

**Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point**

Environmental Affairs Dept. Natural Resources Manager,  
PSC Box 8003, Marine Corps Air Station,  
Cherry Point, NC 28533-0006  
Phone 252-466-3593

**Cedar Island, Mattamuskeet and Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuges**

85 Mattamuskeet Rd., Swan Quarter, NC 27885  
Phone 252-926-4021

**Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge**

P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, NC 27954  
Phone 252-473-1131

**Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge**

5770 US Hwy 52 North, Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Phone 704-694-4424

**Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge**

P.O. Box 329, Columbia, NC 27925  
Phone 252-796-3004

**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 9).

**Restrictions** It is unlawful to do any of the following:

- Take a cub (**less than 75 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 47.

**BEAR HUNTING SEASONS**

Daily limit 1; Season limit 1

**WESTERN BEAR SEASON**

Oct. 17 – Nov. 19  
Dec. 12, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017. 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. 12, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

In the following counties:

Alamance	Granville	Person
Anson	Guilford	Randolph
Cabarrus	Lee	Rockingham
Caswell	Mecklenburg	Rowan
Chatham	Montgomery	Stanly
Davidson	Orange	Union
Durham		

Oct. 15, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

In the following counties:

Franklin	Moore	Vance
Harnett	Richmond	Wake
Johnston	Scotland	Warren
Hoke		

Nov. 19, 2016 - Jan. 2, 2017

In the following counties:

Alexander	Forsyth	Lincoln
Catawba	Gaston	Stokes
Davie	Iredell	Yadkin

**EASTERN BEAR SEASONS**

Nov. 14, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

In the following counties:

Bladen	New Hanover
<b>Brunswick</b>	Onslow
Carteret	Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bear is prohibited here.)
<b>Columbus</b>	Pender
Cumberland	Sampson
Duplin	

Dec. 5 – 24, 2016

In the following counties:

Robeson

Nov. 14 – 19, 2016 and Dec. 12 – 24, 2016

In the following counties:

Beaufort	Halifax	Pasquotank*
Camden*	Hyde	Pitt
Chowan*	Jones	Tyrrell
Craven	Lenoir	Washington
Dare	Martin	Wayne
Edgecombe	Nash	Wilson
Greene	Northampton	

*\*Per local law, bear season opens Nov. 11 in these counties.*

Nov. 12 – 19, 2016 and Dec. 12 – 24, 2016

Bertie	Gates	Perquimans
Currituck	Hertford	

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

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

*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.



**Seasons** See the maps on the preceding pages for either-sex season dates for deer and exceptions to the season listed above.

- Seasons for deer with visible antlers and other weapons seasons on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located except for Buffalo Cove Game Land, Nicholson Creek Game Land, Rockfish Creek Game Land, Sandhills Game Land and South Mountains Game Land. See the Game Lands section for additional restrictions on these Game Lands seasons. Refer to the “Game Lands” section for Gun Either-Sex Deer Season dates on game lands.

#### General Restrictions

- Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes hunting on Sundays during the blackpowder or gun seasons, even though hunters may only use archery equipment on Sundays. This also includes anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day, regardless of age of the hunter or weapon used. Landholders, their spouses and children hunting on land held by the landholder do not have to wear hunter orange.
- Deer with visible antlers may be taken during any open deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during either-sex deer seasons. See next column for information about either-sex seasons.
- Visible antlers are defined as bony structures that protrude through the skin. Knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet are not considered visible antlers.
- It is unlawful to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears. Processed food products or 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.
- The placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer is allowed anywhere in the state, except on game lands.

#### Weapons and Dogs

- Archery. During the archery season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows and crossbows (both described on page 42). It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.
- Blackpowder. During the blackpowder season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), and blackpowder firearms as defined on page 42. It is unlawful to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.
- Gun. During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), blackpowder firearms, shotguns, rifles, and handguns. Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during this season in counties indicated on the map on page 53, and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 43 for details.

