



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
August 24, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor
Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER – *Chairman Monty Crump*

This electronic meeting is being streamed live for the public to attend and recorded as a public record. The recording of the meeting will be available at www.ncwildlife.org.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner Steve Windham*

INVOCATION – *Commissioner Jim Ruffin*

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT – *Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison*

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY – North Carolina General Statute §138A-15 mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquires as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman Crump*

APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the July 13, 2023 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT – Receive Financial Status Report on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund. – *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer (EXHIBIT B)*

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Rules Committee Report – August 23, 2023 – *David Hoyle, Vice Chair*

Boating Safety Committee – August 23, 2023 – *J.C. Cole, Chair*

Habitat, Nongame & Endangered Species Committee – August 23, 2023 – *Kelly Davis, Chair*

Land Acquisitions & Property Committee Report – August 23, 2023 – *Brad Stanback, Vice Chair*

Finance Committee Report – August 23, 2023 – *Landon Zimmer, Chair*

Committee of the Whole Report – August 23, 2023 – *Monty Crump, Chair*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Green Growth Toolbox: Working with Communities for Conservation – *Brooke Massa, Land Conservation Biologist & Jake Petrosky, Associate Vice President, Stewart Inc., and Jason Sullivan, Chatham County Planning Director*

LAND AND WATER ACCESS DIVISION

Land Acquisitions and Property Matters

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager (EXHIBITS C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8)*

- Rubin Tract – Ashe County (C-1)
- Brushy Mountains Donation – Wilkes, Iredell and Alexander Counties (C-2)
- Pederson Tract – Ashe County (C-3)
- Pine Mountain Tract – Wilkes County (C-4)
- Surratt Road DOT Transfer– Davidson County (C-5)
- Mount Holly Depot Site – Gaston County (C-6)
- Cimland Tract – Durham County (C-7)
- Rash Heirs – Ashe County (C-8)

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – Various 10A Rules – Review public comments and consider request to readopt proposed changes to 10A .0401, .0402, .1101, and .1201 as a part of the periodic review – *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10D .0220 Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County – Review public comments and consider request to adopt rulemaking to prohibit the use of dogs when hunting deer on a portion of Columbus County Game Land south of N.C. 214 via a Petition for Rulemaking – *Melva Bonner (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10K Hunter Education Course Rules – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed rules 10K .0101, .0102, and .0103. Review and consider approval of fiscal note. – *Melva Bonner (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)*

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text - 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County – Consider application from Brunswick County to publish Notice of Text with open comment period and public hearing, for an amendment to establish a no-wake zone on Lockwood Folly River around Rourk’s Landing Subdivision – *Betsy Haywood, No Wake Zone Coordinator (EXHIBIT G)*

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text - 15A NCAC 10F .0316 Forsyth, Rockingham, and Stokes Counties – Consider application from Rockingham County to publish Notice of Text with open comment period and public hearing, for an amendment to establish a no-wake zone on Belews Lake around Carolina Marina in Stokesdale – *Betsy Haywood (EXHIBIT H)*

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text - 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County – Consider application from Caldwell County to publish Notice of Text with open comment period and public hearing, for an amendment to establish a no-wake zone on Lake Rhodhiss within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina in Granite Falls – *Betsy Haywood (EXHIBIT I)*

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text - 15A NCAC 10F .0380 Town of Rhodhiss – Consider application from the Town of Rhodhiss to publish Notice of Text with open comment period and public hearing, for a Rule to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore on Lake Hickory in Burke and Caldwell counties, from a point 165 yards east of the S. R. 1611 Bridge westward to the Rhodhiss Dam. Review and consider approval of fiscal note. – *Betsy Haywood (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)*

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Crump*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Ingram*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A



MINUTES July 13, 2023 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the July 13, 2023 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.org.

Commissioner Tom Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Landon Zimmer gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. John Coley, Mark Craig, and JC Cole were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Jim Ruffin	John Stone	Hayden Rogers
Thomas Fonville	Tom Berry	Kelly Davis	John Alexander
David Hoyle	Ray Clifton	Tom Haislip	Steve Windham
Brad Stanback	Landon Zimmer	Mike Alford	Wes Seegars

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15. Commissioner Landon Zimmer recused himself from discussion and action on Exhibit E-2.

MINUTES

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Mike Alford, the Commission approved the Minutes of the following meetings:

APRIL 20, 2023 MEETING – the Wildlife Resources Commission Minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting was approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

JUNE 6, 2023 MEETING – the Wildlife Resources Commission Minutes of the June 6, 2023 meeting was approved as presented in **EXHIBIT B**.

EXHIBITS A & B are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Executive Committee Report – July 12, 2023 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Executive Committee met on July 12, 2023, and adjourned into a closed session after opening the meeting to review the Executive Director's 2022/2023 performance evaluation under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). After returning to open session, the meeting was adjourned.

Habitat, Nongame, Endangered Species (HNGES) Committee Report – July 12, 2023 – *Kelly Davis, Committee member*, reported the Committee met on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. *Dr. Sara Schweitzer, Assistant Chief, Terrestrial Wildlife Diversity Program*, gave a summary of public comments received for the Bog Turtle and the Southern Hognose Snake conservation plans which will be presented in Exhibits M-1 and M-2. All comments were in support of the plans and no significant edits were suggested. *Dr. Schweitzer and Rachael Hoch, Assistant Chief, Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Program*, provided summaries on six birds and one freshwater mollusk, including results from Status Assessment Tool evaluations. Status changes were proposed for four bird species and one mussel species, and no change in listing status for two bird species. The HNGES Committee members reviewed and supported the staff's recommendations. The proposed status changes will be taken to the Rules Committee meeting in August 2023. *Rachael Hoch* presented technical corrections to the Protected Animals List including three corrections due to Federal Status changes and twenty corrections to update scientific and common names. HNGES Committee members supported taking the proposed Technical Corrections to the Rules Committee meeting in August 2023. *Shannon Deaton, Chief, Habitat Conservation Division*, presented information on the 2023 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award. HNGES Committee members were asked to submit ballot votes for a nominee. The results will be shared with the HNGES

Committee Chair in preparation for a Commission recommendation at the August 2023 Committee of the Whole.

Fisheries Committee Report – July 12, 2023 – *John Stone, Chair*, reported the Committee met on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Christian Waters, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, presented fish rule proposals for the 2024-2025 regulatory cycle including proposals to reaffirm the authority of the WRC over species designated inland game fish in all public fishing waters and over all other fishes taken by hook and line in Joint Fishing Waters. David Deaton, *Fish Production Supervisor*, gave an overview of the seven state fish hatcheries including challenges for and future directions of the production program and showed videos of each facility that will be shared with the public on the WRC's website. Christian presented a request from the Town of Black Mountain to be designated as a Mountain Heritage Trout City and to classify a section of the Swannanoa River as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters which will be presented in Exhibit N for consideration. Christian provided an update on the management of Roanoke River Striped Bass including actions taken by the WRC to reduce overall mortality and improve recruitment. He also reported that Watha State Fish Hatchery Staff produced and stocked 1.4 million fry in May and 650,000 fingerlings in June. Corey Oakley, *Inland Fisheries Division Assistant Chief*, described a new stocking project where F1 Largemouth Bass are being stocked annually into Lake Norman, Lake Gaston, and Jordan Lake for 5 years and will be evaluated for persistence in the population and growth potential. Corey shared how staff participated in Major League Fishing's Bass Pro Tour Redcrest 2023 Expo at Lake Norman which included interacting with 50,000-100,000 constituents, conducting fisheries seminars, and recording podcasts. Corey shared that the podcast which began in April of last year now has almost 60,000 individuals listens and is averaging 4,000-5,000 downloads per episode. He emphasized the importance of the podcast in connecting with constituents through emails and comments that are being shared with staff across the state.

Land Acquisitions & Property Committee Report – July 12, 2023 – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported the Committee met on July 12, 2023. The Committee reviewed nine Land and Water Access rule proposals for the 2024-2025 cycle. The Committee also reviewed and endorsed three Phase I land acquisition proposals, five Phase II proposals, as well as two Other Property Matters. In total, the Committee reviewed eight land acquisition proposals and a total of 3,607 acres. Acquisitions ranged from game land additions, establishment of a new game land in Forsyth County, and the addition of a waterfowl impoundment in Hyde County.

Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – July 12, 2023 – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported the Committee met on July 12, 2023. Chris Dawes, *Piedmont Eco Region Supervisor*, gave a very informative update on the small game focal area on Caswell Game Lands. Hannah Plumpton, *Upland Game Bird Biologist*, shared an update on the 2023 wild turkey harvest, which was a record harvest. She also provided some insight into some of the finer points of the turkey harvest and shared some very interesting data related to harvest timing and hunter effort. Chris Kreh, *Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief*, shared some exciting information about past and future wild turkey research. Brad Howard, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, gave an update to the Committee on rule proposals that are under consideration for the upcoming rule cycle. The proposals are focused on an ongoing effort to simplify our rules associated with Controlled Hunting Preserves, Field Trials, and Dog Training. These suggested changes should help clarify several confusing issues related to these activities and hopefully be beneficial for our constituents. Finally, the Committee received and approved the staff's recommendation for the recipients of this year's Lawrence G. Deidrick Small Game Award.

Mr. Richard Broadwell was presented as staff's recommendations for the Individual award. Mr. Broadwell manages extensive property in Bladen County adjacent to Suggs Mill Gamelands. His efforts and dedication to small game management are extensive. He burns his property annually, last year alone he burned over 450 acres. He manages and protects the largest stand of Atlantic white cedar known to exist in North Carolina. He is a member of the local prescribed fire council and routinely shares his expertise and enthusiasm with other local landowners. All told Mr. Broadwell appears a well deserving nominee for the Diedrick Individual award. Staff recommended Dillon Epp and Dr. Theron Terhum of Orton Plantation as our Group award recipient for this year. Dillon and Theron and Orton Plantation are leaders in early successional management in southeast North Carolina and continue to foster outstanding habitat work on the plantation as well as conducting and promoting ongoing research on the property on quail and quail management as well as other wildlife species. Orton serves as a premier example of what quail habitat and quail management can look like in the sandy soils of southeastern North Carolina. Few of the successes of the property would have been realized without these two individuals.

Motion from the Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee –On a motion by Chair Jim Ruffin and a second by John Alexander, the Commission approved a motion to approve Richard Broadwell as the Individual recipient and Dillan Epp and Dr. Theron Terhune of Orton Plantation as the group recipient for the Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award for 2023.

Big Game Committee Report – July 12, 2023 – *David Hoyle, Chair*, reported the Committee met on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Brad Howard, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, shared several rule proposals for discussion this cycle. One is related to the legality of selling shed antlers. Several deer proposals were associated with efforts to adjust the western deer season to conform better with the biological objectives of deer management while matching the desires of our western deer hunters. In addition, there was a proposal to adjust either sex seasons in the far western counties. This is good news as our deer populations continue to improve on private lands in those areas and for the first time in decades there will be a “doe day” in the firearms season in these counties. Another proposal addresses bear seasons in the mountain bear management unit, the concept proposed at present would shift the season earlier to allow for more biologically appropriate bear hunting season, it would shift some timing around and minimize overlap with deer season. Staff is planning to host several bear hunting forums next week to continue conversations with bear hunters about these options. Brad then gave a brief update about the Univ. of Tennessee Elk study which is now complete. He talked about a few interesting pieces of information and when staff returns at our October meeting, they promise a deeper dive into the results of the study. Finally, Chris Kreh, *Wildlife Management Division Assistant Chief*, gave a brief CWD update, noting that both Florida and Oklahoma are now positive for CWD. Having no further business, the Committee adjourned.

Committee of the Whole Report – July 12, 2023 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Committee met Wednesday, July 12, 2023. The meeting began with permanent rulemaking notice of text and temporary, permanent rulemaking adoptions, and proposed rulemaking for 10A rules for 2024-2025. Jason Cottle, *Chief Financial Officer*, presented on the Short-Term Interest Fund as an investment for the Wildlife Endowment Fund. Staff were charged to work with the Finance Committee chairman and vice chairman to bring an asset allocation recommendation back for discussion at the August meeting. Brian Daniels, *Customer Service Section Chief*, and Bobby Dunn, *Information Technology Director*, provided an update on the transition of the licensing system to Go Outdoors NC that went live July 1st. It has been a very successful launch, but as

expected, there have been some challenges. Staff is working diligently to ensure the change keeps moving forward as smoothly as possible. Executive Director Ingram recognized all the staff that have worked so hard to make the transition successful, but he especially recognized Brian Daniels and Bobby Dunn for their role leading the change. Next, the Committee discussed nominations of officers. Lastly, Executive Director Ingram introduced Anna Gurney, the agency's new Public Relations Manager.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – WISe, Partnerships, and other Notable Engineering Projects – *Michael Leggett, Lead Engineer with the Engineering Division*, gave a presentation titled “WISe, Partnerships, and other Notable Engineering Projects.” The presentation highlighted the WISe partnership between the NC Department of Public Safety and WRC, as well as the role that partnerships with local, state, and federal entities play in creating boating and fishing access sites across the state.

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved the acquisition of the following properties presented in **(EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D3, D-4, D-5)** by Ben Solomon, *Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Kelly Cove Tract – Macon County **(EXHIBIT D-1)**
- Griffin Tract – Buncombe County **(EXHIBIT D-2)**
- Richardson Tract – Ashe County **(EXHIBIT D-3)**
- Spencer Bay Tracts – Hyde County **(EXHIBIT D-4)**
- Paynes Branch Tract – Forsyth County **(EXHIBIT D-5)**

EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, D-5 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Other Property Matters – On a motion by John Alexander and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission approved staff recommendations for other property matters presented in **(EXHIBIT E-1)** by *Ben Solomon*

- Request for Easement – Request to grant a conservation easement on the North Bend Boating Access Area in Burke County **(EXHIBIT E-1)**

With Commissioner Landon Zimmer recused, and on a motion by Brad Stanback and second by Mike Alford, the Commission approved the easement requests of the following presented in **(EXHIBIT E-2)** by *Ben Solomon*

- Request for Easement – NC DOT requests to purchase a permanent right of way easement, drainage easement, utility easement and temporary construction easement for a bridge project in Henderson County **(EXHIBIT E-2)**

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

RULEMAKING

On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved the following rulemaking items presented in **(EXHIBITS F-2, G-2)**

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10B .0113 Big Game Harvest Reports –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT F-1)** and adopted proposed changes to Big Game Harvest reporting presented in **(EXHIBIT F-2)** by *Melva Bonner, Regulatory Analyst*

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10F .0100 Motorboat Registration –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT G-1)** and adopted proposed changes to 10F .0102, .0104, and .0109 update vessel data collection and certificate of number requirements to comply with USCG regulations presented in **(EXHIBITS G-2)** by *Melva Bonner*

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

Notice of Text – CWD Rules – On a motion by Wes Seegars and a second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed rules 10B .0501 and .0503. presented in **(EXHIBIT H-1)** and approved fiscal notes for proposed rules presented in **(EXHIBIT H-2)** by *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

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

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

On a motion by Steve Windham and second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved the following water safety rules presented in **EXHIBITS I-2 & J-2** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT I-1)** and adopted proposed amendments to establish a no-wake zone in the waters of Motts Creek 3 at the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center and Marina and Oregon Inlet U.S. Coast Guard Station at Cape Hatteras National Seashore; and to add names and addresses of the boating access areas in Dare County. **(EXHIBIT I-2)**

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0374 Cube Hydro Carolinas –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT J-1)** and adopted proposed amendments changes to change the name of Cube Yadkin Generation to Cube Hydro Carolinas; to establish safety zones and restricted areas on the Yadkin River in Rowan, Davidson, Stanly and Montgomery counties at High Rock Hydroelectric Station, Tuckertown Hydroelectric Station, Narrows Hydroelectric Station, and Falls Hydroelectric Station; to prohibit swimming at restricted areas; and to prohibit discharge of a firearm in restricted areas. **(EXHIBIT J-2)**

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

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County – On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by Mike Alford, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT K-1)** and adopted proposed changes of a temporary amendments to establish a no-wake zone in South Jinks Creek at the Town of Sunset Beach, beginning at a line north of the feeder channel and including waters south and west for the duration of a dredging project in the navigation channels presented in **(EXHIBIT K-2)** by *Betsy Haywood*

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

Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties – On a motion by Tom Berry and a second by John Alexander, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing, to establish a restricted area with swim beach at the South Point Access Area on Lake Wylie, located at 199 Boat Launch Road in Belmont in Gaston County, north of a rope in a cove east of the access area; and to codify in the North Carolina Administrative Code the address of the no-wake zone within 50 yards of the South Point Access Area boat ramps presented in **(EXHIBIT L)** by *Betsy Haywood*

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

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Conservation Plans – On a motion by Hayden Rogers and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved staff recommendations for final adoption of Bog Turtle **(EXHIBIT M-1)** and Southern Hognose Snake **(EXHIBIT M-2)** Species Conservation Plans presented by *Dr. Sara Schweitzer, Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator*

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

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Town of Black Mountain – Mountain Heritage Trout City Request – On a motion by Hayden Rogers and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved designating the Town of Black Mountain as a Mountain Heritage Trout City and recognize the Public Mountain Trout Waters within Black Mountain as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters presented in **(EXHIBIT N)** by *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vote for Vice Chairman

On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by John Alexander, the Commission elected Commissioner Mark Craig as Vice Chairman for a term of two years or until their successors are elected and qualified pursuant to NCGS §143-243.

Vote for Chairman

On a motion by Tommy Fonville and a second by Steve Windham, the Commission elected Commissioner Monty Crump as Chairman for a term of two years or until their successors are elected and qualified pursuant to NCGS §143-243.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Crump opened his comments by stating it has been a great honor to serve alongside Commissioner Tommy Fonville as the Vice Chairman for the past two years. Next, he shared his appreciation to the board for being re-elected as Chairman, and stated he looks forward to working with Mark Craig as the newly elected Vice Chairman. Next, he requested if board members want to share their input on their committee assignments to reach out to him as soon as possible because they will be reviewing the Committee assignments in the next couple weeks. In closing, he thanked the General Assembly for their support of the agency bill.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Executive Director Ingram opened his comments by thanking Commissioner Tommy Fonville for serving as the Vice Chair for the past two years. Next, he thanked everyone for their commitment as he reflected on the agency’s past accomplishments and priorities for the future. Lastly, he congratulated newly re-elected Chairman Crump and newly elected Vice Chairman Craig and stated he is looking forward to working with them both.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.
All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Monty Crump, Chairman

Date

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director

Date

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
CAFR 52G - STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES and CHANGES in FUND BALANCES

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
AS OF JUNE 29, 2023

	FY 2023 General Fund	FY 2023 Capital Improvement Fund
REVENUES		
Federal funds	\$ 34,822,086.31	\$ 1,330,243.39
Local funds	\$ 3,844.40	\$ -
Investment earnings	\$ 317,294.35	\$ -
Sales and services	\$ 13,521,992.44	\$ -
Rental and lease of property	\$ 57,958.70	\$ -
Fees, licenses and fines	\$ 36,511,416.63	\$ -
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$ 2,618,732.98	\$ 6,235,863.65
Miscellaneous	\$ 177,574.46	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ 4,332.47	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$ 399,696.28	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$ 54,346.88	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$ 5,073,743.18	\$ 1,348,180.00
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$ 23,687,271.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 117,250,290.08	\$ 8,914,287.04
EXPENDITURES		
Personal services	\$ 39,400,513.96	\$ -
Employee benefits	\$ 19,192,302.10	\$ -
Contracted personal services	\$ 11,321,427.85	\$ 276,015.04
Supplies and materials	\$ 9,085,302.55	\$ 518.93
Travel	\$ 678,087.18	\$ -
Communication	\$ 1,257,143.90	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 727,189.57	\$ -
Data processing services	\$ 763,530.82	\$ -
Other services	\$ 4,756,367.96	\$ 31,856.44
Claims and benefits	\$ 1,515,193.30	\$ -
Other fixed charges	\$ 290,867.17	\$ 50,710.00
Capital outlay	\$ 8,610,524.85	\$ 10,092,474.38
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$ 4,467,121.92	\$ -
Insurance and bonding	\$ 265,529.48	\$ -
Other expenditures	\$ 2,590,317.60	\$ -
Reimbursements	\$ (1,299,833.41)	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ 11,504.40	\$ -
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$ 13,604,220.00	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 117,237,311.20	\$ 10,451,574.79
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,978.88	\$ (1,537,287.75)
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2022	\$ 19,342,386.49	\$ 3,281,835.81
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 29, 2023	\$ 19,355,365.37	\$ 1,744,548.06

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

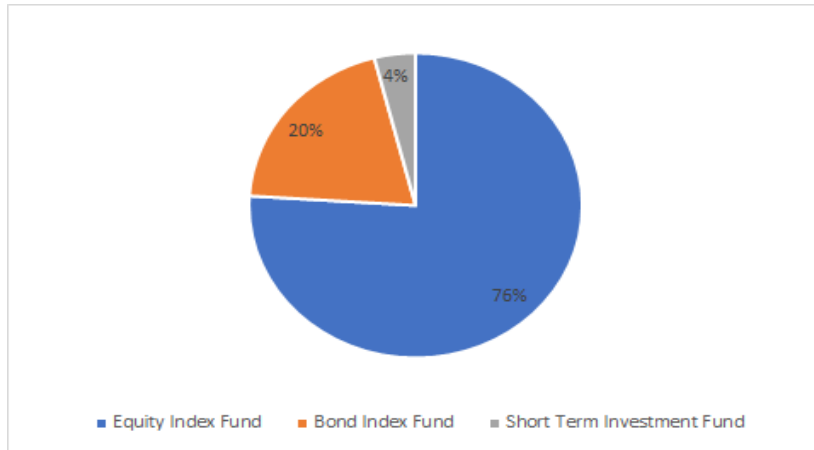
Fund Balance*: June 2023 \$165,430,756.91

* Based On Financial Institutions' Data And Does Not Include Time-Lag Entries.

