

MANNER OF TAKING

Definition of Take To take is defined as all operations during, immediately preparatory and immediately subsequent to an attempt, whether successful or not, to capture, kill, pursue, hunt or otherwise harm or reduce to possession any fisheries resource or wildlife resource.

Season Dates For most species, hunting seasons are set to open on the same day of the week every year and at the same general time. For example, rabbit season opens every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and ends on the last day of February. Changes in season dates that are a result of newly adopted regulations will appear in red ink. However, most seasonal dates that are different from last year are the result of the annual shift of days in each year's calendar.

General Restrictions

- Lawful seasons and bag limits for each species apply beginning with the first day of the listed season and continuing through the last day of the listed season, including Sundays for private lands, with Sunday hunting restrictions listed in the next paragraph.
- It is unlawful to hunt on Sundays on public lands, except that military installations under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government may allow hunting on Sundays.

On Sundays, on private lands, the following apply:

- Hunting with firearms between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. is prohibited except on controlled hunting preserves;
- Hunting migratory birds is prohibited;
- The use of firearms to take deer that are run or chased by dogs is prohibited;
- Hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof, or within 500 yards of a residence not owned by the landowner, is prohibited; and
- Hunting in Wake and Mecklenburg counties with a firearm is prohibited.
- Archery equipment may be used to hunt on private lands on Sunday without the restrictions applied to hunting with firearms.
- Shooting hours. Game birds and animals may be taken only between 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset with rifle, pistol, shotgun, bow and arrow, dogs or by means of falconry with the following exceptions: raccoons, feral swine and opossums may be taken at night. Coyotes may be taken at night in all counties except Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. Call 800-675-0263 for shooting hours for migratory birds.

Retrieval

- If a hunter kills or wounds a big game animal during legal shooting hours the hunter may use a portable light source and a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving the dead or wounded big game animal and may dispatch a wounded big game animal using a .22-caliber rimfire pistol, archery equipment, or a handgun otherwise legal for that hunting season. If necessary, the hunter may also retrieve wounded big game in this manner from 30 minutes after sunset to 11:00 p.m. The hunter may not use a motorized vehicle when searching for the wounded animal.

Taking

- It is unlawful to use any of the following in taking wild birds or animals:
 - artificial lights (including laser sights), except for big game retrieval and taking feral swine and coyotes at night
 - electronic or recorded calls (except electronic calls are permitted for crow, coyote and feral swine hunting). Other exceptions for migratory game birds may be found under individual season descriptions.
 - fire

- motor vehicles—at no time may any wild animals or birds be taken with the aid of a motor vehicle while the passenger area is occupied or while the vehicle engine is running
- vessels: under sail, under power, or with the engine running, or while still in the motion from such propulsion, except crippled waterfowl (see page 63); or
- airplanes

- It is unlawful to take wild birds with the use or aid of bait, which includes any salt, salt lick, grain, fruit, honey, sugar-based material or substance, animal parts or animal products. Regulations for taking bear with unprocessed foods are on page 47.
- No wild turkey may be taken from an area in which bait has been placed until the expiration of 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.
- It is unlawful to take deer that are swimming or in water above the knees of the deer.
- Migratory game birds may be taken only during the hours and in the manner permitted by federal regulations.
- It is unlawful to shoot at or into a squirrel's nest.
- Individuals engaged in box trapping rabbits must have an appropriate hunting license to take or transport live rabbits.
- It is unlawful to accept the gift of wildlife lawfully taken unless you possess in writing the donor's name, address and hunting license number.
- It is unlawful to dump animal remains anywhere without permission.

Archery

- Archery hunting is limited to longbows and recurved bows having a minimum pull of 40 pounds, compound bows with a minimum pull of 35 pounds and crossbows with a minimum draw weight of 100 pounds. Only arrows with a fixed minimum broadhead width of 7/8 inch or a mechanically opening broadhead with a minimum width of 7/8 inch in the open position may be used for taking bear, deer or wild turkey. Blunt-type arrowheads may be used in taking small animals and birds, including but not limited to, rabbits, squirrels, quail, grouse, pheasants. Poisonous, drugged, barbed or explosive arrowheads may not be used for taking any game. Bolts must use broadheads as described for arrows

Shotguns

- Shotguns must be no larger than 10-gauge.
- When hunting migratory game birds, shotguns must be plugged so as to limit their maximum capacity to three shells.

Pistols

- During the open hunting season for rabbits, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, furbearing animals and legal nongame animals and birds, these species may be taken with a pistol. There are no restrictions on caliber and barrel length.
- A hunter or trapper lawfully taking wildlife by another method may use a pistol to dispatch the animal or bird taken, except as noted below.
- Deer and bear may be taken with a handgun during the established gun hunting season. There are no restrictions on barrel length or caliber.
- It is unlawful to hunt or take wild turkeys with pistols.

Rifles

- Fully automatic rifles are unlawful. All other rifles are legal except:
 - Rifles are prohibited by federal law in hunting migratory game birds.
 - Local laws prohibit or restrict rifles in some counties. See the local laws section on page 76.
 - It is unlawful to hunt or take wild turkeys with rifles.

Blackpowder

- During the blackpowder deer season, the only lawful firearms are blackpowder shotguns, rifles and handguns. The Commission defines a blackpowder firearm as any firearm that cannot use fixed ammunition.

Hunting with Dogs

- It is unlawful to hunt, run or chase deer at any time in these counties and all counties west of the line they form: Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Montgomery, Stanly and Union counties. This does not apply to the use of a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a dead or wounded deer.
- It is unlawful to hunt, run or chase deer at any time in these counties and parts of counties:
 - Alamance - Durham - Lee
 - Chatham - Johnston - Wayne
 - Anson west of N.C. 742
 - Chowan south of U.S. Highway 17 and U.S. Highway 17 Business and east of a line drawn from the intersection of the western city limits of the Town of Edenton and U.S. Highway 17 Business and extending due south to the Albemarle Sound
 - Orange south of I-85
 - Richmond west of Little River and to that portion east of Little River and bounded by N.C. 73 to the north, by Hough Road to the east, and by Grassy Island Road to the south.
 - Wake south of N.C. 98
- This does not apply to the use of a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a wounded deer.
- In all other counties hunting deer with dogs is allowed, but local law may impose further restrictions. See "Local Laws" section.
- In counties where hunting deer with dogs is allowed, game land rules may prohibit this activity. See "Game Lands" section.
- It is unlawful to hunt deer with dogs during Archery and Blackpowder seasons, except a hunter may use a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a dead or wounded deer.
- It is unlawful to hunt bears with dogs in the following 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.

- Except for deer and bear as described above, hunting game animals and game birds (except for wild turkey) with dogs is allowed in all counties of the state, subject to the restrictions applied by local laws and game land rules. See "Local Laws" and "Game Lands" sections.
- It is unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control of the dog.

Training Dogs

- It is unlawful to run or chase deer during closed season, except when under the control of the owner. This applies only to counties where hunting deer with dogs is allowed. In counties or parts thereof and game lands where hunting deer with dogs is prohibited, running or chasing deer is prohibited at all times. See map on page 53.
- This does not apply to the use of a single dog on a leash to assist the hunter in retrieving a wounded deer.
- Except as allowed in authorized field trials and training using domestically raised waterfowl or game birds, it is unlawful to possess axes, saws or tree-climbing equipment while training or running dogs during closed season.
- Individuals engaged in training dogs and individuals who are active participants in field trials must have an appropriate hunting license.
- When training dogs during the closed season, hunters may use domestically raised waterfowl or game birds provided that they use shot shells with shot of number 4 size or smaller and the shot is nontoxic when training with waterfowl. All birds must be banded on one leg with the propagator's license number.
- Further restrictions apply to training dogs on game lands during the closed season. See "Game Lands" section.

