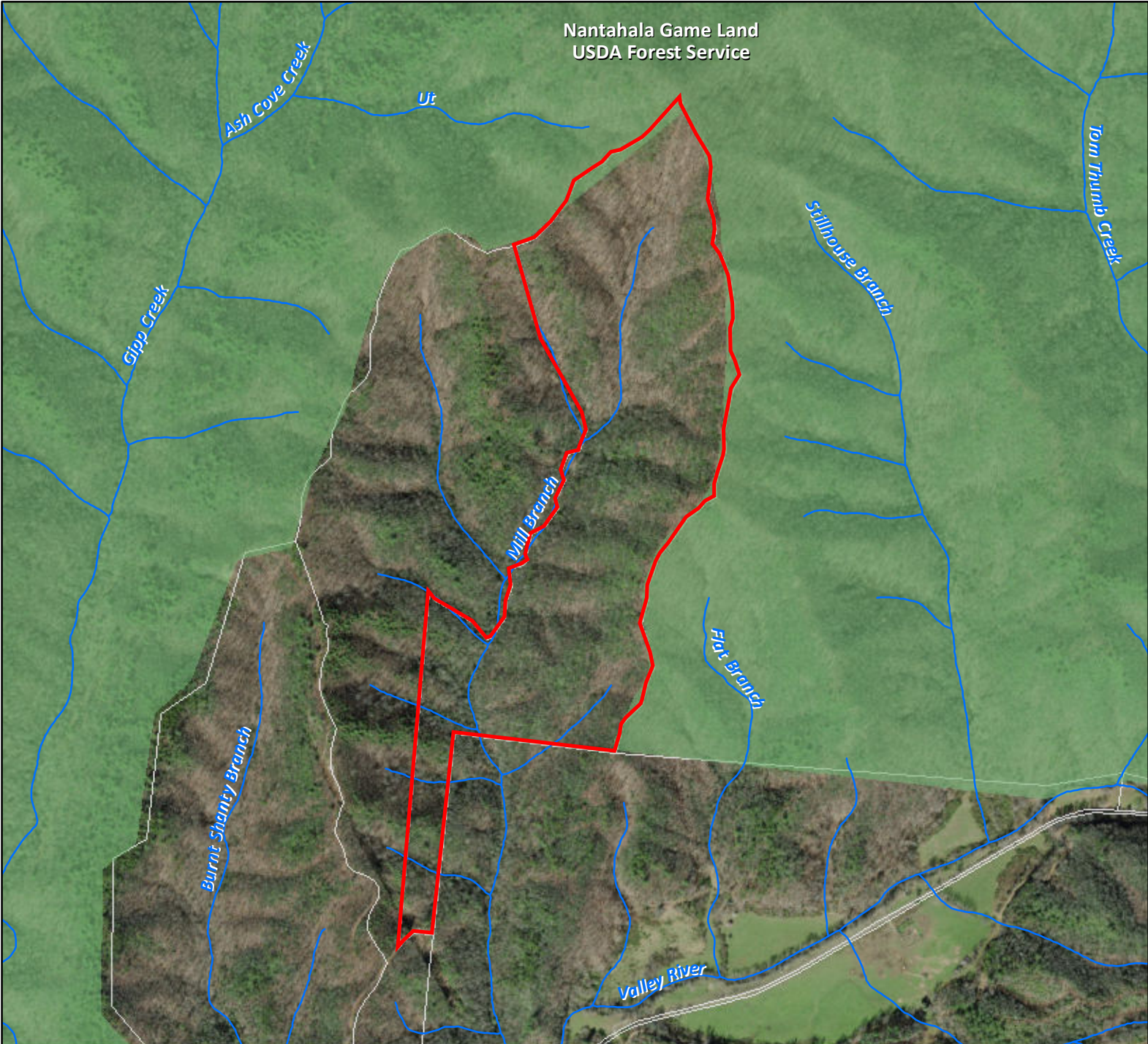
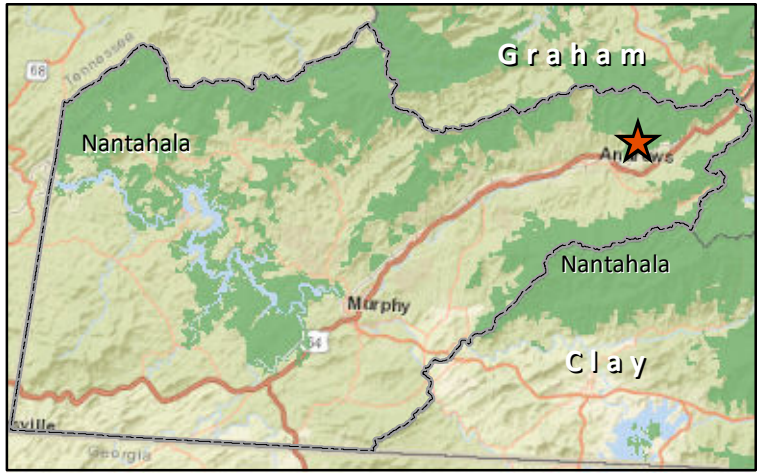
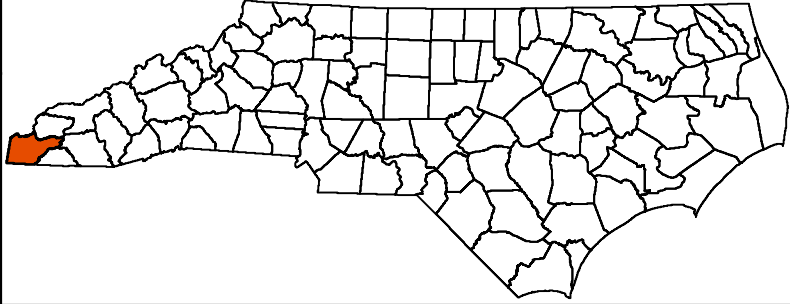
West Tract





Nantahala Game Land



West Tract
Cherokee County
+/- 89.44 Acres



 West Tract
 Parcel Boundaries

 Game Land

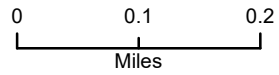


Exhibit C-2

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Turkey Ridge-Callaway Mountain Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): July 24, 2024

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

Wildlife Restoration Funds	\$1,800,000
TOTAL COST	\$1,800,000

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
The Conservation Fund	Michael Sweeting	9/5/2024	\$9,395,200

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

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

Federal Wildlife Restoration Funds as well as state funds

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$338,450
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit C-2

October 3, 2024

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
Survey/Boundary Establishment	1,293	Acres	\$100	\$129,300
Establish Parking Areas	2	Ea.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Improve Road Access	0.25	Mile	\$25,000	\$6,250
Repair Pond Flood Damage	1	LS	\$30,000	\$30,000
Asbestos Inspection	6	Ea.	\$1,400	\$8,400
Asbestos Abatement Contingency	6	Ea.	\$6,000	\$36,000
Re-deck Bridge	130	SF	\$50	\$6,500
Develop Accessible Fishing Platform	1	LS	\$35,000	\$35,000
Building Demolition and Removal	1,200	Tons	\$70	\$84,000
TOTAL				\$ 338,450

* Some surveying costs may be provided by partner contributions.

* Asbestos abatement depends on amount and type of material, if found. These are estimated costs based on past asbestos work.

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

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

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson, Doug Besler, Jeff Furgeson
Date First Presented to Commission:	July 24, 2024
Tract Name:	Turkey Ridge
County:	Yancey
Acreage:	(+/-) 1,244
Tax Value:	\$2,650,000
Property Owner/Representative:	The Conservation Fund (Erin Crouse)
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"/>	LWF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

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

Stewardship Considerations:

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

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:

This acquisition consists of two project tracts (Turkey Ridge and Callaway Mountain) totally ~1,293 acres, known collectively as Turkey Ridge. In 2022, the Conservation Fund was awarded \$1,600,000 NCLWF grant funds to purchase the ~738 acre Turkey Ridge tracts, and were awarded \$1,362,000 in 2023 for the ~ 555 acre Callaway Mountain tracts. The landowner agrees to offer a bargain sale and efforts are being made to close the funding gap. This property will help fill a void where state-owned game lands are lacking, and provide great public fishing opportunities supported by several ponds and a stretch of the Cane River. Numerous large tracts are adjacent to this property or nearby and there is great potential to expand this new game land.

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

Tract Name:	Turkey Ridge
County:	Yancey

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The property has multiple access points via the following: SR 1112, NC-197, SR 1113, SR 1115, and Haney Creek Rd, and Wildwood Dr. The Turkey Ridge tract was once used as a fly-in camp/resort and several buildings, cabins, and barns still remain. They consist of a large barn/event hall, service building, and a small, block house on the east side of the Cane River. There is one abandoned residence and two abandoned timber A-frame cabins on the west side of the river. The Callaway Mountain tract has an old house and barn on the property. These structures are dilapidated with no value and it is recommended that they be demolished and removed. An owner-built bridge provides access to the west side of the river, where a logging road provides access to the ridgetop. The bridge appears suitable to meet the immediate needs for administrative access, but further investigation is needed to determine its limits or needed repairs. Previous mining of river cobble has resulted in the creation of 10 ponds ranging from approximately 1 acre to 5 acres in size. At least four of the ponds located on higher ground adjacent to NC-127 have greater depth and are good for fishing. These ponds are fed by streams, groundwater, and runoff flowing from the east side of NC-127. Upon initial assessment, it appears these ponds currently have populations of Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, and bullheads and would be managed as warmwater fisheries. The ponds can be fished in their current condition, and minimal site work would be needed to provide angling opportunities. There is great opportunity to improve user access with floating piers and by providing disabled access. The remaining ponds closer to the river show signs of having been impacted from overland inputs from Cane River during extreme weather events. Ultimately, the ponds that are near the river should be allowed to revert to wetland or vernal pools in the river floodplain with any improvements that may be necessary to stabilize breaches or instabilities that may lead to mass expulsion of sediment to the Cane River. There is opportunity in the future to manage these ponds as a larger restoration project. The upper ponds that are suitable for fishing may need to be retrofitted with new outlets, emergency spillways and an improved outlet below the last pond as it discharges back to the Cane River. Approximately 150 acres of the Toodies Creek Headwaters Natural Area is located on the property, which includes Rich Cove and High Elevation Birch Boulderfield forests, and Rich Montane Seep natural communities. Acquisition will protect ~1.4 miles of riparian buffer along the Cane River. SGCN species likely found on the property include pygmy salamander, Alleghany or Southern Appalachian woodrats, and small-footed bats. Also, Hellbender and gray bat have been documented within the river and/or corridor. Healthy populations of wild turkey, white-tailed deer, black bear, and eastern gray squirrel exist on the tracts.

Tract Name **Turkey Ridge**
 Date **March 14, 2023**
 Staff Completing Form **Paul Thompson**

Species	0.667
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	3
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	3

Comments
 Moderate biodiversity is based on the size of the subject property and the diversity of community types. Hellbender and gray bat have been documented close by, so there is potential for SGCN presence. Only a small portion of the ponds have reverted into wetlands. Historically, the area was known to be game rich. Both river and ponds provide good diversity and opportunity for game species.

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

Comments
 The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, with a diversity of habitat types. The property has some unique habitat types and a portion is dedicated as Toodies Creek Headwaters Natural Area.

Public Access	0.778
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	1

Comments
 The property will provide excellent public access for hunting, viewing, and fishing. Depending on river levels, there may be some limited opportunities for canoe/kayak.

Wildlife Uses	0.800
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	3
Boating	1
Education	2

Comments
 The property provides excellent hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Educational opportunities could exist on this tract.

Other Values	0.667
Timber Harvest	2
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Comments
 The tract can produce good timber, but the value can only be considered moderate due to topography and likely deed restrictions. The tract can create additional opportunities and may improve the quality of life for those utilizing this area.

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

Comments
 There is a network of logging roads that will provide administrative access and help facilitate future management. Compatibility with multiple use should not be an issue, nor compatibility with adjoining lands.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.667
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	2

Comments
 Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate.

Threats	0.067
Number	1
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

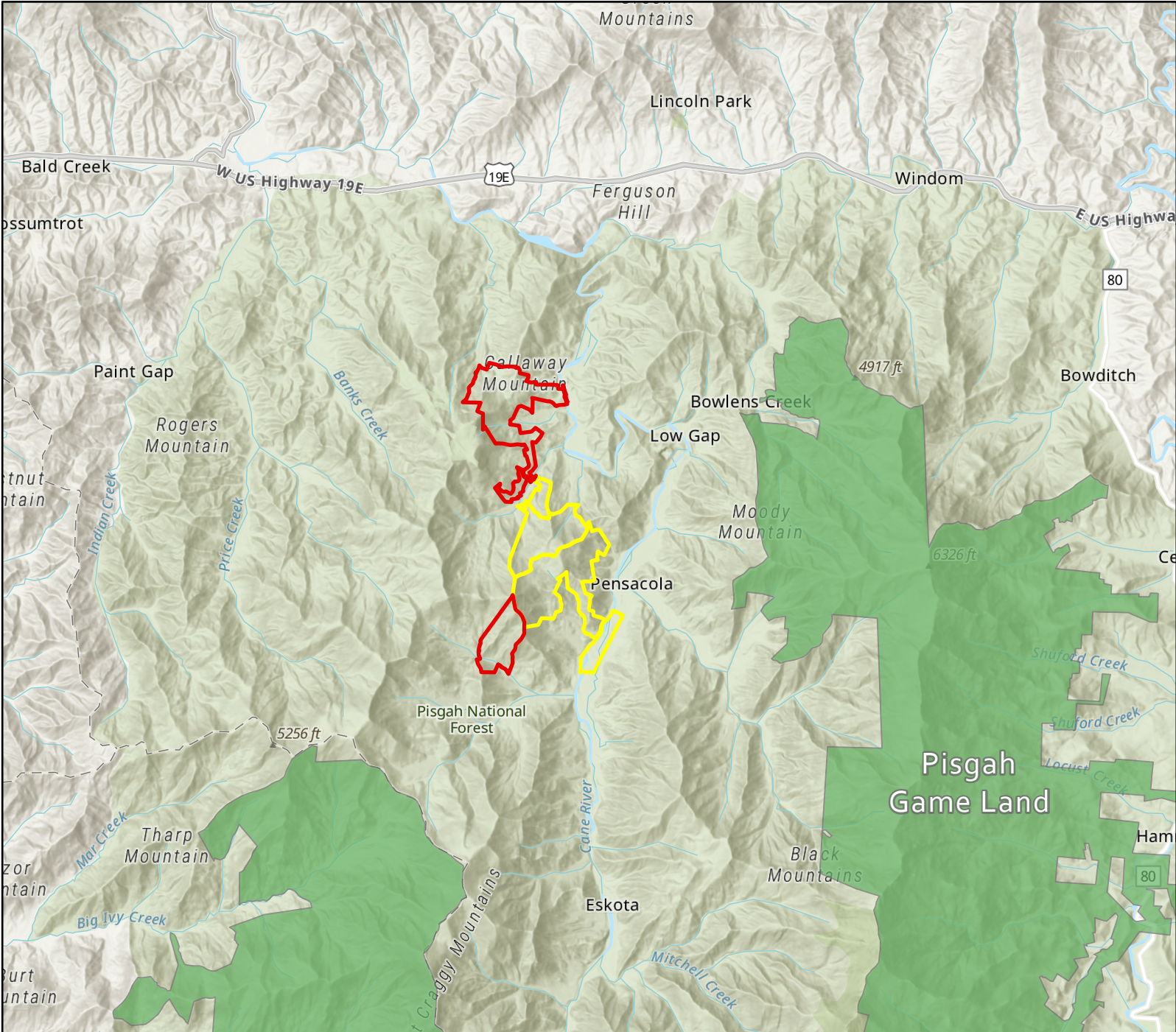
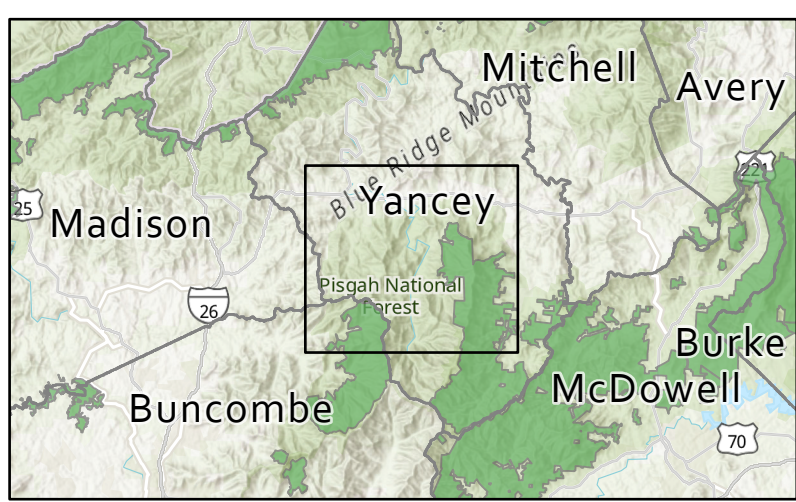
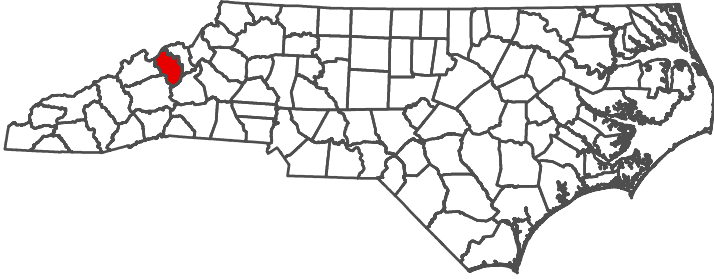
Comments
 The property is currently owned by 130 Chatham and the Conservation Fund has been awarded LWF grant funds, so threats are minimal.