§ 143-250.1. Wildlife Endowment Fund

- (d) (3). No expenditure or disbursement shall be made from the principal of the Wildlife Endowment Fund except as otherwise provided by law.
- (d) (4). The income received and accruing from the investments of the Wildlife Endowment Fund must be spent only in furthering the conservation of wildlife resources and the efficient operation of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in accomplishing the purposes of the agency as set forth in G.S. 143-239.
- (g) The Wildlife Endowment Fund and the investment income therefrom shall not take the place of State appropriations or Agency receipts placed in the Wildlife Resources Fund, or any part thereof, but any portion of the income of the Wildlife Endowment Fund available for the purpose set out in subdivision (4) of subsection (d) shall be used to supplement other income of and appropriations to the Wildlife Resources Commission to the end that the Commission may improve and increase its services and become more useful to a greater number of people.

ASSET ALLOCATION



	Principal	Nonexpendable	Expendable	Total
Adult	\$ 78,887,074.40		\$ 49,347,607.18	\$ 128,234,681.58
Magazine	\$ 1,573,477.50		\$ 838,546.44	\$ 2,412,023.94
Contributions	\$ 828,855.50		\$ 2,416,370.24	\$ 3,245,225.74
Diversity	\$ 106,821.45		\$ 12,609.99	\$ 119,431.44
Infant	\$ 20,815,711.00	\$ 7,172,031.12		\$ 27,987,742.12
Youth	\$ 2,958,831.00	\$ 472,821.09		\$ 3,431,652.09
				\$ 165,430,756.91
Total	\$ 105,170,770.85	\$ 7,644,852.21	\$ 52,615,133.85	\$ 165,430,756.91

*** Include Deposit/s In Transit

Exhibit C-1

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Rubin Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): 08/23/2017

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

Wildlife Restoration Funds	\$106,875
State Match	\$ 55,425
TOTAL COST	\$ 162,300

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table: Purchase price supported by tax value, which was reviewed and approved by the State Property Office.

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

Federal (PR) 75% : State 25%

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 2,838.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit C-1

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment (Contract Survey)	1,892	Ft.	\$1.50	\$2,838
TOTAL				\$ 2,838

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

August 23, 2017
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:
Date First Presented to Commission:
Tract Name:
County:
Acreage:
Tax Value:
Property Owner/Representative:
Phone:
Email Address:
Address:

Kip Hollifield
08/23/17
Rubin Tract - Pond Mountain GL
Ashe
36.065
\$162,300
Judy Rubin

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

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

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

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

Stewardship Considerations:

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

Funding Considerations:

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:

This 36 acre tract juts into Pond Mountain GL at the south central portion of the game land. Acquisition of the tract would solidify the game land boundary in this location. Access to the tract would be through current WRC holdings.

August 24, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Rubin Tract - Pond Mountain GL
County:	Ashe

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

Appalachian oak forest is the predominant forest cover type on the Rubin Tract. Management objectives will include managing the wildlife and restoring or maintaining the oak forest priority wildlife habitat that is located on the tract. Little aquatic/riparian habitat is present on the tract. Common wildlife species found on the tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, raccoon, and gray squirrel. Species of Greatest Conservation Need likely found on the tract are either permanent residents or transients include: northern pygmy salamander (*Desmognathus organi*), Weller's salamander (*Plethodon welleri*), Blackburnian warbler (*Setophaga fusca*), veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), eastern box turtle (*terrapene carolina*), and eastern milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*).

Tract Name **Rubin Tract**
 Date **April 25, 2017**
 Staff Completing Form **Hollifield/Weeks**

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

Comments
 Moderate biodiversity is based on the oak forest habitat and the diversity of wildlife found in the Pond Mountain area. Aquatic/wetland habitat is not present in significant quantity on the tract.

Habitat	0.500
Size	0
Quality	2
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	2
Buffer	2

Comments
 The quality of the habitat on the tract is good. The diversity of habitats is low, but oak forest is a priority habitat. The property provide good connectivity and buffer to Pond Mtn. GL

Public Access	0.222
Hunting/Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
 There is good access to the property through the existing Pond Mtn. GL. No waters of sufficient size are located on the properties, so there is no fishing/boating opportunity.

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

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

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

Comments
 Due to steep slope the tract is not well suited for timber production/harvest. This will provide some benefit to the local economy and provide some quality of life benefits to local residents.

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

Comments
 The tract has little existing infrastructure. Conflicts among game land users and adjoiningers should be minimal. The tract fills a hole in GL ownership and strengthens the wildlife corridor at Pond Mountain. The Pond Mountain area is remote and not proximal to large population centers.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.583
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	0
Threat Mitigation	3

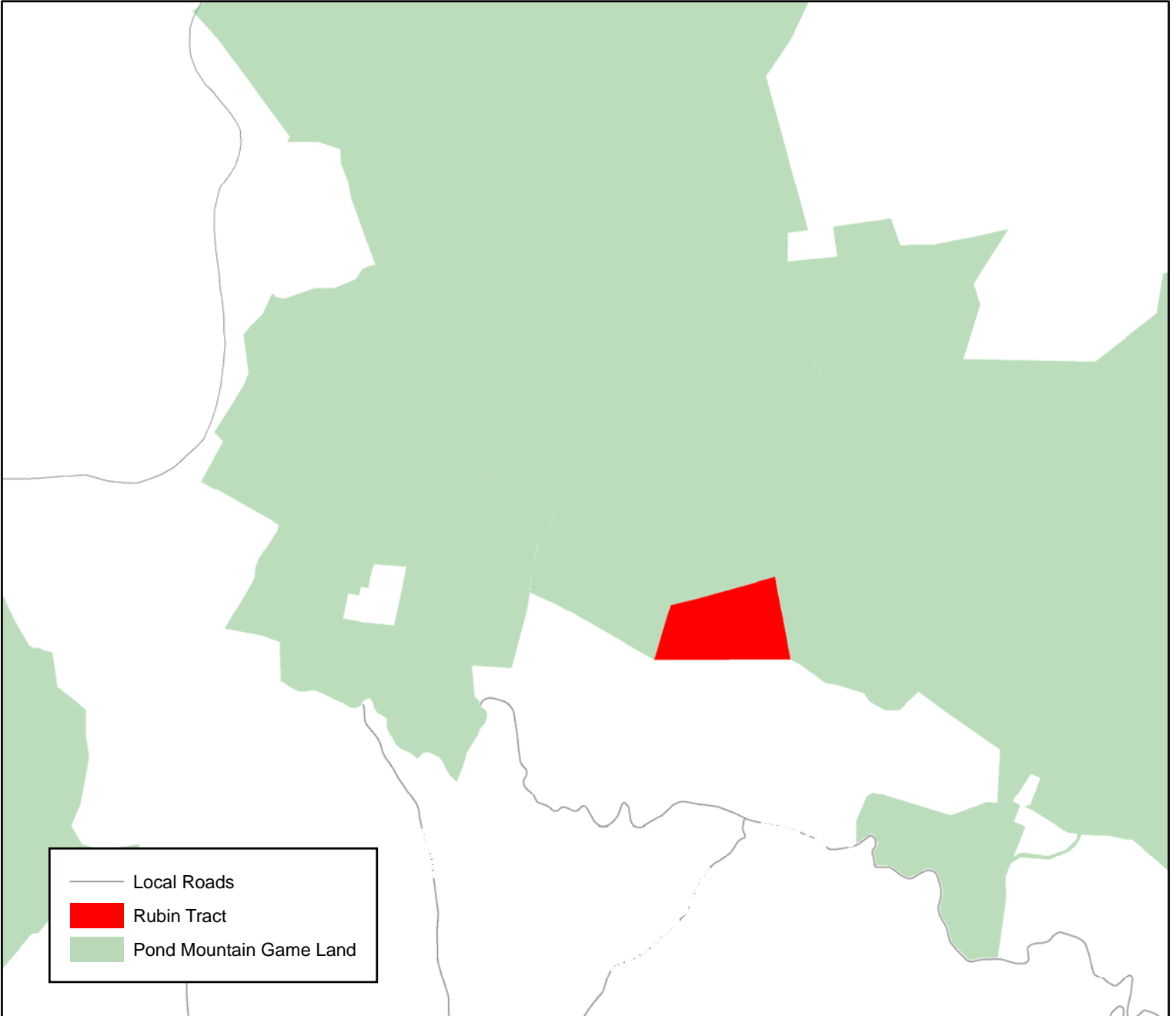
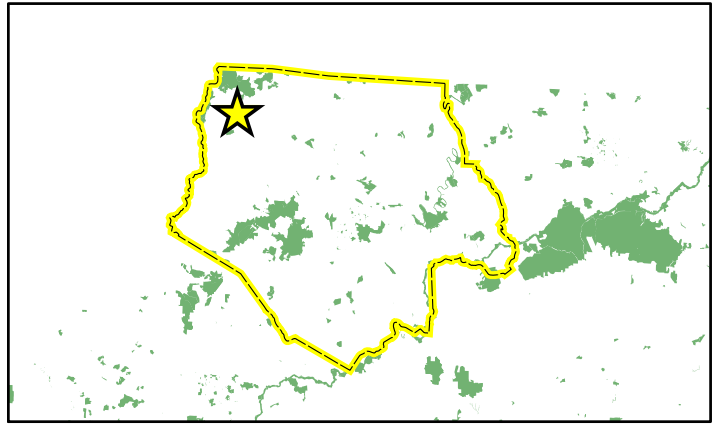
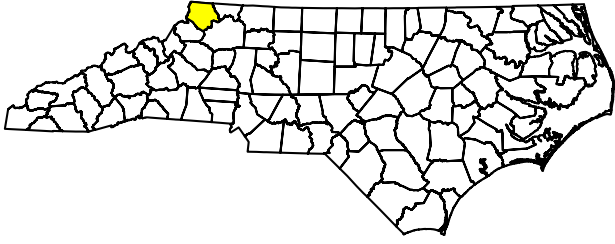
Comments
 Restoration potential for species and habitats on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate. The tract offers no opportunity to develop new public access to Pond Mtn. GL. There are few threats to the property.

Threats	0.200
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	1
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

Comments
 The only threat to the tract is sale to another buyer who might attempt to develop the tract.

Overall Score	2.594
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Rubin Tract
36 acres
Ashe County



Rubin Tract
36 acres
Ashe County

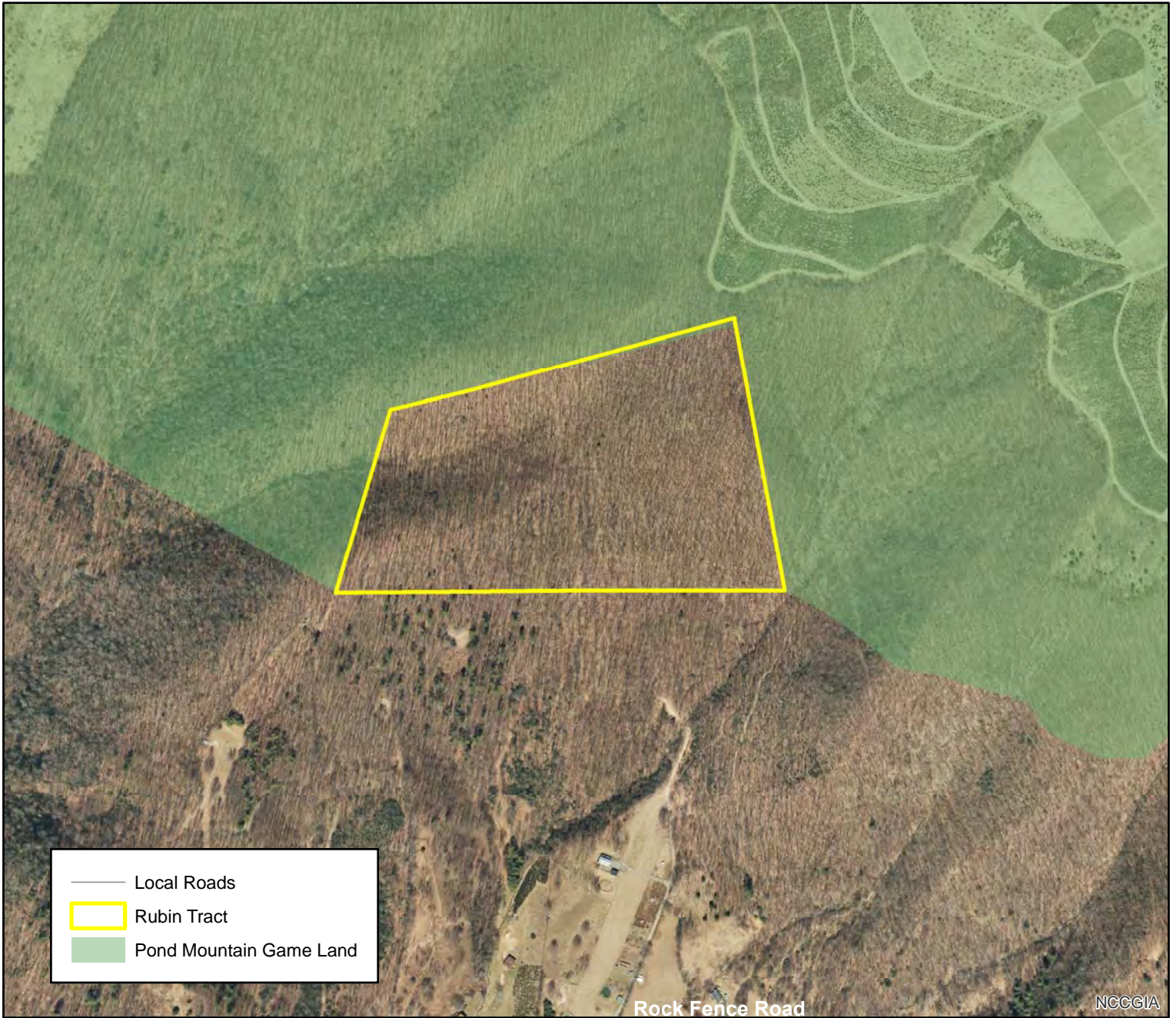
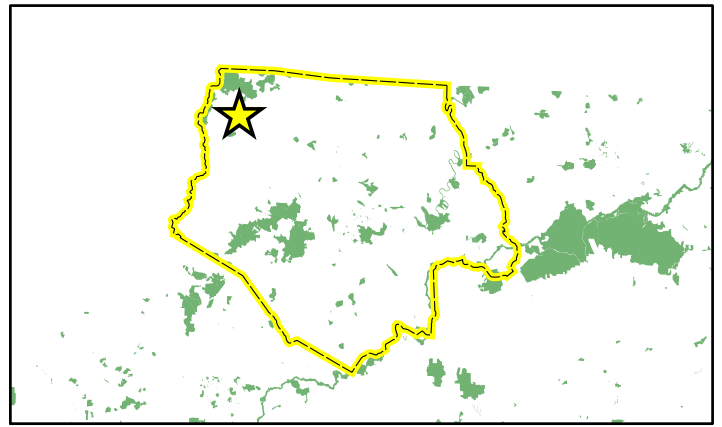
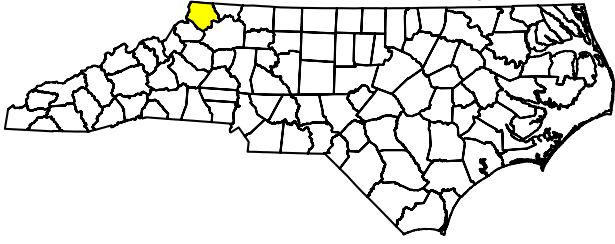


Exhibit C-2

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Brushy Mountains Donation

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Donation from Blue Ridge Conservancy and Foothills Nature Conservancy

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 14,500
Total Projected Revenue	\$

Exhibit C-2

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	40,000	Feet	\$.25	\$10,000
Establish parking areas	3	each	\$1,500	\$4,500
TOTAL				\$14,500

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				

August 23, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson
Date First Presented to Commission:	8/23/2023
Tract Name:	Brushy Mountains
County:	Wilkes, Alexander, and Iredell
Acreage:	1,125 acres
Tax Value:	\$3,120,277
Property Owner/Representative:	Blue Ridge Conservancy (Eric Hiegl)
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

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

Stewardship Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source: Federal Aid: 75%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State	Match: State: 25%

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:
Blue Ridge Conservancy and Foothills Nature Conservancy have partnered together and purchased approximately 1,125 acres in Wilkes, Alexander, and Iredell Counties. The partners would like to donate this tract with no cost to WRC. There is great potential for expansion as there are multiple large and undeveloped adjoining tracts. This acquisition would create a new game land in an underserved area.

August 23, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Brushy Mountains
County:	Wilkes, Iredell, Alexander

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

Portions of the property are part of the Brushy Mountains/Three County Forest Natural Area as designated by Natural Heritage. Documented on this tract are Montane Oak-Hickory (acidic subtype) and Chestnut-Oak Forest (dry heath subtype) natural communities. The majority of the tract has been logged within the past 20 years with varied ages of regrowth. Previous logging operations have created a good network of soil roads that can provide access and aid in future management. Approximately 1.65 miles of Brussel Creek and .33 miles of Dishmon Creek lies within the property. Vannoy Ridge Rd (SR 2477) will provide .85 miles of direct public access. There is potential for an existing road to provide additional public access to the interior. Common game species found on the tract include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and gray squirrel. Management objectives will include maintaining/restoring priority wildlife habitats, and continuing to provide public access and increased opportunity for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.

Tract Name	Brushy Mountains
Date	July 19, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Paul Thompson

Species	0.222
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	0

Comments
Only small creeks are found and no wetlands exist on the property, thus aquatic diversity is low. Neither rare species nor habitats have been documented on the tract.

Habitat	0.500
Size	2
Quality	2
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	2
Connectivity	1
Buffer	1

Comments
The property has been noted by Natural Heritage to have several unique habitat communities. The property does provide good connectivity and buffer for these natural communities that are found on adjoining properties.

Public Access	0.444
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	0

Comments
This tract will provide great public access for hunting and viewing. Boating opportunities and opportunities for fishing are low.

Wildlife Uses	0.533
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
The property offers good hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Educational opportunities will be low, but do exist. There are no boating opportunities and fishing opportunities are low.

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

Comments
The tract can produce decent timber but most has been harvested within the past 20 years. The property will create a game land in an underserved area.

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

Comments
The property has a good network of logging roads. The existence of multiple uses on the tract and the compatibility with adjoining land shouldn't create any issues.

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

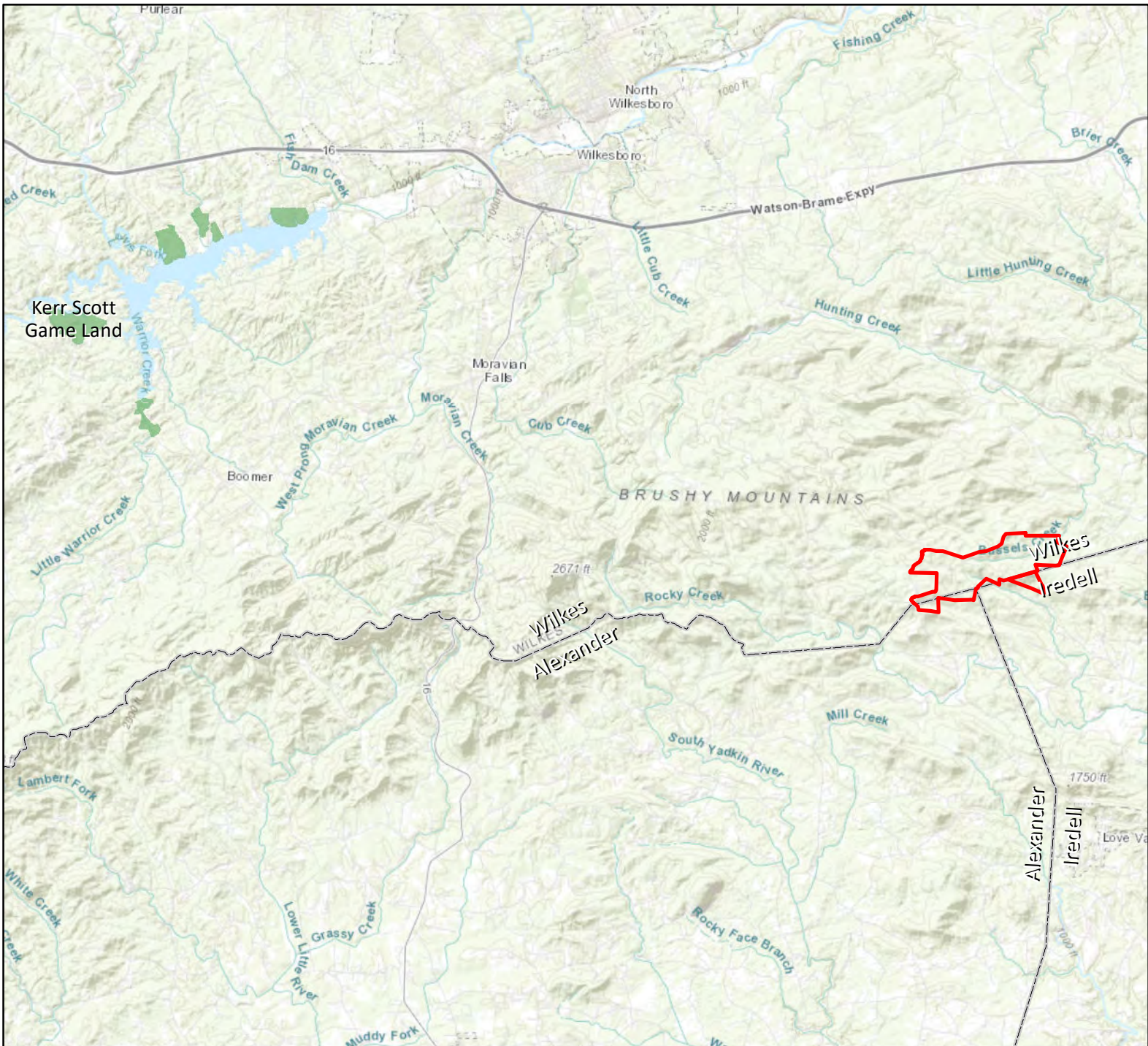
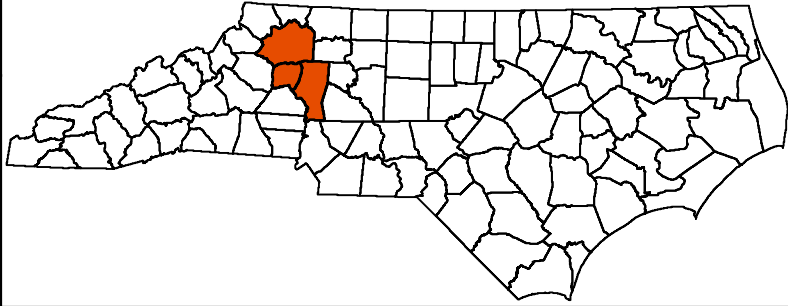
Comments
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate.



