



Meeting Summary

JOINT MEETING WRC BIG GAME COMMITTEE WRC HABITAT, NONGAME, and ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMITTEE

January 11, 2012, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Centennial Campus, Raleigh

Attendees:

Durwood Laughinghouse-Chair HNGES
John Clark – Chair, BGC
Dell Murphy
Mark Craig
Wes Seegars
Steve Windham
John Coley
Thomas Berry
Dalton Ruffin
Hayden Rogers
David Hoyle
Joe Barker
Ray White
Mitch St. Clair
James Cogdell
Gordon Myers
Mallory Martin
David Cobb
David Sawyer
David Butts

Brad Howard
Perry Sumner
Kate Pipkin
Isaac Harrold
Carolyn Rickard
Chris Dillon
Betsy Foard
Brad Gunn
Lisa Hocutt
Dale Caveny
T. Jerry Williams
Joe McClees
Mark Beason
Russell Poole
J. R. Stone
Mickey Strader
Scott Robertson
Ken Bridle
Kevin O’Kane

10:00 a.m.

The joint meeting of the Big Game Committee (BGC) and the Habitat, Nongame, & Endangered Species Committee (HNGES) convened with introductory comments by committee chairmen John Litton Clark and Durwood Laughinghouse.

- 10:10 a.m. **Elk Management Goals.** Dr. David Cobb briefly reviewed a report entitled “Elk in North Carolina” previously presented to the WRC in August 2011, and work being initiated with the NCSU Coop Unit to evaluate elk habitat in N.C. The ensuing discussion focused primarily on goals for elk management in N.C. While members expressed a desire to see a population of elk established sufficient to support hunting, they also expressed interest in first clearly evaluating the costs and benefits of large-scale elk restoration. Staff was directed to continue the work with NCSU, to conduct a feasibility analysis for elk restoration on lands outside of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and to report back to the committees as soon as feasible.
- 10:40 a.m. **Alligator take by permit.** Dr. David Cobb briefly reviewed a report entitled “American alligators in North Carolina” previously presented to the WRC in August 2011. In addition, Dr. Cobb presented a written summary of federal and state legal considerations pertaining to establishment of an alligator hunting season and reviewed on-going collaborative work between the WRC and NCSU on the distribution and abundance of alligators. Staff was directed to continue the collaborative research and to prepare recommendations for removing legal barriers to establishment of an alligator hunting season in N.C.
- 11:00 a.m. The joint meeting was adjourned to a meeting with the Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee.