

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Walleye		
- All other public fishing waters except those listed below	None	8
- Lake James and tributaries	15-inch minimum	8
- Linville River upstream from N.C. 126 bridge	None	4
- Lake Gaston	18-inch minimum	5
- Roanoke Rapids Reservoir		
- John H. Kerr Reservoir		
Muskellunge		
- All public fishing waters	42-inch minimum	1
Sauger		
- All public fishing waters	15-inch minimum	8
Kokanee salmon		
- All public fishing waters	None	7
All other warmwater game fishes		
- All public fishing waters	None	None

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
HATCHERY SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS			
Aug. 1, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017 7 a.m. April 1, 2017 – July 31, 2017 -All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017 **No fishing allowed -All Hatchery Supported Trout Waters not listed below	**	**	**
No closed season -Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area -Power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs	None	7	None
WILD TROUT WATERS			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook.
WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT WATERS			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait.
DELAYED HARVEST TROUT WATERS			
Oct. 1, 2016 – June 2, 2017 **No trout may be possessed **No fishing allowed from ½ hour after sunset on June 2, 2017, to 6 a.m. on June 3, 2017	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. **
Aug. 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2016 June 3, 2017 – July 31, 2017 (Note: youth under 16 years old only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 3, 2017)	None	7	None
CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
CATCH AND RELEASE / ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	**	Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS			
No closed season -Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam	Only one fish may be greater than 14 inches long	7	None
UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS			
No closed season	None	7	None

*See page 22 for a definition of artificial lure and natural bait

STATE FISH HATCHERIES

- It is unlawful to fish at any time in the waters or on the property of any state fish hatchery, including Bones Creek from the Lake Rim Dam to the U.S. 401 Bypass (Raeford Road), except McKinney Lake Reservoir at McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery.

Fishing on Game Lands

- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
 - Re-stocked ponds when posted against fishing.
 - Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
 - Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
 - Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.
- In all game lands ponds, forked-tail catfish may be taken only by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is six catfish for all species combined.
- The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots, is prohibited in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 42) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally from designated waterfowl impoundments on game lands with hand-held lines with single baits and a collapsible crab trap with a maximum opening of 18 inches. The limit is 50 crabs per person, per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

Brook, brown and rainbow trout require cold, clean water and are therefore generally restricted to mountain streams and lakes. Those mountain waters that support trout and are open to public fishing are designated as “Public Mountain Trout Waters” by the Wildlife Resources Commission and are managed for public trout fishing. A significant amount of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed for public access for fishing. Please respect their property. Your cooperation is needed to protect fishing opportunities for future generations. The Commission conspicuously marks Public Mountain Trout Waters with regulation signs that indicate locations for public access. When anglers encounter “posted against trespass” signs along these designated sections on private lands, they should respect the property owner’s rights and choose another location along that stream to fish. Maps of trout water and their classifications may be viewed at ncwildlife.org/fishing/trout.

Fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters

- Fishing is limited to hook and line only.
- An **artificial lure** is defined as a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated with any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- **Natural bait** is defined as any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- It is unlawful to take fish bait or bait fish from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to possess natural bait while fishing Wild Trout and Catch and Release waters, unless those waters are also specifically classified for use of natural bait.

- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to fish with more than one line per person, except on power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs.
- Fishing is not allowed in Hatchery Supported Trout Waters during the closed season except in the Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and on power reservoirs and municipal water supply reservoirs designated as trout waters.
- Non-trout species may be harvested from Delayed Harvest Trout Waters during the catch-and-release only trout season under applicable size and creel limits.
- It is unlawful to place hatchery-reared fish into Wild Trout Waters or move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization.
- Information and regulations about trout fishing on game lands are listed on page 28.

Trout Fishing in Undesignated Waters

Some waters that are not designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters contain mountain trout. When fishing in undesignated waters, there is no size limit or bait restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. A trout fishing license is not required to fish undesignated waters, and there is no closed season.

Public Mountain Trout Waters

Public Mountain Trout Waters are classified for management purposes as either “Hatchery Supported Trout Waters” or “Wild Trout Waters.” Hatchery Supported Trout Waters must be stocked periodically with trout to sustain angling. Wild Trout Waters are high-quality waters that sustain trout populations by natural reproduction. Some Public Mountain Trout Waters are specially regulated to meet specific management objectives. These are further classified as follows:

- “Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters”
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters”
- “Delayed Harvest Trout Waters”
- “Special Regulation Trout Waters”
- “Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters”

Some of these public trout waters are also classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and are identified on page 28.

Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-and-gold signs.

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with purple-and-gold signs.

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures with one single hook, no natural bait may be possessed, and no trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters between Oct. 1, 2016 and 30 minutes after sunset on June 2, 2017. These waters are closed to fishing between 30 minutes after sunset on June 2 and 6 a.m. on June 3. At 6 a.m. on June 3, 2017, these waters open to fishing for youths under 16 years old under Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations—no bait restriction, no minimum length limit and seven-trout-per-day creel limit. At 12 p.m. on June 3, 2017, these waters open for all anglers under Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations. These waters are marked with black-and-white signs.

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

In Hatchery Supported Trout Waters there is no size limit or bait restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. These waters are marked with green-and-white signs.

Special Regulation Trout Waters

These portions of Public Mountain Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, are subject to watercourse-specific, special regulations. These streams are marked with white-and-red signs.

Wild Trout Waters

In all Wild Trout Waters, the minimum length limit is seven inches and the creel limit is four trout per day. Only artificial lures with one single hook may be used. All Public Mountain Trout Waters located on game lands are Wild Trout Waters unless classified and posted otherwise. Wild Trout Waters are marked with blue-and-gold signs.

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

These waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished with artificial lures or natural bait, except live fish. Lures and natural baits are restricted to one single hook. The minimum length limit is seven inches, and the daily creel limit is four trout. These streams are marked with brown-and-gold signs.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Big Pine Creek
 Bledsoe Creek
 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against trespassing)
 Cranberry Creek
 (Big) Glade Creek
 Little River (275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)

Meadow Fork
 Pine Swamp Creek
 Piney Fork
 Prathers Creek

Wild Trout Waters

Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
 Stone Mountain Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

ASHE COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)
 Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)
 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge)

Trout Lake

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
 Nathans Creek

North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
 Roan Creek
 Three Top Creek

AVERY COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters

Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Wilson Creek (game land portion)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Boyde Coffey Lake
 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)
 Milltimber Creek
 North Toe River —upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
 North Toe River—lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)

Squirrel Creek

Wildcat Lake

Wild Trout Waters

Birchfield Creek
 Cow Camp Creek
 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
 Gragg Prong
 Horse Creek
 Kentucky Creek
 North Harper Creek
 Plumtree Creek
 Roaring Creek
 Rockhouse Creek
 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
 South Harper Creek
 Webb Prong

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Carter Creek (game land portion)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
 Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
 Lake Powhatan
 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
 Stony Creek
 Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)

BURKE COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Carroll Creek (portion on game lands above S.R. 1405)

Henry Fork (lower South Mountains State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)

Linville River (portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area (LGWA) and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek) There is no closed season within LGWA.

Special Regulation Trout Waters

Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam). The creel limit is seven trout per day; only one of which may be greater than 14 inches. No bait restrictions. No closed season.

Wild Trout Waters

All waters located on South Mountains State Park except Clear Creek Reservoir, the main stream of Jacob Fork between the mouth of Shinny Creek and the lower park boundary, and Henry Fork and its tributaries

Nettle Branch (game land portion)

CALDWELL COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Phillips Branch)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Boone Fork Pond

Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)

Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)

Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)

Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)

Wild Trout Waters

Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including tributaries on game lands)

Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)

Rockhouse Creek

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)

Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)

Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)

Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy. [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee line)

Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

Bald Creek (game land portions)

Dockery Creek (game land portions)

North Shoal Creek (game land portions)

CLAY COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Fires Creek (USFS Road 340A to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)

Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)

Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)

GRAHAM COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

(Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Road 2579)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
Cheoah Reservoir

Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)

Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)

(Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)

Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)

Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)

West Buffalo Creek

Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah Hydropower Pipeline to Cheoah River)

Wild Trout Waters

Little Buffalo Creek

South Fork Squally Creek

Squally Creek

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

Deep Creek

Franks Creek

Long Creek (game land portion)

HAYWOOD COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)

Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespass)

Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)

Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)

West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

Hemphill Creek

Hurricane Creek (including portions of tributaries on game lands)

HENDERSON COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

North Fork Mills River (Hendersonville watershed dam to the lower game land boundary)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

(Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford Co. line)

Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)

Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)

Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)

(Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)