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

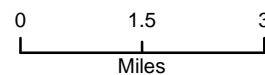
Comments
Blue Ridge Conservancy and Foothills Nature Conservancy currently own the tract.

Overall Score	3.717
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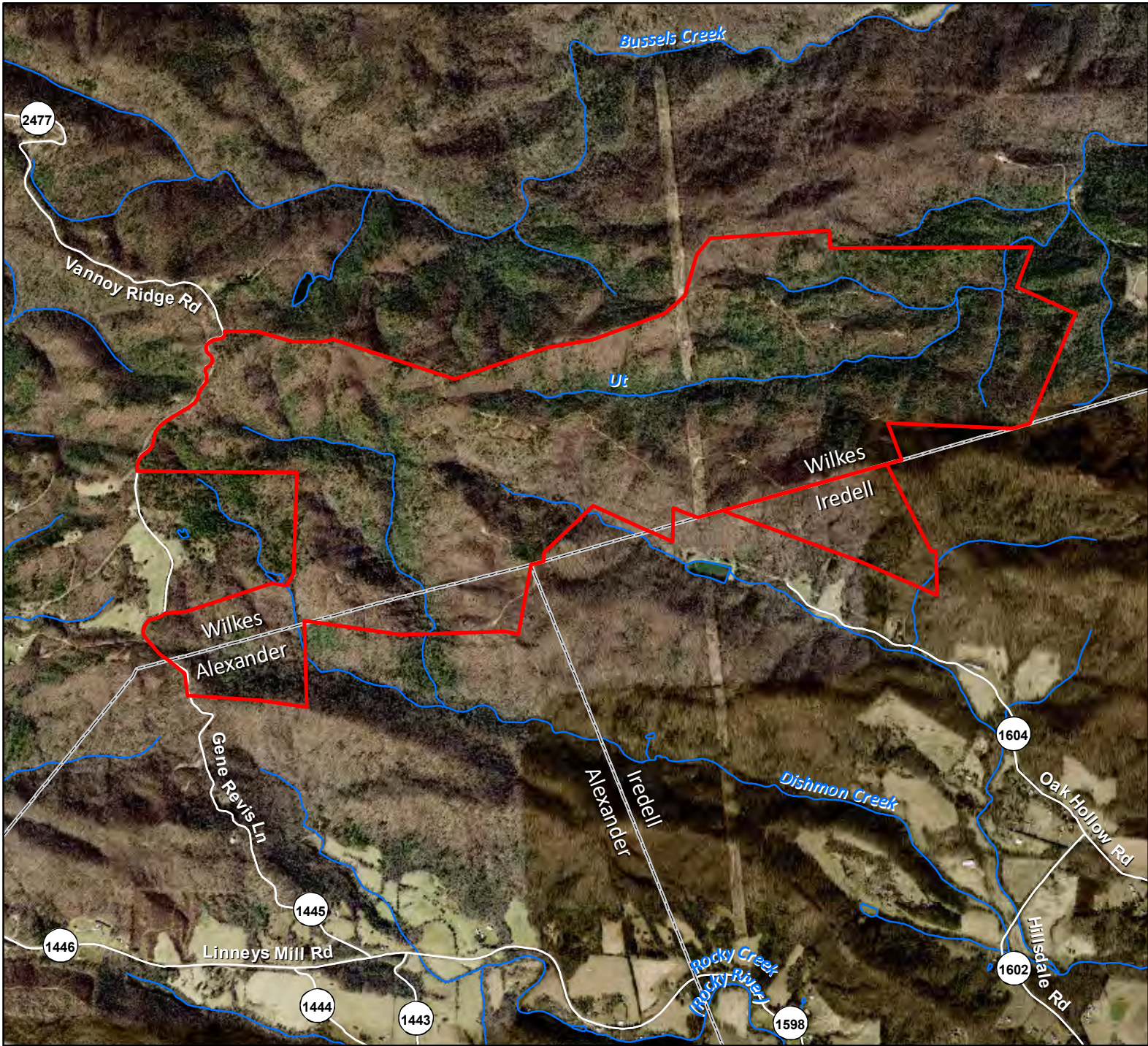
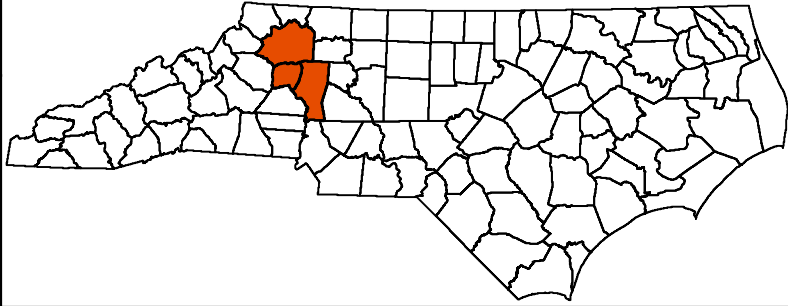
Brushy Mountains Donation Alexander, Iredell & Wilkes Counties 1,125 Acres



-  Brushy Mountains Tract
-  Game Land



Brushy Mountains Donation Alexander, Iredell & Wilkes Counties 1,125 Acres



- Brushy Mountains Tract
- Game Land

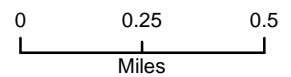


Exhibit C-3

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Pederson

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Donation from The Nature Conservancy

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

Federal (PR) 75% : State 25%

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 1,600.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit C-3

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment (Contract Survey)	16	acres	\$100	\$1,600
TOTAL				\$ 1,600

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				

August 23, 2024
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson
Date First Presented to Commission:	8/23/2023
Tract Name:	Pederson
County:	Ashe
Acreage:	96.2 acres (48 ac, 45 ac, 2.7 ac)
Tax Value:	\$384,500
Property Owner/Representative:	Fred Annand, The Nature Conservancy
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

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

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

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

Stewardship Considerations:

<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source: Federal Aid: 75%
<input type="checkbox"/>	State	Match: State: 25%

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:
The Nature Conservancy would like to donate 3 tracts (96 acres) that adjoin Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County. These tracts will help solidify WRC ownership and further protect the rare and unique species found along Three Top Mountain. There is potential for these tracts to provide additional user access.

August 23, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Pederson
County:	Ashe

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The property adjoins Three Top Mountain GL on three sides with access via a 16 ft right-of-way from SR 1127. The property is part of the Three Top Mountain Natural Area and the following rare plants have been documented in this area: Meehan's mint, highland rush, and Carolina saxifrage. Also documented on the tracts are high quality Northern Hardwood Forest and High Elevation Red Oak Forest natural communities. The property will add buffer and protection to the Amphibolite Mountains and serve to further protect habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds and SCGN. Several small unnamed tributaries are found along the boundary and interior, and this acquisition will help protect aquatic resources within the New River Basin. Those SGCN likely found on the tract include ruffed grouse, eastern box turtle, wood thrush, worm-eating warbler, northern pygmy salamander, northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and little brown bat. Common game species found on the tract include white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and gray squirrel. Management objectives will include maintaining/restoring priority wildlife habitats, and continuing to provide public access and increased opportunity for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.

Tract Name	Pedersen
Date	April 27, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Paul Thompson

Species	0.296
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	0

Comments
The streams are few and small, thus low score for aquatics. Rare plants and communities have been documented on the tracts.

Habitat	0.722
Size	0
Quality	2
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	3
Connectivity	3
Buffer	3

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good. The property has been noted by Natural Heritage to have several unique habitat communities and several rare plants have been documneted. The property does provide excellent connectivity and buffer for these natural communities that are also found on Three Top Mountain GL.

Public Access	0.333
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
This tract will provide a connection to other portions of Three Top Mtn GL and provide public with additional access. Streams are few and small, so there are no fishing/boating opportunities.

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

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

Other Values	0.444
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	1

Comments
The tract can produce good timber, but the value can only be considered low due to topography and likely NHP dedication restrictions. There would be some value to local residents.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.667
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	2
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	3
Proximity to Users	2

Comments
Multiple uses on the tract shouldn't create any issues. The property is surrounded by current game land. This tract will help solidify WRC ownership and become part of a large corridor at Three Top Mountain.

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

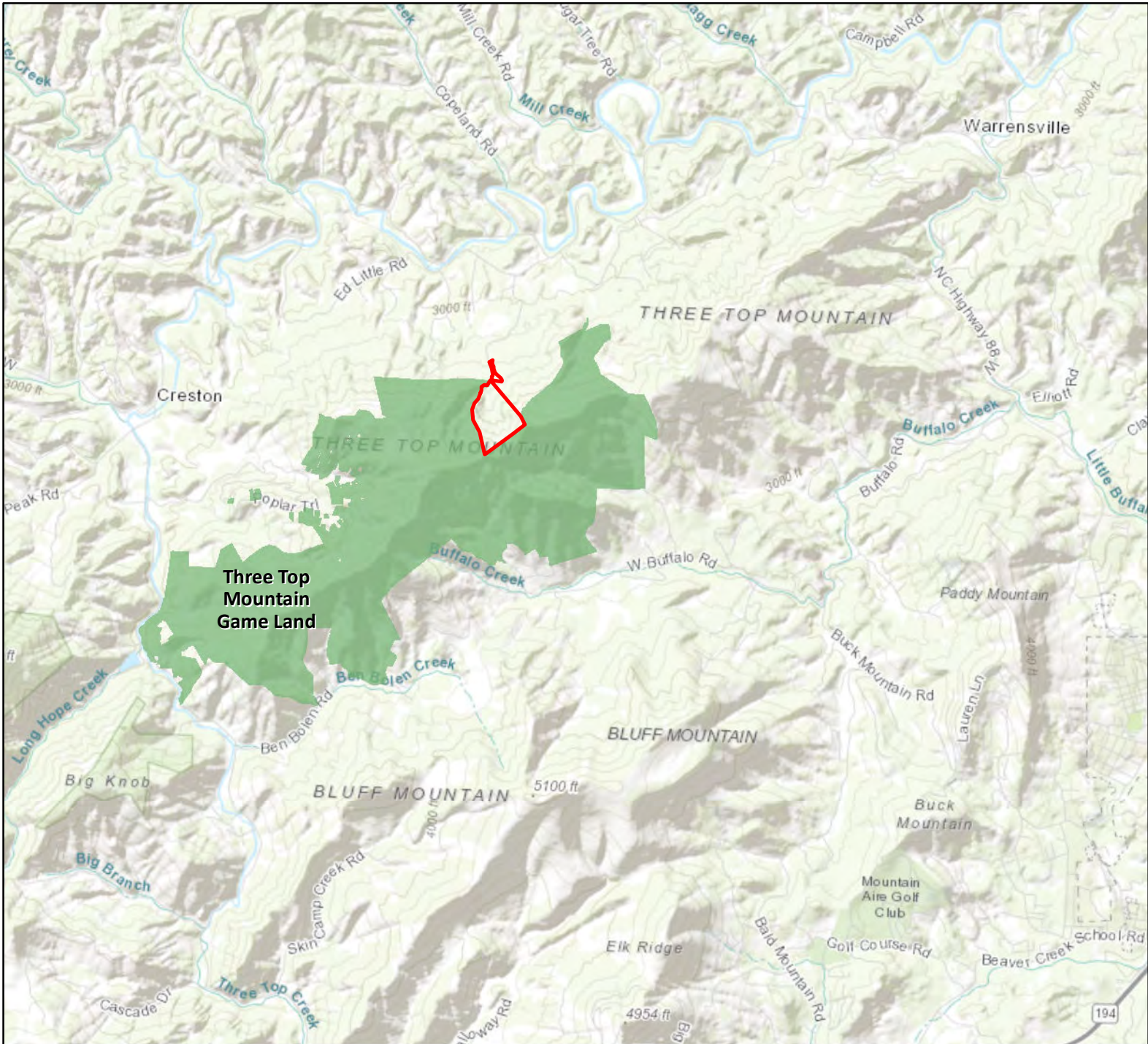
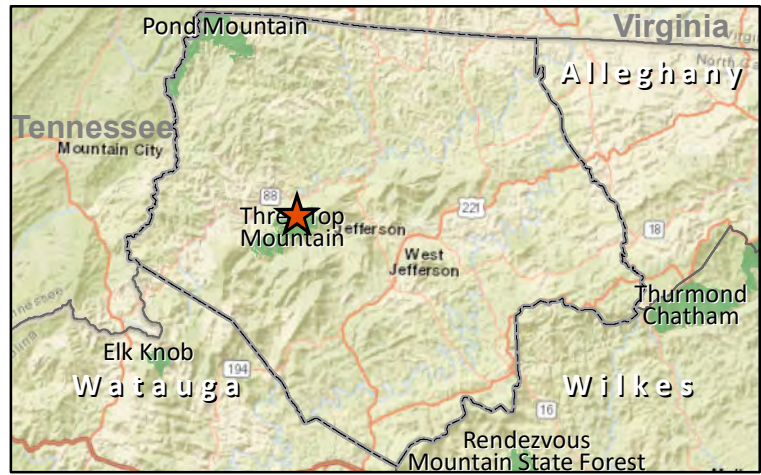
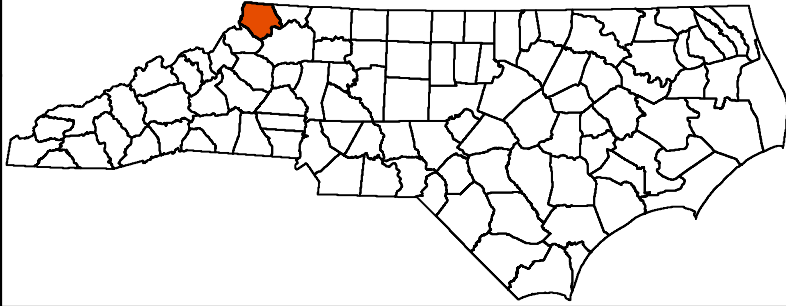
Comments
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate. This tract will ensure continued public access across the Three Top Mtn GL, thus the rank is high.



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

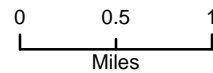
Comments
The Nature Conservancy owns the property in fee simple.

Overall Score	3.546
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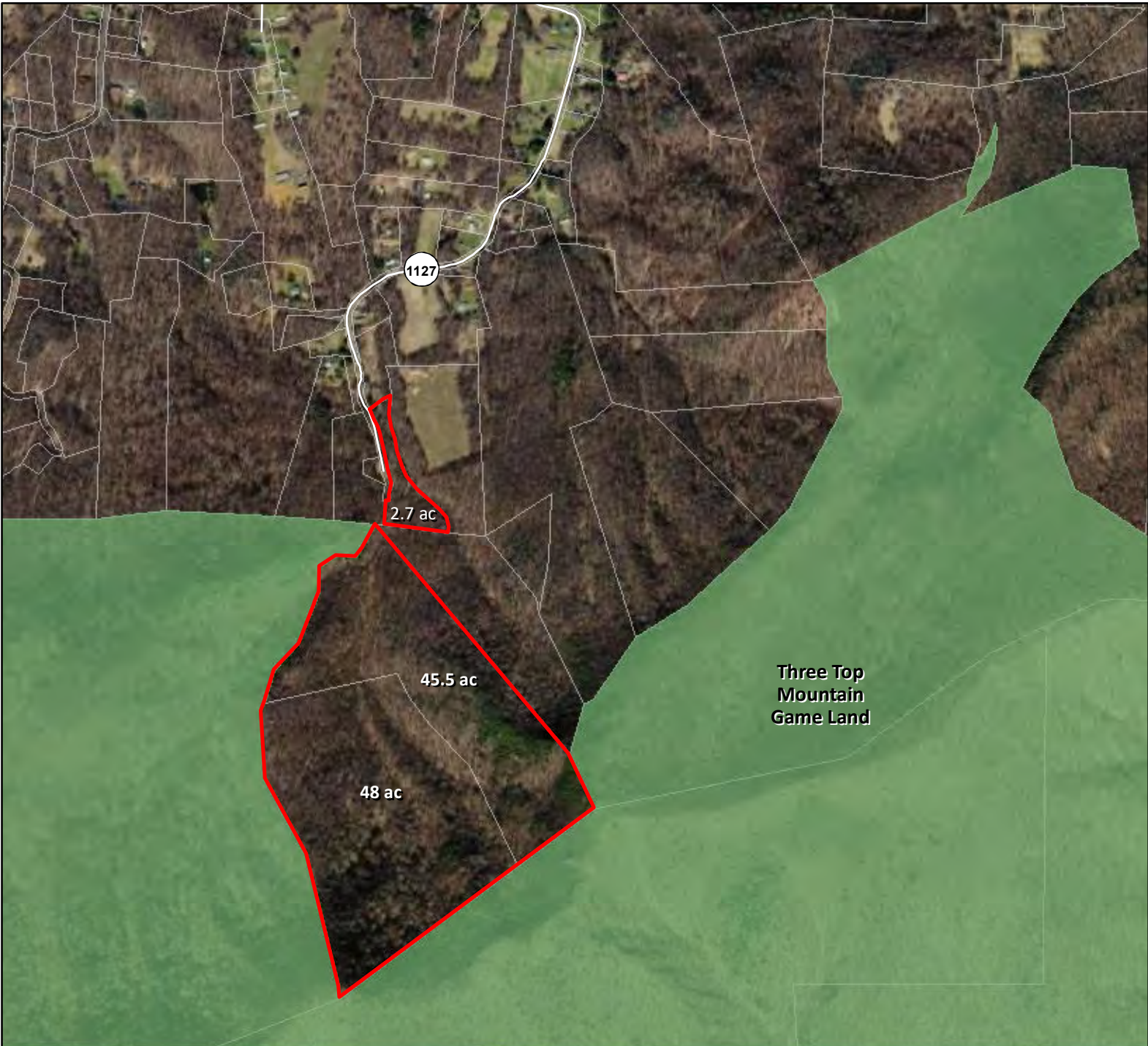
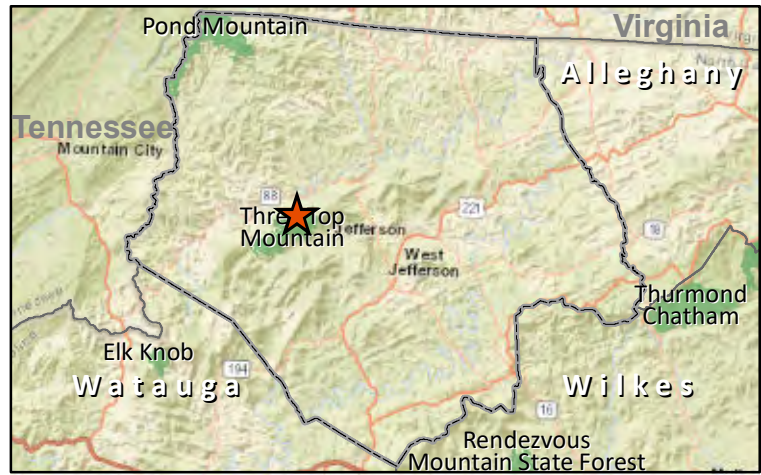
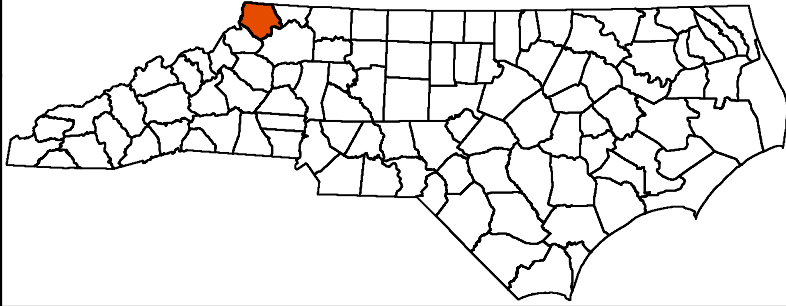
**Pederson Tracts
Ashe County
96.2 Acres**





-  Pederson Tracts
-  Game Land



**Pederson Tracts
Ashe County
96.2 Acres**



-  Pederson Tracts
-  Game Land

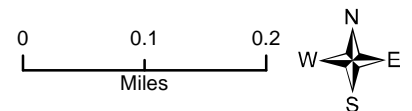


Exhibit C-4

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Pine Mountain Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Donation from The Nature Conservancy

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

75% federal (Wildlife Restoration) : 25% state

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 69,000.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit C-4

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	740	Acre	\$100	\$59,000
Establish parking areas	2	each	\$5,000	\$10,000
TOTAL				\$69,000

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				

August 23, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson
Date First Presented to Commission:	8/23/2023
Tract Name:	Pine Mountain
County:	Wilkes
Acreage:	(+/-) 740
Tax Value:	\$1,650,120
Property Owner/Representative:	The Nature Conservancy (Fred Annand)
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	LWF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

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

Stewardship Considerations:

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

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been awarded \$942,855 with a NCLWF grant for the acquisition of the Pine Mountain tract. TNC plans to seek private funding for the remainder of the acquisition costs and WRC may be responsible for some closing costs and boundary surveying. The tract will be an excellent addition to the western side of Thurmond Chatham GL, and will provide great opportunity for management and user access.