Overall Score	4.856
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Turkey Ridge & Callaway Mountain Tracts

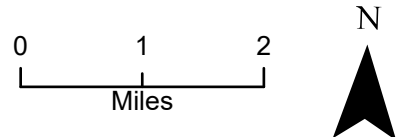
Yancey County

+/- 1,244 acres



- Turkey Ridge Tracts
- Callaway Mountain Tracts

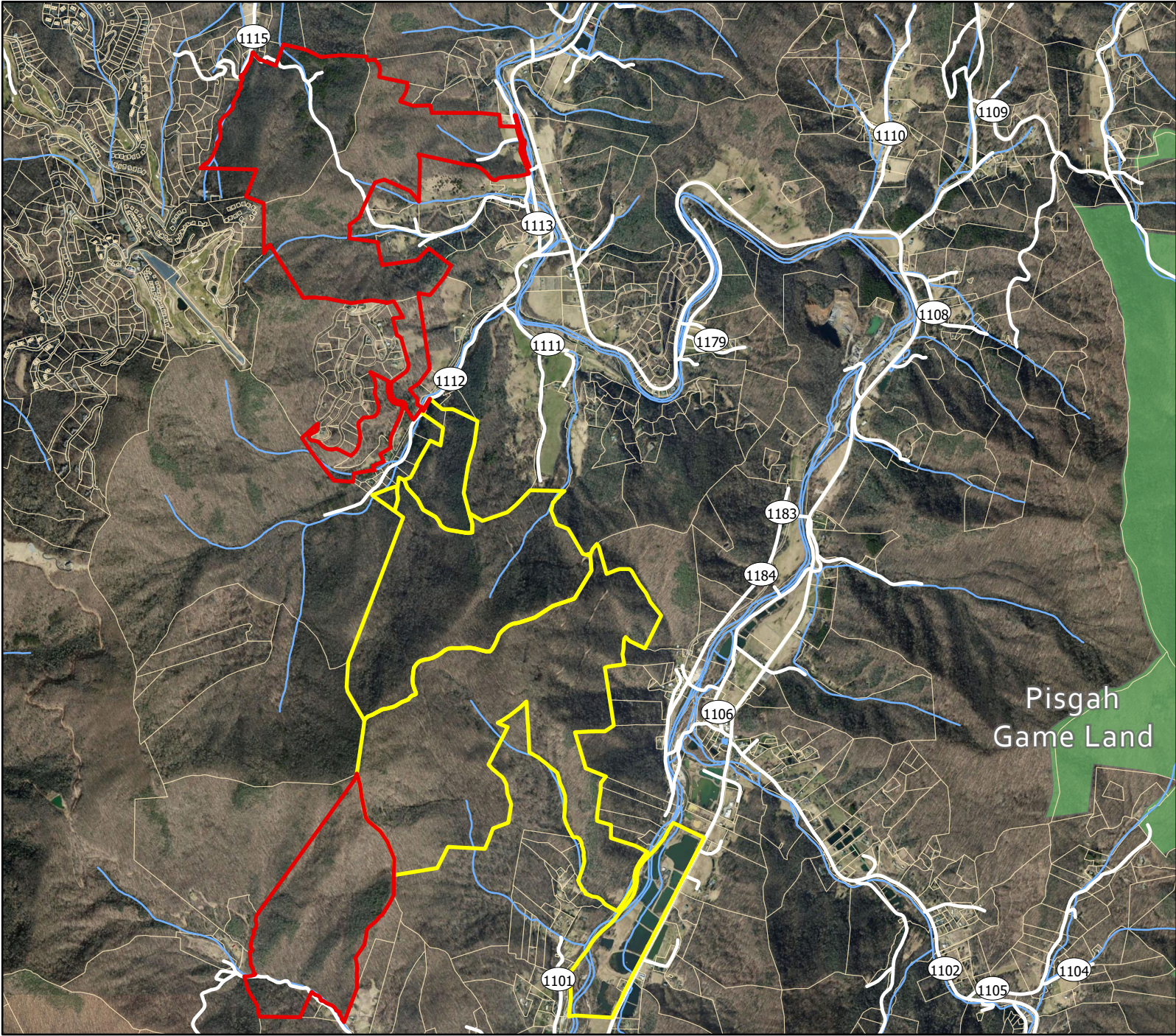
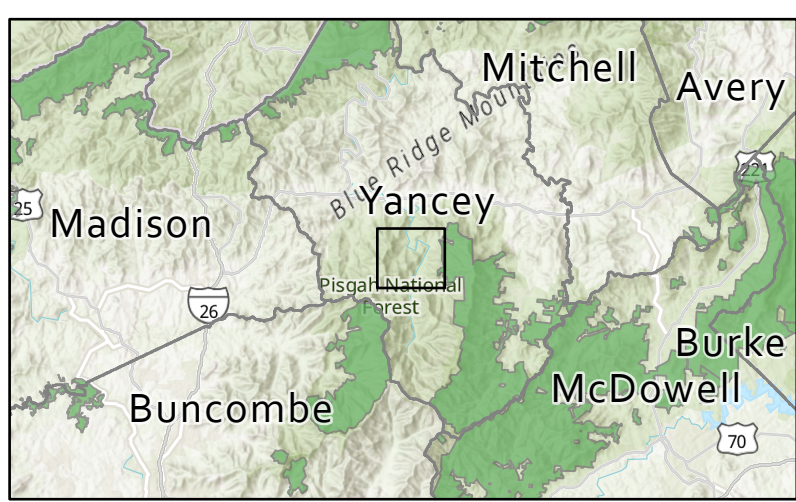
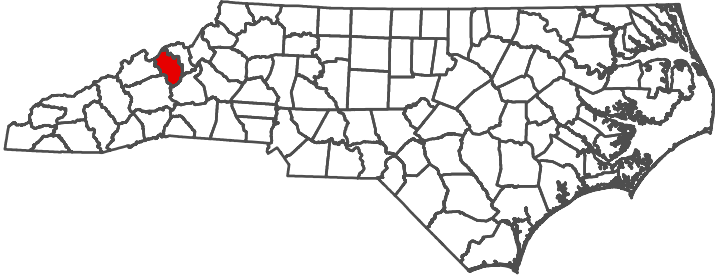
NCWRC Game Lands



Turkey Ridge & Callaway Mountain Tracts

Yancey County

+/- 1,244 acres



- Turkey Ridge Tracts
- Callaway Mountain Tracts
- NCWRC Game Lands
- Parcels

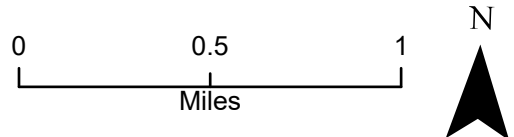


Exhibit C-3

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Grassy Creek Donation

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): October 2, 2024

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

Donation

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):

State funds

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$17,500
Total Projected Revenue	\$0.00

Exhibit C-3

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

**Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:
WEST TRACT**

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	10,000	Feet	\$1.25	\$12,500
Install Parking Area	1	Ea.	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL				\$17,500

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

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Land Acquisition and Property

Phase 1



Tract Name: **Grassy Creek Donation, Toe River Valley Watch**

Type of Acquisition:
Purchase

Tract Owner: **TOE RIVER VALLEY WATCH**

Acreage: **15.23**

Purpose of Acquisition:
Public Fishing Area, Grassy Creek

County: **Mitchell**

Tax Value: **\$121,100**

Asking Price: **Not Available**

Funding Considerations:
Donation

Date First Presented: **10/02/2024**

Resource Assessment:

Eastern Hellbender are found within this stretch of Grassy Creek where Toe River Valley Watch completed a stream restoration project with a NCLWF grant. Approx. 1 mile of Grassy Creek (Hatchery Supported Trout Water) river frontage exists. Connects to upstream and downstream sections of public mountain trout waters.

Public Access:

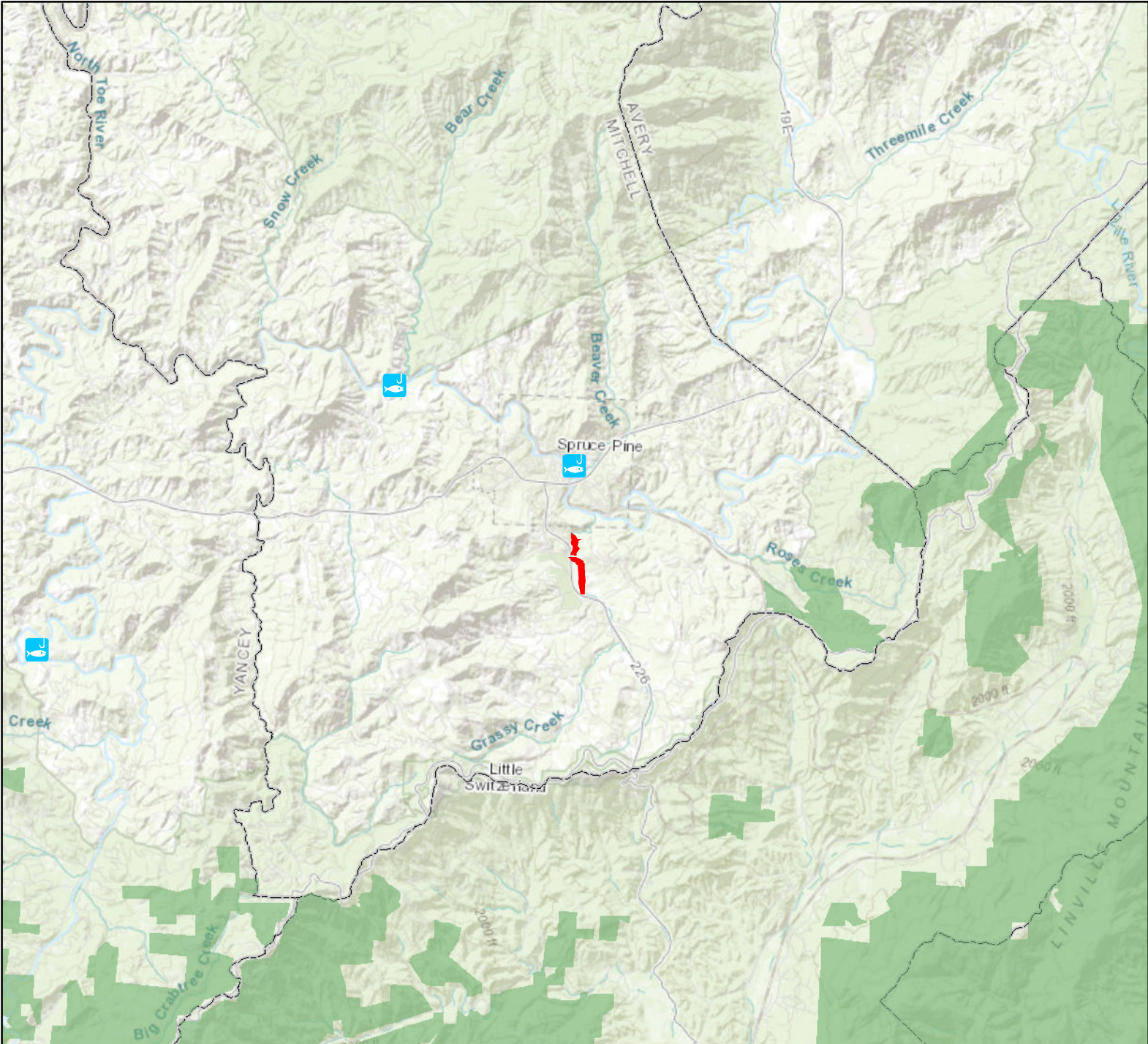
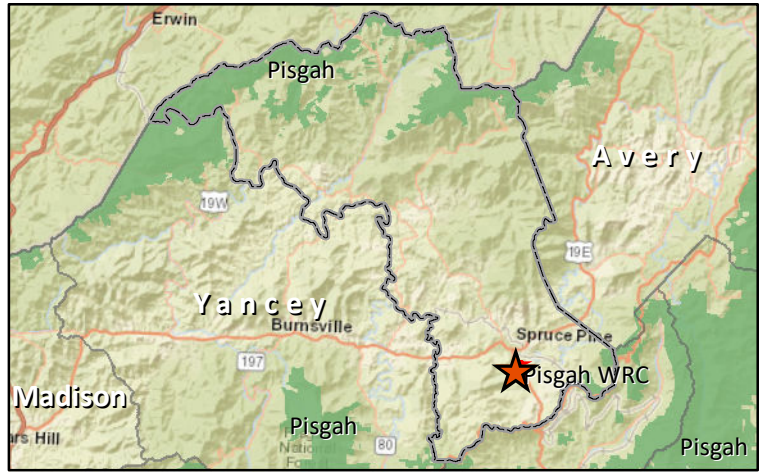
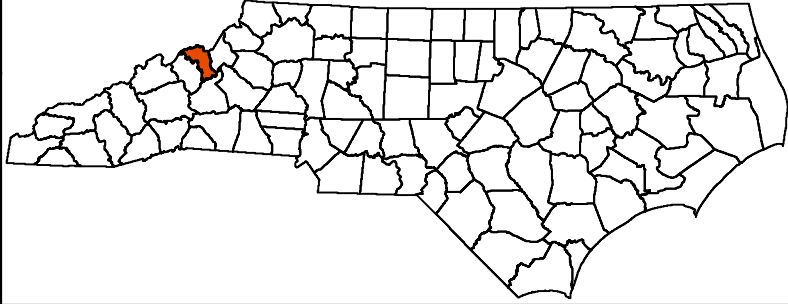
Acquisition will secure permanent access to public mountain trout water. Excellent existing parking for anglers. Provides excellent access for trout stocking.

Existing Infrastructure:

A 1 mile section of the Overmountain Victory Trail runs through the property. The trail provides great angler access and additional access for stocking and management. WRC will enter an MOU with Overmountain Victory Trail Association to maintain this section of trail.

Additional Comments:

Grassy Creek Tracts - Donation Mitchell County +/- 15.23 Acres



October 2, 2024



Grassy Creek Tracts



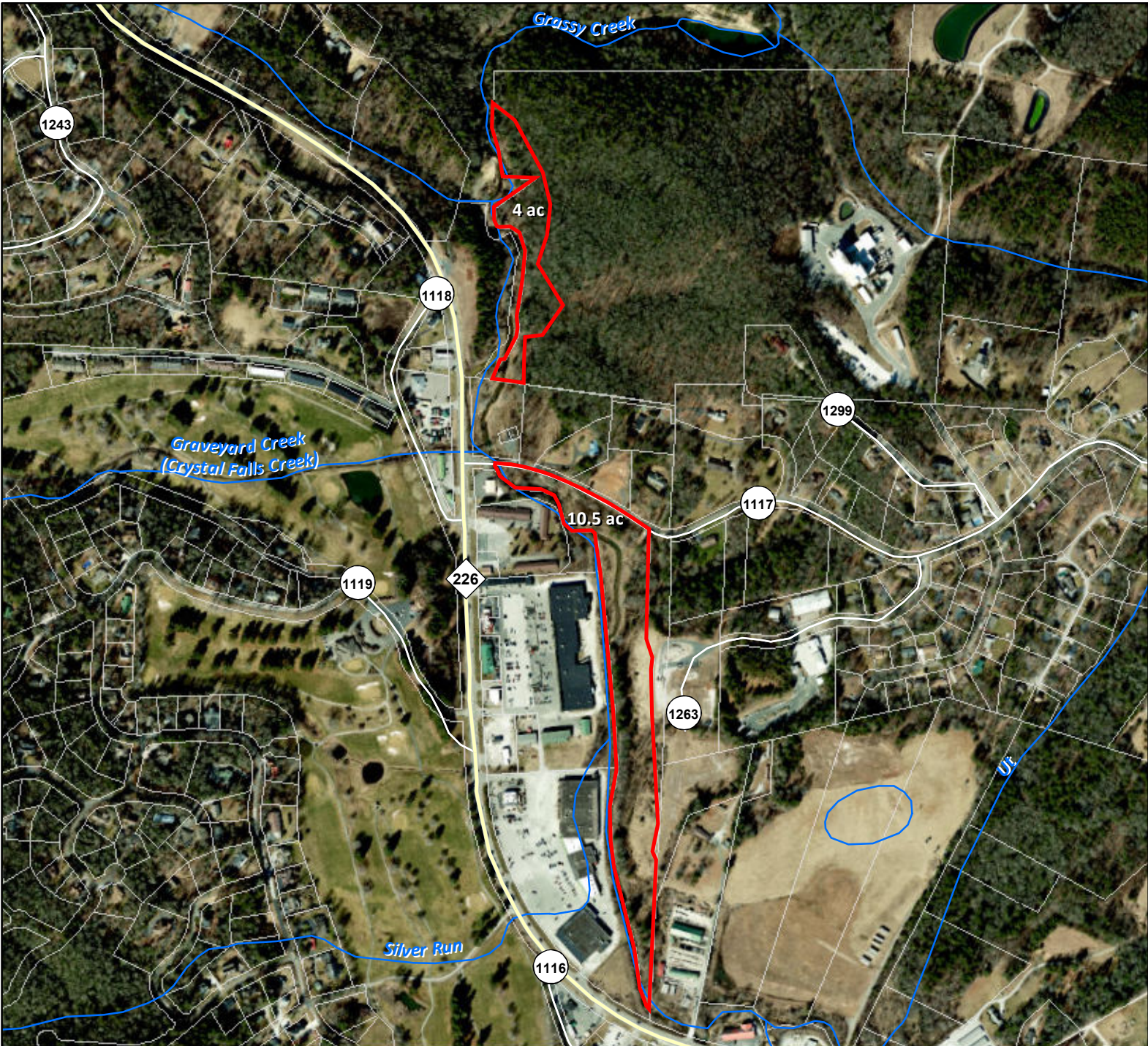
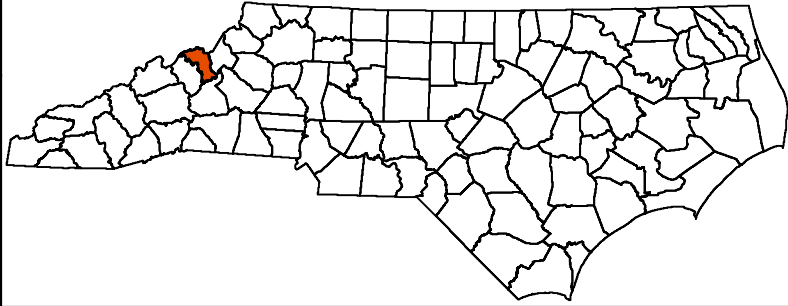
Public Fishing Area





Pisgah Game Land



Grassy Creek Tracts - Donation Mitchell County +/- 15.23 Acres



October 2, 2024

-  Grassy Creek Tracts
-  Parcel Boundaries

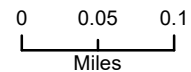


Exhibit C-4

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Marshall Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): February 24, 2022

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

North Carolina Land & Water Fund	\$3,417,440
Acres for America National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Funds	\$517,000
Wildlife Restoration Funds	\$2,118,560
TOTAL COST	\$6,053,000

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
The Nature Conservancy	Crawford Mackethan (value of bare land)	April 4, 2022	\$3,938,700
The Nature Conservancy	Jody Andrews (value of timber)	June 26, 2023	\$2,114,300

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

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

Federal Wildlife Restoration Funds – 75% federal: 25% state

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$403,880
Total Projected Revenue	\$200,000

Exhibit C-4

October 3, 2024

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections: MARSHALL TRACT

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment – yr 1	15.7	Mile	\$5000	\$7,850
Boundary Maintenance – yr 5	3.925	Mile	\$135	\$530
Road Construction	0.64	Mile	\$250,000	\$160,000
Road Improvement	1.56	Mile	\$150,000	\$234,000
Gate Establishment	2	Gate	\$750	\$1,500
TOTAL				\$ 403,880

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
Timber Harvest	500	Acre	\$400	\$200,000 (<i>pending NC Natural Heritage Program Articles of Dedication</i>)
TOTAL				\$ 200,000

February 2, 2022
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Chesley Ward
Date First Presented to Commission:	
Tract Name:	Marshall Tract
County:	Bladen
Acreage:	2895.00
Tax Value:	\$349,120
Property Owner/Representative:	Owners - Audrey & Megan Marshall / Representative - Steve Wilson
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

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

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	2021	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

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

There are 3 different parcels that make up this potential acquisition. Two are adjacent to each other and separate from the third by only a short distance. The stand-alone parcel has frontage along NC-53. The deeded acres total 2,278 but when tax data parcels are measured with geospatial software, the total is 2,895.

