



AGENDA

N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

October 24, 2019

Cape Fear Ballroom Starboard Side

Hotel Ballast

301 North Water Street

Wilmington, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER - *Chairman David Hoyle, Jr.*

This meeting is being recorded as a public record. As a courtesy to others please turn off all cell phones during the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner Steve Windham*

INVOCATION - *Commissioner Tommy Fonville*

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS – *Chairman David Hoyle*

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY - North Carolina General Statute §163A-159(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquires as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman David Hoyle*

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 29, 2019 MINUTES – Take action on the August 29, 2019 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT A**)

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES -Take action on the September 12, 2019 Wildlife Resources Commission telephonic meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (**EXHIBIT B**)

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Status Report - Receive a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and Wildlife Endowment Fund –*Melissa Earp, Finance Office Chief* (**EXHIBIT C**)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report – *David Hoyle, Jr., Chair*

Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee Report – *Richard Edwards, Chair*

Finance Committee Report – *Landon Zimmer, Chair*

Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee Report – *John Stone, Chair*

Education, Shooting, and Archery Committee Report – *Joe Budd, Chair*

Land Acquisitions and Property Committee Report – *Tom Berry, Chair*

Big Game Committee Report – *John Coley, Chair*

Committee of the Whole Report – *Chairman David Hoyle*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – 2019 BOATING SAFETY UPDATE – *Major Ben Meyer, N.C. Boating Law Administrator, Law Enforcement Division*

WILDLIFE EDUCATION DIVISION UPDATE – Receive an update on the activities of the Wildlife Education Division – *Kris Smith, Wildlife Education Division Chief*

LAND AND WATER ACCESS SECTION

Rulemaking – 2020-2021 Game Land Rule Proposals – Consider staff recommendations for proposed changes in the 2020-2021 game land rule proposals to be presented at statewide public hearings – *Brian McRae, Land and Water Access Section Chief* (**EXHIBIT D-1**)

Fiscal Note for Proposed 2020-2021 Game Land Rules – Review and consider approval of the Fiscal Note for proposed changes in the 2020-2021 game land rules – *Brian McRae* (**EXHIBIT D-2**)

Land Acquisitions and Property Matters

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of two properties – *Jessie Birckhead, Land Acquisition and Grants Manager (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2)*

- McDowell Shooting Range Tract – McDowell County **(E-1)**
- Lahuis Tract – Henderson County **(E-2)**

Other Property Matters – Consider staff recommendation for disposition of the Gibson Fox Trial Facility in Scotland County– *Jessie Birckhead (EXHIBIT F)*

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Division Update - Receive an update on activities of the Inland Fisheries Division – *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

Rulemaking – Consider staff recommendations for proposed changes in the 2020-2021 fishing rules to be presented at statewide public hearings – *Christian Waters (EXHIBIT G-1)*

Fiscal Note for Proposed 2020-2021 Fishing Rules - Review and consider approval of the Fiscal Note for proposed changes in the 2020-2021 fishing rules – *Christian Waters (EXHIBIT G-2)*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Rulemaking - Consider staff recommendations for proposed changes in the 2020-2021 Wildlife Management rules to be presented at statewide public hearings – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief (EXHIBIT H-1)*

Fiscal Note for Proposed changes in the 2020-2021 Wildlife Management Rules – Review and consider approval of the Fiscal Note for proposed changes in the 2020-2021 wildlife management rules – *Brad Howard (EXHIBIT H-2)*

TEMPORARY RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking – 15A NCAC 10L .0101 Wildlife Reserve – Consider adoption of a temporary rule addressing the activities required for land to qualify for present-use value taxation as wildlife conservation land that creates and is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation or wildlife activities – *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator (EXHIBIT I)*

Temporary Rulemaking – 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees– Review public comments and consider adoption of a temporary rule moving all licenses, permits, stamps and certifications

issued and administer by the Commission and associated fees from statute to rule and adjust existing fees by the CPI-U – *Carrie Ruhlman* **(EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)**

2020 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Consider approval of the proposed 2020 Wildlife Resources Commission Meetings Schedule – *Gordon Myers, Executive Director* **(EXHIBIT K)**

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN – *Chairman David Hoyle*

COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Gordon Myers*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A
October 24, 2019



MINUTES
August 29, 2019
N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting
Raleigh, North Carolina

The August 29, 2019 N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting was called to order by *Commission Chairman* David Hoyle, Jr. at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters in Raleigh. Hoyle reminded everyone that the meeting audio is being streamed live and will be available on the Wildlife Resources Commission website. He requested that everyone silence electronic devices. Commissioner Ray Clifton was absent.

Commissioner Tommy Fonville led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hayden Rogers gave the invocation.

WELCOME AND MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Hoyle welcomed the Commissioners and guests. Chairman Hoyle advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in North Carolina General Statute §163A-159(e).

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

John Coley
Wes Seegars
Monty Crump
David Hoyle, Jr.
Tom Berry
Landon Zimmer
Mike Johnson
Richard Edwards
Nat Harris

Jim Cogdell
John Stone
Joe Budd
Brad Stanback
Tommy Fonville
Mark Craig
Hayden Rogers
Kelly Davis
Steve Windham

VISITORS

John Wallace

MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2019 MEETING

On a motion by Monty Crump and second by John Coley the Commission approved the July 18, 2019 Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) minutes as presented in **Exhibit A**. The Minutes are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Status Report - Melissa Earp, *Finance Office Chief*, presented a status report in **Exhibit B** on the Wildlife Operating Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund. As of June 30, 2019, the expenditures from the Wildlife Operating Fund are \$82,338,552.33 and the revenues are \$73,594,641.78. The Fund Balance as of July 1, 2019 is \$14,838,043.55. Balances in the Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2019 are \$104,422,052.47 in the Bond Index Fund and \$29,181,320.13 in the Equity Index Fund for a total of \$133,812,403.02. Expendable interest is \$31,451,754.16. Non-expendable interest is \$13,879,519.78. Expendable interest transferred to operations for the fiscal year is \$2,757,746.76. **Exhibit B** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boating Safety Committee Report – Mike Johnson, *Committee Chair*, reported that the Boating Safety Committee met on August 28, 2019. Three proposed water safety zone proposals were discussed for approval of Notice of Text – a Fiscal Note and a no-wake zone at Carolina Beach, a Fiscal Note and no-wake zone at Carova in Currituck County, and a marked swim area on Badin Lake in Montgomery County. The committee will recommend approval of the proposed water safety zones later in the meeting. Chairman Johnson reported that he has received reports of wake boats on inland waters and damages to shoreline and property. Staff will study the issue and report back to the Commission.

Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee Report – Wes Seegars, *Committee Vice Chair*, reported that the Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee met on August 28, 2019. Joe Fuller provided an overview of the zoning timeline for the 2021-2025 waterfowl seasons. An out-of-cycle Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee meeting is being planned. Sunday Hunting for migratory waterfowl may be discussed.

Finance Committee Report – Landon Zimmer, *Committee Chair*, reported that the Finance Committee met on August 28, 2019. Melissa Earp reviewed the Financial Status Report with Finance Committee members and explained what changes there have been to the amounts reported since reporting at the July meeting. Ms. Earp provided an overview of the Wildlife Endowment Fund for new committee members and discussed the return on investment for the Bond Index Fund and the Equity Index Fund investments of the Wildlife Endowment Fund over the period of June, 2018 to June 30, 2019. She reported a cumulative return on investment of 7.63% in bonds and 3.89% in equities for this period. Ms. Earp provided an update on the procurement process for the actuarial study the committee approved for completion at the April 2019 meeting. The purchase order was cut on August 7, 2019 and WRC IT has downloaded 10 years of license holder data and submitted it to the vendor this week. Chairman Zimmer requested that the Department of State Treasurer or Blackrock come to the next meeting to discuss the investments in the Wildlife Endowment Fund.

Land Acquisitions and Property Committee Report – Tom Berry, *Committee Chair*, reported that the Land Acquisitions and Property Committee met on August 28, 2019. The 2019-2020 Running Schedule for the J. Roger Gordon Sandhills Field Trial Area was discussed by Chris Jordan.

Motion from the LAP Committee: Tom Berry made a motion, seconded by Tommy Fonville, for the Executive Director to have the authority, beginning after today's meeting, to approve the Field Trial Schedule. The motion carried and is incorporated into the record of this meeting.

The Committee reviewed the spreadsheet of current land acquisition projects. Jessie Birkhead provided an update on a delay on funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the High Rock acquisition. The Committee endorsed staff's recommendation to utilize expendable interest from the Wildlife Endowment Fund as a stopgap to cover the delayed funds and allow us to proceed to closing.

Fisheries Committee Report – Tommy Fonville, *Committee Chair*, reported that the Fisheries Committee met on August 28, 2019. Doug Besler gave a presentation outlining existing managed trout fisheries and various considerations and options for providing year-round, catch and release stocked trout fisheries. Committee consensus was for staff to continue to evaluate potential opportunities for developing such fisheries and report back at a future Committee meeting. Christian Waters presented a high-level summary of the recent study conducted by Commission staff in collaboration with UNC-Wilmington to estimate the economic activity associated with inland recreational fishing. In 2017, inland fishing resulted in over four billion dollars of economic activity in North Carolina. Staff are working on developing a one-page report highlighting the report that can be shared. Gordon Myers and Jeremy McCargo provided an overview of the delineation of waters process. Jeremy then presented maps showing proposed boundary line changes between inland and coastal fishing waters developed using a salinity threshold of 2.6 parts per thousand. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to endorse the use of the maps as presented for a thorough review and assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed boundary line changes. The maps (**Exhibit E**) will be presented later in this meeting for consideration by the full Commission.

Big Game Committee Report - John Coley, *Committee Chair*, reported that the Big Game Committee met on August 28, 2019. Major Cameron Ingram provided an update on proposals for improvements to big game tagging and reporting. For deer harvest reporting, the committee supported Ingram's suggestion to notch the month and the day of the harvest tag, from noon to noon. The committee discussed future topics for committee meetings, including adding white-tail deer research, revised Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and inviting other states to participate in the management discussion, and second bear tags, party tags, and depredation permits.

Committee of the Whole Report – David Hoyle, Jr., *Chair*, reported that the Committee of the Whole met on August 28, 2019. The Committee received reviews of proposed rules for the next regulatory cycle for Inland Fisheries, Lands Management, and Wildlife Management, to be considered by the Commission at the October meeting. Brad Howard reviewed Exhibit F, a request for Notice of Text for temporary rulemaking for land to qualify for present-use value taxation as wildlife conservation land. Michael Smallwood provide an overview of consideration of final adoptions of Game Bird Propagators and Furbearer Propagation rules (Exhibits G and H) and final adoption of amendments for reptiles and amphibians (Exhibit I). The COW reviewed for approval the proposed Archery Zone at Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land.

Jessie Birkhead, *Land Acquisition and Grants Manager* and Hilary Morris, *User Support and Communications, USFWS South Atlantic and Southeast Conservation Blueprints*, provided an overview of land use maps. The Committee of the Whole endorsed moving the October WRC meeting to October 24, 2019, in Wilmington.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Back to the Woods, Back to the Water R3 Program (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation)

Chet Clark, *R3 Manager, Wildlife Education Division*, gave an update about the agency's R3 Program, that connects resources in the Wildlife Education Division to create a balanced and programmatically focused workforce to better serve the agency and constituents to recruit individuals for activities in the outdoors. The R3 program offers social support and incentives to connect people to wildlife resources and to mentors, to retain those who already participate, and to reactivate people who have stopped connecting to wildlife resources. Clark mentioned the additional employee resources that are being added to the program, including hunting and angling R3 specialists who assist persons with no prior experience, R3 skills development specialist, R3 shooting specialist, and the R3 watchable wildlife archery specialist who introduces interested persons to game land activities. The R3 Program philosophy is that discoveries of connections to wildlife resources are essential to wellbeing.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION DIVISION UPDATE

Kris Smith, *Wildlife Education Division Chief*, provided an update on the activities of the Division. The Division assisted the Law Enforcement Division with the first Boater Education Class in Spanish in Charlotte. Fourteen participants took and passed the test. The advanced Hunter Education Instructor Workshop was held August 23-25, 2019 at Lake Logan Conference Center in Canton. Seventy volunteer instructors from across the state assisted in sessions designed to enhance knowledge and teaching skills for Hunter Education programming. Citizen science at the Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education is ongoing, with 262 volunteers trained to monitor beaches from Nags Head to the Virginia state line for summer nesting and stranding activity. Fishing events at OBCWE have been held, including 26 Fishing the Sound classes with 497 participants and 25 Fish Sticks classes with 279 participants ages 2 to 6 years old. The Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education facilitate 20 fly fishing programs to 142 participants. Additionally, 20 Snorkeling in the Stream programs with 325 participants explored aquatic ecosystems while looking for game and nongame species of fish, as well as investigating water quality and river health. At the Pechmann Fishing Education Center, the first Boy Scouts of America Certified Angling Educator Workshop was held. Three staff members and seven volunteers attended the training to become the first CAIs in North Carolina and Virginia, and among the first in the nation. Four summer camps were held at the Pechmann Center with 39 participants, providing instruction in lure making, entomology, kayaking and fishing techniques for catching bass, bluegill, and Catfish. There were seventy participants in one beginner and three intermediate fly-tying programs.

LAND AND WATER ACCESS SECTION UPDATE

Brian McRae, *Land and Water Access Section Chief*, gave an update on the activities of the Land and Water Access Section. The Texas Plantation site is completed with three renovated impoundments and four new impoundments that have been created. Working with Ducks Unlimited, two pumps were installed, and ditches were cleaned. Four public meetings have been held for discussions of disability access to game lands. Social Scientist Chris Bova structured the meetings. The common theme was communication and topics of interest included the width of access gates and appropriate roads.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Field Trial Schedule – On a motion by Mike Johnson and second by John Coley, the Commission approved the 2019-2020 running schedule for the J. Robert Gordon Sandhills Field Trial Area, presented in **Exhibit C** by Chris Jordan, *Game Land and Forest Resource Manager*. **Exhibit C** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land – On a motion by Mike Johnson and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission approved **Exhibit D**, the proposed 72-acre Archery Zone at Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land. **Exhibit D** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

INLAND FISHERIES UPDATE

Christian Waters, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, presented an update on the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division. Renovation, maintenance, and development of new Public Fishing Access Areas is ongoing, in collaboration with WRC Engineering and Land and Water Access Section and multiple external partners. Waters mentioned aquatic habitat enhancements, specifically at reservoirs. Native vegetation is being planted after development of the ability to cultivate and grow beneficial plant species at the Sykes Depot and McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery. Artificial structures have been placed for habitat enhancement at Lake Gaston, Harris Reservoir, High Rock Lake, Lake Norman, and Lake Hickory. Waters reported that there have been fish kills in the Deep Reservoir connected to the introduction of Alewife and Blueback Herring. Lake Norman had a smaller kill, with twenty-plus Blue Catfish and three hybrid Striped Bass. An ongoing kill at Lake James is affecting Walleye populations. Waters explained that forage species migrate into deep cold water during the summer. Larger predator fish follow the forage and get trapped in a thin layer of oxygenated water. As oxygen levels naturally decline, fish die.

Draft Inland and Coastal Waters Delineation Maps – On a motion by John Stone and second by Monty Crump, the Commission approved the motion presented in **Exhibit E**, for the draft Inland and Coastal Waters Delineation maps showing proposed boundary line changes between Inland and Coastal fishing waters, based on salinity zones modeled using a salinity threshold of 2.6 ppt (parts per thousand), and the instruction for staff to examine potential impacts of such a delineation. **Exhibit E** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION UPDATE

On behalf of Brad Howard, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, Dr. Sara Schweitzer presented a review of the activities of the Wildlife Management Division. Schweitzer announced that dove season and Canada good season will open on September 2, 2019. Surveys of hellbenders are ongoing. She announced that Commissioner Kelly Davis was one of 80 participants who attended the ForestHer workshop for women who are involved with forestry operations.

RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – On a motion by Monty Crump and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission approved **Exhibit F**, presented by Carrie Ruhlman, *Rulemaking Coordinator*, to publish Notice of Text for 15A NCAC 10L .0101, a temporary Rule addressing the activities required for land to qualify for present-use value taxation as wildlife conservation land that creates and is used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation or wildlife activities. **Exhibit F** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Final Readoption, Adoption - Game Bird Propagators 15A NCAC 10H .0900- On a motion by Monty Crump and second by Joe Budd, the Commission readopted 15A NCAC 10H .0901, .0903, and .0904, and adopted amendments to .0905 - .0907 pertaining to game bird propagators, presented in **Exhibit G** by Michael Smallwood, JD, *Policy Analyst for Rules*. **Exhibit G** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Final Readoption, Adoption, and Repeal - Furbearer Propagation 15A NCAC 10H .1100 – On a motion by Monty Crump and second by Joe Budd, the Commission readopted 15A NCAC 10H .1106, adopted amendments to 10H .1101, .1104, and .1107, and repealed 10H .1102, .1103, .1105, and .1108, presented by Michael Smallwood in **Exhibit H**, which is incorporated into the record of this meeting.

Final Adoption – Reptiles and Amphibians 15A NCAC 10H .1300 – On a motion by Monty Crump and second by Joe Budd, the Commission adopted amendments to 15A NCAC 10H .1301 and .1032 pertaining to reptiles and amphibians, presented in **Exhibit I**, which is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Approval of Fiscal note and Notice of Text, Carova Beach, Currituck County – On a motion by Mike Johnson and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission approved the Fiscal Note presented in **Exhibit J-1** and the request to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register*, hold one public hearing, and open the public comment period, presented in **Exhibit J-2** by Betsy Haywood, *No-Wake Zone Coordinator*, for a proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0340, a no-wake zone within the canals at Wild Horse Estates Subdivision at Corova Beach. **Exhibits J-1 and J-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Approval of Fiscal note and Notice of Text, Carolina Beach – On a motion by Mike Johnson and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission approved the Fiscal Note presented in **Exhibit K-1** and the request to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register*, hold one public hearing, and open the public comment period, presented in **Exhibit K-2** by Betsy Haywood, for a proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0306, for a no-wake zone within a portion of the Intracoastal Waterway in the vicinity of Oceana Marina and Carolina Beach Yacht Club and marina. Exhibits K-1 and K-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Approval to Publish Notice of Text, Badin Lake Swim Zone, Montgomery County – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by Mike Johnson, the Commission approved **Exhibit L**, the request to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register*, hold one public hearing and open the public comment period for a restricted swimming area where vessel entry is prohibited, at Pinehaven Village on Badin Lake in New London. **Exhibit L** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

2020 STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

On a motion by John Coley and second by Nat Harris, the Commission approved the January 2020 Public Hearing schedule, presented in **Exhibit M** by Executive Director Gordon Myers. **Exhibit M** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

OCTOBER 2019 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING DATES AND LOCATION CHANGE

On a motion by John Coley and second by Nat Harris, the Commission voted to change the meeting dates and location of the October 2019 Commission meetings from Wednesday and Thursday, October 9 and 10, 2019 in Raleigh to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 22, 23, and 24, 2019 in Wilmington, NC.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Hoyle thanked Commissioners and staff for preparing for and attending meetings. He also noted appreciation for reworking committees and adding new ones, and thanked staff for working on projects for which they are being tasked by the Commission.

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Gordon Myers thanked Jeremy McCargo and Anna Stefanowicz for their outstanding work on the Coastal Waters Delineation Maps. He noted House Bill 597, a very important bill for fees and licenses that adds 3.5 million dollars in recurring revenue. Myers stated that thanks to efforts of many, including Tim Gestwicki of the NC Wildlife Federation, Representative Jay Adams, Legislative Liaison Ashton Godwin, and much bi-partisan support, HB 597 is law.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman David Hoyle at 10:14 am.

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

David Hoyle, Jr., Chairman

Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date



**TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 12, 2019 at 10:00 am
Commission Room 5th Floor
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC**

Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. called the telephonic meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission to order at 10:00 am. A speaker phone was available for visitors to hear the proceedings.

ROLL CALL

Betsy Haywood, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Commissioners Mark Craig, Richard Edwards, Steve Windham, Wes Seegars, Landon Zimmer, Tommy Fonville, and Hayden Rogers were absent.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF STAFF AND VISITORS PRESENT

Betsy Haywood, *Commission Liaison*, announced the staff and visitors present in the room.

COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

David Hoyle, Jr.	Monty Crump
John Coley	Nat Harris
Tom Berry	Ray Clifton
Mike Johnson	Joe Budd
Brad Stanback	Jim Cogdell
Kelly Davis	John Stone

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Gordon Myers	Betsy Haywood
Todd Leck	Erik Christofferson
Kyle Briggs	Carrie Ruhlman
Michael Smallwood	Lisa Hocutt
Fairley Mahlum	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

At the request of Chairman Hoyle, Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, read the mandatory ethics inquiry as stated in GS 163A-159(e).

TEMPORARY RULEMAKING ADOPTIONS

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption - No Wake Zones, Lake Tillery in Stanly County 15A NCAC 10F .0317– On a motion by Monty Crump and second by Mike Johnson, the Commission adopted temporary rulemaking presented in **Exhibit A**, for a no-wake zone on Lake Tillery to be followed by permanent rulemaking within 50 yards of the fuel docks at the Boathouse and Marina in Norwood; and for a temporary no-wake zone on Lake Tillery within 85 yards north and 85 yards south of the N.C. Hwy 24/27/73 bridge otherwise known as the James B. Garrison Bridge, during a N.C. Department of Transportation bridge construction project. **EXHIBIT A** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – No Wake Zone, Lake Tillery in Montgomery County 15A NCAC 10F .0327– On a motion by Mike Johnson and second by Nat Harris, the Commission adopted temporary rulemaking presented in **Exhibit B**, for a temporary no-wake zone on Lake Tillery within 85 yards north and 85 yards south of the N.C. Hwy 24/27/73 bridge otherwise known as the James B. Garrison Bridge, during a N.C. Department of Transportation bridge construction project. **EXHIBIT B** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Executive Director Gordon Myers thanked everyone for assistance with the telephonic meeting. He announced that Betsy Haywood will send an email inviting Commissioners and staff to a dinner at Commissioner Windham's house on October 23, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. adjourned the telephonic meeting at 10:12 am. All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

David Hoyle, Jr., Chairman

Date

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

NC Wildlife Resources Commission
CAFR 52G (Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances)
Governmental Funds
As of September 30, 2019

EXHIBIT C

	2019-20 YTD	2019-20 YTD	2019-20 YTD
	General	Capital Improvement	Endowment/ Permanent
REVENUES			
Federal funds	8,753,022.24	3,557,317.00	-
Local funds	1,835.96	-	-
Investment earnings	48,573.65	-	601,872.74
Sales and services	2,347,106.47	-	-
Rental and lease of property	400.00	-	-
Fees, licenses and fines	9,548,795.02	-	1,020,090.00
Contributions, gifts and grants	180,420.32	2,388,694.00	4,006.00
Miscellaneous	370,223.70	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	21,250,377.36	5,946,011.00	1,625,968.74
EXPENDITURES			
Personal services	8,861,107.84	-	-
Employee benefits	3,829,467.05	-	-
Contracted personal services	2,824,119.11	112,037.15	-
Supplies and materials	2,411,075.16	3,525.72	-
Travel	111,061.45	-	-
Communication	133,534.05	-	-
Utilities	192,982.92	-	-
Data processing services	154,687.92	-	-
Other services	937,748.56	-	-
Claims and benefits	355,612.14	-	-
Other fixed charges	66,730.29	-	-
Capital outlay	1,338,505.72	6,458,430.72	-
Grants, state aid and subsidies	590,399.78	-	-
Insurance and bonding	40,619.00	-	-
Other expenditures	188,138.66	4,009.04	-
Unclassified/invalid accounts	59,702.93	-	-
Reimbursements	(462,389.70)	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	21,633,102.88	6,578,002.63	-
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(382,725.52)	(631,991.63)	1,625,968.74
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Sale of capital assets	68,525.63	-	-
Transfers in	11,792,781.59	1,634,433.51	-
Transfers out	(12,786,091.90)	-	(1,550,000.00)
Appropriations	2,785,613.00	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	1,860,828.32	1,634,433.51	(1,550,000.00)
EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	1,478,102.80	1,002,441.88	75,968.74
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, As previously stated	15,317,893.28	3,983,533.15	133,812,403.02
FUND BALANCE - SEPTEMBER 30	16,795,996.08	4,985,975.03	133,888,371.76

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND
FUND BALANCES AS OF August 31, 2019

BOND INDEX FUND (BIF)	\$104,336,789.69
EQUITY INDEX FUND (EIF)	31,551,162.36
SHORT TERM INVESTMENT FUND (STIF)	838,747.70
TOTAL WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE AS OF 8/31/19	<u>\$ 136,726,699.75</u>

INTEREST INCOME WITHIN FUNDS	EXPENDABLE	NON-EXPENDABLE
ADULT LICENSE SALES	\$26,622,130.76	
INFANT LICENSE SALES		\$12,306,883.98
YOUTH LICENSE SALES		1,105,365.60
CONTRIBUTIONS	1,851,809.32	
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY	671.73	
MAGAZINE SALES	1,414,307.85	
	<u>\$ 29,888,919.66</u>	<u>\$ 13,412,249.58</u>

EXPENDABLE INTEREST TRANSFERRED TO OPERATIONS FISCAL YTD
\$599,733.72
<u>\$ 599,733.72</u>

EXHIBIT D-1

October 24, 2019



Proposed Changes to Game Land Regulations for 2020-2021 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

Game Lands

1. Create the designation of a “Sensitive Habitat Zone” that can restrict access or usage in specific areas on game lands. Proposals for this designation will be presented at a public input meeting and at an official Commission meeting for final approval.

Justification:

Increased use and visitation to sensitive areas on game lands has the potential to degrade habitat and threaten the population status of sensitive plants and animals. This designation would protect these habitats by prohibiting entry within specified dates posted at specific sites.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General regulations regarding use (page 6)

2. Allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

Justification:

The rule will allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas during Veterans/military Waterfowl Days.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 12 and 35)

3. Clarify NCAC rule text that posted impoundments and Wildlife Resources Commission managed hunting blinds at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands are permit-only areas during designated veterans/military waterfowl days.

Justification:

This proposal will clarify the definition of permit-only areas at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 18, 20, and 34)

4. Expand the timeframe in which pursuing or taking foxes with dogs is prohibited on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land.

Justification:

The current prohibition on using dogs for hunting foxes is from March 15 through July 15. This rule would extend that timeframe to be from February 15 through August 1. This rule was proposed by a fox hunting group as it would provide greater protection for foxes during the time that is critical for breeding and rearing success.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 14)

5. Expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land by allowing it to occur on designated trails from January 2 – March 31 and on Sundays April 1 – May 15 and September 1 – January 1.

Justification:

Horseback riding is currently only allowed on designated trails from May 16 – August 31. This proposal would expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land and provide more access to the South Mountain State Park equestrian trail system.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 31)

6. Prohibit target shooting on Sandy Mush Game Land.

Justification:

Sandy Mush Game Land is within 45 miles of the Wayne E. Smith Cold Mountain Shooting Range. Currently, popular shooting areas on this game land contain no back-stop berms and are often located near boundaries with private property, occupied dwellings, and roads. By prohibiting target shooting on this game land and allowing it only at the Wayne E. Smith Cold Mountain Shooting Range, users will have a safe environment for target shooting and user group conflicts can be avoided.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 30)

7. Prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Pee Dee River Game Land

Justification:

Landowners adjacent to the Diggs Tract at Pee Dee River Game Land have complained about trespass and unleashed dogs on their property. Also, recently acquired tracts to this game land are not conducive to pursuing big game with dogs because of their linear shape, lack of road frontage, being only accessible by boat, and lack of interior road infrastructure.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 26)

8. Designate deer hunting on the Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land as permit-only.

Justification:

The 1,000-acre Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land offers exceptional deer hunting opportunities. Hunter participation will be managed through the permit hunts program where a quota will be set to prevent excessive hunting pressure and overcrowding.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 18)

9. Designate bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract of Carteret County Game Land as permit-only.

Justification:

Public land bear hunting opportunities in the vicinity are absent, making the tract a potentially high-demand bear hunting destination. The proposal would allow for management of hunter participation through the Permit Hunting Opportunities program to prevent overcrowding and maintain hunt quality.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 16)

10. Align the squirrel season with the rabbit season and deer with visible antlers season at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area at Sandhills Game Land.

Justification:

The 2020 squirrel season on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area opens on November 16th, while the rabbit season and the deer with visible antlers season opens on November 14th. Aligning the start dates for these seasons will provide an extra day of opportunity for squirrel hunters and reduce confusion among users.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 29)

11. Restrict the use of bicycles to designated trails only on the State-owned Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. This restriction will not apply to hunters using bicycles during open days of applicable hunting seasons.

Justification:

The Mountains to Sea Connector Trail (MTSCT) goes through the southernmost portion of the Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. The most recently constructed segment of the MTSCT has a high level of mountain bike use, and staff have observed bicyclists pedaling off the MTSCT, creating new trails, and negatively affecting soil stability and habitats. These new trails have been found in wildlife openings, on firebreaks, and on trails/roads not designed for a high level of mountain biking use. Restricting bicyclists to designated trails only on the Linville River Tract will limit erosion and habitat degradation.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 27)

12. Clarify NCAC rule text that deer of either sex may be taken during the blackpowder firearms season at Buffalo Cove Game Land and South Mountains Game Land.

Justification:

This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (pages 15, 30, and 31)

13. Clarify NCAC rule text that hunting and trapping at J. Morgan Futch, Roanoke River Wetlands, and Texas Plantation game lands is by permit only.

Justification:

This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 22, 27, and 32)

14. Clarify NCAC rule text that at Sandhills Game Land deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment during the archery season, with archery equipment and blackpowder firearms during the blackpowder season, and by permit during the deer with visible antlers season. Also clarify that only deer with visible antlers may be taken during the extended primitive weapons season.

