



**Fiscal Note for 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals
Wildlife Resources Commission - Land and Water Access**

- Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS
15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LANCE IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

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Impact: State Government: Yes
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113:264; 113-291.2; 113:291.5; 113-296; 113-305

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these

resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, the WRC conducts an annual review of its inland fish, wildlife, and game land regulations to determine whether the rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of managing wildlife resources or Commission property through a biologically sustainable harvest consistent with sound conservation objectives; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources, and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

Many of the proposed rule changes will modify the use of game lands and hunting seasons on game lands, some will increase outdoor recreation opportunities, while others are expected to restrict such opportunities. A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY CATEGORY AND RULE

USE OF GAME LANDS:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (pg. 16)

Hunting Under the Influence:

The proposed amendment will broaden the prohibition of hunting under the influence of alcohol and narcotics to include all impairing substances. This will allow Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers (WLEOs) to enforce the rule more effectively and provide a safer environment on game lands for all users.

WLEOs periodically encounter individuals hunting on game lands that are under the influence of or in possession of impairing substances. The current rule only prohibits hunting while under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs. Per G.S. 90-87, marijuana is not a narcotic drug; therefore, officers are unable to charge individuals for hunting while under the influence of marijuana and other substances not included in the definition of narcotics.

G.S. 20-4.01(14a) defines an impairing substance as, "Alcohol, controlled substance under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, any other drug or psychoactive substance capable of impairing a person's physical or mental faculties, or any combination of these substances." Amending the language to "under the influence of an impairing substance as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(48b)" will allow WLEOs to enforce this rule more effectively. Having the explicit prohibition on use of other impairing substances could also act as a deterrent to some hunters planning to use these substances before engaging in hunting activities.

Either-Sex Definition:

This rule proposal adds the definition of "either-sex" to mean antlered or antlerless.

The Commission does not regulate harvest based on sex or gender. Regulations are based on whether a deer is antlered or not. Current language in the NCAC using either-sex is antiquated and inconsistent with deer management terminology in the southeast. Changing the definition will make rules consistent with the terminology used on the Big Game Harvest Report Card and the regulations digest produced for the Commission’s regulated public each year.

Adding this definition will clarify that the Commission means antlered or antlerless where either-sex already exists in rule. As rules are amended over time, “either-sex” will be modified to state “antlered or antlerless”.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment will allow the agency WLEOs to cite individuals hunting under the influence of marijuana and other impairing substances. With this addition, it is anticipated that additional citations will be issued, requiring additional WLEOs effort in staff time, as some of the cited individuals will likely go to court. Unfortunately, the agency has no way to quantify the anticipated time with available data.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment is expected to increase the number of citations issued which will increase the local courts’ revenues from citations. Currently, G.S. 7A-304 imposes a fee of \$183 per citation. In addition, pursuant to G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines issued by WRC would go to the local schools.

Private Impact

Updating the rule language will allow WLEOs to more effectively enforce the rule and enhance safety on game lands for all user groups. However, this will likely have an adverse impact on individuals hunting under the influence of marijuana, as officers will be able to cite them for violation of this rule. Hunting under the influence -- a violation of WRC rule -- carries a fine of \$25 (G.S. 113-135-1) plus cost of court (approximately \$183).

15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY (pg. 24)

The proposed amendment will prohibit target shooting on the Dover Bay Game Land. Non-licensed use of this game land has substantially increased over the past year. Most target shooters are shooting towards leased hunting property and the path into the game land. Target shooting routinely occurs at or near the parking area, which is unsafe and increases potential conflict.