The Nature Conservancy is leading the initial efforts of fundraising by applying for a Land and Water Fund grant. WRC will apply for funding from other sources to cover the difference.

February 2, 2022

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

Tract Name:

Marshall Tract

County:

Bladen

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Marshall Tract is a +/- 2895-acre property in Bladen County that lies entirely in the Conkill Bay Complex Significant Natural Heritage Area, which is has an overall ranking of Very High. It lies directly across NC Highway 53 from the 1,685-acre Whitehall Tract of Whitehall Plantation Game Land. Singletary Lake State Park is three miles northwest and the community of Kelly is seven miles southeast, both connected by NC-53.

Roughly half the property is made up of mature, natural longleaf pine found on sandy bay rims and ridges that are interspersed among adjacent flats, drainage swales, and Carolina bay basins. This property alone makes up 43% of the entire Natural Heritage Area it lies within, which is an integral part of a larger complex of natural areas and managed timberlands that provide extensive travel & dispersal corridor functions benefitting a large suite of animal groups. The condition of the longleaf pine habitat is surprisingly good even though it hasn't been burned in many years.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) are reported by NC Natural Heritage Program to exist in this natural area in their natural area inventory of Bladen County from 2005. In the site visit conducted by WRC staff, no RCWs or cavity trees were seen, but only a small portion of this large property was viewed in that visit. A more thorough search of the tract may likely reveal RCWs and/or signs of their activity.

WRC biologists have identified 37 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that are likely to occur on the Marshall Tract as it currently exists. There is huge potential for significant improvements and restoration to the longleaf pine habitat as well as the adjacent pocosins and other drainages.

Tract Name	Marshall Tract
Date	January 14, 2022
Staff Completing Form	Chesley Ward

Species	0.444
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	3
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Overall biodiversity for terrestrial species is high and wetland species is moderate. 37 Species of Greatest Conservation Need are likely to exist on the property. No water bodies or aquatic habitat exists on the property that WRC staff are aware of.

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

Comments
Protection of the Marshall Tract will greatly improve landscape level connectivity for many rare & important species that depend on longleaf pine habitats. The size of these habitats in this part of NC is largely important to a landscape level approach to managing species & populations. This many acres of intact, natural, & mature longleaf pine are rare & very important in NC.

Public Access	0.333
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
Excellent hunting, trapping, & wildlife viewing opportunities exist on this property. There are no fishing & boating opportunities.

Wildlife Uses	0.467
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
Excellent hunting opportunities exist for deer, black bear, turkey, quail, & several small game species. Wildlife viewing opportunities are similar & include many nongame wildlife species.

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

Comments
There is substantial opportunity to manage and harvest timber resources.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.667
Existing Infrastructure	3
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	0
Proximity to Users	1

Comments
The property has an extensive road & trail system & is very compatible for multiple uses & the adjoining lands.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.750
Species Restoration	3
Habitat Restoration	3
Access Improvement	0
Threat Mitigation	3

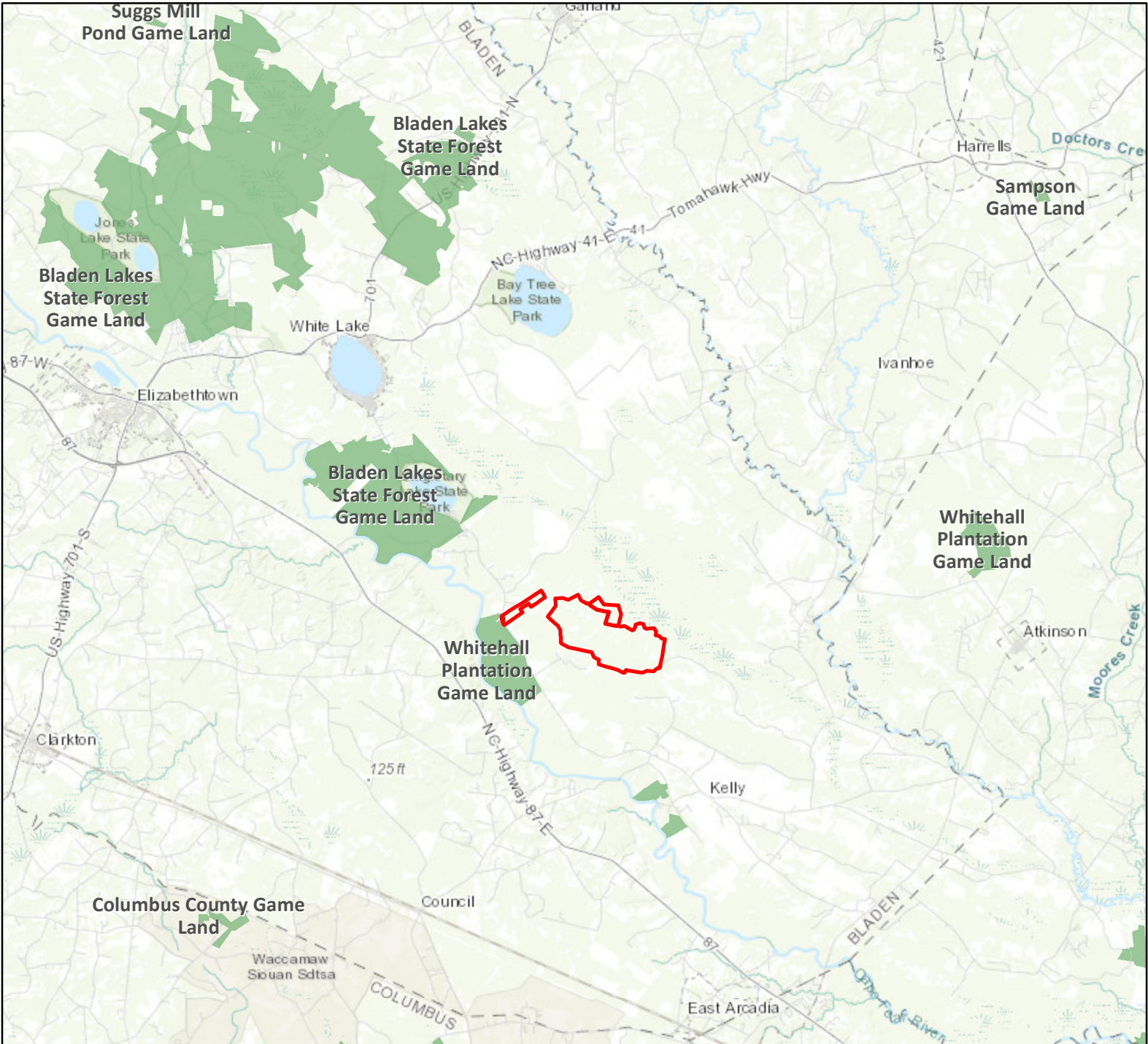
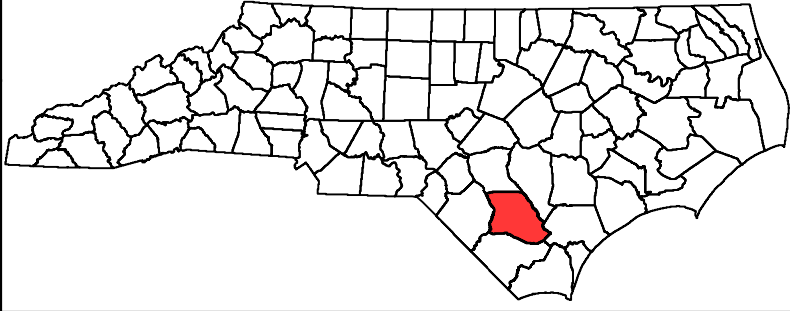
Comments
Excellent opportunities exist for species & habitat restoration & improvement. Many habitat conditions are present for rare species but restoration & improvement activities, mainly timber thinning & burning, will greatly improve overall conditions for most habitats on the property.



Threats	0.467
Number	3
Severity	2
Imminence	1
Manageability	0
Management Cost	1

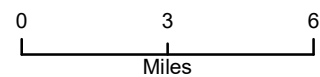
Comments
Three threats to this property exist: wildfire, large scale clearcut timber harvest, & land conversion. The greatest severity would be from land conversion. Catastrophic wildfire & clear cut timber harvests would be detrimental to existing resource values. Restoration efforts could greatly overcome damages, but would take decades to realize benefits. Low intensity prescribed fire is greatly needed to improve habitat & reduce fuel loads.

Overall Score	3.694
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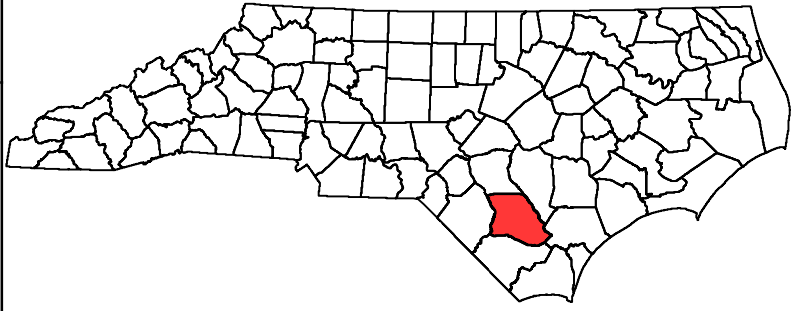
**Marshall Tract
Bladen County
2,895 Acres**





 Marshall Tract
 Game Land



**Marshall Tract
Bladen County
2,895 Acres**



-  Marshall Tract
-  Game Land

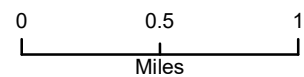
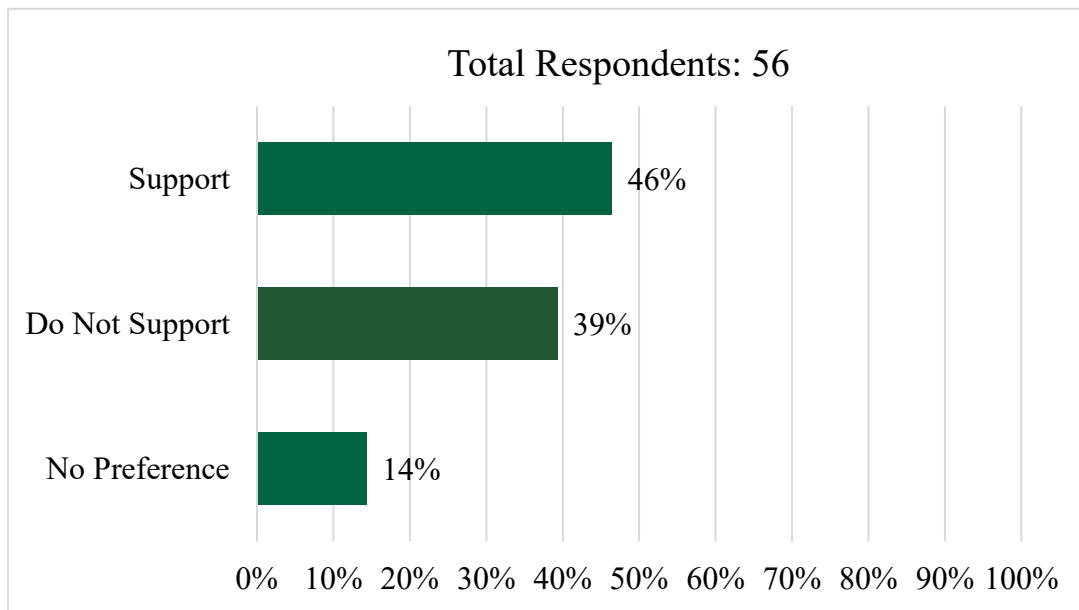


EXHIBIT D-1

October 3, 2024



Summary of Public Comments on 15A NCAC 10F .0304 – Bladen County – White Lake



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	3	2	7	2	5	4	1	1	1	0	26
Do Not Support	0	3	1	10	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	22
No Preference	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	8
Total	0	6	4	18	5	8	6	2	2	5	0	56

One public hearing was held on August 20, 2024 and another one was held on September 18, 2024.

EXHIBIT D-2

October 3, 2024



FINAL ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULE 15A NCAC 10F .0304 – BLADEN COUNTY, WHITE LAKE

The Notice of Text for adoption of a temporary rule for 15A NCAC 10F .0304 – White Lake in Bladen County was published on the Office of Administrative Hearings website with open comment period and two public hearings, per the requirements of the North Carolina Administrative Procedure Act.

In response to public concerns after the Wildlife Resources Commission adopted recent revisions for the Restricted Area in the Rule at White Lake in Bladen County, that water recreationists who swim or operate non-motorized vessels in the Restricted Area at White Lake would be subjected to severe hazards to boating and swimming safety if motorized vessels travel parallel to the shoreline within the area, the WRC adopted emergency rulemaking and proposed temporary rulemaking. The temporary rule will require motorboats to travel perpendicular to the shore and at no-wake speed within the Restricted Area.

Staff seeks your adoption of the temporary Rule amendment for White Lake in Bladen County.

1 15A NCAC 10F .0304 is proposed for amendment with changes under temporary rulemaking procedures:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0304 BLADEN COUNTY**

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

(1) White Lake. The water between the shoreline and ~~no-wake~~ regulatory markers 500 feet from the shoreline is a ~~restricted area~~. Restricted Area.

5 (2) Cape Fear River:

6 (A) the waters shore to shore between a point 100 yards east and 100 yards west of the ferry
7 cable at Elwell Ferry and Elwells Ferry Boating Access Area, 2702 Elwell Ferry Road,
8 Council;

9 (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Tar Heel Boating Access Area, 1000 Wildlife Landing
10 Drive, Tar Heel; and

11 (C) the waters within 50 yards of the Tory Hole Boating Access Area, 335 N. Poplar Street,
12 Elizabethtown.

13 (3) Black River. The waters within 50 yards of the Hunts Bluff Boating Access Area, 351 Hunts Bluff
14 Road, Kelly.

15 (b) ~~Restricted Area. Skiing is prohibited~~ Motorboats, as defined in G.S. 75A-2(1e), shall not be operated on a course
16 parallel to the shoreline in the restricted area described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.

17 (c) Diving. A person engaged in skin or scuba diving shall display a diver's flag, and no vessel shall approach within
18 50 feet of a diver's flag, as described in G.S. 75A-13.1.