August 23, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Pine Mountain
County:	Wilkes

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The property has approximately 1 mile of road frontage along Sparta Rd (NC 18) and provides good public access. A system of interior logging roads will provide excellent administrative access and will aid future management activities. The property is included in the NHP Pine Mountain Natural Area. It is dominated by Chestnut Oak Forest (Dry Heath Subtype) with pockets of Pine-Oak Heath (Typic Subtype) on the sharpest ridges and west facing upper slopes. Acidic Cove Forests are found along the drainages. More than half of the tract has been logged within the past 15 years, with the central portion having been logged the most recent and is in the early stages of regeneration. Pine Mountain Branch and Mulberry Creek, as well as four unnamed tributaries occur on the tract. Important bog turtle and Carolina Foothills crayfish populations located downstream on Mulberry Creek will likely benefit from the conservation of these headwaters. The SGCN Yonahlosse salamander is likely to be found on this tract given that it is found on the adjacent Thurmond Chatham GL. A high quality and significant Montane Cliff is embedded within the Chestnut Oak Forest and will likely benefit timber rattlesnakes and other species that rely on rock outcrops. Also of note is the property lies within the Audubon Northern Escarpment Important Bird Area. Priority species likely found on the tract include Eastern box turtle, timber rattlesnake, whip poor will, wood thrush, and worm-eating warbler. Common game species found on the tract include white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and gray squirrel. Management objectives will include protecting water quality, maintaining/restoring priority wildlife habitats, and continuing to provide public access and increased opportunity for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.

Tract Name	Morrison Foundation
Date	January 26, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Paul Thompson

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

Comments
Moderate biodiversity is based on the size of the subject property and the diversity of community types. Carolina Foothills crayfish has been found downstream from subject property so there is some potential for SGCN presence. Wetland habitat is not located on the property but it does contain Pine Mountain Branch and Mulberry Creek, along with their headwaters. With a mix of closed canopy hardwoods, recent timber harvests (past 15 yrs.), and riparian areas, multiple game species should be fairly abundant.

Habitat	0.556
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	2
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	2
Buffer	2

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, with a diversity of habitat types. The property is not considered critical habitat for rare species. The property does provide good connectivity and buffer for Thurmond Chatham GL.

Public Access	0.556
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	2
Boating	0

Comments
The property will provide excellent public access for hunting and viewing. Mulberry Creek is small but there is potential to provide some angling opportunity. There is not adequate water to allow for boating opportunities.

Wildlife Uses	0.533
Hunting	3
Viewing	3
Fishing	1
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
The property provides excellent hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Educational opportunities could exist on this tract. Mulberry Creek may provide some angling opportunity.

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

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

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

Comments
There is an extensive network of logging roads that will provide administrative access and help facilitate future prescribed burns. Compatibility with multiple use should not be an issue, nor compatibility with adjoining lands. The property will help solidify WRC ownership and connection to existing protected lands.

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

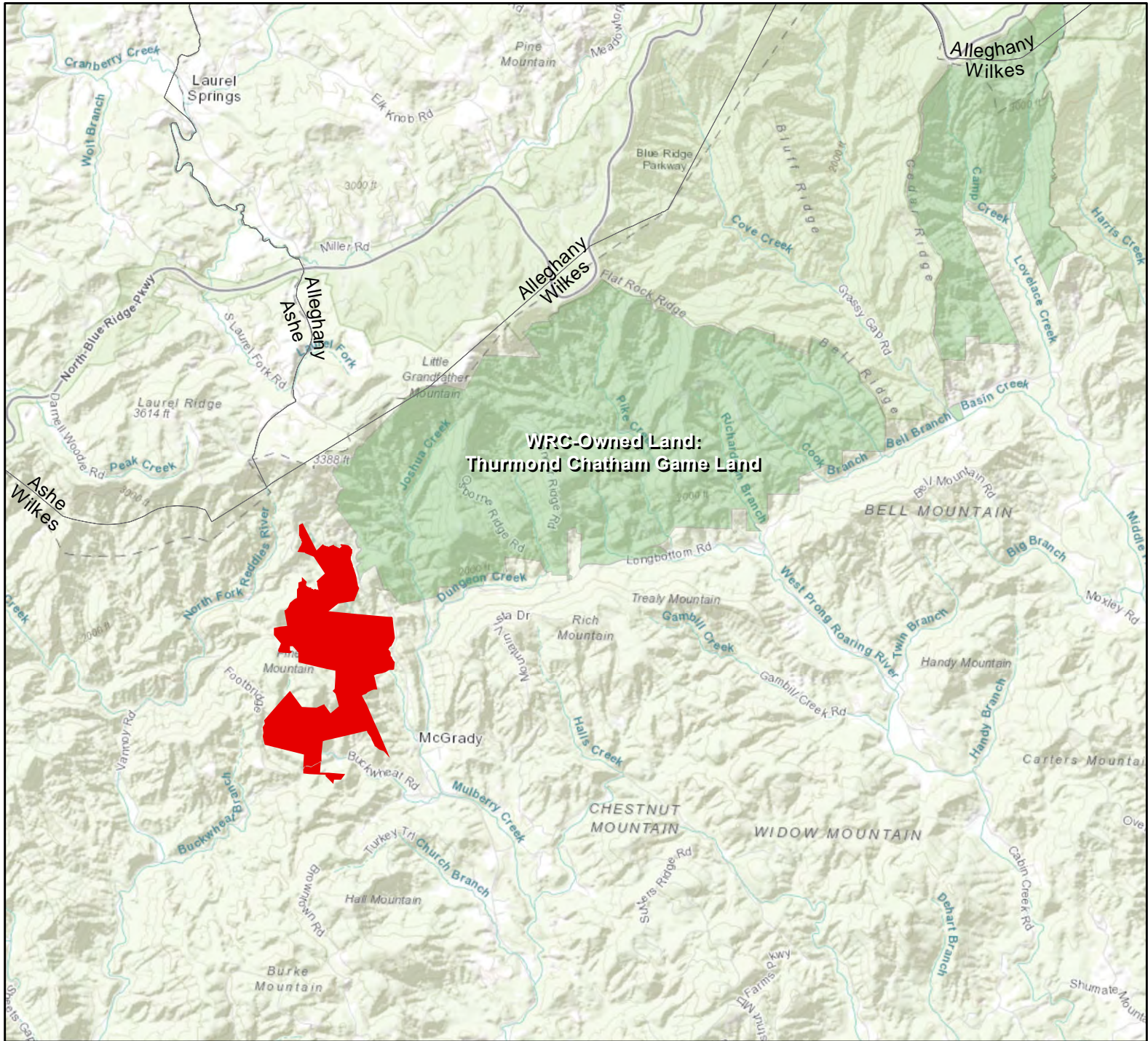
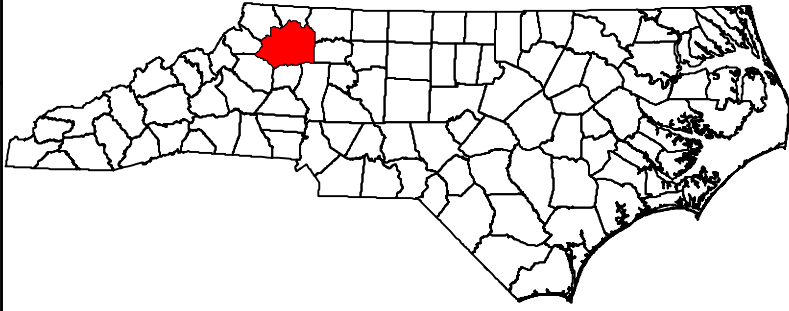
Comments
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate. The property will provide new access to this section of game land.

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

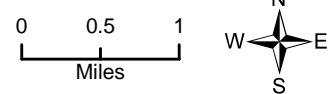
Comments
This will be a donation from TNC and they have already been awarded NCLWF grant money, so threats are low.

Overall Score	4.156
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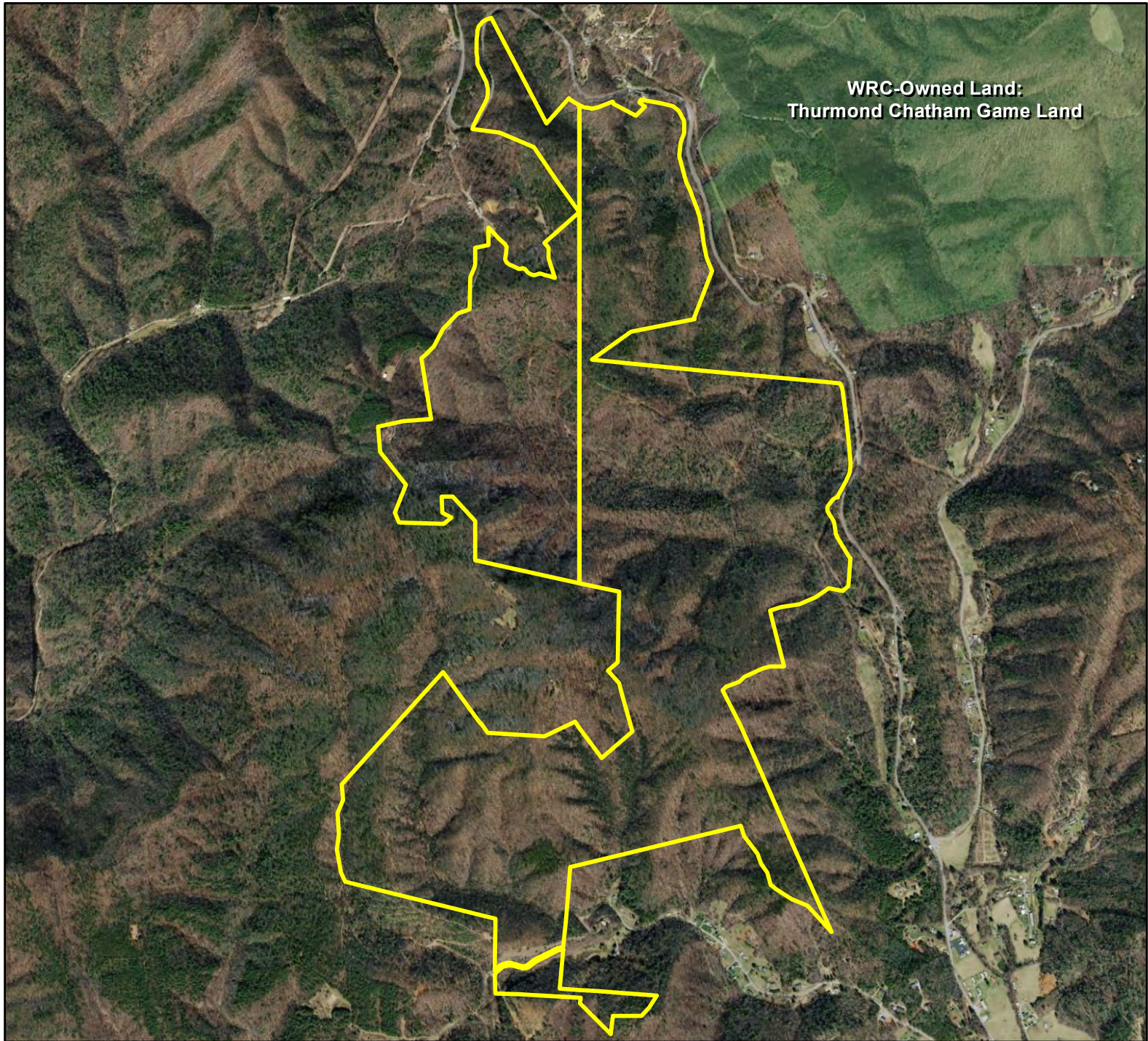
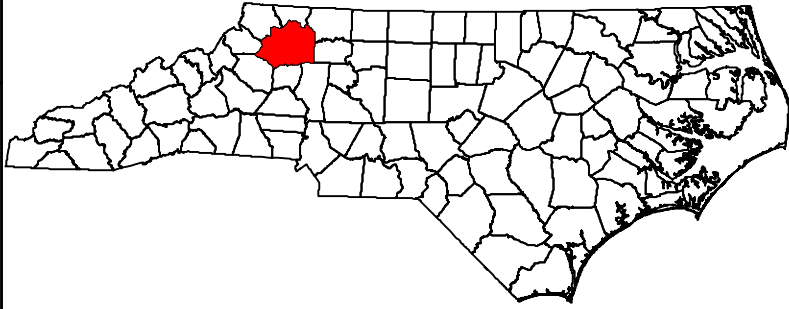
**Pine Mountain - Morrison Tract
Wilkes County
740 acres**





- Pine Mt - Morrison Tract - 740 acres
- Game Lands - general



**Pine Mountain - Morrison Tract
Wilkes County
740 acres**



-  Pine Mt - Morrison Tract - 71 € acresÁ
-  Game Lands - general

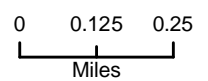


Exhibit C-5

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Surratt Road DOT Transfer

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Re-allocation from NCDOT

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

75% federal (Wildlife Restoration) : 25% state

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 520.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit C-5

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	2.6	miles	\$200	\$520
TOTAL				\$ 1,600

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				

August 23, 2023

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

WRC Staff Contact:	Brady Beck
Date First Presented to Commission:	8/23/2023
Tract Name:	Surratt Road DOT Donation
County:	Davidson
Acreage:	156
Tax Value:	\$439,180
Property Owner/Representative:	NCDOT, Jim Hauser
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (overwrite this cell)

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

2021	Year Assessed
	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

PR	Source:75%
State	Match:25%

Funding Considerations:

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:

The 156 acre Surratt Road parcel was purchased by NCDOT to provide mitigation credits against future road projects. The mitigation credits were never used, however and DOT has reached out to WRC to see if this parcel might work as future Game Land. WRC staff have inspected the tract on several occasions and determined that WRC ownership is desirable. No mitigation restrictions will accompany this parcel donation.

August 23, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Surratt Road DOT
County:	Davidson

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Surratt Road tract contains small populations of two federally endangered plants: Georgia Aster and Schweinitz's Sunflower. The plants have been shaded out by the closed canopy mixed pine/hardwood forest. They will benefit from more active management including the use of prescribed fire. A portion of the property has an existing fireline that will be easy to maintain. Along with providing some hunting opportunities, improving habitat for the rare plants will be a major focus of management on the parcel. The next revision of the Wildlife Action Plan includes plants to be considered for conservation efforts and protecting this tract it consistent with the new Plan.

Tract Name	Surratt Rd DOT
Date	July 12, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Brady Beck

Species	0.148
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	1
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Terrestrial diversity is average for the Piedmont of NC, however the presence of Georgia Aster and Schweinitz's Sunflower raise the overall diversity score. Game species likely present on the property include gray squirrel, wild turkey and white-tailed deer. No wetland or aquatic habitats exist on the parcel.

Habitat	0.278
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	0
Buffer	0

Comments
The parcel is only 156 acres but provides habitat for 2 rare plant species. Habitat is representative of typical piedmont mixed pine/hardwood forest that is need of a periodic prescribed burn.

Public Access	0.222
Hunting/Viewing	2
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
Public access is good via the 0.6 miles of road frontage along Surratt Road.

Wildlife Uses	0.267
Hunting	2
Viewing	1
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
Hunting opportunities exist for gray squirrel and still or archery deer harvest.

Other Values	0.222
Timber Harvest	0
Local Economy	1
Quality of Life	1

Comments
Some timber management may be desirable to enhance rare plant habitat, however there may net be enough to make a slae commercially viable.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.333
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	1
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	3
Inholding/Corridor	0
Proximity to Users	1

Comments
Adjoining land is rural and working forest which is a compatible Game Land neighbor.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.500
Species Restoration	2
Habitat Restoration	2
Access Improvement	1
Threat Mitigation	1

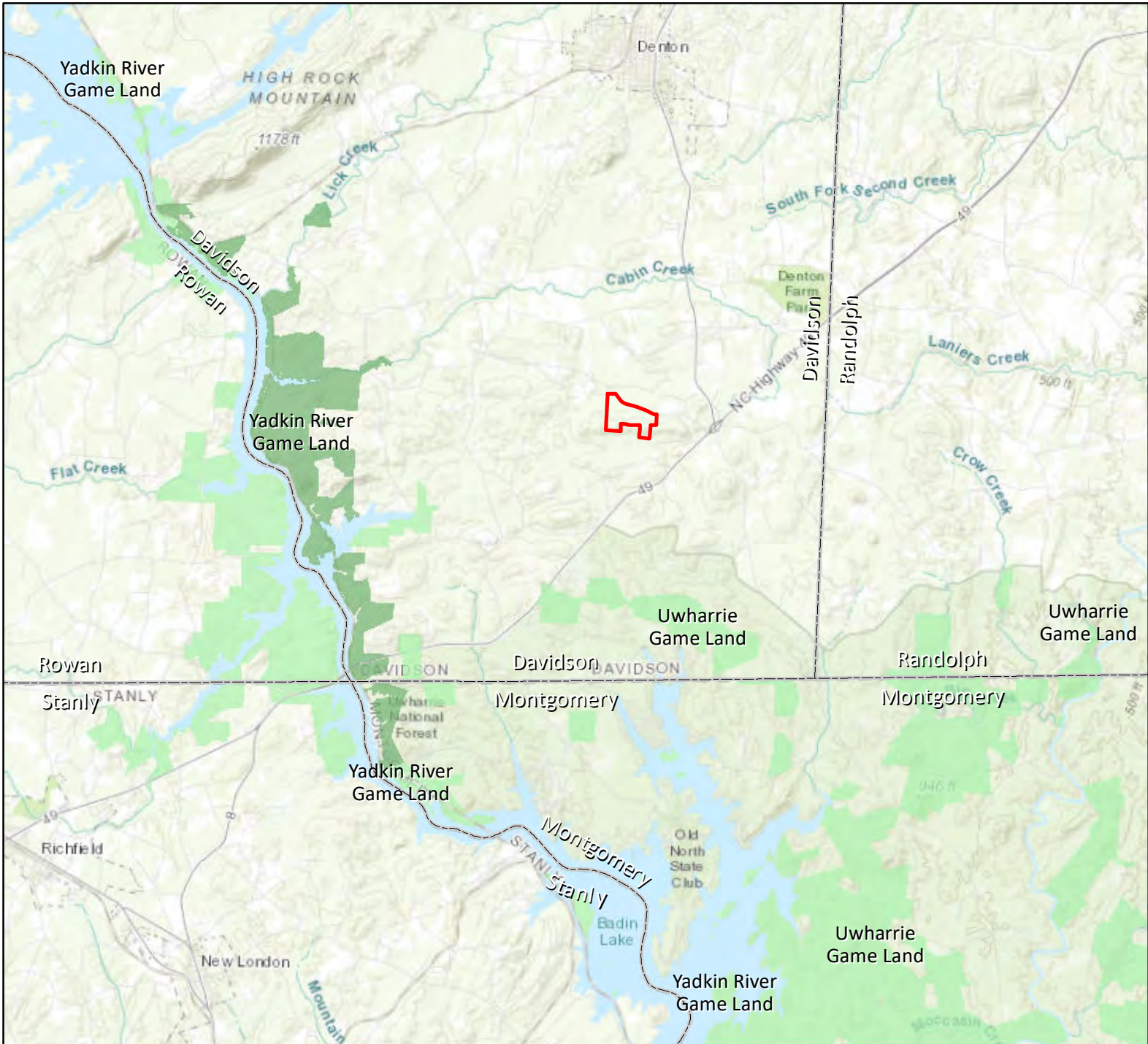
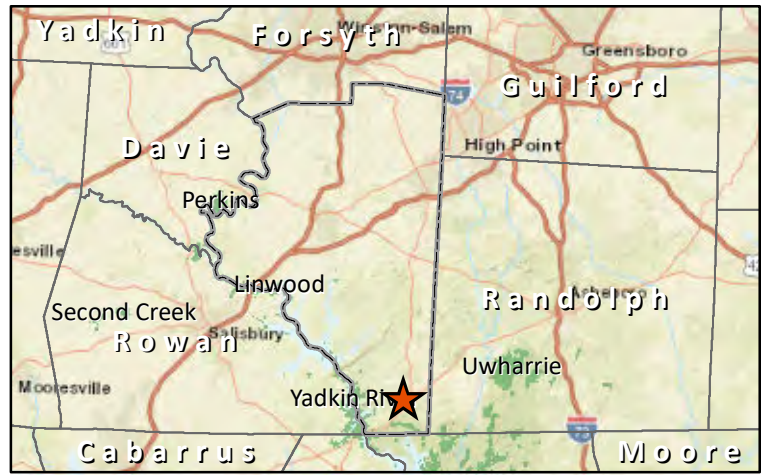
Comments
Growing and restoring populations of the rare plants found on the tract provides an opportunity to provide habitat in a forest interior setting aas opposed to roadsides where these plants are often found.

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

Comments
There is a slight threat of rural development, however this would likely come in the form of single homes and not larger formal developments.