Opportunities currently exist for target shooting at alternative sites within a reasonable driving distance to the game land that are appropriately constructed and monitored to provide a safe environment. This change is consistent with other game lands where target shooting is prohibited within an acceptable radius of shooting ranges.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Cost

Agency staff are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. Individuals target shooting on this game land regularly leave broken glass, plastic bottles, paper, and steel cans on the property, which must be cleaned up by staff. Game lands staff typically clean frequented target shooting areas at each game land three times per year. Based on the recent increase in non-licensed target shooting in the area, and assuming 100% compliance with the proposed amendment, prohibiting this activity is projected to save the agency approximately \$816/year in staff time ($\$34/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hours/clean up} \times 3 \text{ clean-ups/year} = \816). Additional signage will be needed at the game land kiosk to indicate that target shooting is not allowed. Staff will post signage as part of their regular duties. New signage will cost the agency approximately \$0.90 ($\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 1 \text{ sign}$).

Benefit

Targets are often placed on trees in the area, many of which have been damaged to the point that mortality has already occurred or is imminent. This proposed amendment should help to eliminate the damage caused to live trees that are currently being used as targets. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impacts.

Private Impact

Cost

The proposed amendment could affect private individuals who want to target shoot, as they will now have to travel to a shooting range. Depending on where the individual is traveling from, this could impose an additional financial burden by requiring more money for gas. There is no way to quantify this impact.

Benefit

Prohibiting target shooting will improve safety for both target shooters and other users of the game lands. Currently, popular shooting areas on this game land contain no back-stop berms and are located near boundaries with private property, and roads. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY (pg. 23)
15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE
COUNTIES (pg. 25)
15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY (pg. 27)

The proposed amendment will restrict the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting, during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands. This proposed amendment, requested by Duke Energy (landowner), is necessary to reduce conflicts between recreational bike riders and hunters during the hunting seasons and damage caused by unauthorized bike trails.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment may have a limited positive impact on the agency resources by reducing staff time required to address conflicts related to recreational bike riding during hunting seasons. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so there is no way to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

Cost

The proposed amendment will impact bike riders currently using these three game lands, as they will need to find new locations to recreate. These costs cannot be quantified with available data.

Benefit

The proposed amendment will benefit hunters who are negatively impacted by recreational bike riders. It will also reduce and eventually eliminate the expenses incurred by Duke Energy to routinely rehabilitate unauthorized bike trails, correct erosion issues, and remove bridges, ramps, and jumps. The agency has no way to quantify these benefits.

15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK
COUNTIES (pg. 29)

The proposed amendment will establish a “Scouting-only Zone” on North River Game Land for waterfowl impoundments to limit the disturbance to migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds.

A “Scouting-only Zone” is a tool used to manage non-hunting and trapping activities on waterfowl impoundments to decrease disturbances during the migration and wintering periods. The North River Game Land waterfowl impoundments have significant human disturbances including people

walking the dikes of the impoundments and interfering with permitted hunts during the migration and wintering periods. Human presence is a disturbance that most waterfowl species do not tolerate, and they will flee the area.

To mitigate this issue, an observation tower adjacent to the parking area near the impoundments will be installed. This will provide opportunities to view the posted waterfowl impoundments, while limiting the disturbance. The Scouting-only Zone will be limited to the observation tower from November 1 through March 15. Outside of these dates, the area will be open to public use. This Scouting-only Zone will reduce the amount of disturbance to waterfowl, provide a higher quality hunt for permitted waterfowl hunters, and better align management of the posted waterfowl impoundments with the guidelines of the grant used to create the site.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment is anticipated to have an estimated cost of \$5,100 to the agency for the construction of an observation tower and post regulatory signage. Costs include \$5,000 for the construction of the observation tower (labor and materials) and conservation technicians will put up signage as part of their regular duties. New signage (sign, post, and hardware) will cost the agency, at most, \$100 (\$25/sign x 4 signs).

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

Cost

Wildlife viewers using the impoundments will have fewer areas to view waterfowl, but the quality of their experience may improve as they will not disturb the waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds from the viewing tower.

Benefit

Waterfowl hunters should experience an increased quality of their hunts, as disturbances to waterfowl in the area will be limited and birds should remain in the area. Neither the costs nor benefits can be quantified.

15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES (pg. 31)

The proposed amendment will restrict camping on the Thurmond Chatham Game Land to September 1 through the last day of February, and March 31 through May 14.

The use of camping areas by non-licensed individuals has increased substantially over the years, both during and outside the hunting seasons. WLEOs routinely encounter violations including

illegal drugs, littering, indecent exposure, and extended camping. Trash, tents, drug paraphernalia, and human waste pose safety issues for staff and other users. Restricting camping to dates within the hunting seasons will limit use and undesirable activity, decrease the required maintenance at these areas, and make camping on this game land consistent with other game lands.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the additional time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so this anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

Hunters and other campground users will lose the opportunity to camp outside of the seasons, but the impacts are anticipated to be minimal, as camping is available at nearby Stone Mountain State Park.

HUNTING SEASON CHANGES:

15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES (pg. 21)

15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES (pg. 26)

15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES (pg. 30)

Buffalo Cove, South Mountains, and Kings Creek game lands have acreage lying in both the western and northwestern deer zones. Currently, the deer season framework for these game lands is consistent with the western season. The proposed amendment will shift the western blackpowder and gun season allowing the blackpowder season to begin two Saturdays before Thanksgiving and run for two weeks, and the gun season to begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving and run through January 1. This amendment will reduce complexity and align the seasons for these game lands to reflect the newly adopted framework.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so there is no way to

quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment is expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in additional visitation to the area and increase revenues of local businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

Increased hunter participation during blackpowder season is expected, as a result of the cooler hunting conditions during November and the proximity to the rut. Gun season opportunities will increase as a result of adding days, which will allow opportunities to gun hunt during peak rut, and open days through Christmas and New Year's. This anticipated benefit cannot be unquantified.

**15A NCAC 10D .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES
(pg. 28)**

The proposed amendment will remove the one day of introductory antlerless deer harvest during the gun season on the Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain Counties and will align Needmore Game Land with the same antlerless deer season structure as Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties.

Currently, antlerless deer harvest during the introductory gun season is limited by 15A NCAC 10D .0251(b) on Nantahala Game Land solely to that portion which is located in Transylvania County. The majority of Nantahala Game Land is outside of Transylvania County and will not have an antlered or antlerless gun season. This proposal will standardize the antlered or antlerless blackpowder and gun seasons between Needmore and Nantahala Game Lands. This is particularly important as both game lands have a shared boundary. If the Nantahala Game Land had a more conservative antlered or antlerless season than Needmore, the additional hunting pressure could result in negative impacts to resources and game land use during that period.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so there is no way to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

A proposed amendment prohibits antlerless deer harvest during the first open Saturday of the deer with visible antlers season and aligns Needmore to the same antlered or antlerless season as

Nantahala Game Land. This will reduce the complexity of regulations between State and Federal game lands that have a shared boundary.

15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES (pg. 32)

The proposed amendment will change the gun antlered or antlerless season in the Montgomery County portions of the Yadkin River Game Land from moderate to maximum. This change will align the Montgomery County portion of the Yadkin River Game Land with the rest of the game land and align the antlered or antlerless season dates with surrounding private land seasons.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment is expected to have positive fiscal impacts on the agency, as the staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas will be reduced. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land, so, there is no way to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment is expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in additional visitation to the area and increase revenues of local businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment will reduce the complexity of antlered or antlerless harvest dates on the Yadkin River Game Land and deer hunters will have more opportunities to hunt on this portion of game land.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GAME LANDS:

15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY (pg. 22)

The proposed addition to this rule will establish a 4,830-acre portion of the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area (CSGFA). The CSGFA will be a permit only area for all quail and woodcock hunting and for rabbit and squirrel hunting outside the normal three days per week framework. Hunting for big game and small game, other than those previously mentioned, will still be allowed during the regular hunting days (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturday) without a permit.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Cost