JACKSON COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Flat Creek

Tuckasegee River (above the Clark property)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

- Balsam Lake
- Bear Creek Lake
- Cedar Cliff Lake
- Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
- Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
- Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
- Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
- Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against trespassing)
- Tanasee Creek Lake
- Tuckasegee River—upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
- Tuckasegee River—lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
- Wolf Creek Lake

Wild Trout Waters

- Gage Creek
- North Fork Scott Creek
- Tanasee Creek
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

- Buff Creek
- Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
- Scotsman Creek (game land portion)

MACON COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

- Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

- Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
- Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
- Cliffside Lake
- Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
- Nantahala River—upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
- Nantahala River—lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
- Queens Creek Lake

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

- Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
- Kimsey Creek
- Overflow Creek (game land portion)
- Park Creek
- Tellico Creek (game land portion)
- Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)

MADISON COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

- Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
- Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
- Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Avenue)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

- Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill watershed boundary to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Road] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
- Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
- Max Patch Pond
- Meadow Fork Creek (S.R. 1165 to Spring Creek)
- Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)
- Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- Shut-in Creek
- Spillcorn Creek
- Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Road 223)
- West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek)

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

- Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)

MCDOWELL COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

- Newberry Creek (game land portion)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

- Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
- Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

- Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler lower line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)

MITCHELL COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

- Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

- Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- East Fork Grassy Creek
- Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
- North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)

Wild Trout Waters

- Green Creek (above Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
- Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

POLK COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

- Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)

North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

(Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

STOKES COUNTY

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)

SURRY COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Ararat River (portion adjacent to Ararat River Greenway)

Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)

Big Elkin Creek (Dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])

Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to Interstate 77 bridge)

Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)

Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)

Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)

SWAIN COUNTY

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)

Cheoah Reservoir

Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)

Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)

Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Reservoir water level)

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters

Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River)

Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary line)

French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area)

Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)

West Fork French Broad River (Camp Cove Branch to confluence with North Fork French Broad)

Wild Trout Waters

All waters located on Gorges State Park

Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)

Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters

North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)

Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)

WATAUGA COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club including tributaries)

Laurel Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club and Powder Horn Mountain Development, including tributaries)

Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Road bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Lake Coffey

Watauga River – upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)

Watauga River – lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)

Beech Creek

Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)

Buckeye Creek Reservoir

Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1233 bridge at Amantha)

Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)

Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)

Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)

Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)

Middle Fork New River (Lake Chetola dam to South Fork New River)

Norris Fork Creek

South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower boundary of Brookshire Park)

Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)

Wild Trout Waters

Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)

Howard Creek

Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)

North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)

Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)

Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)

WILKES COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters

Dugger Creek (portion on Blue Ridge Mountain Club including tributaries)

Harris Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary)

Elk Creek—upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of Blue Ridge Mountain Club)

Elk Creek—lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains Development)

Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)

Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Bell Branch Pond

Boundary Line Pond

Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)

Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)

East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to **S.R. 1002 bridge**)

Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where posted against trespassing)

Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)

Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)

North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)

Pike Creek

Pike Creek Pond

South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)

South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to S.R. 1155 bridge)

Wild Trout Waters

Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

YANCEY COUNTY

Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters

South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek, including tributaries)

Upper Creek (headwaters to South Toe River, including tributaries)

Delayed Harvest Trout Waters

Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Road to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters

Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)

Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)

South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. recreation park, except where posted against trespassing)

Wild Trout Waters

Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Road to N.C. 197 bridge)

Licksillet Creek

Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Some Public Mountain Trout

Waters running through or adjacent to certain cities or towns may be further classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Any license that provides trout fishing privileges may be used to fish on Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Resident and nonresident anglers may instead purchase a three-day Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license valid only on Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. This license is \$5 for both residents and nonresidents and can be purchased online at ncwildlife.org or by calling 888-248-6834, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The following waters are classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and listed by county, Mountain Heritage Trout City name and regulation type. The boundaries for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are marked with signs posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

Ashe County

Lansing: Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

Todd: South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to S.R. 1351 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

Avery County

Newland: North Toe River (Watauga St. bridge to Roby Shomaker Wetlands and Family Recreation Park) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Haywood County

Maggie Valley: Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to S.R. 1309 bridge) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Waynesville: Richland Creek (Russ Avenue bridge to U.S. 19 bridge) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Jackson County

Dillsboro: Scott Creek (Hometown Place Road to Tuckasegee River) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Tuckasegee River (Falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge to Scott Creek) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Tuckasegee River (Savannah Creek to falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

Sylva: Scott Creek (Hospital Road to Hometown Place Road) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Webster: Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to Savannah Creek) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

Madison County

Hot Springs: Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Avenue) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

ATTENTION TROUT ANGLERS



Did you know **Eastern Hellbenders** (a.k.a. “water dogs”) are harmless, nonvenomous, giant, crayfish-eating, aquatic salamanders that are indicators of good water quality and healthy streams? Did you know that thriving, diverse fish populations and healthy hellbender populations go hand-in-hand?

