

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement

Instructions for Preparation

The Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) includes application information, an information table, a management summary sheet for each qualifying species, habitat type or management activity, and an agreement map. The agreement must be signed by the landowner(s) and authorized representatives of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Further documentation may be required for certain management practices or activities.

Application Information		
1.	Enter the county where the property is located.	
2.	Enter the full name of the landowner(s) as it appears on tax listing.	
3.	Enter the complete mailing address.	
4.	A telephone number is required. Alternate contact information is preferred but not required.	
5.	Identify the type of land ownership.	
6.	If the property address or location is different from the landowner mailing address, include either an address for the property or a location description.	
7.	List the name and contact information of all professional consultants or plan preparers involved in developing the agreement.	
Wildlife Conservation Land Information Table		
8.	Box 1	Enter the county parcel id for each property on which the classification is claimed.
	Box 2	List qualifying habitat type, protected species, or enter “wildlife reserve land.”
	Box 3	Enter the year the property was legally transferred to the current landowner.
	Box 4	Enter the total acres for the parcel listed per NC OneMap data.
	Box 5	Enter the total acres of qualifying land in each parcel per NC OneMap data.
	Box 6	Indicate if any qualifying acres are currently enrolled in a tax deferment program, including a Present Use Value program (PUV) or the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP).
<i>Complete additional rows when requesting designation for multiple qualifying criteria on the same parcel.</i>		
Management Summary Sheets		
Management summary sheets for each of the three WCLP enrollment criteria are included in this WHCA template. Complete and submit the appropriate management summary sheet for each applicable protected species, priority habitat type, or wildlife reserve land activity being used to qualify the land for WCLP. Each summary sheet must include a description of current conditions and provide detailed management recommendations to meet the intent of WCLP.		

Last Name: _____

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement Map	
A map of the property must be included in the WHCA. This map shall be of size, scale, and quality to positively delineate each the required components listed below. Failure to provide a suitable map will delay review and approval of the WHCA.	
Required Components of the Map	
A	A defined scale and north arrow
B	Property boundaries as defined by current county parcel data, compiled by NC OneMap
C	Area eligible for enrollment in WCLP
D	Area boundaries for each protected species, each priority habitat type, and/or wildlife reserve land
E	Features associated with species protection, protected habitats, and/or location of management activities on wildlife reserve land
F	Streams, lakes, ponds, rivers, or other wetlands
G	Names of public roads (if applicable)
Wildlife Reserve Land	
Complete and sign the “Declaration of Use for Wildlife Reserve Land” sheet if applicable.	

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement



When signed by the qualifying landowner(s) and authorized representatives of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), this agreement and any required supporting documentation shall be deemed a valid Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) for the purpose of inclusion in the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP) pursuant to North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15.

The applicant and the NCWRC agree that the lands and management actions identified in this agreement meet the legislative intent of one or more of the following:

Criterion 1 - conserve one or more protected species as defined in Title 15A NCAC 10I .0103, .0104, & .0105;

Criterion 2 - conserve one or more of the priority habitats listed in G.S. 105-277.15;

Criterion 3 - use as wildlife reserve land as defined in G.S. 105-277.15 and Title 15A NCAC 10L .0101.

NCWRC Principal Contact

Phone No.

Signature of NCWRC Supervising Biologist

Date

Print Name and Title

Signature of NCWRC Wildlife Habitat Coordinator

Date

Print Name and Title

Landowner Signature(s)

Date

Print Name(s) and Title for LLC or Trust Agreements

Last Name: _____

Application Information

1. **County/Counties:**

2. **Landowner Name:**

3. **Mailing Address:**

4. **Contact Information:
(include Area Code)**

Home:

Work:

Cell:

Email:

5. **Type of Ownership:**

☐ **Individual**

☐ **Tenants in Common**

☐ **Family Business**

☐ **Family Trust**

6. **Property Location:
(or physical address if
different from mailing
address)**

7. **Consultant or Plan
Preparer's Name and
contact information:
(if applicable)**

Last Name: _____

8. Wildlife Conservation Land Information Table

Refer to "Instructions for Preparation" section for guidance on completing this table.