Justification:

This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands (page 29)

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

2 (a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed
4 from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each
5 day's hunt.
- 6 (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or
7 self-defense.
- 8 (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

9 (b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the
10 landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional
11 restrictions on entry or usage:

- 12 (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to bow and
13 arrow hunting and falconry only. On these areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days
14 of any applicable deer season.
- 15 (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person
16 shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on
17 any game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- 18 (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use
19 of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- 20 (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the
21 general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having
22 obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources
23 Commission. Entry shall be authorized only when such entry will not compromise the primary
24 purpose for establishing the Restricted Zone and the person or persons requesting entry are able to
25 demonstrate a valid need or such person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting
26 official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations,
27 surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- 28 (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are
29 closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited
30 without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the
31 Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted
32 Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public due to topographical features or
33 activities occurring on the area.
- 34 (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge
35 of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.

(7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S. 113-264(d).

(8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the general public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

(9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to all use by the general public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted ~~zone~~, restricted deer hunting, ~~or~~ day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

(c) Littering. No person shall deposit any litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse at any place on any game land except in receptacles provided for disposal of such refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary landfills shall be established on any game land by any person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as permitted by the landowner.

(d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

(1) any weapon within 150 yards of any game land building or designated game land camping area, except where posted otherwise;

(2) any weapon within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and

(3) any firearm within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan Game Lands.

No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

- (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

(e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- (1) Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, running dogs, or training dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- (2) For commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- (3) For any other field trial using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- (4) Exceptions:
 - (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;
 - (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103(e)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required only for hunting doves; all other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. Any individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility, shall file with the Commission an application to use the area and facility accompanied by the facility use fee computed at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which for any reason trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or any other entity shall enter or use in any manner any of the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no such entry or use of any such facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 16 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during any calendar month, and no more than four days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field

trial requiring more than four days may be scheduled during one week upon reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 16 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between October 22 and November 18 and between December 3 and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of such use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for its consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities at any time by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on any game land located west of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when such field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the Game Land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization can demonstrate their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing animals is permitted on game lands during the applicable open seasons, except that trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the field trial course of the Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke County; and
- (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

On those areas of state-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed under a permit system.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on any game land except on those roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel, unless such person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (m).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.

(2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

(j) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

(k) Disabled Sportsman Program. In order to qualify for permit hunts for disabled sportsmen offered by the Commission and use of designated blinds during those hunts, an individual shall possess a Disabled Veteran Sportsman license, a Totally Disabled Sportsman license, or a disabled sportsman hunt certification issued by the Commission. In order to qualify for the certification, the applicant shall provide medical certification of one or more of the following disabilities:

- (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;
- (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or
- (5) deafness.

On game lands where the privileges described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule apply, participants in the program may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, or other passenger vehicles:

- (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and
- (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel.

Each program participant may be accompanied by one companion provided such companion has in his possession the companion card issued by the Commission. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land.

(l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans

1 with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian
2 use on any area where foot travel is allowed.

3 (n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by
4 the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the
5 game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel
6 chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel
7 and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on
8 game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use.
9 Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules and map book.
10 This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or
11 cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may
12 accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all times in visual or verbal contact
13 with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while assisting a disabled person,
14 provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under
15 this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission in the passenger
16 area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle. It is unlawful for anyone other
17 than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a Disabled Access Permit to hunt,
18 during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as
19 a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

20 (o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water.
21 For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque
22 covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while
23 in a public place.

24 (p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting
25 ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for
26 other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating
27 concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except
28 for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted,
29 provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the
30 time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the
31 grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the
32 shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of
33 the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent,
34 impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle
35 or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized
36 parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting
37 range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other

1 permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would
2 cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller
3 may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a
4 shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public
5 safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission
6 employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing
7 substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours
8 of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting
9 range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is
10 required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use
11 of the area.

12 (q) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are
13 open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. only. These roads shall be posted with the opening and
14 closing times.

15
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*
17 *143-318.10;*
18 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
19 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*
20 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*
21 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*
22 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
23 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*
26 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
27 *2003);*
28 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*
29 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.*
32

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS**

2 (a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of alcohol
3 or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the
4 Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

5 (b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates,
6 or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

7 (c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached
8 by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to lag-
9 screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

10 (d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals
11 and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to hunting
12 or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game animal or
13 game bird seasons. On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 14 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 15 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;
- 16 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- 17 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and
- 18 (5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

19 On designated youth waterfowl days ~~occurring after the end of the regular waterfowl seasons only~~, youths may hunt
20 on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans/military
21 waterfowl days, veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty
22 reservists with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from
23 ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this Paragraph shall apply. On waterfowl
24 impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting
25 on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of
26 the posted "Scouting-only Zone." No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by
27 severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated. No person shall
28 place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of
29 the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the best management
30 practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals
31 attracted to such foods.

32 (e) Definitions:

- 33 (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be
34 taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day,
35 Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- 36 (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any
37 game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,

Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed under each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

- (3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons.

(f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

- (1) Alcoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.

(C) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

- (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

(A) Six Day per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

- (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Target shooting is prohibited.

- (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, and Washington counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

- (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

- (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes ~~is~~ shall be prohibited from March February 15 through ~~July 15-~~ August 1.
- (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (9) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (10) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days of the second week of the December Bear Season. If any of these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those days.
- (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (11) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on

or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week ~~thereafter, and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season.~~ thereafter.

(C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

(12) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County

(A) Three Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(13) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

(i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

(ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

(iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.

(D) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(E) Target shooting is prohibited.

(F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

(G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.

(H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14.

(I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

- (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.
- (14) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (15) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (16) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- (17) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to

- the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after November 1.
- (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- (18) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (19) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (20) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first three hunting days during the November bear season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December bear season except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
- (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (21) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area

- (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (22) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.
- (23) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas. During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- (24) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only from November 1 through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons.
- (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do not use a firearm.
- (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their hunt.
- (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (25) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area

- (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
- (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (26) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- (27) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (28) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders during scheduled permit hunts.
- (29) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (30) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (31) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October ~~and~~ through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through March 15.
- (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- (32) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (33) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- (34) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.

- (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- (E) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season, except for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- (35) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (36) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season
- (37) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- (38) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are permit only.
- (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:

- (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
- (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
- (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- (39) Hyco Game land in Person County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (40) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only ~~Permit Only Area.~~
- (41) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31, except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the permits.
- (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (42) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- (G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.
- (43) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (44) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- (C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.
- (D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- (E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.
- (G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.
- (45) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.
- (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

- 1 (46) Lee Game Land in Lee County
2 (A) Six Days per Week Area
3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
4 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
5 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 6 (47) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible
9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (48) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
11 (A) Six Days per Week Area
12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (49) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
15 (A) Six Days per Week Area
16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
17 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
18 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
19 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
20 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 21 (50) Mayo Game Land in Person County
22 (A) Six Days per Week Area
23 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
24 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
25 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
26 (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
27 (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
28 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
29 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 30 (51) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
31 (A) Three Days per Week Area
32 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
33 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
34 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
35 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 36 (52) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
37 counties

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.
- 4 (53) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
- 5 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
- 7 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 8 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 9 (54) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County
- 10 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 12 Antlers Season.
- 13 (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the
- 14 game land that lies west of NC-43.
- 15 (55) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties
- 16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 18 Antlers Season.
- 19 (56) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 20 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
- 22 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 23 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
- 24 the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday thereafter.
- 25 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
- 26 Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 27 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 28 Antlers Season.
- 29 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 30 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 31 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:
- 32 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
- 33 (ii) Swimming.
- 34 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 35 (57) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties
- 36 (A) Six Days per Week Area

- 1 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
2 Antlers Season.
- 3 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
4 shoreline.
- 5 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
- 6 (58) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
11 shoreline.
- 12 (59) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
15 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 16 (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North
17 of US-74.
- 18 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 19 (E) Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and only during the
20 following times:
- 21 (i) during June, July, and August; and
- 22 (ii) on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey
23 seasons are closed.
- 24 (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be
25 prohibited.
- 26 (60) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- 27 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
29 Antlers Season.
- 30 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- 31 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 32 (61) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison,
33 McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- 34 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
36 Antlers Season.

- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- (62) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.
- (63) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (64) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- (65) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- (66) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business or by permit holders.
- (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however, that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the game land.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (67) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- (68) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area

- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (69) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter.
- (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (70) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- (71) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (72) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22 through March 31 except as follows:
- (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third Saturday thereafter;

- (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from second ~~Monday~~
Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving
Day;
- (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding
Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen
Program Permit Hunt; and
- (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or
nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday
before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the
J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth
Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds,
the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit
during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated
in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday
after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding
Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on
the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day
through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open
hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With
Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday
after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing
days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited
unless participating in authorized field trials.
- (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are
limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
- (73) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties

- 1 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 2 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 4 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 5 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 6 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 7 (74) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.
- 8 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 9 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible
- 10 Antlers season.
- 11 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 12 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 13 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed
- 14 in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).
- 15 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove
- 16 season.
- 17 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 18 (75) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.
- 19 (76) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties
- 20 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 22 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 23 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 24 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 25 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 26 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 27 (77) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- 28 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 29 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
- 30 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
- 31 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on
- 32 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October
- 33 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with
- 34 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible
- 35 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
- 36 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest

- October 1 through the Saturday of the second week ~~thereafter, and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season thereafter.~~
- (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
- (i) January 2 through March 31;
- (ii) May 16 through ~~August 31~~ August 31;
- (iii) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
- (iv) Sundays only – September 1 through January 1.
- ~~and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
- (78) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- (E) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- (79) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:
- (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and
- (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
- (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

- 1 (80) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
2 (A) Six Days per Week Area
3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
4 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
5 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 6 (81) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County
7 (A) Hunting is by permit only
8 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited
- 9 (82) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 10 (83) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
11 (A) Six Days per Week Area
12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
14 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (84) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
16 (A) Six Days per Week Area
17 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
18 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
19 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
20 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or
21 older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
22 (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is
23 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive
24 days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- 25 (85) Tillery game Land in Halifax County
26 (A) Six Days per Week Area
27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
28 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
29 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
30 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
31 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
32 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 33 (86) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
34 (A) Six Days per Week Area
35 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
36 Antlers Season.

- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- (87) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- (88) Vance Game Land in Vance County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- (89) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- (90) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (91) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

- (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October ~~and~~ through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
- (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
- (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);
 - (ii) hunting is by permit only; and
 - (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (92) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.
- (93) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or by phone.
- (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:
- (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
 - (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
 - (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
 - (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;
 - (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
 - (6) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
 - (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.
- (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid

1 need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes
2 issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public
3 interest.

4 (k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any
5 legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands
6 that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.

7 (l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on
8 any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where
9 prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

10 (m) Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans/Military Waterfowl
11 Days, veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists
12 with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

13 ~~(m)-(n)~~ Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for
14 participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during
15 the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited
16 weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

17 ~~(n)~~ (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

18 ~~(o)~~ (p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on
19 Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.
20

21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
22 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
23 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;*
24 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September*
25 *1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*
27 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
29 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
31 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*
32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
33 *January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
34 *1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October*
35 *1, 2004;*
36 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*
37 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019.*

EXHIBIT D-2

October 24, 2019



Fiscal Note for Proposed Lands Management Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

Agency Contact: Michael Smallwood
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Impact Summary: State Government: Yes
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113 – 134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.5

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. § 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. § 143-239). This responsibility includes managing, as equitably as possible, the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. § 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. § 113-134).

As part of its mission, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and game land regulations, to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives; ensuring the safety of the boating public; managing Commission-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

Many of the proposed rule changes are expected to increase hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities, while others are expected to restrict such opportunities. Additional changes are intended to improve the quality of future opportunities.

Although the Commission does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact of these specific rule changes on recreationists' behavior, economic research on the value individuals place on outdoor recreation can provide useful context for rules that affect opportunities for recreation. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, researchers have estimated that the value of hunting per person per day is approximately \$63; both hiking and "nature-related recreation" are valued at \$47 per person per day; and fishing is valued at approximately \$53 per person per day.¹ These figures represent individuals' total willingness to pay to engage in the activity, less the cost to do so. It does not represent any economic activity generated by the activity, such as retail sales. Note that these estimates are not species or location-specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rules induce recreationists to increase or decrease their trips in particular areas of the state, these findings provide a rough approximation of the costs or benefits to the individual.

The following is a summary and analysis of the proposed rule amendments to the game land rules 15A NCAC 10D .0102 and .0103, with the proposed text included in Appendix A and B:

15A NCAC 10D .0102 General Regulations Regarding Use

In recent years, the number of people that travel to sensitive habitat areas on Sandhills Game Land has increased to a level that degrades the habitat and threatens the population status of plants and animals using these habitats. Overuse and visitation to these sites likely affects the breeding behavior, movements, and other activity of species inhabiting these areas. Many species on these sensitive areas have small windows of time in which they breed (e.g., calling, breeding, egg deposition, migrations), sometimes only over a period of few nights per year. Disruption of breeding activity is likely at these sites based on recorded WRC Law Enforcement and WRC biologists' direct observations.

Given the rarity of many species in these habitats, overuse and visitation by numerous groups is likely to have deleterious effects on the species and habitat, and can lead to increased visitation and disruption pressure over time. This rule would allow protection of these type habitats and would prohibit entry within the specified dates posted at the sites. Although the main issue is occurring on the Sandhills Game Land, this rule would be beneficial state wide for other sensitive habitat areas such as mountain bogs, bat caves, and for carnivorous plant populations. *(Page 2 of Appendix A)*

¹ Rosenberger, Randall S.; White, Eric M.; Kline, Jeffrey D.; Cvitanovich, Claire. 2017. Recreation economic values for estimating outdoor recreation economic benefits from the National Forest System. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-957. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 33 p.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Agency staff are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. The state will incur the additional costs (less than \$100 per year) of procuring, posting, and maintenance of signage on the portions of game lands designated as a “Sensitive Habitat Zone”. Also, if individuals continue to enter the posted Sensitive Habitat Zone and enforcement officers encounter the activity, individuals can be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor with a fine of \$25 and court costs. The proposed protection of these sensitive areas should lead to the continued breeding of these rare species and a stronger population, which overall represents a benefit to the state and its citizens.

Local Impact

Local impact should be minimal because entry will not be prohibited to the entire game land. Only those designated areas will have entry restrictions since it would not be feasible to designate all areas on a particular game land. Wildlife observation will not be limited in these undesignated areas. The areas that will be designated will be relatively small in size and prohibit entry during specific times of the year. As such, any impact to local governments is expected to be nominal at worst.

Private Impact

Private impact should also be minimal because entry will not be prohibited to the entire game land and opportunities for wildlife observation still exist and the surrounding area in general provides much opportunity for wildlife observation.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands

The proposed changes to this rule cover multiple general topic areas, including: game lands, target shooting, deer, bear, squirrel, fox, waterfowl, and permit requirements.

For the reasons outlined below, the WRC believes that the proposed rule changes will have minimal fiscal impacts.

Deer

- A. This proposal clarifies that deer of either sex may be taken during the blackpowder firearms season on Buffalo Cove Game Land.
(Page 4 of Appendix B)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No Impact

Local Impact

No Impact

Private Impact

No Impact

- B.** This proposal clarifies that deer of either sex may be taken during the blackpowder firearms season on South Mountains Game Land. *(Page 19 of Appendix B)*

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No Impact

Local Impact

No Impact

Private Impact

No Impact

- C.** This proposal clarifies that only deer with visible antlers may be taken during the extended primitive weapons season for deer on Sandhills Game Land. *(Page 18 of Appendix B)*

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No Impact

Local Impact

No impact

Private Impact

No Impact

Squirrel

- A.** This regulation modifies rule text that on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area at Sandhills Game Land that the season for squirrels coincides with the season for rabbits to allow one extra day of opportunity. *(Page 17 of Appendix B)*

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The fiscal impact of this rule is expected to be minimal. An additional day of squirrel hunting on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area is not anticipated to increase staff time for maintenance or maintenance costs. The WRC has no mechanism to determine how this additional day of squirrel hunting will affect hunter behavior. However, the overall fiscal impact should be positive since the value of hunting is estimated at \$63 per person per day.

Local Impact

Increasing the time which squirrel hunting is allowed on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial area should result in the additional purchase of food, gas, and equipment in the local area, however the WRC has no mechanism to quantify this benefit.

Private Impact

One additional day of squirrel hunting on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area will enhance opportunities for this user group to enjoy the game land.

Fox

- A. This regulation will expand the timeframe in which pursuing or taking foxes with dogs is prohibited on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land. The current prohibition on using dogs is from March 15 through July 15. This rule would extend that timeframe to be from February 15 through August 1. (*Page 3 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment will have no state government impact.

Local Impact

This proposed amendment could result in less hunters traveling to the game land. Revenue to the local economy could decrease as less users purchase food, gas, lodging, and equipment. Associated negative impacts are expected to be minimal.

Private Impact

This proposed amendment could negatively affect individuals who want to fox hunt within the expanded timeframe of the proposed prohibition. This proposal reduces fox hunting opportunities on the game land by one and one-half months. However, the ultimate goal of the proposal is to help with fox recruitment, which should result in an increase in fox hunters during the allowed fox hunting season, outweighing any associated negative fiscal impacts.

Waterfowl

- A. This regulation will allow armed services veterans, active duty armed services members, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists to hunt waterfowl

on non permit-only game land managed waterfowl impoundments on veterans/military waterfowl days. (*Page 1 and 24 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The fiscal impact of this rule is expected to be minimal. However, the overall fiscal impact should be positive since the value of hunting is estimated at \$63 per person per day.

Local Impact

Increasing the time which waterfowl hunting is allowed should result in the additional purchase of food, gas, and equipment in the local area, however the WRC has no mechanism to quantify this benefit.

Private Impact

Military personnel and veterans will have the opportunity to hunt waterfowl for two additional days.

Game Lands

- A. The proposed change will allow more opportunity for horseback riding on designated trails only on South Mountains Game Land. (*Page 19 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The fiscal impact of this rule is expected to be minimal. The horseback riding trail follows an established gravel road across the game land. As such, no additional staff time for maintenance nor new maintenance costs are expected. The Commission has no mechanism to determine how the increase in available dates to ride will affect rider behavior. However, the fiscal impact should be positive since the value of this type of outdoor recreation is \$47 per person per day.

Local Impact

Increasing opportunity for horseback riding on South Mountains Game Land should result in the additional purchase of food, gas, and equipment in the local area, however the agency cannot quantify this benefit.

Private Impact

This additional horseback riding opportunity on South Mountains Game Land will enhance opportunities for this user group to enjoy the game land.

- B.** This proposal will restrict the use of bicycles to designated trails only on the State-owned Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. This restriction will not apply to hunters using bicycles during open days of applicable hunting seasons. (*Page 15 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Agency staff are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. Mountain biking on trails not designed for this activity creates resource damage through erosion. This damage must be repaired to maintain water quality of streams on the property which requires staff time and funds. Prohibiting mountain biking except on designated trails may result in a reduction of this activity in undesirable areas, which would be a cost savings to the agency in staff time and materials required for repair, though the agency has no way to quantify this. However, if individuals continue to ride on undesignated trails on this game land, and enforcement officers encounter the activity, individuals can be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor with a fine of \$25 and court costs.

Local Impact

Local impact should be minimal since mountain biking will still be allowed on the property on designated trails and the surrounding area in general provides much opportunity for mountain biking.

Private Impact

Private impact should also be minimal to none since mountain biking will still be allowed on the property on designated trails and the surrounding area in general provides much opportunity for mountain biking.

- C.** This proposal will clarify when a permit is required to hunt waterfowl at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands (*Page 7, 9 and 22 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No Impact

Local Impact

No Impact

Private Impact

No Impact

Target Shooting

- A. The proposed change will prohibit target shooting on Sandy Mush Game Land.
(Page 19 of Appendix B)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Agency staff are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. Individuals utilizing this area for target shooting regularly deposit tires and a variety of other material used as targets on the property, which then must be cleaned up by staff. Time required to maintain these areas, while not precisely known, is estimated to cost the agency \$13,104 per year (\$21/hr x 208hrs/clean up x 3 clean-ups/year = \$13,104). Explicitly prohibiting target shooting may result in a reduction of this activity, which would be a cost savings to the agency in staff time. However, if individuals continue to target shoot on this game land, and enforcement officers encounter the activity, individuals can be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor with a fine of \$25 and court costs.

Additionally, targets are often placed on trees in the area, many of which have been damaged to the point that mortality is imminent. This proposed amendment may help to eliminate the damage and death caused to live trees that are currently being used as targets. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

This proposed amendment will have no local government impact.

Private Impact

This proposed amendment could affect private individuals who want to target shoot, as they will now need to travel to an official shooting range. The closest WRC range to Sandy Mush Game Lands is 35 miles. Depending on where the individual is traveling from, this could impose a minimal financial burden. Due to lack of data, the agency is unable to quantify this potential cost. However, the improved safety anticipated by this amendment is expected to exceed the potential cost to individuals. Currently, popular shooting areas on Sandy Mush Game Land contain no back-stop berms and are often located near boundaries with private property, occupied dwellings, and roads.

Permit Requirements

- A. This regulation will designate deer hunting on the Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land as permit-only. (Page 7 of Appendix B)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency imposes a \$8 administrative fee for permit hunt applications. The Campbell Tract is expected to offer 55 permit hunt opportunities each year. Though more individuals may apply than the number of permits offered, the agency has no way to know how many. If it is assumed that all 55 permits will be claimed, the anticipated revenue will total approximately \$440 per year ($\$8/\text{permit} \times 55 \text{ permits/yr} = \$440/\text{yr}$).

Local Impact

The proposed rule will have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Because the agency is proposing to limit hunting opportunities on the Campbell Tract, private individuals will incur the \$8 fee associated with applying for permit hunt opportunities. Though more individuals may apply than the number of permits offered, the agency has no way to know how many. Thus, the total annual impact to private individuals is anticipated to be approximately \$440 per year ($\$8/\text{permit} \times 55 \text{ permits/yr} = \$440/\text{yr}$). However, it should be noted that these opportunities are voluntary. It is assumed that hunters who choose to purchase a permit, value the hunting opportunity at or above the cost of the permit.

There should be a positive fiscal impact to the private sector due to the increased public interest to deer hunt on the tract. These recreational activities should stimulate users to spend money.

- B.** This regulation will designate bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract of Carteret County Game Land as permit-only. (*Page 5 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency imposes a \$8 administrative fee for permit hunt applications. The Salters Creek Tract is expected to offer 35 permit hunt opportunities annually. Though more individuals may apply than the number of permits offered, the agency has no way to know how many. If it is assumed that all 35 permits are claimed, the anticipated revenue will total approximately \$280 per year ($\$8/\text{permit} \times 35 \text{ permits/yr} = \$280/\text{yr}$).

Local Impact

The proposed rule will have little to no local government impact.

Private Impact

Because the agency is proposing to limit bear hunting opportunities on the Salters Creek Tract, private individuals will incur the \$8 fee associated with applying for permit hunt opportunities. Though more individuals may apply than the number of permits offered, the agency has no way to know how many. Thus, the total annual impact to private individuals is anticipated to be approximately \$280 per year ($\$8/\text{permit} \times 35 \text{ permits/yr} = \$280/\text{yr}$). However, it should be noted that these opportunities are voluntary. It is assumed that hunters who choose to purchase a permit value the hunting opportunity at or above the cost of the permit.

There should be a positive fiscal impact to the private sector due to the increase in desire to bear hunt on the tract.

Pursuing or Chasing Deer and Bear

- A. This regulation will prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Pee Dee River Game Land. (*Page 15 of Appendix B*)

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This proposed amendment will have no fiscal impacts on state government.

Local Impact

Decreasing the opportunities to partake in hunting deer and bear with dogs on this game land will decrease the number of these hunters visiting local businesses, which will result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, hunting supplies, etc. The local government could potentially see a reduction in tax-based revenue. However, the agency has no way to project these potential reductions.

Private Impact

This proposed amendment will likely have a negative impact on the private sector. Individuals and groups that have traditionally pursued deer and bear with dogs on this game land will no longer have the opportunity. It will also deny those opportunities to potential first-time users. However, the number of individuals and groups that pursue deer and bear with dogs on this game land is unknown. Also, select local businesses that offer goods and services needed by these hunters will likely see a reduction in these users in their establishments due to the reduced hunting opportunities, although the agency has no way to quantify these losses.

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15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

(a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or self-defense.
- (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional restrictions on entry or usage:

- (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to bow and arrow hunting and falconry only. On these areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of any applicable deer season.
- (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on any game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Entry shall be authorized only when such entry will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Restricted Zone and the person or persons requesting entry are able to demonstrate a valid need or such person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public due to topographical features or activities occurring on the area.
- (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.
- (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S.

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113-264(d).

(8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the general public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

(9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to all use by the general public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted ~~zone~~, restricted deer hunting, ~~or~~ day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

(c) Littering. No person shall deposit any litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse at any place on any game land except in receptacles provided for disposal of such refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary landfills shall be established on any game land by any person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as permitted by the landowner.

(d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

(1) any weapon within 150 yards of any game land building or designated game land camping area, except where posted otherwise;

(2) any weapon within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and

(3) any firearm within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan Game Lands.

No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

(1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;

(2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;

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(3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or

(4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

(e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

(1) Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, running dogs, or training dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.

(2) For commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.

(3) For any other field trial using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.

(4) Exceptions:

(A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;

(B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103(e)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required only for hunting doves; all other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. Any individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility, shall file with the Commission an application to use the area and facility accompanied by the facility use fee computed at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which for any reason trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or any other entity shall enter or use in any manner any of the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no such entry or use of any such facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 16 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during any calendar month, and no more than four days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field trial requiring more than four days may be scheduled during one week upon reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 16 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities

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between October 22 and November 18 and between December 3 and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of such use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for its consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities at any time by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on any game land located west of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when such field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the Game Land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization can demonstrate their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing animals is permitted on game lands during the applicable open seasons, except that trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the field trial course of the Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke County; and
- (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

On those areas of state-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed under a permit system.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on any game land except on those roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel, unless such person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (m).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.
- (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31.

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After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

(j) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

(k) Disabled Sportsman Program. In order to qualify for permit hunts for disabled sportsmen offered by the Commission and use of designated blinds during those hunts, an individual shall possess a Disabled Veteran Sportsman license, a Totally Disabled Sportsman license, or a disabled sportsman hunt certification issued by the Commission. In order to qualify for the certification, the applicant shall provide medical certification of one or more of the following disabilities:

- (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;
- (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or
- (5) deafness.

On game lands where the privileges described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule apply, participants in the program may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, or other passenger vehicles:

- (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and
- (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel.

Each program participant may be accompanied by one companion provided such companion has in his possession the companion card issued by the Commission. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land.

(l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian use on any area where foot travel is allowed.

(n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the

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game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules and map book. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all times in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission in the passenger area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle. It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a Disabled Access Permit to hunt, during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

(o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water. For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while in a public place.

(p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted, provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent, impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public

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1 safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission
2 employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing
3 substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours
4 of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting
5 range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is
6 required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use
7 of the area.

8 (q) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are
9 open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. only. These roads shall be posted with the opening and
10 closing times.

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*
13 *143-318.10;*
14 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
15 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*
16 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*
17 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*
18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
19 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
20 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*
21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*
22 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
23 *2003);*
24 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*
25 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*
27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.*
28

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15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

(a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

(b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates, or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

(c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

(d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons. On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;
- (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and
- (5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

On designated youth waterfowl days ~~occurring after the end of the regular waterfowl seasons only~~, youths may hunt on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans/military waterfowl days, veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this Paragraph shall apply. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods.

(e) Definitions:

- (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays,

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Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed under each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

- (3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons.

(f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

- (1) Alcoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.

(C) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

- (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County

(A) Six Day per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

- (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Target shooting is prohibited.

- (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, and Washington counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

- (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

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- 1 (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 2 (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
- 3 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 5 Antlers Season.
- 6 (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 7 (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 8 (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 9 (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March
- 10 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 11 (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes is shall be prohibited from March February
- 12 15 through July 15- August 1.
- 13 (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
- 14 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 18 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 19 (8) Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County
- 20 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 21 (B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 22 (9) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
- 23 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 24 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 25 (10) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
- 26 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 27 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 28 Antlers Season.
- 29 (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and
- 30 the first three hunting days of the second week of the December Bear Season. If any of
- 31 these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those days.
- 32 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 33 (11) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
- 34 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 35 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
- 36 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
- 37 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on

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or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week ~~thereafter, and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season, thereafter.~~

(C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

(12) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County

(A) Three Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(13) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

(i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

(ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

(iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.

(D) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(E) Target shooting is prohibited.

(F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

(G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.

(H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14.

(I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

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- (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.
- (14) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (15) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
 - (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
 - (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (16) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- (17) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
 - (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR

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- 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after November 1.
- (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- (18) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (19) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (20) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first three hunting days during the November bear season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December bear season except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
- (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (21) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and

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- 1 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 2 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 3 Antlers Season.
- 4 (22) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.
- 5 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 7 Antlers Season.
- 8 (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.
- 9 (23) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- 10 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 12 Antlers Season.
- 13 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 14 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 15 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 16 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 17 (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl
- 18 seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish
- 19 Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
- 20 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas.
- 21 During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 22 (24) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
- 23 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by
- 25 permit only from November 1 through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons.
- 26 (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the
- 27 guides do not use a firearm.
- 28 (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- 29 (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of
- 30 their hunt.
- 31 (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand
- 32 or blind to a tree.
- 33 (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 34 season.
- 35 (25) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County
- 36 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 37 (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.