This proposed addition is anticipated to have an estimated one-time cost to the agency of \$10,800 to establish the 50.33 mile perimeter boundary and interior roads of the new CSGFA. These areas are currently marked with signs and painted, but new signage will be needed to clearly post the defined area at a cost of approximately \$6,000 ($\$3/\text{sign} \times 2000 \text{ signs} = \$6,000$). Additional costs of \$4,800 ($\$30/\text{hr} \times 160 \text{ hours} = \$4,800$) are anticipated for staff time to remove the old signage and install the new signage. Game land boundaries are typically painted every five years and they were recently repainted making this rule change less labor intensive.

Benefit

Though this area of the Caswell Game Land is currently managed for small game hunting by permit only, the proposed addition is expected to draw more small game hunters to the game land by increasing small game hunting permit opportunities. Hunters pay \$8 plus a transaction fee for permits (transaction fees vary from \$4 to \$0 depending on the sales channel). In 2022-23, a similar area with two lottery hunts, one for rabbit and one for quail had 18 and 163 permit applications respectively, resulting in \$1,448 in permit fees ($\$8/\text{permit} \times 181 \text{ applications} = \$1,448$). Assuming an average \$2 transaction fee on each of those permit applications, the total agency revenue was \$1,810 ($\$1,448 + \$362 (\$2/\text{transaction} \times 181 \text{ applications}) = \$1,810$).

Due to the increased opportunities, the agency does anticipate some increased revenue because of this amendment. Unfortunately, because there is no way to know how many hunters will participate and the number of permits to be issued, there is no way to accurately quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

The proposed addition is expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in additional visitation to the area and increase revenues of local businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

This proposed addition will increase small game hunting opportunities on Caswell Game Land. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY (pg. 33)

The proposed rule will establish the North Bend Game Land and open it to hunting by permit only. The Commission acquired 1,225 acres from Duke Energy below Lake James in Burke County for the Game Land Program. The North Bend Game Land has proximity to multiple residences, portions of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, and the Fonta Flora Trail. North

Bend will provide unique, quality permit hunting opportunities, and serve user groups from surrounding municipalities such as Marion and Morganton.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Cost

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$80,800 to establish the new game land. This will include boundary survey and markings (\$12,000), new access road (\$22,500), gates to control vehicle access (\$4,500), parking areas (\$40,000), and kiosks (\$1,800).

Benefit

The game land will provide revenue through permit hunts. Permits cost hunters \$8 plus a transaction fee (transaction fees vary from \$4 to \$0 depending on the sales channel). Though expected revenue can vary greatly in any given year, as many factors can influence the number of hunts and the interest in those hunts, based on similar game lands, the agency can likely anticipate at least \$330 (\$8/permit x 33 applications = \$264) (average \$2/transaction x 33 applications = \$66) (\$264 + 66 = \$330) in permit and transaction fees for permit hunts at this new game land.

Local Impact

Creating a new game land will likely increase the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, camping supplies, etc.). Based on data collected on similar sized game lands in North Carolina, the State and local governments could see an increase in tax-based revenue at a minimum of \$25,000¹. The amount may vary, as each game land's tax-based revenue is specific to its location and size. The Commission is unable to give an exact estimate as tax-based revenue varies depending on activities allowed on the game lands, its proximity to local amenities, and its size.

Additionally, game lands have been shown to generate game land related expenditures. In 2018, a study conducted by N.C. State University estimated that North Carolina game lands received approximately 2.2 million visits. This evaluation estimates that these visits generated \$180 million in game land related expenditures (gross), contributing a net added value of \$140 million to the State's economic activity². This same study found that non-licensed activity users spent an average of \$119.83 per trip while hunters and anglers spent on average \$84.19 per trip.³

This game land is likely to increase home values in the area as well, increasing property tax revenue.

Private Impact

This game land will provide additional opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation. Game land users will have increased opportunities for wildlife-based recreation and 1,225 acres of

¹ Casola, William et.al. Determining Use, Economic Impacts and Value of Game Lands in North Carolina. October 2020.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

undeveloped land will be conserved. There is currently not a game land in this area of the State and wildlife and outdoor recreationists from surrounding municipalities can take advantage of this public land for hunting, hiking, and nature watching.

Adding an additional game land should bolster recreational activity. The value of game land access to recreationists can be assumed to be at least as much as they spend per trip, although there are additional benefits that are not captured in trip expenditures. This same study found that non-licensed activity users spent an average of \$119.83 per trip while hunters and anglers spent on average \$84.19 per trip.⁴

This game land is likely to increase home values in the area as well. It has been shown that game lands can either raise home values or decrease them. Researchers found that homes in the mountain and piedmont regions have the most increase in home values while homes at the coast had the most decrease.

The concept of willingness to pay (WTP) can provide a more comprehensive estimate of how much users value game lands, including those aesthetic, environmental, and inter-generational benefits that cannot be measured directly in the market through expenditures or home values. However, WTP values come with a greater degree of uncertainty. The estimates are sensitive to research methods used to elicit the values including the design and delivery of the contingent valuation exercise.

The study assessed users' WTP (one time) to conserve 20% of North Carolina's game lands. Values varied by user type. Non-licensed users valued the proposed conservation at \$130 compared to licensed users at \$120. Dual users that pursue both licensed and non-licensed activities valued game lands most highly at \$160. More detailed studies would be needed to determine WTP on an annual or per-acre basis for both users and non-users.

⁴ Ibid.

SUMMARY

Quantifiable Impacts

State

The following quantifiable costs to the State are anticipated:

- Use of Game Lands
 - Dover Bay Game Land
 - One-time signage change = \$0.90 + negligible staff time
 - North River Game Land
 - One-time observation tower construction and signage = \$5,100
- Establishment of Game Lands
 - Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land
 - One-time signage change = \$10,800
 - North Bend Game Land
 - One-time boundary survey and markings = \$12,000
 - One-time new access road = \$22,500
 - One-time access gates = \$4,500
 - One-time parking areas = \$40,000
 - One-time kiosks = \$1,800

The following quantifiable benefits to the State are anticipated:

- Hunting Season Changes
 - Dover Bay Game Land
 - Clean-up savings = \$816/year
 - Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land
 - Increase in license sales = at least \$1,810
 - North Bend Game Land
 - Increase in license sales = at least \$330

The total quantifiable costs to the State is estimated to be approximately \$96,700 in year one and the total quantifiable benefits to the State is estimated to be approximately \$2,956 annually.

Unquantifiable Impacts

The following unquantifiable costs were identified for the proposed rule changes:

State

- Allowing WLEOs to enforce the rule more effectively and provide a safe environment on game lands for all users has the potential to increase the amount of WLEOs staff time as

some of the cited individuals may go to court.

- Establishing a permit only on the North Bend Game Land will add additional ongoing costs associated with maintenance and enforcement, which will be comparable to other similarly-sized game land areas in the State.

Local

- Allowing WLEOs to enforce the rule more effectively and provide a safe environment on game lands for all users has the potential to increase expenses (case load) and revenues (court costs) for the local court system.

Private

- Prohibiting hunting while under the influence of additional impairing substances has the potential to increase out of pocket expenses for impaired hunters, which carries a fine of \$208 (\$25 plus \$183 in court costs).
- Prohibiting target shooting on Dover Bay Game Land may increase the distance target shooters will have to travel to target shoot at nearby ranges.
- Restricting the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will reduce the expenses incurred by Duke Energy to routinely rehabilitated unauthorized bike usage.
- Restricting the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will require bike riders to find new locations to recreate.
- Establishing a “Scouting-only Zone” on the North River Game Land for waterfowl impoundments to limit the disturbance to migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds will decrease the wildlife viewer’s choice of viewing areas, but the quality of their experience may improve.
- Restricting the number of consecutive days for camping will reduce the number of days an individual may hunt who stayed longer than the new limit in the past.

The following unquantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

State

- Prohibiting hunting while under the influence of additional impairing substances has the potential to increase revenue to public schools from citations (\$25/citation).
- Prohibiting target shooting on Dover Bay Game Land may help eliminate damage caused to live trees being used as targets.
- Restricting the use of bicycles, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the days of the seasons for game birds and game animals on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will reduce staff time required to address conflicts related to recreational bike riding during hunting seasons.
- Restricting the number of consecutive days one can camp will allow the Commission to have more control over camp site users and control misuse of these camp sites.
- Shifting the hunting season framework for Buffalo Cove, Kings Creek, and South Mountains

game lands to align with the western season, allowing the blackpowder season to begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving and run through January 1 will reduce staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas.

- Removing the one day introductory antlerless deer harvest during gun season on the Needmore Game Land and aligning with the seasons in other counties will reduce staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain the game land.
- Changing the gun antlered or antlerless season in the Montgomery County portion of the Yadkin River Game Land will reduce staff time and expenses required to enforce and maintain these areas.
- Establishing the CSGFA for all quail and woodcock hunting and for rabbit and squirrel hunting outside the normal three days per week framework will increase opportunities and increase agency revenue.
- Establishing North Bend Game Land and opening it to hunting by permit will increase agency revenue and bring more hunters to the land.

Local

- Citations for hunting under the influence of impairing substances may increase county court caseloads but will also increase revenues by \$183 per citation (for court costs).
- Establishing North Bend Game Land and opening it to hunting by permit will increase non-traditional and traditional users per trip local revenues.
- Pursuant to G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines would go to the local schools.

Private

- Prohibiting hunting under the influence of additional impairing substances may improve the safety of game land users.
- Prohibiting target shooting on Dover Bay Game Land will improve the safety for users of the game land.
- No bikers on Chatham, Harris, and Lee game lands will improve hunting experience and decrease and eventually eliminate cost of repairs and maintenance for landowner.
- Establishing a “Scouting-only Zone” on the North River Game Land for waterfowl impoundments to limit the disturbance to migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds will increase the quality of waterfowl hunters experience.
- Shifting the hunting season framework for Buffalo Cove, Kings Creek, and South Mountains game lands will reduce the complexity for deer hunters, increase hunter participation during blackpowder season, and increase hunting opportunities as a result of adding days.
- Removing the one-day introductory antlerless deer harvest and aligning the Needmore Game Land will reduce the complexity for deer hunters. The additional six days of blackpowder antlered or antlerless above the one day currently provided, will increase opportunities for harvest.
- Changing the gun antlered or antlerless season in the Montgomery County portion of the Yadkin River Game Land will reduce the complexity of regulations and opportunities.
- Establishing a CSGFA for all quail and woodcock hunting and for rabbit and squirrel hunting outside the normal three days per week framework will increase quality of small game hunting opportunities.
- Establishing the North Bend Game Land will provide additional opportunities for hunting

and outdoor recreation.

While many of the impacts of the proposed amendments are unquantifiable, the Commission believes that ongoing benefits to both the State and local government, and private entities will outweigh the costs.

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS**

2 (a) The following shall be prohibited on game lands:

- 3 (1) hunting on a designated game land while under the influence of ~~alcohol or a narcotic drug~~; an
- 4 impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(48b);
- 5 (2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the
- 6 Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;
- 7 (3) parking a vehicle on game lands in a manner that blocks traffic or gates, or prevents vehicles from
- 8 using a roadway; and
- 9 (4) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or to a tree on a game
- 10 land to hunt. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed
- 11 after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

12 (b) Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall be during the open season for game animals and game

13 birds.