1	2	3	4	5	6
County and Parcel ID#	List Protected Species*, Qualifying Habitat Type** or "Wildlife Reserve Land"	Year of Deed Transfer	Total Parcel Acres ***	Qualifying Acres ***	Are any qualifying acres currently enrolled in PUV or WCLP?
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
					<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Total Acres:

*Qualifying Species Lists	**Qualifying Habitat Types
Information on qualifying species can be found at ncwildlife.org/ETSC	Bat Cave Rock Outcrop Small Wetland Community Stream and Riparian Zone Early Successional Longleaf Pine Forest

*** Acreages determined using current GIS data compiled by NC OneMap ***

Official Use Only

Total Qualifying Acres:

Open Land*

Woodland

*Open waters (ponds, lakes, etc). should be included as Open Land

Signature of NCWRC Representative: _____

Last Name: _____

Insert Map Here

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 1: Species Protection

Species which qualify for this criterion have been identified by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission under the State Endangered Species Act (G.S. 113-331 to 113-337) or by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 to 1543). Animals listed as endangered, threatened and special concern under these statutes have very specific habitat needs or are declining due to other environmental factors. Specialized management is required to ensure habitat conditions remain suitable for these species.

Detailed information is required to ensure that the species is accurately identified and that prescribed management will properly address the listed species' needs. Observation of a species does not automatically qualify a property as Wildlife Conservation Land. Qualification for Criterion 1 requires that the agreement map defines the areas on the property being utilized by the listed species, evidence the species is living on the property, information about the person identifying the species, and detailed management prescriptions needed to sustain the species on the property.

List the qualifying species which will be protected and managed on the property:

Total acres managed for qualifying species: _____

Map symbol: _____

Species documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers biological evidence that this species lives on the property, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to sustain this species on the property. For migratory species, the land must provide breeding, wintering, and/or foraging habitat.

Include a separate management summary sheet and supporting information for each qualifying species addressed by this agreement.

Last Name: _____

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Bat Caves

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the bat cave habitat on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation showing the use of a cave by an aggregation of bats is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of the qualifying bat cave openings, as well as suitable buffers to protect the structure and function of the cave(s).

Total acres of bat cave habitat: _____

Cave(s) being used by a documented aggregation of bats

Number: _____

Map symbol: _____

Buffer needed to conserve structure and function of bat cave

Map symbol: _____

Habitat documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers biological evidence that bats currently utilize these caves, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the bat cave habitat type on this property.

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats – Early Successional Habitats

Indicate the strategies planned to protect, enhance, and manage early successional habitats on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation will be required to show how enrolled areas will be managed. Management recommendations must ensure the enrolled areas are composed primarily of native herbaceous plants.

Identify areas qualifying as early successional habitat on the WHCA map.

Total acres in early successional habitat: _____

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Existing early succession | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestland, basal area of 50 or less | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cropland to early succession* | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastureland to early succession* | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestland to early succession* | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | Map symbol: _____ |

Habitat documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

*Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers evidence that the area is currently qualifying early successional habitat (*see below for exception), and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to maintain the structure and function of early successional habitat on the property.*

**When converting from a present use value tax deferral program, management prescriptions must address transition to qualifying early succession habitat on the property.*

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Longleaf Pine Forests

Indicate the strategies planned to establish, protect, and manage the longleaf pine forest on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation will be required to show how enrolled areas will be managed. Management activities must ensure the understory of enrolled areas are dominated by native herbaceous plants.

Identify the areas qualifying as longleaf pine forest on the WHCA map.

Total acres in longleaf pine forest: _____

☐ Establishment of a longleaf pine stand Map symbol: _____
Trees per acre: _____

☐ Management of an existing stand Map symbol: _____
Current basal area: _____

Habitat documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

*Supporting information must be included which describes current site conditions, offers evidence the area is currently a qualifying longleaf forest (*see below for exception), and provides detailed management prescriptions which will maintain herbaceous groundcover within these stands.*

**When converting from a present use value tax deferment program, management prescriptions must address establishment of a qualifying longleaf pine forest in lieu of confirming current occurrence on the property.*

Last Name: _____

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Rock Outcrop

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the rock outcrop habitat on the property.
Note that supporting information/documentation which confirms these geological features meet the definition of a rock outcrop is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of applicable rock outcrop(s), as well as suitable buffers to protect the structure and ecological function of this habitat type.