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- 1 (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 2 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age
- 3 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
- 4 (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 5 (26) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
- 6 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 7 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 8 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 9 (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- 10 (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- 11 (27) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- 12 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 13 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
- 14 season.
- 15 (28) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- 16 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 17 (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders
- 18 during scheduled permit hunts.
- 19 (29) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- 20 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 22 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 23 (30) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- 24 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 25 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 26 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 27 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 28 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 29 (31) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- 30 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 32 Antlers Season.
- 33 (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl
- 34 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 35 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 36 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 37 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

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- (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October ~~and~~ through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through March 15.
- (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- (32) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (33) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- (34) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.

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- 1 (E) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and
2 the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season, except
3 for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- 4 (35) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- 5 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
7 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
- 9 (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 10 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- 11 (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 12 (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- 13 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 14 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 15 (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 16 (36) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- 17 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
19 Antlers Season
- 20 (37) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 21 (38) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- 22 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 23 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
24 Antlers Season.
- 25 (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- 26 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 27 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 28 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 29 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
30 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
- 31 (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east
32 of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and
33 bear hunting are permit only.
- 34 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
- 35 (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch
36 extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road
37 extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and

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- (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
- (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- (39) Hyco Game land in Person County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (40) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only ~~Permit Only Area.~~
- (41) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
- (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31, except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the permits.
- (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (42) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
- (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
- (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail

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and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license.

(E) Target shooting is prohibited.

(F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.

(G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.

(43) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(44) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

(C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.

(D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.

(E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.

(F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

(G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.

(45) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

(D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.

(E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

(46) Lee Game Land in Lee County

(A) Six Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible

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- Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (47) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible Antlers Season.
- (48) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (49) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (50) Mayo Game Land in Person County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (51) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- (52) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.

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- 1 (53) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
- 2 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
- 4 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 5 (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- 6 (54) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County
- 7 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 8 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 9 Antlers Season.
- 10 (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the
- 11 game land that lies west of NC-43.
- 12 (55) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties
- 13 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 14 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 15 Antlers Season.
- 16 (56) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 17 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 18 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
- 19 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 20 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
- 21 the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday thereafter.
- 22 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
- 23 Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 24 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 25 Antlers Season.
- 26 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 27 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 28 (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:
- 29 (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
- 30 (ii) Swimming.
- 31 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 32 (57) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties
- 33 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 35 Antlers Season.
- 36 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
- 37 shoreline.

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- 1 (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
- 2 (58) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County
- 3 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 5 Antlers Season.
- 6 (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or
- 7 shoreline.
- 8 (59) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
- 9 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 12 (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North
- 13 of US-74.
- 14 (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 15 (E) Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and only during the
- 16 following times:
- 17 (i) during June, July, and August; and
- 18 (ii) on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey
- 19 seasons are closed.
- 20 (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be
- 21 prohibited.
- 22 (60) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- 23 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 24 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 25 Antlers Season.
- 26 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- 27 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 28 (61) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison,
- 29 McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- 30 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 31 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 32 Antlers Season.
- 33 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River
- 34 (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 35 (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke
- 36 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open
- 37 day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this

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- 1 restriction.
- 2 (62) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 3 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 4 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 5 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 6 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31
- 7 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited
- 8 from November 1 through May 15.
- 9 (63) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- 10 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 11 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 12 Antlers Season.
- 13 (64) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- 14 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- 18 (65) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- 19 (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- 20 (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- 21 (66) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- 22 (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- 23 (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business
- 24 or by permit holders.
- 25 (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 26 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however,
- 27 that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-
- 28 owned portion of the game land.
- 29 (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 30 (67) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- 31 (68) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- 32 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 34 Antlers Season.
- 35 (69) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- 36 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 37 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the

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- 1 Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 2 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning
- 3 the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week
- 4 thereafter.
- 5 (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second
- 6 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- 7 (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 8 Antlers Season.
- 9 (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 10 (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 11 (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- 12 (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 13 (70) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- 14 (71) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
- 15 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 16 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 17 Antlers Season.
- 18 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 19 (72) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties
- 20 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 21 (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22
- 22 through March 31 except as follows:
- 23 (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of
- 24 the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with
- 25 blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the
- 26 blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving
- 27 Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from
- 28 the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following
- 29 Thanksgiving Day;
- 30 (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through
- 31 the third Saturday thereafter;
- 32 (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from second ~~Monday~~
- 33 Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving
- 34 Day;
- 35 (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding
- 36 Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 37 (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;

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- (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit Hunt; and
- (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials.
- (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
- (73) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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- 1 (74) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.
- 2 (A) Three Days per Week Area
- 3 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible
- 4 Antlers season.
- 5 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 6 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 7 (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed
- 8 in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).
- 9 (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove
- 10 season.
- 11 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 12 (75) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.
- 13 (76) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties
- 14 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 15 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 16 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 17 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 18 (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 19 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 20 (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 21 (77) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- 22 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 23 (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the
- 24 Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of
- 25 either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on
- 26 or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October
- 27 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with
- 28 archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible
- 29 Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be
- 30 taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest
- 31 October 1 through the Saturday of the second week ~~thereafter, and during the Deer With~~
- 32 ~~Visible Antlers season- thereafter.~~
- 33 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday ~~day~~ of the applicable Deer With
- 34 Visible Antlers Season.
- 35 (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
- 36 (i) January 2 through March 31;
- 37 (ii) May 16 through ~~August 31~~ August 31;

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- 1 (iii) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
2 (iv) Sundays only – September 1 through January 1.
3 ~~and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
- 4 (78) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
- 5 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 6 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 7 Antlers Season.
- 8 (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- 9 (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- 10 (E) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken only on the following days:
- 11 (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 12 (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 13 (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 14 (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 15 (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- 16 (79) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties
- 17 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 18 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 19 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 20 (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:
- 21 (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and
- 22 (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
- 23 (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels
- 24 on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only
- 25 by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by
- 26 the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 27 (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed
- 28 waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters
- 29 possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife
- 30 Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 31 (80) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
- 32 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 33 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 34 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 35 (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 36 (81) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County
- 37 (A) Hunting is by permit only

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- 1 (B) Target Shooting is prohibited
- 2 (82) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 3 (83) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- 4 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 5 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 6 Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 7 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 8 (84) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
- 9 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 12 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and
- 13 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or
- 14 older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- 15 (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is
- 16 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive
- 17 days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- 18 (85) Tillery game Land in Halifax County
- 19 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 20 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 21 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 22 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 23 (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 24 (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- 25 (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 26 (86) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
- 27 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 28 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 29 Antlers Season.
- 30 (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and
- 31 all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- 32 (87) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- 33 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 34 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 35 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 36 (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following
- 37 days:

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- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- (88) Vance Game Land in Vance County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- (89) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- (90) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
 - (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (91) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
 - (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October ~~and~~ through the end of ~~the~~ all waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
 - (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
 - (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);
 - (ii) hunting is by permit only; and
 - (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

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- 1 (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- 2 (92) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties
- 3 (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- 4 (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31
- 5 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- 6 (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is
- 7 prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.
- 8 (93) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County
- 9 (A) Six Days per Week Area
- 10 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
- 11 Antlers Season.
- 12 (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed
- 13 applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of
- 14 hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and
- 15 are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or
- 16 by phone.
- 17 (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a
- 18 valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:
- 19 (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
- 20 (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
- 21 (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
- 22 (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;
- 23 (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- 24 (6) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
- 25 (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.
- 26 (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the
- 27 Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise
- 28 the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid
- 29 need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes
- 30 issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public
- 31 interest.
- 32 (k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any
- 33 legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands
- 34 that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.
- 35 (l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on
- 36 any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where
- 37 prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

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(m) Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days, veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

~~(m)~~ (n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

~~(n)~~ (o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

~~(o)~~ (p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September 1, 1994; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October 1, 2004;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2019.

Exhibit E-1

October 24, 2019

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: McDowell County Shooting Range

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): October 24, 2019

Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):

Donation by McDowell County. Land value is planned to be used as a match to Federal Grant Funds for construction of the shooting range.

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table: *Provided here for context only, project is a donation.*

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value
NCWRC	Austin M. Smith	December 2018	\$503,000
McDowell County	Frank Dean	April 2019	\$952,500

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):

Pittman Robertson Federal Grant – 90% federal: 10% state

Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 22,750
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0

Exhibit E-1

October 24, 2019

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections: McDowell County Shooting Range

Estimated Stewardship Costs					
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Expense Type	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	14,500	Feet	One-time	\$1.50	\$21,750
Gate Installation	2	Each	One-time	\$500	\$1,000
TOTAL					\$22,750

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Gary Gardner/Steve Bailey
Date First Presented to Commission:	23-Oct-19
Tract Name:	McDowell County Shooting Range
County:	McDowell
Acreage:	266.87
Tax Value:	\$280,210
Property Owner/Representative:	County of McDowell/Ashley Wooten (County Manager)
Phone:	828-652-7121
Email Address:	awooten@mcdowellgov.com
Address:	County Administration Annex, 100 Spaulding Road, Suite 1, Marion, NC 28752

Primary Purpose:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	User Access (PFA)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility (Shooting Range)

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Tax Value:

2019	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Funding Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Program Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access Area (Shooting Range)
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Owner Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Stewardship Considerations:

75%	Source: Federal Aid Grant
25%	Match: State Funds

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Additional Comments:

McDowell County desires to donate the subject property to WRC for the construction of a shooting range. Due to safety concerns associated with the range, the potential to provide other activities on the property will be limited. Access to the subject tract is provided via a deeded ROW easement through an adjoining property (Levi Holdings, LLC.).

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Land Acquisition Investigation Form

– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name:	McDowell County Shooting Range
County:	McDowell

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The subject tract does not adjoin any other conservation properties and the main objective of acquisition is to construct a shooting range on the property. There is a small flood control pond that is partially located on the property. The tract is dominated by Appalachian Oak, Appalachian Cove, and various types of early successional habitat. The tract is located adjacent to I-40, providing easy access to the site for shooting range users. An access road into the site, including a small bridge, will have to be constructed across an adjoining property within a dedicated right of way.

Tract Name	McDowell County Shooting Range
Date	October 8, 2019
Staff Completing Form	Various

Species	0.111
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Due to the lack of linkage of the tract to other conservation properties, biodiversity is low.

Habitat	0.278
Size	1
Quality	2
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	0
Buffer	0

Comments
The property does not provide any connectivity or buffer to other conservation properties.

Public Access	0.111
Hunting/Viewing	0
Fishing	1
Boating	0

Comments
Due to safety concerns and noise issues associated with the range, the property offer opportunity for hunting/wildlife viewing.

Wildlife Uses	0.067
Hunting	0
Viewing	0
Fishing	1
Boating	0
Education	0

Comments
Due to safety concerns and noise issues associated with the range, the property offer opportunity for hunting/wildlife viewing.

Other Values	0.444
Timber Harvest	1
Local Economy	3
Quality of Life	0

Comments
The property does offer some potential to grow timber, but harvesting timber could be problematic due to safety concerns associated with the range. The local economy should benefit greatly from the range.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.400
Existing Infrastructure	0
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	1
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	2
Inholding/Corridor	0
Proximity to Users	3

Comments
The planned shooting range will be within reasonable driving distance of a great number of constituents and fills a real need in the local area.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.583
Species Restoration	1
Habitat Restoration	1
Access Improvement	2
Threat Mitigation	3

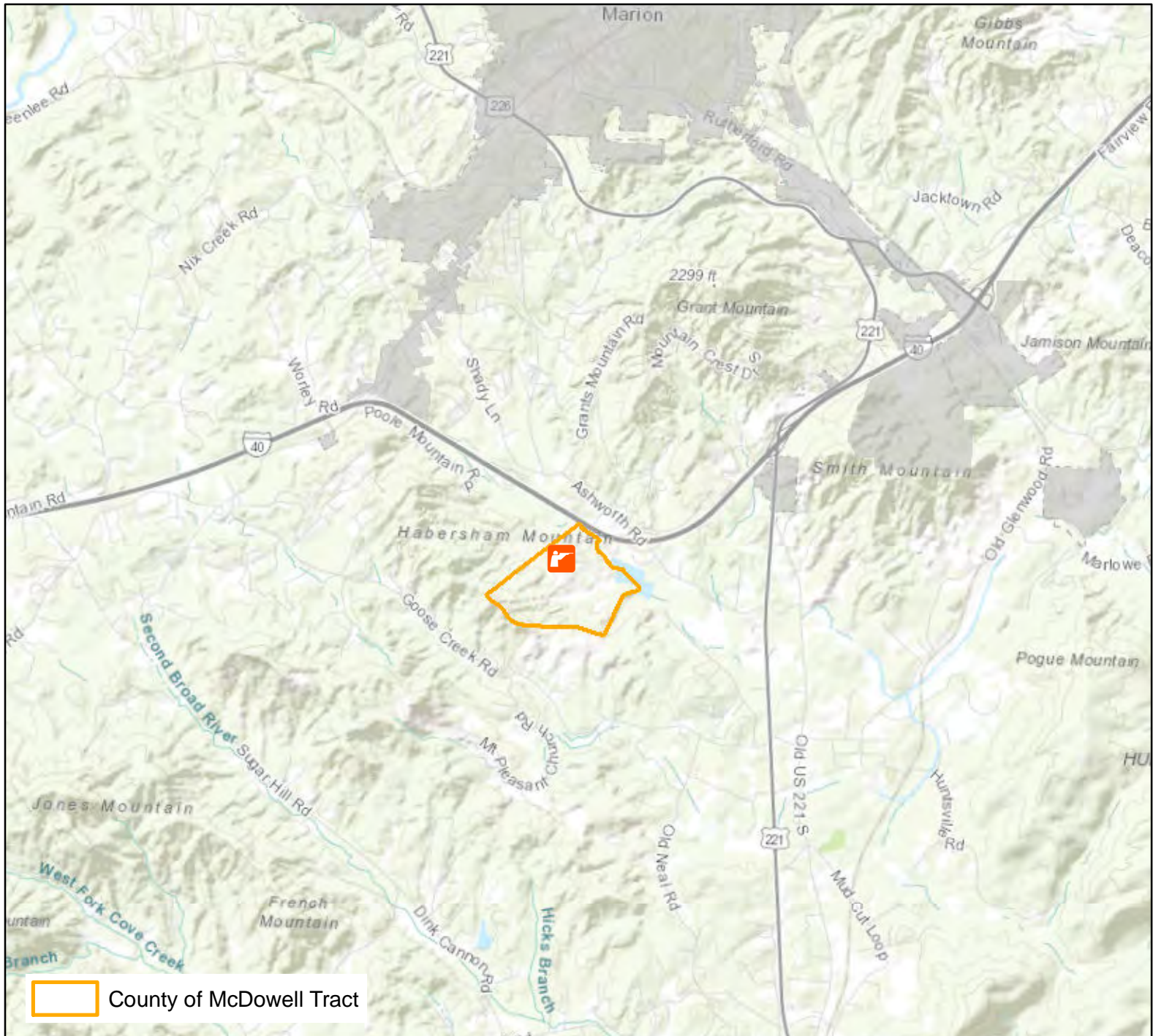
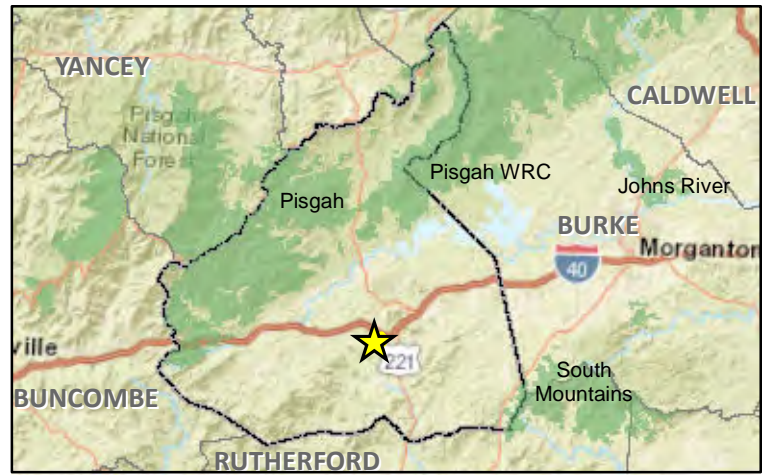
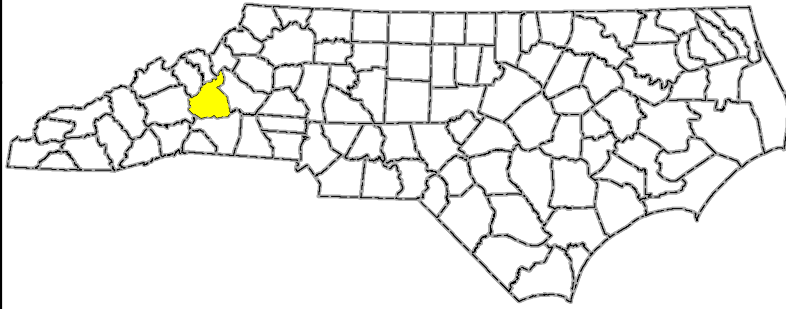
Comments

Threats	0.267
Number	1
Severity	1
Imminence	0
Manageability	1
Management Cost	1

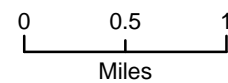
Comments

Overall Score	1.728
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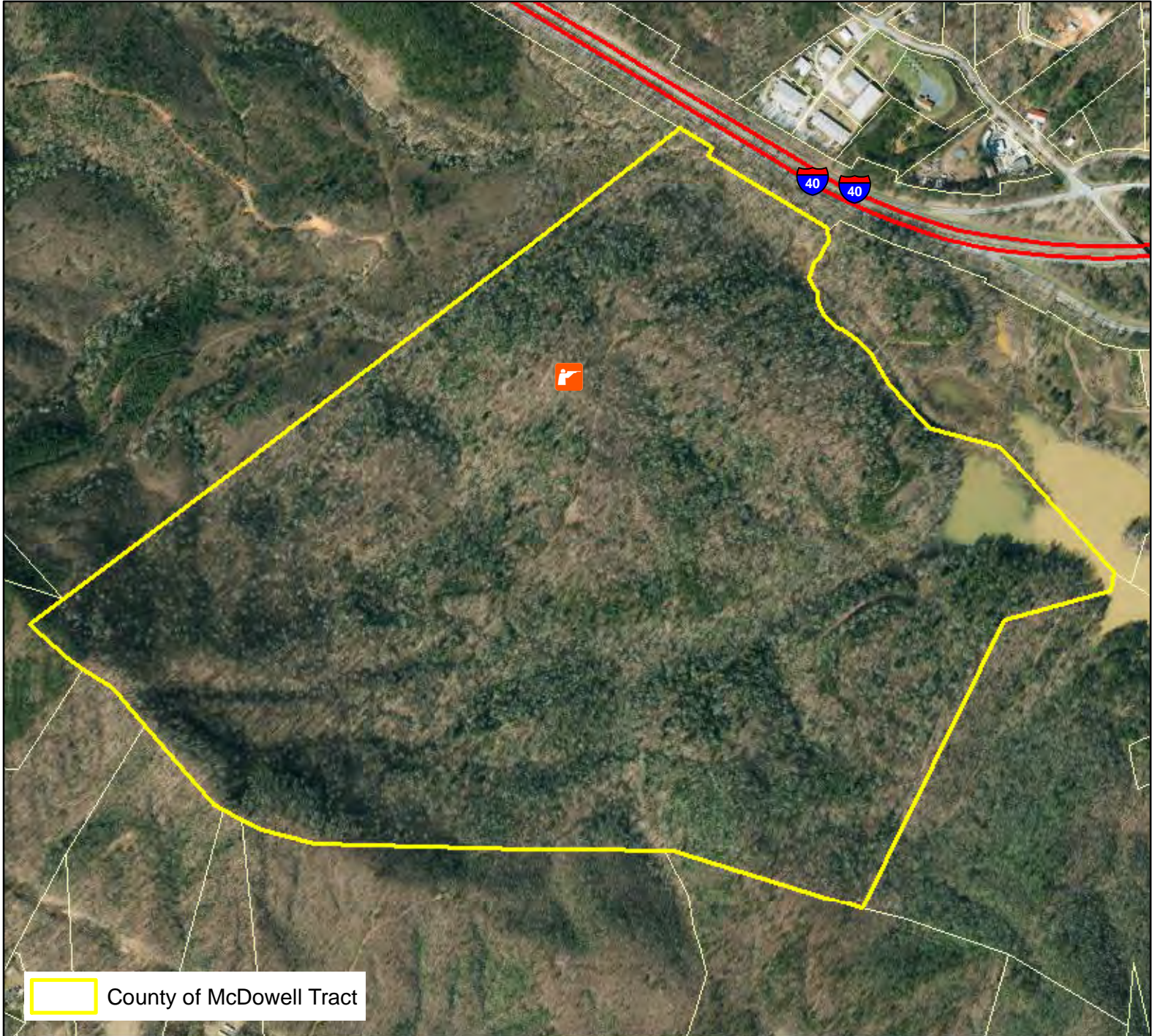
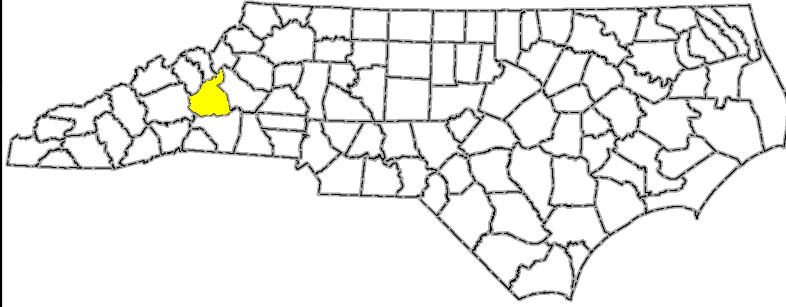
McDowell County Shooting Range Tract McDowell County 267 Acres



October 15, 2019



McDowell County Shooting Range Tract
McDowell County
267 Acres



October 15, 2019

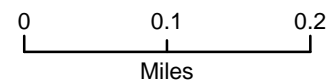


Exhibit E-2

October 24, 2019

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: FINAL ACQUISITION DETAILS

Tract Name: Lahuis

WRC Action/Approval to Pursue (Date): October 24, 2019

Acquisition Plan (specify total project costs AND sources of funding):

Donation by Conserving Carolinas.

Acquisition Plan Includes Bargain Sale? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If Yes, Explain Details:

Total Cost Based on Appraisal? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If Yes, Describe in Table:

Requested By	Appraiser	Effective Date	Appraised Value

Appraisal Handled by State Property Office? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Source(s) of Stewardship Funds (indicate federal:state match rates):

Pittman Robertson Federal Grant – 90% federal: 10% state

Five-Year Stewardship Costs & Revenue Projections (worksheet attached):

Total Stewardship Expenditures	\$ 16,875.00
Total Projected Revenue	\$ 0

Exhibit E-2

October 24, 2019

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Land Acquisition Investigation Form

Phase II: COSTS AND REVENUE WORKSHEET

Estimated Five Year Stewardship Costs and Revenue Projections: Lahuis Tract

Estimated Stewardship Costs					
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Expense Type	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Boundary Establishment	4,300	Feet	One-time	\$1.25	\$5,375.00
Asbestos Inspection	1	Each	One-time	\$500	\$500.00
Improve access road to parking area	.05	Miles	One-time	\$20,000.00	\$1,000.00
Develop Parking Area	1	Each	One-time	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
TOTAL					\$16,875.00

Estimated Revenue Projections				
Source	Quantity	Unit	Unit Revenue	Total Revenue
TOTAL				

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

WRC Staff Contact:	Paul Thompson/Kip Hollifield
Date First Presented to Commission:	23-Oct-19
Tract Name:	Lahuis Tract - Addition to Green River Game Land (PIN 9597603227)
County:	Henderson
Acreage:	78 acres
Tax Value:	Undefined by County
Property Owner/Representative:	Conserving Carolina
Phone:	828-697-5777
Email Address:	kieran@carolinamountain.org
Address:	847 Case St, Hendersonville NC 28792

Primary Purpose:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resource Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	User Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRC Facility

Type of Acquisition:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchase
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease
<input type="checkbox"/>	Easement

Grant Potential:

<input type="checkbox"/>	CWMTF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Aid (PR, WB, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Tax Value:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Year Assessed
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUV?

Funding Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bargin Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partner Contribution

Recommendation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do Not Pursue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defer

Program Potential:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Game Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife Conservation Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access Area
<input type="checkbox"/>	None

Type of Parcel:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riparian Corridor

Owner Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Stewardship Considerations:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	75%	Source: Federal Aid Grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	25%	Match: State Funds

Reviewed Appraisal & Purchase Requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Additional Comments:

Conserving Carolina recently acquired the 78 acre Lahuis tract with plans to donate to WRC. The tract will help solidify WRC ownership and provide additional access to this section of Green River GL. The tract has approximately 1,500 feet of road frontage along Macedonia Rd (SR 1834). There is an abandoned house located on the property that would need to be removed.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Land Acquisition Investigation Form
– PHASE I: INITIAL INVESTIGATION –

Tract Name:	Lahuis Tract
County:	Henderson

Resources Assessment and Biological Benefits (brief):

The 78 acre Lahuis tract maintains approximately 1,500 feet of direct public access via road frontage along Macedonia Rd (SR 1834). The NW section of this parcel shares approximately 2,400 feet of common boundary with current Green River GL. The tract has a developed entry road from Macedonia Rd that provides access to the tract. The tract has approximately 1,300 linear feet of intermittent streams. An abandoned house exists that would need to be removed. The majority of the tract is forested with Southern Appalachian Oak and Cove forests prevailing, and an opening exists where the current structure is located. The management objectives on this tract will include restoring or maintaining the oak and cove forest habitats. Common wildlife species found on this tract include wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon, and gray squirrel. Species of greatest conservation need (SCGN) likely found on this tract as either permanent residents or transients include: Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Eastern Mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*), and Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*)

Tract Name	Lahuis Tract
Date	August 27, 2019
Staff Completing Form	Paul Thompson

Species	0.148
	Terrestrial
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	1
Game Species	1
	Wetland
Overall Biodiversity	0
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0
	Aquatic
Overall Biodiversity	1
SGCN Species	0
Game Species	0

Comments
Low biodiversity is based on relatively small size of the subject property and it's being almost entirely closed canopy Appalachian oak forest. No rare habitats or species are likely present on the tract. Wetland habitat is not located on the property but it does contain approx. 1,300 feet of intermittent streams.

Habitat	0.389
Size	0
Quality	2
Diversity	1
Rare/Important	1
Connectivity	2
Buffer	1

Comments
The quality of the habitat on the tract is good, but it's mostly closed canopy Appalachian Oak and Cove forests with little diversity. The property is not considered critical habitat for rare species. The property does provide good connectivity to and buffer for Green River GL.

Public Access	0.889
Hunting/Viewing	3
Fishing	2
Boating	3

Comments
The property provides excellent access to Green River GL and adds additional access to portions of the Green River.

Wildlife Uses	0.400
Hunting	2
Viewing	3
Fishing	0
Boating	0
Education	1

Comments
The property offers some hunting and wildlife viewing opportunity, but this is only moderate due to the small size of the tract. Educational opportunities will be low. No significant water is located on the tract, so there is no fishing/boating opportunity.

Other Values	0.667
Timber Harvest	2
Local Economy	2
Quality of Life	2

Comments
The tract can produce good timber, but the value can only be considered moderate due to the small size of the tract. The additional access provided by this tract may provide some benefit to the economy and quality of life.

Feasibility & Logistics	0.733
Existing Infrastructure	1
Compatibility of Multiple Uses on Tract	3
Compatibility with Adjoining Land	2
Inholding/Corridor	2
Proximity to Users	3

Comments
The tract has an abandoned home that will need to be removed. The existence of multiple usage on the tract and the compatibility with adjoining land shouldn't create any issues. The tract fills a gap in GL ownership and brings state ownership out to a DOT maintained road. The tract is in close proximity to various user groups.

