

1 15A NCAC 10B .0203 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

4 (a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:

5 (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished
6 from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken during the following seasons,
7 including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

8 (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick,
9 Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones,
10 Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson,
11 Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake
12 Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

13 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan,
14 Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin,
15 Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and
16 Wilson counties.

17 (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe,
18 Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes,
19 Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

20 (D) Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell,
21 Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell,
22 Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

23 (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson,
24 Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg,
25 Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union
26 counties.

27 (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and
28 Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts
29 of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife
30 Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife
31 Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife
32 Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National
33 Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National
34 Wildlife Refuge.

35 (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during
36 the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through (G) of this
37 Subparagraph. ~~Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the fourth Saturday in September in all~~

1 ~~counties and on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following in those counties listed in Parts~~
2 ~~(a)(1)(D) of this Rule by persons under the age of 18.~~

3 (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
4 Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of
5 Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife
6 Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes
7 National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee
8 Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck
9 National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

10 (B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at
11 the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15
12 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military
13 Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine
14 Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base,
15 on Fort Liberty Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

16 (C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph
17 (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
18 counties.

19 (D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph
20 (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison,
21 and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts (a)(2)(G)(i) and (ii) of
22 this Rule.

23 (E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph
24 (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell,
25 Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

26 (F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph
27 (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and
28 Rutherford counties.

29 (G) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1)
30 of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and
31 Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties:

32 (i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and
33 Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and

34 (ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.

35 (b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

36 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag
37 limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from

1 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of
2 the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game
3 lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

4 (2) Restrictions

5 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
6 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except
7 a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with
8 G.S. 113-291.1(k).

9 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
10 may be used during the Archery Season.

11 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part (b)(1)(A)
12 of this Rule.

13 (c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:

14 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
15 taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the
16 first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D),
17 (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless
18 otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

19 (2) Restrictions

20 (A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county
21 or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), (E), (F), or (G) of this Rule that has one or more
22 open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.

23 (B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the
24 Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part
25 set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.

26 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder
27 Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this
28 Rule.

29 (D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
30 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms
31 Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in
32 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

33 (3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a
34 matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899,
35 that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed
36 or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-
37 loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is

1 designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the
2 muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

3 (d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

4 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag
5 limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery
6 equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday
7 following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands
8 within a city boundary.

9 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to that effect
10 no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to the Executive Director or
11 his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map
12 of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

13 (3) Restrictions:

14 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
15 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a
16 single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with
17 G.S. 113-291.1(k).

18 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
19 shall be used during the Urban Season.

20 (e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals
21 under 16 years of age during the following days:

22 (1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

23 (2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of
24 this Rule.

25 ~~(e)~~ (f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that
26 may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished
27 from spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards
28 from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional
29 antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the
30 boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported
31 on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

32 ~~(f)~~ (g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule do not apply
33 to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-
34 291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP
35 license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer
36 harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as
37 instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided

1 with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and
2 not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the
3 restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus
4 antlerless harvest report card.

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6 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
7 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
8 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
9 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
11 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
15 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
16 *2003);*
17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
18 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*
19 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
20 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*
21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*
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