14 (c) Individual game lands or parts of game lands may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this

15 Subchapter.

16 (d) Persons shall hunt with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.

17 (e) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 18 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 19 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 20 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- 21 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. daily; and
- 22 (5) not operate a vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

23 (f) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

- 24 (1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;
- 25 (2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
- 26 (3) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-
- 27 54.1(b), or an accessory structure thereof; and
- 28 (4) hunting migratory game birds.

29 (g) On designated Youth Waterfowl ~~Days~~ Days, the following shall apply:

- 30 (1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset;
- 31 (2) Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and
- 32 (3) youth may hunt on a game land and on an impoundment without a special hunt permit, including
- 33 permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

34 (h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the

35 Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for

36 training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from

37 one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply.

1 (i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and
2 waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment
3 outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."

4 (j) Definitions:

5 (1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be
6 taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day,
7 Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.

8 (2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which
9 game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,
10 Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, and New
11 Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays,
12 Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's
13 Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open
14 days" also apply to antlerless deer hunting seasons listed for each game land. Raccoon and opossum
15 hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight
16 on Saturdays.

17 (3) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game
18 may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
19 during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.

20 (4) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which
21 game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays,
22 Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

23 (5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game
24 may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays,
25 Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day.
26 Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays,
27 and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.

28 (6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit" means a written authorization from the Commission
29 required for take or other activities listed on the permit during open seasons, if applicable, in a
30 specified area and subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter,
31 or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available
32 permits online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The
33 Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with
34 G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. The laws and rules regarding the species or activity
35 shall apply.

36 (7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.

37 (k) Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with

- 1 dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.
- 2 (l) On permit hunts, ~~deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the
3 permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next
4 preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees
5 prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife
6 cooperator agent or by phone.
- 7 (m) The following game lands and refuges are closed to hunting except to individuals who have obtained a valid and
8 current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:
- 9 (1) Bertie, ~~Halifax~~ Halifax, and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
10 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
11 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
12 (4) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
13 (5) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
14 (6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.
- 15 (n) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the
16 Commission. Written permission may be granted when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge shall not compromise the
17 primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need
18 or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of
19 access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- 20 (o) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for a game animal or game bird using a legal
21 manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands that
22 allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the open deer or bear season.
- 23 (p) The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The
24 Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be
25 identified on the permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on the permit.
- 26 (q) As used in the rules of this Subchapter, horseback riding includes all equine species.
- 27 (r) When waterfowl hunting is authorized on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open
28 waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

29

30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
31 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;*
33 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September*
34 *1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*
35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*
36 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*

1 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
2 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
3 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*
4 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
5 *January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
6 *1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October*
7 *1, 2004;*
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*
9 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021;*
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; November 1, 2022; October 1, 2022; August 23, 2022.*
13

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES**

2 Buffalo Cove game land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following shall apply:

- 3 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the ~~open hunting days from the~~
4 ~~Monday before~~ begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after~~
5 ~~Thanksgiving, January 1. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery
6 equipment ~~on open days~~ beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the ~~Sunday~~
7 ~~day~~ immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule ~~and the Sunday~~
8 ~~immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through~~
9 ~~the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery~~
10 ~~equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season,~~
11 ~~as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may
12 be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days~~ beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day
13 of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule ~~the Monday on or nearest~~
14 ~~October 1~~ through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~ Friday thereafter.
- 15 (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable
16 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- 17 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and horseback
18 riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 19 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

20
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
22 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
23

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY**

2 (a) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

3 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken from the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season
4 for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Wednesday thereafter.

5 (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through
6 August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed on
7 roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian
8 use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license
9 as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).

10 ~~(3) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit only for quail and woodcock hunting and~~
11 ~~bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR~~
12 ~~1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR~~
13 ~~1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736~~
14 ~~to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.~~

15 ~~(4)~~(3) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit after November 1.

16 ~~(5)~~(4) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
17 14.