Restoration/Mitigation Potential	0.417
Species Restoration	1
Habitat Restoration	1
Access Improvement	3
Threat Mitigation	0

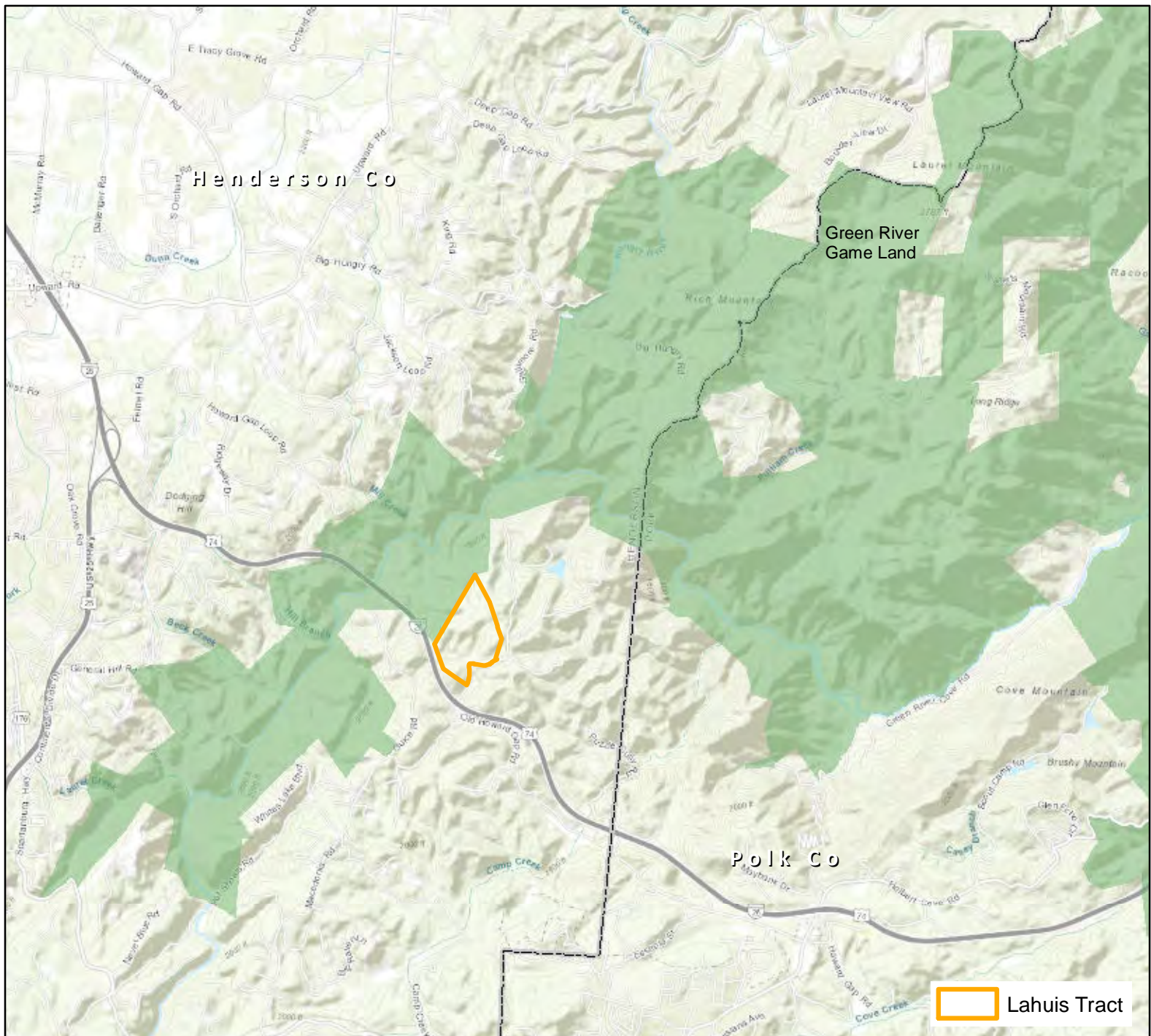
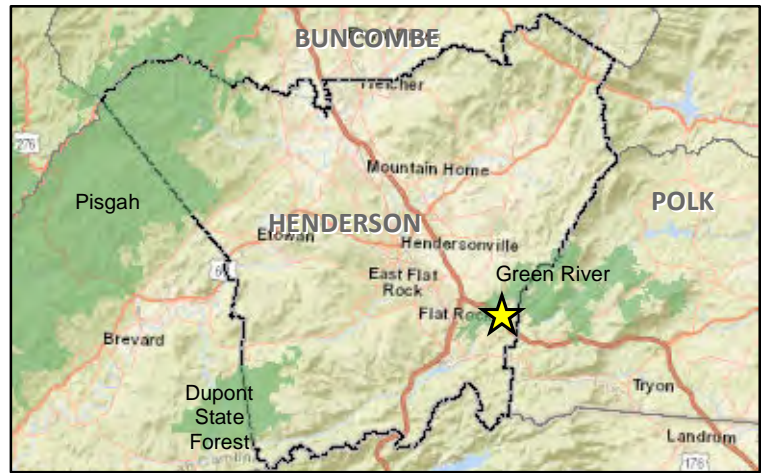
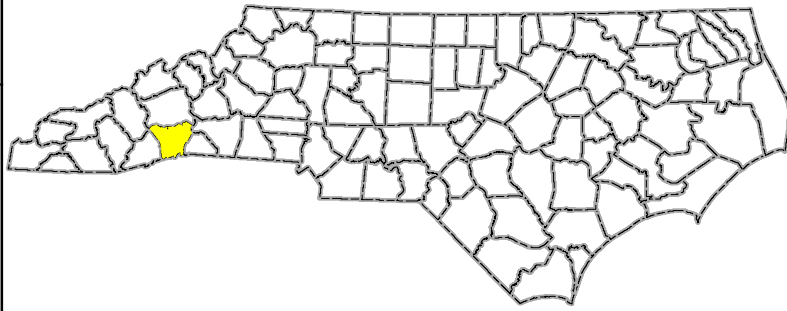
Comments
Restoration and maintenance of the habitats/species on the tract is not likely, thus the rank is low. Purchase will create additional public access.

Threats	0.000
Number	0
Severity	0
Imminence	0
Manageability	0
Management Cost	0

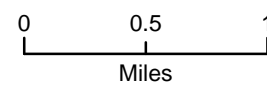
Comments
Conserving carolina currently owns the tract and has plans to convey to WRC, so threat levels are null.

Overall Score	3.643
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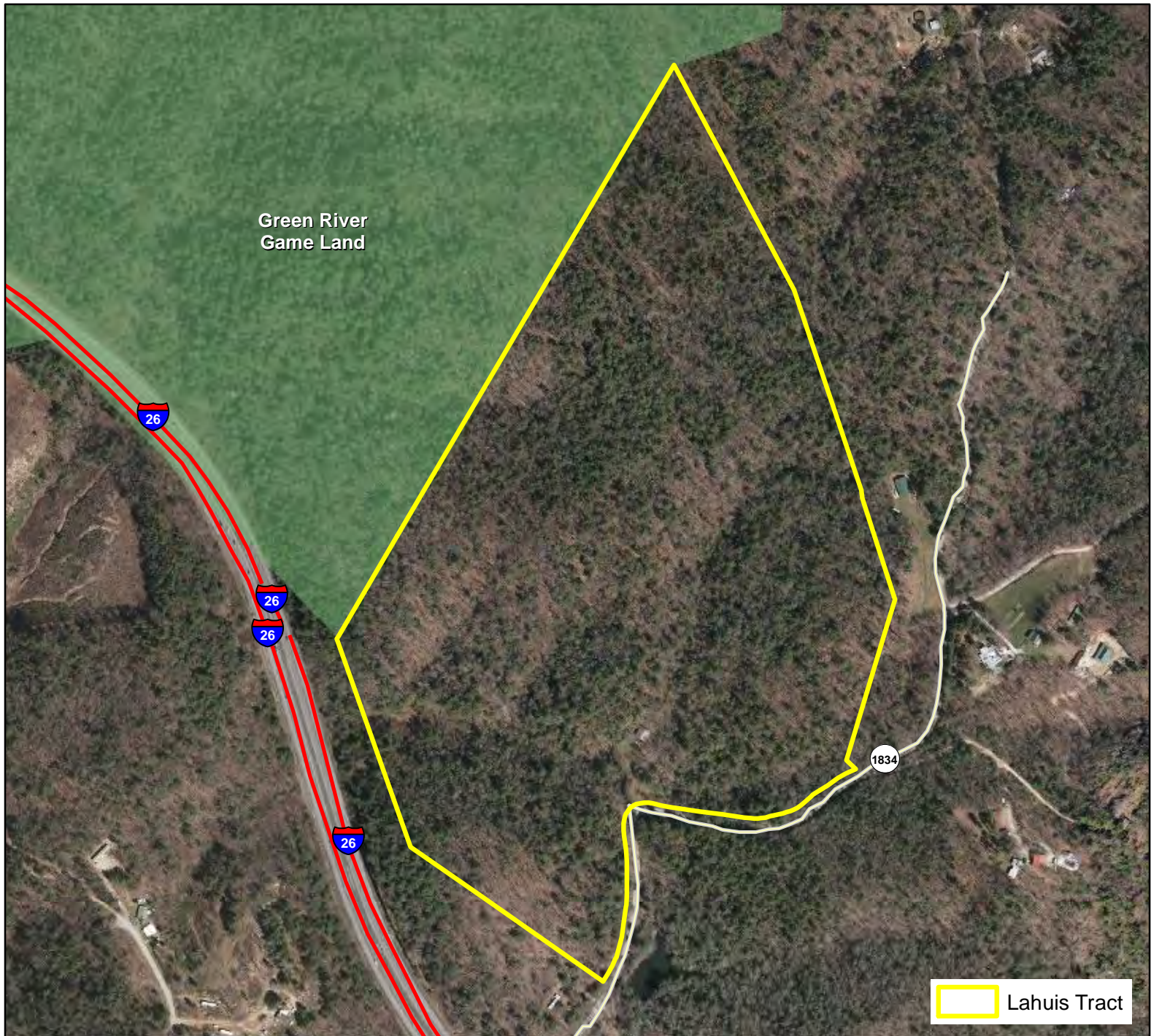
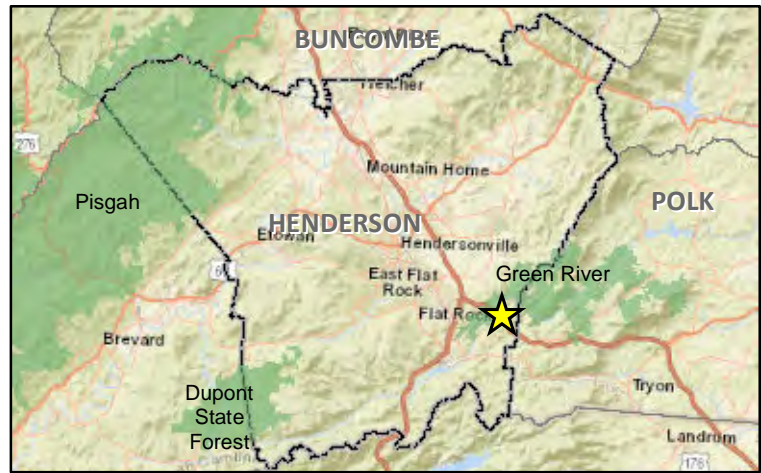
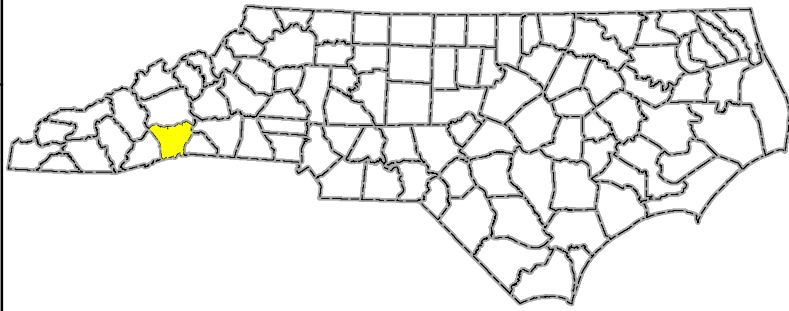
Lahuis Tract Henderson County 78 Acres



October 15, 2019



**Lahuis Tract
Henderson County
78 Acres**



October 15, 2019

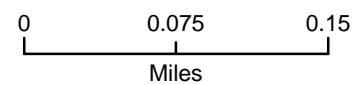


EXHIBIT F

October 24, 2019



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

October 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian McRae, Section Chief
Land and Water Access

FROM: Jessie Birckhead, Land Acquisition and Grants Manager
Land and Water Access

SUBJECT: Property Disposition – Gibson Fox Trial Facility in Scotland County

The 5.9-acre Gibson Fox Trial Facility in Scotland County was donated to the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) by the Gibson family in 1971 for the purposes of conducting fox trials across an area owned by private landowners. The local fox trial association needed a place to stage and hold dogs during the competition trials and this property was identified as an appropriate site. Fox trials were very popular and successful in this area at that time however today there is no use of the facility by local fox trial groups and the last sanctioned trial at this area was held in 2001.

The site currently provides no use or benefit to the public. WRC staff have removed materials on site that could be reused elsewhere, and the site is mowed twice per year. In February 2019 the State Fire Marshal inspected the facility and identified several costly needed actions including electrical repairs, roof repairs, and updates to fire safety equipment needed for the facility to remain in compliance with state codes. If the property is not disposed of action will need to be taken to address findings of the Fire Marshal.

Recently staff have received requests from hunters hunting nearby private land to use the area for parking. There are no game lands or other public hunting lands nearby to justify that use, and staff are concerned about the precedent that would be set by letting private hunt clubs use Commission property for parking and cleaning of deer.

Land and Water Access

Mailing Address: 1720 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1720

Physical Address: 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27606

Phone: 919-707-0150

Fax: 919-707-0162

WRC staff would like to dispose of this property as it has become a management concern and serves no purpose for our constituents or natural resources. The original grantors, the Gibson family, would be willing to accept the property back into their ownership, and staff believe that giving the property back to the Gibson family would be an appropriate disposition of this property.

Staff request approval to work with the State Property Office to dispose of the Gibson Fox Trail Facility in Scotland County.

Gibson Fox Trial Facility TG Gibson III Lands

Hamlet Hwy

WRC Ownership

Tabernacle Rd

TG Gibson III Ownership

Legend

- Gibson_fox_facility
- TG Gibson III



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Imagery © Mapbox

EXHIBIT G-1

October 24, 2019



Proposed Changes to Inland Fisheries Regulations for 2020-2021 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

Trout

1. Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Fires Creek in Clay County adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area.

Justification:

Relocating the upper boundary a short distance will allow trout to be stocked in the deep pool on the upstream side of the bridge on USFS Rd. 340A, the current upper boundary, and within the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 11)

2. Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on West Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad River.

Justification:

Relocating the upper boundary upstream a short distance to the S.R. 1312 bridge provides a more recognizable landmark for anglers. Anglers can access the river at the bridge.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 17)

3. Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on South Prong Lewis Fork in Wilkes County adding approximately 0.2 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155 intersection.

Justification:

The landowner has requested to have this section of stream added to Public Mountain Trout Waters.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 19)

4. Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Puncheon Fork in Madison County removing 0.6 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek.

Justification:

The upper 0.6 miles of the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section of Puncheon Fork Creek has never been stocked because the reach cannot be easily accessed from the road by the angling public or hatchery staff. In addition, this reach of creek is very small and habitat-limited and not expected to retain stocked trout.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 14)

5. Clarify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Mitchell River in Surry County. This proposal will not add or remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will remain 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330.

Justification:

The proposed change will remove the reference to Kapps Mill Dam, which was destroyed by a flood in 2018, and identify the boundary as the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 16)

6. Define “artificial fly” when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.

Justification:

Anglers have expressed confusion about what constitutes an artificial fly, specifically related to using articulated streamers (flies that have a second hook attached near the fly’s primary hook) and fishing with flies on traditional tackle (e.g., spinning rod) in waters requiring single-hook, artificial flies or lures.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 7)

7. Define “single hook” when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as a fish hook with only one point.

Justification:

Anglers have expressed confusion about what constitutes a single hook.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters (page 7)

8. Specify the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing when Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing. The reservoirs are: Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake.

Justification:

The proposed change will simplify regulations for anglers by specifically identifying the impounded waters classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters that are open to the public for fishing when other Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing (March 1 – first Saturday in April).

15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout (page 33)

Largemouth Bass

1. Remove the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed at Randleman Reservoir and implement the general statewide regulation for Largemouth Bass. The daily creel limit is five fish, and there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches.

Justification:

Anglers have requested the elimination of the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches to increase tournament opportunities at Randleman Reservoir. Minimal biological effect is anticipated as less than 2% of all Largemouth Bass captured were harvest during a recent creel survey.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass (page 26)

2. Modify the current rule applying to all black bass species making the rule specific to Largemouth Bass and relocating rule text for other black bass species to new separate rules.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass (pages 26-27)

Smallmouth Bass

1. Establish a rule specific to Smallmouth Bass and relocate rule text specific to Smallmouth Bass from the current rule applying to all black bass species.

Justification:

This is an administrative change. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass (page 35)

Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass

1. Update the Inland Game Fishes Designation for black bass to include Alabama Bass, *Micropterus henshalli*.

Justification:

Alabama Bass is a species in the family of black bass and has been introduced by anglers into numerous North Carolina waters over the past 20 years.

15A NCAC 10C .0301 Inland Game Fishes Designated (page 25)

2. Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass.

Justification:

Over the past 20 years, Alabama Bass have been introduced by anglers into North Carolina waters and are highly invasive where they have been introduced. Anglers have requested more opportunity to harvest Alabama Bass from these waters to possibly slow

the effects of their invasion on Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass. Alabama Bass are visually indistinguishable from Spotted Bass.
15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass (page 36)

Redeye Bass

1. Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, *Micropterus coosae*, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches and a five-fish daily creel limit.

Justification:

Redeye Bass is a species in the family of black bass and has been traditionally managed under the current “black bass” rule. The “black bass” rule will be separated into individual species rules to clarify limits for anglers and to provide additional management flexibility.

15A NCAC 10C .0323 Redeye Bass (page 37)

Crappie

1. Remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line.

Justification:

Data collected over the last 15 years from these reservoirs show that crappie growth is often impaired when large year-classes are produced, due to high levels of competition for baitfish resources of the proper size. An increase in the harvest of 6–8-inch crappie is expected to reduce competition and increase growth and average size.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie (page 28)

2. Clarify the 20-fish daily creel and 8-inch minimum length limit for crappie applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County.

Justification:

This is an administrative change specifying that Cane Creek Lake is in Union County. The proposed change will prevent angler confusion with Cane Creek Reservoir in Orange County.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie (page 28)

Striped Bass and Bodie Bass (Hybrid Striped Bass)

1. Remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Bodie Bass on Arrowhead Lake (Anson County) and High Rock Pond (Caswell County). The general statewide regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit and a four fish daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids will apply.

Justification:

Survival of stocked Bodie Bass in Arrowhead Lake and High Rock Pond is poor. Bodie Bass will no longer be stocked, so the minimum size limit is no longer needed.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass (page 31)

2. Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir by implementing a 16-inch minimum size limit. The daily creel limit will be four fish.

Justification:

Bodie Bass will be stocked annually in Hyco Reservoir to establish and maintain a fishery. The proposed change will provide protection to newly stocked Bodie Bass and allow harvest as the fish grow.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass (page 31)

Kokanee Salmon

1. Decrease the general statewide daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon from seven fish to four fish.

Justification:

Angler observation and evaluations by Commission biologists have indicated significant declines in the Lake Nantahala fishery, the only Kokanee Salmon fishery in the southeastern United States. While the cause of the recent decline is unknown, this low-density fishery may be overexploited due to increased angler attention and efficiency.

15A NCAC 10C .0308 Kokanee Salmon (page 30)

Catfish

1. Designate Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters.

Justification:

The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission's Catfish Management Plan. Inland Game Fish designation will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by allowing possession or harvest by only hook and line and prohibiting their sale.

15A NCAC 10C .0301 Inland Game Fishes Designated (page 25)

2. Establish a general statewide regulation for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead by implementing a 10-fish daily creel limit in combination. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

Justification:

The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission's Catfish Management Plan. A daily creel limit will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by limiting the number that can be harvested.

15A NCAC 10C .0324 Catfish (page 38)

3. Increase the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish from six to seven fish in waters stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program. The daily creel will no longer apply to White or Blue Catfish.

Justification:

Channel Catfish are routinely stocked at Community Fishing Program sites, and at some sites Mountain trout are stocked during the winter to provide additional angling opportunity. These waters are undesignated trout waters and the daily creel limit is seven trout. The proposed change will make the daily creel limits for catfish and trout the same in these waters eliminating angler confusion. The proposed change also clarifies that the creel limit only applies to Channel Catfish.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes (page 39)

4. Add Blue Catfish to the list of species for which no permit shall be issued to stock into inland fishing waters.

Justification:

The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission's Catfish Management Plan. Blue Catfish is identified as an invasive species, and the proposed change will help prevent new introductions of Blue Catfish.

15A NCAC 10C .0209 Transportation of Live Fish (page 22)

5. Prohibit the harvest and possession of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom in inland fishing waters.

Justification:

The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission's Catfish Management Plan. The conservation and protection of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom is an identified need.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes (page 40)

Prohibited Species

1. Add the Redtail Catfish to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina.

Justification:

Redtail Catfish are freshwater fish native to South America that reach large sizes and are popular as sport fish in their native range. Impacts of Redtail Catfish outside their native range may include predation upon, competition with, and hybridization with native species.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes (page 23)

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

2 (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

3 (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared
4 substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.

5 ~~(2)~~ "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.

6 ~~(2)(3)~~ "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that
7 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.

8 ~~(4)~~ "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any
9 similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.

10 ~~(3)(5)~~ "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

11 (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

12 (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC
13 10D .0104.

14 (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where
15 only artificial flies having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested
16 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

17 (3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where
18 only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested
19 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

20 (4) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and
21 one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful
22 to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout
23 while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth
24 anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday
25 in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions.
26 Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

27 (5) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure
28 restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

29 (6) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific
30 regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

31 (7) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or
32 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person
33 shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include
34 tributaries unless otherwise noted.

35 (8) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and
36 natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook.
37 Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

(9) "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.

(c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.

(d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

(1) Alleghany

(A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

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])

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

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 from 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

(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

(2) Ashe County

(A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

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

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)

Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)

South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)

Trout Lake

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)

- 1 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
2 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
3 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
4 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
5 Nathans Creek
6 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
7 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
8 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
9 Roan Creek
10 Three Top Creek
11 (3) Avery County
12 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
14 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
15 (B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
16 Wilson Creek (game land portion)
17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
18 Boyde Coffey Lake
19 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state
20 line)
21 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,
22 except where posted against trespassing)
23 Milltimber Creek
24 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family
25 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
26 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
27 trespassing)
28 Squirrel Creek
29 Wildcat Lake
30 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
31 Birchfield Creek
32 Cow Camp Creek
33 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
34 Gragg Prong
35 Horse Creek
36 Kentucky Creek
37 North Harper Creek

- 1 Plumtree Creek
2 Roaring Creek
3 Rockhouse Creek
4 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
5 South Harper Creek
6 Webb Prong
- 7 (4) Buncombe County
- 8 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
9 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 10 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
11 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
12 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
13 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
14 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
15 Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
16 Lake Powhatan
17 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
18 trespassing)
19 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
20 Stony Creek
21 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of
22 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 23 (5) Burke County
- 24 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
25 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 26 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
27 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 28 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
29 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
30 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
31 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake
32 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 33 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 35 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
36 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
37 A and B of this Subparagraph

- 1 (6) Caldwell County
- 2 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 4 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 Boone Fork Pond
- 6 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
- 7 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
- 8 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
- 9 against trespassing)
- 10 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
- 11 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
- 13 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
- 14 Rockhouse Creek
- 15 (7) Cherokee County
- 16 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- 18 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
- 19 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
- 20 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
- 21 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 22 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 23 Apalachia Reservoir
- 24 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 25 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 26 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 27 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 28 (8) Clay County
- 29 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Fires Creek (~~USFS Rd. 340A~~ Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek
- 31 Picnic Area)
- 32 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 34 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- 35 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 36 (9) Graham County
- 37 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 2 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 4 Cheoah Reservoir
- 5 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 6 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 7 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 8 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
- 9 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 10 West Buffalo Creek
- 11 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 12 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 13 Little Buffalo Creek
- 14 South Fork Squally Creek
- 15 Squally Creek
- 16 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 17 Deep Creek
- 18 Franks Creek
- 19 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 20 (10) Haywood County
- 21 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 23 Logan)
- 24 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 26 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 27 trespassing)
- 28 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 29 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 30 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 31 except Middle Prong)
- 32 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 33 Hemphill Creek
- 34 Hurricane Creek
- 35 (11) Henderson County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)

- 1 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
2 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
3 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
4 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
5 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
6 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 7 (12) Jackson County
- 8 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
9 Flat Creek
10 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- 11 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
12 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
13 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 14 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Balsam Lake
16 Bear Creek Lake
17 Cedar Cliff Lake
18 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
19 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
20 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
21 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
22 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
23 trespassing)
24 Tanasee Creek Lake
25 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
26 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
27 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
28 Wolf Creek Lake
- 29 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
30 Gage Creek
31 North Fork Scott Creek
32 Tanasee Creek
33 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
34 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- 35 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
36 Buff Creek
37 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)

- 1 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
2 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
3 (13) Macon County
4 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
6 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
7 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
8 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
9 Cliffside Lake
10 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
11 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
12 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
13 Queens Creek Lake
14 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
15 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
16 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
17 Kimsey Creek
18 Overflow Creek (game land portion)
19 Park Creek
20 Tellico Creek (game land portion)
21 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
22 (14) Madison County
23 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
24 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
25 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
26 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews
27 Ave.)
28 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
29 Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of
30 Bearpen Branch)
31 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
32 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence
33 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
34 Max Patch Pond
35 Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
36 Puncheon Fork (~~Hampton Creek~~ Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
37 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)

1 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
 2 Shut-in Creek
 3 Spillcorn Creek
 4 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
 5 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-
 6 in Creek)
 7 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 8 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
 9 (15) McDowell County
 10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 11 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
 12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 13 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
 14 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
 15 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
 16 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 17 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
 18 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
 19 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
 20 Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against
 21 trespassing)
 22 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
 23 (16) Mitchell County
 24 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 25 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
 26 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
 27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 28 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
 29 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
 30 East Fork Grassy Creek
 31 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
 32 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against
 33 trespassing)
 34 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
 35 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 36 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

- 1 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
2 posted against trespassing)
3 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 4 (17) Polk County
- 5 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
- 7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
9 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 10 (18) Rutherford County
- 11 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
12 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
13 against trespassing)
- 14 (19) Stokes County
- 15 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
16 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 17 (20) Surry County
- 18 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
19 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
20 Mitchell River (~~6 mile~~ 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge
21 on S.R. 1330 ~~bridge below Kapps Mill Dam~~)
- 22 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
23 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
24 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
25 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
26 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
27 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
28 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
29 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 30 (21) Swain County
- 31 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
- 33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
35 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
36 Cheoah Reservoir
37 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)

- 1 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
2 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
3 (22) Transylvania County
4 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek
6 and Grogan Creek)
7 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
8 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107
9 bridge)
10 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
11 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
12 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
13 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork) French
14 Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
15 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
16 West Fork French Broad River (~~Camp Cove Branch S.R. 1312~~ to confluence with North
17 Fork French Broad River)
18 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
19 All waters located on Gorges State Park
20 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
21 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
22 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
23 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against
24 trespassing)
25 (23) Watauga County
26 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
27 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding
28 tributaries)
29 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee
30 Lake)
31 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Lake Coffey
33 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and
34 S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)
35 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
36 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
37 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)

1 Beech Creek

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

3 Buckeye Creek Reservoir

4 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)

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

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

7 trespassing)

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

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

10 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork

11 New River)

12 Norris Fork Creek

13 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower

14 boundary of Brookshire Park)

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

16 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

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

18 Howard Creek

19 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)

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

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

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

23 (24) Wilkes County

24 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

25 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park

26 lower boundary)

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

28 Club)

29 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)

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

31 River)

32 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong

33 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)

34 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

35 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)

36 Bell Branch Pond

37 Cub Creek (.5 mile 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 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 U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155-~~bridge~~ intersection)

(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply

(25) Yancey County

(A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:

South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)

Upper Creek

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

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

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

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)

(D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

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

Lickskillet Creek

Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

1
2 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
3 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
4 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
5 *October 1, 1992;*
6 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
7 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
9 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
12 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
13 *2003);*
14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
15 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
16 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
17 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0209 TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE FISH**

2 (a) Fish Transport: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to transport live freshwater nongame
3 fishes, or live game fishes in excess of the possession limit, or fish eggs without having in possession a permit obtained
4 from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

5 (b) Fish Stocking: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to stock any life stage of any species of
6 fish in the inland fishing waters of this State without having first procured a stocking permit from the North Carolina
7 Wildlife Resources Commission.

8 (c) Permits for stocking fish shall be issued as follows:

9 (1) Application for a stocking permit shall be made on a form provided by the Commission. The
10 applicant shall specify the purpose for the stocking, species to be stocked, the source of the stock,
11 the number of individual specimens to be released, and the location where release is desired.

12 (2) Before issuing a stocking permit, the Executive Director shall review the application and determine,
13 based on principles of wildlife management and biological science, that the proposed stocking will
14 not:

15 (A) threaten the introduction of epizootic disease or

16 (B) create a danger to or an imbalance in the environment inimical to the conservation of
17 wildlife resources.

18 (3) Based on the determination made in Subparagraph (2):

19 (A) If the Executive Director determines that either or both conditions cannot be met under any
20 circumstances, the application shall be denied.

21 (B) If the Executive Director determines that both conditions may be met only by the
22 introduction of fewer than the number requested, a permit only for the number that may be
23 safely released shall be issued.

24 (C) If the Executive Director determines that the number requested may be safely released, he
25 shall issue the permit.

26 (4) Any stocking permit issued by the Commission may impose the following conditions or restrictions:

27 (A) Location where the permitted number of fish may be stocked.

28 (B) Certification that fish are free of certifiable diseases by the vendor or a laboratory qualified
29 to make such determination.

30 (C) Documentation of the date, time and location of the release.

31 (D) Access by the Commission to the property where fish introductions occur to assess impacts
32 of the introduction.

33 (E) All conditions required shall be included in writing on the permit.

34 (5) Based on the criteria in Subparagraph (2), no permit shall be issued to stock any of the following
35 species in the areas indicated:

36 SPECIES

LOCATION

37 Salmonids except brown, brook, and rainbow trout

Statewide

Flathead catfish

Statewide

Blue Catfish

Statewide

(d) For purposes of this Rule, stocking is the introduction or attempted introduction of one or more individuals of a particular species of live fish into public waters for any purpose other than:

(1) As bait affixed to a hook and line, or

(2) A release incidental to "catch and release" fishing in an area within the same body of water where the fish was caught, or within an adjacent body of water not separated from that body by any natural or manmade obstruction to the passage of that species.

