Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 329, Columbia, NC 27925  
Phone 252-796-3044

Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge  
P.O. Box 430, Windsor, NC 27983  
Phone 252-794-3808

U.S. Forest Service  
160 Zillicoa St., Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone 828-257-4200

Blue Ridge Parkway  
Permits and information about special parkway regulations governing access to adjoining game lands may be obtained from: The Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service, 199 Hemphill Knob Rd., Asheville, NC 28803. Phone 828-271-4779.

**BIG GAME**

**BEAR**

Nonresidents hunting bear must possess a bear hunting license (See page 8).

Restrictions  It is unlawful to do any of the following:
- Take a cub (less than 50 pounds) or a female bear with cub(s).
- Hunt bear on a designated bear sanctuary. (See the information below on bear sanctuaries.)

Information on the use of dogs to hunt bears and the use of unprocessed foods is on page 46.

**BEAR HUNTING SEASONS**

Daily limit 1; Season limit 1

**WESTERN BEAR SEASON**

Oct. 13 – Nov. 22  
Dec. 15 – Jan. 1 In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, Cleveland.

*Note: Further game land restrictions may apply. See the Game Lands section for specific game land rules.*

**PIEDMONT BEAR SEASONS**

Nov. 15 – Jan. 1  
In the following counties:
- Alamance
- Anson
- Cabarrus
- Caswell
- Chatham
- Davidson
- Durham
- Franklin
- Harnett
- Johnston
- Hoke

Oct. 18 – Jan. 1  
In the following counties:
- Alamance
- Anson
- Cabarrus
- Caswell
- Chatham
- Davidson
- Durham
- Franklin
- Harnett
- Johnston
- Hoke

Nov. 22 – Jan. 1  
In the following counties:
- Alexander
- Catawba
- Davie

**EASTERN BEAR SEASONS**

Nov. 10 – Jan. 1  
In the following counties:
- Bladen
- Carteret
- Cumberland
- Duplin
- New Hanover

Dec. 1 – Dec. 20  
In the following counties:
- Brunswick
- Columbus
- Robeson

Nov. 10 – Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 – Dec. 27  
In the following counties:
- Beaufort
- Camden*
- Chowan*
- Craven
- Dare
- Edgecombe
- Greene

*Per local law, bear season opens Nov. 7 in these counties.

Nov. 8 – Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 – Dec. 27  
Bertie
- Gates
- Currituck
- Herford

**Bear Sanctuaries**  
Bear may not be taken in those parts of counties included in the following sanctuaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanctuary</th>
<th>Applicable County or Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Bay Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Bertie, Martin and Washington Dare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombing Range Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)</td>
<td>Avery, Burke and Caldwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Carteret, Craven and Jones Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatian Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Mitchell and Yancey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires Creek Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Brunswick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flat Top Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Hyde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Swamp Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Pamlico and Beaufort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull Rock Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Haywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gum Swamp Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmon Den Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>McDowell and Yancey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Camden and Currituck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Mitchell Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)</td>
<td>Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North River Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Hyde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisgah Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pungo River Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Haywood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rich Mountain Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Macon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherwood Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Wilkes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standing Indian Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Macon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggs Mill Pond Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Bladen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurmond Chatham Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayah Bear Sanctuary</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following additional restrictions apply to bear sanctuaries:
- It is unlawful to take feral swine on bear sanctuaries except during the deer archery season, deer blackpowder season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.
- Dogs may not be used to take feral swine.
- Dogs may not be used to pursue bear.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

**DEER**

**EASTERN DEER SEASON**

Archery: Sept. 13 – Oct. 3  
Blackpowder: Oct. 4 – Oct. 17  
Gun: Oct. 18 – Jan. 1

**CENTRAL DEER SEASON**

Archery: Sept. 13 – Oct. 31  
Blackpowder: Nov. 1 – Nov. 14  
Gun: Nov. 15 – Jan. 1

(continued on page 55)
Restrictions on Hunting Bear with Dogs and Using Unprocessed Foods

**DOGS.** Hunting bears with dogs is prohibited in the following counties or parts of counties: Alamance south of Interstate 85, Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of Interstate 85, Pamlico (per local law), Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties, hunting bears with the use of dogs is legal during open bear seasons, but restrictions may apply on game lands. See Game Land Section for further information.

**UNPROCESSED FOODS.** Only from the first open Monday of the bear seasons in the shaded eastern and western counties of the map below until the following Saturday *(six days only)* hunters may use unprocessed foods to aid in the taking of bears on private lands:

* The prohibition against taking bears with the use and aid of bait does not apply to the release of dogs in the vicinity of any food source that is not a processed food product. However, dogs may not be released in the vicinity of any commercially available mineral supplement whether placed for the purpose of attracting deer or otherwise.

**UNPROCESSED FOODS.** For the entire open bear seasons *(all days)* in the shaded central counties of the map below hunters may use unprocessed foods to aid in the taking of bears on private lands:

It is unlawful:
- to take a bear while in the act of consuming unprocessed foods;
- to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears. Processed food products are any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products;
- to use any bear bait attractant, including scented sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders; and
- to place any sort of processed or unprocessed foods on game lands.
Bear Hunters: Become a Bear Cooperator and receive a free, blaze orange hunting hat by submitting the premolars from your bear. Call 919-707-0050 for more information.