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

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

23 (1) North Carolina State Parks for the regulated area designated in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule;
24 and

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

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

31 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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

33 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
34 *6, 2016;*

35 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2024; October 1, 2018.*
36

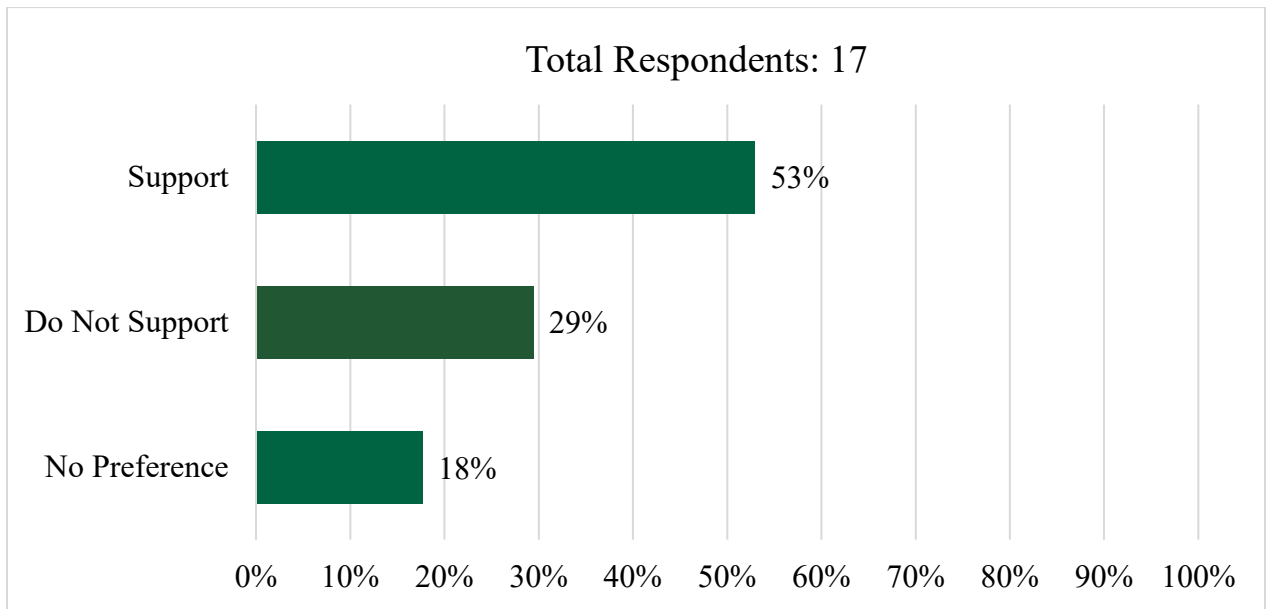
EXHIBIT E-1

October 3, 2024



Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026

F1 – Remove the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section on Henry Fork in Burke County from Public Mountain Trout Waters. This proposal will remove approximately 3.1 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

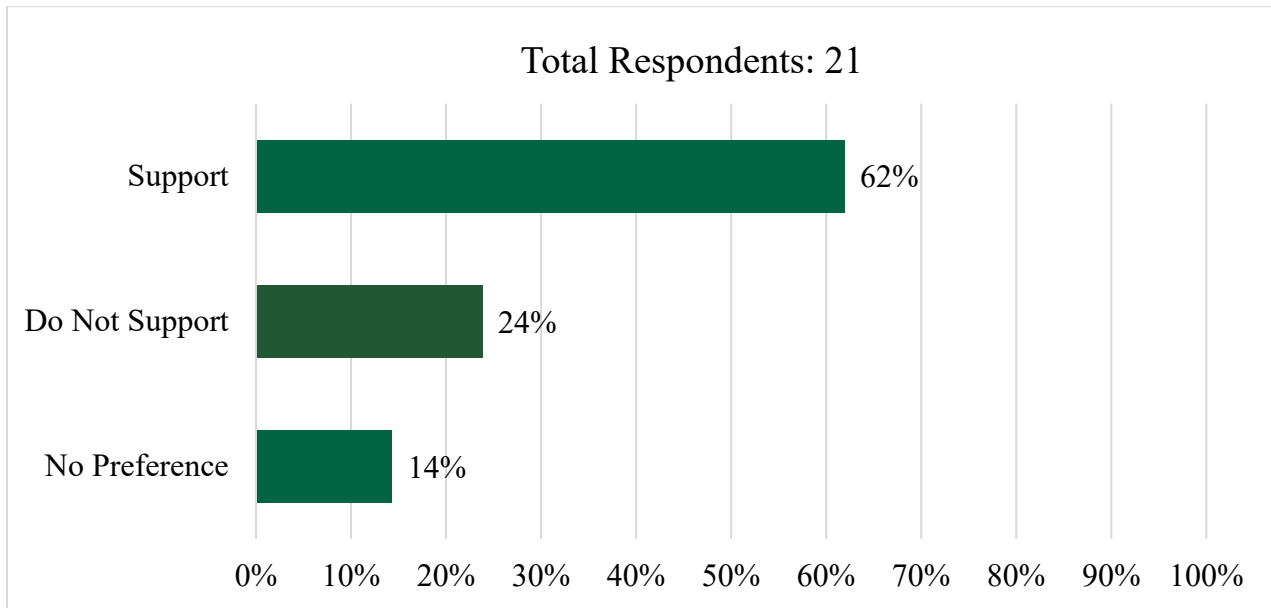


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	9
Do Not Support	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	5
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Total	0	1	5	0	0	3	2	4	2	0	0	17



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F2 – Reclassify the section of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Linville River within the U.S. Forest Service’s Linville Gorge Wilderness Area (LGWA) in Burke County to Wild Trout Waters. This proposal will not remove any water from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

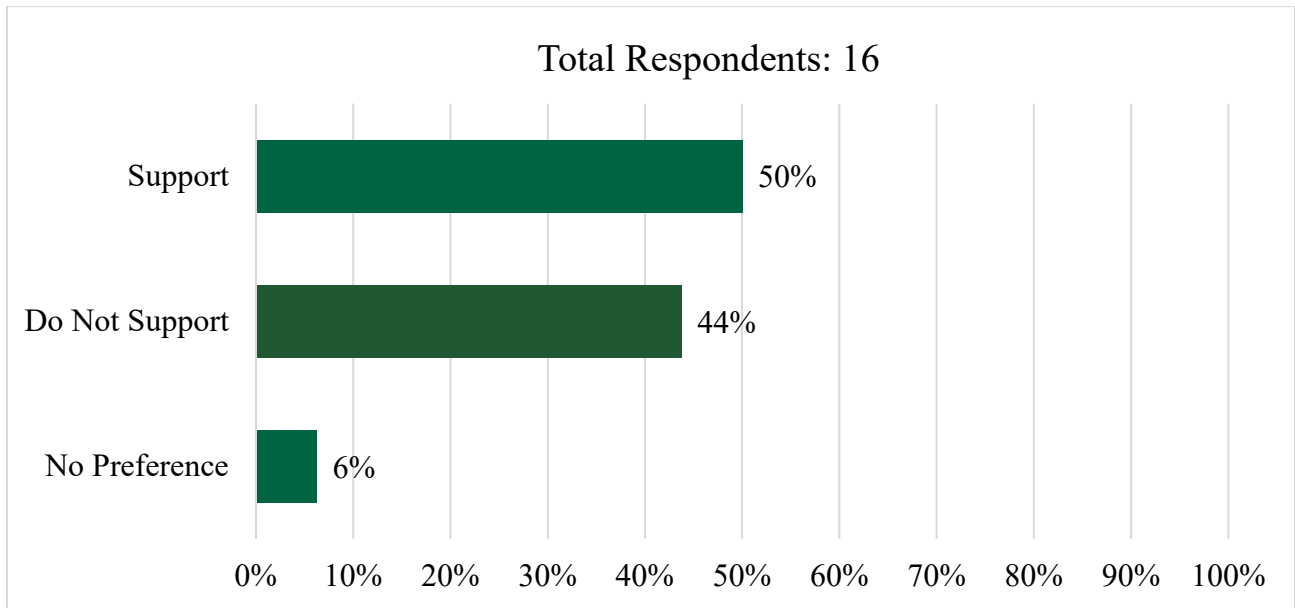


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	4	0	2	1	1	3	2	0	0	13
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	5
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Total	0	1	5	0	2	3	2	6	2	0	0	21



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F3 – Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Hungry River in Henderson County. The new reach will be from Little Hungry River to Green River. This proposal will remove approximately 1.0 mile from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

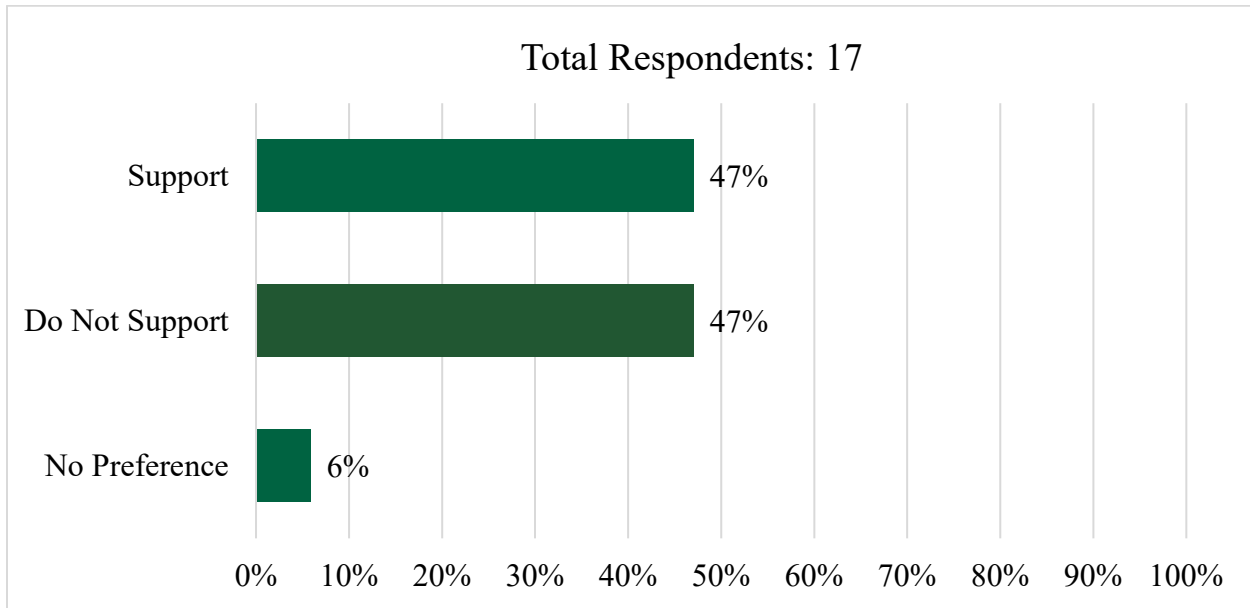


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	8
Do Not Support	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	7
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	5	0	1	3	1	3	2	0	0	16



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F4 – Remove the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section on Little Rock Creek in Mitchell County from Public Mountain Trout Waters. This proposal will remove approximately 7.0 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

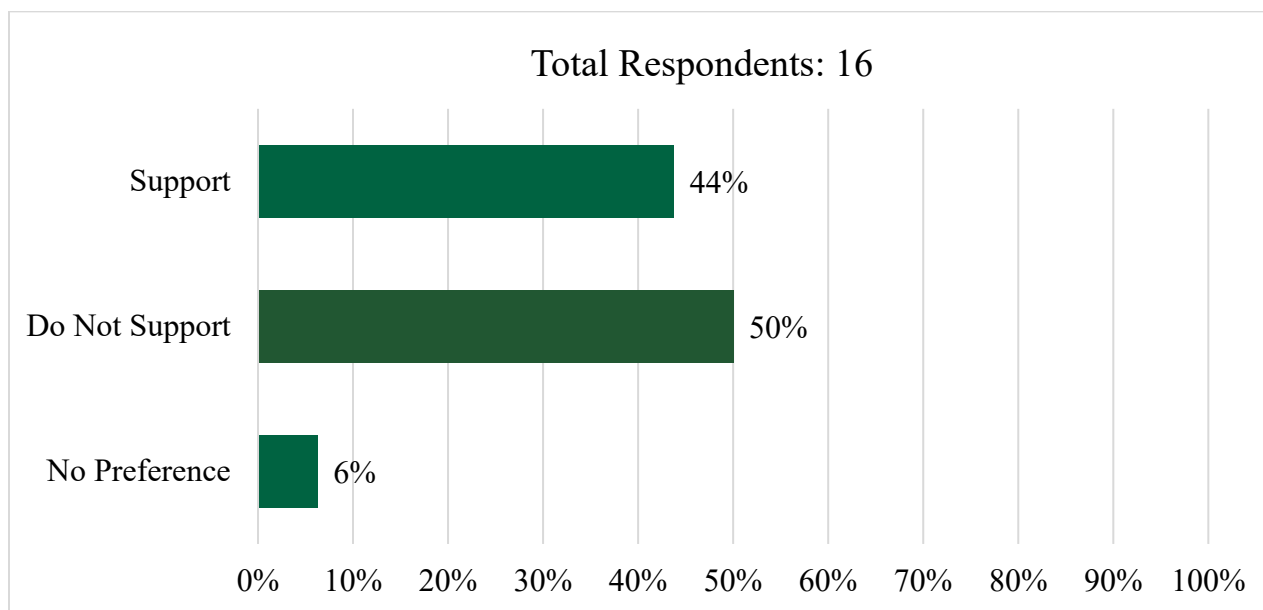


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	8
Do Not Support	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	8
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	5	0	1	3	1	4	2	0	0	17



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F5 – Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Big Rock Creek in Mitchell County. The new reach will be from the headwaters to the S.R. 1325 bridge. This proposal will remove approximately 2.3 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

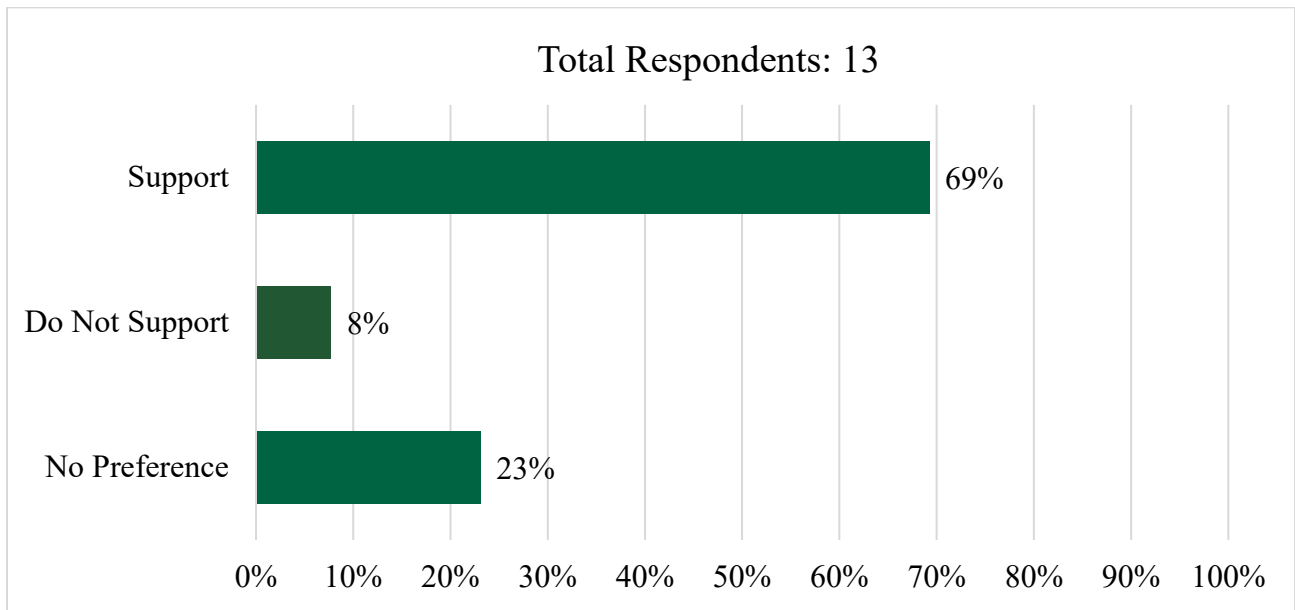


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	7
Do Not Support	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	8
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	5	0	1	2	1	4	2	0	0	16



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F6 – Clarify that the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section on the Ararat River in Surry County is the portion of the river bordering the Ararat River Greenway downstream of the N.C. 103 bridge. This proposal will not remove any water from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

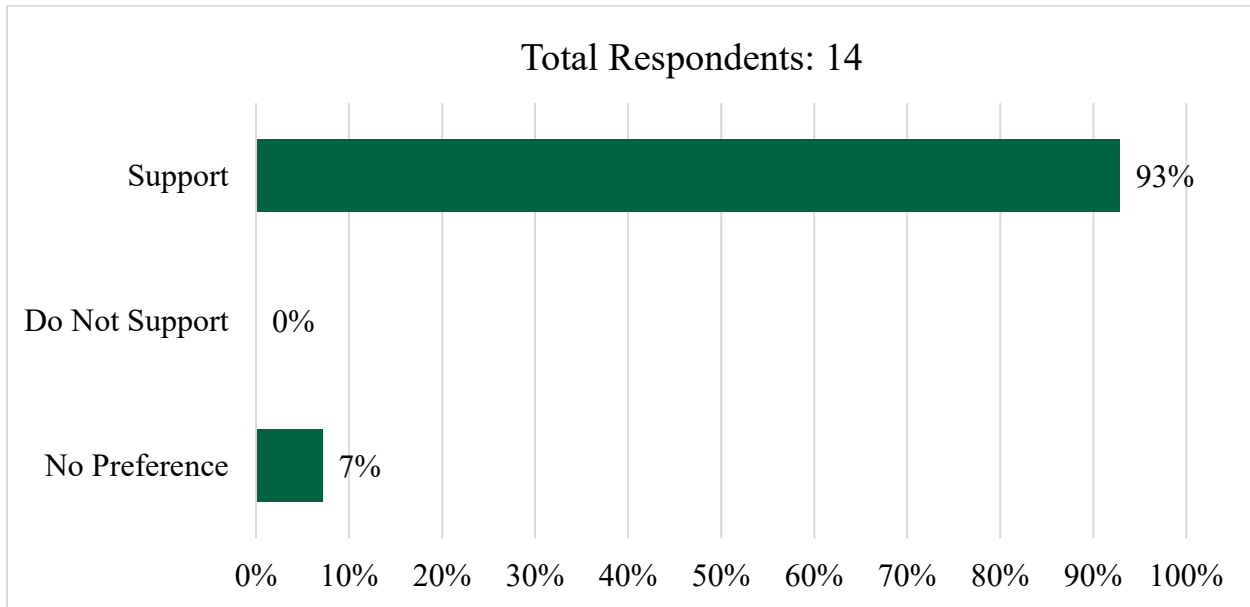


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	9
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No Preference	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Total	0	1	5	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	13



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F7 – Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Ararat River in Surry County. The new reach will be the portion of the river adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway upstream of the N.C. 103 bridge. This proposal will add approximately 0.5 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters.

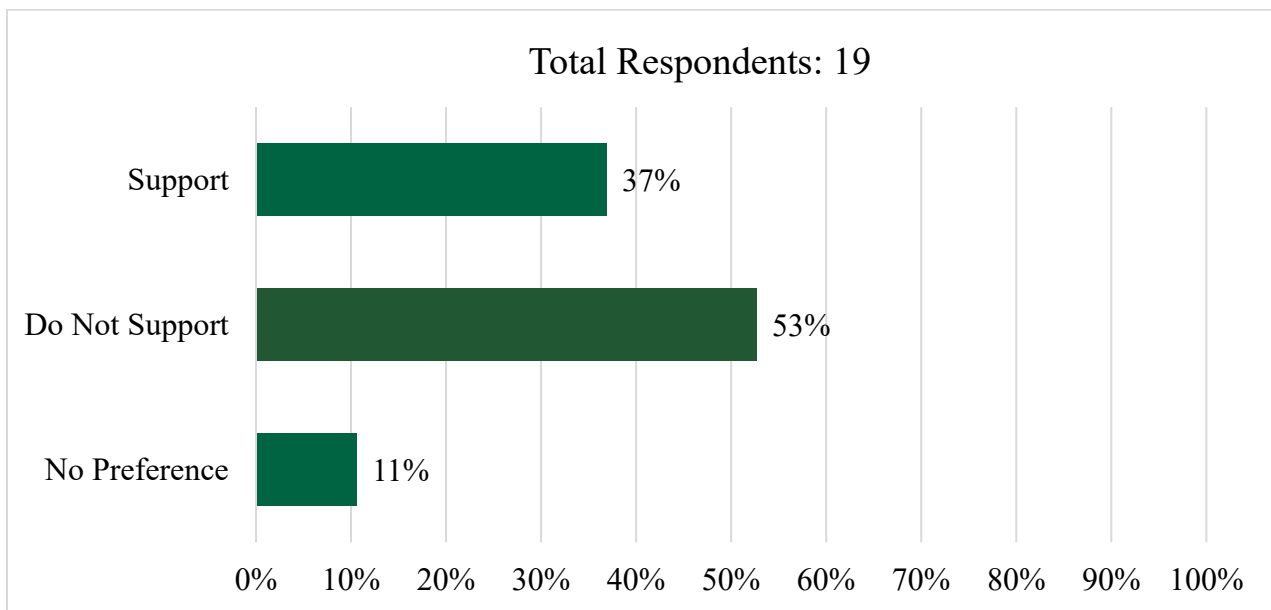


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	5	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	13
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	5	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	14



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F8 – Modify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on the East Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County. The new reach will be from the East Fork Baptist Church to 350 yards downstream of Whitmire Falls. This proposal will remove approximately 1.0 mile from Public Mountain Trout Waters.