(e) The release of more than the daily creel limit, or if there is no established creel limit for the species, more than five individuals of the species, shall constitute prima facie evidence of an intentional release.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-274; 113-292;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2005.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

(a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina any live individuals of:

- (1) piranha;
- (2) "walking catfish" (*Clarias batrachus*);
- (3) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
- (4) black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- (5) bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- (6) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
- (7) rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*);
- (8) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- (9) tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*);
- (10) ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*);
- (11) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- (12) Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*);
- (13) red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*);
- (14) virile crayfish (*Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis*);
- (15) rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*);
- (16) Australian red claw crayfish or "red claw" (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species of "giant" crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*);
- (17) white amur or "grass carp" (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*);
- (18) swamp or "rice" eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- (19) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- (20) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*); ~~or~~
- (21) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family ~~Dreissenidae~~.
- Dreissenidae; or
- (22) redbtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*).

(b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

(c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring, in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
2 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*
4 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*
5 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED

The following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes:

- (1) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to rainbow, brown and brook trout;
- (2) muskellunge, chain (jack) and redbfin pickerel;
- (3) yellow perch, when found in inland waters, walleye and sauger;
- (4) black bass, including Alabama, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and redeye bass;
- (5) black and white crappie;
- (6) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), pumpkinseed, warmouth, rock bass, (redeye), flier, Roanoke bass, and all other species of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule;
- (7) spotted sea trout (speckled trout), when found in inland fishing waters;
- (8) flounder, when found in inland fishing waters;
- (9) red drum (channel bass, red fish, puppy drum), when found in inland fishing waters;
- (10) striped bass, white bass, white perch and Morone hybrids (striped bass-white bass), when found in inland fishing waters;
- (11) American and hickory shad, when found in inland fishing waters;
- (12) kokanee ~~salmon~~-salmon; and
- (13) black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead, when found in inland fishing waters.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-129;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2005; June 1, 2004; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1990; July 1, 1983; January 1, 1981;

January 1, 1980.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 ~~BLACK-LARGEMOUTH BASS~~

(a) The daily creel limit for ~~Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass collectively known as Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and ~~(m)(l)~~ of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for ~~these fish, Largemouth Bass,~~ but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), and ~~(m)(l)~~ of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph ~~(m)(l)~~ of this Rule.

(b) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

(c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass~~ less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass~~ greater than 14 inches is five ~~fish, fish in aggregate.~~

(d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass~~ is 10 ~~fish, the fish in aggregate. The~~ minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 ~~inches, and there is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass. inches.~~

(e) The minimum size limit for ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass~~ is 14 inches in the following:

- (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

(f) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

(g) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches, and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

(h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for ~~Black-Bass, Largemouth Bass,~~ but only two ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass~~ less than 14 inches and no ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass~~ between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

~~(i) In Randleman Reservoir, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.~~

~~(j)(i)~~ In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for ~~Black-Bass-Largemouth Bass~~ is 18 inches.

~~(k)(j)~~ In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is no minimum size limit for ~~Black-Bass, Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass,~~ but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in

length may be possessed and only one ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

~~(h)(k)~~ In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

~~(m)(l)~~ In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

~~(n) For purposes of this Rule, creel limits apply to Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass in aggregate unless otherwise specified.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;
March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,
2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE

(a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), and (f). There is no closed season.

(b) In Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the daily creel limit is 20 fish.

(c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 30 fish.

(d) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:

- (1) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;
- (2) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;
- (3) Cashie River and its tributaries;
- (4) Middle River and its tributaries;
- (5) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and
- (6) Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County.

(e) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:

- ~~(1) Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line;~~
- ~~(2) Badin Lake;~~
- ~~(3) Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties);~~
- ~~(4) Lake Tillery;~~
- ~~(5) Blewett Falls Lake;~~
- ~~(6)~~(1) Lake Norman;
- ~~(7)~~(2) Lake Hyco;
- ~~(8)~~(3) Lake Ramseur;
- ~~(9)~~(4) Cane Creek ~~Lake;~~Lake (Union County);
- ~~(10)~~(5) Lake Hampton (Yadkin County);
- ~~(11)~~(6) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(12)~~(7) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(13)~~(8) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(14)~~(9) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(15)~~(10) Cape Fear River and all tributaries;
- ~~(16)~~(11) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(17)~~(12) Lumber River including Drowning Creek and all tributaries;
- ~~(18)~~(13) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule; and
- ~~(19)~~(14) all public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge.

(f) In John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit is 25 fish and the minimum size limit is nine inches.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

- 1 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*
- 2 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015;*
- 3 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0308 KOKANEE SALMON**

2 The daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon is ~~seven~~four fish. There is no minimum size limit for ~~these fish~~Kokanee
3 Salmon. There is no closed season for Kokanee Salmon.

4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

6 *Eff. November 1, 2013.*

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of this Rule.

(b) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the minimum size limit is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.

(c) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September 30.

(d) In Lake Norman, ~~Arrowhead Lake (Anson Co.), High Rock Pond (Caswell Co.), Hyco Lake,~~ Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

(e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but only two may be greater than 22 inches.

(f) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches.

(g) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (f), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

(h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed year-round.

(i) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

(j) In designated inland fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and

1 their tributaries), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules
2 or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

3 (k) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend, or extend the hook-and-
4 line season for Striped Bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate
5 the provisions of any proclamation issued under this authority.

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*

8 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

9 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*

10 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

(a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

(b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

(c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters or Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.

(d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

(e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

(1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish.

(g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing.

(1) Bear Creek Lake;

(2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

(3) Calderwood Reservoir;

(4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

(5) Cheoah Reservoir;

(6) Cliffside Lake;

(7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

(8) Queens Creek Lake; and

(9) Wolf Lake.

(h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing season.

(i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

1

2 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

3 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

4 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*

5 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except
4 in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no closed season.

5 (b) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
6 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
7 in aggregate.

8 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
9 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass.

10 (d) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is
11 no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length
12 may be possessed and only one Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

13
14 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

1 15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

4 (b) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
5 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

6
7 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS**

2 The daily creel limit for Redeye Bass is five fish. There is no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, but only two of
3 them may be less than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH

2 The daily creel limit for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow
3 Bullhead is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit or closed season for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead,
4 Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead.

5

6 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES

(a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, it is unlawful to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license.

(b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated in this Rule.

(c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties and waters with open season designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0407.

(d) Archery equipment may only be used for the take of catfish on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

(e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

(f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

(g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in:

- (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
- (2) University Lake in Orange County.

The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

(h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

(i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

- (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
- (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
- (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
- (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
- (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
- (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
- (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
- (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

(j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take channel, white, or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit is ~~six~~seven catfish in aggregate. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

(k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following reservoirs:

- (1) Lake Norman;

- (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- (3) Lake Wylie;
- (4) Badin Lake;
- (5) Lake Tillery;
- (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.
- (l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.
- (m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.
- (n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.
- (o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.
- (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession.
- (r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may be sold, with the following exceptions:
- (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);
- (2) blue crab; and
- (3) bowfin.

(s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

1 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
2 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
3 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
5 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
6 *2003);*
7 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
8 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
9 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*

EXHIBIT G-2

October 24, 2019



Fiscal Note for Proposed Inland Fisheries Division Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
15A NCAC 10C .0209 Transportation of Live Fish
15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes
15A NCAC 10C .0301 Inland Game Fishes Designated
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie
15A NCAC 10C .0308 Kokanee Salmon
15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout
15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0323 Redeye Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0324 Catfish
15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes

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Impact: State Government: Yes
Local Government: No
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113 - 134

For reasons outlined below, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) believes that these rule changes have a minimal fiscal impact pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.4. An analysis of the proposed changes for the rules follows.

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). WRC is tasked with the conservation of wildlife

resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and other regulations to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives; ensuring the safety of the boating public; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full text included in Appendix A.

Many of the proposed amendments change what anglers may harvest in specific waters, where anglers may harvest certain species, and how they may harvest. Several of the proposed amendments seek to increase angling opportunity while others may prove to be more restrictive. All the proposed changes are intended to expand future angling opportunity. In the end, despite the changes, no impact to overall angling participation is expected.

Although the WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact of the specific rule changes proposed below, economic research on anglers' value of recreational fishing can provide general context for the impact of rules that affect opportunities for fishing or the quality of those opportunities. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, the estimated value of freshwater fishing per person per day is approximately \$53.¹ This figure represents the angler's total willingness to pay to engage in the activity, less the cost to do so. It does not represent any economic activity generated by fishing, such as retail sales, and is not species or location-specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rules induce anglers to increase or decrease fishing trips, this estimate provides a rough approximation of the costs or benefits to the angler.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

The WRC manages approximately 5,300 miles and 2,100 acres of the State's coldwater resources within its Public Mountain Trout Waters program (PMTW), and in 2014, an estimated 148,991 anglers fished for trout in PMTW and contributed approximately \$383 million to the State's economy.² As noted within the WRC's Trout Management Plan, the purpose of PMTW is to use science-based decision making and biologically sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of trout populations for continued and varied angling opportunities. By designating waters as PMTW, the WRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensure the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in

1 Rosenberger, Randall S.; White, Eric M.; Kline, Jeffrey D.; Cvitanovich, Claire. 2017. Recreation economic values for estimating outdoor recreation economic benefits from the National Forest System. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-957. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 33 p.

2 Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy, 2015.

infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will define “artificial fly” and “single hook” when used in PMTW. The proposed definitions are necessary to provide clarity for trout anglers. The long-standing requirement to use artificial lures, artificial flies, and single hooks in certain PMTW reduces catch and release mortality of trout.

In addition, the proposed amendment will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported or Delayed Harvest Trout Waters. To reflect changes in landmarks and partnerships with private landowners, approximately 0.3 miles of Hatchery Supported and Delayed Harvest Trout Waters will be added to PMTW and 0.6 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will be removed. These changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with private landowners and overall trout management.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management. Conservation biologists and technicians will change signage as part of their regularly scheduled duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated cost to the agency of approximately \$248 ($\$31 \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This rule amendment will result in a net loss of approximately 0.3 miles of PMTW from public access. This loss of PMTW represents a minimal loss of angling opportunity to the public. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals, which may include changes to angler behavior (i.e., fishing less or fishing more).

15A NCAC 10C .0209 TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE FISH

The proposed amendment to the Rule will add Blue Catfish to the list of species for which no permit shall be issued to stock into inland fishing waters. Blue Catfish is identified as an invasive species in the Commission’s Catfish Management Plan, and the proposed change will help prevent additional introductions into inland fishing waters.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

To date there have not been any requests to stock Blue Catfish, and given their invasive species status, any future request would likely be denied. This rule amendment will eliminate the future need for the extensive review and response to stocking permit applications for Blue Catfish.

Local Impact

This rule amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. For nearly 15 years, a permit has been required to stock any fish into inland fishing waters, and no request for Blue Catfish has been received to date. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will add Redtail Catfish to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina. Redtail Catfish are freshwater fish native to South America that reach large sizes and are popular as sport fish in their native range. Impacts of Redtail Catfish if introduced outside their native range may include predation upon, competition with, and hybridization with native species. Preventing the introduction of this exotic species is the first line of defense against the establishment of a nonnative population.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. The number of Redtail Catfish held in captivity in North Carolina is unknown but believed to very limited. There are currently no known established wild populations in North Carolina. However, in 2018 a specimen was collected from Albemarle Sound and another from the Roanoke River. Preventing the introduction and establishment of exotic species will protect native and naturalized fish populations and their

habitats and will sustain associated fisheries.

15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify the Inland Game Fishes Designation for the family of black bass to include Alabama Bass. Over the past 20 years, Alabama Bass have been introduced by anglers into North Carolina waters. Alabama Bass are indistinguishable from Spotted Bass which are already listed as an Inland Game Fish.

The proposed amendment also designates Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters. The proposed change is recommended in the Commission's recently adopted Catfish Management Plan and will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by allowing possession or harvest by hook and line only and prohibiting their sale.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. Anglers already identify Alabama Bass as a black bass species and consider it a game fish. A survey of catfish anglers was completed in 2012.³ Most anglers indicated that they targeted Blue, Flathead, and Channel Catfish, and most fished hook and line. The survey also asked about selling catfish: three respondents, representing 0.2% of respondents, indicated that they sold any of the catfish that they caught in 2011. Recent data on the sale of catfish are not available; however, interactions between fishermen and Commission staff suggest that the sale of catfish is still limited.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed at Randleman Reservoir establishing the general statewide regulation. The daily creel limit is five fish, and there is no minimum size limit for

³ North Carolina Catfish Anglers' Participation in Catfishing and Their Opinions on Management of Catfish, 2012.

these fish, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches. Anglers have requested the elimination of the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches to increase tournament opportunities at Randleman Reservoir. Minimal biological effect is anticipated as less than 2% of all Largemouth Bass captured were harvested during a recent creel survey. In addition, the proposed change will help the Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority (PTRWA) better manage and enforce Largemouth Bass regulations.

The proposed amendment will also make the rule specific to Largemouth Bass (15A NCAC 10C .0305 Largemouth Bass) and relocate rule text for other black bass species to new separate rules (15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass, 15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass, and 15A NCAC 10C .0323 Redeye Bass). Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. The proposed change for Largemouth Bass in Randleman Reservoir will allow more opportunity for tournament anglers. Relocating rule text into new separate rules is an administrative change.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line. Data collected over the last 15 years from these waters show that crappie growth is often impaired when large year-classes are produced, due to high levels of competition for limited baitfish resources of the proper size. An increase in the harvest of 6–8-inch crappie is expected to reduce competition and increase growth and average size.

The proposed amendment also clarifies the 20-fish daily creel and 8-inch minimum length limit for crappie applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County. This change will prevent angler confusion with Cane Creek Reservoir in Orange County

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. The proposed change for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line will provide additional harvest opportunity to anglers. Clarifying rule text applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County is an administrative change.

15A NCAC 10C .0308 KOKANEE SALMON

The proposed amendment to the Rule will decrease the general statewide daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon from seven fish to four fish. Angler observation and evaluations by Commission biologists have indicated significant declines in the Lake Nantahala fishery, the only Kokanee Salmon fishery in the southeastern United States. While the cause of the recent decline is unknown, this low-density fishery may have been overexploited due to increased angler attention and efficiency.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. Angler observation and evaluations by Commission biologists suggest very few Kokanee Salmon have been caught and harvested during the last two years.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Bodie Bass on Arrowhead Lake (Anson County) and High Rock Pond (Caswell County). Survival of Bodie Bass in Arrowhead Lake and High Rock Pond is poor, so Bodie Bass will no longer be stocked. The minimum size limit is no longer needed.

The proposed amendment also will establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir by implementing a 16-inch minimum size limit. The daily creel limit will be four fish. In 2019, the WRC initiated annual stockings of Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir to establish a new fishery. The proposed change will provide protection to newly stocked Bodie Bass and allow harvest as the fish grow.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. A Bodie Bass fishery never developed at either Arrowhead Lake or High Rock Pond. User group and fiscal effects are anticipated to be positive at Lake Hyco as a new fishery develops.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

The proposed amendment to the Rule will specify the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing when Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing. The reservoirs are Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake. These reservoirs are currently open for fishing when other Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing; however, because they are not listed in rule, anglers must determine if impounded waters classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs before fishing during the closed season. The proposed change will clarify and simplify regulations for anglers.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS

The proposed amendment will create a rule for Smallmouth Bass and relocate rule text specific to Smallmouth Bass from (15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass). Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA AND SPOTTED BASS

The proposed amendment will create a rule for Alabama and Spotted Bass and relocate rule text specific to Spotted Bass from 15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

In addition, the proposed amendment will establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass. Over the past 20 years, Alabama Bass have been introduced by anglers into North Carolina waters and are highly invasive where they have been introduced. Alabama Bass are indistinguishable from Spotted

Bass, and recent genetics results show substantial genetic introgression between Alabama Bass and both Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass populations. Alabama Bass have also been found to displace populations of Largemouth Bass in many systems. Anglers have requested more opportunity to harvest Alabama Bass from these waters to possibly slow the effects of their invasion and to utilize these fish.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. A majority of anglers practice catch and release for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, and Alabama Bass. However, for those wanting to harvest, the proposed change provides additional opportunity.

15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS

The proposed amendment will create a rule for Redeye Bass and clarify that the general statewide regulation for Redeye Bass remains no minimum size limit, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches and a five-fish daily creel limit. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground

management.

15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH

The proposed amendment will establish a general statewide regulation for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead by implementing a 10-fish daily creel limit in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit or closed season. The proposed change is recommended in the Commission's recently adopted Catfish Management Plan and will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by limiting the number that can be harvested.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. A survey of catfish anglers was completed in 2012⁴, and most anglers indicated that they targeted Blue, Flathead, and Channel Catfish.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will increase the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish in waters stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, from six to seven fish. The daily creel will no longer apply to White or Blue Catfish. Channel Catfish are routinely stocked at Community Fishing Program sites, and at some sites Mountain trout are stocked during the winter to provide additional angling opportunity. These waters are undesignated trout waters and the daily creel limit is seven trout. The proposed change will make the daily creel limits for catfish and trout the same in these waters eliminating angler confusion. The proposed change also clarifies that the creel limit only applies to Channel Catfish. Channel Catfish populations in these waters are managed through routine stocking and are not expected to be affected by the additional harvest.

The proposed amendment will also prohibit the harvest and possession of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom in inland fishing waters. The Commission's recently adopted Catfish Management Plan identifies the need for the conservation and protection of these native

⁴ North Carolina Catfish Anglers' Participation in Catfishing and Their Opinions on Management of Catfish, 2012.

catfishes.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change. Increasing the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish will allow anglers to harvest additional catfish. Harvest of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom is very limited.

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED RULES

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

(a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Natural bait" means 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.
- (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- ~~(2)(3)~~ "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- ~~(3)~~ (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104.
- (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial flies having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (4) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (5) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (6) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (7) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (8) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (9) "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.

(c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.

(d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

- (1) Alleghany
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
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])
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Pine Creek
Bledsoe Creek

- 1 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against
- 2 trespassing)
- 3 Cranberry Creek
- 4 (Big) Glade Creek
- 5 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129
- 6 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)
- 7 Meadow Fork
- 8 Pine Swamp Creek
- 9 Piney Fork
- 10 Prathers Creek
- 11 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park
- 13 (2) Ashe County
- 14 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 15 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
- 16 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)
- 18 Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)
- 19 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)
- 20 Trout Lake
- 21 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)
- 23 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
- 24 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
- 25 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
- 26 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
- 27 Nathans Creek
- 28 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
- 29 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
- 30 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- 31 Roan Creek
- 32 Three Top Creek
- 33 (3) Avery County
- 34 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
- 36 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
- 37 (B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Wilson Creek (game land portion)
- 39 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 40 Boyde Coffey Lake
- 41 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state
- 42 line)
- 43 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,
- 44 except where posted against trespassing)
- 45 Milltimber Creek
- 46 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family
- 47 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
- 48 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
- 49 trespassing)
- 50 Squirrel Creek
- 51 Wildcat Lake
- 52 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 53 Birchfield Creek
- 54 Cow Camp Creek
- 55 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
- 56 Gragg Prong

- 1 Horse Creek
2 Kentucky Creek
3 North Harper Creek
4 Plumbtree Creek
5 Roaring Creek
6 Rockhouse Creek
7 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
8 South Harper Creek
9 Webb Prong
- (4) Buncombe County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Carter Creek (game land portion)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
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 (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)
- (5) Burke County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts A and B of this Subparagraph
- (6) Caldwell County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
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)
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
Rockhouse Creek
- (7) Cherokee County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- 2 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
- 3 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
- 4 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
- 5 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 6 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Apalachia Reservoir
- 8 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 9 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 10 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 11 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 12 (8) Clay County
- 13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Fires Creek (USFS Rd. 340A ~~to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek~~ to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek
- 15 Picnic Area)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 18 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- 19 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 20 (9) Graham County
- 21 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 23 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 25 Cheoah Reservoir
- 26 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 27 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 28 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 29 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
- 30 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 31 West Buffalo Creek
- 32 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 33 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Little Buffalo Creek
- 35 South Fork Squally Creek
- 36 Squally Creek
- 37 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 38 Deep Creek
- 39 Franks Creek
- 40 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 41 (10) Haywood County
- 42 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 43 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 44 Logan)
- 45 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 46 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 47 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 48 trespassing)
- 49 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 50 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 51 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 52 except Middle Prong)
- 53 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 54 Hemphill Creek
- 55 Hurricane Creek
- 56 (11) Henderson County

- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 3 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
4 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
5 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
6 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
7 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
8 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 9 (12) Jackson County
- 10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
11 Flat Creek
12 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- 13 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
14 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
15 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 16 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Balsam Lake
18 Bear Creek Lake
19 Cedar Cliff Lake
20 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
21 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
22 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
23 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
24 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
25 trespassing)
26 Tanasee Creek Lake
27 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
28 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
29 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
30 Wolf Creek Lake
- 31 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Gage Creek
33 North Fork Scott Creek
34 Tanasee Creek
35 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
36 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- 37 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
38 Buff Creek
39 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
40 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
41 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- 42 (13) Macon County
- 43 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
44 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
- 45 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
46 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
47 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
48 Cliffside Lake
49 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
50 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
51 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
52 Queens Creek Lake
- 53 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
54 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
55 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
56 Kimsey Creek

- 1 Overflow Creek (game land portion)
- 2 Park Creek
- 3 Tellico Creek (game land portion)
- 4 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
- 5 (14) Madison County
- 6 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
- 8 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
- 9 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews
- 10 Ave.)
- 11 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of
- 13 Bearpen Branch)
- 14 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- 15 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence
- 16 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
- 17 Max Patch Pond
- 18 Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
- 19 Puncheon Fork (~~Hampton Creek~~ Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
- 20 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- 21 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- 22 Shut-in Creek
- 23 Spillcorn Creek
- 24 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
- 25 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-
- 26 in Creek)
- 27 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 28 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- 29 (15) McDowell County
- 30 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
- 32 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- 34 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
- 35 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
- 36 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- 38 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- 39 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- 40 Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against
- 41 trespassing)
- 42 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 43 (16) Mitchell County
- 44 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 45 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- 46 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 47 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 48 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- 49 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 50 East Fork Grassy Creek
- 51 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- 52 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against
- 53 trespassing)
- 54 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
- 55 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 56 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

- 1 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
2 posted against trespassing)
3 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 4 (17) Polk County
5 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
9 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 10 (18) Rutherford County
11 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
12 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
13 against trespassing)
- 14 (19) Stokes County
15 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
16 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 17 (20) Surry County
18 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
19 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
20 Mitchell River (~~6 mile~~ 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge
21 on S.R. 1330-bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)
22 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
23 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
24 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
25 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
26 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
27 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
28 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
29 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 30 (21) Swain County
31 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
35 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
36 Cheoah Reservoir
37 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
38 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
39 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 40 (22) Transylvania County
41 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
42 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek
43 and Grogan Creek)
44 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
45 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107
46 bridge)
47 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
48 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
49 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
50 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork) French
51 Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
52 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
53 West Fork French Broad River (~~Camp Cove Branch S.R. 1312~~ to confluence with North
54 Fork French Broad River)
55 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
56 All waters located on Gorges State Park

- 1 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- 2 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 3 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
- 4 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against
- 5 trespassing)
- 6 (23) Watauga County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 8 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding
- 9 tributaries)
- 10 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee
- 11 Lake)
- 12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 13 Lake Coffey
- 14 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and
- 15 S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)
- 16 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
- 18 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
- 19 Beech Creek
- 20 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
- 21 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- 22 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
- 23 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
- 24 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against
- 25 trespassing)
- 26 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
- 27 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
- 28 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork
- 29 New River)
- 30 Norris Fork Creek
- 31 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower
- 32 boundary of Brookshire Park)
- 33 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)
- 34 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
- 36 Howard Creek
- 37 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
- 38 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
- 39 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
- 40 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 41 (24) Wilkes County
- 42 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 43 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park
- 44 lower boundary)
- 45 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
- 46 Club)
- 47 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
- 48 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin
- 49 River)
- 50 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong
- 51 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 52 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 53 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
- 54 Bell Branch Pond
- 55 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)

1 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence
 2 with North Fork Reddies River)
 3 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
 4 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where
 5 posted against trespassing)
 6 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
 7 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1736)
 8 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.
 9 1559)
 10 Pike Creek
 11 Pike Creek Pond
 12 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies
 13 River)
 14 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 bridge
 15 intersection)
 16 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 17 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
 18 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
 19 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
 20 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
 21 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
 22 (25) Yancey County
 23 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 24 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
 25 Upper Creek
 26 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 27 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
 28 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 29 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 30 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
 31 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
 32 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
 33 except where posted against trespassing)
 34 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 35 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
 36 Lickskillet Creek
 37 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
 38
 39 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
 40 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
 41 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
 42 *October 1, 1992;*
 43 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
 44 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
 45 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
 46 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
 47 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
 48 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
 49 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
 50 *2003);*
 51 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
 52 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
 53 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
 54 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0209 TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE FISH**

2 (a) Fish Transport: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to transport live freshwater nongame
3 fishes, or live game fishes in excess of the possession limit, or fish eggs without having in possession a permit obtained
4 from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

5 (b) Fish Stocking: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to stock any life stage of any species of
6 fish in the inland fishing waters of this State without having first procured a stocking permit from the North Carolina
7 Wildlife Resources Commission.

8 (c) Permits for stocking fish shall be issued as follows:

9 (1) Application for a stocking permit shall be made on a form provided by the Commission. The
10 applicant shall specify the purpose for the stocking, species to be stocked, the source of the stock,
11 the number of individual specimens to be released, and the location where release is desired.

12 (2) Before issuing a stocking permit, the Executive Director shall review the application and determine,
13 based on principles of wildlife management and biological science, that the proposed stocking will
14 not:

15 (A) threaten the introduction of epizootic disease or

16 (B) create a danger to or an imbalance in the environment inimical to the conservation of
17 wildlife resources.

18 (3) Based on the determination made in Subparagraph (2):

19 (A) If the Executive Director determines that either or both conditions cannot be met under any
20 circumstances, the application shall be denied.

21 (B) If the Executive Director determines that both conditions may be met only by the
22 introduction of fewer than the number requested, a permit only for the number that may be
23 safely released shall be issued.

24 (C) If the Executive Director determines that the number requested may be safely released, he
25 shall issue the permit.

26 (4) Any stocking permit issued by the Commission may impose the following conditions or restrictions:

27 (A) Location where the permitted number of fish may be stocked.

28 (B) Certification that fish are free of certifiable diseases by the vendor or a laboratory qualified
29 to make such determination.

30 (C) Documentation of the date, time and location of the release.

31 (D) Access by the Commission to the property where fish introductions occur to assess impacts
32 of the introduction.

33 (E) All conditions required shall be included in writing on the permit.

34 (5) Based on the criteria in Subparagraph (2), no permit shall be issued to stock any of the following
35 species in the areas indicated:

SPECIES	LOCATION
Salmonids except brown, brook, and rainbow trout	Statewide
Flathead catfish	Statewide
<u>Blue Catfish</u>	<u>Statewide</u>

40 (d) For purposes of this Rule, stocking is the introduction or attempted introduction of one or more individuals of a
41 particular species of live fish into public waters for any purpose other than:

42 (1) As bait affixed to a hook and line, or

43 (2) A release incidental to "catch and release" fishing in an area within the same body of water where
44 the fish was caught, or within an adjacent body of water not separated from that body by any natural
45 or manmade obstruction to the passage of that species.

46 (e) The release of more than the daily creel limit, or if there is no established creel limit for the species, more than
47 five individuals of the species, shall constitute prima facie evidence of an intentional release.

48
49 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-274; 113-292;*
50 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
51 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2005.*

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

(a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina any live individuals of:

- (1) piranha;
- (2) "walking catfish" (*Clarias batrachus*);
- (3) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
- (4) black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- (5) bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- (6) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
- (7) rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*);
- (8) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- (9) tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*);
- (10) ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*);
- (11) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- (12) Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*);
- (13) red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*);
- (14) virile crayfish (*Orconectes Gremicambarus virilis*);
- (15) rusty crayfish (*Orconectes Procericambarus rusticus*);
- (16) Australian red claw crayfish or "red claw" (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species of "giant" crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*);
- (17) white amur or "grass carp" (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*);
- (18) swamp or "rice" eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- (19) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- (20) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*); ~~or~~
- (21) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family ~~Dreissenidae~~.
Dreissenidae; or
- (22) redtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*).

(b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

(c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring, in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.

15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED

The following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes:

- (1) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to rainbow, brown and brook trout;
- (2) muskellunge, chain (jack) and redbfin pickerel;
- (3) yellow perch, when found in inland waters, walleye and sauger;
- (4) black bass, including Alabama, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and redeye bass;
- (5) black and white crappie;
- (6) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), pumpkinseed, warmouth, rock bass, (redeye), flier, Roanoke bass, and all other species of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule;
- (7) spotted sea trout (speckled trout), when found in inland fishing waters;
- (8) flounder, when found in inland fishing waters;
- (9) red drum (channel bass, red fish, puppy drum), when found in inland fishing waters;
- (10) striped bass, white bass, white perch and Morone hybrids (striped bass-white bass), when found in inland fishing waters;
- (11) American and hickory shad, when found in inland fishing waters;
- (12) kokanee ~~salmon~~-salmon; and
- (13) black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead, when found in inland fishing waters.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-129;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2005; June 1, 2004; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1990; July 1, 1983; January 1, 1981;

January 1, 1980.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 ~~BLACK~~ LARGEMOUTH BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for ~~Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass collectively known as Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and ~~(m)(l)~~ of this Rule. There is
3 no minimum size limit for ~~these fish, Largemouth Bass~~, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in
4 waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), and ~~(m)(l)~~ of this Rule. There is no closed
5 season, except for waters identified in Paragraph ~~(m)(l)~~ of this Rule.

6 (b) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County the daily creel limit for Largemouth
7 Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

8 (c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass and
9 Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
10 greater than 14 inches is five ~~fish~~ fish in aggregate.

11 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass,
12 Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 ~~fish, the fish in aggregate~~. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12
13 inches, and there is no minimum size limit for ~~Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass~~ inches.