Overall Score	1.904
----------------------	--------------

**Surratt Road Tract - DOT Donation
Davidson County
+/- 156 Acres**

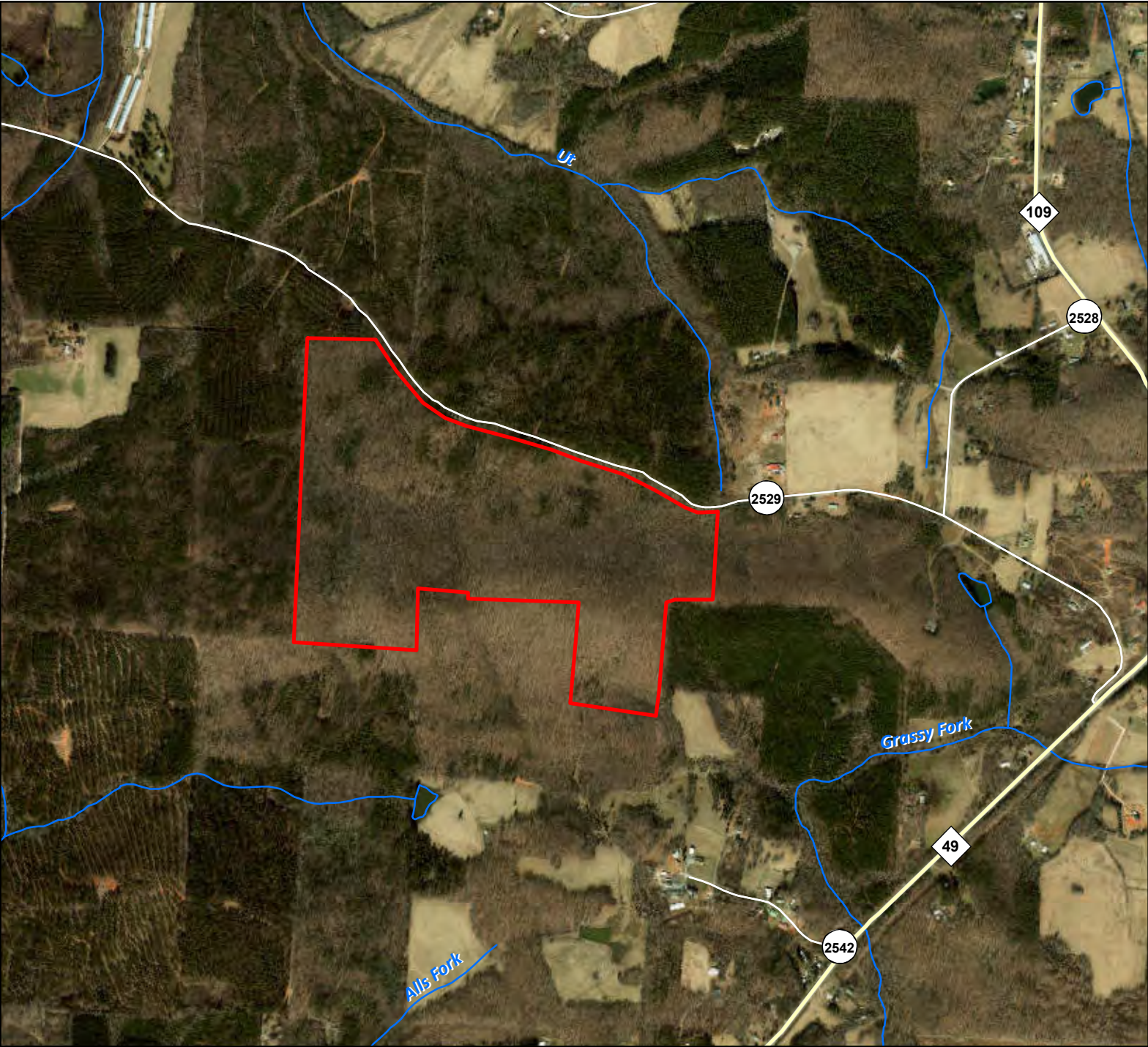
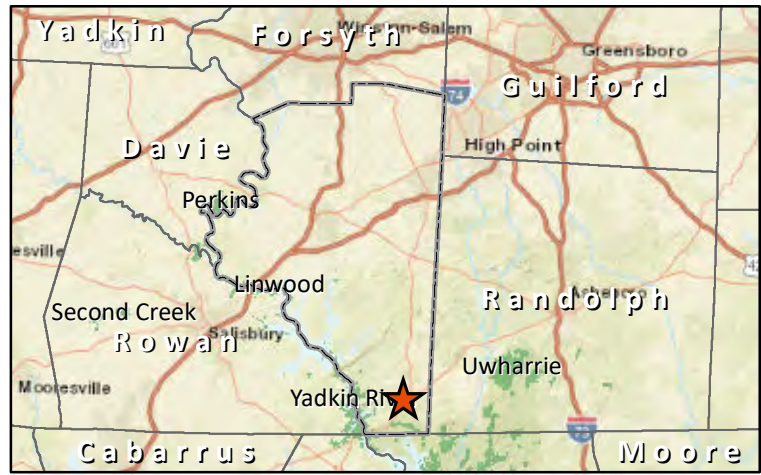


WRC-owned Game Lands
 non WRC-owned Game Lands

Surratt Road Tract



**Surratt Road Tract - DOT Donation
Davidson County
+/- 156 Acres**



■ WRC-owned Game Lands
■ non WRC-owned Game Lands

□ Surratt Road Tract

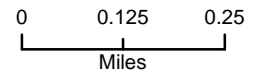


Exhibit C-6

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Mt. Holly Depot Site

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Agency Funds	\$115,000.00
Total Cost	\$115,000.00

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
State Property Office	TB Harris Jr & Associates	7/31/2023	\$115,000

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

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

N/A

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit C-6

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
TOTAL				\$ 0.00

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

August 24, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Chris Dawes
Date First Presented to Commission:	April 19, 2023
Tract Name:	Mt. Holly Depot Site, 1233 Alexis Lucia Road
County:	Gaston
Acreage:	11.51 Acres
Listed Price:	Asking Price Unspecified, Owner willing to wait on appraisal
Tax Value:	\$66,390
Property Owner/Representative:	Bobby F. and Ann C. Spargo/Daughter Beth Spargo Brooks
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NC Land and Water Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endowment

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2022 Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Stewardship Considerations:

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

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:

A site visit of this property was performed on August 18th by Tracy Parsons and Brandan Burch. A follow up site visit with the land owner's representative was performed on October 11th by Chris Dawes. Acquisition of this tract would allow for planned construction of a new Mt. Holly Depot and Storage Shed just adjacent to the leased building that serves as the Mt. Holly Depot now. The Mt. Holly Depot maintains BAAs, PFAs, and buoys on Lake Wylie, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Lake, and Lookout Shoals Lake on the Catawba River chain. The current depot will not be available for a long term lease. Currently, the depot property is leased on a yearly basis at a rate of \$950.00 per month. The current depot does not meet the needs of the crew for office space, equipment storage space, nor provide an adequate shop for working on equipment. The land belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Bobby F. and Ann C. Spargo. The sale of the property will be handled by their daughter Mrs. Beth Spargo Brooks. This acquisition would allow for a new adequate sized depot and storage shelter that would serve the need for the Mt. Holly crew now and into the future. The property is currently zoned as R-1 low density single family residential zone.

August 24, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Mt. Holly Depot Site, 1233 Alexis Lucia Road, Stanley NC28164
County:	Gaston

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

This available property is being considered as a future site for the Mt. Holly Depot. A resources assessment and biological benefits assessment is not applicable. Approximately 5-6 acres of the tract closest to Alexis Lucia Road is suitable for building on. The back portion of the tract falls off fairly steeply to an unnamed tributary. The landowner's understand the state's acquisition process and have agreed to wait and see what the appraisal value is for selling the property. They do not have a asking price. If acquired, the LAWA division would request in the next capitol improvement budget monies to build a new Depot, with office space and and shop, along with a storage shed with one side enclosed and three bays open for housing equipment, boats, and trucks.

Tract Name	Mt. Holly Depot Site
Date	October 1, 2022
Staff Completing Form	Chris Dawes

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

Comments

Habitat	0.000
Size	
Quality	
Diversity	
Rare/Important	
Connectivity	
Buffer	

Comments

Public Access	0.000
Hunting/Viewing	
Fishing	
Boating	

Comments

Wildlife Uses	0.000
Hunting	
Viewing	
Fishing	
Boating	
Education	

Comments

Other Values	0.000
Timber Harvest	
Local Economy	
Quality of Life	

Comments

Feasibility & Logistics	0.000
Existing Infrastructure	
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	
Inholding/Corridor	
Proximity to Users	

Comments

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

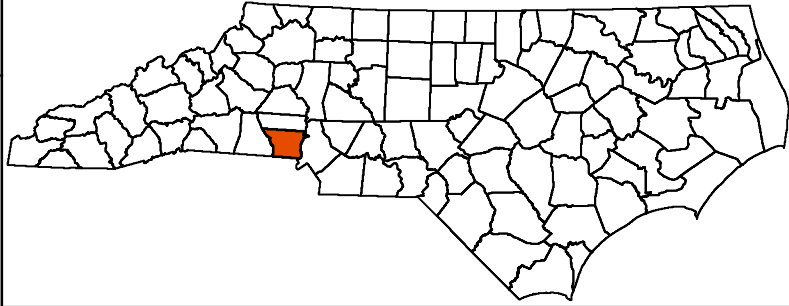
Comments



Threats	0.000
Number	
Severity	
Imminence	
Manageability	
Management Cost	

Comments

Overall Score	0.000
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Mt. Holly Depot Relocation Gaston County



-  Proposed Location, 11.5 ac.
-  Current Location (Leased), 17.5 ac.

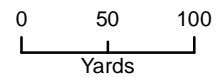


Exhibit C-7

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Cimland Tract

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Donation from Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

Federal (PR) 75% : State 25%

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 300.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0.00

Exhibit C-7

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment			\$300	\$300
TOTAL				\$ 0.00

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

August 23, 2023

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

WRC Staff Contact:	Chris Baranski
Date First Presented to Commission:	8/23/2023
Tract Name:	Cimland Tract (ECWA Donation)
County:	Durham
Acreage:	5.69
Tax Value:	N/A
Property Owner/Representative:	Chris Dreps (Land Protection Director, ECWA)
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	NCLWF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (overwrite this cell)

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tax Value \$63,824

Stewardship Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	75% Source: PR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25% Match: Timber Fund

Funding Considerations:

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:

(See text on Page 2)

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August 23, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Cimland Tract (ECWA Donation)
County:	Durham

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The Cimland Tract is a small (5.69 ac.) parcel adjacent to the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land on the Ellerbe Creek portion of USACE property at Falls Lake. It is owned by the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA). It is disjunct from their other nearby land (the Glennstone Nature Preserve), which is on the other side of Ellerbe Creek. ECWA simply holds ownership of the land, and they inspect the boundary every year or so. There is no public access to the tract except by foot through game land or across private property. There is no active management, species/habitat work, or public use/recreation on the property. For these reasons and the associated management challenges (of not having vehicular access), ECWA has decided to dispose of the tract, but there are permanent restrictions that require it to remain as conservation land in perpetuity. With these deed restrictions the land cannot be sold to a private entity without assurance of upholding a conservation easement. Donation to WRC would satisfy the stewardship requirements in the future, as we would never actively manage the property intensely (cut the timber) or develop any access to it or infrastructure on it.

Discussions have been on-going with Donna Myers (Stewardship Director) and Chris Dreps (Land Protection Director) and ECWA desires to transfer the parcel (by donation, pending ECWA Board of Directors approval) to WRC as an addition to the game land. In the event that WRC ever decides to dispose of the property, one stipulation (deed restriction) for the transfer is that ECWA will be given the Right of First Refusal to accept the property back by donation.

The tract is entirely forested by mostly middle-aged mixed bottomland hardwoods and a few small pockets of loblolly pine. The timber composition and age are indistinguishable from the adjacent Corps property. We do no timber management in this section of game land or in the bottomlands of Ellerbe Creek. WRC management would be entirely hands-off, unless at some time in the future, invasive species management might be warranted. As stated above, there is no existing road access to this tract and because of topographical limitations none will ever be across game land. On foot, it is ~0.65 mi. to the closest DOT road access (Glenn Rd.) for the public. The parcel shares ~0.25 mi. of boundary with game land, and there would be ~0.30 mi. of new game land boundary added.

Attaching the Cimland Tract to the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land would provide a small conservation buffer along Corps property near Ellerbe Creek and allow for a limited (albeit insignificant) increase in game land user/hunting opportunity for anyone willing to hike the distance.

Tract Name **Cimland Tract (ECWA Donation)**
 Date **August 8, 2023**
 Staff Completing Form **Baranski**

Species		0.111
		Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity		1
SGCN Species		1
Game Species		1
		Wetland
Overall Biodiversity		0
SGCN Species		0
Game Species		0
		Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity		0
SGCN Species		0
Game Species		0

Habitat		0.333
Size		0
Quality		2
Diversity		1
Rare/Important		1
Connectivity		1
Buffer		1

Public Access		0.111
Hunting/Viewing		1
Fishing		0
Boating		0

Wildlife Uses		0.133
Hunting		1
Viewing		1
Fishing		0
Boating		0
Education		0

Other Values		0.222
Timber Harvest		0
Local Economy		1
Quality of Life		1

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

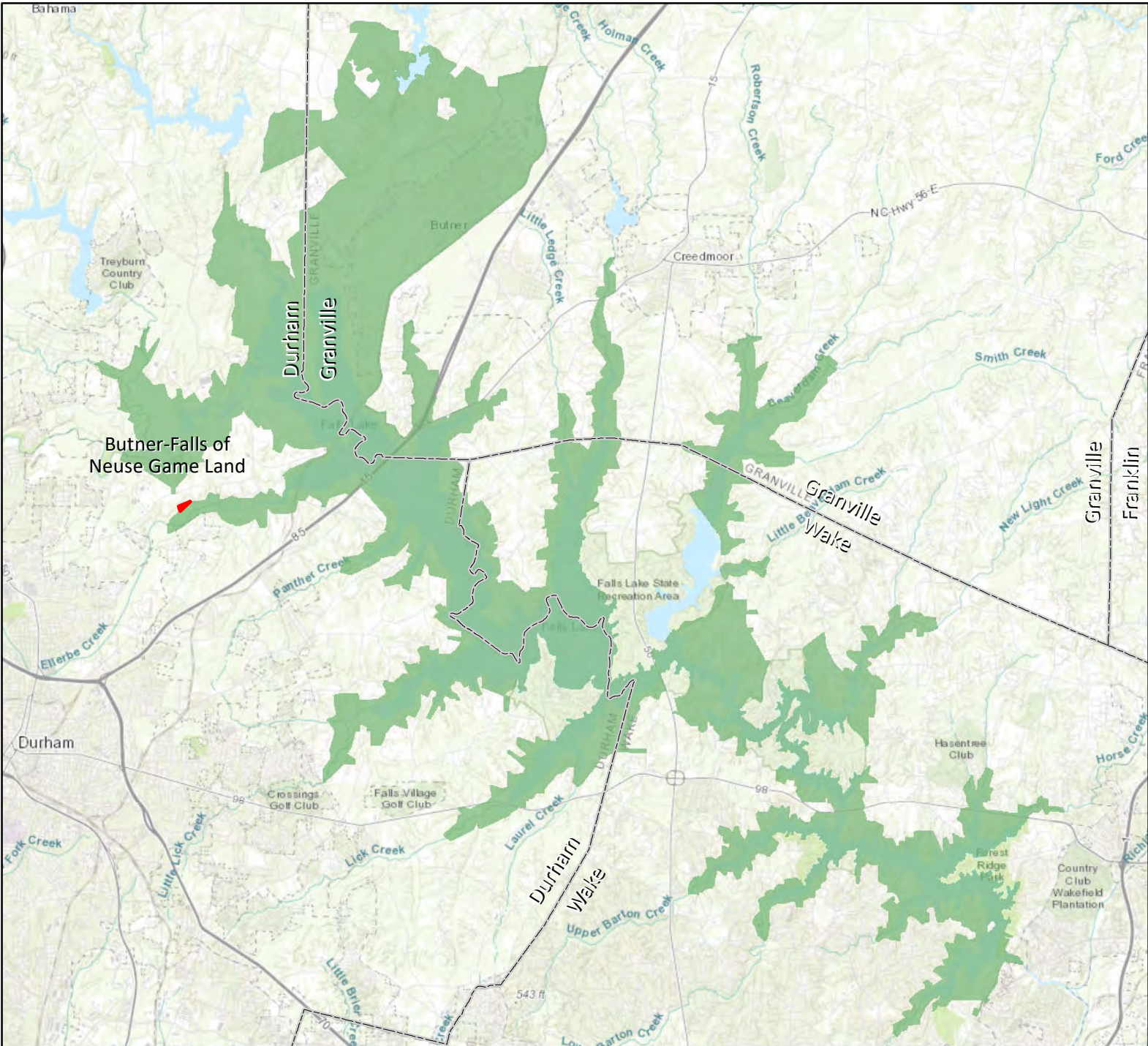
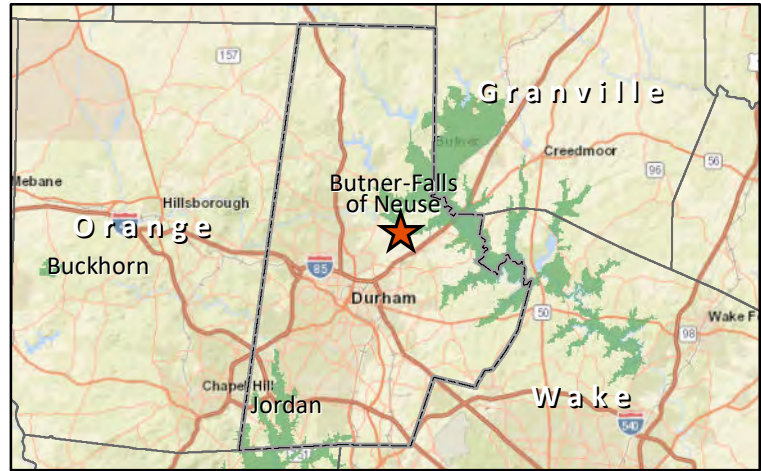
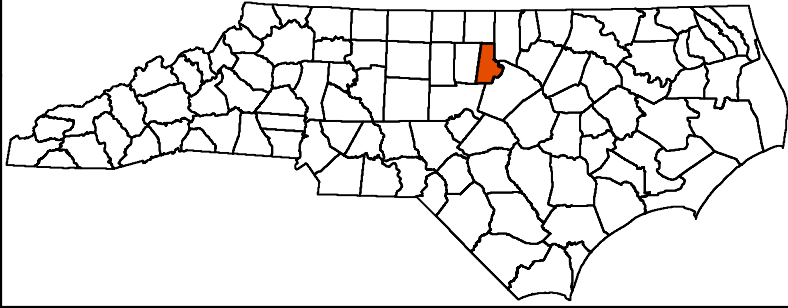
Restoration/Mitigation Potential		0.167
Species Restoration		1
Habitat Restoration		1
Access Improvement		0
Threat Mitigation		0



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

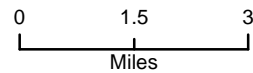
Overall Score		1.678
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Comments	
<p>This property is only 5.69 acres, and it is entirely forested with middle-aged mixed bottomland hardwoods and a few small pockets of loblolly pine. Animal and plant diversity is typical of surrounding forest habitats, and it likely does not contain any unique or exceptional species. It does provide some additional habitat for certain WAP priority species, particularly neo-tropical migratory birds, amphibians, and reptiles, but this is inconsequential given the huge size (~26,000 ac.) of terrestrial habitat of the adjacent BFGL.</p> <p>Perpetual protection and a small amount of buffer to federally-owned property (existing game land) and some increased public (foot) access would be provided. Additional hunting opportunity for deer, turkey, squirrel, and woodcock would probably be insignificant specifically on this tract, as the adjacent game land here at upper Ellerbe Creek currently sees hardly any (or only light) pressure.</p> <p>Timber management potential is non-existent on this parcel. WRC manages the adjacent area of game land with a hands-off approach. Topographical limitations and sensitive soils prevent building an access road here, and except for some small stands of mature loblollies, the area is mostly bottomland hardwoods which we do not harvest.</p> <p>There are no aquatic resources or permanent wetlands on the tract.</p> <p>The is no imminent threat to the tract itself, as it is to perpetually be conservation land, and is not being offered for sale on the open market. However, nearby changes in land use of adjacent private property could cause future degradation ecologically. The portion of USACE property with which it shares adjacency on the south side will remain undisturbed indefinitely as permanent wildlife conservation land.</p>	

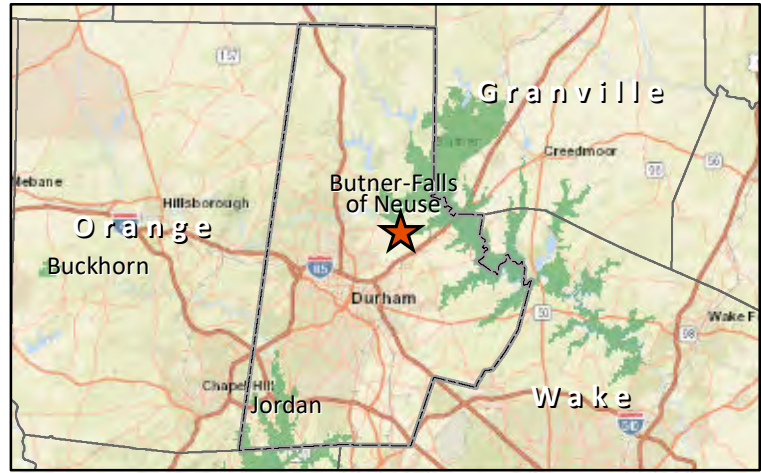
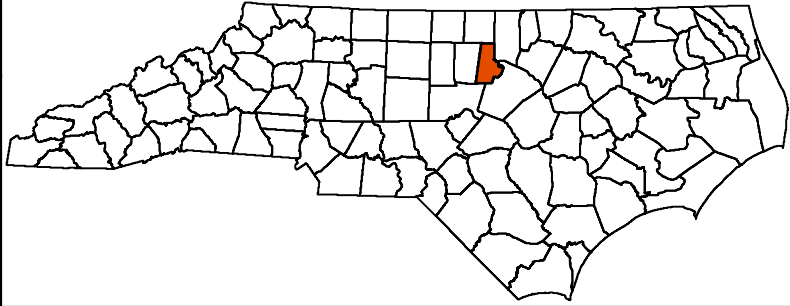
**Cimland Tract - ECWA Donation
Durham County
5.69 Acres**





-  Cimland Tract
-  Game Land



**Cimland Tract - ECWA Donation
Durham County
5.69 Acres**



-  Cimland Tract
-  Game Land

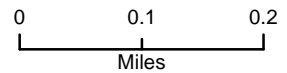


Exhibit C-8

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Rash Heirs

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): N/A

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

Donation from Blue Ridge Conservancy

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? Yes No N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

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

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

Federal (PR) 75% : State 25%

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

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 3,400
Total Projected Revenue	\$

Exhibit C-8

August 24, 2023

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections:

Estimated Stewardship Costs				
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment (Contract Survey)	24	acres	\$100	\$2,400
Parking Area	1	Each	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL				\$ 3,400

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

August 23, 2023
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson
Date First Presented to Commission:	8/23/2023
Tract Name:	Rash Heirs (Three Top Mountain GL)
County:	Ashe
Acreage:	24 acres
Tax Value:	\$90,000
Property Owner/Representative:	Blue Ridge Conservancy (Eric Hiegl)
Phone:	
Email Address:	
Address:	

Primary Purpose:

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

Program Potential:

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

Type of Acquisition:

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

Type of Parcel:

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

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Endowment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Owner Interest:

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

Tax Value:

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

Stewardship Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PR	Source: Federal Aid: 75%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State	Match: State: 25%

Funding Considerations:

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

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

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

Recommendation:

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

Additional Comments:

Blue Ridge Conservancy submitted a LWF grant to cover 1/2 of the purchase price and this will be a complete donation to WRC. This tract will be a great addition to Three Top Mountain GL for resource protection and solidifying WRC ownership in this area. It will also compliment 96 acres located nearby that will soon be donated to WRC by The Nature Conservancy. Blue Ridge Conservancy feels optimistic that they can also acquire an additional 12 acres located between the Rash Heir tract and the future TNC donation. There is also a strong interest in an adjoining 1.5 acre tract that will provide direct public access to the Rash Heir tract via Hardin Gilley Rd. The Rash Heir tract does, however, have an existing 60 ft. right-of-way through this 1.5 acre tract.