Total acres of rock outcrop habitat: _____

Qualifying rock outcrop(s)

Number: _____

Map symbol: _____

Buffers needed to protect habitat type.

Map symbol: _____

Habitat documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers evidence that the outcrop(s) meet the biological intent of the program, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the rock outcrop habitat type on this property.

Last Name: _____

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Small Wetland Communities

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the small wetland communities on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation which confirms these aquatic features meet the definition of small wetland community is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of the qualifying wetlands, as well as suitable buffers to protect the structure and ecological function of the habitat.

Total acres in small wetland communities: _____

Small wetlands

Number: _____ Map symbol: _____

Buffer needed to conserve this habitat type. Map symbol: _____

Wetlands documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions, offers evidence that wetland(s) meet the biological intent of the program, and provides detailed management prescriptions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the small wetland communities on this property.

When converting from a present use value tax deferment program, management prescriptions must address establishment of a qualifying small wetland community in lieu of confirming current occurrence on the property.

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 2: Priority Habitats - Stream and Riparian Zones

Indicate the strategies planned to protect and manage the stream and riparian zones on the property. Note that supporting information/documentation which confirms these areas meet the definition of stream and riparian zones is required.

A map must be included indicating the locations of the qualifying streams and riparian zones needed to protect the structure and ecological function of the habitat.

Suitable stream buffers must be at least 15-feet wide with a maximum width of 300 feet or the width of the floodplain, whichever is greater. The riparian zone shall not extend beyond the watershed boundary as defined by the surrounding topography.

Total acres in stream and riparian zones: _____

Qualifying stream

Total linear feet: _____ Map symbol: _____

Riparian buffer

Total acres: _____ Map symbol: _____

Habitat documented by: _____ Date: _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact email: _____

Supporting information must be included which describes the current site conditions and offers evidence that the stream and riparian zone meet the biological intent of the program. In addition, detailed management prescriptions must be provided to outline the actions which will be implemented to conserve the structure and function of the streams and riparian buffers on this property.

Declaration of Use for Wildlife Reserve Land
(Criterion 3)

Wildlife reserve land is land that is actively and regularly used for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, other wildlife activities, and where wildlife management activities are implemented to sustain breeding, migrating, or wintering populations of native wild animals. Land primarily used or maintained for other human uses, such as lawns, horse pastures, golf courses, or land primarily and intensively managed for financial gain in non-wildlife oriented activities (e.g., agricultural commodities, forest products, solar panel arrays), will generally not qualify as wildlife reserve land.

Total acres in wildlife reserve land: _____

I declare and affirm that land included in this agreement as wildlife reserve land is designated for active and regular use for one or more of the following purposes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Shooting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Observation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Wildlife Associated Uses (please list below) | |

Landowner Signature

Date

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land - Supplemental Food

Indicate the planned method for providing supplemental food on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. Identify the maintenance practices needed to manage the food sources. Keep an activity log to document dates and extent of establishment, as well as maintenance activities, for supplemental food management. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by the local tax office.

Total acres in supplemental food: _____

Supplemental foods: existing or proposed (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food plot with appropriate herbaceous species: | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Plot established with native pollinator habitat: | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mast producing tree/shrub establishment: | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff): | Map symbol: _____ |

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach detailed management recommendations for supplemental food areas. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for supplemental food areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement
Supplemental Food: Establishment and Maintenance Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 9/6/19	Planted ladino clover	4 Acres	Planted clover in plots 2 and 3.

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land - Supplemental Water

Check the appropriate boxes below to indicate each type of supplemental water managed for on the property. Identify the maintenance practices which will be used to manage the supplemental water sources. Keep an activity log to document dates and descriptions of installation and maintenance activities for supplemental water. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Water body type(s):

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Perennial pond/lake: | Acres: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Impoundment w/ control structure: | Acres: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Intermittent pool: | Number: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff): Map symbol: _____ | | |

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach detailed management recommendations for supplemental water areas. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for supplemental water areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement

Supplemental Water: Establishment and Maintenance Log

Last Name: _____

[illegible]

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land - Supplemental Shelter

Indicate the planned method for providing supplemental shelter on the property. Document the shelter type and the number of shelters to be installed. Include the maintenance practices needed to manage the shelters in the management recommendations for this activity. Keep a log to document dates and extent of establishment and maintenance activities for supplemental shelter. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter type _____	Number: _____ Map symbol: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter type _____	Number: _____ Map symbol _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter type _____	Number: _____ Map symbol _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter type _____	Number: _____ Map symbol _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter type _____	Number: _____ Map symbol _____

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach detailed management recommendations for supplemental shelter areas. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for supplemental shelter areas.