14 (e) The minimum size limit for ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the following:

- 15 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
16 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
17 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
18 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
19 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River
20 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank
21 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,
22 Scuppernong River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy
23 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

24 (f) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size
25 limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

26 (g) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches,
27 and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

28 (h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for ~~Black Bass,~~
29 Largemouth Bass, but only two ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass
30 between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

31 (i) ~~In Randleman Reservoir, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less~~
32 ~~than 14 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.~~

33 (j)(i) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.

34 (k)(j) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is
35 no minimum size limit for ~~Black Bass, Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass~~, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in
36 length may be possessed and only one ~~Black Bass~~ Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass greater than 22 inches may
37 be possessed.

38 (l)(k) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is
39 16 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

40 (m)(l) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no ~~Black Bass~~
41 Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

42 (n) ~~For purposes of this Rule, creel limits apply to Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass in aggregate unless~~
43 ~~otherwise specified.~~

44
45 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

46 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

47 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

48 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

49 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*

50 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*

51 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule*
52 *becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*

53 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*

54 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*

55 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*
56

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
2 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent*
5 *amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*
6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
8 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
9 *2003);*
10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*
11 *March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
12 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
13 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE

(a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), and (f). There is no closed season.

(b) In Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the daily creel limit is 20 fish.

(c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 30 fish.

(d) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:

- (1) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;
- (2) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;
- (3) Cashie River and its tributaries;
- (4) Middle River and its tributaries;
- (5) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and
- (6) Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County.

(e) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:

- ~~(1) Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line;~~
- ~~(2) Badin Lake;~~
- ~~(3) Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties);~~
- ~~(4) Lake Tillery;~~
- ~~(5) Blewett Falls Lake;~~
- ~~(6)~~(1) Lake Norman;
- ~~(7)~~(2) Lake Hyco;
- ~~(8)~~(3) Lake Ramseur;
- ~~(9)~~(4) Cane Creek Lake; Lake (Union County);
- ~~(10)~~(5) Lake Hampton (Yadkin County);
- ~~(11)~~(6) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(12)~~(7) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(13)~~(8) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(14)~~(9) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(15)~~(10) Cape Fear River and all tributaries;
- ~~(16)~~(11) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam and all tributaries;
- ~~(17)~~(12) Lumber River including Drowning Creek and all tributaries;
- ~~(18)~~(13) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule; and
- ~~(19)~~(14) all public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge.

(f) In John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit is 25 fish and the minimum size limit is nine inches.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0308 KOKANEE SALMON**

2 The daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon is ~~seven~~ four fish. There is no minimum size limit for ~~these fish~~ Kokanee
3 Salmon. There is no closed season for Kokanee Salmon.

4
5 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
6 *Eff. November 1, 2013.*

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of this Rule.

(b) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the minimum size limit is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.

(c) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September 30.

(d) In Lake Norman, ~~Arrowhead Lake (Anson Co.), High Rock Pond (Caswell Co.), Hyco Lake,~~ Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

(e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but only two may be greater than 22 inches.

(f) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches.

(g) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (f), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

(h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed year-round.

(i) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

(j) In designated inland fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and their tributaries), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

(k) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend, or extend the hook-and-line season for Striped Bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued under this authority.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit
3 for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated
4 in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

5 (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The
6 minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

7 (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters or Catch and
8 Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.

9 (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for
10 these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12
11 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first
12 Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October
13 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed
14 while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on
15 the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

16 (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

17 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum
18 size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

19 (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the
20 daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

21 (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these
22 fish.

23 (g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the
24 impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the
25 public for fishing.

26 (1) Bear Creek Lake;

27 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

28 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;

29 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

30 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;

31 (6) Cliffside Lake;

32 (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

33 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and

34 (9) Wolf Lake.

35 (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing
36 season.

37 (i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

38
39 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

40 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

41 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*

42 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except
4 in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no closed season.

5 (b) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
6 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
7 in aggregate.

8 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
9 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass.

10 (d) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is
11 no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length
12 may be possessed and only one Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

13
14 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

4 (b) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
5 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS**

2 The daily creel limit for Redeye Bass is five fish. There is no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, but only two of
3 them may be less than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

4
5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH**

2 The daily creel limit for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow
3 Bullhead is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit or closed season for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead,
4 Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead.

5
6 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
7
8

9 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES**

10 (a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, it is unlawful to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing
11 waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special
12 device fishing license.

13 (b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license
14 at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated in this Rule.

15 (c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties
16 and waters with open season designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0407.

17 (d) Archery equipment may only be used for the take of catfish on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam
18 to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

19 (e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

20 (f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as
21 the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

22 (g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters,
23 except mussels shall not be taken in:

- 24 (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
25 (2) University Lake in Orange County.

26 The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for
27 the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

28 (h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more
29 than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

30 (i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and
31 blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

- 32 (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
33 (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
34 (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
35 (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
36 (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
37 (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
38 (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
39 (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

40 (j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property,
41 or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take
42 channel, white, or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit is ~~six~~ seven catfish in aggregate.
43 Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

44 (k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following reservoirs:

- 45 (1) Lake Norman;
46 (2) Mountain Island Lake;
47 (3) Lake Wylie;
48 (4) Badin Lake;
49 (5) Lake Tillery;
50 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
51 (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
52 (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

53 (l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the
54 South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

- (m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.
- (n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.
- (o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.
- (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession.
- (r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may be sold, with the following exceptions:
- (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);
 - (2) blue crab; and
 - (3) bowfin.
- (s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.

EXHIBIT H-1

October 24, 2019



Proposed Changes to Wildlife Management Regulations for 2020-2021 Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

Deer

1. Require the successful turkey, deer, or bear (big game) hunter to validate his/her Big Game Harvest Report Card by cutting or notching out the corresponding day and month immediately after harvest, and clarify that registration shall be made via the Electronic Big Game Reporting System before the big game is: skinned, dismembered, left unattended by the successful hunter, or placed in the possession of another person. Harvested big game that have not been skinned, dismembered, left unattended by the successful hunter, or placed in the possession of another person, including deer harvested in accordance with the Deer Management Assistance Program, shall be registered by 12 noon the day following the harvest. Big game harvested in remote areas shall be registered by 12 noon the day after leaving the remote area. Big game harvested in remote areas that cannot be transported intact may be skinned and dismembered before registration.

Justification:

Reporting big game harvest allows Agency biological staff to monitor trends in both harvest and sex ratios of harvested big game across the State. Requiring the successful big game hunter to notch or cut out the month and day of harvest immediately after harvest is expected to increase compliance with the validation requirement. In addition, this rule clarifies how long a successful big game hunter has to register his/her harvest. *15A NCAC 10B .0113 Big Game Harvest Reports (pages 3-5)*

2. Prohibit the use of cervid excrement (urine, feces, saliva, and other bodily fluids) for taking or attracting wildlife.

Justification:

One way to minimize the chance of spreading Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is by eliminating (to the best extent possible) the introduction of the infectious agent (prions) into the environment. Infectious CWD prions can be transmitted through urine, feces, saliva, blood and other bodily fluids. This rule will not prohibit the use of synthetic urine type products.

15A NCAC 10B .0201 Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take (page 6)

3. Change the current blackpowder firearms season in those parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties enrolled in the maximum deer either-sex firearms season to allow for take of either sex deer during the entire blackpowder firearms season.

Justification:

This change would make the maximum season parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties consistent with the maximum season in the rest of the state as it pertains to blackpowder firearms season.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed) (page 10)

Alligator

1. Amend the alligator rule to clearly articulate that the Agency may specify minimum size restrictions and allowable methods of restraint on an alligator take permit. Require immediate release of alligators not meeting the minimum size limit stated on the permit.

Justification:

These changes allow the agency to prescribe a minimum size restriction and identify specific manner of restraint on alligator take permits if biologically appropriate. The minimum size would be designed to minimize harvest of breeding age females. If a minimum size limit is placed on the permit, the agency can further restrict the manner of restraint allowed to ensure that alligators not meeting the minimum size can be released unharmed. Placing these restrictions on the permit provides maximum flexibility to allow harvest using lethal methods of restraint such as archery equipment in areas where a minimum size restriction was not deemed necessary such as potential municipal seasons.

15A NCAC 10B .0224 American Alligator (page 12)

Bullfrog

1. Establish seasons and a daily bag limit for the take of bullfrogs and clarify that artificial lights for taking bullfrogs are legal.

Justification:

This proposal provides clarity regarding take of bullfrogs on private lands and Game Lands. It establishes that there is no closed season on private lands and that the 24-hour bag limit (12:00 noon to 12:00 noon) for bullfrogs is 24 frogs. The rule sets a defined season for taking bull frogs on Game Lands from April 1 to August 31 with a valid license that entitles the licensee to access and use Wildlife Resources Commission Property and further clarifies that artificial lights are legal for frog gigging.

15A NCAC 10B .0226 Bullfrogs (page 13)

15A NCAC 10D .0105 Possession and Removal of Animals, Plants and Materials (page 14)

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0113 BIG GAME KILL HARVEST REPORTS**

2 ~~(a) Upon killing a bear, deer, or wild turkey and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter~~
3 ~~shall validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card furnished with the big game hunting license by cutting or punching~~
4 ~~out the validation box that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested. In lieu of the Big Game Harvest Report~~
5 ~~Card, antlerless deer may be recorded as outlined on the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card acquired from~~
6 ~~the Wildlife Resources Commission or a Wildlife Service Agent. Deer harvested under the Deer Management~~
7 ~~Assistance Program (DMAP) program, not validated with either a Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless~~
8 ~~Deer Harvest Report Card, shall be validated by affixing a Commission issued DMAP tag to the deer as required by~~
9 ~~G.S. 113-291.2(e).~~

10 ~~(b) Before any harvested bear, deer, or wild turkey is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption and within~~
11 ~~24 hours of the kill, the animal shall be registered through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System. The hunter~~
12 ~~may field dress the animal at the site of kill or before registering it by bleeding and removing the digestive, respiratory,~~
13 ~~and circulatory organs. However, the hunter may not further process the carcass in a manner that obscures its species~~
14 ~~identity, age, or sex before registering the animal. When the kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from~~
15 ~~being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered. When a hunter~~
16 ~~harvests a big game animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the remote area for longer than a day, the 24-hour~~
17 ~~time limit to register the kill is extended until the hunter leaves the area. Upon leaving the remote area, the hunter shall~~
18 ~~register the kill within 24 hours.~~

19 ~~(c) When a hunter registers a kill, the Electronic Big Game Reporting System shall issue an authorization number to~~
20 ~~the big game hunter. The hunter shall record the authorization number obtained through the Electronic Big Game~~
21 ~~Reporting System in the space provided immediately adjacent to the validation box that has been cut or punched out~~
22 ~~on the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card. Any hunter validating a~~
23 ~~deer harvest with a Commission issued DMAP tag shall record and maintain the issued authorization number to serve~~
24 ~~as proof of registration. The authorization number shall thereafter constitute authorization for the continued possession~~
25 ~~of the carcass. Possession of a harvested bear, deer, or wild turkey without the validated Big Game Harvest Report~~
26 ~~Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card where applicable, including the authorization number obtained~~
27 ~~through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System, is unlawful.~~

28 ~~(d) Persons who kill a big game animal and leave it unattended shall identify the carcass with their name, their hunting~~
29 ~~license number, and the date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, the animal need only be identified with~~
30 ~~the authorization number received by registering the kill. It is unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest~~
31 ~~Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card on which the species validation box has been cut or~~
32 ~~punched out, but on which the authorization number received by registering the kill has not been recorded, or to~~
33 ~~possess a used or affixed Commission issued DMAP tag without a valid authorization number, unless the animal is~~
34 ~~in the person's possession or is identified as described in this Paragraph and not more than 24 hours have passed since~~
35 ~~the harvest.~~

36 ~~(e) Persons who are by law exempt from the big game hunting license by G.S. 113-276 shall obtain a Big Game~~
37 ~~Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card for License Exempt Hunters from a Wildlife~~

~~Service Agent or possess a valid Commission issued DMAP tag. Upon harvesting a bear, deer, or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate and register the kill as provided by this Rule.~~

~~(f) Persons who use special tags issued pursuant to G.S. 113-291.2(e) to validate the harvest of a deer shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements set forth by statute and shall not take any action under this Rule.~~

(a) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Rule:

(1) "Authorization number" means the number or code issued by the Electronic Big Game Reporting System upon completion of big game harvest registration, that shall serve as proof of registration and allow continued possession of the carcass.

(2) "Big Game" means bear, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer, as defined in G.S. 113-129.

(3) "Big Game Harvest Report Card" means the reporting card supplied to the hunter by the Commission as part of the big game license, upon which the successful hunter validates and records the authorization number for a big game harvest.

(4) "Field Dress" means the bleeding or removal of the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory organs.

(5) "Validate" or "validation" means cutting or punching-out the day and month the harvest occurred on the appropriate line of the Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card or by affixing a Commission-issued Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) tag, as required by G.S. 113-291.2(e).

(6) "Register" or "Registration" means the process by which the harvest of big game is reported through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System and an authorization number is issued.

(7) "Remote Area" means an area where access to the big game harvest reporting system is unavailable.

(8) "Site of kill" or "site of harvest" means the location that a person takes possession of harvested big game.

(9) "Successful hunter" means a person that has lawfully taken and reduced to possession a big game animal.

(b) Validation. The successful hunter shall validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card before moving any big game from the site of kill. Deer harvested pursuant to the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), that are not validated by the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, shall be validated by affixing a Commission-issued DMAP tag.

(c) Field Dressing. Harvested big game may be field dressed at the site of kill or before registration. Further processing that obscures the identification of the harvested animal's species, age, or sex shall be prohibited without a valid authorization number.

(d) Registration. Harvested big game shall be registered via the Electronic Big Game Reporting System at www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-800-446-8663. Harvested big game shall be registered before the animal is:

(1) skinned; or

(2) dismembered; or

(3) left unattended by the successful hunter; or

1 (4) placed in the possession of another person.
2 Harvested big game animals that are not skinned, dismembered, left unattended by the successful hunter, or placed in
3 the possession of another person, shall be registered by 12pm noon the day following the harvest.
4 (e) Registration in Remote Areas. Big game harvested in remote areas shall be registered by 12pm noon, the day after
5 leaving the remote area. Notwithstanding the registration requirements in Paragraph (d) of this Rule, big game
6 harvested in remote areas that cannot be transported as an intact carcass may be skinned and dismembered before
7 registration.
8 (f) Authorization number. The authorization number shall be recorded in the space provided for the appropriate
9 harvested big game animal on the Big Game Harvest Report Card or on the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report
10 Card. Successful hunters validating a deer harvest by affixing a Commission-issued DMAP tag shall record and
11 maintain the authorization number upon registration.
12 (g) Unattended Harvests. Successful hunters that leave a harvested big game animal unattended or in the possession
13 of a person shall identify the carcass by attaching the authorization number issued at the time of registration.
14 (h) Exceptions. Requirements of this Rule shall not be applicable to special deer tags issued pursuant to G.S. 113-
15 291.2(e).
16 (i) Any person hunting big game animals, including license exempt individuals, shall have a valid Big Game Harvest
17 Report Card, valid Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, or special tag pursuant to NCGS 113-291.2 in their
18 possession. The Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card is part of the big game
19 license and shall not be transferrable.
20 (j) Any persons who has requested a Big Game Harvest Report Card by phone or internet but has not yet received the
21 Big Game Harvest Report Card by mail, shall validate the kill by affixing the harvest id number provided by the
22 Commission to the carcass and shall register in accordance with parts (d) or (e) of this rule. The hunter shall retain
23 all authorization numbers from reported harvests and shall transcribe those authorization numbers to the Big Game
24 Harvest Report Card upon receipt of the card.

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27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291;*
28 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
29 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1989;*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010; June 1, 2009; May 1, 2007; May 1,*
32 *2004; July 1, 2000.*
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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0201 PROHIBITED TAKING AND MANNER OF TAKE**

2 (a) It is unlawful for any person to take, or have in possession, any wild animal or wild bird listed in this Section
3 except during the open seasons and in accordance with the limits herein prescribed, or as prescribed by 15A NCAC
4 10B .0300 pertaining to trapping or 15A NCAC 10D applicable to game lands managed by the Wildlife Resources
5 Commission, unless otherwise permitted by law. Lawful seasons and bag limits for each species apply beginning with
6 the first day of the listed season and continue through the last day of the listed season, with all dates being included.
7 When any hunting season ends on a January 1 that falls on a Sunday, that season shall be extended to Monday, January
8 2.

9 (b) On Sundays, hunting on private lands shall be allowed under the following conditions:

- 10 (1) archery equipment as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, falconry, and dogs where and when
11 allowed the other days of the week are lawful methods of take, except as prohibited in G.S. 103-2:
12 (2) firearms are lawful methods of take when used as described in G.S. 103-2; and
13 (3) migratory game birds may not be taken.

14 (c) On Sundays, hunting on public lands is allowed with the following restrictions:

- 15 (1) only falconry and dogs used in conjunction with falconry are lawful methods of take; and
16 (2) migratory game birds may not be taken.

17 These restrictions do not apply to military installations under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government.

18 (d) Those animals not classified as game animals in G.S. 113-129(7c), and for which a season is set under this Section,
19 may be taken during the hours and methods authorized for taking game animals.

20 (e) Where local laws govern hunting, or are in conflict with this Subchapter, the local law shall prevail.

21 (f) No person shall possess or use any substance or material that contains or purports to contain any excretion collected
22 from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or attempting to
23 take, attracting, or scouting wildlife.

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26 *History Note: Authority G.S. 103-2; 113-291.1(a); 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.3;*
27 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

28 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2016; August 1, 2012; July 10, 2010; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1987.*
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15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

(a) Open Seasons (All Lawful Weapons) for hunting deer:

- (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken on all game lands except Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Deer With Visible Antlers seasons on these Game Lands), during the following seasons:

(A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus*, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties.

*Unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline.

(B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

(C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

(D) Monday of Thanksgiving week through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day in all of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

(E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.

(F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in that part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

- (2) Deer of Either Sex. Except on Game Lands, deer of either sex may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G) of this

Subparagraph (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either-sex deer seasons on Game Lands). Deer of either sex may be taken during the open season identified in Part (H) of this Subparagraph.

(A) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the period from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in those parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(B) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the appropriate military commands at each of the military installations listed in this Paragraph, during the period from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in that part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in that part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in that part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

(C) Youth either-sex deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County designated by agents of the Commission; the third Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on Mountain Island State Forest in Lincoln and Gaston counties; and the second Saturday in November for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on apportion of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes County designated by agents of the Commission. A youth is defined as a person under 18 years of age.

(D) The first open Saturday of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Buncombe*, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.

*Except for that part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280

(E) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in all of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

(F) The first open day of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

(G) All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and

Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties: Buncombe: That part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280; and Henderson; That part east of NC 191 and north and west of NC 280.

(H) The fourth Saturday in September in all counties, subject to the following restriction: only persons under the age of 18 years may hunt.

(b) Open Seasons (Archery) for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment during the following seasons:

(A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms and archery season identified in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on these Game Lands).

(B) Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers through January 1 in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(2) Restrictions

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the archery season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the archery deer hunting season.

(C) Deer of either sex may be taken during archery seasons specified by Part (b)(1)(A) of this Rule.

Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the archery season specified by Part (b)(1)(B) of this Rule.

(c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment during the following seasons:

(A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter

- except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Blackpowder Firearms and Archery seasons on these Game Lands):
- (B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery season in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule that has either-sex days for all lawful weapons and in and east of the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, ~~Watauga, and Ashe~~, and Cleveland. Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this season only in all other counties.
- (B) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder firearms and archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (3) As used in this Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle or cylinder and that cannot use fixed ammunition."
- (d) Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:
- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on any game land or part thereof that occurs within a city boundary.
- (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.
- (3) Restrictions:
- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the urban

season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the urban season.

(e) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two of which may be deer with visible antlers and four of which may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. In addition to the bag limits described above, a hunter may obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit. The bag limits described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,
1994; July 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,
2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1,
2006; June 1, 2005.

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0224 AMERICAN ALLIGATOR**

2 (a) The season for taking American alligators shall be September 1 to October 1.

3 (b) Take shall be by permit only.

4 (c) The bag limit shall be one per permit and the season limit is one.

5 (d) American alligators ~~shall be restrained before being killed. American alligators shall~~ may only be restrained
6 using one of the following methods in accordance with the provisions of the permit:

7 (1) a hand-held restraining line or catch pole;

8 (2) a snatch hook attached to a hand-held restraining line or rod and reel;

9 (3) a harpoon or gig attached to a hand-held restraining line;

10 (4) a baited wooden peg less than two inches in length attached to a hand-held restraining line; or

11 (5) archery equipment with an arrow-attached restraining line.

12 (e) If a minimum size limit is applicable to the county or municipality for which the permit is issued, the size limit
13 and method(s) of restraint shall be specified on the permit.

14 (f) American alligators restrained by any method specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule shall be killed immediately
15 upon capture except when a minimum size limit is specified on the permit. When a minimum size limit is specified
16 on the permit, animals not meeting the minimum size limit shall be released immediately at the site of capture.

17 (g) American alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.

18 (h) The use of baited hooks is prohibited.

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20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*

21 *Eff. August 1, 2018.*

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0226 BULLFROGS**

2 (a) The open seasons for taking of bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*, shall be as follows:

3 (1) Except as provided in subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule, there shall be no closed season for taking
4 bullfrogs.

5 (2) On game lands, bullfrogs may be taken from April 1 to August 31 with a valid license that entitles
6 the licensee to access and use Wildlife Resources Commission Property.

7 (b) Bag Limit: It shall be unlawful to take more than 24 bullfrogs in a 24-hour period that runs from 12 noon to 12
8 noon.

9 (c) Artificial lights may be used to take bullfrogs.

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11 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1;
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1 **15A NCAC 10D .0105 POSSESSION AND REMOVAL OF ANIMALS, PLANTS AND MATERIALS**

2 (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- 3 (1) "Other materials" includes: all metals, minerals, rocks, soil, organic debris, buildings, fences,
4 historic artifacts and water.
- 5 (2) "Commission lands" includes all state-owned game lands, hatcheries, depots, refuges, boating
6 access areas and public fishing access areas, or parts thereof, allocated to the Wildlife Resources
7 Commission.
- 8 (3) "Written permission" includes permits, sales agreements, agricultural agreements, and letters written
9 by authorized Commission personnel. Written permissions shall specify the type of activity
10 allowed, the Commission land(s) where the activity may occur and the persons authorized.

11 (b) On Commission lands:

- 12 (1) No wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, nests, animal parts, plants, plant materials, or other
13 materials may be possessed on or removed from Commission lands except:
- 14 (A) as allowed in this Rule; ~~or~~
- 15 (B) bullfrogs, as specified in 15A NCAC 10B .0226; or
16 ~~(B)~~ (C) if written permission has been granted by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
17 This restriction applies to both dead and living wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, animal
18 parts, plants and plant materials.
- 19 (2) All game, fur-bearing animals, fisheries resources, and nongame animals or birds for which the
20 Commission has established an open season, legally taken under a valid hunting, trapping, fishing
21 or falconry may be possessed on and removed from Commission lands.
- 22 (3) Berries, fruit, nuts, mushrooms, ramps and other plants or plant products suitable for human
23 consumption may be possessed on and removed from Commission lands without written permission
24 for personal consumption only, except any fungi, plant or part thereof on a state or federal protected
25 list may not be possessed on or removed from Commission lands without written permission. All
26 other fungi, plants and plant products which are not suitable for human consumption may not be
27 possessed on or removed from Commission lands except with written permission. Crops or products
28 thereof planted for the benefit of wildlife may not be removed without written permission.
- 29 (4) Insects, worms or other invertebrates collected as fish bait may be possessed on and removed from
30 Commission lands without written permission for personal use only, except any species on a state
31 or federal protected list may not be collected and may not be removed from Commission lands. Sale
32 of these resources is prohibited.
- 33 (5) Minimal amounts of animal parts, plant parts not removed from live plants, and other materials
34 collected by hand and removed from Commission lands without written permission, except in
35 violation of rules, general statutes or federal law. Collection of animal parts, plant parts not removed
36 from live plants, and other materials for commercial use or sale is prohibited. For purposes of this
37 Subparagraph, "minimal amounts," are quantities that fit within a cubic foot of space, except for

1 firewood to be used at designated game land campgrounds. Minimal amounts of firewood are
2 quantities sufficient to build and maintain a fire for the duration of the game land user's stay at the
3 campground.

4 (6) Litter and road kill animals may be removed without written permission, except in violation of 15A
5 NCAC 10B .0106.

6 (7) A collection license as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0119 does not qualify as written permission
7 to collect or remove any wildlife resources from Commission lands. Written permission must be
8 specific to the Commission land.

9 (c) On all other lands enrolled in the game land program;

10 (1) All game, fur-bearing animals, fisheries resources, and nongame animals or birds for which the
11 Commission has established an open season, legally taken under a valid hunting, trapping, fishing
12 or falconry may be possessed on and removed from game lands.

13 (2) Possession and removal of all other wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, nests, animals
14 parts, plants, plant materials, or other materials is subject to the rules of the Commission and is at
15 the discretion of the landowner, except where the landowner has ceded authority to the Commission.
16 When the landowner has ceded authority to the Commission, the permissions and restrictions in
17 Paragraph (b) of this Rule apply.

18 (d) Any individual who has written permission, or a hunting, trapping, fishing or falconry license required in order to
19 possess or remove wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, nests, animals parts, plants, plant materials, or other
20 materials from Commission lands and all other lands enrolled in the game land program must have that written
21 permission or license on his person. This requirement extends to any individual operating in conjunction with
22 another's written permission.

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24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291; 113-291.2; 113-305; 113-333;*
25 *Eff. August 1, 2012.*
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EXHIBIT H-2

October 24, 2019



REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PROHIBITED TAKING AND MANNER OF TAKE RULE

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B .0201 Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take

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Impact Summary: State Government: Yes
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Impact: Potentially substantial benefit, but uncertain.

Authority: G.S. 103-2; 113-291.1(a); 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.3

Necessity: The proposed permanent amendments to 15A NCAC 10B .0201, Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take, prohibits possession or use of any substance or material that contains or purports to contain any excretion collected from a cervid (species of the deer family), including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife. Infectious Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) prions can unknowingly exist in these excretions, and there is no rapid, cost-effective test to determine whether commercial deer attractants that contain cervid excretions are prion-free. This proposed amendment seeks to reduce the human-related pathways for CWD to contaminate North Carolina's environment, and minimize the risk of CWD infecting wild and captive deer and elk herds by prohibiting the use of cervid excretions to attract wildlife. Synthetic attractants can serve as a viable alternative and are readily available.

I. Summary

The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of the wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239) and has jurisdiction over all activities connected with the conservation and regulation of wildlife resources (113-132(b)). This includes rulemaking

authority to implement the provisions of the statutes found in G.S. 113, Subchapter IV – Conservation of Marine and Estuarine and Wildlife Resource (G.S.113-134).

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (Cervidae), is an imminent threat to the State's wild and captive white-tailed deer and elk populations. The disease is believed to spread through animal-to-animal contact as well as contact with infected carcasses and contaminated soils and plants. Cervid excrement plays an important role in spreading the disease from both animal-to-animal contact and environmental contamination. Cervid urine, which is marketed as a deer attractant for hunters, is collected at farmed cervid facilities using a grate system that allows mixing of saliva and feces (which contain higher prion levels).

CWD thus far has been detected in 26 states in the country; including eight member states of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA).¹ Many urine collecting facilities are located in CWD-positive states. Specific cervid facility sources tied to individual products are typically unknown and products have no labeling requirements. There is no accurate CWD test of live deer, and there is no rapid, cost-effective test to determine whether commercial deer urines are prion-free. Production, transport, and inter-state sale of urine-based products is unregulated without any enforcement mechanisms in most states. This proposed rule would prohibit possession or use of any substance or material that contains or purports to contain any excretion collected from a live cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife. These limitations seek to reduce the risk of human-related pathways for introduction and substantial costs associated with North Carolina becoming CWD-positive.

II. Introduction and Purpose of Rule Change

CWD is a highly infectious, contagious, fatal neurological disease that affects the Cervidae family, which includes deer, elk, moose, and reindeer/caribou. The source of the disease is an abnormal prion (a form of protein) that collects in the animal's brain cells and produces small lesions. CWD is classified as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy and is similar to mad cow disease. It is characterized by loss of body condition, behavioral abnormalities, and death. It is believed to spread through animal-to-animal contact, contact with infected carcasses, and contact with contaminated soils and plants. CWD has long incubation periods, which can result in an infected cervid appearing healthy while spreading the disease to other cervids. Additionally, CWD is persistent in the environment, which is the most significant obstacle to eradication once the disease is present in an area. When a state's cervid herd is CWD-positive, on-going monitoring and management efforts require the expenditure of millions of dollars in public resources.

It is unknown if or when CWD will be detected in North Carolina and there are several scenarios in which CWD could be introduced. Based on other states' history with the disease, it is more likely that CWD will be introduced to North Carolina by human transportation than any mode of natural expansion, though the actual probability is unknown. If the proposed amendment to this

Rule is not implemented, this specific pathway of human introduction of prions into the environment will remain a possibility in North Carolina.

CWD prions have been detected in urine, feces, blood and saliva of pre-symptomatic/symptomatic deer and these prions remain infectious when released in the environment. Cervid urine, which is marketed as a deer attractant for hunters, is collected in farmed cervid facilities using a grate system that allows mixing of saliva and feces (which contain higher prion levels). While the risk of CWD spread via urine attractants is likely lower than other pathways of disease spread, e.g., importation of live deer, carcasses, and carcass parts, the risk is direct and cumulative. By the very nature of their intended use, cervid urine products are designed to attract deer for close/direct contact with the potentially infectious disease agent. Deer lick urine, and rutting males inhale urine, and there is no safe dose of prions for deer. As little as 10 ml of urine can contain enough infectious prions to risk lethal infection in 50% of exposed deer. Additionally, urine-based lures are commonly used by many hunters and may be used repeatedly in the same area. Prions persist in the soil and plants of the infected area for >16 years and the risk of CWD transmission from the environment increases over time as prions accumulate.