August 23, 2023

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

Tract Name:	Rash Heirs
County:	Ashe

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The property adjoins Three Top Mountain GL. The property is part of the Three Top Mountain Natural Area and documented on this tract are high quality Northern Hardwood (rich subtype) and Rich Cove Forest (montane rich subtype) natural communities. The property will add buffer and protection to the Amphibolite Mountains and serve to further protect habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds and SCGN's. A couple of small unnamed tributaries are found on the property and this acquisition will help protect aquatic resources within the New River Basin. Those SGCN likely found on the tract include ruffed grouse, eastern box turtle, wood thrush, worm-eating warbler, northern pygmy salamander, northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and little brown bat. Common game species found on the tract include white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, and gray squirrel. Management objectives will include maintaining/restoring priority wildlife habitats, and continuing to provide public access and increased opportunity for hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.

Tract Name	Rash Heirs
Date	July 7, 2023
Staff Completing Form	Paul Thompson

Species	0.296
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	2
SGCN Species	2
Game Species	2
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	0

Comments
Moderate biodiversity is based on large abundance of closed canopy Appalachian oak forest. Only small, unnamed tributary streams are found on the property thus aquatic diversity is low. Neither rare species nor habitats have been documented on the tract.

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

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, but it's mostly closed canopy forest with little diversity. The property has been noted by Natural Heritage to have several unique habitat communities. The property does provide good connectivity and buffer for these natural communities that are also found on Three Top Mountain GL.

Public Access	0.333
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0

Comments
This tract will provide a connection to other portions of land soon to be donated and enrolled into the game land. No significant water is located on the tract, so there no fishing/boating opportunity. The tract has a 60 ft ROW that may provide additonal public access to the game

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

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

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

Comments
The tract can produce good timber, but the value can only be considered low due likely NHP dedication restrictions.

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

Comments
No infrastructure exists on this tract. The existance of multiple uses on the tract and the compatibility with adjoining land shouldn't create any issues. This tract will help solidify WRC ownership and become part of a large corridor at Three Top Mountain.

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

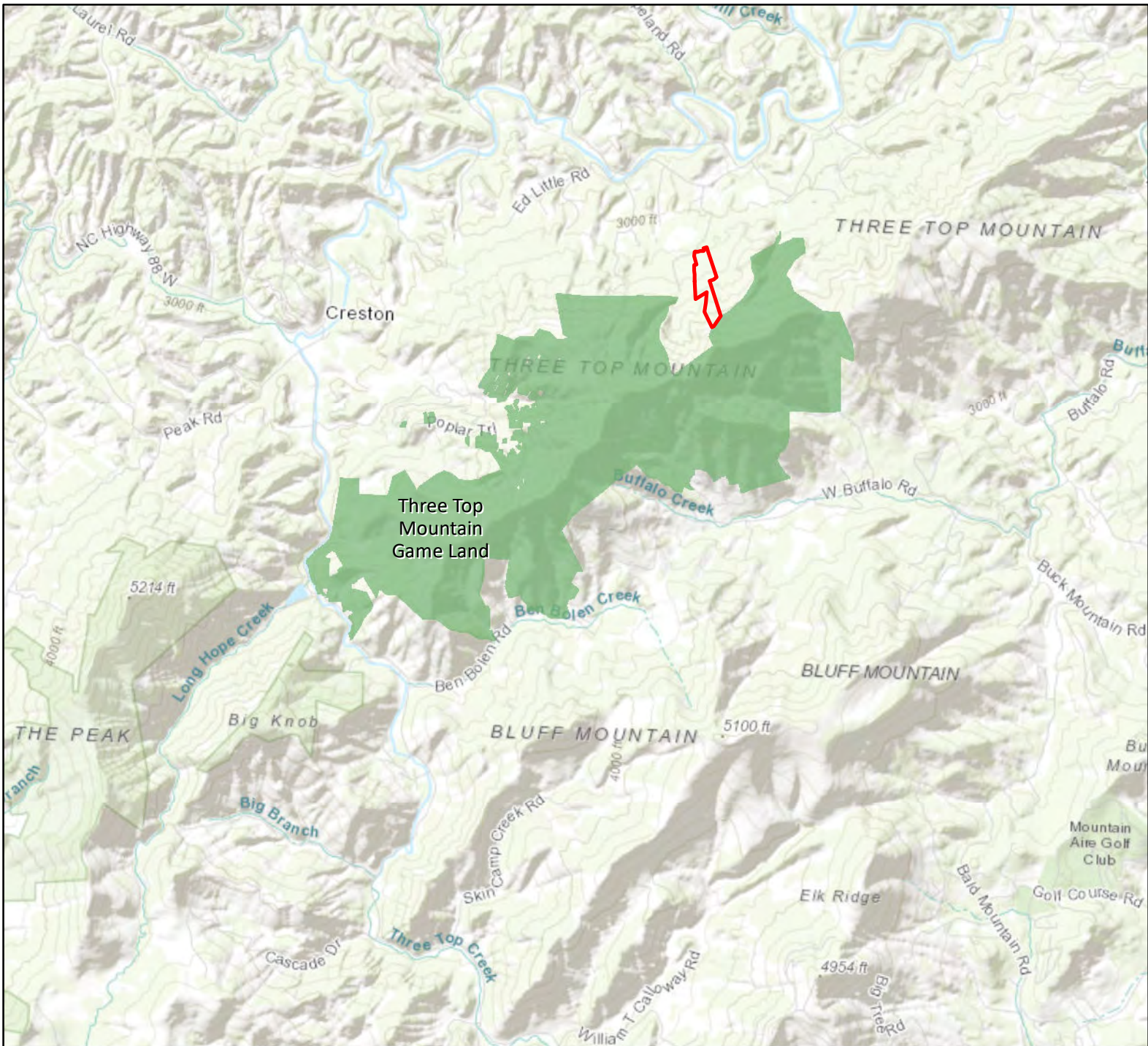
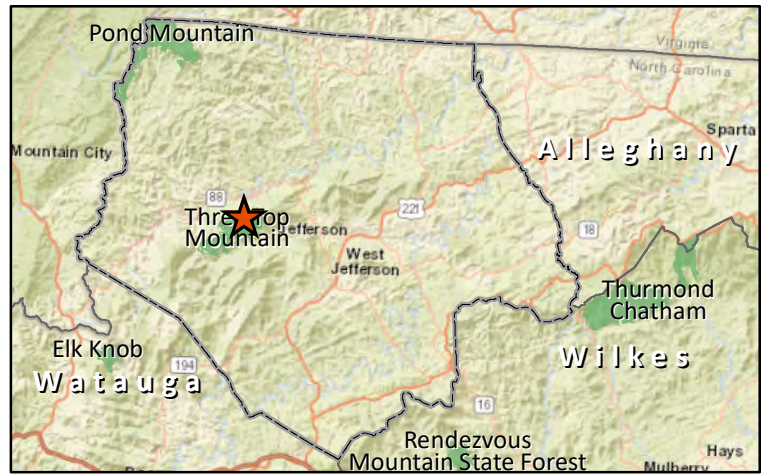
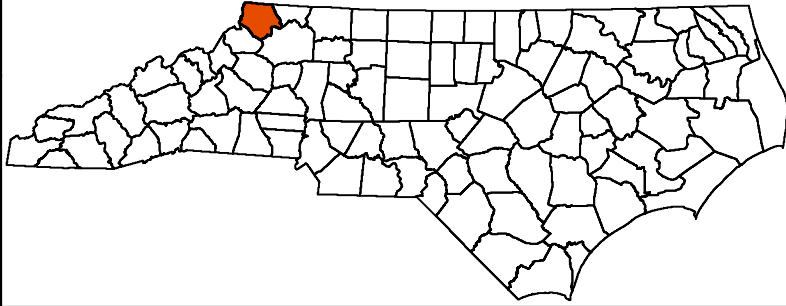
Comments
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is good, thus the rank is moderate. This tract will ensure continued public access across the Three Top Mtn GL, thus the rank is high.

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

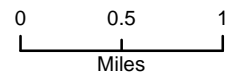
Comments
Blue Ridge Conservancy has a purchase contract on this tract with a closing date in the near future, so threats should be avoidable.

Overall Score	3.535
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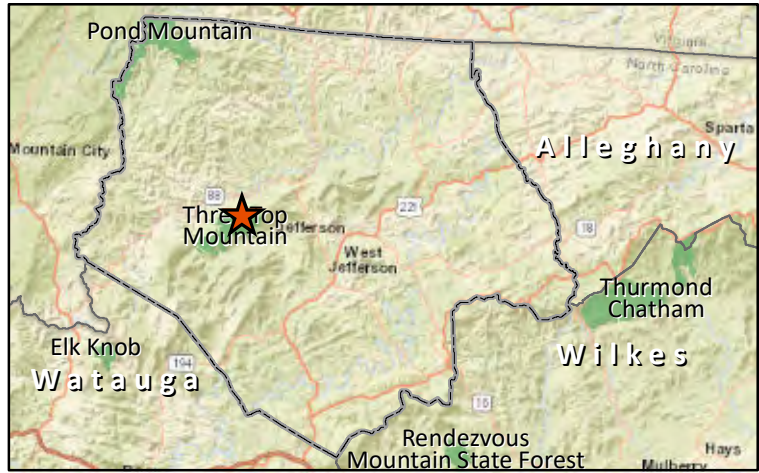
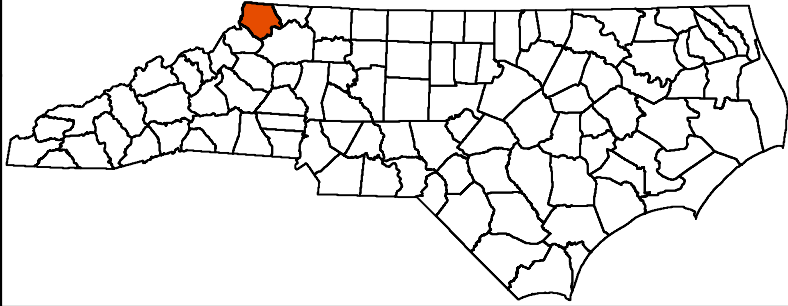
**Rash Heirs Tract
Ashe County
24 Acres**





-  Rash Heirs Tract
-  Game Land



**Rash Heirs Tract
Ashe County
24 Acres**



-  Rash Heirs Tract
-  Game Land

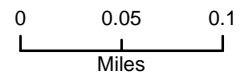


EXHIBIT D-1

August 24, 2023



Public Comments for Various 10A Rules

There were no public comments.

One public hearing was held on June 7, 2023.

EXHIBIT D-2

August 24, 2023



Proposed Amendment to Various 10A Rules Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Rules listed below were determined to be “necessary with substantive public interest” and are required to be readopted as part of the periodic review.

15A NCAC 10A .0400

Proposed rule language has been updated and modified to conform with current requirements.

15A NCAC 10A .0401 FORM AND CONTENTS OF PETITION (pg. 2)

15A NCAC 10A .0402 ACTION ON PETITION (pg. 3)

15A NCAC 10A .1101

Proposed repeal of rule authorizing the Executive Director to waive rule provisions associated with movement of captive cervids.

15A NCAC 10A .1101 WAIVER (pg.4-5)

15A NCAC 10A .1201

Proposed rule language has been updated and modified to conform with current requirements.

15A NCAC 10A .1201 EMERGENCY POWERS (pg. 6)

1 **15A NCAC 10A .0401 FORM AND CONTENTS OF PETITION**

2 (a) A written petition requesting rulemaking shall be sent to the Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources
3 Commission at 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1700 for U.S. Postal Service delivery or 1751 Varsity
4 Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576 for other delivery services or in person and must contain:

- 5 (1) the name and address of the petitioner;
- 6 (2) the name and address of the person, group, or organization, if any, on behalf of which the petition
7 is made, together with the representative capacity of the petitioner;
- 8 (3) the citation to any rule sought to be adopted, amended, or repealed;
- 9 (4) suggested language for any rule sought to be adopted or amended and a statement of its desired
10 effect; and
- 11 (5) the signature of the petitioner.

12 (b) In addition to the ~~foregoing, information required by Paragraph (a),~~ the petition may contain expression of any
13 reasons in support or arguments in favor of the regulatory action ~~proposed.~~ Any proposed, and tables, charts, maps,
14 publications, photographs, or other supporting materials that the petitioner deems pertinent to the proposal ~~may be~~
15 ~~included~~ by way of exhibits or attachments.

16

1 **15A NCAC 10A .0402 ACTION ON PETITION**

2 (a) Upon receipt, The Executive Director Director, or his or her designee, shall cause the petition requesting
3 rulemaking to be marked or stamped stamp the petition with the date of its receipt by him, which date shall constitute
4 the date of its submission. The ~~Executive Director shall then refer the petition requesting rulemaking shall then be~~
5 referred to the ~~Wildlife Resources~~ Commission for its consideration.

6 (b) Within three business days of receipt, the proposed text and statement of effect of the petition shall be forwarded
7 to the Office of Administrative Hearings as required by G.S. 150B-20.

8 (c) Within 120 days following submission of the petition requesting rulemaking, the ~~Wildlife Resources~~ Commission
9 shall:

10 (1) deny the petition in writing, stating the reason or reasons for such denial; or

11 (2) initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with G.S. 150B-20.

12 (d) The ~~Wildlife Resources~~ Commission shall notify the person who submitted the petition of the action taken.
13 ~~taken by the Commission~~. Any denial of a petition requesting rulemaking shall be sent to the petitioner at the address
14 therein indicated by registered mail, "return receipt requested."
15

1 **15A NCAC 10A .1101 WAIVER**

2 ~~(a) The executive director or his designee shall waive rule provisions listed in Paragraph (b) of this Rule and~~
3 ~~subsequent Paragraphs under specified conditions and according to the following standards:~~

4 ~~(1) The applicant has complied with the laws of North Carolina and with rules promulgated by the~~
5 ~~Wildlife Resources Commission;~~

6 ~~(2) The Commission is able to safeguard the wildlife resources in North Carolina while granting the~~
7 ~~waiver; and~~

8 ~~(3) The applicant is able to meet the conditions of the waiver.~~

9 ~~(b) The executive director or his designee shall waive the rule banning intrastate transfer of cervids and shall issue a~~
10 ~~transportation permit to an applicant for such a waiver provided that:~~

11 ~~(1) The executive director or his designee determines that the applicant is eligible for a waiver according~~
12 ~~to standards listed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule;~~

13 ~~(2) The eligible applicant shall first notify the Commission of the following:~~

14 ~~(A) the tag number(s) assigned to the cervid;~~

15 ~~(B) the facility of origination;~~

16 ~~(C) the facility of destination;~~

17 ~~(D) the date(s) upon which the transfer is to take place; and~~

18 ~~(E) the means by which the cervid is to be transported; and~~

19 ~~(3) The executive director or his designee confirms receipt of the information requested in~~
20 ~~Subparagraph (b)(2) of this Rule.~~

21 ~~Transportation of cervids between facilities that are licensed to the same individual shall be permitted upon the~~
22 ~~condition that the licensed applicant log the information required by Subparagraph (b)(2) of this Rule rather than~~
23 ~~submit a separate application for each transportation.~~

24 ~~(c) The executive director or his designee shall waive the rule banning importation of cervids and shall issue a~~
25 ~~transportation permit to an applicant for such a waiver provided that:~~

26 ~~(1) The executive director or his designee determines that the applicant is eligible for a waiver according~~
27 ~~to standards listed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule;~~

28 ~~(2) The herd of origin for all cervids to be imported has met the following conditions:~~

29 ~~(A) The herd has been held in a facility that has been secured by a fence that has not been~~
30 ~~breached or jumped by a cervid for at least five years, and into which no cervid has been~~
31 ~~introduced for at least five years;~~

32 ~~(B) All members of the herd that have died in the past five years have been tested for Chronic~~
33 ~~Wasting Disease [CWD]; and all CWD test results have been negative; and~~

34 ~~(C) Facility records demonstrating compliance with the conditions in this Subparagraph have~~
35 ~~been submitted with the import application.~~

36 ~~(3) The eligible applicant shall first notify the Commission of the following:~~

37 ~~(A) the tag number(s) or other identification assigned to the cervid;~~

- 1 ~~(B) — the facility of origination;~~
- 2 ~~(C) — the facility of destination;~~
- 3 ~~(D) — the date(s) upon which the transfer is to take place; and~~
- 4 ~~(E) — the means by which the cervid is to be transported; and~~
- 5 ~~(4) — The executive director or his designee confirms receipt of the information requested in~~
- 6 ~~Subparagraph (c)(3) of this Rule.~~
- 7 ~~(d) The executive director or his designee shall waive the rule against cervid facility expansion and to amend a license~~
- 8 ~~to permit expansion to an applicant for such a waiver provided that:~~
- 9 ~~(1) — The executive director or his designee confirms the applicant's eligibility for a waiver according to~~
- 10 ~~standards listed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule;~~
- 11 ~~(2) — The eligible applicant shall first notify Commission of the following:~~
- 12 ~~(A) — the location of the facility for which expansion is desired;~~
- 13 ~~(B) — the number of cervids held at that facility;~~
- 14 ~~(C) — the number of births or purchases of cervids expected within a year of the application; and~~
- 15 ~~(D) — the proposed capacity for which expansion is desired; and~~
- 16 ~~(3) — The executive director or his designee confirms receipt of the information requested in Paragraphs~~
- 17 ~~(c) and (d) of this Rule.~~
- 18

1 **15A NCAC 10A .1201 EMERGENCY POWERS**

2 (a) Upon a ~~finding by the Wildlife Resources Commission~~ determining that a wildlife disease threatens irreparable
3 injury to wildlife or to the public, the Executive Director shall develop an emergency response plan in consultation
4 with the Governor's office and the State ~~Veterinarian~~. ~~The plan may prescribe~~ Veterinarian prescribing one or more
5 of the following actions:

- 6 (1) shorten or lengthen harvest seasons;
- 7 (2) prohibit transport of wildlife resources or parts thereof;
- 8 (3) prohibit possession of wildlife resources;
- 9 (4) confiscate wildlife resources;
- 10 (5) revoke licenses or permits;
- 11 (6) expand or restrict daily bag limits, daily creel limits, and possession limits;
- 12 (7) establish mandatory wildlife check stations;
- 13 (8) restrict public access to game lands;
- 14 (9) require prepayment of outside testing costs by persons who desire disease testing of their harvested
15 wildlife resource when such testing is not essential to the objectives of the plan;
- 16 (10) prohibit supplemental feeding or baiting of wildlife;
- 17 (11) prohibit any other activities that aid in the transmission or movement of the disease as determined
18 by the best available science regarding the disease threat;
- 19 (12) implement any other activities necessary to reduce infection opportunities; and
- 20 (13) implement any other requirements necessary to assist in the detection and isolation of the disease.

21 (b) The Commission shall inform the public of the implementation of emergency powers and actions in the response
22 plan through press releases, postings on the Wildlife Commission ~~web site~~, website and social media, ~~letters~~ emails
23 ~~sent~~ to representatives of sportsmen's groups or other constituents likely to be directly affected, and ~~by~~ employee
24 outreach.