18 ~~(6)~~(5) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

19 (b) Hunting shall be by permit for the following species in the area posted as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area:

20 (1) quail and woodcock; and

21 (2) rabbit and squirrel on days outside of the three days per week framework.

22
23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
24 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*
26

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY**

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

- 3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer
4 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through
6 August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15.
- 7 (3) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open
8 days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 9 ~~(3)~~(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

10

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

13

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0225 DOVER BAY GAME LAND IN CRAVEN COUNTY**

2 (a) Dover Bay game land is a Six Days per Week Area.

3 (b) On this game land ~~deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the days of the applicable Deer
4 With Visible Antlers ~~season.~~ Season.

5 (c) Target shooting 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

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE COUNTIES**

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

- 3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer
4 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken on the following days:
6 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
7 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
8 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 9 (3) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 10 (4) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 11 ~~(5) Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- 12 (5) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open
13 days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 14 (6) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (7) Target shooting is prohibited.

16

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

18 Eff. October 1, 2022

19

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES**

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

- 3 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
4 ~~Monday Saturday before~~ after Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after Thanksgiving,~~
5 January 1. Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on
6 open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 ~~to~~ through the ~~third Saturday~~
7 ~~thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. day~~
8 immediately preceding the Black powder Firearms Season described in the Rule. Deer with visible
9 ~~antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the~~
10 ~~Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex~~
11 Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the
12 ~~Monday on or nearest October 1~~ two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer
13 With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the ~~Saturday of the second week~~ Friday
14 thereafter.
- 15 (2) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer~~ may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable
16 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
19 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
20

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY**

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

- 3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer
4 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) The use of bicycles is restricted, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open
6 days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 7 ~~(2)~~(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 .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES**

2 Needmore 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) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 6 (3) No antlerless deer may be taken during the first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers
7 season on Needmore Game Land.

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 .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES**

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

3 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer
4 With Visible Antlers Season.

5 (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

6 (3) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit.

7 (4) During the period November 1 through March 15, all activities, except waterfowl hunting and
8 trapping during the trapping season on North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments, are
9 restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone.

10 ~~(4)~~(5) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

11

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

13 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

14

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL,**
2 **AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES**

3 South Mountains game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer begins on the Saturday after ~~consists of the~~
5 ~~open hunting days from the Monday before~~ Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after~~
6 ~~Thanksgiving, January 1. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery
7 equipment ~~on open days~~ beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the ~~Sunday~~
8 ~~day~~ immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this ~~rule and the Sunday~~
9 ~~immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through~~
10 ~~the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery~~
11 ~~equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season,~~
12 ~~as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may
13 be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days~~ beginning ~~the Monday on or nearest October 1~~
14 ~~two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in~~
15 ~~this Rule through the Saturday of the second week~~ Friday thereafter.
16 (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable
17 Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
18 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
19 (a) January 2 through March 31;
20 (b) May 16 through August 31;
21 (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
22 (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
23 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
24 (5) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
25 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
26 (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area
27 is 14 days within any 30-day period.

28
29 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
30 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
31

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES**
2 **COUNTIES**

3 Thurmond Chatham game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer
5 With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all
7 horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback
8 riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- 9 (3) ~~The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days~~
10 ~~within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping all~~
11 ~~personal belongings must be removed from the game land. Camping is restricted to September 1~~
12 ~~through the last day of February; and March 31 through May 14.~~

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
15 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
16

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY,**
2 **ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES**

3 Yadkin River game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer~~ may be taken ~~the first open day of the applicable Deer~~
5 ~~With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery~~
6 ~~county, and deer of either sex may be taken all~~ on the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
7 Antlers ~~Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.~~ Season.
8 (2) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

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

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

2 North Bend game land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 3 (1) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated trails, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting
4 during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 5 (2) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February; and March 31 through May
6 14.
- 7 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 8 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

9

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

11