Last Name: _____

[illegible]

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Habitat Control

Check the appropriate boxes below to indicate each type of habitat control implemented on the property. Keep an activity log to document dates and extent of installation and maintenance activities for habitat control. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Total acres in habitat control: _____

Management activities proposed or ongoing: (complete as needed)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Habitat type: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Habitat type: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Habitat type: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Habitat type: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Habitat type: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach management recommendations for each mapped habitat control area. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of management activities for habitat control areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement
Habitat Control: Establishment and Maintenance Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 9/7/19	Fell trees to open canopy	10 trees	Cut trees in area 1 and 2 to promote grape vine and green briar

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Erosion Control

Indicate the planned method to implement erosion control on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. Keep an activity log to document dates and descriptions of erosion control activities. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Management activities to address erosion on your property. (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streambank stabilization | Feet: _____ | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-stream channel stabilization | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grading, shaping, and vegetation to reduce erosion | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade, stabilize, water control structures on active roads | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filter strip installation | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian buffer installation | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment catch basin installation | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exclude future traffic from road | | Map symbol: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff) | | Map symbol: _____ |

-- Any single management practice may only be counted for one qualifying activity. --

Attach details of establishment and maintenance of erosion control areas.

Documentation:

- Attach activity log which shows dates and extent of establishment and maintenance activities for erosion control areas.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement
Erosion Control: Establishment and Maintenance Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample 6/27/19	Graded and seeded road	100 feet	Graded and crowned west access road. Seeded with 100 lbs. of brown top millet.

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Predator Control

Indicate the planned method to implement predator control on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. This management activity will be conducted across the entire enrolled property. Keep an activity log to document dates and descriptions of predator control activities. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Practices:

- ☐ Trapping in season by licensed trapper
- ☐ Trapping for species conservation
- ☐ Swine trapping/shooting to protect habitats
- ☐ Predator hunting
- ☐ Other (attach description for NCWRC approval)

Attach details of predator control activities required by this agreement. Use separate sheet if needed.

Documentation:

- Attach activity log which shows dates and extent of predator control activities.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement
Predator Control: Effort Log



Date	Practice	Amount	Additional Notes
Sample June 2019	Coyote Hunting	5 hours	Used electronic call and night visit to kill 3 coyotes
Sample July 2019	Swine trapping	4 hours	Met with USDA APHIS and signed contract to allow them access for pig trapping.

Management Summary Sheet

Criterion 3: Wildlife Reserve Land – Census of Animal Populations

Indicate the planned method to implement census of animal populations on the property by checking the appropriate boxes below. Keep an activity log to document dates and extent of participation in the selected survey projects. This log will be needed during periodic WHCA reviews specified in North Carolina G.S. 105-277.15, as well as inspections requested by local tax office.

Census / Survey opportunities

- ☐ [NC WRC Deer Hunter Observation Survey](#)
- ☐ [NC WRC Deer Jawbone Submission](#)
- ☐ [NC WRC Turkey Brood Survey](#)
- ☐ [NC WRC Avid Grouse, Quail, Rabbit Hunter Survey](#)
- ☐ [NC WRC Deer Management Assistance Program](#)
- ☐ [Bumble Bee Watch](#)
- ☐ [Native Buzz](#)
- ☐ [The Great Sunflower Project](#)
- ☐ [The Great Backyard Bird Count](#)
- ☐ [Christmas Bird Count](#)
- ☐ [NestWatch](#)
- ☐ [FrogWatch USA](#)
- ☐ [Osprey Watch](#)
- ☐ [eBird](#)
- ☐ [iNaturalist](#)
- ☐ [Project FeederWatch](#)
- ☐ [Journey North](#)
- ☐ Other (attach description for approval by NCWRC staff):

Documentation:

- Maintain activity log which shows dates and extent of survey efforts for population census.



Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement
Census of Populations: Effort Log

Last Name: _____

[illegible]