Field Trials

- Commission-sanctioned field trials may allow hunters to conduct field trials with dogs in areas and at times authorized with the use of approved weapons and ammunition and may authorize the use of certain domestically raised birds.

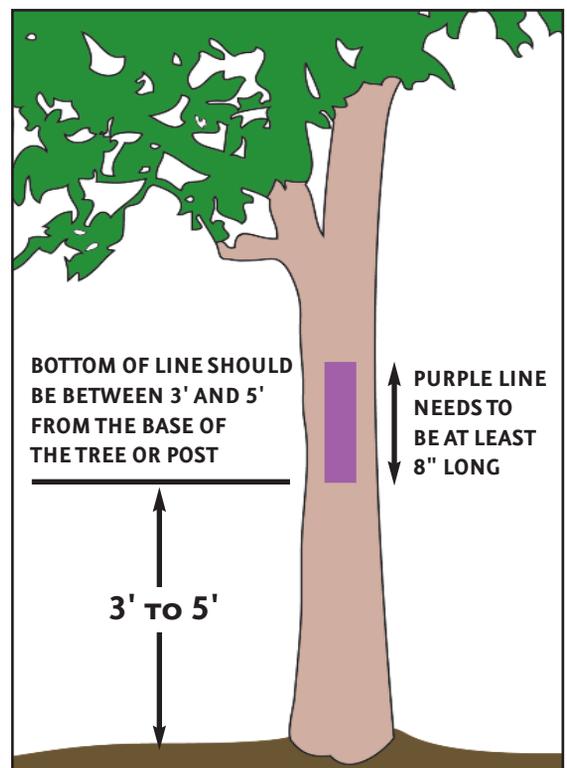


LANDOWNER PROTECTION ACT

Sportsmen need written permission, dated within the past 12 months, signed by the landowner or lessee, to hunt, fish, or trap on lands posted with signs no more than 200 yards apart or purple paint 100 yards apart. The property should also be posted at entrances and corners. You must carry written permission on your person. If a hunting club has leased the land, hunters must have a copy of their hunting club membership and a copy of the landowner permission given to that club. Wildlife officers will enforce the Landowner Protection Act.

The Landowner Protection Act does not change general trespass laws nor have any effect on lands which are not posted. It does not repeal any local acts currently in effect that require written permission to hunt, fish or trap.

North Carolina law encourages owners of land to make property available for recreational use. The law states that a landowner who allows someone, without charge, onto their land for recreational purposes owes them the same duty of care they would owe a trespasser.



- Active participants in field trials are people who handle dogs or firearms.
- For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants may use a hunting license from their state of residence. For all other types of field trials, active participants must have a N.C. hunting license.
- For Commission-sanctioned field trials, judges do not need to have a hunting license. For all other types of field trials, judges must have a N.C. hunting license.
- Applications for authorization of a Commission-sanctioned field trial must be submitted in writing to a wildlife enforcement officer at least 30 days prior to the scheduled event.
- Applications for authorization of a Commission-sanctioned field trial may be obtained online at ncwildlife.org/Licensing

Boats Deer may not be hunted from boats or other floating devices in some counties. Also see restrictions for taking with vessels on page 42.

Hunter or Blaze Orange Any person hunting bear, feral swine, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, pheasant and quail with the use of firearms must wear a cap or hat made of hunter-orange material or an outer garment of hunter orange visible from all sides. Anyone hunting deer during a deer firearms season, regardless of weapon, must wear hunter orange visible from all sides. This includes archery hunters that hunt on Sunday during the deer firearms season and anyone hunting on Youth Deer Hunting Day. This requirement does not apply to a landholder, his or her spouse and children if they are hunting on the landholder's property.

Artificial Lights

- In addition to the prohibition of taking wildlife with the use of artificial light, except for big game retrieval, many counties have local regulations that prohibit shining lights on deer or searching for deer with lights 30 minutes after sunset or after 11 p.m. A color-coded map showing county shining laws is on page 54.
- The flashing or display of any artificial light between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise in any area that is frequented or inhabited by wild deer by any person who has access to him or her a firearm, crossbow or other bow and arrow constitutes prima facie evidence of taking deer with the aid of an artificial light.
- Raccoon and opossum may be taken at night, with dogs during open seasons, with the use of artificial lights commonly used to aid in taking raccoon and opossum. Where feral swine and coyotes may be hunted at night, artificial light may be used.

Road Hunting Local laws prohibit or restrict hunting or shooting from public roads or possession of a loaded firearm on road right-of-ways in some counties.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Local Laws There are many local laws affecting hunting and trapping in North Carolina. An abstract of local laws that are more restrictive than general regulations is included in this Digest. See the "Local Laws" section.

Exotic Species It is unlawful to place exotic species of wild animals or wild birds not indigenous to that area or feral swine in an area for the purpose of stocking the area for hunting or trapping. (There are certain limited exceptions for licensed-controlled hunting preserves.)

Transfer of Wildlife An individual may accept the gift of wildlife lawfully taken within North Carolina if taking possession does not cause the individual to exceed the applicable possession limit. The individual must note and preserve in writing the name and address of the donor and under what license requirements the wildlife was taken.

Trespass The establishment of open seasons does not obligate the private landowner to allow hunting on his property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. In some counties, hunters are required to obtain permission to hunt on private property.

State Fish Hatcheries It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm within a posted restricted zone on any state-owned fish hatchery or to discharge a firearm into or across such a restricted zone.

Sale of Wildlife In general, whole animals or their parts may not be bought or sold in North Carolina. There are some exceptions. More information may be found at ncwildlife.org/saleofwildlife.

Cervid Carcass Parts Only the following deer, elk or moose carcass parts harvested in states or provinces with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) will be allowed in North Carolina:

- meat that is cut and wrapped
- quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- meat that has been boned out
- caped hides
- cleaned skull plates
- antlers
- cleaned teeth
- finished taxidermy products

These parts or their containers must be labeled with the hunter's name and address; state or province of origin; date the animal was killed; the hunter's hunting license number; and the destination of the parts or containers. A current map of CWD-infected states and provinces is available at: <http://cwd-info.org/map-chronic-wasting-disease-in-north-america/>. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been found in North Carolina. For more information about deer diseases, visit: <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting/AftertheHunt/DeerDiseases.aspx>

HUNTING ON FEDERAL LANDS

State regulations and license requirements apply on federal lands.

Some of the areas listed below may be closed to hunting. For specific information, contact the appropriate federal entity:

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

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

Camp Lejeune

Conservation Law Enforcement Office, Assistant Chief of Staff
Installation Security and Safety Dept, Building PT-3,
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542
Phone 910-451-5226

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954
Phone 252-473-2111

Cape Lookout National Seashore

131 Charles St., Harkers Island, NC 28531
Phone 252-728-2250

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA 23434
Phone 757-986-3705

Fort Bragg

Wildlife Hunting and Fishing Center, Fort Bragg, NC 28307
Phone 910-396-7506

Mackay Island and Currituck National Wildlife Refuges

P.O. Box 39, Knotts Island, NC 27950
Phone 252-429-3100

Deer Hunter ALERT



Anyone returning with a deer, elk or moose taken in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Canada's Alberta and Saskatchewan provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been confirmed must follow North Carolina processing/packaging regulations, which allow:

- meat that is cut and wrapped
- quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached
- meat that has been boned out
- caped hides
- cleaned skull plates
- antlers
- cleaned teeth
- finished taxidermy products

Parts or containers holding parts must be labeled with the hunter's name and complete address; state or province of origin; date the deer (or moose or elk) was killed; the hunter's hunting license number; and the destination of the parts. Taxidermists should immediately inform a wildlife officer if a full head or parts other than those listed are received from a CWD-verified state or province.