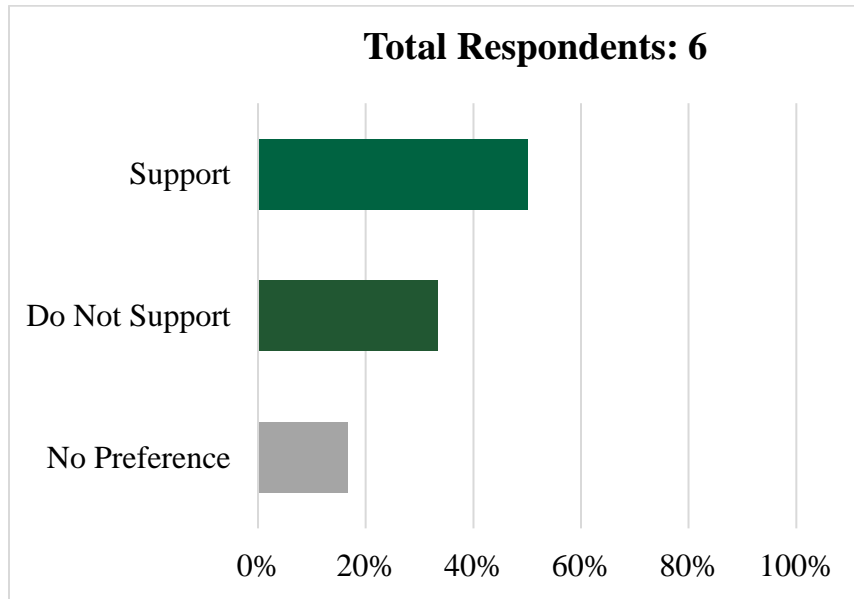
25

EXHIBIT E-1

August 24, 2023



Public Comments for 15A NCAC 10D .0220 Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County



Choices	Responses	
Support	50%	3
Do Not Support	33%	2
No Preference	17%	1
Total		6

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

Columbus County Game Land Comments

Number	Comment
1	I'm not against hunting, including deer hunting. Bella Coola Road is a highly populated residential community. Hunting with dogs is not an appropriate activity for this location.
2	Prohibiting use of dogs on this portion of gameland that is very close to multiple developing communities is a good sound decision for the betterment of the area.
3	The use of dogs in coastal areas of the state around Pender, New Hanover for examples. These areas are becoming to populated to do anything with hunting with dogs I use to when I was younger but over the past several years I still hunt but I really hope this next statement is closely looked at that is trophy hunting deer is becoming a problem and has been for years now. My in site on this is if I see what some consider a trophy I will take it but to me just because it has a nice rack doesn't mean anything because I'm there to truly hunt to put food on the table that being the real reason or should be the real reason for hunting. I'm going to put scripture to this here Acts 10:11-16 needless to say the LORD didn't tell Peter to go trophy hunt He clearly after 3 times told him to get up kill and eat it. To put it shortly.
4	This is not good thinking with allowing dogs to hunt Columbus County game land near Lake Waccamaw our property joins said property we do not allow dogs whatsoever but when there allowed to do so on game lands there literally on our property ALL DAY people trespassing have had gates illegally entered guns out and verbal confrontation to tell them there trespassing with no interior roads to handle there dogs it doesn't work not to mention the issues last year around the lake because you have dogs doesn't mean you can just do what you want literally were up there the entire time keeping people from trying to access our property NCWRC should protect landowners an there rights at all times thank you an hope this rule is passed to stop dog hunting on the gameland
5	I live in Robbinsville nc here they are put on coon hunt when open giving a prize to who kills the heavy coon that got all the youn boys hunting and spotlight@trap but the bad thing is they kill ever coon they Can fine to getTheBigest one this need to beSTOP we don't have meany here the way it is but if itant stop we won't have none please help all of us get it stop if they ant us that has coon hunted and our kids won't have none to hunt for I hunted last year and just tree 4 did not kill none I don't believe in what Ronnie chap is doing and he should not be able to put that kind of hunt on all of us that just like to take our kids coon hunt we just love it for the sport of it and love to train our pups I have a good dog but when you go and walk for hrs my boy getting we're he don't want to go and it Is disgusting to hunt that long and not as much here a race they are a lot of they don't have a dog they are put out feed close to there house and trap them for to try to win a prize but if they trap a small one they kill it and start all over then we got them that ride the roads shineing the cimmam tree other take boats and shine the trees and lake banks with no dog and kill ever one they see I and alot of others have coon hunt for years but like we are saying if he ant stop putting on this kind of hunt we have to get ready to give our dog please if anyway you all can help us get him stop from putting that kind of hunt on here in graham County in Robbinsville nc it going to be over for us that loves it for the sport of it and ar dogs and kids so all help to stop this would be a blessing if not for us old coon hunters maybe for all our kids it better to try to get them in to hunting then them with nothing to do but sit on the computer play games or going to town and getting on drugs you all know what I am saying help if you can I have called Raleigh they said they would have a officer to call me that been a month ago and they ant call or come by yet well that about it thanks for all the help you all can do anything will be great have a blessed week

One public hearing was held on June 13, 2023.

EXHIBIT E-2

August 24, 2023



Petition for Proposed Amendment to 15A NCAC 10D .0220 Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County

In accordance with 15A NCAC 10A .0401 and .0402, the Executive Director received a petition for rulemaking on February 14, 2023. This petition for proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10D .0220 was distributed, via email, to all Commissioners for consideration on February 22, 2023.

The following change was requested by the petitioner:

The addition of a prohibition on hunting deer with the use of dogs on the portion of Columbus County Game Land A, south of NC 214.

15A NCAC 10D .0220 COLUMBUS COUNTY GAME LAND IN COLUMBUS COUNTY (pg. 2)

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0220 COLUMBUS COUNTY GAME LAND IN COLUMBUS COUNTY**

2 Columbus County game land is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
4 Season.

5 (2) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.

6 (3) Pursuing or chasing deer with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on that
7 portion of the Wannanish tract south of NC 214.

8

EXHIBIT F-1

August 24, 2023



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10K .0100 Hunter Education Course Rules Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing

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

15A NCAC 10K .0101

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

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

15A NCAC 10K .0102

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

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

15A NCAC 10K .0103

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXHIBIT F-2

August 24, 2023



Fiscal Note for Proposed Hunter Education Rule Amendments

Rule Amendment: 15A NCAC 10K .0101 Course Requirements
15A NCAC 10K .0102 Issuance of Certificate of Competency
15A NCAC 10K .0103 Instructor Certification

Agency Contact: Carrie Ruhlman
Policy Development Manager
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
919-707-0011
carrie.ruhlman@ncwildlife.org

Impact:

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

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-292

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 NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) 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 the NCWRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

A summary of the proposed rule amendments follows, with the proposed rule text included in Appendix A.

RULE AMENDMENTS AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

15A NCAC 10K .0101

This rule contains requirements for a basic hunter education course that must be completed by individuals who wish to procure a NC hunting license. The proposed amendments are for the purpose of reducing redundancy with general statute and aligning with current rule formatting requirements.

These amendments include the removal of specific language regarding course standards, content percentage requirements, and the safe firearms handling portion of the course requirements and exemptions. There is no impact from the removal of this language, as G.S. 113-270.1A(b) specifies course content, they apply to all basic hunter education courses, and removal from the rule eliminates redundancy and clarifies the actual course requirements. All other amendments are technical in nature and will not change current practices and therefore have no anticipated impact other than improved clarity. Improved rule clarity is anticipated to result in clear understanding of and compliance with the rule.

15A NCAC 10K .0102

This rule contains requirements related to the issuance of a certificate of competency upon completion of the basic hunter education course. The proposed amendments are for the purpose of clarity and alignment with statute and current rule formatting requirements.

The proposed addition of paragraph (d) allows the Commission to recognize a course completed in another state or province if the course meets or exceeds the standards of the International Hunter Education Association. This addition aligns with G.S. 113-270.1A(b)(4) which allows the Commission to accept a similar certificate issued outside the State by a governmental agency if the “privileges are reciprocal for North Carolina residents.” This provision has always been applied by the Commission and is only being added for clarity. As such, there are no anticipated impacts from the proposed change.

15A NCAC 10K .0103

This rule contains requirements for individuals who want to be certified as hunter education instructors. Most of the proposed amendments are for the purpose of clarity and alignment with current rule formatting requirements. As such, they will have no impact other than from improved clarity and compliance with the hunter educator requirements. In addition, there are two proposed substantive changes, as follows:

1. A proposed amendment to .0103(b)(4) will remove the allowance of an abbreviated Hunter Education Instructor Course for teachers certified by the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and individuals certified as instructors in other states. The abbreviated course differs from the full instructor course in that it does not cover teaching techniques and resources. Over the years, the agency has found that teachers aren't as familiar as they used to be with some of these topics, and some other states are not as thorough as North Carolina in their instructor training.

Thus, the amendment is proposed to ensure that all instructors will have the same training and in turn, that hunter education course participants will receive a consistent level of instruction. Though not guaranteed, this consistency could lead to improved quality of instruction which could translate to improved compliance with hunting regulations and safety of hunters.

However, there is the potential that out-of-state instructors and DPI-certified teachers may not want to take the complete Hunter Education Instructor Course because it will require additional time. As a result, the agency may miss an opportunity to add qualified instructors to the team of hunter education volunteers. The agency believes that any future impacts due to removing the abbreviated instructor course would be minimal, however, as this provision is only used with 20 instructors each year on average, most of whom don't even know about the abbreviated class until it is offered to them.

2. A proposed amendment to .0103(b)(4) will increase the passing score for hunter education instructors from 75% to 80%. This change is proposed to increase the credibility of instructors and hold them to a higher standard.

It is possible that because of this change, fewer people will qualify and become instructors. However, most candidates currently exceed 90 percent on the instructor examination. If an individual doesn't pass the exam, the agency will work with them to improve their score by providing remedial training, mentorship, or alternative testing options and allows them to retest. For these reasons, the agency does not anticipate the proposed amendment will have an impact.

APPENDIX A

SUBCHAPTER 10K – HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE

15A NCAC 10K .0101 COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15A NCAC 10K .0103 INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION

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

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

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

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

EXHIBIT G

August 24, 2023



15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY APPLICATION FOR RULEMAKING FOR PERMANENT AMENDMENT ON LOCKWOOD FOLLY RIVER AROUND ROURK'S LANDING SUBDIVISION

The Wildlife Resources Commission received a formal application and Resolution (**Attachment A**) from Brunswick County, requesting consideration of rulemaking to codify into the North Carolina Administrative Code a no-wake zone on Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision north of Varnamtown.

Agency Enforcement has investigated the area and returned the Assessment Matrix (**Attachment B and Maps**). This large subdivision has two sharp bends along the waterfront. At the first bend 460 yards north of the Varnamtown no-wake zone, there are obstructed sight lines and a shallow narrow channel that is shared by non-motorized recreationists. At the 90-degree bend north of the first bend there are trees obstructing vision and a narrow channel. The Federal navigation channel in this part of the river is 50 yards wide with significant shoaling adjacent to it. While the Assessment Matrix suggested possible placement of two short no-wake zones only at the sharp bends, Brunswick County requested that rather than create two short no-wake zones with a gap between them, for the Commission to consider one continuous no-wake zone that protects the two sharp bends in the river there.

Brunswick County has delegated responsibility for purchase and placement of markers to the property owners. No Fiscal Note is required.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0305 with an open comment period of at least 60 days and one public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act. Upon the close of the open comment period, the WRC will then consider adoption of the amendment for Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision in Brunswick County.

15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY

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

- (1) ~~Lockwoods~~ Lockwood Folly River in the Town of Varnamtown, from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W, 500 yards northwest of the boat ramp located at the end of S.R. 1123 otherwise known as Fisherman Road, to a point at 33.94498 N, 78.22206 W, 180 yards southeast of the boat ramp, and including the portion of the river otherwise known as Mill Creek where it meets ~~Lockwoods~~ Lockwood Folly River directly across from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W;
- (2) Calabash River in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep-sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W;
- (3) the Small Boat Harbor, shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91685 N, 78.02865 W;
- (4) Shallotte River east of S.R. 1233, otherwise known as Village Point Road SW south of the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W to point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W;
- (5) Montgomery Slough otherwise known as Davis Creek, within 100 yards of the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island;
- (6) the waters in the natural and concrete canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach;
- (7) Town Creek east of S.R. 1609, otherwise known as Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to shore from a point at 34.16788 N, 78.07139 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16910 N, 78.07030 W;
- (8) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, shore to shore from its entrance at the Intracoastal Waterway west of SW Yacht Drive at a point at 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at NE 40th Street in the Town of Oak Island;
- (9) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Sunset Beach, shore to shore from a point 150 yards east of the Sunset Boulevard South ~~bridge~~ Bridge at 33.88173 N, 78.50995 W, to a point 50 yards west of the bridge at 33.88111 N, 78.51194 W; ~~and~~
- (10) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach, shore to shore from a point 100 yards east of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge at 33.89578 N, 78.43870 W, to a point 100 yards west of the Bridge at 33.89567 N, ~~78.44092 W.~~ 78.51194 W; and
- (11) Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision, beginning at a point south of the subdivision at 33.95338 N, 78.22553 W, north and west around two sharp bends in the channel and ending north at a point at 33.95539 N, 78.22900 W.

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

(c) Placement of Markers. The following agencies ~~shall be~~ are the designated agencies for the placement of markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) the Board of Aldermen of Varnamtown for areas indicated in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule;
- (2) the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County for areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (8) and (a)(11) of this Rule;
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the area indicated in Subparagraph (a)(9) of this Rule; and
- (4) the Town of Ocean Isle Beach for the area indicated in Subparagraph (a)(10) of this Rule.

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

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

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

Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 1998;

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

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

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

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2022;

Temporary Amendment Eff. August 15, 2023.

County of Brunswick
Office of the County Commissioners

Attachment A



RESOLUTION REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF NO-WAKE ZONE IN LOCKWOOD FOLLY RIVER ADJACENT TO ROURK'S LANDING IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

WHEREAS, Brunswick County was contacted by certain residents living on the Lockwood Folly River adjacent to Rourk's Landing requesting the County's assistance in creating a N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission "No-Wake Zone" for certain areas of the Lockwood Folly River, and;

WHEREAS, the County seeks to establish a No-Wake Zone for certain areas of the Lockwood Folly River for the purpose of mitigating hazards to water safety, and;

WHEREAS, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission is the agency responsible for establishing official No-Wake Zones, and;


WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners discussed and adopted this resolution requesting the establishment of a No-Wake Zone for certain areas of the Lockwood Folly River at its regularly scheduled meeting held on March, 6, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that a single continuous No-Wake Zone be established for the two areas of the Lockwood Folly River as well as the area in between those two areas as described in the No-Wake Zoning Matrix document provided by the NC Wildlife Commission.

ADOPTED, this the 6th day of March, 2023.


Randy Thompson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

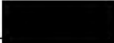
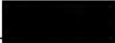

Daralyn Spivey, NCCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners





NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Brunswick County
- Primary contact information: _____  _____ 
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Lockwood Folly River in Brunswick County
 - Location: Approximately 460 yards north of Varnamtown beginning at the sharp bend in the river, to 50 yards north of it

 - Popular name of area, if any: Rourk's Landing Subdivision
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 86yds Widest Point: 92yds
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)

Sharp bends in the Lockwood Folly River north of Varnamtown where a large waterfront subdivision is located. Reports that at the first bend 460 yds north of the Varnamtown NWZ there are obstructed sight lines and a shallow narrow channel shared by non-motorized recreation. At 90-degree bend there are trees obstructing vision and a narrow channel. The Federal navigation channel in this part of the river is 50 yards wide. The proposed regulated area between these two bends in the river is 200 yards long. Each wake zone will be approximately 100 yards long.

Attach map of designated no-wake zone

Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request

Property owners state that the curve in the narrow bend to the northwest in the river, 460 yards north of the end of the Vamamtown no-wake zone, is a blind curve and is especially dangerous at low tide. It blocks the view for vessels traveling at unregulated speeds north and south. The Federal channel in Lockwood Folly River is narrow and the area at the bend is frequently used by paddle boarders and kayakers who are endangered by motorized vessels that speed around the bend. At the 90-degree bend in the river to the west and north, sight lines are impeded by overhanging trees and navigation can be hazardous at high and low tides there. The Federal navigation channel is 50 yards wide in this part of the river. USACE Wilmington has granted concurrence if the WRC decides to pursue rulemaking in this part of the Lockwood Folly River above Vamamtown.

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?
YES WRC has a blanket CAMA permit for structures placed in coastal counties as result of water safety rulemaking.
NO

When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.

**** Brunswick is a CAMA County. WRC has blanket CAMA permit for markers placed in waters as result of rulemaking.**



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: _____

PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA

NO-WAKE BUOYS

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: _____

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: _____

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: _____

Number of Docks: _____

OTHER (list and describe)

Sharp 90dgr left and right turns, view obstructed by trees on the east bank on the north turn.

SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

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

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) Sharp 90dgr left and right turns, view obstructed by trees on the east bank on the north turn

Can obstructions be removed? YES NO

NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) 92-86yrd South, 88-86yrd North NWZs

SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) _____



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) 50yrds

STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

DAM Name: _____

SPILLWAY Location: _____

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: _____

BRIDGE Roadway: _____
Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

TRESTLE Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

POWER LINE _____

LOCK Lock Number: _____

JETTY _____

SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: _____

▪ Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone? YES NO

SANDBAR _____

SHOAL _____

OTHER (list and describe)

Sharp 90dgr left and right turns, view obstructed by trees on the east bank on the north turn.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

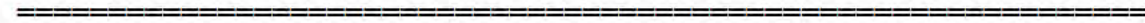
SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

BOAT INCIDENTS Date(s): _____

CITATIONS ISSUED Violations: _____

VERIFIED COMPLAINTS List: Near collisions with vessels



- Rate traffic density in this area MEDIUM
- Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES NO
- Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?
YES NO

SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?

YES Identify Violations: _____
 NO



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 6: NO-WAKE ZONE DIMENSIONS AND SCOPE

Evaluate the applicant’s proposed no-wake request based on criteria and complete Section 6. If investigated area does not meet criteria for a no-wake zone, move to section 7. If the area meets no-wake zone criteria but the proposed area exceeds the need to address the issues, recommend appropriately sized area and attach map with changes.

A. PROPOSED

- If approved, does no-wake zone extend into a designated channel?
 YES Distance extended into channel: _____
 NO
- Total distance travelled at no-wake speed (in feet): 300 feet South NWZ, 300 feet North NWZ
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: 1:11 South NWZ 1:12 North NWZ
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 258 Widest: 276
- Does proposed no-wake zone meet criteria for consideration?
 YES: Appropriately sized
 YES: Adjusted size recommended
 NO
- Description/Explanation of adjusted size
 Add wake zone from first left turn 100 yards. Add wake zone at next right turn 100yards on river, indicated by map diagram.
- Adjusted map attached



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?
YES:
NO:
- Justification:
Sharp bends in the Lockwood Folly River north of Varnamtown where a large waterfront subdivision is located. Boats traveling at greater than no wake speed can't see around the blind curves and there isn't much room to navigate to avoid a collision especially at low tide. This is a popular section of the Lockwood Folly River to paddle board and kayak.

Officer: Sgt. ML Criscoe _____

Date: 10/25/2022 _____

Sergeant: _____ B. Dean _____

Date: 10/26/22 _____





No Wake Zone - NCWRC Law Enforcement Recommendation
Ruork's Landing Subdivision, Lockwood Folly River, Brunswick County



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



EXHIBIT H

August 24, 2023



15A NCAC 10F .0316 – FORSYTH, ROCKINGHAM, AND STOKES COUNTIES APPLICATION FOR RULEMAKING FOR PERMANENT AMENDMENT ON BELEWS LAKE IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

The Wildlife Resources Commission received a formal application and Resolution (**Attachment A**) from Rockingham County, requesting consideration of rulemaking to codify into the North Carolina Administrative Code a no-wake zone on Belews Lake at Carolina Marina in Stokesdale.

Agency Enforcement has investigated the area and returned the Assessment Matrix (**Attachment B and Map**). Hazards to boater safety and operation were noted, including the presence of the fuel dock in the main channel and the entire cove to the north where the boat ramp, Dry Stack, and outdoor boat storage facilities are located. The regulated area will begin at a line on the shore of the marina where the southernmost fuel dock is located to a point 50 yards west from the shore into the channel, then to the north 50 yards west of the shore of the marina, then to a point on the north shore of the cove at 36.30521 N, 80.01416 W, to include the waters east of that line in the cove where the boat ramp, Dry Stack, and outdoor boat storage facilities are located.

Rockingham County has delegated responsibility for purchase and placement of markers to the Carolina Marina. No Fiscal Note is required.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0316 with an open comment period of at least 60 days and one public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act. Upon the close of the open comment period, the WRC will then consider adoption of the amendment for Carolina Marina on Belews Lake in Rockingham County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. May 1, 1976;

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

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

**NORTH CAROLINA
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF
A "NO WAKE ZONE" FOR BELEWS LAKE AT
CAROLINA MARINA**

WHEREAS, the County has been contacted by Frank Sizemore, the Director of Operations at Carolina Marina located at 548 Shelton Road, Stokesdale, NC, requesting the County's assistance in creating a NC Wildlife Resources Commission "No Wake Zone" for this particular section of Belews Lake at Carolina Marina; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to establish a "No Wake Zone" for Belews Lake for the purpose of mitigating hazards to water safety; and

WHEREAS, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission is the agency responsible for establishing official "No Wake Zones"; and


WHEREAS, the County has advertised for and will hold a formal public hearing on April 17th, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that a "No Wake Zone" be established for a high-volume traffic area on Belews Lake adjacent to Carolina Marina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if approved Frank Sizemore and the Carolina Marina purchase buoys that will delineate the "No Wake Zone" and the NC Wildlife Resource Commission Law Enforcement will assist in placement of these buoys. Further they and any adjacent residents will be responsible for any maintenance of the above noted items and will also be responsible for any required environmental permitting and associated fees.

This the 17th day of April, 2023.




Mark Richardson, Chairman
Rockingham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Susan O. Washburn
Clerk to the Board



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Rockingham County
- Primary contact information: Lance Metzler, Co Mgr
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Belews Lake Rockingham Co.
 - Location: Carolina Marina and recreational property
 - Popular name of area, if any: _____
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 50 yards Widest Point: 940 yards
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)

Attach map of designated no-wake zone

Attached is the map submitted by the County and a detailed aerial view of general locations of boat ramp, fuel docks, and dry stacks.

Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request

Frank Sizemore, Director of Carolina Marina Operations, reports that they are aware of the Rule within 50 yards of the boat ramp. He states they have marked the boat ramp and fueling docks. Requests assessment of no-wake zone around the marina dry stacks in one cove and the area around the fueling docks.

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?

YES

NO

When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: Fuel Dock at Carolina Marina

PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA

NO-WAKE BUOYS

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: Carolina Marina

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: _____

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: The Deck at Carolina Marina

Number of Docks: 7

OTHER (list and describe)

Dry Stack boat storage at Carolina Marina
Outdoor boat storage at Carolina Marina

SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

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

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) _____

Can obstructions be removed? YES NO

NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) _____

SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) _____



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) _____

STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

DAM Name: _____

SPILLWAY Location: _____

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: _____

BRIDGE Roadway: _____
Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

TRESTLE Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

POWER LINE _____

LOCK Lock Number: _____

JETTY _____

SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: _____

▪ Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone? YES NO

SANDBAR _____

SHOAL _____

OTHER (list and describe)



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

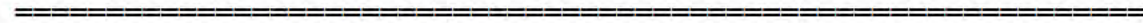
SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

BOAT INCIDENTS Date(s): _____

CITATIONS ISSUED Violations: _____

VERIFIED COMPLAINTS List: _____



- Rate traffic density in this area HEAVY
- Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES NO
- Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?
YES NO

SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:
NCAC 10F.0316
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?