#### Bag Limits

- The big game hunting license authorizes the hunter to harvest up to six deer. All six deer can be antlerless for all areas of the state. The season limit for antlered deer in the Eastern Deer Season is four. The season limit for antlered deer in the Central, Northwestern, and Western deer seasons is two.
- There is no daily bag limit.
- The possession limit for antlered deer is the same as the season limit.
- The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in areas with a maximum either-sex season, or in those areas participating in the Urban Archery Season, is equivalent to the number of

antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license and any Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards he may have procured. The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in all other areas is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license.

- Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards allow for the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card. These are NOT valid for use on game lands. Unlimited Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are available to each hunter. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are valid during archery, blackpowder, and gun season in those areas with a maximum either-sex gun season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are also valid in cities, towns and villages participating in the Urban Archery Season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards can be obtained at most wildlife service agents, or online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by calling 888-248-6834.
- Antlerless deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and tagged with harvest tags provided with the program are not included in normal statewide bag limits.
- Note: Antlerless deer may be taken only in those areas and during those times described elsewhere in this publication.

#### Either-Sex Deer Seasons

##### Youth Deer Hunting Day

- Deer of either sex may be taken by hunters under the age of 16 on this day.

##### Archery Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands).

##### Blackpowder Firearm Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during the last day of the blackpowder firearm deer season in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties (includes game lands).
- Deer of either sex may be taken anytime during the blackpowder firearm deer season in and east of Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga and Ashe counties (includes game lands).

##### Gun Either-Sex Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may only be taken during the gun season during those dates indicated on pages 47 and 49–52. Most gun either-sex seasons fall under one of the following four categories in North Carolina:
  - Maximum: Either-sex harvest is allowed the entire gun season.
  - Moderate: Either-sex harvest is allowed the first six open days and the last seven open days of the regular gun season.
  - Conservative: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last six open days of the regular gun season.
  - Introductory: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last open day of the regular gun season.

#### Urban Archery Season

Archery only: Jan. 14 – Feb. 18, 2017

##### Information for Hunters

- The intention of the Urban Archery Season is to enable cities, towns and villages to reduce urban deer populations through increased hunter opportunity. Hunting during the Urban Archery Season is allowed ONLY in participating municipalities.
- Each city, town and village will decide if hunting is allowed on public property and restrictions, if any, for hunting on private property within the city, town and village limits.
- Hunters wishing to hunt in an area participating in the Urban Archery Season should call the participating city, town or village or visit its website to obtain a map showing lawful areas to hunt and additional information on specific restrictions that may apply to each area.
- The Urban Archery Season does not obligate private landowners to allow hunting on their property, nor does it eliminate the

ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. Hunters are legally required to obtain written permission to hunt on posted property.

The 2017 participating cities, towns and villages are:

Albemarle	704-984-9560	www.ci.albemarle.nc.us
Archer Lodge	919-359-9727	www.townofarcherlodge.com
Belmont	704-825-5586	www.cityofbelmont.org
Chapel Hill	919-268-2785	jorr@townofchapelhill.com
China Grove	704-857-2466	www.chinagrovecnc.gov
Clayton	919-553-5002	www.townofclaytonnc.org
Cleveland		www.clevelandnc.org
Concord	704-920-5000	www.concordnc.gov
Fairview	704-753-1981	www.fairviewnc.gov
Franklinville	336-824-2604	www.townoffranklinvillenc.org
Glen Alpine	828-584-2622	www.townofglenalpine.org
Harrisburg	704-455-5614	www.harrisburgnc.org
Huntersville	704-875-6541	www.huntersville.org
Indian Trail	704-821-5401	www.indiantrail.org
Jamestown	336-454-1138	www.jamestown-nc.gov
Jefferson	336-846-9368	
Jonesville	336-835-3426	www.jonesvillenc.gov/archery.htm
Kannapolis	704-920-4000	tspry@kannapolisnc.gov
King	336-983-8265	www.ci.king.nc.us
Landis	980-521-1431	Andrew@townoflandis.com
Lattimore	704-434-2620	townoflattimore@gmail.com
Lenoir	828-757-2100	www.cityoflenoir.com
Midland	704-888-2232	www.townofmidland.us
Mineral Springs	704-243-0505	www.mineralspringsnc.com
Mooresboro	704-434-5666	
Morganton	828-432-2673	www.morgantonnc.gov
Mount Pleasant	704-436-9803	www.townofmountpleasantnc.org
Nags Head/ Kill Devil Hills	252-441-2525 Ext. 2	
New London	704-463-5423	clerk@newlondonnc.org
North Wilkesboro	336-667-7129	www.north-wilkesboro.com
	Ext. 3012	
Norwood	704-474-3716	www.norwoodnc.com
Oakboro	704-485-3351	pefird@oakboro.com
Pineville	704-889-2291	www.pinevillenc.gov
Pleasant Garden	336-674-3002	www.pleasantgarden.net/ urban_archery.htm
Red Cross	704-485-2002	awhitley@redcross-nc.com
Richfield	704-463-1308	richfieldnc@aol.com
Ronda	336-835-2061	
Sanford	919-777-1104	www.sanfordnc.net
Shelby	704-484-6801	www.cityofshelby.com
Stallings	704-821-8557	www.stallingsnc.org
Stanfield		www.stanfieldnc.com
		5th2386@bellsouth.net
Summerfield	336-643-8655	www.summerfieldgov.com
Trent Woods	252-637-3030	police@trentwoodsnc.org
Troutman	704-528-7600	www.troutmannnc.gov
Unionville	704-226-1989	townofunionville@aol.com
Valdese	828-879-2120	www.townofvaldese.com
Wake Forest	919-435-9612	scashwell@wakeforestnc.gov
Walnut Creek	919-778-9687	www.walnutcreeknc.com
Waxhaw	704-843-2195	www.waxhaw.com
Weddington	704-846-2709	www.townofweddington.com
Wentworth	336-342-6288	www.townofwentworth.com
Yadkinville	336-679-8732	pwilliams@yadkinville.org

- Season bag and possession limits for both antlerless and antlered deer, including Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards, that apply to the general archery, blackpowder, and gun deer seasons also apply to the Urban Archery Season.

- Deer of either sex may be harvested in participating areas during the Urban Archery Season. Hunters harvesting an adult buck that has dropped its antlers should validate the kill and insert the harvest authorization number on an authorization space specified for an antlerless deer on the hunter's Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.

**Information for cities, towns and villages**

The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

**WILD TURKEY**

**WILD TURKEY SEASONS**

Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2, only one of which may be taken during the youth season

Youth Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 1–7, 2017  
 Turkey hunting by youth during this season is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Each youth hunting during this season must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age (“Youth” means a person less than 16 years of age). The adult may accompany more than one youth during any particular hunt and the adult may NOT harvest a turkey. Only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters.

Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only)  
 Apr. 8 – May 6, 2017

Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the Game Lands section.

**Restrictions** It is unlawful to:

- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to hunt wild turkey.
- Take wild turkeys from an area in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.

**BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTING**

**Validating a Harvest** Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card, furnished with the big game hunting license, by cutting or punching out the crosshair symbol next to the appropriate authorization line. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card. Hunters should retain only one copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card per hunting season. If the hunter has received a replacement copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must ensure that all previous harvest authorization numbers are copied over to their new card and destroy their original copy.

**Registering a Harvest** The hunter must register any harvested bear, deer or wild turkey within 24 hours of the harvest and before it is skinned, dressed or dismembered.

- Harvest ID. Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Hunters must locate the Harvest ID number next to the animal type they harvested and provide this

- number when registering the harvest through a cooperator agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system.
- Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone will be given their Harvest ID numbers during the call. If the hunter harvests a big game animal before receiving the Big Game Harvest Report Card in the mail, the hunter must immediately, upon receipt of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, record the authorization number for the reported harvest on the line above the Harvest ID number he or she used when reporting the harvest.
- Big game animals may be field dressed before being registered. Field dressing includes bleeding and removal of digestive, respiratory and circulatory organs, but the hunter may not mutilate the carcass in a manner that obscures the identity, age or sex.
- When a kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered.
- When a hunter harvests an animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time is extended until the hunter leaves the area. However, the hunter must immediately register the animal upon leaving the remote area.
- Bear and deer (except those deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season) may be registered in one of four ways:
  - By calling the toll-free phone number, 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch tone telephone is required.
  - By using the Internet and clicking the "Report a Harvest" link located on the NCWRC home page ([www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)).
  - By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location ([www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC](http://www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC)).
  - By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife cooperator agent.

- Wild turkeys and deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season can only be registered through the toll-free telephone, on-line at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or at a participating wildlife service location.
- Hunters should report each harvest only ONCE. For example, if you have reported your harvest over the telephone, you should not also register your harvest with an agent or on the Internet.

**Recording the Authorization Number** When a successful hunter registers a big game harvest, the hunter will be issued an authorization number for the animal. The hunter shall then record the authorization number in the space provided, immediately adjacent to the validation mark that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass. It shall be unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card on which the species validation mark has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number has not been recorded, unless the animal is in the person's possession or it has been identified by with your name, hunting license number and date of kill.

**Identifying an Unattended Kill** Persons killing a big game animal and leaving it unattended must identify the carcass with their name, hunting license number and date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, it need only be identified with the authorization number.

**Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters** Persons who are by law exempt from the Big Game Hunting License requirement shall obtain a License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card from a wildlife service agent at no cost. Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate the License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card and report the big game kill using the same registration methods listed above.

**Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting**

Persons harvesting deer under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.

## REGISTERING a Big Game Kill

### Required for Bear, Deer, and Wild Turkey taken in North Carolina

- Before moving the animal from the site of kill (where the animal fell), validate your Big Game Harvest Report Card by punching or cutting in the appropriate crosshair symbol that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested.
- Register by reporting the harvest within 24 hours and record the authorization number on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Reporting must be done within 24 hours of kill and before the animal is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption.
- If the animal is left unattended before registering, it must be identified with your name, hunting license number and date of kill. An example would be if you leave it hanging in a cooler.
- If you leave an animal with a processor or taxidermist, donate it to Hunters for the Hungry or give it to someone else, you must have the authorization number attached to the carcass. The processor or taxidermist needs to keep a record of species and sex of animals received and name and address of hunter.

To register, choose one of the following options and have your Big Game Harvest Report Card and pen ready.

- Call toll-free 800-446-8663.
- Go online to [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).
- Visit a participating wildlife service agent location.
- Visit a wildlife cooperator agent. This service is not available for reporting Wild Turkey, and Urban Archery Deer.



### SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

#### RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

Oct. 17 (at sunrise) – Feb. 28

Opossum: No bag limits

Raccoon daily limit 3: No possession or season limits

#### General Restrictions

- Field possession limit while hunting is the same as the daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp or residence.
- Axes and saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.
- It is unlawful to shoot raccoon during the daytime, west of U.S. 1, except in Richmond County.
- It is unlawful to carry firearms or climbing irons when training dogs during closed seasons, except under special field-trial regulations.

#### SQUIRREL

Gray and Red (statewide): Oct. 17 – Feb. 28

Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits

Fox Squirrel: Oct. 17 – Dec. 31

Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10

In the following counties:

Alleghany	Edgecombe	Moore	Scotland
Anson	Greene	New Hanover	Stokes
Ashe	Harnett	Onslow	Surry
Bladen	Hoke	Pender	Watauga