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
Brunswick	Onslow
Carteret	Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bear is prohibited here.)
Columbus	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:

Sanctuary	Applicable County or Counties
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.

- 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

YOUTH DEER HUNTING DAY

September 24, 2016

On this day, youth under the age of 16 may use any legal weapon to hunt deer of either sex. See page 42 for description of legal weapons. Hunters age 16 and older may only use the weapon legal for the type of season open in their county on this day. All hunters must wear hunter orange on this day, even if the hunter is using archery equipment.

EASTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Sept. 30, 2016
 Blackpowder: Oct. 1 – Oct. 14, 2016
 Gun: Oct. 15, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Oct. 28, 2016
 Blackpowder: Oct. 29 – Nov. 11, 2016
 Gun: Nov. 12, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Nov. 4, 2016
 Blackpowder: Nov. 5 – Nov. 18, 2016
 Gun: Nov. 19, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Oct. 2 and Oct. 16 – Nov. 20, 2016
 Blackpowder: Oct. 3 – Oct. 15, 2016
 Gun: Nov. 21 – Dec. 10, 2016 (except in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties where the gun season is extended to Jan. 2)

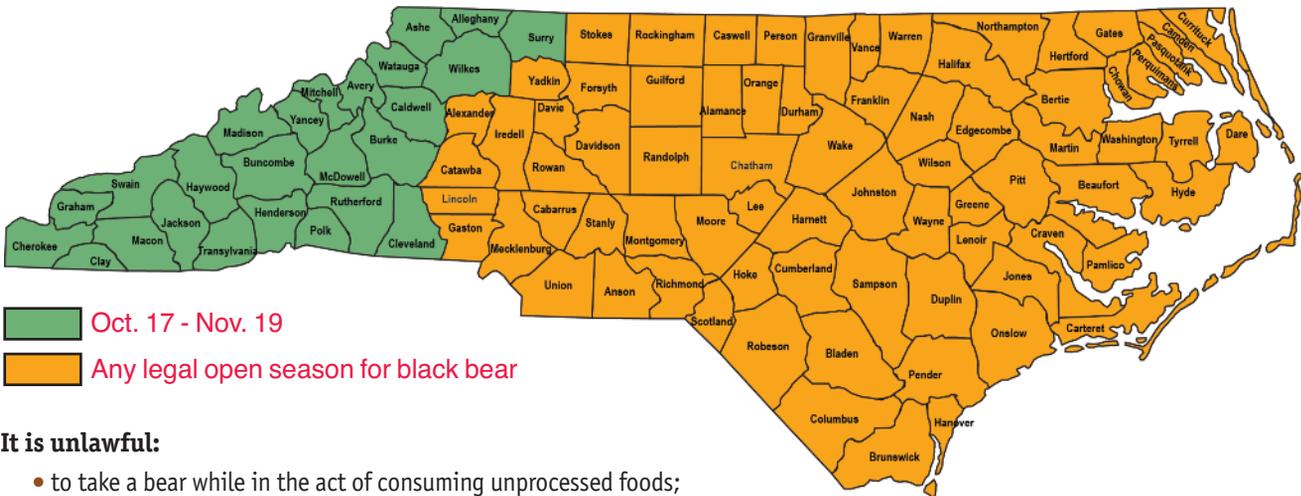
(continued on page 56)

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. Legal during the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving* in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Cleveland counties. In all other counties, unprocessed foods may be used to aid in taking of bear during any open season for bear.

** 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.*

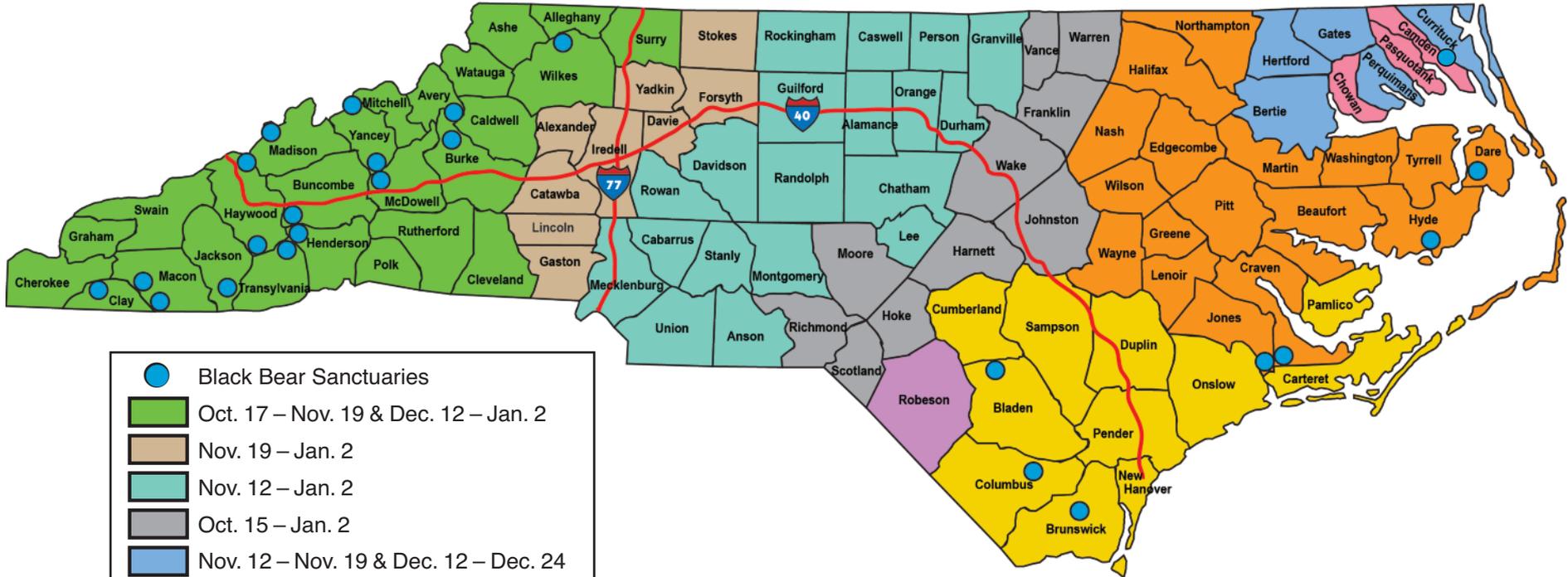


Oct. 17 - Nov. 19
 Any legal open season for black bear

It is unlawful:

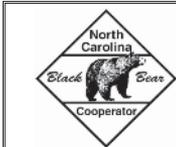
- to take a bear while in the act of consuming unprocessed foods;
- to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an established season for taking black bears. Processed food products are any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or 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.

2016 – 2017 BEAR SEASON



	Black Bear Sanctuaries
	Oct. 17 – Nov. 19 & Dec. 12 – Jan. 2
	Nov. 19 – Jan. 2
	Nov. 12 – Jan. 2
	Oct. 15 – Jan. 2
	Nov. 12 – Nov. 19 & Dec. 12 – Dec. 24
	Nov. 14 – Nov. 19 & Dec. 12 – Dec. 24
	Nov. 14 – Jan. 2
	Dec. 5 – 24
	Nov. 11 – Nov. 19 & Dec. 12 – Dec. 24

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.



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.

WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Oct. 2
 Oct. 16 – Nov. 20

Blackpowder: Oct. 3 – Oct. 15

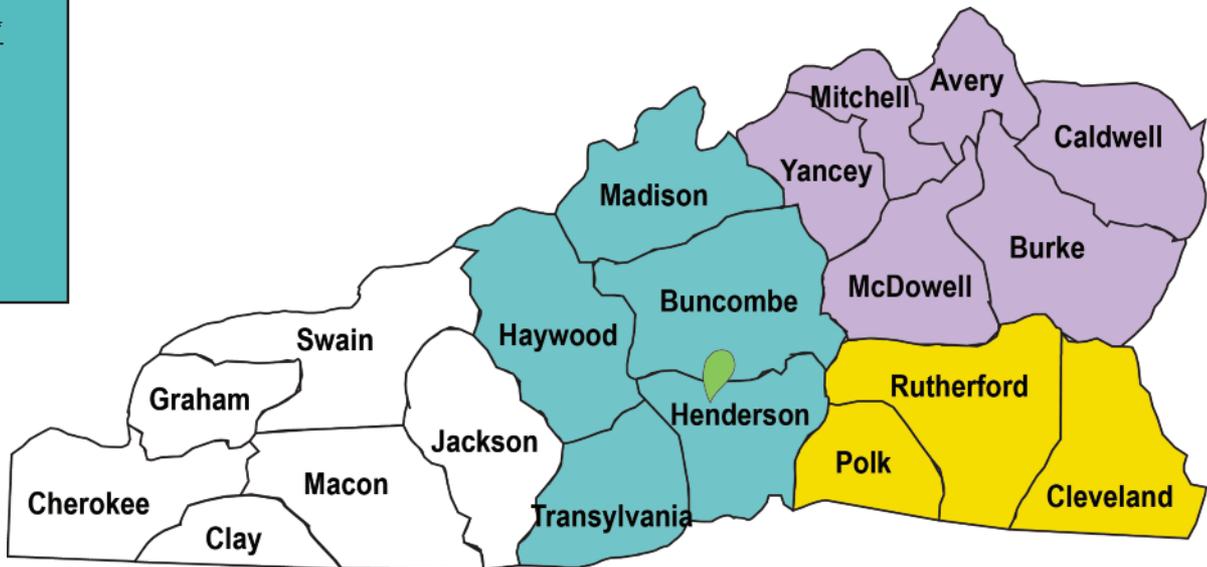
(See page 55 for either-sex days during blackpowder season)

Gun: Nov. 21 – Dec. 10**

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Introductory Season)
 Dec. 10
 Buncombe
 Haywood
 Henderson
 Madison
 Transylvania

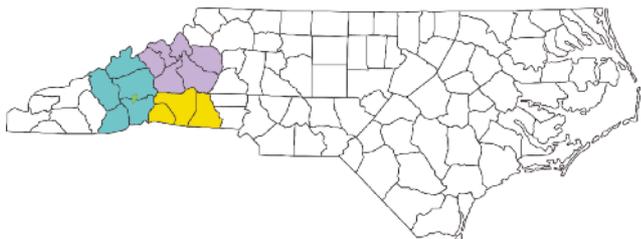
No Either-Sex Season
 Cherokee
 Clay
 Graham
 Jackson
 Macon
 Swain

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Moderate Season)
 Nov. 21 – Nov. 26
 Dec. 27 – Jan. 2
 Cleveland
 Polk
 Rutherford



Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Conservative Season)
 Dec. 5 – Dec. 10
 Avery
 Burke
 Caldwell
 McDowell
 Mitchell
 Yancey

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Maximum Season)
 Nov. 21 – Dec. 10
 Buncombe: that part east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, west of U.S. 25 and north of N.C. 280. Henderson: that part east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.



*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.
 **Note: The Gun Season in Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford counties ends Jan. 2, 2017, except for South Mountains Game Land (see Game Lands section).

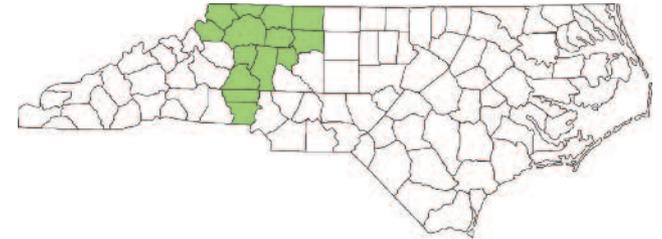
NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept.10– Nov. 4
 Blackpowder: Nov. 5 – Nov. 18
 Gun: Nov. 19, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

Does not include that portion of Buffalo Cove Game Land in Wilkes Co. (see Game Lands section).



<u>Gun Either-Sex Season*</u>	
(Maximum Season)	
Nov. 19, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017	
Alexander	Iredell
Alleghany	Lincoln
Ashe	Stokes
Catawba	Surry
Davie	Wilkes
Forsyth	Yadkin
Gaston	Watauga



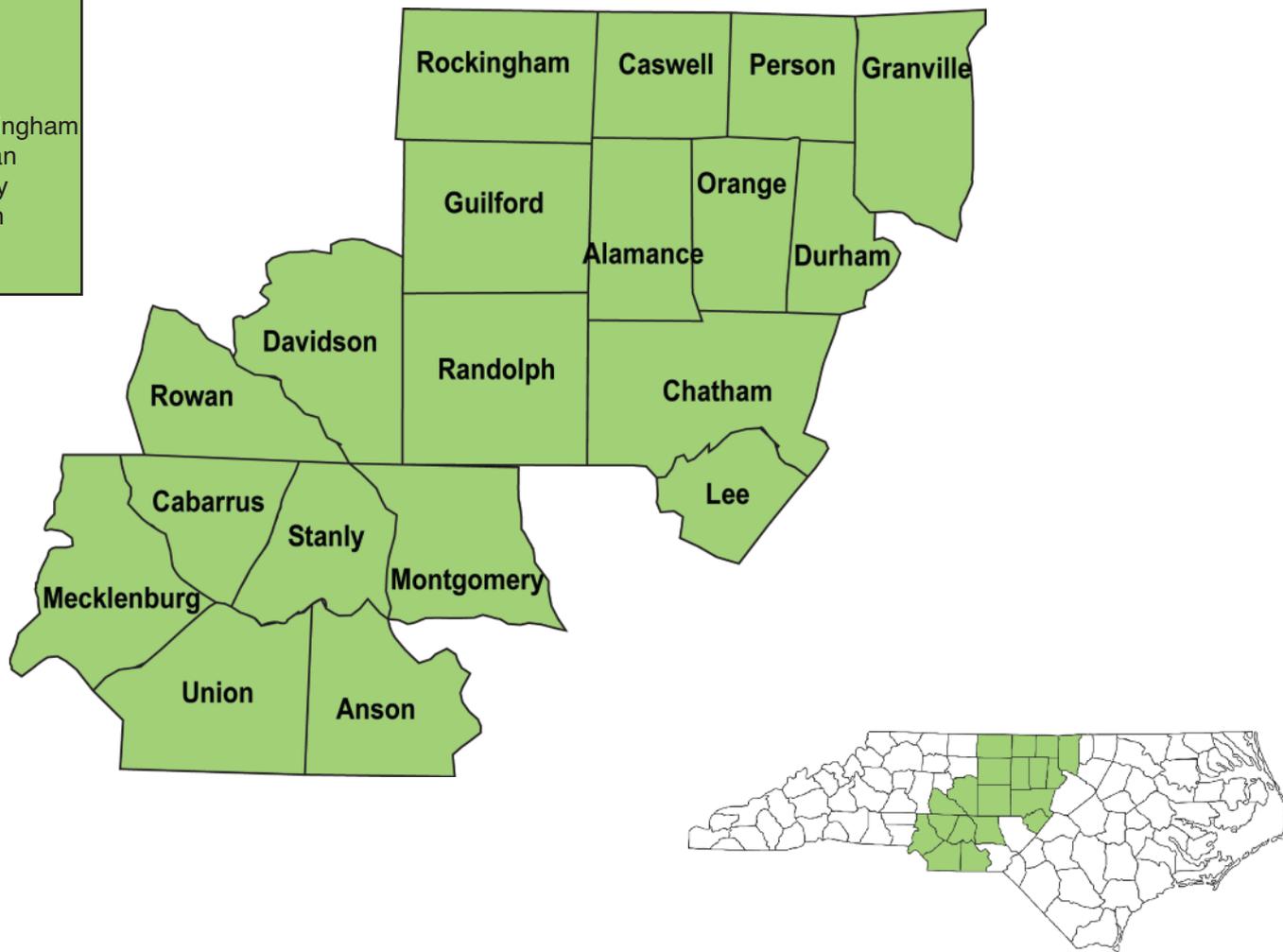
*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept.10– Oct. 28
 Blackpowder: Oct. 29 – Nov. 11
 Gun: Nov. 12, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Maximum Season)
 Nov. 12, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