YES Identify Violations: _____
 NO



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 6: NO-WAKE ZONE DIMENSIONS AND SCOPE

Evaluate the applicant’s proposed no-wake request based on criteria and complete Section 6. If investigated area does not meet criteria for a no-wake zone, move to section 7. If the area meets no-wake zone criteria but the proposed area exceeds the need to address the issues, recommend appropriately sized area and attach map with changes.

A. PROPOSED

- If approved, does no-wake zone extend into a designated channel?
 YES Distance extended into channel: 140 yards
 NO
- Total distance travelled at no-wake speed (in feet): Dependent upon destination
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: Dependent upon destination
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 150 feet Widest: 2460 feet
- Does proposed no-wake zone meet criteria for consideration?
 YES: Appropriately sized
 YES: Adjusted size recommended
 NO
- Description/Explanation of adjusted size
 The adjusted size of the no wake zone surrounding Carolina Marina should extend 50 yards from the southernmost dock of the Fuel Dock, 50 yards west into the channel from shore, continue at 50 yards from shore moving north and terminating at the point 130 yards north of the easternmost corner of the concrete boat ramp. This would designate the area surrounding the Fuel Dock, the Boat Ramp as well as the entire cove of the Outdoor Boat Storage and Dry Stack as a no wake zone.
- Adjusted map attached



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?

YES:

NO:

- Justification:

The revised proposed no wake zone extends into the channel of a high traffic area. This would further concentrate boat traffic creating a narrow channel for operation while on plane. Mitigation of boater safety hazards is necessary at the fuel dock as well as in the cove where the Boating Access Area is located, as well as the dry stacks and outdoor boat storage facility.

Officer: E. H. Perdue #700

Date: 12/08/2021

Sergeant: M.R King #464

Date: 12/8/2021

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



EXHIBIT I

August 24, 2023



15A NCAC 10F .0338 – CALDWELL COUNTY APPLICATION FOR RULEMAKING FOR PROPOSED PERMANENT RULE AMENDMENT ON LAKE RHODHISS

The Wildlife Resources Commission received a formal application and Resolution (**Attachment A**) from Caldwell County, requesting consideration of rulemaking to codify into the North Carolina Administrative Code a no-wake zone on Lake Rhodhiss within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, 6131 Castle Bridge Drive in Granite Falls. The newly renovated marina has 25 public docking facilities with permits for more, a kayak boat launch used by the public and by the Caldwell County Community College for lessons, and the marina operates the only fuel dock on Lake Rhodhiss.

Agency Enforcement has investigated the area and returned the Assessment Matrix (**Attachment B, Map**). Hazards to boater safety and operation were noted, including the presence of the fuel dock, vessels tied up at the docking facilities, and hazards to vessels maneuvering to and from the marina. The proposed no-wake zone does not hinder boat traffic and does not extend into the main channel.

Caldwell County has delegated responsibility for purchase and placement of markers to the marina owners. No Fiscal Note is required.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0338, with an open comment period of at least 60 days and one public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act. Upon the close of the open comment period, the WRC will then consider adoption of the amendment for Lake Rhodhiss in Caldwell County.

15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY

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

- (1) Catawba River;
- (2) ~~Lake Rhodhiss;~~ Rhodhiss:
 - (A) within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, 6131 Castle Bridge Drive in Granite Falls;
 - (B) within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area, 6131 Connelly Springs Road in Granite Falls;
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Conley Creek Boating Access Area, 5475 Waterworks Road in Granite Falls; and
 - (D) within 50 yards of the Rhodhiss Boating Access Area, 1550 Weaver Lane in Connelly Springs.
- (3) Little Gunpowder Lake; and
- (4) ~~Lake Hickory in the City of Hickory;~~ Lake Hickory:
 - (A) within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals, on Limbaugh Lane in the City of Hickory;
 - (B) within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area, at 5450 Hurricane Hill Road in Granite Falls; and
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area, at 5682 Rocky Mount Road in Granite Falls.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County shall place the markers implementing Subparagraphs(a)(1) and (a)(3), and Part (a)(2)(A) of this Rule;
- (2) the City of Hickory shall place the markers implementing Part (a)(4) (A) of this Rule; and
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall place and maintain the markers implementing Parts (a)(2)(B), (C), (D), and (a)(4)(B) and (C) of this Rule.

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

Eff. August 23, 1981;

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

Amended Eff. July 1, 2018.

RESOLUTION

07-2023




REQUEST FOR NO-WAKE ZONE AT CASTLE BRIDGE MARINA ON LAKE RHODHISS

WHEREAS, under the authority of North Carolina General Statutes Section 75A-15(a) any subdivision of the State of North Carolina may at anytime, after public notice, make formal application to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for special rules and regulations with reference to the safe and reasonable operation of vessels on any water within its territorial limits; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County has provided public notice of its intentions to make formal application to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for special rules and regulations with reference to the safe and reasonable operations of vessels on Lake Rhodhiss within its territorial limits of Caldwell County and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with NCGS 75A-15(a), the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners requests for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to approve a No-Wake zone designation beginning 50 yards from the first dock at Castle Bridge Marina and continuing to 50 yards past the last dock at Castle Bridge Marina.

Adopted this 10 day of July 2023.



Randy T. Church, Chairman


Abigail Rick, County Clerk



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Caldwell County
- Primary contact information: Donnie Potter, Caldwell Co
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Lake Rhodhiss, Caldwell County
 - Location: _____  _____
 - Popular name of area, if any: _____
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: _____ Widest Point: _____
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
Newly opened marina with fuel pump, docking slips, kayak launch

Attach map of designated no-wake zone

Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request

This new marina, located across the road from the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area, has been updated and reopened after years of lying unused. It has the only fuel dock on Lake Rhodhiss. It also has 25 public docking stations. There is a kayak launch that is used for training by Caldwell Community College and by the general public. The no-wake zone within 50 yards of the marina facilities will mitigate hazards to boater and non-motorized recreation, as well as protect the fuel dock.

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?

YES

NO

When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: Castle Bridge Marina

PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA

NO-WAKE BUOYS

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: _____

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: _____

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: _____

Number of Docks: _____

OTHER (list and describe)

SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

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

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) N/A

Can obstructions be removed? YES NO

NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) N/A

SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) N/A



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) N/A

STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

DAM Name: _____

SPILLWAY Location: _____

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: _____

BRIDGE Roadway: _____
Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

TRESTLE Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

POWER LINE _____

LOCK Lock Number: _____

JETTY _____

SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: _____

▪ Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone? YES NO

SANDBAR _____

SHOAL _____

OTHER (list and describe)

Fuel Dock



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

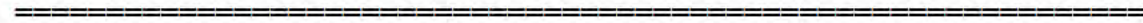
SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

BOAT INCIDENTS Date(s): N/A

CITATIONS ISSUED Violations: N/A

VERIFIED COMPLAINTS List: N/A



- Rate traffic density in this area LIGHT
- Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES NO
- Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?
YES NO

SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:
N/A
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?

 YES Identify Violations: N/A
 NO



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?

YES:

NO:

- Justification:

Castle Bridge Marina meets all criteria for a No-Wake Zone area. After investigating the proposed site, I believe a No-Wake zone would help prevent fuel spillage from fueling docks, and vessel damage from recreational boaters tied up. The proposed No-Wake zone does not hinder boat traffic in anyway, and the main channel remains free and clear.

Officer: T.E. Barber 054

Date: 05/28/2023

Sergeant: D.K. Ethridge 265

Date: 05/28/2023

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



EXHIBIT J-1

August 24, 2023



15A NCAC 10F .0380 – TOWN OF RHODHISS APPLICATION FOR RULEMAKING FOR PROPOSED PERMANENT RULE ON LAKE HICKORY

The Wildlife Resources Commission received a formal application and Resolution from the Town of Rhodhiss, with letters of concurrence with rulemaking from Burke and Caldwell counties (**Attachment A**), requesting consideration of promulgating a permanent Rule for a no-wake zone on Lake Hickory in Burke and Caldwell counties, shore to shore beginning west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 Bridge from a point on the north shore at 35.77322 N, 81.42891W, to a point on the south shore at 35.77179 N, 81.42910 W, westward ending at the Rhodhiss Dam.

Agency Enforcement has investigated the area and returned the Assessment Matrix (**Attachment B and Map**). Multiple hazards to boater safety and navigation were noted, including water releases from the dam that create swift currents, multiple types of debris that wash over the dam at times, submerged pieces of steel beams, concrete and remnants of the old bridge west of the current bridge, and floating and submerged logs and trees, boat parts, and other building materials throughout this part of Lake Hickory. There are navigation hazards around the bridge abutments. Near the Copper Penny Grill docks there is heavy vessel activity, and the local fire department vessels access the lake near Copper Penny Grill.

The Town of Rhodhiss is responsible for purchase, placement and maintenance of three buoys to mark the no-wake zone. A Fiscal Note was prepared (**Exhibit J-2**).

Staff recommends that the Commission approve publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* for the proposed Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0380, with an open comment period of at least 60 days and one public hearing, per the Administrative Procedure Act. Upon the close of the open comment period, the WRC will then consider adoption of the Rule for the Town of Rhodhiss.

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0380 TOWN OF RHODHISS**

2
3 (a) Regulated Area. This rule applies to the waters of Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss in Burke and Caldwell
4 counties, shore to shore, beginning west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 Bridge from a point on the north
5 shore at 35.77322 N, 81.42891 W to a point on the south shore at 35.77179 N, 81.42910 W, westward ending at the
6 Rhodhiss Dam.

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

9 (c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Town of Rhodhiss is the designated agency for placement and
10 maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Army Corps of
11 Engineers.

12
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

RESOLUTION REQUESTING RULEMAKING FOR A NO WAKE ZONE LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF RHODHISS CITY LIMITS

WHEREAS, Under authority of North Carolina General Statutes 75A-15, any subdivision of the State of North Carolina may, but only after public notice, make formal application to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for rules with reference to the safe and reasonable operation of vessels on waters within its territorial limits; and

WHEREAS, high speeds from motorboats would cause safety hazards to recreational users on the lake in the Town of Rhodhiss; and

WHEREAS, shallow waters are present in the lake in the Town Limits of Rhodhiss and would pose safety hazards to high speed motorboats; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission may enforce the no wake zone once installed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rhodhiss has given public notice of intention to apply for rulemaking on waters within the City Limits by advertising in the News Topic on September 13, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Town of Rhodhiss that It does hereby request the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to consider enacting a No Wake Zone in the Town Limits of Rhodhiss through processes guided by North Carolina General Statutes 75A-15 and/or other applicable laws.

This the 13th day of February, 2023.

[Redacted Signature]

W. Allen Spence, Mayor

ATTEST:

[Redacted Signature]



TOWN OF RHODHISS.....

200 Burke Street, Rhodhiss, NC

Ph: (207) 559-8488 Fax: (207) 559-8488 email: [REDACTED]

NO Wake Zone Coordinator

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

(Known navigational hazards) large rocks, large pieces of concrete, steel beams and other metals, logs and trees, boat parts, lumber from washed out boat docks, houses, building materials from the mill village and train depot, all the debris that continues to wash across the dam during storms and hurricanes. A huge portion of this is remnants of bridges that were washed away or exploded as well as the dam that broke through in 1916. Also, these water conditions and levels are always changing the release of water creates swift and rapid water and when pulling water from below the dam creates swirling and reversed currents.

(Structures in the area,) Rhodhiss dam, The Burke and Caldwell County bridge that connect Rhodhiss town limits on each side, train trestle, flood gates, boat docks, trees falling from the banks of the water. There are sand bars in numerous locations throughout the lake where the No Wake Zone is asking to be consider.

(Narrow and Shallow Waters) I am attaching photos showing the narrow & shallow travel passage. When two or more vessels pass one another, this narrows down to unsafe conditions. The NO-WAKE ZONE in this area should save wildlife enforcement time and manpower if established., I have lived in or near Rhodhiss for over fifty years and have traveled these waters and have been victim of some of these obstacles mentioned that lie just beneath the surfaces. I'm also including two recent letters given to me by Rhodhiss citizens.

When my daughter was in the first grade, she and I were fishing from a boat dock when a speeding boat caused such a wake it caused the gas lantern to overturn being a child, she extended her hands to prevent the lantern from falling resulting in both hands severely blistering from the hot of the lantern.

(Public boat access area) there are 8 boat ramps inside the town limits, one of them the town of Rhodhiss held a lease for many years, The fire department paid for the materials and performed the labor to access the lake. The fire department has verbal agreements with the citizens and the Copper Penny to access the lake for emergency use.

The Town of Rhodhiss Burke County and Caldwell County have agreed to this application if granted to partner with all cost and maintenance of buoys signage or any responsibilities of the NO WAKE ZONE.

Scott Mulwee, Chair
Johnnie W. Carswell, Vice Chair
Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner



Kenneth B. Steen, Co. Manager
Kay H. Draughn, Clerk to the Board
J. R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kania Law Firm, P.A., Tax Attorney

November 15, 2022

Wildlife Resources Commission

Water Safety Rulemaking Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Please consider this letter of support for the request of the Town of Rhodhiss to develop a no-wake zone in the town limits. The Town of Rhodhiss is requesting that a no-wake zone be established from the town limit along Lake Hickory from 317 Catawba Avenue westward to the Lake Rhodhiss dam. This is a distance of approximately 4,500 linear feet. Residents of the town have noted that this area has a number of hazards present which include shallow waters, a narrow channel and submerged rocks which affect safety at this upper end of Lake Hickory.

The Town of Rhodhiss is experiencing new attention from developers for growth and safety is a paramount concern as water-based recreation use and resources increase.

Sincerely,

Scott Mulwee

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

Burke County

Caldwell County

NORTH CAROLINA



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
September 9, 2022

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Water Safety Division
1751 Varsity Dr
Raleigh, NC 27606

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to establishing a no-wake zone starting 100 yards east of the Copper Penny Grill extending westward ending at the Rhodhiss Dam. Caldwell County Emergency Services has confirmed the concerns described by the Town of Rhodhiss as follows.

There are critical safety issues that cause concern in that area. The main source of risk is: soil erosion, fallen trees, and stumps. The speed of boat traffic in the area can exacerbate these issues. This is a narrow and shallow channel leading from the base of the Rhodhiss Dam, to the Railroad overpass. Additionally, the northern bank (Caldwell side) is rocky and creates a return wake effect rather than dissipating on the shore thereby exacerbating the problem.

Establishing the no-wake zone will reduce the risk to safety and maintain environmental quality in the channel. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns I can assist with.

Sincerely:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]
Donald E. Duncan Jr. ICMA-CM
County Manager

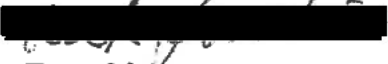
Commissioners: Randy T. Church, *Chairman* • Michael W. LaBrose, *Vice Chairman*
Jeff Branch • Donnie Potter • Robbie Wilkie • Donald Duncan, *County Manager*

TOWN OF RHODHISS

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE COMMISSION

On 1-12-2023 I spoke with Tim Keller Northern Mountain Technician Supervisor
Land and Water Access Division NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Tim Stated the Town of Rhodhiss will need three Buoys and hardware.
The Town or Rhodhiss has agreed to solely purchase Buoys and hardware as needed.
to complete the No Wake Zone.

Thank You


Town Manager
Rick Justice



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Town of Rhodhiss
- Primary contact information: Rick Justice, Town of Rhodhiss Mgr [REDACTED]; Donald Duncan, Caldwell Co Mgr [REDACTED]
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Lake Hickory, Town of Rhodhiss in Burke and Caldwell counties
 - Location: beginning at Rhodhiss Dam shore to shore, eastward under Route 1611 bridge, past Copper Penny Grill ending 165 yards east of the bridge
 - Popular name of area, if any: _____
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: _____ Widest Point: _____
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
 Rhodhiss Dam flood gates release water creating swift currents, multiple submerged pieces of concrete and remnants of old bridge, steel beams, floating and submerged logs and trees, boat parts and other building material east of the dam, navigation hazards at bridge abutments, heavy vessel activity at Copper Penny Grill docks, use of the area by fire department to access lake near Copper Penny Grill.

Attach map of designated no-wake zone

Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request

Rick Justice, Town of Rhodhiss Manager reports numerous hazards to navigation shore to shore from dam eastward. In addition to floating and submerged hazardous materials and debris that floats over the dam at times, he states there is a narrow shallow channel with shoals, and that boats travel to the Route 1611 bridge too fast for conditions. The Copper Penny Grill is reported to have nine floating slips that protrude one-third of the lake's width. The area near the bridge is also used by the Rhodhiss Fire Department to access the lake near Copper Penny Grill. Donald Duncan, Caldwell Co Mgr states that there is a narrow and shallow channel leading from base of the Rhodhiss Dam, fallen trees and barely submerged stumps. Duncan also states that Caldwell County shoreline is rocky escarpment that creates a return wake effect as waves bounce off rock and do not dissipate along the shoreline. Request that Enforcement evaluate the entire area, shore to shore, beginning at the Rhodhiss Dam and extending eastward to 165 yards east of the Route 1611 bridge. If approved, the Town of Rhodhiss agrees to purchase, place and maintain markers to mark the No Wake Zone.

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?

YES

NO

When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: _____

PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA

NO-WAKE BUOYS

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: _____

PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: _____

RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: Copper Penny

Number of Docks: 1 large dock

OTHER (list and describe)

SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

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

OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) submerged bridge pilings from a bridge that no longer exists

Can obstructions be removed? YES NO

NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) _____

SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) _____



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) _____

STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

DAM Name: Rhodhiss Dam

SPILLWAY Location: _____

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: _____

BRIDGE Roadway: W. Caldwell Dr
Height above water: 20 feet
Width between piers: 30 yards

TRESTLE Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

POWER LINE _____

LOCK Lock Number: _____

JETTY _____

SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: bridge pilings from a bridge that no longer exists

▪ Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone? YES NO

SANDBAR _____

SHOAL _____

OTHER (list and describe)



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

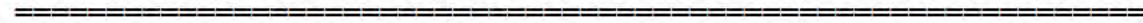
SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

BOAT INCIDENTS Date(s): _____

CITATIONS ISSUED Violations: _____

VERIFIED COMPLAINTS List: _____



- Rate traffic density in this area MEDIUM
- Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES NO
- Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?
YES NO

SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?

YES Identify Violations: _____
 NO



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 6: NO-WAKE ZONE DIMENSIONS AND SCOPE

Evaluate the applicant's proposed no-wake request based on criteria and complete Section 6. If investigated area does not meet criteria for a no-wake zone, move to section 7. If the area meets no-wake zone criteria but the proposed area exceeds the need to address the issues, recommend appropriately sized area and attach map with changes.

A. PROPOSED

- If approved, does no-wake zone extend into a designated channel?
 YES Distance extended into channel: entire channel
 NO
- Total distance travelled at no-wake speed (in feet): 2,580 feet
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: 10 minutes
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 450 ft Widest: 450 mft
- Does proposed no-wake zone meet criteria for consideration?
 YES: Appropriately sized
 YES: Adjusted size recommended
 NO
- Description/Explanation of adjusted size

- Adjusted map attached



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?
YES:
NO:
- Justification:
Due to several submerged structures, restaurant docks, and the dam this no wake zone is recommended by the Enforcement Division.

Officer: E.D. Gleason 330

Date: 11/16/2022

Sergeant: _____

Date: _____

Proposed No Wake Zone
Catawba River, Burke and Caldwell Counties





Fiscal Note for No-Wake Zone Rule
15A NCAC 10F .0380 – Town of Rhodhiss

Agency Contact: Betsy Haywood
Water Safety Rules Coordinator
NC Wildlife Resources Commission

[REDACTED]

Melva Bonner
Regulatory Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission

[REDACTED]

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

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

BACKGROUND

The proposed Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0380 – Town of Rhodhiss (APPENDIX 1), will create a no-wake zone shore to shore in the waters of Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss, west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 bridge and ending at the Rhodhiss Dam.

The Town of Rhodhiss applied for rulemaking to mitigate hazards to boater safety. The Rhodhiss Dam flood gates release water creating swift currents. During high water events, multiple types of debris wash over the dam. East of the dam there are submerged pieces of concrete and remnants of the old bridge, steel beams, floating and submerged logs and trees, boat parts, and other building materials. There are navigation hazards as well as bridge abutments. There is heavy vessel activity at the Copper Penny Grill docks. The local fire department vessels access the lake near the Copper Penny Grill.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

State Impact Analysis:

There will be no State impact.

Local Impact Analysis:

The Town of Rhodhiss is responsible for purchase, placement, and maintenance of buoys to mark the no-wake zone shore to shore between the point 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 bridge and the Rhodhiss Dam. Salary costs for two technicians to place three buoys will be \$232 ($\$29/\text{hr}^1 \times 4 \text{ hrs} \times 2 \text{ technicians} = \232). Costs for three buoys, anchors, and chains to be purchased and installed will be \$900 ($\$300/\text{buoy, anchor, chain} \times 3 = \900). It is estimated the Town of Rhodhiss will incur costs of \$1,132. The Town of Rhodhiss is responsible for maintenance of buoys once installed. It is anticipated that the total annual cost to maintain the markers will be \$200 unless the chains and anchors are needed.

Private Impact:

The rule has minimal private fiscal impact. The regulated community will not incur any direct financial cost because of this rule, but their behavior will be restricted in that boaters will be required to reduce speeds in the regulated portion of Lake Hickory between the Rhodhiss Dam and the point 165 yards east of the S.R. 1116 Bridge. The reduction in speed has the potential to improve boating traffic safety and reduce the potential for damage to vessels as well as collisions. Given the heavy vessel traffic experienced in this area, these potential benefits are likely to be realized; however, these benefits could not be quantified.

Substantial Economic Impact:

There will be no substantial economic impact on the public.

¹ Calculated using 2023 average salary and benefits of current technicians.

APPENDIX 1

15A NCAC 10F .0380 TOWN OF RHODHISS

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

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

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Town of Rhodhiss is the designated agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

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