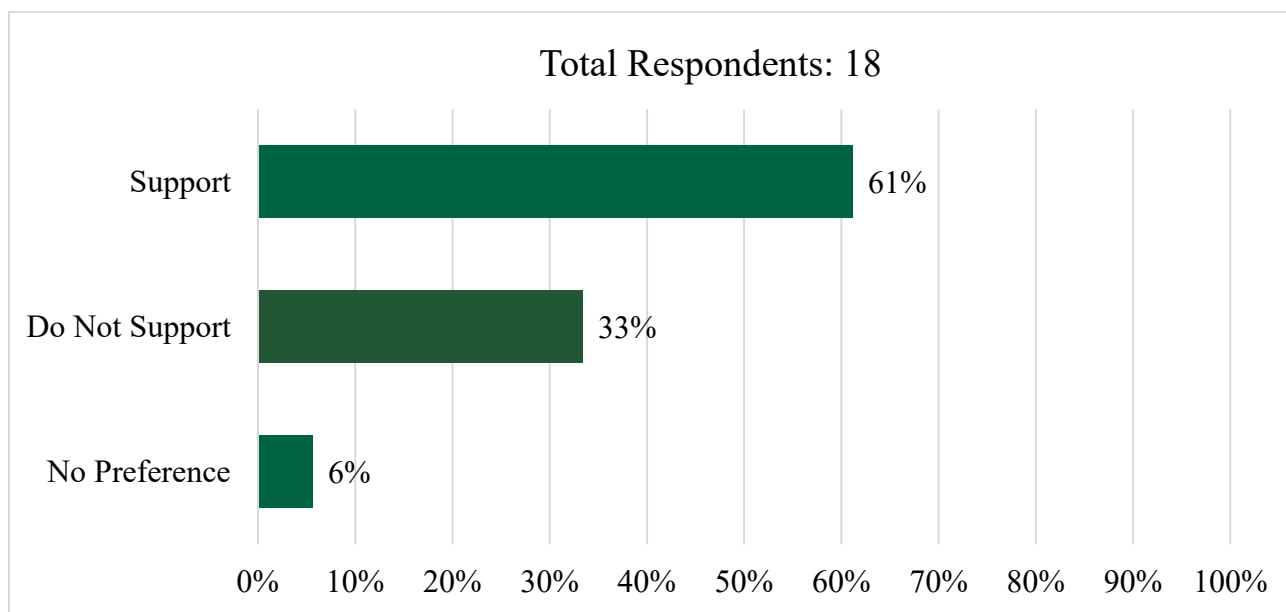
NOTE: Total % > 100% due to rounding

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	7
Do Not Support	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	10
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	0	1	5	0	2	2	1	3	4	1	0	19



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F9 – Modify the age of youth from under the age of 18 to under the age of 16. The age will apply in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters where from 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth anglers may fish.

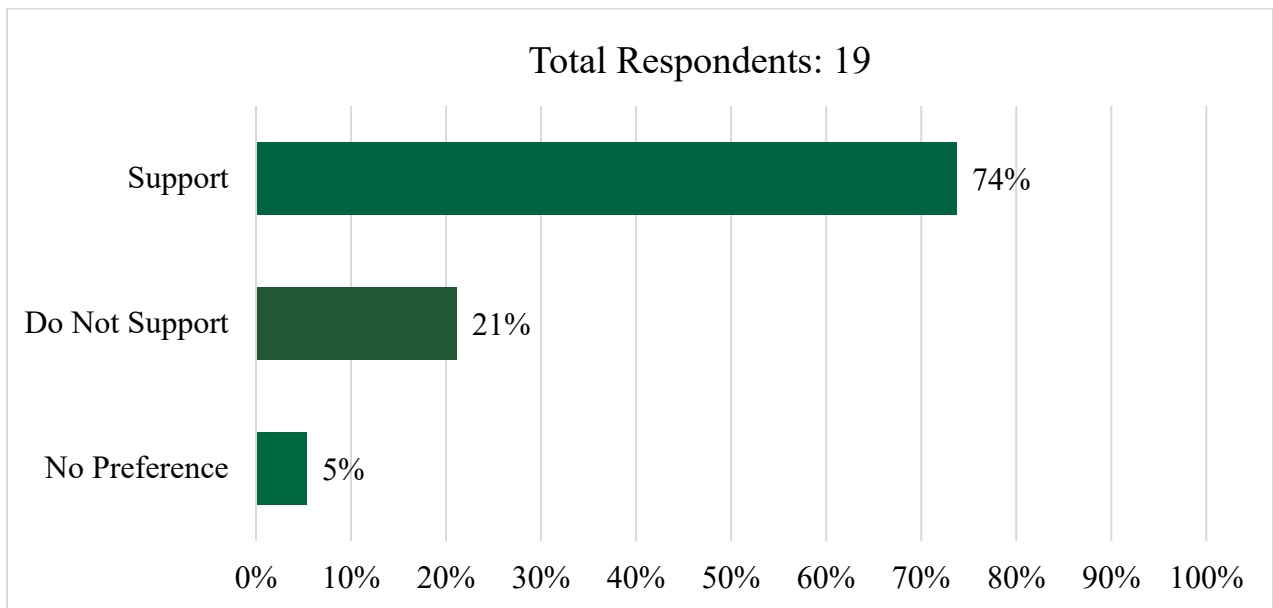


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	3	2	0	0	11
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	6
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	4	1	1	2	2	5	2	0	0	18



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F10 – Establish an 8-inch minimum size limit and a 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie at Shearon Harris Reservoir.

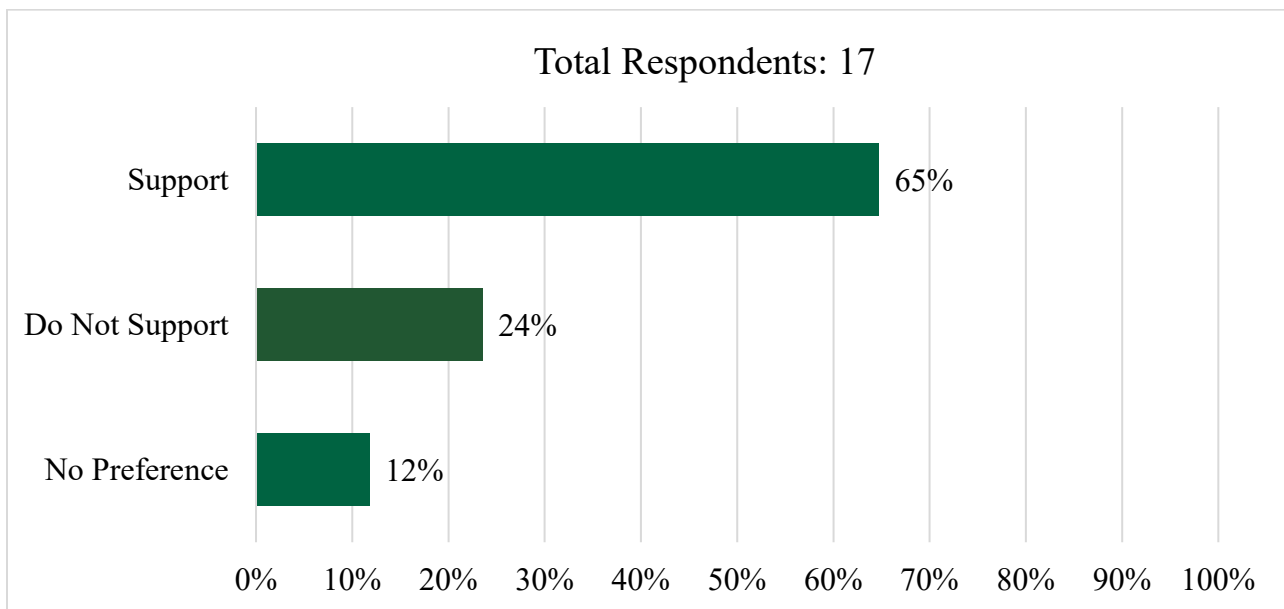


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	1	5	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	14
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	2	5	0	1	3	1	4	2	0	0	19



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026**

F11 – Reduce the daily creel limit for Striped and White Mullet from 200 to 100 fish in aggregate and establish a limit of no more than 400 fish total per boat.



NOTE: Total % > 100% due to rounding

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	2	3	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	11
Do Not Support	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	0	4	4	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	17

EXHIBIT E-2

October 3, 2024



Proposed Amendments to Inland Fisheries Rules for 2025-2026 Annual Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Trout

F1. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Remove the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section on Henry Fork in Burke County from Public Mountain Trout Waters. This proposal will remove approximately 3.1 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

This section of river is on private property, and most of the angler access and stocking locations have been posted against trespassing.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(5)(C) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F2. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Reclassify the section of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Linville River within the U.S. Forest Service's Linville Gorge Wilderness Area (LGWA) in Burke County to Wild Trout Waters. This proposal will not remove any water from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

Recent changes to the National Park Service stream stocking policy prevent trout from being stocked into waters on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Stocking from U.S. Forest Service lands is difficult due to steep terrain and is no longer attempted for safety reasons. Additionally, reclassifying this portion of river to Wild Trout Waters aligns with current U.S. Forest Service management of designated Wilderness Areas, where stockings typically are not allowed.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(5)(C) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F3. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Hungry River in Henderson County. The new reach will be from Little Hungry River to Green River. This proposal will remove approximately 1.0 mile from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

This section of river is on private property, and most of the angler access and stocking locations have been posted against trespassing.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(11)(B) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F4. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Remove the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section on Little Rock Creek in Mitchell County from Public Mountain Trout Waters. This proposal will remove approximately 7.0 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

This section of the creek is on private property, and most of the angler access and stocking locations have been posted against trespassing.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(16)(B) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F5. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Big Rock Creek in Mitchell County. The new reach will be from the headwaters to the S.R. 1325 bridge. This proposal will remove approximately 2.3 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

This section of the creek is on private property, and most of the angler access and stocking locations have been posted against trespassing.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(16)(B) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F6. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Clarify that the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section on the Ararat River in Surry County is the portion of the river bordering the Ararat River Greenway downstream of the N.C. 103 bridge. This proposal will not remove any water from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

The current NCAC text does not clearly describe the boundaries of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section since Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section is also located along the Ararat River Greenway.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(20)(A) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F7. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Ararat River in Surry County. The new reach will be the portion of the river adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway upstream of the N.C. 103 bridge. This proposal will add approximately 0.5 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

The Ararat River Greenway was recently extended upstream, and the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters needs to be extended.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(20)(B) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F8. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Modify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on the East Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County. The new reach will be from the East Fork Baptist Church to 350 yards downstream of Whitmire Falls. This proposal will remove approximately 1.0 mile from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Justification:

This section of the river is on private property, and the angler access and stocking locations have been posted against trespassing.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(d)(22)(B) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

F9. 15A NCAC 10C .0205

Modify the age of youth from under the age of 18 to under the age of 16. The age will apply in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters where from 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth anglers may fish.

Justification:

The Commission is standardizing the age of youth throughout all its rules to under the age of 16. The age will apply in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters where from 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth anglers may fish.

15A NCAC 10C .0205(a)(5) PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Pgs. 5-17)

Crappie

F10. 15A NCAC 10C .0306

Establish an 8-inch minimum size limit and a 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie at Shearon Harris Reservoir.

Justification:

While catch rates of crappie in Commission sampling have remained relatively constant over the past decade, the maximum age of crappie collected has declined more than 50 percent. Sampling results from the fall of 2023 indicated the fishery was supported by only two year-classes (ages 2 and 3), and no age 1 fish were collected. Anglers have

expressed concern that crappie are being overharvested in the reservoir and have indicated they would prefer a size and creel limit for crappie.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE (Pg. 18)

Mullet

F11. 15A NCAC 10C .0422

Reduce the daily creel limit for Striped and White Mullet from 200 to 100 fish in aggregate and establish a limit of no more than 400 fish total per boat.

Justification:

Striped Mullet is considered overfished, and the Striped Mullet Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 2 indicates harvest reductions are required. This change will be consistent with the FMP's preferred management option as selected by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission at their February business meeting.

15A NCAC 10C .0422 STRIPED MULLET AND WHITE MULLET (Pg. 19)

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

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

- 3 (1) "Natural bait" means a living or dead plant or animal, or parts thereof, or prepared substances
4 designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 5 (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- 6 (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by a substance that
7 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8 (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or a similar
9 material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon, or similar device is added.
- 10 (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under ~~18~~ 16 years of age.

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

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

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

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

4 (1) Alleghany

5 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

6 Big Pine Creek

7 Bledsoe Creek

8 Brush Creek from the N.C. 21 bridge to the confluence with the Little River, except where
9 posted against trespassing

10 Cranberry Creek

11 Glade Creek

12 Little River from 400 yards upstream of the S.R. 1128 bridge, marked by a sign on each
13 bank, to McCann Dam

14 Meadow Fork

15 Pine Swamp Creek

16 Piney Fork

17 Prathers Creek

18 (B) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

19 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

20 (2) Ashe County

21 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

22 Big Horse Creek from the Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding
23 tributaries

24 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

25 Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River

26 Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both
27 banks to a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536

28 South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge

29 Trout Lake

30 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

31 Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek

32 Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge

33 Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New
34 River

35 Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge

36 Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River

37 Nathans Creek

- 1 North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam
2 Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River
3 Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research
4 Station to Trout Lake
5 Roan Creek
6 Three Top Creek
7 (3) Avery County
8 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
9 Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond
10 Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek
11 Wilson Creek, the game land portion
12 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Boyde Coffey Lake
14 Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee
15 state line
16 Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where
17 posted against trespassing
18 Milltimber Creek
19 North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational
20 Park, except where posted against trespassing
21 North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
22 trespassing
23 Squirrel Creek
24 Wildcat Lake
25 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
26 Birchfield Creek
27 Cow Camp Creek
28 Cranberry Creek from the headwaters to the U.S. 19E, N.C. 194, bridge
29 Gragg Prong
30 Horse Creek
31 Kentucky Creek
32 North Harper Creek
33 Plumtree Creek
34 Roaring Creek
35 Rockhouse Creek
36 Shawneehaw Creek, the portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway
37 South Harper Creek

- 1 Webb Prong
- 2 (4) Buncombe County
- 3 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 4 Carter Creek, the game land portion
- 5 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 6 Bent Creek from the headwaters to the N.C. Arboretum boundary line
- 7 Cane Creek from the headwaters to the S.R. 3138 bridge
- 8 Corner Rock Creek from Little Andy Creek to the confluence with Walker Branch
- 9 Dillingham Creek from Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek
- 10 Ivy Creek from Dillingham Creek to the U.S. 19-23 bridge
- 11 Lake Powhatan
- 12 Reems Creek from Sugar Camp Fork to the U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
- 13 trespassing
- 14 Rich Branch from downstream of the confluence with Rocky Branch
- 15 Stony Creek
- 16 Swannanoa from the S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to the Wood Avenue bridge, at the
- 17 intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville, except where posted against trespassing
- 18 (5) Burke County
- 19 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 Henry Fork, the portion on South Mountains State Park
- 21 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Jacob Fork from Shinnery Creek to the lower South Mountains State Park boundary
- 23 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 Carroll Creek, the game land portion above S.R. 1405
- 25 ~~Henry Fork from the lower South Mountain State Park line to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek~~
- 26 ~~Linville River, the portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and the portion below~~
- 27 ~~Lake James powerhouse from the upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek~~
- 28 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Catawba River from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam
- 30 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 The waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
- 32 (A) and (B) of this Subparagraph
- 33 (6) Caldwell County
- 34 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Wilson Creek, the game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch
- 36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Boone Fork Pond

1 Buffalo Creek from the mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch
2 Joes Creek from the first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to the confluence with Buffalo Creek
3 Wilson Creek from Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
4 against trespassing
5 Yadkin River from the Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515
6 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
7 Buffalo Creek from the Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land
8 tributaries
9 Joes Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574
10 Rockhouse Creek
11 (7) Cherokee County
12 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Davis Creek from the confluence of Bald Creek and Dockery Creek to Hanging Dog Creek
14 Hyatt Creek from Big Dam Branch to the Valley River
15 Junaluska Creek from Ashturn Creek to the Valley River
16 Shuler Creek from the Joe Brown Hwy, S.R. 1325 bridge, to the Tennessee state line
17 Valley River from S.R. 1359 to the U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy
18 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
19 Apalachia Reservoir
20 (8) Clay County
21 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
22 Fires Creek from Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area
23 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
24 Buck Creek, the game land portion downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge
25 Fires Creek from the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300
26 Tusquitee Creek from Compass Creek to the lower S.R. 1300 bridge
27 (9) Graham County
28 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
29 Snowbird Creek from the USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579
30 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
31 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
32 Cheoah Reservoir
33 Panther Creek from the confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana
34 Santeetlah Creek from Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah
35 Snowbird Creek from USFS Rd. 2579 to the S.R. 1127 bridge
36 Stecoah Creek from the upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana
37 Tulula Creek from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275

- 1 West Buffalo Creek
- 2 Yellow Creek from Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to the Cheoah River
- 3 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 4 Little Buffalo Creek
- 5 South Fork Squally Creek
- 6 Squally Creek
- 7 (10) Haywood County
- 8 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 9 West Fork Pigeon River from Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of
- 10 Lake Logan
- 11 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Cold Springs Creek from Fall Branch to the Pigeon River
- 13 Jonathan Creek from upstream of the S.R. 1302 bridge to the Pigeon River, except where
- 14 posted against trespassing
- 15 Pigeon River from Stamey Cove Branch to the upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge
- 16 Richland Creek from the Russ Avenue, U.S. 276, bridge to the U.S. 19 bridge
- 17 West Fork Pigeon River from Tom Creek to Creek
- 18 (11) Henderson County
- 19 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 North Fork Mills River, the game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam
- 21 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Broad River from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford Co. line
- 23 Cane Creek from the railroad bridge upstream of the S.R. 1551 bridge to the U.S. 25 bridge
- 24 Clear Creek from Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582
- 25 Green River from the Lake Summit powerhouse to the game land boundary
- 26 Hungry River from ~~S.R. 1885~~ Little Hungry River to the Green River
- 27 (12) Jackson County
- 28 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Flat Creek
- 30 Tuckasegee River, the game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including the
- 31 Duke Energy powerline corridor
- 32 Tuckasegee River the portion upstream from the Clark property
- 33 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Tuckasegee River from downstream of the N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards
- 35 upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks
- 36 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Balsam Lake

- 1 Bear Creek Lake
- 2 Cedar Cliff Lake
- 3 Cullowhee Creek from Tilley Creek to the Tuckasegee River
- 4 Dark Ridge Creek from Jones Creek to Scott Creek
- 5 Greens Creek from Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek
- 6 Savannah Creek from Shell Branch to Cagle Branch
- 7 Scott Creek from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
- 8 trespassing
- 9 Tanasee Creek Lake
- 10 Tuckasegee River from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge
- 11 Tuckasegee River from the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge,
- 12 marked by a sign on both banks, to the S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmont
- 13 Wolf Creek Lake
- 14 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 15 Gage Creek
- 16 North Fork Scott Creek
- 17 Tanasee Creek
- 18 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
- 19 Wolf Creek except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake
- 20 (13) Macon County
- 21 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Nantahala River from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal
- 23 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 Burningtown Creek from Left Prong to the Little Tennessee River
- 25 Cartoogechaye Creek from downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge to the Little Tennessee River
- 26 Cliffside Lake
- 27 Cullasaja River from Sequoyah Dam to the U.S. 64 bridge near the junction of S.R. 1672
- 28 Nantahala River from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek
- 29 Nantahala River from the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to the Swain Co. line
- 30 Queens Creek Lake
- 31 (14) Madison County
- 32 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33 Big Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge
- 34 Shelton Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel
- 35 Creek
- 36 Spring Creek from the N.C. 209 bridge at the Hot Springs city limits to the iron bridge at
- 37 end of Andrews Ave.

- 1 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 2 Big Laurel Creek from Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318, Big Laurel Rd., bridge downstream
- 3 of Bearpen Branch
- 4 Big Pine Creek from the S.R. 1151 bridge to the French Broad River
- 5 Little Ivy Creek from the confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to the
- 6 confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy
- 7 Max Patch Pond
- 8 Meadow Fork Creek from Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek
- 9 Puncheon Fork from Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek
- 10 Roaring Fork from Fall Branch to Meadow Fork
- 11 Shelton Laurel Creek from the confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to the N.C. 208
- 12 bridge at Belva
- 13 Shut-in Creek
- 14 Spillcorn Creek
- 15 Spring Creek from the junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow
- 16 Fork
- 17 West Fork Shut-in Creek from the lower game land boundary to the confluence with East
- 18 Fork Shut-in Creek

19 (15) McDowell County

- 20 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21 Newberry Creek, the game land portion
- 22 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 23 Catawba River, the portion adjacent to the Marion Greenway
- 24 Curtis Creek, the game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch
- 25 Mill Creek from the U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge
- 26 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27 Armstrong Creek from the Cato Holler line downstream to the upper Greenlee line
- 28 Catawba River from the Catawba Falls Campground to the Old Fort Recreation Park
- 29 Little Buck Creek, the game land portion
- 30 North Fork Catawba River from the headwaters to North Cove School at the S.R. 1569
- 31 bridge

32 (16) Mitchell County

- 33 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Cane Creek from the N.C. 226 bridge to the S.R. 1189 bridge
- 35 North Toe River from the U.S. 19E bridge to the N.C. 226 bridge
- 36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Big Rock Creek from the headwaters to the N.C. 226 bridge at the S.R. 1307 intersection

- 1 the S.R. 1325 bridge
2 Cane Creek from S.R. 1219 to the N.C. 226 bridge
3 East Fork Grassy Creek
4 Grassy Creek from East Fork Grassy Creek to the mouth
5 ~~Little Rock Creek from the Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted~~
6 ~~against trespassing~~
7 North Toe River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1121 bridge
8 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
9 Green Creek from the headwaters to the Green Creek bridge, except where posted against
10 trespassing
11 Little Rock Creek the portion upstream of the Green Creek bridge, including the tributaries,
12 except where posted against trespassing
13 Wiles Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
14 (17) Polk County
15 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
16 Green River from the Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek
17 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
18 Green River from the mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing
19 North Pacolet River from Joels Creek to the N.C. 108 bridge
20 (18) Rutherford County
21 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
22 Broad River from the Henderson Co. line to the U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
23 against trespassing
24 (19) Stokes County
25 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
26 Dan River from the Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of
27 S.R. 1421
28 (20) Surry County
29 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
30 Ararat River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway downstream of the N.C.
31 103 bridge
32 Mitchell River from 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge
33 on S.R. 1330
34 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
35 ~~Ararat River from the S.R. 1727 bridge to~~ River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River
36 Greenway upstream of the N.C. 103 bridge
37 Big Elkin Creek from the dam 440 yards upstream of the N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265

- 1 yards downstream of N.C. 268, marked by a sign on both banks
2 Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the I-77 bridge
3 Little Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the N.C. 89 bridge
4 Lovills Creek from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River
5 Pauls Creek from the Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below the S.R. 1625 bridge
6 (21) Swain County
7 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Tuckasegee River from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge
9 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
10 Alarka Creek from the game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir
11 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
12 Cheoah Reservoir
13 Connelly Creek from Camp Branch to the Tuckasegee River
14 Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to the
15 Tuckasegee River
16 Nantahala River from the Macon Co. line to the existing Fontana Lake water level
17 (22) Transylvania County
18 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
19 Davidson River from the headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking
20 Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch
21 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
22 East Fork French Broad River from East Fork Baptist Church to ~~the~~ 350 yards downstream
23 S.R. 1107 of Whitmire Falls, marked by a sign on both banks bridge
24 Little River from the confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls
25 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
26 Davidson River from Avery Creek to the lower USFS boundary
27 French Broad River from the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West
28 Fork
29 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd., S.R. 1110, Access Area
30 Middle Fork French Broad River from upstream of the U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad
31 River
32 West Fork French Broad River from S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French
33 Broad River
34 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
35 The waters located on Gorges State Park
36 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
37 (23) Watauga County

- 1 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 2 Laurel Creek from the confluence of North Fork Laurel Creek and South Fork Laurel Creek
- 3 to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries
- 4 Pond Creek from the headwaters to the Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond
- 5 adjacent to Coffee Lake
- 6 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Lake Coffey
- 8 Watauga River from the S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower
- 9 boundary
- 10 Watauga River from the S.R. 1103 bridge to the confluence with Laurel Creek
- 11 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Beaverdam Creek from the confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek
- 13 to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203
- 14 Beech Creek
- 15 Buckeye Creek from Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek
- 16 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- 17 Cove Creek from the S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to the S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood
- 18 Dutch Creek from the second S.R. 1136 bridge to the mouth
- 19 Elk Creek from the S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to the Wilkes Co. line, except where posted
- 20 against trespassing
- 21 Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1123 bridge at the S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River
- 22 Meat Camp Creek from the S.R. 1340 bridge at the S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194
- 23 Middle Fork New River from adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to the
- 24 South Fork New River
- 25 Norris Fork Creek
- 26 South Fork New River from the canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to the
- 27 lower boundary of Brookshire Park
- 28 Stony Fork from the S.R. 1500 bridge at the S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes Co. line
- 29 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Dutch Creek from the headwaters to the second S.R. 1136 bridge
- 31 Howard Creek
- 32 Maine Branch from the headwaters to the North Fork New River
- 33 North Fork New River from the confluence with Maine Branch and Mine Branch to the
- 34 Ashe Co. line
- 35 Winkler Creek from the lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to the confluence with the South Fork
- 36 New River
- 37 (24) Wilkes County

- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower
3 boundary
4 Elk Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
5 Club
6 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development
7 Reddies River from the Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to the confluence
8 with the Yadkin River
9 Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the
10 East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
11 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
12 Basin Creek from the S.R. 1730 bridge to the confluence with Lovelace Creek
13 Bell Branch Pond
14 Boundary Line Pond
15 Cub Creek from 0.5 miles upstream of the S.R. 2460 bridge to the S.R. 1001 bridge
16 Darnell Creek from the downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to the confluence with the North
17 Fork Reddies River
18 East Prong Roaring River from the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to the Low
19 Meadows Lane bridge
20 Fall Creek from the S.R. 1300 bridge to the confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork,
21 except where posted against trespassing
22 Middle Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the bridge on S.R. 1580
23 Middle Prong Roaring River from the headwaters to the second bridge on S.R. 1736
24 North Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the Union School bridge on S.R. 1559
25 Pike Creek
26 Pike Creek Pond
27 South Fork Reddies River from the S.R. 1355 bridge to the confluence with the Middle
28 Fork Reddies River
29 South Prong Lewis Fork from Fall Creek to the U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155
30 intersection
31 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
32 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
33 Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest
34 Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany
35 Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone
36 Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
37 (25) Yancey County

- 1 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 2 South Toe River from the headwaters to Upper Creek
 3 Upper Creek
- 4 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 5 Cane River from Blackberry Ridge Rd. to the downstream boundary of Cane River County
 6 Park
- 7 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 8 Bald Mountain Creek, except where posted against trespassing
 9 Cane River from Bee Branch, S.R. 1110, to Bowlens Creek
 10 Price Creek from the junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek
 11 South Toe River from Clear Creek to the lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation
 12 Park, except where posted against trespassing
- 13 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 14 Cattail Creek from the bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to the N.C. 197 bridge
 15 Lickskillet Creek
 16 Middle Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth

17

18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
 19 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
 20 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
 21 *October 1, 1992;*
 22 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
 23 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
 24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
 25 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
 26 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
 27 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
 28 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
 29 *2003);*
 30 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
 31 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
 32 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
 33 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
 34 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*
 35
 36

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

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (h) of this Rule.

3 (b) There is no minimum size limit except in waters identified in Paragraphs (f) through (h) of this Rule.

4 (c) There is no closed season.

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

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

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

8 (1) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;

9 (2) Cashie River and its tributaries;

10 (3) Middle River and its tributaries;

11 (4) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and

12 (5) Lake Mattamuskeet in Hyde County.

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

14 (1) Lake Norman;

15 (2) Lake Hycó;

16 (3) Cane Creek Lake in Union County;

17 (4) Lake Hampton in Yadkin County;

18 (5) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;

19 (6) Shearon Harris Reservoir;

20 ~~(5)(7)~~ Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam including tributaries;

21 ~~(6)(8)~~ Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam including tributaries;

22 ~~(7)(9)~~ Haw River downstream of B. Everett Jordan Reservoir Dam including tributaries;

23 ~~(8)(10)~~ Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam including tributaries;

24 ~~(9)(11)~~ Cape Fear River including tributaries;

25 ~~(10)(12)~~ Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam including tributaries;

26 ~~(11)(13)~~ Lumber River including Drowning Creek including tributaries;

27 ~~(12)(14)~~ public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake
28 in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (f) of this Rule; and

29 ~~(13)(15)~~ public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake ~~Chatuge;~~ and Chatuga.

30 ~~(14) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir.~~

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

32

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

34 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

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

36 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

37 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0422 STRIPED MULLET AND WHITE MULLET**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for striped mullet and white mullet is ~~200~~ 100 fish per person in aggregate. ~~aggregate and no~~
3 more than 400 fish per boat.

4 (b) There is no minimum size limit.

5 (c) There is no closed season.

6

7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*

8 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*

9 *Eff. March 15, 2023;*

10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 5, 2024.*

11

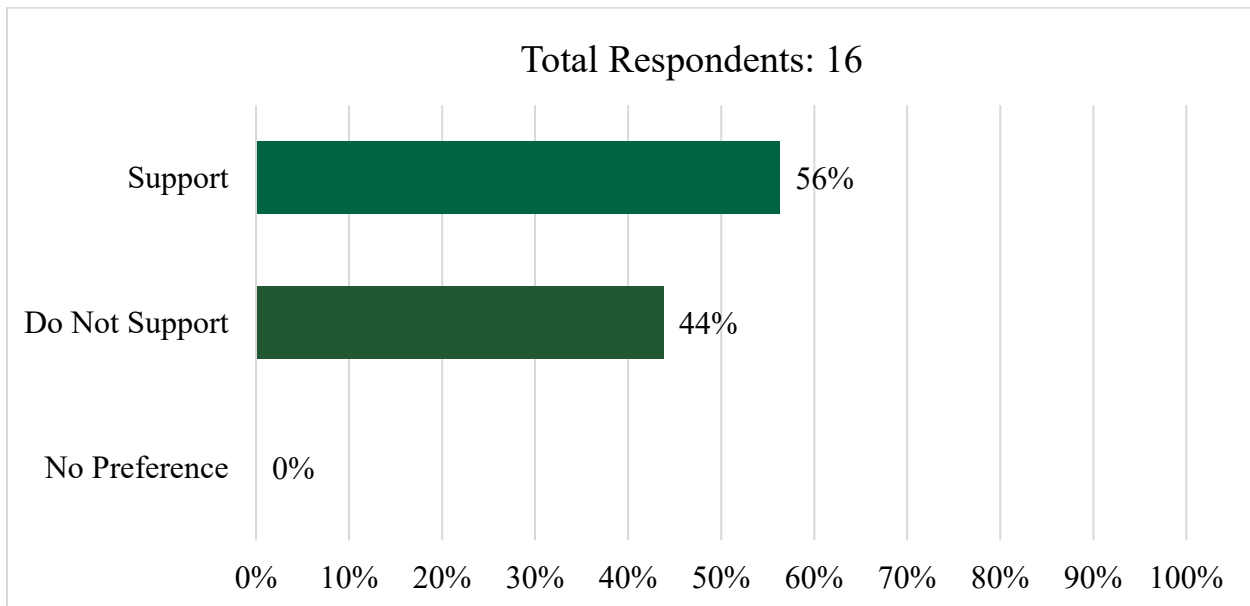
EXHIBIT F-1

October 3, 2024



Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026

G1 – Prohibit target shooting on the Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.

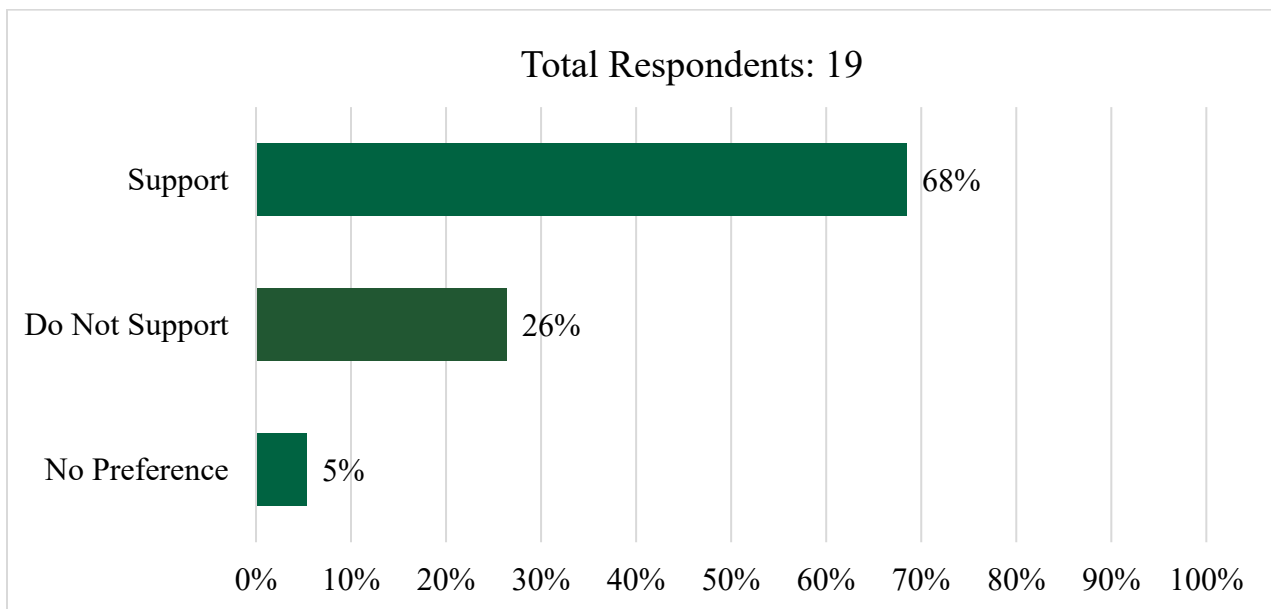


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	9
Do Not Support	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	7
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	7	0	1	16



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026**

G2 – Add Bates-Bay River Tract, in Pamlico County, to the Goose Creek Game Land Program. Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey will be by permit only.



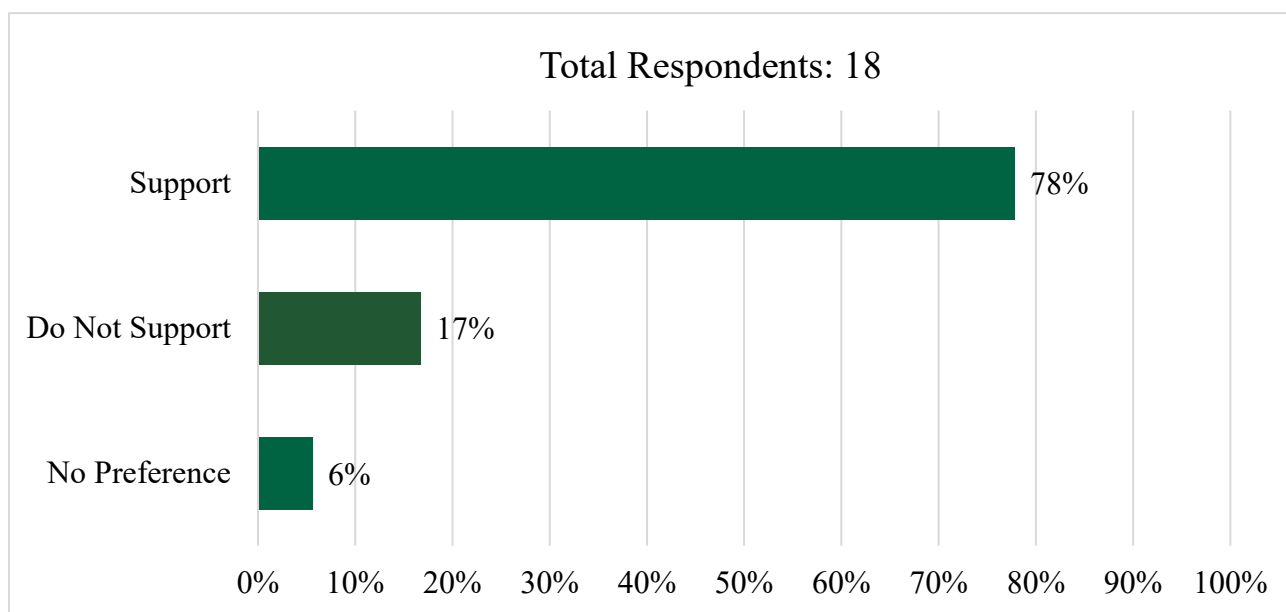
NOTE: Total % < 100% due to rounding

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	13
Do Not Support	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
No Preference	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	4	4	1	1	0	0	1	7	0	1	19



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026**

G3 – Distinguish the two waterfowl impoundments on the Gull Rock Game Land. Name the impoundment on the Outfall Canal Tract, the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Waterfowl Impoundment. Name the impoundment on the new Willow Point Tract (aka Spencer Bay), the Willow Point Waterfowl Impoundment. Hunting on the Willow Point Impoundment will be by permit only.



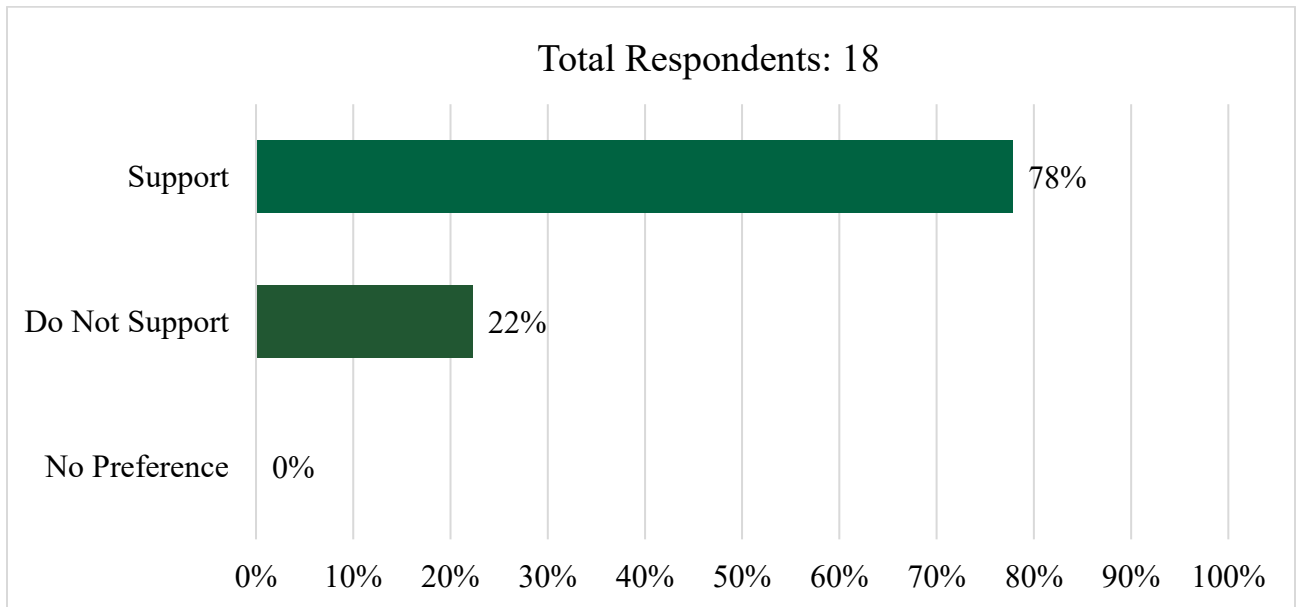
NOTE: Total % > 100% due to rounding

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	2	14
Do Not Support	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	0	3	4	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	2	18



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026**

G4 – During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, restrict the use of bicycles on Johns River Game Land in Burke County to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.

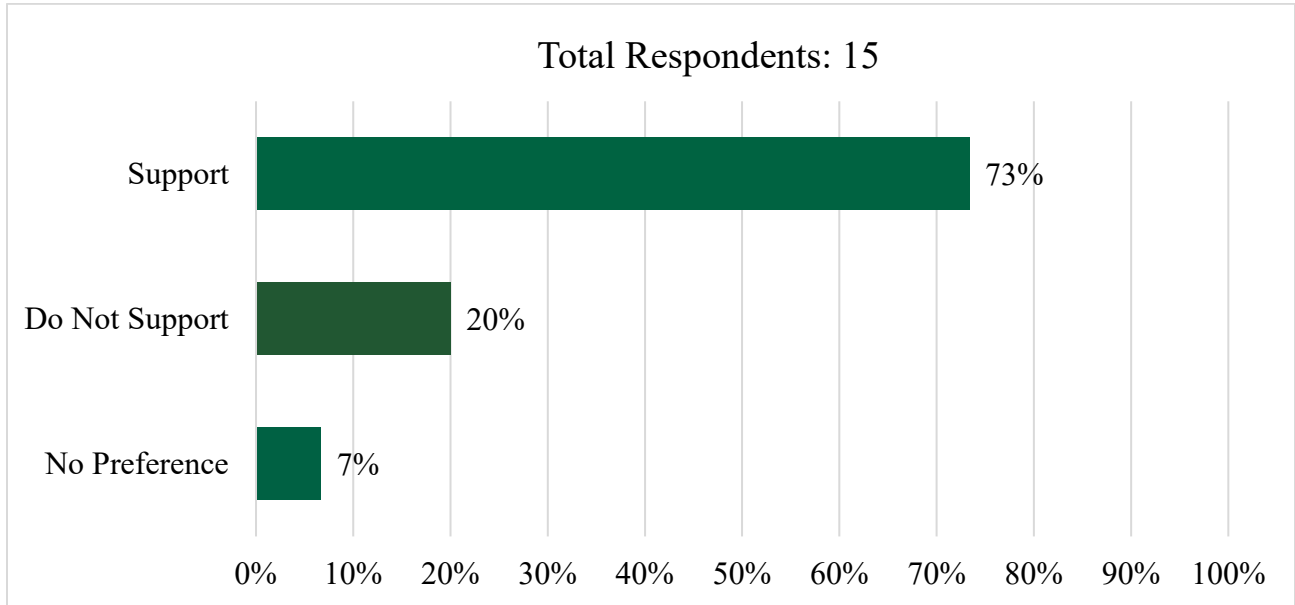


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	6	0	1	14
Do Not Support	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	3	7	0	1	18



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026**

G5 – Restrict access on the Lantern Acres Game Land posted waterfowl impoundments to permitted hunters only, to reduce disturbance to waterfowl during open waterfowl hunting seasons.

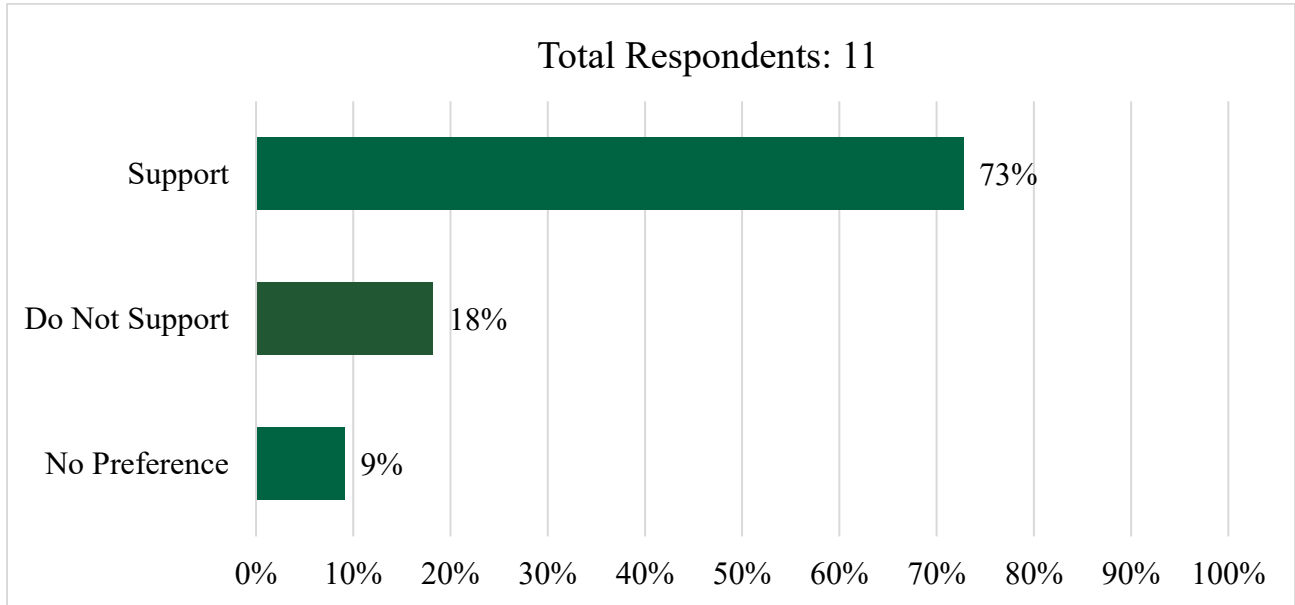


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	11
Do Not Support	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	5	0	2	15



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026**

G6 – Expand the Little Fork State Forest Game Land from a Three Days per Week Area to a Six Days per Week Area.



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	1	8
Do Not Support	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	6	0	1	11

EXHIBIT F-2

October 3, 2024



Proposed Amendments to Land and Water Access Rules for 2025-2026 Annual Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Use of Game Lands

G1. 15A NCAC 10D .0219

Prohibit target shooting on the Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.

Justification:

Opportunities currently exist for target shooting at alternative sites appropriately constructed and monitored to provide a safe environment for participants. The Wayne E. Smith/Cold Mountain Shooting Range located on the Cold Mountain Game Land is within a 30-50-mile radius. This change is consistent with other game lands where target shooting is prohibited within an acceptable radius of shooting ranges and would limit potential issues of unsafe target shooting practices or conflict between game land user groups. The exclusion of this prohibition in rule was an oversight following the construction of the shooting range.

15A NCAC 10D .0219 COLD MOUNTAIN GAME LAND IN HAYWOOD COUNTY (Pg. 4)

G2. General Description of Proposed Change:

Add Bates-Bay River Tract, in Pamlico County, to the Goose Creek Game Land Program. Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey will be by permit only.

Justification:

This 407-acre tract is made of several small parcels with residential homes on multiple sides. By enrolling this new land into the Special Permit Hunt Opportunity Program for deer, bear, and turkey, we are limiting the chance for negative interactions between hunters and the homeowners, while also offering high-quality hunting opportunities for successful applicants.

15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES (Pg. 5)

G3. General Description of Proposed Change:

Distinguish the two waterfowl impoundments on the Gull Rock Game Land. Name the impoundment on the Outfall Canal Tract, the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Waterfowl Impoundment. Name the impoundment on the new Willow Point Tract (aka Spencer Bay), the Willow Point Waterfowl Impoundment. Hunting on the Willow Point Impoundment will be by permit only.

Justification:

The State is acquiring the Spencer Bay Tract to be added to the Gull Rock Game Land. This tract has a 214-acre waterfowl impoundment and is proposed to be permit only. To reduce confusion, aid in enforcement, and to maintain the hunting framework on the impoundment on the Outfall Canal Tract, the proposal seeks to name the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Waterfowl Impoundment on the Outfall Canal Tract in rule. The impoundment is already named on NCWRC maps.

The Willow Point Tract is a new acquisition with a 214-acre waterfowl impoundment to be incorporated into the Gull Rock Game Land. The impoundment lies within a marsh peninsula between the confluence of the Pungo and Pamlico rivers, and Spencer Bay. The impoundment is a featureless expansion subject to overhunting if open to the framework established for the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Waterfowl Impoundment on the Outfall Canal Tract of Gull Rock Game Land. Permitting access to this impoundment will limit disturbances while promoting a higher quality waterfowl hunting experience.

15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY (Pg. 6)

G4. General Description of Proposed Change:

During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, restrict the use of bicycles on Johns River Game Land in Burke County to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.

Justification:

Johns River Game Land offers quality hunting experiences by permit only, and disabled and youth hunts occur here throughout the season. Most blinds and wildlife openings are located along interior access roads which increases accessibility. However, it is along these same roads where bicycling occurs and is allowed 7 days per week. The game land has proximity to several large municipalities, numerous access roads, and gentle topography, making it a convenient destination for hikers, bicyclists, dog walkers, and other non-licensed users. An increase in this type of usage is starting to generate conflict among user groups and compromise user experience.

Restricting bicycles from these areas during open hunting seasons for game birds and game animals will increase public safety and alleviate user conflicts.

15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY (Pg. 7)

G5. General Description of Proposed Change:

Restrict access on the Lantern Acres Game Land posted waterfowl impoundments to permitted hunters only, to reduce disturbance to waterfowl during open waterfowl hunting seasons.

Justification:

In 2007, two waterfowl impoundments were created to provide habitat for waterfowl, waterbirds, and for the public waterfowl hunting opportunities. To provide for quality hunts, turkey hunting, and waterfowl hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only. Hunting outside of the impoundments does not require a special hunt permit.

The posted waterfowl impoundments offer excellent turkey and quail nesting habitat in spring and summer. Both turkey hunters and deer hunters hunt the impoundments prior to flooding for the waterfowl season. Once the impoundments are flooded, deer, and bear hunters primarily stay on the dikes and trails.

In contrast to the limited disturbances deer and bear hunters have on waterfowl, woodcock and snipe hunting have a tremendous negative impact on waterfowl use. Most waterfowl species do not tolerate human presence and will flee the area when disturbed.

The current rule allows all hunters to access the impoundments 6-days per week. This unrestricted use occurs on days prior to and during the permitted waterfowl hunts. This flushes waterfowl from the impoundments and is in opposition to the quality waterfowl hunting experience that the NCWRC wants to offer.

15A NCAC 10D .0244 LANTERN ACRES GAME LAND IN TYRRELL AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES (Pg. 8)

G6. General Description of Proposed Change:

Expand the Little Fork State Forest Game Land from a Three Days per Week Area to a Six Days per week Area.

Justification:

The North Carolina Forest Service requested the expansion of the game land from a Three Days per Week to a Six Days per Week Area due to its proximity to the educational forest.

15A NCAC 10D .0263 LITTLE FORK STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN WILKES COUNTY (Pg. 9)

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0219 COLD MOUNTAIN GAME LAND IN HAYWOOD COUNTY**

2 Cold Mountain game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all
4 horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 5 (2) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (3) Target shooting is prohibited.

8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

10 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

11

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES**

2 Goose Creek game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
4 Season.
- 5 (2) Except as provided in 15A NCAC 10D .0103(d)(2), waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments
6 shall be taken only on the following days:
7 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
8 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
9 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 10 (3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl
11 seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico
12 Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- 13 (4) On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point, and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments, all activities,
14 except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping
15 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through
16 March 15.
- 17 (5) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
18 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 19 (6) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through
20 January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- 21 (7) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on
22 the Beaufort County portion north of **NC N.C.** 33 except for that portion east of Smith Creek and
23 south of Campbell Creek.
- 24 (8) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 25 (9) Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.

26
27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
28 *Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2022;*
29 *Eff. March 15, 2023.*

30

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY**

2 Gull Rock is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
4 Season.
- 5 (2) Waterfowl on ~~posted waterfowl impoundments~~ the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Impoundment
6 shall be taken only on the following days:
7 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
8 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
9 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 10 (3) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
11 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 12 (4) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear Season and
13 the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.
- 14 (5) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments on the Willow Point tract is by permit only.

15
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
17 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 2022;*
19 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2023.*

20

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

2 Johns River game land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 3 (1) During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.
- 4 (2) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 5 (3) Camping is restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- 6 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 7 (5) During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, the use of bicycles is
- 8 restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
11 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

13

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0244 LANTERN ACRES GAME LAND IN TYRRELL AND WASHINGTON**
2 **COUNTIES**

3 Lantern Acres game land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
5 Season.
6 (2) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
7 (3) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.
8 ~~(4) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.~~
9 (4) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments from October 1 through February 14 is by permit only.

10

11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*

13

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0263 LITTLE FORK STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN WILKES COUNTY**

2 Little Fork State Forest game land is a ~~Three~~ Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
4 Season through the ~~second Wednesday~~ first Friday thereafter.
5 (2) Bear hunting is prohibited.

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
8 *Eff. November 1, 2022;*
9 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

10

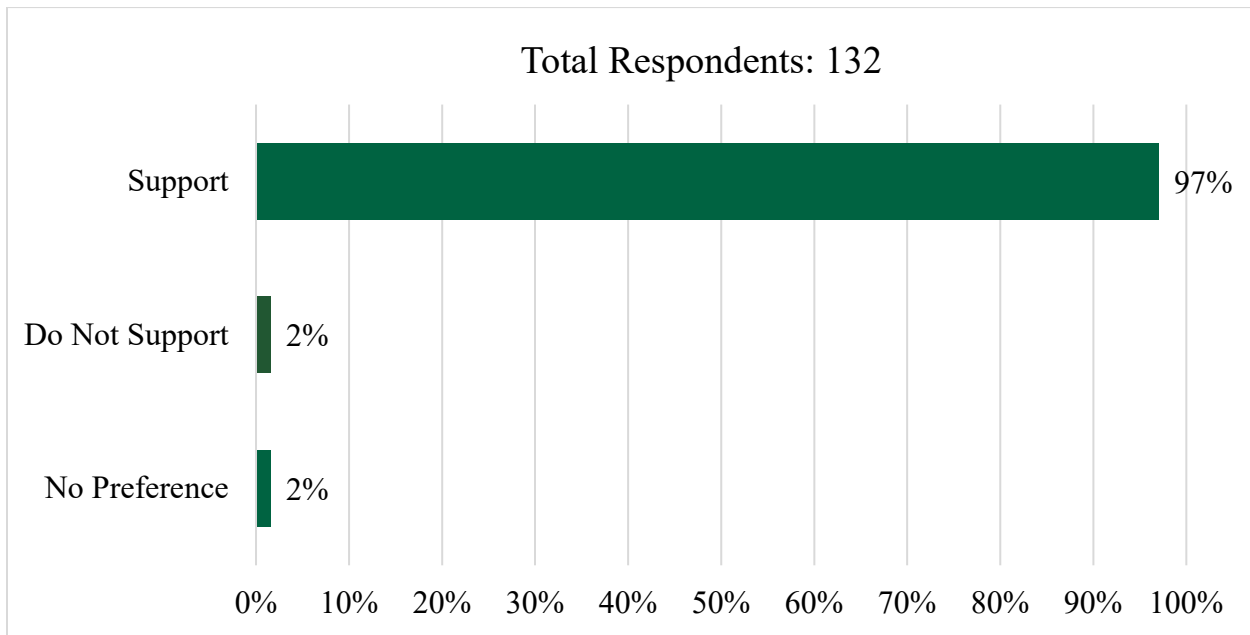
EXHIBIT G-1

October 3, 2024



Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Wildlife Management Rules for 2025-2026

H1 – Establish a definition in rule for a submersion trapping system and apply the 72-hour trap attendance requirement that exists for completely submerged conibear-type traps to other legal trap-types that are set as a submersion trapping system.



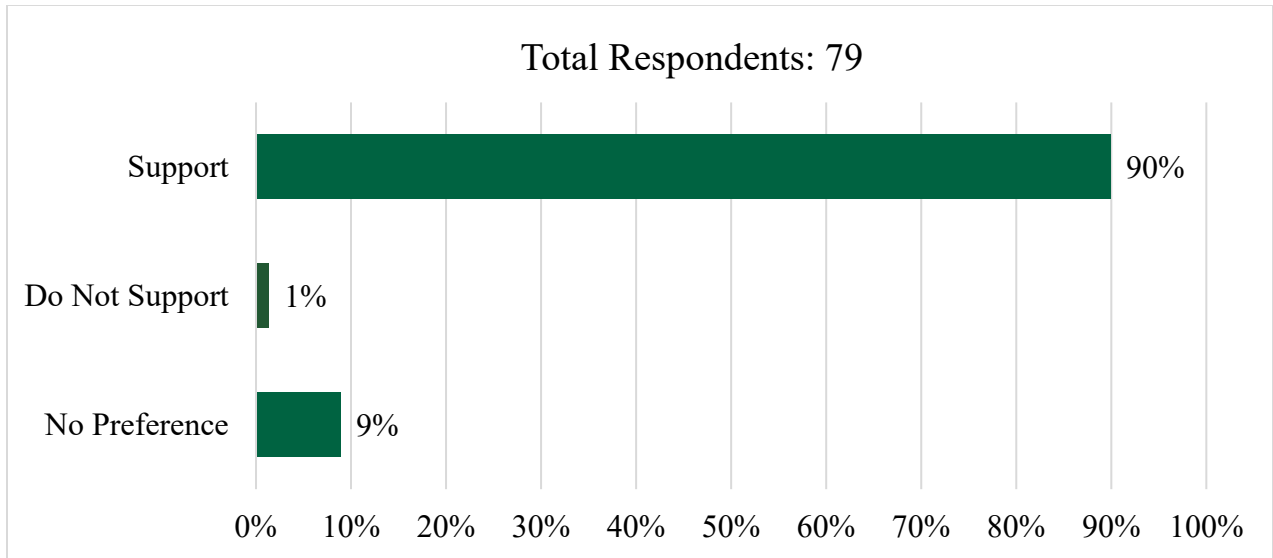
NOTE: Total % > 100% due to rounding

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	7	32	28	10	17	9	5	7	4	5	4	128
Do Not Support	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
No Preference	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	7	33	29	10	17	10	5	7	5	5	4	132



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Wildlife Management Rules for 2025-2026**

H2 – Change reporting requirements for licensed fur dealers from monthly to annually to make reporting consistent with other licenses and permit reporting requirements that are based on the July 1 to June 30 license period.

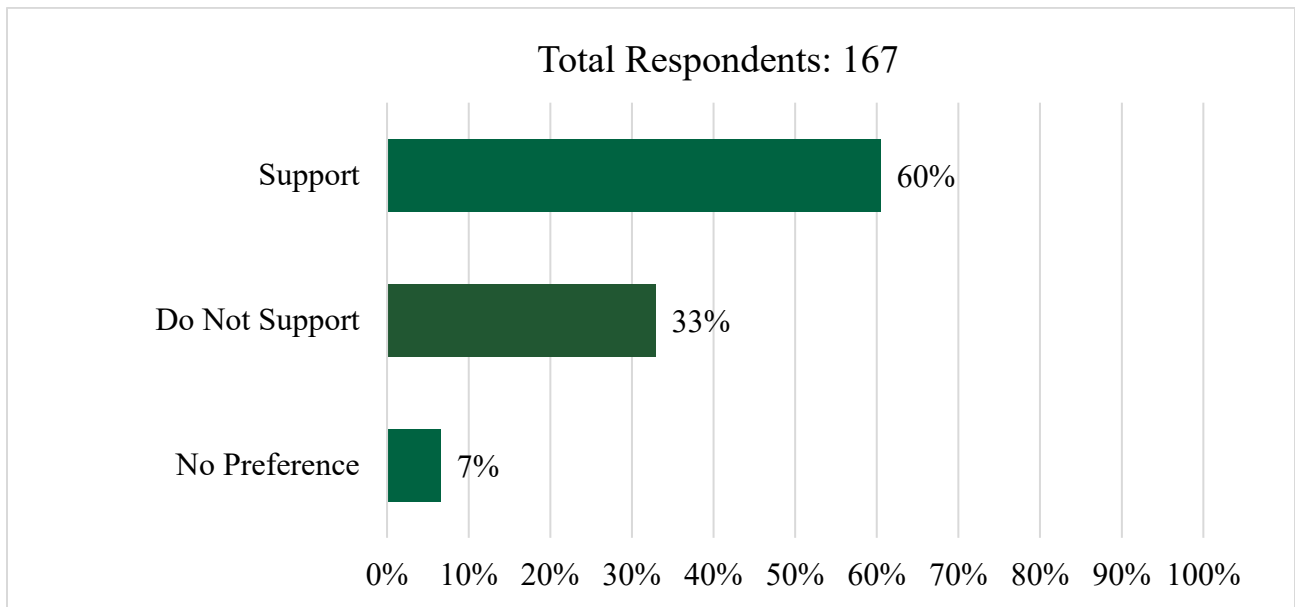


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	4	18	16	7	8	5	2	7	3	1	0	71
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	7
Total	4	18	19	7	11	5	3	7	3	1	1	79



**Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Changes to
Wildlife Management Rules for 2025-2026**

H3 – Shift turkey harvest to later in the spring when most hens have begun laying eggs to keep with NCWRC’s goal to “maximize continued increases in population size and distribution.” Specifically, shift the opening date of the regular turkey season to the Saturday on or immediately after April 11th, with season length unchanged. Shift the opening date for the Youth-only season to the Saturday before April 11th and reduce the Youth-only season from seven to two days. This change also defines eligibility for the Youth-only season as individuals less than 16 years of age.



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	3	24	15	8	12	7	5	9	11	2	5	101
Do Not Support	2	10	13	2	5	5	4	5	2	4	3	55
No Preference	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	11
Total	5	39	30	10	18	12	9	16	13	7	8	167

EXHIBIT G-2

October 3, 2024



Proposed Amendments to Wildlife Management Rules for 2025-2026 Annual Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Furbearers

H1. 15 NCAC 10B .0301, 10B .0306

Establish a definition in rule for a submersion trapping system and apply the 72-hour trap attendance requirement that exists for completely submerged conibear-type traps to other legal trap-types that are set as a submersion trapping system.

Justification:

The main difference between fully submerged conibear®-type traps and submersion trapping systems is the trap-type (e.g., foothold, colony trap) used and how the trap is set. The result of submersion trapping systems is the same as fully submerged conibear®-type traps, and that is for the captured animal to become fully submerged during capture. Longer than 24-hour trap check for submersion trapping systems is consistent with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Trapping Practices. This change would likely increase the efficiency of both trappers and Wildlife Control Agents (WCAs).

15A NCAC 10B .0301 DEFINITIONS (Pg. 4)

15A NCAC 10B .0306 ATTENDANCE AND TAGGING OF TRAPS (Pg. 5)

H2. 15A NCAC 10B .0405

Change reporting requirements for licensed fur dealers from monthly to annually to make reporting consistent with other licenses and permit reporting requirements that are based on the July 1 to June 30 license period.

Justification:

This rule change will reduce regulatory complexity and increase reporting compliance.

Most fur dealers purchase fur four to five months out of the year. However, the current rule language requires fur dealers to submit a form with "no activity" during months of no activity which is unnecessary. In addition, although the forms are currently required to

be submitted monthly, the data is compiled annually. Monthly reporting for fur dealers is not necessary for appropriate management of furbearer species.

15A NCAC 10B .0405 FUR DEALERS (Pgs. 6-7)

Turkey

H3. 15A NCAC .0209

Shift turkey harvest to later in the spring when most hens have begun laying eggs to keep with NCWRC's goal to "*maximize continued increases in population size and distribution.*" Specifically, shift the opening date of the regular turkey season to the Saturday on or immediately after April 11th, with season length unchanged. Shift the opening date for the Youth-only season to the Saturday before April 11th and reduce the Youth-only season from seven to two days. This change also defines eligibility for the youth-only season as individuals less than 16 years of age.

Justification:

Trends in turkey harvest across much of North Carolina have been increasing steadily for many years. However, trends in reproduction (i.e. brood survey observations) point to long-term declines and have reached all-time lows, with substantially fewer than two poults per hen in recent years. The largest wild turkey ecology research project in North Carolina recently concluded, documenting low nesting success, poor brood survival, and low overall productivity across all regions of the state. The research also identified the average dates that hens initiate nests (April 11th – egg laying). Hens begin incubating nests (April 24th) and these dates are consistent across the state.

Adjusting hunting seasons is critical to ensure that turkeys have adequate time for breeding and nesting before substantial harvest occurs and is therefore, necessary to maintain high levels of harvest and to promote hunter satisfaction over time.

This rule proposal would shift the harvest to later in the spring, thus moving the timing of the harvest of male turkeys into agreement with statewide turkey breeding and nesting chronology dates. Since the length of the regular season would remain unchanged, and the majority of Youth-only harvest occurs during the first two days, this proposed change is expected to result in only minimal changes to total harvest. Gobbling activity is a key component of hunter satisfaction and this proposed change would have relatively little impact on the amount of gobbling activity that occurs during the time that turkeys are hunted.

15A NCAC 10B .0209 WILD TURKEY (Pg. 3)

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0209 WILD TURKEY**

2 (a) The open season for wild turkey is from the ~~second~~ Saturday on or after ~~in~~ April 11 through the fourth Saturday
3 thereafter on bearded or male turkeys only.

4 (b) The daily bag limit is one, the possession limit is two, and the season limit is two.

5 (c) The use of dogs for hunting wild turkeys is prohibited.

6 (d) The following shall apply to Spring Youth Only Wild Turkey Season:

7 (1) the open season is ~~from the first~~ Saturday and Sunday ~~in prior to~~ April 11 ~~through the Friday~~
8 ~~thereafter~~ on bearded or male wild turkeys ~~only~~. only;

9 (2) the season limit is ~~one~~. one; and

10 (3) youth are individuals under 16 years of age.

11

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

13 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*

15 *July 1, 1992;*

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

17 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*

19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*

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

21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*

22 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
23 *2003);*

24 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; January 1, 2013; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2007;*

25 *November 1, 2005;*

26 *Readopted Eff. February 1, 2022.*

27

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0301 DEFINITIONS**

2 As used in this Section, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Box trap", "corral trap", and "cage trap" are a device designed so that the animal enters the trap
4 through a door that closes and is meant to prevent the animal from exiting.
- 5 (2) "Breakaway device" means a device incorporated into a snare or snare component that allows the
6 loop to break open, and an animal to escape completely free of the snare, when a specified amount
7 of force is applied.
- 8 (3) "Collarum™-type trap" means a power-activated snare that is activated when the trigger is pulled
9 and that is designed to capture and restrain the animal by a cable around the neck.
- 10 (4) "Conibear®", "Conibear®-type", and "bodygrip" traps are designed to catch an animal in a body
11 hold resulting in a quick kill.
- 12 (5) "Leghold" and "foothold" mean a trap designed to hold an animal by the foot.
- 13 (6) "Loop stop" means a device that is attached to the snare cable to prevent the loop from closing
14 beyond a specified point.
- 15 (7) "Power-activated" means a snare on which the speed or direction of the loop closure is initiated or
16 augmented by a powering device like a spring.
- 17 (8) "Relaxing lock" means a snare lock that allows the snare loop to release constriction pressure on the
18 captured animal when the cable is not taut.
- 19 (9) "Snare" means a cable restraining device.
- 20 (10) "Steel-jaw" means a leghold or foothold trap in which the jaws are made of metal.
- 21 (11) "Submersion trapping systems" are traps, other than snares and Conibear®-type traps, that are set
22 in a manner that allow or cause the captured animal to become irreversibly submerged in water.

23
24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.6;*
25 *Eff. January 1, 2011;*
26 *Readopted Eff. February 1, 2022;*
27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*
28

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0306 ATTENDANCE AND TAGGING OF TRAPS**

2 (a) Traps shall be visited daily and animals caught shall be removed, except for completely submerged Conibear®-
3 type, Conibear®, ~~or bodygrip traps~~ traps, and submersion trapping systems, as defined in 15 NCAC 10B .0301, which
4 shall be visited once per 72 hours and animals caught shall be removed.

5 (b) Steel-jaw, leghold, Conibear®, Conibear®-type traps, Collarum™-type traps, snares, box traps, and cage traps
6 must have a weather-resistant permanent tag attached legibly giving the trapper's name and address or the trapper's
7 trapper identification number provided by the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Wildlife Resources
8 Commission's telephone number to report wildlife violations. Box traps for rabbits shall have a weather-resistant
9 permanent tag attached legibly giving the hunter's name and address or the hunter's Wildlife Resources Commission
10 customer number and the Wildlife Resources Commission's telephone number to report wildlife violations.

11 (c) Remote trap checking systems may be used in lieu of visiting the trap, provided the system has the following
12 features:

- 13 (1) a control unit that monitors the trap in real-time and reports trap status and unit status to a centralized
14 application database a minimum of once every two hours;
- 15 (2) a software application that notifies the user of unit status, trap activity, and system health issues
16 within 10 minutes of these events via email, text-based messaging systems, or an in-application
17 notification; and
- 18 (3) an on-demand test procedure that is used at deployment of a unit to confirm that the unit is placed
19 in a location where its wireless communication can be received and processed.

20 (d) If the remote trap checking system control unit reports a trap closure, the trap shall be physically visited within
21 24 hours of the time the trap was reported closed.

22 (e) If a remote trap checking system control unit fails to report its status after a 12-hour period, or reports a system
23 health issue, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of the last time a status report was sent.

24 (f) Remote trap checking system users shall maintain records of trap status and notification alarms for a minimum of
25 seven days after receipt. Records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a representative of the
26 Commission.

27
28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.12;*
29 *Eff. August 1, 2023.*

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0405 FUR DEALERS**

2 (a) Any individual wanting to engage in the business of buying or selling fur-bearing animals or other wild animals
3 that may lawfully be sold, as specified in G.S. 113-273(f), shall first obtain a fur dealer license from the Commission.

4 (b) Application for a fur dealer license shall be made online at www.ncwildlife.org or at the Commission headquarters
5 located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Information required from the applicant shall include:

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

7 (2) a list of all employees to be covered under the license.

8 (c) The fur dealer license shall not be transferable.

9 (d) Any individual working on behalf of the licensed fur dealer shall have a copy of the fur dealer's current license.

10 (e) It is unlawful for any fur dealer, or person acting on his or her behalf, to import, buy, or accept delivery of a
11 carcass or pelt of any fur-bearing animal or other wild animal from a source located in any other state that has not
12 been affixed with a tag in accordance with the tagging requirements of the state from which the animal was taken,
13 unless documentation of the date and hour of the arrival of such carcass or pelt at the fur dealer's place of business is
14 available for inspection.

15 (f) Imported carcasses and pelts shall not be resold or removed from a fur dealer's place of business without having
16 been tagged as required by Paragraph (e) of this Rule.

17 (g) Except as provided by Paragraph (e) of this Rule, it is unlawful for any licensed fur dealer to have in his or her
18 possession the carcass or pelt of any bobcat, otter, or fox which has not been affixed with a fur tag provided by the
19 Commission unless the fox was taken from a county exempt from fox tagging requirements.

20 (h) Licensed fur dealers shall maintain records of all acquisitions of carcasses and pelts of beaver, bobcat, coyote,
21 mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, striped skunk, spotted skunk, weasel, and foxes. Such records shall
22 consist of receipts, copies of receipts, or other written evidence of the transactions showing the sources and numbers
23 of acquisition.

24 (i) ~~Monthly~~ Annual reports shall be submitted to the Commission ~~on or before the 15th day of the succeeding month~~
25 within 15 days following the date of license expiration on forms supplied by the Commission at www.ncwildlife.org
26 or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. Reports shall include the
27 following:

28 (1) all acquisitions of carcasses and pelts, except those which have been acquired from and reported by
29 other fur dealers licensed by the State;

30 (2) all acquisitions made during each month beginning with October and ending with March of the
31 following year;

32 (3) distinguishment between acquisitions made within the State and those made from outside the State;
33 and

34 (4) counties in which the animals were taken if within the State.

35 In the case of nonresident fur dealers licensed to do business in this State, the records and reports required by this
36 Paragraph apply only to carcasses or pelts of animals acquired from within this State, and no reports are required from
37 nonresident fur dealers who acquire pelts only from other fur dealers licensed in the State.

1 (j) The records required by Paragraph (i) of this Rule and the inventory of carcasses and pelts on hand shall be made
2 available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon request or during the fur dealer's business hours.

3

4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-273; 113-291.3; 113-291.4; 50 C.F.R. 23; 87 Stat. 884;*
5 *Eff. November 14, 1978;*

6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2010; January 1, 1992; December 1, 1981; August 1, 1981; February 2,*
7 *1981;*

8 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*

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