Urine is collected in captive cervid facilities using a grate system that allows mixing of saliva and feces (which contain higher prion levels). Production, transport, and inter-state sale of urine-based products is unregulated without any enforcement mechanisms in most states. Many urine collecting facilities are located in CWD-positive states. Specific cervid facility sources tied to individual products are typically unknown and products have no labeling requirements. Urine products are not treated chemically or with heat to kill the prions as this would also secondarily destroy the desired scent characteristics. CWD prions may be shed by an infected animal prior to clinical signs of disease, which typically takes several months to years to present itself. There is no accurate CWD test of live deer, and there is no rapid, cost-effective test to determine whether commercial deer urines are prion-free.

Recently, the potential for CWD to be spread by cervid urine through marketed deer urine hunting products has come to the forefront of additional measures to combat the spread of CWD. Twelve states, including VA, TN, and SC, currently prohibit the use of natural deer urine (or other bodily fluids) products in some fashion. Michigan allows the use of Archery Trade Association (ATA) approved products only, while Montana bans urine only from CWD positive states if they do not meet ATA's Deer Protection Program. South Carolina allows the use of substances collected by a hunter from deer legally harvested within the state; however, this exception still has the potential to spread CWD. The remaining nine states have a complete ban on the use of natural deer urine products. This proposed rule would prohibit possession or use of cervid excrement for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife as an additional measure to minimize the risk of introduction and substantial costs associated with North Carolina becoming CWD-positive.

III. Cost

State

State-level costs are anticipated to be minimal due to proposed changes in the Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take Rule.

The agency uses several methods to inform the public and its constituency about changes to regulations. To inform hunters of the proposed rule changes for the 2020-021 hunting season, the agency plans to employ an aggressive and targeted outreach campaign. In addition to current outreach, which includes press releases, email blasts, and posts on social media, this may include YouTube videos, targeted social media outreach, and correspondence with retailers throughout the State. Social media marketing can cost anywhere from a \$500 to \$5,000 per month, depending on the users that the agency wants to reach and over what period of time. The estimated cost for in-house video production is approximately \$5,140 (\$4,803 NPV adjusted) per video for specific content related to CWD. The estimated cost for targeted social media outreach is a one-time cost of approximately \$15,000 (\$2,500 per month x 6 months = \$15,000; \$14,019NPV adjusted). A breakdown of costs for education and outreach efforts can be found in Appendix C.²

Decreased sales tax generated from sale of urine-based products would likely be offset by increased sales of synthetic lures that are readily available on the market.

Local

No specific local costs are anticipated due to proposed changes in the Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take Rule.

Private

We are unaware of any studies addressing the economic impact of a natural cervid urine ban. There are no farmed cervid facilities in North Carolina that collect deer urine for the urine-based lure market. Decreased sales of urine-based products would likely be offset by increased sales of synthetic lures that are readily available on the market. Impacts to retailers can be minimized by providing notice of the rule change in advance of pre-hunting season inventory orders through the agency outreach methods outlined in section III.

Deer hunter success and individuals that depend on deer hunter success (processors, taxidermists, outfitters) will likely not be affected by this proposed rule. Synthetic attractants are readily available and are likely as effective or ineffective as natural urine-based products. Koerth et al. 2000 documented deer readily visited all treatments of natural and mock scrapes regardless of attractant used, including rutting buck urine, estrous doe urine, and "new car" scent.

IV. Benefits – Reduced Risk of CWD Introduction

It is unknown if or when CWD will be detected in North Carolina and there are several scenarios in which CWD could be introduced, including use of cervid excrement with infectious prions. Based on other states' history with the disease, it is more likely that CWD will be introduced to North Carolina by human transportation than any mode of natural expansion, though the actual probability is unknown. Additionally, it is fairly certain that once CWD is introduced, it is virtually impossible to eradicate after it contaminates the environment and the wild cervid population. The long-term impacts to the state would be significant. Amendments proposed for the Rule seek to reduce the human-related pathways for introduction of CWD.

The probability of CWD being spread to North Carolina through natural movement of infected deer is also uncertain. Due to extensive incubation periods, the lack of a live test for the disease, and the movement behavior (dispersal and shifts of home-range) of wild cervids, there is a fair amount of uncertainty about where the disease is on the landscape. The closest known infected wild deer populations are in northwestern Virginia / northeastern West Virginia and western Tennessee / northern Mississippi, about 150 and 250 miles straight line distance from North Carolina respectively. The disease has not been contained in those areas and, despite efforts to slow the spread, it will likely continue to spread outward from the infected zone. The risk of wild deer transmitting the disease to neighboring wild deer is extremely high and continues to occur in most areas where CWD has been detected. Eventually it may occur across the entire continent through natural transmission, but states are doing what is within their means to slow the spread and keep it from “jumping” from herd to herd.

CWD could also be brought into North Carolina from human transport of live cervids. The disease has spread vast distances between known points of occurrence. While unproven, speculation exists that movement of live captive deer is the way CWD has appeared so quickly across the US. The WRC worked extensively to minimize this threat (bought out stock from facilities and euthanized animals to decrease the number of facilities, increased/strengthened rules, etc.) before the captive cervid program was transferred to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA) in 2015. Current statutes governing captive cervids make it illegal to import CWD susceptible cervids until a live test is available.

Infectious CWD prions can also be transmitted through carcasses, particularly parts of the carcass that have nervous and lymphatic tissue. The probability of North Carolina’s deer population becoming infected from CWD-positive carcass parts being imported and disposed on the landscape is unknown; it depends on the prevalence of CWD in the area where the out-of-state deer is killed (which nobody knows for certain except in well defined “hot zones”), and the likelihood of a North Carolina deer coming in contact with the prions that remain in the soil and possibly vegetation after decomposition. In 2006, the WRC adopted the Importation of Animal Parts Rule (15A NCAC 10B .0124) which banned the importation of whole cervid carcasses from states known to be CWD positive and limited importation of cervid parts from these states to specifically identified meat and other low risk body parts. There were 11 CWD-positive states when the Importation of Animal Parts rule was adopted. Since 2007, there has been an increase in reported cases of CWD across the United States and internationally. There are currently 26 CWD-positive states (see map in Appendix A). Eight SEAFWA states are among these, three of which (Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee) confirmed their first case of CWD within the past three years. During this same time, CWD has appeared in free-ranging reindeer and moose in Norway and Finland. Three Canadian provinces are also CWD-positive. Due to the accelerated rate and great distances by which CWD has been transferred across the continent (15 additional CWD-positive states since 2006), North Carolina amended the Importation of Animal Parts Rule (15A NCAC 10B .0124) to include all states through temporary rule in 2018, and permanent rule in 2019. Currently, 15 states prohibit the importation of cervid carcasses and carcass parts that originate from outside their borders (see map in Appendix B). The 2019 amendment to the Importation of Parts Rule (15A NCAC 10B .0124) minimizes this risk to the greatest extent possible, by expanding the parts transport limitations to *any* out-of-state cervid, and requiring all meat to be fully de-boned, deer parts brought into the state should be consumed

or used as a trophy and not discarded on the landscape.

The risk of CWD being introduced to North Carolina through cervid excretions is likely low relative to other risk (movement of live deer and high-risk carcass parts). But given the source and method of collecting urine-based attractants, the lack of oversight and inability to test these products, the occurrence of prions in excretions of pre-symptomatic/symptomatic infected cervids, persistence of prions in the environment for a decade or more, and the intent to attract deer to come in contact with these products, the risk is not zero, and is likely cumulative. The proposed amendment to the Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take Rule seeks to minimize this risk to the greatest extent possible by prohibiting the use of natural cervid excretions for taking or attracting wildlife.

State

The proposed amendments to the Importation of Parts Rule are expected to have substantial benefits to the state by way of avoided costs.

CWD Response

CWD would no doubt have significant biological, economic, and sociological ramifications if detected in North Carolina. As such, the WRC has a Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan (hereafter CWD Response Plan)⁹. The goal of the CWD Response Plan is to contain the disease, to the extent possible, to protect North Carolina's wild white-tailed deer and elk herds.

If CWD were to be detected in North Carolina, the agency's CWD Response Plan would be immediately enacted. Based on this plan, once a CWD-positive cervid is identified, an extensive series of events would commence, including: confirmation testing, notification of authorities, establishment of WRC response teams, and creation of CWD surveillance areas (Primary Surveillance Area – 5 mile radius around the detection; Secondary Surveillance Area – 30 mile radius around the detection), all in an immediate effort to collect prevalence and distribution information. Additionally, specific regulations would be established for the surveillance areas, including: a prohibition on fawn rehabilitation, additional regulation for supplemental feeding and baiting, mandatory CWD check stations, harvested deer testing, changes to season lengths and bag limits, and an increased wildlife law enforcement presence. However, many variables would impact the level of response to a CWD detection. These include location of initial detection; disease prevalence at time of detection; size of the CWD management area and containment potential; agency ability to fully implement the Plan; required duration and effort; and hunter response.

Because CWD has not yet been detected in North Carolina, several assumptions must be made when quantifying costs associated with an outbreak. Assuming a single CWD detection with one Primary and one Secondary CWD Surveillance Area, the short-term (year one) costs associated with implementing the CWD Response Plan are estimated at \$110,307 (\$103,085 for staff time + \$15,700 in mileage = \$118,785; \$111,014 NPV adjusted).¹⁰ Personnel expenses include: staff to work WRC check stations, collect and submit tissue samples for testing, implement deer sampling and population reduction strategies, and conduct law enforcement activities. Additionally, supplies for herd management and surveillance would be needed. The annual cost of supplies is

estimated at \$46,755 (\$43,696 NPV adjusted), making the total cost of short-term management \$165,539 (\$154,710 NPV adjusted)7,062. If the outbreak remained localized and no additional areas became CWD positive, the estimated personnel and supplies cost over 5 years would be approximately \$558,504 (\$465,704 NPV adjusted). A breakdown of costs can be found in Appendix D.

If the outbreak of CWD is widespread, all costs would increase. However, the agency has no way to accurately quantify this increase without making unreasonable assumptions. A breakdown of the estimated agency costs for implementing the CWD Response Plan can be found in Appendix D.

Hunting & License Sales

Hunting is a popular activity in North Carolina. In 2006, 277,357 resident hunters spent an estimated \$488 million on retail purchases, generating \$818 million in economic output.¹¹ These

⁹ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. 2015. Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan. Division of Wildlife Management, Raleigh, N.C., USA

¹⁰ Division of Wildlife Management (2016). Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan. Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA.

¹¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2006) National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

hunting related expenditures supported 8,332 jobs and contributed \$46 million in state tax revenue. Resident deer hunters (197,220 of the 277,357) spent \$187 million on retail purchases, generating \$322 million in economic output. Expenditures by deer hunters supported 3,408 jobs and contributed to \$20 million in state tax revenue. Deer hunters also spent \$50 million on travel-related expenses¹². More recently, in 2011, approximately 259,000 residents and 23,000 non-residents hunted in North Carolina¹³. An analysis of this data indicated that 83% of the 259,000 were deer hunters, but expenditures of these individuals were not estimated¹⁴.

Research indicates that hunter behavior toward CWD depends on prevalence of the disease and human health consequences. Surveys have shown that up to 49% of hunters would stop hunting deer and elk if the prevalence of CWD increased. The decline was even greater (65%) if the high prevalence was combined with any threat to human health. Though resident hunters are likely to continue deer hunting in their state despite the presence of CWD, nonresidents are more likely to hunt in another state where CWD is not present. And as prevalence increases, the likelihood of hunters becoming non-hunters increases.¹⁵

After Wisconsin became CWD-positive in 2001, the state experienced an 11% decline in hunting license sales.¹⁶ Approximately 26% of WRC funding comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses annually. Hunting and sportsman licenses specifically make up 15% of that. The WRC averages \$12 million in sportsman and hunting license sales each year.¹⁷ If hunting license sales were to decline 11%, the agency could reasonably expect to lose up to \$1.3 million annually (\$12M annually x 11% = \$1.3 annually). If North Carolina experiences a significant decline in license sales, it may affect the agency's ability to obtain certain federal funding that requires matching funds. For example, funding from the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act (also known as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act) requires a 25% match from the agency.

Additionally, approximately 23% of agency funding is provided from P-R funds (\$18.5 million).¹⁸ Because of the way that P-R funds are distributed, if the number of North Carolina license holders decreases substantially compared to license holders in other states, WRC would receive less federal funding. However, due to annual fluctuations in funding, the agency is unable to quantify this potential loss.

Herd Management

Some CWD-positive states such as Colorado and Wyoming have seen cervid populations decline due to CWD. One study described a 10% annual decrease among deer in an area with a CWD prevalence of 33%. Another study in southeastern Wyoming (where there are significant declines in mule deer herds) hypothesized that the herd they were studying could be extinct within 41 years.¹⁹ Not only would this eliminate hunter opportunities long-term, but the agency would also likely see commensurate declines in hunting license sales over time. If there are no deer, there are no deer hunters. By implementing the proposed changes to the Importation of Animal Part

¹² NCWRC Division of Wildlife Management. 2011. Chronic Wasting Disease and the Holding of Deer in Captivity. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA.

¹³ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2011) National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

¹⁴ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (2011) Deer Hunting in the United States: Demographics and Trends.

¹⁵ Lyon, K.M. and Vaske, J.J. (2010) *Predicting hunting participation in response to chronic wasting disease in four states*, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 15:3, 208-220

¹⁶ Vaske, J.J. (2010) *Lessons learned from human dimensions of chronic wasting disease research*, Human Dimensions of Wildlife, 15:3, 165-179

¹⁷ Based on two-year license sale average.

¹⁸ Based on three-year average P-R funds awarded to the WRC.

¹⁹ Cima, G. (2017) *Chronic wasting disease continues to spread*, American Journal of Veterinary Research, 78:9 1004-1005

Rule, the WRC anticipates that the North Carolina deer herd will be better protected from declining populations.

Due to the nature of CWD, the potential for long-term effects on resident cervid populations exist. Therefore, WRC management efforts would be ongoing once CWD is detected. Unfortunately, depending on the magnitude of the outbreak, this may negatively impact the agency's ability to maintain or implement other programs over time. Because of the uncertainty associated with a detection and the vast array of possible scenarios, long-term effects to the State cannot be accurately predicted.

Initial discovery of CWD in North Carolina could occur in either the State's wild or farmed cervid herds; with the additional possibility of one infecting the other.²⁰ Discovery of CWD within a captive facility would result in that facility becoming quarantined and possibly depopulated. Deer from an infected facility could not be moved to other facilities for breeding/stocking or hunting purposes; therefore they would have little, if any, value. The value lost depends on the species, genetics, and/or phenotypic characteristics of the animal and number of animals in the facility. Because of the array of potential scenarios surrounding a CWD detection in the State's captive cervid population, the effects of CWD on these deer, their owners, and the agency that regulates them cannot be quantified.

Local

The proposed amendments to the Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take are expected to have substantial local benefits by way of avoided costs.

Unfortunately, there is no accurate method for estimating the cost that a CWD detection would have on localized areas in North Carolina, and no data exist on hunter/hunting expenditures at that scale. However, as previously noted, approximately \$525 million was spent in-state on trip-related expenses, equipment, and other hunting-related expenditures in North Carolina in 2006.²¹ In 2013, Maryland (a CWD-positive state) surveyed three counties with varying proximities to the CWD Management Area of the State (similar to North Carolina's Surveillance areas). The county where Maryland's CWD management area was located reported a 7% reduction in deer harvest.²² While a change in deer harvest is not a perfect measure of the extent of change in hunting activity in an area, this reduction in harvest could reflect the magnitude of a reduction in hunters in the area and a likely reduction in hunter expenditures in the area.

The agency anticipates that the proposed amendments to further restrict importation and transportation from anywhere out-of-state could lead, at least initially, to an increase in the number of citations issued, especially for residents hunting in neighboring CWD-negative states. The fine for a rule violation includes \$180 local court costs. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to estimate this anticipated increase.

²⁰ Farmed cervid is defined in G.S. 106-549.97 and is regulated by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

²¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2011) National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

²² Haus, J.M., Eyler, T.B., Duda, M.D., and Bowman, Jacob, J.L. (2017) *Hunter perceptions toward chronic wasting disease: Implications for harvest and management*, Wildlife Society Bulletin, 41:2, 294-301

Elk hunting is not currently permitted in North Carolina, but according to a 2014 RTI study, elk viewing is a popular activity with associated tourism benefits in western counties of the state where the herd currently resides. Economic benefits were estimated for areas where elk currently reside (three counties) and two potential restoration areas, assuming continuous natural expansion of the elk population over 25 years and no major change in elk demographic parameters. Visitation for elk viewing was projected to be 7,220 to 36,100 visitors per year in 2019 in the study areas and was projected to remain relatively steady at that level into the future, so long as the herd remained stable or increased. However, it was also determined that if the elk population declined to low levels (15 animals or less), tourism to view elk would likely stop. RTI projected that the potential net benefit of elk-viewing tourism in future years in the five study areas evaluated could be anywhere from \$0.6 to over \$5 million annually, assuming viewing visits lasted 3 days each.²³ North Carolina residents would lose these expected benefits, should the elk population decline significantly from CWD.

Private

The proposed amendments to the Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take Rule are expected to have substantial private benefits by way of avoided costs.

If CWD were detected in North Carolina, a large and noticeable impact would occur at the local level. Based on the agency's CWD Response Plan, once detected, the area within a 5-mile radius of the infected deer would become the Primary CWD Surveillance Area, and the area with a 5 to 30-mile radius would become the Secondary CWD Surveillance Area. Specific regulations would be established for these areas that would impact hunters, including: regulating the exportation of cervid carcasses or carcass parts, a prohibition on fawn rehabilitation, additional regulation for supplemental feeding and baiting, mandatory CWD testing, changes to season lengths and bag limits, and an increased wildlife enforcement presence. While some restrictions may actually reduce hunter expenditures (i.e. not purchasing supplemental feed because baiting is no longer permitted), the loss would likely be transferred to local retailers and/or farmers.²⁵

In a 2010 fiscal note prepared by the WRC, it was estimated that hunters would incur a collective cost of approximately \$1,008 to transport deer to agency check stations within a 5-mile radius CWD management zone should the CWD Response Plan be enacted. Restrictions on the removal of certain deer carcass parts from the CWD management zone could result in collective costs to hunters of \$6,300 annually in meat processing and carcass disposal. These expenses would increase proportionally as new CWD-positive cervids were detected, resulting in an increase in the size of the CWD management zone²⁴. The 2010 Fiscal Note can be found in Appendix D.

Based on WRC Hunter Harvest Survey data, approximately 234,677 licensed hunters went deer hunting in North Carolina during the 2017-2018 season. With the detection and spread of CWD, fewer hunters may deer hunt and will therefore experience a loss of the recreational benefits

²³ RTI International. 2014. Evaluation and Feasibility of Establishing a Hunttable Elk Population in North Carolina.

²⁴ NCWRC Division of Wildlife Management. 2011. Chronic Wasting Disease and the Holding of Deer in Captivity. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA.

associated with hunting. Should CWD be detected in North Carolina, the quality of the deer hunting experience would likely decline and hunters may be advised against eating harvested venison. The lost social and recreational value of deer hunting, beyond what hunters spend to participate, could be in the tens of millions depending upon the extent of the disease.²⁵ But these potential nonmarket losses are highly uncertain because the potential extent of the disease in North Carolina is unknown, the agency lacks State-specific estimates of how much hunters value the hunting experience today, and the WRC is not aware of any studies that have been conducted to date to estimate how much that value would decline if North Carolina was CWD-positive.

Hunter behavioral changes can be reasonably expected because of CWD. However, these cannot be accurately estimated or predicted. As previously mentioned, participation in hunting has been shown to decrease as CWD prevalence increases. In addition to reductions in cervid populations, the perceived human health risks associated with CWD contribute to changes in hunter behavior. Although there are no current reported cases of natural CWD infection in humans, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises against eating the meat from CWD-positive animals. If hunters refrain from consuming deer meat because of CWD, they may incur additional costs for the purchase of alternative sources of meat.²⁶ Based on survey data from the 2015 WRC deer forums, most hunters in attendance indicated that the primary reason they hunt is for the venison. It is possible that some hunters will consume less venison because they are deterred by CWD and therefore will need to spend additional money on commercially available meat.²⁷

As shown by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Economics' economic impact report, the total economic losses associated with CWD detection were estimated at \$98 million and 1,459 jobs. These estimates include private sectors such as service stations, retail, hotels and other lodging places, restaurants, real estate, food stores, and wholesale trade. These effects would stem from less travel (both within and into the State), food expenditures, lodging, equipment and supply purchases, fewer licenses, and other spillover effects. Other losses to note would be cervid farms and deer and elk viewing opportunities. However, due to lack of North Carolina specific data, these costs are unquantifiable.²⁸

Individuals that partake in wildlife viewing could lose recreational benefits associated with this activity from the presence of CWD in the state. While the economic impacts associated with the loss of white-tailed deer viewing are expected to be relatively insignificant should CWD be detected, the impacts from loss of elk viewing would likely be substantial.²⁹ As discussed in the previous section, a 2014 study conducted by RTI projected that the potential net benefit of elk-viewing tourism in future years in the five study areas evaluated could be anywhere from \$0.6 to

²⁵ Assumptions and methodology from Bishop, 2002 applied to the current number of licensed hunters in NC. Bishop, R.C. 2002. The Economic Effects in 2002 of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Agricultural and Applied Economics. Staff Paper No. 450. 2002.

²⁶ NCWRC Division of Wildlife Management. 2011. Chronic Wasting Disease and the Holding of Deer in Captivity. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA.

²⁷ NCWRC Division of Wildlife Management. 2016. Deer Hunting and Management Survey. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA.

²⁸ Menard, J., Jensen, K., and English, B.C. (2003) *Projected economic impacts of a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) outbreak in Tennessee*, Agri-Industry Modeling & Analysis Group Industry Brief.

²⁹ NCWRC Division of Wildlife Management. 2011. Chronic Wasting Disease and the Holding of Deer in Captivity. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, NC, USA.

over \$5 million annually, assuming viewing visits lasted 3 days each.³⁰ North Carolina residents would lose these expected benefits, should the elk population decline significantly from CWD.

Individuals that partake in wildlife viewing could also lose the aesthetic and existence values associated with wild cervids. While both of these are non-economic values and are difficult to assess and measure, the impacts associated with the loss of these benefits would be significant.

VI. Alternatives

To address the increasing risk of CWD being introduced into North Carolina by use of cervid excrement, the WRC evaluated several options, one being to allow only products under the Archery Trade Association's (ATA) voluntary "Deer Protection Program", and the other to ban the use of products originating or produced in states known to be CWD positive.

The ATA Deer Protection Program seeks to lower the risks of CWD associated with the use of deer urine or urine-based products by hunters and allows participants products to carry the ATA seal after meeting program guidelines. The voluntary ATA Program uses the USDA's Herd Certification Program as a foundational structure, but also seeks to limit importation of live cervids into facilities and seeks to ensure testing of all cervids upon their death. ATA's Deer Protection Program also provides for additional inspections beyond those required by the USDA's Herd Certification Program. According to the ATA, 11 facilities participating in the Deer Protection Program account for 95% of the commercial deer urine.

Due to concerns over the ATA Deer Protection Program, the WRC dismissed this alternative in favor of a more protective rule that prohibits the use of all cervid excrement to attract deer. The ATA's program uses the current USDA Herd Certification Program as its foundation. Even facilities that participate in herd certification programs could still pose a risk. Many professional wildlife biologists consider surveillance requirements under the USDA Herd Certification Program as lacking. Poor record keeping by captive cervid farms and lack of enforcement for the program raise questions as to how effective the USDA program is at keeping herds CWD-free. In the past year, 6 of 15 captive herds where CWD was detected were considered low risk by USDA Herd Certification Program Standards (J. R. Fischer, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, personal communication). The ATA program is a voluntary program and it is questionable whether the ATA's standards can be enforced. The ATA program could be considered similar to the USDA program in this regard. Details regarding the inspection process and its underlying legal authority are unclear. The ATA program appears to seek compliance by peer pressure and anticipated market forces. The ATA program is a voluntary program; therefore, even if the Deer Protection Program works as intended (notwithstanding mentioned concerns), there will always be the likelihood of CWD-infected urine entering the scent market. Producers violating the Deer Protection Program guidelines do not lose their ability to keep producing urine unless they are required to close. There do not appear to be any standards or requirements that would prevent the mixing of urine, saliva and feces in collection facilities. While the ATA should be commended for developing a program to address this issue, the agency believes such a program lacks any true enforcement mechanism and until such time that an effective and efficient screening test can be developed to identify prions in urine, the ATA's Deer Protection Program can't be expected to

render the cervid urine market as CWD free.

Because there is no definitive diagnostic test for CWD in live cervids or official test for detecting prions in urine based products, there is no way for hunters or the WRC to be certain that the product a hunter has purchased is not carrying infectious prions. Additionally, because the labels on the products don't typically identify where the urine was produced or originated (with the exception of some that say "Made in the U.S.A." or small companies identifying their location on their website), the hunter and the WRC would have no easy way to ensure that the product is not from a captive herd in a CWD-positive state.

The possibility also exists that more captive cervid herds are positive but have not been identified as such. The hunting scent industry is largely unregulated. If a hunter were to use an attractant produced in a CWD negative state, that would not necessarily mean that the urine used for the production of the attractant didn't come from somewhere else. Or that the captive herd where the urine originated had not been identified as CWD-positive because none of the deer in the facility exhibited clinical signs of the disease yet or none of the deer had been tested for CWD. Thus, because of the variety of uncertainties existing around this alternative, it was also rejected.

VII. Economic Impact Summary

CWD, a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (Cervidae), is an imminent threat to the State's wild and captive white-tailed deer and elk populations. It is unknown if or when CWD will be detected in North Carolina. Fortunately, based on results of continuous testing, the disease has not been detected to date. With the proposed changes to the Prohibited Taking and Manner of Take Rule, the probability of human introduction of the disease into North Carolina's cervid herds through use of cervid excrement is anticipated to be greatly reduced. Although many of the costs are quantifiable, the agency is unable to estimate the magnitude of costs and benefits due to uncertainty about the probability of CWD's introduction to North Carolina from natural and/or human modes of transmission and how effective the proposed rules will be at mitigating that risk. However, the WRC believes that the biological, economical, and sociological benefits of the proposed changes to reduce the human-related pathways for introduction of CWD far outweigh the costs.

In calculating costs associated with the proposed changes, a discounting rate of 7% was applied to the first year and every year after (for 5 years). For one-time costs in a single year, the amount was adjusted by the 7% discount. Formula:

$$NPV = \frac{FV1}{(1+R)^1} + \frac{FV2}{(1+R)^2} + \frac{FV3}{(1+R)^3} + \frac{FV4}{(1+R)^4} + \frac{FV5}{(1+R)^5}$$

Where 1,2,3,4,5 represents future years

FV = Cash flows for a given year

R = Discount Rate (.07)

³⁰ RTI International. 2014. Evaluation and Feasibility of Establishing a Hunttable Elk Population in North Carolina.

Benefits from reduced risk of CWD introduction:

CWD can be spread by natural movements of wild cervids or by human transportation of live cervids, cervid carcasses and carcass parts, and cervid excrement. While the spread of CWD cannot be entirely prevented through regulatory action, the WRC can reduce the risk from use of cervid excrement on the landscape, reducing the likelihood of incurring associated costs.

Should CWD be detected, hunters, wildlife recreators, the recreational industry, and the state are likely to incur significant costs. The WRC would implement more restrictive management strategies to contain the disease, and hunting activity would likely decline in CWD affected areas over time, either due to reduced cervid populations or concern about the human health risks of consuming potentially infected venison.

- The WRC could incur costs of up to \$558,504 (\$465,704 NPV adjusted) in the first five years of an outbreak for management interventions in a single CWD management area, and loss of up to \$7.8M in license sales during that same time. Costs would increase with the addition of surveillance areas if CWD spread, but the effect on license sales is unknown. This cost would increase by 75% if these funds are not available for use as match (25%) to obtain federal operating grants.
- Hunters who continue to hunt in CWD-positive jurisdictions would incur additional costs for taking deer to WRC check stations and additional processing and disposal costs, estimated at \$7,300 annually for a single CWD management area. In addition, the WRC would impose prohibitions and restrictions on fawn rehabilitation, feeding and bating of deer, mandatory CWD testing, and changes to season lengths and limits. Costs would vary depending on the size of the management area.
- Captive cervid owners and the NCDACS would also incur costs for disease management in the captive cervid population.
- Over time, the wild and captive cervid populations could be substantially reduced or eliminated.
- Lost recreational benefits from hunting could be in the tens of millions annually depending upon the extent of the disease, but these potential nonmarket losses are highly uncertain. The potential loss of elk-viewing tourism in future years could be anywhere from approximately \$0.6 to over \$5 million annually.
- The loss of the aesthetic and existence values of wild cervids is unknown.

Direct Impacts from Proposed Rules:

State:

- Additional communication, education, and outreach to in-state and out-of-state hunters and retailers about the new regulations are estimated to have a one-time annual cost of approximately \$20,140 (\$18,822 NPV adjusted).
- An increase in citations for violations of the proposed rule are valued at \$205 each.

Local:

- Fines associated with citations for a rule violation include \$180 in local court costs.

Private:

- Violations of the proposed rule would cost hunters \$205 in citation costs and seizure of their cervid excrement which costs an estimated \$6-\$21.
- The direct impact to hunters that purchase attractants will be negligible. Retail of synthetic attractants (\$8-\$18) is similar to natural urine-based attractants (\$6-\$21).