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



*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

EASTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Sept. 30

Blackpowder: Oct. 1 – Oct. 14

Gun: Oct. 15, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

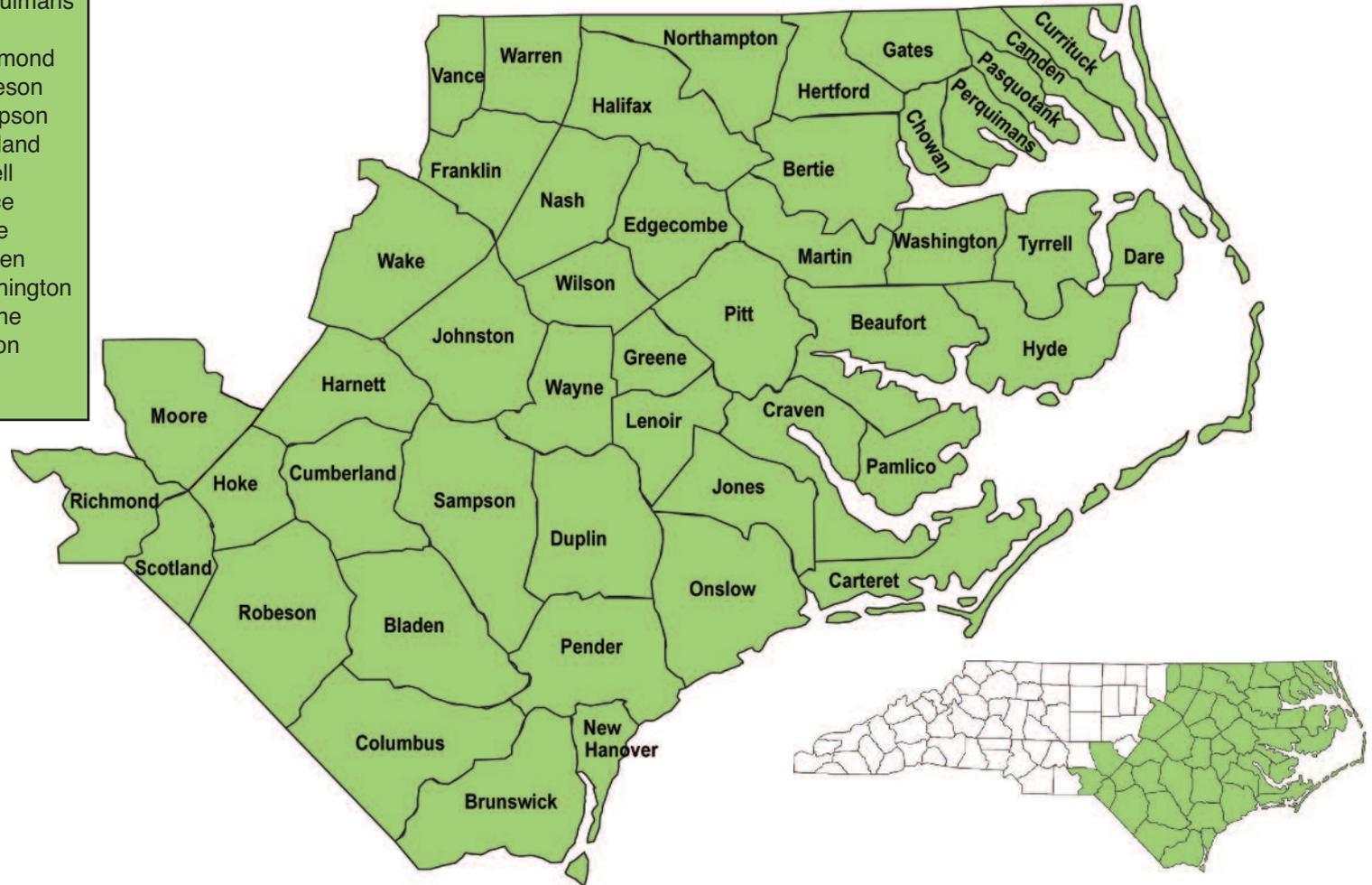
Does not include Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek and Sandhills game lands. (See Game Lands section.)

Gun Either-Sex Season*

(Maximum Season)

Oct. 15, 2016 – Jan. 2, 2017

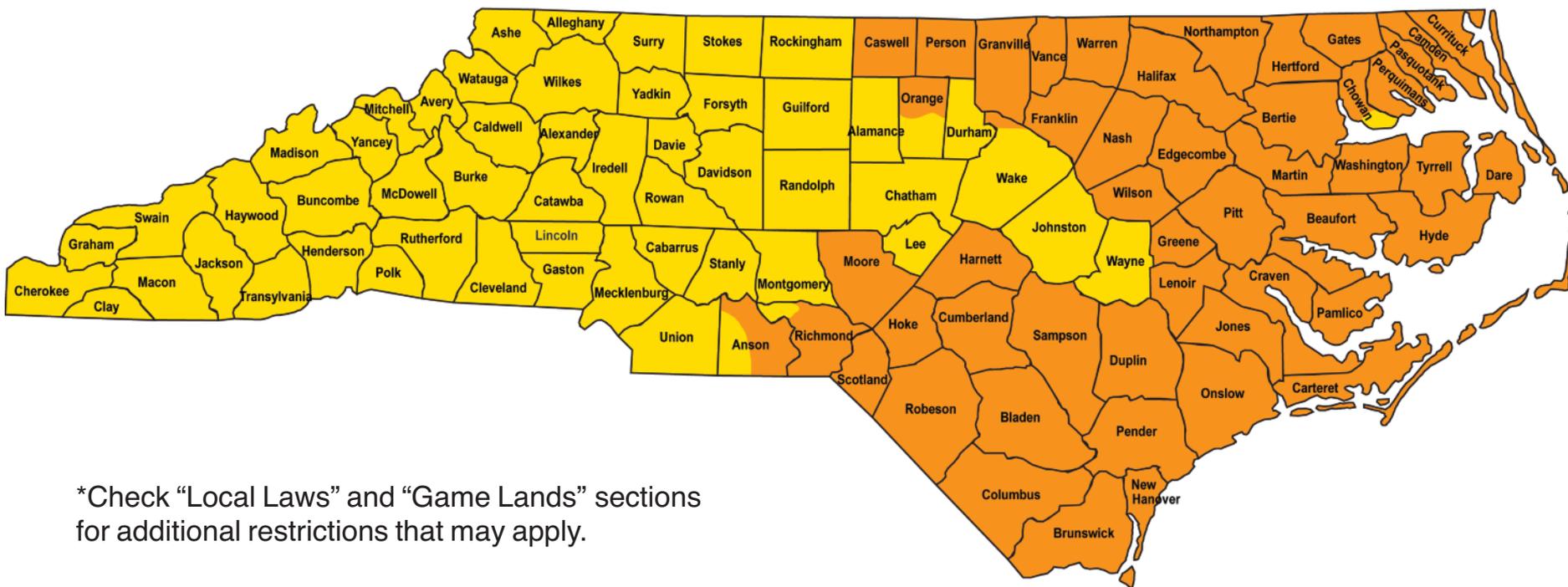
Beaufort	Greene	Pasquotank
Bertie	Halifax	Pender
Bladen	Harnett	Perquimans
Brunswick	Hertford	Pitt
Camden	Hoke	Richmond
Carteret	Hyde	Robeson
Chowan	Johnston	Sampson
Columbus	Jones	Scotland
Craven	Lenoir	Tyrrell
Cumberland	Martin	Vance
Currituck	Moore	Wake
Dare	Nash	Warren
Duplin	New Hanover	Washington
Edgecombe	Northampton	Wayne
Franklin	Onslow	Wilson
Gates	Pamlico	



*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

DEER HUNTING WITH USE OF DOGS

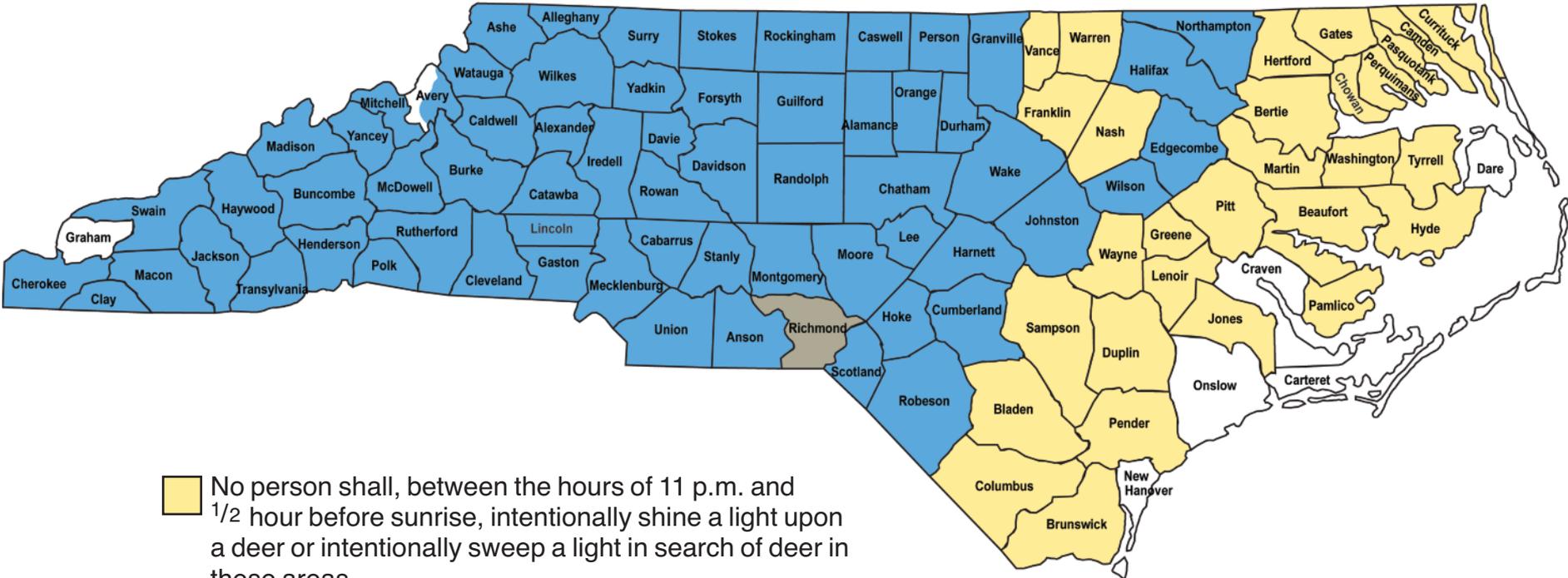
- Allowed*
- Prohibited by state and/or local law



*Check “Local Laws” and “Game Lands” sections for additional restrictions that may apply.

Note: See “Manner of Taking: Hunting with Dogs” section on pages 43– 44 for the allowed /prohibited boundaries within split counties.

SHINING LIGHTS IN DEER AREAS



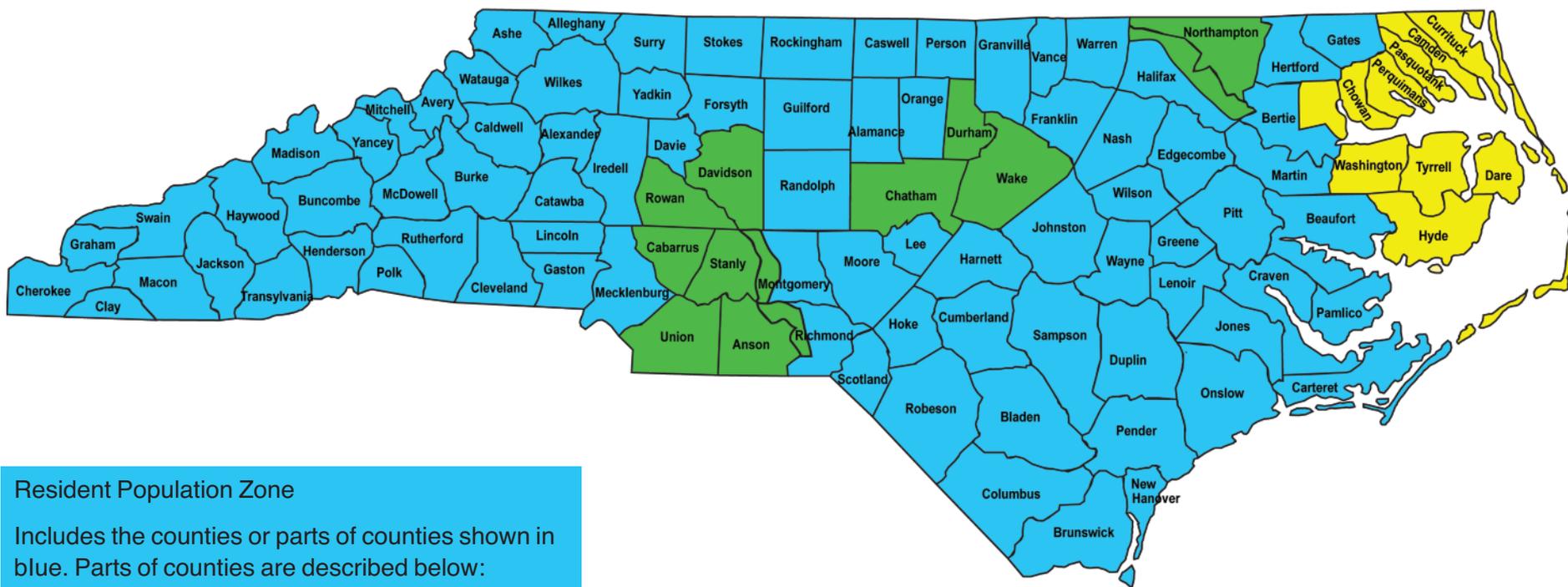
- No person shall, between the hours of 11 p.m. and 1/2 hour before sunrise, intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of deer in these areas.

- No person shall, between the hours of 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise, intentionally shine a light upon a deer or intentionally sweep a light in search of a deer in these areas.

- Unlawful to shine a light intentionally upon a deer or to sweep a light in search of a deer at any time.

No local light laws as of Jan. 1, 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA GOOSE ZONES



Resident Population Zone

Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in blue. Parts of counties are described below:

Bertie: that portion south and west of a line formed by N.C. 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway. U.S.17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor. U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford Co. line

Halifax: that portion west of N.C. 903

Montgomery: that portion east of N.C. 109

Richmond: all of the county except that portion that is south of N.C. 73 and west of U.S. 220 and north of U.S. 74

Southern James Bay Hunt Zone

Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in green. Parts of counties are described below:

Halifax: that portion east of N.C. 903

Montgomery: that portion west of N.C. 109

Richmond: that portion that is south of N.C. 73 and west of U.S. 220 and north of U.S. 74

Northeast Hunt Zone

Includes the counties or parts of counties shown in yellow. Parts of counties are described below:

Bertie: that portion north and east of a line formed by N.C. 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway. U.S.17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford Co. line

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~~ (text edited for clarification only) with 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 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.troutmanncc.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).
 - By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location (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 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.
- 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

Brunswick	Johnston	Pitt	Wayne
Cumberland	Jones	Richmond	Wilkes
Duplin	Lenoir	Sampson	

RABBIT

Nov. 19 – Feb. 28 (hunting and box-trapping*)
Daily limit 5; No possession or season limits

*A trapping license is not required to box-trap rabbits, but a valid hunting license is necessary.

QUAIL

Nov. 19 – Feb. 28
Daily limit 6; Possession 12; Season, no limit

GROUSE

Oct. 17 – Feb. 28
Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

BOBCAT

Oct. 17 – Feb. 28
No limits

GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), ARMADILLO AND FERAL SWINE (HOGS)

There is no closed season or bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls for coyotes and feral swine.

- Feral swine may be hunted at night with lights.
- Coyotes may be hunted at night except in the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington. In those five counties, the following apply:
-hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset
-all coyote hunting requires a permit
-permits can be obtained at ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-888-248-6834
-all coyote harvests must be reported.

See page 60 for more information about coyote hunting in the five counties listed above.

PHEASANT

Nov. 12 – Feb. 1 (male pheasant only)
Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

FOX

Year Round (including Sundays)

- Must be taken with dogs only; no limits.
- Local laws may restrict hunting foxes with dogs. See the “Fox Season Hunting and Trapping Laws” publication at ncwildlife.org or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.

Nov. 12 – Jan. 2

Daily limit 2; Season 10

This season applies as follows:

- In those counties and parts of counties east of I-77 where local laws do not prohibit the taking of foxes or that do not have established fox seasons and Mitchell and Caldwell County.
- Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.
- In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.

Jan. 7 – 28, 2017

Daily limit 2; Season 10

- Foxes may be taken in the counties listed below by legal weapons and may be sold after being properly tagged (refer to page 10 for more information on fox tags):

Clay	Macon
Graham	Tyrrell
Henderson	

- Hunters must possess fox tags prior to harvesting foxes during this season.

There is no open weapons hunting season in any other county except where provided by local laws. To see if your county has a hunting season on foxes, visit ncwildlife.org/foxseasons, or call 919-707-0050 to request a copy.

EXTENDED SEASON FOR TAKE BY FALCONRY

Oct. 7 – Feb. 28 (Applies only to rabbits)

Outside of Regular Season Dates:

Rabbits: Daily limit 3; Possession limit 6

Regular species bag limits apply during regular seasons.

BEAVER

There is an open season for taking beaver with firearms or bow and arrow during any open season for the taking of wild animals, provided that permission has been obtained from the owner or lessee of the land on which the beaver is being taken.

CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31

No limits.

This applies to domestically raised birds (mallard ducks and upland game birds) only.

No wild turkey may be taken.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Migratory Birds Protected Federal laws protecting migratory birds (songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl) take precedence over state laws. Before any migratory birds may be taken or killed during the closed season, a federal permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Permits Section in Atlanta, Ga. at 404-679-7070 for information. During the May 1– Aug. 31 time period, depredation permits issued directly from the Wildlife Resources Commission are available when Canada geese are depredating in commercial agriculture situations. Contact the Commission at 919-707-0050 for more information. Federal seasons and bag limits on migratory game birds are adopted as state regulations.

Colonial Water Bird Nesting Areas Coastal islands and beach areas posted as “Colonial Water Bird Nesting” areas are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons and egrets. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from April 1–Aug. 31, except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from Sept. 1–March 30 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – HUNTING STAMPS AND PRIVILEGES

Harvest Information Program (HIP) All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (dove, rails, woodcock, snipe or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have certification of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Certification can be obtained free of charge by going online at ncwildlife.org, calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent.

Migratory Bird Hunting And Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older, must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or federal duck stamp,

BEFORE YOU SHOOT...

Know the Differences between Red Wolves and Coyotes

While they may look similar, coyotes and red wolves are considered two different species with different levels of protection. Red wolves (*Canis rufus*) are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. Red wolves are also state listed as a threatened species. No hunting, trapping or harassing of red wolves is allowed except when permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. While coyotes (*Canis latrans*) may be taken statewide on private lands day or night and on state lands during daytime in the rest of the state, on private lands in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties, coyote hunting is daytime only and requires a permit. Apply for a coyote hunting permit online at www.ncwildlife.org/coyote or call 1-888-248-6834. Any coyote shot in the five-county area must be reported to the Wildlife Resources Commission, as detailed on the permit, within 24 hours. If a red wolf is shot incidentally, you must report the shooting to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Wildlife Resources Commission at 1-800-662-7137 within 24 hours. **Know your target before you shoot.**



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF USFWS

RED WOLVES ARE:

- Approximately 5' long from nose to tail
- Mostly brown and buff colored with some black on back; often reddish color behind ears, on muzzle and toward back of legs
- Tall, pointed ears
- Long, slender legs with large feet



COYOTES ARE:

- Approximately 3' long from nose to tail
- Varying in color ranging from buff, brown, grey or black
- Longer, narrower muzzle

► ATTENTION COYOTE HUNTERS! ◀

We are asking hunters who harvest a coyote in Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell and Washington counties to participate in the Canid Cooperator Program to help us monitor the coyote population in the area. Pull a tuft of hair from any coyote you harvest. Fill out a data sheet and submit it, along with the tuft of hair, to: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Wildlife Management Division, 1722 MSC, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Your information allows our biologists to better monitor coyote populations, make management decisions and evaluate the impact of coyote harvests in the five-county area. Learn more about the Canid Cooperator Program, and download a data sheet: www.ncwildlife.org/coyote.



ncwildlife.org/coyote

signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.) Refer to page 9 for more information.

North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to the federal duck stamp. Refer to the "License Types" section on page 5 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

North Carolina Duck Stamp Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year's duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes; call 888-248-6834 for more information.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – SEASONS

Shooting Hours: Unless otherwise specified, shooting hours for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Possession Limits: Possession Limits for all migratory game birds including waterfowl are 3 times the daily limit unless otherwise specified.

DOVE (includes Mourning Dove and White-winged Dove)

Sep. 3 – Oct. 8 & Nov. 21 – Jan. 14

Daily limit 15; either singly or in the aggregate for mourning doves and white-winged doves

RAILS (includes King, Clapper and Virginia Rails and Sora)

Sep. 1 – Oct. 1 & Oct. 14 – Nov. 21

Daily Limit 15 King or Clapper Rails either singly or in the aggregate
Daily Limit 25 Virginia Rails or Sora either singly or in the aggregate

GALLINULE AND MOORHEN

Sep. 1 – Oct. 1 & Oct. 14 – Nov. 21

Daily Limit 15 Gallinules and Moorhens either singly or in the aggregate

WOODCOCK

Dec. 15 – Jan. 28

Daily Limit 3

COMMON SNIPE

Nov. 14 – Feb. 28

Daily Limit 8

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON (includes Green-winged teal, Blue-winged teal and Cinnamon teal)

Sep. 10 – Sep. 28

Daily Limit 6

The September Teal Season is open only in that area east of U.S. Highway 17.

DUCKS

Oct. 5 – 8, Nov. 12 – Dec. 3 & Dec. 17 – Jan. 28

Daily limit 6 with the following restrictions: no more than 4 mallards (2 hen mallards), 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks, 1 black or mottled duck (season closed until Nov. 19) and 1 fulvous whistling duck.

The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

COOTS

Season dates same as ducks

Daily limit 15 coots

MERGANSERS

Season dates same as ducks

Daily limit 5 mergansers with no more than 2 hooded mergansers

SEA DUCKS (in special sea duck area only)

Nov. 21 – Jan. 28

Daily limit 5 with no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks and 4 eiders

- The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and long-tailed ducks), except during the regular duck season shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks, and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.
- Because sea ducks are limited to 60 days of hunting exposure in any area, there will be certain dates and locations where sea ducks may or may not be taken. Please see the following:

<p>General Duck Season Open Special Sea Duck Season Closed (Oct. 5 – Oct. 8 & Nov. 12 – Nov. 19)</p>	<p>General Duck Season Closed Special Sea Duck Season Open (Dec. 5 – Dec. 16)</p>	<p>General Duck Season Open Special Sea Duck Season Open (Nov. 21 – Dec. 3 & Dec. 17 – Jan. 28)</p>
<p>Sea ducks cannot be taken in the special sea duck area, but can be taken everywhere else. The general bag limit of six ducks with no more than four scoters, four long-tailed duck and four eiders applies. Although sea ducks may not be taken in the special sea duck area during this time, other ducks may be taken in this area.</p>	<p>Sea ducks can be taken only in the special sea duck area, but cannot be taken in other locations. The special sea duck bag limit applies and consists of five sea ducks with no more than four scoters, four long-tailed ducks and four eiders.</p>	<p>Sea ducks can be taken anywhere. Hunters should remember that the special sea duck limit applies when hunting in the special sea duck area and the general bag limit applies when hunting in all other areas. When both seasons overlap, the special sea duck bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks.</p>

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON

Sep. 1 – Sep. 30

Daily bag 15

- In that area west of U.S. Highway 17 only, expanded hunting methods are allowed for Canada geese. These include: shooting hours are extended to ½ hour after sunset, unplugged guns are allowed, electronic calls are permitted. This applies to this area only during the month of September.

DARK GEESE (includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese)

see Goose Zone Map on Page 55

Resident Population Zone

Oct. 5 – Oct. 15, Nov. 12 – Dec. 3 & Dec. 17 – Feb. 11

Daily bag 5

Southern James Bay Zone

Oct. 5 – Nov. 4 & Nov. 12 – Dec. 31

Daily bag 5

Northeast Hunt Zone (by permit only)

Jan. 13 – Jan. 28

Daily bag 1

Refer to ncwildlife.org/permithunt for information.

TUNDRA SWAN (by permit only)

Nov. 12 – Jan. 31

Bag limit 1 per season with special permit

A limited number of permits will be issued to hunt tundra swans.

Permits will be issued by a random drawing authorizing each permit holder to harvest one tundra swan. The following regulations apply.

- The permit and tag are not transferrable and are valid only for the person whose name appears on the permit. It is unlawful to possess a swan permit or tag while hunting that was assigned to another person, or to alter the permit or tag in any way other than cutting out the proper month and day of kill.
- The permit must be canceled by cutting out both the month and day of kill immediately at the time and place of the kill.
- The permit must be affixed to the harvested swan in accordance with instructions provided with the permit.
- The permit must be carried on one's person while hunting or, if in possession of a swan, the permit must be affixed to the swan.

Every hunter receiving a swan permit will also receive a questionnaire.

If the hunter does not return that completed questionnaire to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1, that hunter will be ineligible for a tundra swan permit the following season.

Refer to ncwildlife.org/permithunt for information.

LIGHT GEESE (includes Snow geese, Blue geese and Ross' geese)

Regular Season

Oct. 11 – Feb. 11

Daily bag 25; no possession limit

Conservation Order Season (by permit only)

Feb. 13 – March 31

Daily bag none; no possession limit

- During the Conservation Order Season for light geese, expanded hunting methods are allowed. These include the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls. In addition, shooting hours are extended until ½ hour past sunset.
- To learn more or to apply for a permit after July 1, go to ncwildlife.org/lightgoose

BRANT

Dec. 17 – Jan. 28

Daily bag 1

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY(S)

Feb. 4 & Feb. 11

Waterfowl hunting outside the regular season is allowed on the day(s) officially designated as "Youth Waterfowl Day." Legal species include ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules and coots. The youth must have a valid permit to hunt tundra swans and Canada geese (NE Hunt Zone only).

Youth under the age of 18 may participate in accordance with the guidelines listed below:

- Youth under the age of 16 who have obtained a Hunter Education Certification must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.
- Youth under the age of 16 who have not successfully completed a Hunter Education Course must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older.
- Youth age 16 & 17 must be properly licensed, must have HIP certification and a federal duck stamp and must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.
- The youth age provision that authorizes those under the age of 18 to hunt is specific to Youth Waterfowl Days. Any other day, the youth age provision is under the age of 16.
- Accompanying adults that are properly licensed may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons on youth waterfowl days.

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS

DOVE (extended falconry season)

Oct. 15 – Oct. 31

Daily bag 3

KING, CLAPPER AND VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA, GALLINULE AND MOORHEN (extended falconry season)

Dec. 3 – Jan. 7

Daily bag 3

WOODCOCK (extended falconry season)

Nov. 5 – Dec. 3 & Feb. 1 – Feb. 28

Daily bag 3

DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS (extended falconry seasons)

Oct. 25 – Nov. 5 & Jan. 31 – Feb. 18

Daily bag 3

- Falconers may also hunt during the applicable gun seasons for migratory game birds. The daily bag and possession limits of 3 and 9 respectively, also apply while hunting during the gun seasons
- Falconry hours for all species are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset
- Falconry for migratory game birds is not allowed on Sunday
- Daily bag and possession limits are for all species singly or in the aggregate. For example, if the applicable seasons are open a daily bag may consist of 3 doves or 1 dove, 1 duck and 1 woodcock for a total of 3 migratory game birds

CROW SEASONS

Season	Bag Limits
Aug. 1, 2016 - Feb. 28, 2017-Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week.	No restriction
June 1, 2017-July 30, 2017-Wednesday Friday and Saturday of each week.	
Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday.	

Nontoxic Shot Requirements In North Carolina, no person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel or other approved nontoxic materials. On posted waterfowl impoundments on game lands, it is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting; except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Nontoxic shot is required for the taking of captive-reared mallards on shooting preserves, in field trials and during bona fide dog-training activities.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds. **No persons shall take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased except in pursuit of wounded waterfowl in special sea duck areas;
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;

- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl, coots and cranes**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Non-toxic Shot No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for blackpowder) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php

Opening Day of a Season No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field Possession Limit No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Tagging Requirement No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Custody of Birds of Another No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Termination of Possession Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

Gift of Migratory Game Birds No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took

the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

Transportation of Birds of Another No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Species Identification Requirement No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

Marking Package or Container No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp. More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge-specific regulations see <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>

DEFINITIONS

Migratory Birds are birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks, geese (including brant), swans, doves and pigeons, cranes, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock and snipe, if there is an open season.

Daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

Aggregate daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

Possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

Aggregate possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of

species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

Personal abode means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

Migratory bird preservation facility means:

- (1) Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
- (2) Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
- (3) Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

Baited area means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for 10 days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

Natural vegetation means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.