The Wildlife Resources Commission wants to conserve this amazing mountain creature and needs your help. If you accidentally catch a hellbender on hook and line, please immediately release the animal at the spot of capture by carefully removing the hook or cutting the line as close as possible to the hook.

Water dogs need your help!

Let us know where you found a hellbender by calling 919-707-0050 so we can map their distribution. THANKS!

McDowell County

Old Fort: Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge)
[Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

Mitchell County

Bakersville: Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
[Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]
Spruce Pine: North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply]

Yancey County

Burnsville: South Toe River (property boundaries of the Yancey County Toe River Campground) [Hatchery Supported Trout Waters regulations apply]

Trout Fishing on Game Lands

- All waters on the game lands listed below are Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:
 - Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co.
 - Dupont State Forest Game Land in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake.
 - Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing.
 - Nantahala National Forest Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake.
 - Pisgah National Forest Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, and Spring Creek below USFS Road 223.
 - Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
 - South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
 - Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
 - Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
 - Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.

Trout Fishing on the Blue Ridge Parkway Angling opportunities on the Blue Ridge Parkway are managed by the National Park Service which establishes fishing regulations for parkway waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission aides with management by stocking catchable-size trout into the following waters:

County	Water
Alleghany	Brush Creek
Alleghany	Big Pine Creek
Alleghany	Meadow Fork
Avery	Linville River
Buncombe	Swannanoa River
Watauga	Middle Fork of the New River
Watauga	Price Lake

Specific fishing regulations are displayed on signs located near fishing access points, and all persons age 16 or older must possess a valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license to fish parkway

waters. In addition, the parkway provides wild and catch-and-release trout fishing, as well as, angling for bass and sunfish. For more information on fishing in parkway waters, contact: Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Telephone: 828-271-4779, or at their website: <http://www.nps.gov/blri/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

Trout Fishing on North Carolina State Parks Fishing in waters within a state park is limited to park operating hours. Additional park information may be obtained at ncparks.gov or by contacting the following park offices:

- South Mountains State Park 828-433-4772
- Stone Mountain State Park 336-957-8185
- Gorges State Park 828-966-9099

NONGAME FISH

Any fish not classified as a game fish is considered a nongame fish when found in inland fishing waters and includes shellfish and crustaceans.

Sale of Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish caught on hook and line, grabbling and by special fishing devices may be sold, subject to the following restrictions:
 1. Bowfin may not be sold.
 2. Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold, except for those fish less than six inches in length that are taken from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties).
 3. American eel less than nine inches in length taken from inland fishing waters may not be possessed or sold.
 4. In **Lake Tillery, Lake Wylie, Mountain Island Reservoir, Lake Norman and Badin Lake** the daily possession limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
 5. Blue crabs taken from inland fishing waters with a line containing multiple baits may not be sold.
 6. Seasons and size and creel limits for gray trout are the same as those recreational limits established by Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters. For current limits, see portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits or call 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632.
 7. Those listed under “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” on page 35.
 8. A special fishing device license is required when taking nongame fish with special fishing devices and also subject to restrictions listed under “Special Fishing Devices,” on page 30, “Seasons and Waters” on pages 31–35, and “Fishing on Game Lands” on page 22.
- The sale of commercially raised nongame fish is regulated by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Manner of Taking Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish may be taken by hook and line or by grabbling; no fish may be taken by snagging. Special devices may be used to take nongame fish with proper licenses (see “Special Fishing Devices,” page 30) in those counties and waters with open seasons (see “Seasons and Waters” pages 31–35).
- Nongame fishes may be taken year-round with archery equipment (see page 42) under any license that authorizes basic hunting or inland fishing privileges in waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land, Public Mountain Trout Waters, and reservoirs with restrictions on taking grass carp listed on page 29.
- For special rules governing trotlines, see “Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks” (page 18).