Proposed Rule Text

15A NCAC 10B .0201 PROHIBITED TAKING AND MANNER OF TAKE

(a) It is unlawful for any person to take, or have in possession, any wild animal or wild bird listed in this Section except during the open seasons and in accordance with the limits herein prescribed, or as prescribed by 15A NCAC 10B .0300 pertaining to trapping or 15A NCAC 10D applicable to game lands managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission, unless otherwise permitted by law. Lawful seasons and bag limits for each species apply beginning with the first day of the listed season and continue through the last day of the listed season, with all dates being included. When any hunting season ends on a January 1 that falls on a Sunday, that season shall be extended to Monday, January 2.

(b) On Sundays, hunting on private lands shall be allowed under the following conditions:

- (1) archery equipment as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, falconry, and dogs where and when allowed the other days of the week are lawful methods of take, except as prohibited in G.S. 103-2;
- (2) firearms are lawful methods of take when used as described in G.S. 103-2; and
- (3) migratory game birds may not be taken.

(c) On Sundays, hunting on public lands is allowed with the following restrictions:

- (1) only falconry and dogs used in conjunction with falconry are lawful methods of take; and
- (2) migratory game birds may not be taken.

These restrictions do not apply to military installations under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government.

(d) Those animals not classified as game animals in G.S. 113-129(7c), and for which a season is set under this Section, may be taken during the hours and methods authorized for taking game animals.

(e) Where local laws govern hunting, or are in conflict with this Subchapter, the local law shall prevail.

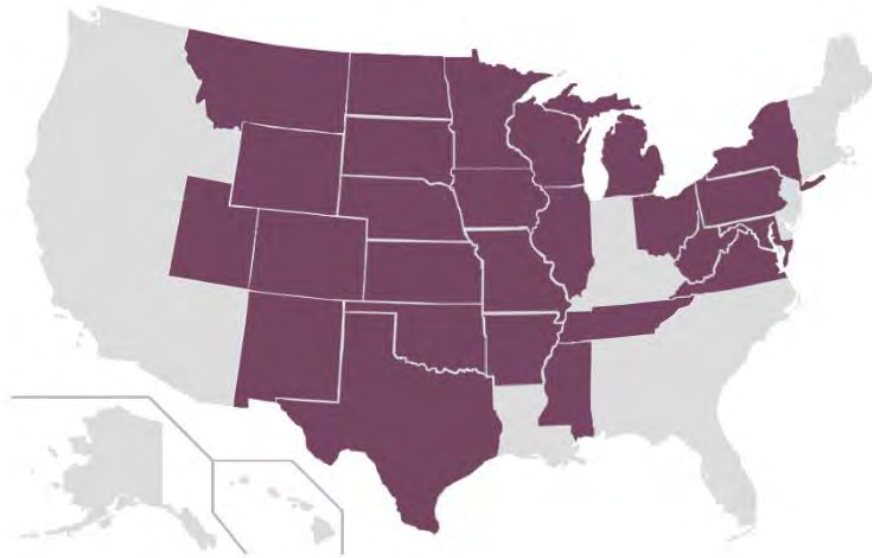
(f) No person shall possess or use any substance or material that contains or purports to contain any excretion collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 103-2; 113-291.1(a); 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.3;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2016; August 1, 2012; July 10, 2010; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1987.*

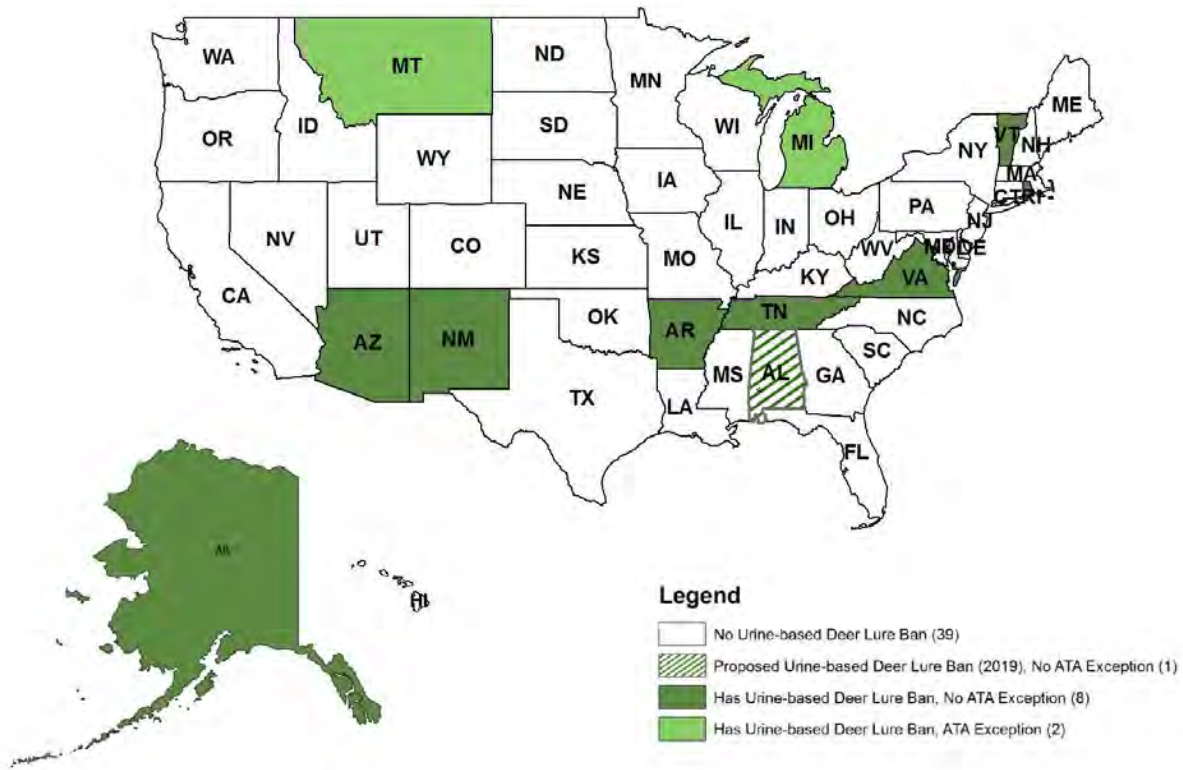
APPENDIX A

States where chronic wasting disease has been detected

United States



APPENDIX B



APPENDIX B

1

APPENDIX C

Estimated Cost of In-House Video Production

Position	Duties	Estimated Time (hrs)	Total Hourly Compensation	Total Personnel Cost per Video
Information & Communications Specialist II	Video production; recording footage + editing	56	\$ 38.08	\$ 2,132.33
Information & Communications Specialist II	Video production; recording footage + editing	32	\$ 38.08	\$ 1,218.48
Information & Communications Specialist III	Video review/editing	8	\$ 43.95	\$ 351.62
Conservation Biologist II	Video production	32	\$ 38.08	\$ 1,218.48
Conservation Management Administrator	Approval and oversight	4	\$ 54.65	\$ 218.60
				\$ 5,139.51
			NPV 7%	\$ 4,803.28
Total compensation based on midpoint salary for Grade and 10 yrs of service.				
NPV calculation: 7% discount rate. Cash flows held constant for each year.				

APPENDIX D

Estimated agency costs for implementing the CWD Response Plan

Field Response Team hours and mileage for one CWD Surveillance Area (based on the 2015 Response Plan and the 2013-2014 surveillance effort).

Position	Duties	Estimated Time ^a	Total Hourly Compensation ^b	Total Personnel Cost Yr 1	Estimated Mileage ^b	Estimated Time Over 5-Years ^c	Total Personnel Cost Over 5-Years	Estimated Mileage Over 5-Years ^d
Private Lands Program Supervisor	Field Response Team Leader; Determine best location for a CWD operations facility; appoint a data coordinator; Secure additional sampling sources; assign personal to operate check	28	\$ 47.25	\$ 1,307.83	401	94	\$ 4,446.61	1,365
District Wildlife Biologist	Determine location of unconfirmed CWD-positive sample; Finalize list of all supplies and material needed; Collect a minimum of 1,500 animals for CWD samples; Develop CWD Monitoring and Mangement Plans.	398	\$ 38.08	\$ 15,151.00	6,048	1,194	\$ 45,453.00	18,144
Regional Engineering		71	\$ 38.08	\$ 2,700.83	1,035	213	\$ 8,102.49	3,104
Lands Management Supervisor		73	\$ 47.25	\$ 3,433.05	711	218	\$ 10,299.14	2,133
Deer Biologist		439	\$ 38.08	\$ 16,731.97	5,048	1,318	\$ 50,195.92	15,144
Wildlife Veterinarian		291	\$ 75.94	\$ 22,072.57	491	872	\$ 66,217.71	1,474
Permits Biologist		69	\$ 38.08	\$ 2,634.96	346	208	\$ 7,904.87	1,038
District Wildlife Enforcement Captain		69	\$ 54.65	\$ 3,781.78	346	208	\$ 11,345.34	1,038
Other Staff (per individual) ^e		78	\$ 38.08	\$ 2,964.33	1,273	234	\$ 8,892.98	3,820
Total				\$ 70,778.31	\$ 15,699.75		\$ 212,858.05	\$ 47,259.79
NPV 7%				\$ 66,147.95	\$ 14,672.66		\$ 178,590.50	\$ 39,649.42
a. Estimated time is based on the average number of hours staff logged during the the 2013-2014 surviellance efforts (per position) plus the difference between collection efforts during the 2013-2014 surveillance and minimum requirements of the 2015 CWD Response Plan.								
b. Total compensation based on midpoint salary for Grade and 10 yrs of service.								
c. Estimated milage is based on the average milage staff logged during the the 2013-2014 surviellance efforts (per position) plus the difference between collection efforts during the 2013-2014 surveillance and minimum requirements of the 2015 CWD Response Plan.								
d. Five year estimates are based on the assumption no additional areas become CWD-positive in North Carolina and certain duties that are required in the first year are removed.								
e. Number of staff assisting in CWD collections vary among districts. This table assumes one additional staff member will be added to the group during sampling. If more are added, this number will be multiplied by the number of staff assisting.								
NPV calculation: 7% discount rate. 1st year= full annual amount, remaining four years calculated at 0.50 of first year for each year								

Estimated agency costs for implementing the CWD Response Plan Continued

Logistical Response Team hours for one CWD Surveillance Area (based on the 2015 CWD Response Plan and recent CWD outreach efforts).						
Position	Duties	Estimated Time ^a	Total Hourly Compensation ^b	Logistics Team Personnel Cost Yr 1	Estimated Time Over 5-Years ^c	Logistics Team Personnel Cost 5-yr
Division Chief	Logistical Response Team Leader	16	\$ 54.65	\$ 874.40	32	\$ 1,748.80
Wildlife Veterinarian	List appropriate media contacts, draft press release, develop information section on website, identify stakeholders, begin preparations for public meeting; Create contact list of private land owners, captive cervid facilities, and fawn rehabbers;	92	\$ 75.94	\$ 6,986.78	184	\$ 13,973.56
Surveys and Research Program Supervisor		28	\$ 47.25	\$ 1,322.95	56	\$ 2,645.89
Wildlife Diversity Program Supervisor		28	\$ 47.25	\$ 1,322.95	56	\$ 2,645.89
Administration and Planning Section Manager		92	\$ 33.04	\$ 3,039.63	184	\$ 6,079.25
Public Information Officer	Review and report on General Statutes, Session Laws, and other local laws;	163	\$ 38.08	\$ 6,206.62	326	\$ 12,413.23
Information Technology Representative		155	\$ 38.08	\$ 5,902.00	310	\$ 11,804.00
Division of Law Enforcement Representative	Coordinate with a landfill; Identify options for carcass processing and disposal;	28	\$ 54.65	\$ 1,530.20	56	\$ 3,060.40
Raleigh Office Administrative Assistant	Coordinate with NCDOT and USDA.	155	\$ 33.04	\$ 5,121.11	310	\$ 10,242.22
Total				\$ 32,306.63		\$ 64,613.25
			NPV 7%	\$ 30,193.11		\$ 55,760.72
a. Estimated time is based on the average number of actual staff hours logged during CWD outreach efforts.				After 1 year		After 5 years
b. Total compensation based on midpoint salary for Grade and 10 yrs of service.						
c. Five year estimates are based on the assumption that no additional areas become CWD-positive in North Carolina and certain duties required in the first year are unnecessary in subsequent years.						
NPV calculation: 7% discount rate. 1st year=full annual amount, remaining four years calculated at 0.25 of first year for each year.						

Estimated agency costs for implementing the CWD Response Plan Continued

Minimum number of supplies needed for one CWD Surveillance Area for one year of surveillance (based on 2015 CWD Response Plan).					
Item	Price	Quantity	Total 1-YR	Total 5-YR	
Extra Large Gloves	\$ 74.90	1 case(s) of 1000	\$ 74.90	\$ 374.50	
Large Gloves	\$ 74.90	1 case(s) of 1000	\$ 74.90	\$ 374.50	
Formalin	\$ 188.30	5 5 gallons	\$ 941.50	\$ 4,707.50	
Sample Container	\$ 165.82	4 case(s) of 400	\$ 663.28	\$ 3,316.40	
Testing of Samples	\$ 30.00	1,500 each	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	
Total			\$ 46,754.58	\$ 233,772.90	
NPV 7%			\$ 43,695.87	\$ 191,703.01	



Fiscal Note for Proposed Amendment of Deer Blackpowder Season for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

Agency Contact: Michael Smallwood
Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
919-707-0014
Michael.smallwood@ncwildlife.org

Impact: State Government: No
Local Government: No
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (hereinafter WRC or Commission) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134). In accordance with the supply of wildlife and other factors it determines to be of public importance, the WRC may fix seasons and bag limits upon the wild animals and wild birds authorized to be taken that it deems necessary or desirable in the interests of the conservation of wildlife resources (G.S. 113.291.2(a)).

A summary of the proposed rule amendment is shown below, with the full text included in Appendix A.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

The proposed amendment to this Rule will allow antlerless deer (does and button bucks) to be

taken by hunters during the entire blackpowder firearms season in those parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties that currently have the maximum either-sex deer season (NCWRC “either-sex” gun seasons allow the harvest of antlered and antlerless deer, “maximum either-sex gun season” means either sex harvest is allowed during the entire gun season). Taking antlerless deer during the blackpowder firearm season is currently allowed during the entire blackpowder firearms season in all parts of the state having a maximum gun either-sex deer season, except the area described in this amendment.

The proposed change contains the following features:

- Provides consistency for blackpowder season in all areas of the state having the maximum either-sex gun season, hence promoting rule simplification.
- Increases the number of days during the blackpowder hunting season from 1 (currently the first Saturday) to 13 that deer of either sex may be taken within the described area.
- Provides more opportunity to harvest a deer for those individuals that hunt within the described area (because deer of any sex or age would be legal).
- Provides additional opportunity for landowners to manage (e.g., decrease) the local deer herd through the additional opportunity to harvest female deer.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule has no state government impact.

Local Impact

Due to the overall small geographic area that this proposed rule change affects, it is anticipated that any benefits to the local government will be nominal at best. This increased opportunity does offer additional hunter opportunity, but the Commission does not have a mechanism to quantify anticipated effects.

Private Impact

This rule change will provide additional blackpowder season hunting days that antlerless deer can be taken. Only hunters that own land, lease land, or have hunting permission within the described area will be directly affected by this rule change. Therefore, regarding hunters, fiscal impacts are limited only to those deer hunters who may take advantage of the additional days to take antlerless deer. The actual fiscal impact would consist of the value of meat that a few individuals hunting within this area could realize and the personal experience value (not quantifiable in dollars) for those that harvest a deer because of the change.

The Commission does not have a mechanism to predict the number of hunters that will hunt within this area, or the number of hunters that would choose to harvest an antlerless deer during the additional 12 days if the opportunity occurs for them (i.e., if they see an antlerless deer they can shoot while hunting). Individuals that receive payment for processing harvested deer (meat



Fiscal Note for Proposed Alligator Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B .0224 American Alligator

Agency Contact: Michael Smallwood
Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
(919) 707-0014

Impact Summary: State Government: No
Local Government: No
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-292

Background

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (hereinafter WRC or Commission) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134). In accordance with the supply of wildlife and other factors it determines to be of public importance, the WRC may fix seasons and bag limits upon the wild animals and wild birds authorized to be taken that it deems necessary or desirable in the interests of the conservation of wildlife resources (G.S. 113.291.2(a)).

On August 1, 2018, when 15A NCAC 10B .0224 was adopted, it established a season to allow the limited take of alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), set bag limits, listed allowed methods of restraint, specified that take is by permit only and that alligators must be dispatched immediately upon capture. This fiscal note evaluates the impact of proposed amendments to 10B .0224.

I. Introduction and Purpose of Rule Change

The proposed rule change will allow the WRC to set a minimum size limit and prescribe methods of restraint depending on the management objective of the area. Management objectives may require implementation of a size restriction to prevent overharvest of reproductive-aged females. Therefore, amendments to this rule will allow the WRC to specify methods for restraint/capture on the permit, enabling the release of animals failing to meet a minimum size limit.

This proposed rule amendment will continue to allow the limited take of alligators to address public safety or to provide recreational hunting where scientific data demonstrates that the permitted take will not impair long-term sustainability of the population. The intent of this regulation is to provide closely regulated and monitored opportunities for take in accordance with the Alligator Management Plan (available for download at: www.newwildlife.org/alligator).

II. Fiscal Impacts - Costs

State Impact

No changes anticipated.

Local Impact

No changes anticipated.

Private Impact

No changes anticipated.

III. Fiscal Impacts - Benefits

State Impact

No fiscal changes anticipated. Changes to this rule may facilitate the long-term sustainability of North Carolina's alligator populations.

Local Impact

No changes anticipated.

Private Impact

The amendments to this rule will improve management options and the conservation of alligator resources in some locations. Implementation of size restrictions will ensure the long-term viability of the populations while allowing harvest of large animals. This may result in a desirable outcome for some hunters who prefer to harvest larger (trophy) animals.

IV. Uncertainties

Due to the recent nature of the expansion of the American Alligator into North Carolina, the WRC is conducting research and monitoring on a continual basis. However, this research is in its infancy and any long-term effects or impacts of the American Alligator population in NC is still largely to be determined.

V. Economic Impact Summary

The proposed alligator rule is anticipated to have minimal state, local, and private costs.

State

- No change

Local

- No change

Private

- No change to economic impacts, changes to hunter satisfaction could occur.

Unquantifiable costs and benefits include the following:

State

- Improved ability to maintain the alligator resource for the citizens of North Carolina

Local

- No change.

Private

- Additional hunting opportunities may occur if areas are opened to hunting that would not have been opened under the previous rule (due to protection). Possible increased opportunities to harvest larger animals.

Though most of these economic impacts lack data and are unquantifiable costs, the WRC expects the benefits of the proposed rule to outweigh the costs.

15A NCAC 10B .0224 AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

(a) The season for taking American alligators shall be September 1 to October 1.

(b) Take shall be by permit only.

(c) The bag limit shall be one per permit and the season limit is one.

(d) American alligators ~~shall may only~~ be restrained ~~before being killed. American alligators shall only be restrained~~ using one of the following methods in accordance with the provisions of the permit:

(1) _____ a hand-held restraining line or catch pole;

(2) _____ a snatch hook attached to a hand-held restraining line or rod and reel;

(3) _____ a harpoon or gig attached to a hand-held restraining line;

(4) _____ a baited wooden peg less than two inches in length attached to a hand-held restraining line; or

(5) _____ archery equipment with an arrow-attached restraining line.

(e) ~~American alligators restrained by any method specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule shall be killed immediately upon capture.~~ If a minimum size limit is applicable to the county or municipality for which the permit is issued, the size limit and non-lethal method(s) of restraint shall be specified on the permit. -

(f) American alligators restrained by any method specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule shall be killed immediately upon capture except when a minimum size limit is specified on the permit. When a minimum size limit is specified on the permit, animals not meeting the minimum size limit shall be released immediately at the site of capture.

~~(f)~~ (g) ~~Alligators~~ American alligators may be taken day or night and with the use of artificial lights.

~~(g)~~ (h) The use of baited hooks is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;

Eff. August 1, ~~2018~~ 2018;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.

processors) for hunters that harvest deer within the described area may receive additional animals to process; however, the Commission has no data to determine if this would occur.

While the potential does exist for this rule to result in private fiscal impacts, the Commission is unable to estimate these impacts. If private fiscal impacts occur, they will be relatively minor and will certainly be positive rather than negative.

Appendix A

15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

(a) Open Seasons (All Lawful Weapons) for hunting deer:

- (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken on all game lands except Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Deer With Visible Antlers seasons on these Game Lands), during the following seasons:

(A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus*, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties.

*Unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline.

(B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

(C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

(D) Monday of Thanksgiving week through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day in all of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

(E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.

(F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in that part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

- (2) Deer of Either Sex. Except on Game Lands, deer of either sex may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G) of this

Appendix A

Subparagraph (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either-sex deer seasons on Game Lands). Deer of either sex may be taken during the open season identified in Part (H) of this Subparagraph.

(A) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the period from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in those parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(B) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the appropriate military commands at each of the military installations listed in this Paragraph, during the period from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in that part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in that part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in that part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

(C) Youth either-sex deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County designated by agents of the Commission; the third Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on Mountain Island State Forest in Lincoln and Gaston counties; and the second Saturday in November for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on apportion of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes County designated by agents of the Commission. A youth is defined as a person under 18 years of age.

(D) The first open Saturday of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Buncombe*, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.

*Except for that part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280

(E) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in all of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

(F) The first open day of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

(G) All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties: Buncombe: That part east of NC

Appendix A

191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280; and Henderson; That part east of NC 191 and north and west of NC 280.

(H) The fourth Saturday in September in all counties, subject to the following restriction: only persons under the age of 18 years may hunt.

(b) Open Seasons (Archery) for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment during the following seasons:

(A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms and archery season identified in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on these Game Lands).

(B) Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers through January 1 in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(2) Restrictions

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the archery season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the archery deer hunting season.

(C) Deer of either sex may be taken during archery seasons specified by Part (b)(1)(A) of this Rule.

Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the archery season specified by Part (b)(1)(B) of this Rule.

(c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment during the following seasons:

(A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South

Appendix A

- Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Blackpowder Firearms and Archery seasons on these Game Lands):
- (B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery season in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule that has either-sex days for all lawful weapons and in ~~and east of~~ the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, ~~Watauga, and Ashe,~~ and Cleveland. Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this season only in all other counties.
- (B) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder firearms and archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (3) As used in this Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle or cylinder and that cannot use fixed ammunition."
- (d) Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:
- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on any game land or part thereof that occurs within a city boundary.
- (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.
- (3) Restrictions:
- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

Appendix A

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the urban season.

(e) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two of which may be deer with visible antlers and four of which may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. In addition to the bag limits described above, a hunter may obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit. The bag limits described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,
1994; July 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,
2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1,
2006; June 1, 2005.

EXHIBIT I

October 24, 2019



Temporary Rulemaking Request to Adopt Rule 15A NCAC 10L .0101 Wildlife Reserve

This rule lists qualifying habitat types and defines qualifying activities for land created and maintained to propagate a sustaining breeding, migrating, or wintering population of indigenous wild animals for human use, including food, medicine, or recreation.

Justification:

Session Law 2018-95 extended the present-use value classification and treatment to land that is actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or wildlife activities. This change is effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2019. A temporary rule is necessary to provide guidance to landowners seeking to classify land under the new qualifying land uses. Subchapter 10L is being created to house all rules pertaining to the Wildlife Conservation Land Program.

15A NCAC 10A .1601 Wildlife Reserve (pages 2-3)

Note: The Wildlife Resources Commission requests adding a new Subchapter to Chapter 10 of Title 15A of the Administrative Code and that it be titled as follows: Subchapter 10L Wildlife Conservation Land Program.

15A NCAC 10L .0101 is proposed for adoption under temporary procedures as follows:

15A NCAC 10L .0101 WILDLIFE RESERVE

(a) A wildlife reserve is a type of wildlife conservation land that meets the size and ownership requirements in G.S. 105-277.15 and where the conditions in Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule are met and maintained by the owner under a written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission that is submitted by the landowner to the county where an application for reduced property tax assessment is requested.

(b) Qualifying habitat shall be planned for or exist as, and be maintained as one or more of the following natural community types:

(1) aquatic and wetland communities

(A) coldwater systems less than 20°C;

(B) coolwater systems greater than 20°C, less than 25°C;

(C) warmwater systems greater than 25°C;

(D) headwaters and small creek communities less than 40 square mile drainage area;

(E) large creeks and small river communities 40 to 200 square mile drainage area;

(F) medium river communities 200 to 3,800 square mile drainage area;

(G) large river communities greater than 3,800 square mile drainage area;

(H) stream swamp systems;

(I) natural lakes;

(J) reservoirs and impoundments;

(K) groundwater, springs, and subterranean water;

(L) estuarine aquatic communities;

(M) bogs and fens;

(N) estuarine wetland communities;

(O) floodplains - blackwater, brownwater, or inland systems;

(P) freshwater tidal wetlands;

(Q) nonalluvial mineral wetlands;

(R) pocosins;

(S) upland pools and depressions;

(T) upland seepages and spray cliffs; or

(U) wet pine savannas.

(2) upland communities

(A) caves and mines;

(B) cove forests;

- (C) dry coniferous woodlands including loblolly and slash pine timberlands;
(D) dry longleaf pine communities;
(E) grass and heath balds;
(F) high-elevation cliffs and rock outcrops;
(G) low elevation flatrocks, cliffs, and rock outcrops;
(H) mafic glades and barrens;
(I) maritime forests;
(J) maritime grasslands;
(K) mesic forests;
(L) oak and mixed hardwood and pine forests;
(M) montane oak forests;
(N) northern hardwood forests;
(O) sand, shell, and wrack shorelines;
(P) spruce - fir forests; or
(Q) herbaceous, shrub, and woody successional communities.

(c) At least three of the following activities shall be maintained on the land as agreed upon in the written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement:

- (1) "supplemental food" is annual or perennial noninvasive plantings that provide a direct or indirect source of food or nutrition for wildlife resources.
(2) "supplemental water" includes natural and artificial water features or sources that are created or installed for the benefit of wildlife resources.
(3) "supplemental shelter" is natural or artificial structures that are created or installed to provide shelter from the weather, nesting sites, or escape cover from predators. Supplemental shelter may include the addition of natural or artificial structures into aquatic habitats.
(4) "habitat control" is managing upland, wetland, riparian, or aquatic vegetation or physical aquatic habitat using practices to establish, restore, enhance, or maintain the natural community type(s) listed in Paragraph (b) of this Rule.
(5) "erosion control" is the implementation of practices to prevent, reduce, or minimize soil erosion. Practices may include streambank and in-stream channel stabilization. Practices established for erosion control shall not be known to harm wildlife or include invasive plant species.
(6) "predator control" is a practice implemented to reduce the abundance of a species or suite of species that preys on any life stage of wildlife species for which the land is managed. Predator control includes removal of invasive animal species to manage or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats.
(7) "census of animal population on the land" is conducting or participating in periodic surveys and inventories to determine the presence, number, composition, biological condition, or human use of wildlife.

History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;

EXHIBIT J-1

October 24, 2019



Temporary Rulemaking Public Comments 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees

	Comment
Email	I object strongly to the sale of permits for the taking of any endangered species. Once the EPA has managed to control the species enough for it to be removed from the endangered species list, the issue could be reconsidered. However, NO endangered species should be eligible for taking, permit or not.

EXHIBIT J-2

October 24, 2019



Temporary Rulemaking Request to Adopt Rule 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees

15A NCAC 10A .1601 moves all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications issued and administered by the Commission (except for the RCGL), and associated fees, from statute to rule and adjusts existing fees by the CPI-U in accordance with the changes in Session Law 2019-204 (House Bill 597).

Justification:

Session Law 2019-204 simplifies license structure, increases fees of historically undervalued licenses, combines license privileges, creates new licenses, establishes fees for certain permits, and gives the Commission the ability to round-up CPI-U increases in rule to the next whole dollar. The temporary rule has been proposed to streamline fee increases. The temporary fee rule transfers all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications to rule and increases those fees that were not increased by law by the total increase in the CPI-U rounded up to the next whole dollar over the period of time since the last fee change.

15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees (pages 2-5)

1 15A NCAC 10A .1601 is proposed for adoption under temporary procedures as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES.**

4 (a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-270.1B(e).

5 (b) The following fees shall apply to combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as
6 set forth in G.S. 113-270.1C:

7 (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - \$35.00.

8 (2) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.

9 (3) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.

10 (c) The following fees shall apply to sportsman licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1D:

11 (1) Annual Sportsman License - \$53.00.

12 (2) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License - \$212.00.

13 (3) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License - \$371.00.

14 (4) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - \$530.00.

15 (5) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License - \$1,272.00.

16 (6) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - \$16.00.

17 (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License - \$106.00.

18 (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License - \$106.00.

19 (d) The following fees shall apply to hunting licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.2:

20 (1) Resident State Hunting License - \$25.00.

21 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License - \$265.00.

22 (3) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License - \$22.00.

23 (4) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License - \$39.00.

24 (5) Nonresident State Hunting Licenses:

25 (A) Season License - \$100.00.

26 (B) Ten-Day License - \$80.00.

27 (6) Falconry Hunting License - \$25.00.

28 (e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.3:

29 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - \$14.00.

30 (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - \$239.00.

31 (3) Bear Management Stamp - \$11.00.

32 (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:

33 (A) Season License - \$100.00.

34 (B) Ten-Day License - \$80.00.

35 (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - \$11.00.

36 (6) Game Land License - \$16.00.

37 (7) Falconry License - \$11.00.

- 1 (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - \$14.00.
2 (9) Resident American Alligator License - \$250.00.
3 (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - \$500.00.
4 (11) Resident Elk License - \$500.00.
5 (12) