Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement

Instructions for Preparation

The Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) includes application information, an information table, a management summary sheet for each qualifying species, habitat type or management activity, and an agreement map. The agreement must be signed by the landowner(s) and authorized representatives of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Further documentation may be required for certain management practices or activities.

Application Information			
1.	Enter the county where the property is located.		
2.	Enter t	he full name of the landowner(s) as it appears on tax listing.	
3.	Enter th	he complete mailing address.	
4.	A telep require	hone number is required. Alternate contact information is preferred but not d.	
5.	Identify	y the type of land ownership.	
6.	If the property address or location is different from the landowner mailing address, include either an address for the property or a location description.		
7.	List the name and contact information of all professional consultants or plan preparers involved in developing the agreement.		
Wildlife Conservation Land Information Table			
	Box1	Enter the county parcel id for each property on which the classification is claimed.	
	Box 2	List qualifying habitat type, protected species, or enter "wildlife reserve land."	
8.	Box 3	Enter the year the property was legally transferred to the current landowner.	
0.	Box 4	Enter the total acres for the parcel listed per NC OneMap data.	
	Box 5	Enter the total acres of qualifying land in each parcel per NC OneMap data.	
	Box 6	Indicate if any qualifying acres are currently enrolled in a tax deferment program, including a Present Use Value program (PUV) or the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP).	
Complete additional rows when requesting designation for multiple qualifying criteria on the same parcel.			

Management Summary Sheets

Management summary sheets for each of the three WCLP enrollment criteria are included in this WHCA template. Complete and submit the appropriate management summary sheet for each applicable protected species, priority habitat type, or wildlife reserve land activity being used to qualify the land for WCLP. Each summary sheet must include a description of current conditions and provide detailed management recommendations to meet the intent of WCLP.

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Map

A map of the property must be included in the WHCA. This map shall be of size, scale, and quality to positively delineate each the required components listed below. Failure to provide a suitable map will delay review and approval of the WHCA.

Required Components of the Map

А	A defined scale and north arrow	
	Property boundaries as defined by current county parcel data, compiled by NC	
В	OneMap	
С	Area eligible for enrollment in WCLP	
	Area boundaries for each protected species, each priority habitat type, and/or wildlife	
D	reserve land	
	Features associated with species protection, protected habitats, and/or location of	
E	management activities on wildlife reserve land	
F	Streams, lakes, ponds, rivers, or other wetlands	
G	Names of public roads (if applicable)	
Wildlife Reserve Land		
Complete and sign the "Declaration of Use for Wildlife Reserve Land" sheet if applicable.		

Last Name:

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement



When signed by the qualifying landowner(s) and authorized representatives of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), this agreement and any required supporting documentation shall be deemed a valid Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) for the purpose of inclusion in the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP) pursuant to North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15.

The applicant and the NCWRC agree that the lands and management actions identified in this agreement meet the legislative intent of one or more of the following:

Criterion 1 - conserve one or more protected species as defined in Title 15A NCAC 10I .0103, .0104, & .0105;

Criterion 2 - conserve one or more of the priority habitats listed in G.S. 105-277.15;

Criterion 3 - use as wildlife reserve land as defined in G.S. 105-277.15 and Title 15A NCAC 10L .0101.

NCWRC Principal Contact

Signature of NCWRC Supervising Biologist

Print Name and Title

Signature of NCWRC Wildlife Habitat Coordinator

Print Name and Title

Landowner or Authorized Representative Signature(s)

Print Signatory's Name. Include Title for LLC or Trust Agreements

Phone No.

Date

Date

Date

Application Information

1.	County/Counties:	
2.	Landowner Name:	
3.	Mailing Address:	
4		
4.	Contact Information: (include Area Code)	Home:
		Work:
		Cell:
		Email:
5.	Type of Ownership:	 Individual Tenants in Common Family Business Family Trust Tenants in the Entirety (Spouses)
6.	Property Location: (or physical address if different from mailing address)	
7.	Consultant or Plan Preparer's Name and contact information: (if applicable)	

Last Name: _____

8. Wildlife Conservation Land Information Table

Refer to "Instructions for Preparation" section for guidance on completing this table.

1	2	3	4	5	6
County and Parcel ID#	List Protected Species*, Qualifying Habitat Type** or "Wildlife Reserve Land"	Year of Deed Transfer	Total Parcel Acres ***	Qualifying Acres ***	Are any qualifying acres currently enrolled in PUV or WCLP?
					Yes No
					🗌 Yes 📄 No
					🗌 Yes 📄 No
					🗌 Yes 🗌 No
					🗌 Yes 🔲 No
					🗌 Yes 🔲 No
					🗌 Yes 🔲 No
					🗌 Yes 🔲 No
					🗌 Yes 📄 No
		Total Acres:			
*Qualit	fying Species Lists	**(Qualifying	Habitat Ty	pes
can be foun	on on qualifying species d at <u>ncwildlife.org/ETSC</u>	5	Rock mall Wetla Stream and Early St Longleaf	<u>Cave</u> Outcrop nd Communit Riparian Zon Iccessional Pine Forest	<u>e</u>
<u>*** Acrea</u> Official Use	ges determined using cu Only	irrent GIS d	ata comp	<u>dilea dy NC</u>	Unewap ***

Total Qualifying Acres:	Open Land*	Woodland
	*Open waters (ponds, lakes, etc)	. should be included as Open Land
Signature of NCWRC Representative:		

Last Name:

Insert Map Here

Criterion 1: Species Protection

Species which qualify for this criterion have been identified by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission under the State Endangered Species Act (G.S. 113-331 to 113-337) or by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 to 1543). Animals listed as endangered, threatened and special concern under these statues have very specific habitat needs or are declining due to other environmental factors. Specialized management is required to ensure habitat conditions remain suitable for these species.

Detailed information is required to ensure that the species is accurately identified, and that prescribed management will properly address the listed species' needs. Observation of a species does not automatically qualify a property as Wildlife Conservation Land. Qualification for Criterion 1 requires that the agreement map defines the areas on the property being utilized by the listed species, evidence the species is living on the property, information about the person identifying the species, and detailed management prescriptions needed to sustain the species on the property.

List the qualifying species which will be protected and managed on the property:

Total acres managed for qualifying species:_		Map symbol:
Species documented by:		Date:
Contact phone:	Contact email:	

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers biological evidence that this species lives on the property, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to sustain this species on the property. For migratory species, the land must provide breeding, wintering, and/or foraging habitat.

Include a separate management summary sheet and supporting information for each qualifying species addressed by this agreement.

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Bat Caves

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the bat cave habitat on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation showing the use of a cave by an aggregation of bats is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of the qualifying bat cave openings, as well as suitable buffers to protect the structure and function of the cave(s).

Total acres of bat cave habitat:				
Cave(s) being used by a c	locumented aggregation of bats			
Number:		Map symbol:		
Buffer needed to conserve	Map symbol:			
Habitat documented by:		Date:		
Contact phone:	Contact email:			

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers biological evidence that bats currently utilize these caves, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the bat cave habitat type on this property as defined in the <u>Management Guidelines</u>.

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats – Early Successional Habitats

Indicate the strategies planned to protect, enhance, and manage early successional habitats on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation will be required to show how enrolled areas will be managed. Management recommendations must ensure the enrolled areas are composed primarily of native herbaceous plants.

Identify areas qualifying as early successional habitat on the WHCA map.

Total acres in early successional habitat:

	Existing early succession	Map symbol:
	Forestland, basal area of 50 or less	Map symbol:
	Cropland to early succession*	Map symbol:
	Pastureland to early succession*	Map symbol:
	Forestland to early succession*	Map symbol:
	Other	Map symbol:
Habi	tat documented by:	Date:
Contact phone:		Contact email:

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers evidence that the area is currently qualifying early successional habitat (*see below for exception), and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to maintain the structure and function of early successional habitat on the property as defined in the <u>Management Guidelines</u>.

*When converting from a production oriented land use, management prescriptions must address transition to qualifying early succession habitat on the property.

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Longleaf Pine Forests

Indicate the strategies planned to establish, protect, and manage the longleaf pine forest on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation will be required to show how enrolled areas will be managed. Management activities must ensure the understory of enrolled areas are dominated by native herbaceous plants.

Identify the areas qualifying as longleaf pine forest on the WHCA map.

Total a	acres in longleaf pine forest:	
	Establishment of a longleaf pine stand Trees per acre:	1* Map symbol:
	Management of an existing stand Current basal area:	Map symbol:
Habita	t documented by:	Date:
Contact phone:		Contact email:

Supporting information must be included which describes current site conditions, offers evidence the area is currently a qualifying longleaf forest (*see below for exception), and provides detailed management prescriptions which will maintain herbaceous groundcover within these stands as defined in the <u>Management Guidelines</u>.

*When converting from a production oriented land use, management prescriptions must address establishment of a qualifying longleaf pine forest in lieu of confirming current occurrence on the property.

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Rock Outcrop

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the rock outcrop habitat on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation which confirms these geological features meet the definition of a rock outcrop is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of applicable rock outcrop(s), as well as suitable buffers to protect the structure and ecological function of this habitat type.

Total acres of rock outcrop habitat:	
Qualifying rock outcrop(s)	
Number:	Map symbol:
Buffers needed to protect habitat type.	Map symbol:
Habitat documented by:	Date:
Contact phone:	Contact email:

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers evidence that the outcrop(s) meet the biological intent of the program defined in the <u>Management Guidelines</u>, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the rock outcrop habitat type on this property.

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Small Wetland Communities

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the small wetland communities on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation which confirms these aquatic features meet the definition of small wetland community is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of the qualifying wetlands, as well as suitable buffers to protect the structure and ecological function of the habitat.

Total acres in small wetland communities:	
Small wetlands	
Number:	Map symbol:
Buffer needed to conserve this habitat type.	Map symbol:
Wetlands documented by:	Date:
Contact phone:	_ Contact email:

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers evidence that wetland(s) meet the biological intent of the program defined in the <u>Management</u> <u>Guidelines</u>, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the small wetland communities on this property.

When converting from a present use value tax deferment program, management prescriptions must address establishment of a qualifying small wetland community in lieu of confirming current occurrence on the property.

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Stream and Riparian Zones

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the stream and riparian zones on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation which confirms these areas meet the definition of stream and riparian zones is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of the qualifying streams and riparian zones needed to protect the structure and ecological function of the habitat.

Suitable stream buffers must be at least 15-feet wide with a maximum width of 300 feet or the width of the floodplain, whichever is greater. The riparian zone shall not extend beyond the watershed boundary as defined by the surrounding topography.

Total acres in stream and riparian zones:	
Qualifying stream Total linear feet:	Map symbol:
Riparian buffer Total acres:	Map symbol:
Habitat documented by:	Date:
Contact phone:	Contact email:

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions and offers evidence that the stream and riparian zone meet the biological intent of the program defined in the <u>Management Guidelines</u>. In addition, detailed management prescriptions must be provided to outline the actions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the streams and riparian buffers on this property.

Last Name:

Declaration of Use for Wildlife Reserve Land (Criterion 3)

Wildlife reserve land is land that is actively and regularly used for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, other wildlife activities, and where wildlife management activities are implemented to sustain breeding, migrating, or wintering populations of native wild animals. Land primarily used or maintained for other human uses, such as lawns, horse pastures, golf courses, or land primarily and intensively managed for financial gain in non-wildlife-oriented activities (e.g., agricultural commodities, forest products, solar panel arrays), will generally not qualify as wildlife reserve land. Failure to maintain qualifying land use or implement the management activities as defined in this agreement, may result in disqualification from WCLP and financial penalties being levied by the county tax office.

Total acres in wildlife reserve land:

I declare and affirm that land included in this agreement as wildlife reserve land is designated for active and regular use for one or more of the following purposes:

Hunting	Shooting
Fishing	Wildlife Observation

Other Wildlife Associated Uses (please list below)

Landowner Signature

Date

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land - Supplemental Food

Indicate the planned method for providing supplemental food on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. Identify the maintenance practices needed to manage the food sources. Keep an activity log to document dates and extent of establishment, as well as maintenance activities, for supplemental food management. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by the local tax office.

Total acres in supplemental food:

Supple	emental foods: existing or proposed (check all that apply)	
	Food plot with appropriate herbaceous species:	Map symbol:
	Plot established with native pollinator habitat:	Map symbol:
	Mast producing tree/shrub establishment:	Map symbol:
	Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff):	Map symbol:

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach detailed management recommendations for supplemental food areas. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for supplemental food areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Supplemental Food: Establishment and Maintenance Log

Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 9/6/19	Planted ladino clover	4 Acres	Planted clover in plots 2 and 3.



Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land - Supplemental Water

Check the appropriate boxes below to indicate each type of supplemental water managed for on the property. Identify the maintenance practices which will be used to manage the supplemental water sources. Keep an activity log to document dates and descriptions of installation and maintenance activities for supplemental water. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Water body type(s):

Perennial pond/lake:	Acres:	Map symbol:
Impoundment w/ control structure:	Acres:	Map symbol:
Intermittent pool:	Number:	Map symbol:
Other (attach description for approval	by NCWRC staff):	Map symbol:

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach detailed management recommendations for supplemental water areas. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for supplemental water areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Supplemental Water: Establishment and Maintenance Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 8/6/19	Checked ponds	na	Water levels good. Noticed duck weed on back pond.
Sample 9/1/20	Fishing success	Horuse pond	House pond Friends and family caught the most fish ever out of this pond this summer!

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land - Supplemental Shelter

Indicate the planned method for providing supplemental shelter on the property. Document the shelter type and the number of shelters to be installed. Include the maintenance practices needed to manage the shelters in the management recommendations for this activity. Keep a log to document dates and extent of establishment and maintenance activities for supplemental shelter. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Shelter type	Number: Map symbol:
Shelter type	Number: Map symbol

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach detailed management recommendations for supplemental shelter areas. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for supplemental shelter areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Supplemental Shelter: Establishment and Maintenance Log



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Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 1/6/19	Cleaned duck boxes	5 boxes	Cleaned out boxes 6, 9, 10, 11, 12. New shavings

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Habitat Control

Check the appropriate boxes below to indicate each type of habitat control implemented on the property. Keep an activity log to document dates and extent of installation and maintenance activities for habitat control. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Total acres in habitat control:

Management activities proposed or ongoing: (complete as needed)

Habitat type:	Map symbol:
Habitat type:	Map symbol:

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach management recommendations for each mapped habitat control area. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for habitat control areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Habitat Control: Establishment and Maintenance Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 9/7/19	Fell trees to open canopy	10 trees	Cut trees in area 1 and 2 to promote grape vine and green briar

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Erosion Control

Indicate the planned method to implement erosion control on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. Keep an activity log to document dates and descriptions of erosion control activities. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Management activities to address erosion on your property. (check all that apply)

Streambank stabilization	Feet:	_Map symbol:
In-stream channel stabilization		Map symbol:
Grading, shaping, and vegetation to	reduce erosion	Map symbol:
Grade, stabilize, water control struct	tures on active roads	Map symbol:
Filter strip installation		Map symbol:
Riparian buffer installation		Map symbol:
Sediment catch basin installation		Map symbol:
Exclude future traffic from road		Map symbol:
Other (attach description for approv	al by NCWRC staff)	Map symbol:

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach details of establishment and maintenance of erosion control areas.

Documentation:

- Attach activity log which shows dates and extent of establishment and maintenance activities for erosion control areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Erosion Control: Establishment and Maintenance Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 6/27/19	Graded and seeded road	100 feet	Graded and crowned west access road. Seeded with 100 Ubs. of brown top millet.

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Predator Control

Indicate the planned method to implement predator control on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. This management activity will be conducted across the entire enrolled property. Keep an activity log to document dates and descriptions of predator control activities. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Practices:

- Trapping in season by licensed trapper
- Trapping for species conservation
- Swine trapping/shooting to protect habitats
- Predator hunting
- Other (attach description for NCWRC approval)

Attach details of predator control activities required by this agreement. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Attach activity log which shows dates and extent of predator control activities.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Predator Control: Effort Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample June 2019	Coyote Hunting	s hows	Used electronic call and night visit to kill 3 coyotes
Sample July	Swine trapping	4 hours	Met with USDA APHIS and signed contract to allow
2019			them access for pug trappung.

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Census of Animal Populations

Indicate the planned method to implement census of animal populations on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. Keep an activity log to document dates and extent of participation in the selected survey projects. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Census / Survey opportunities

- <u>NC WRC Deer Hunter Observation Survey</u>
- NC WRC Deer Management Assistance Program
- Bumble Bee Watch
- Native Buzz
- The Great Sunflower Project
- The Great Backyard Bird Count
- Christmas Bird Count
- NestWatch
- FrogWatch USA
- Osprey Watch
- eBird
- iNaturalist
- Project FeederWatch

Journey North

Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff):

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of survey efforts for population census.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Census of Populations: Effort Log



Amount Additional Notes	1 entry Entered 15 bird species identified on the property.	3 surveys 3 hunter survey's submitted from the property. Also had 6 deer jaw bones submitted to WRC for aging.						
-	Entered sightings in 1 i-naturalist	Deer Hunder Survey 3 s						
Date	Sample June 2019	Sample Feb 2020						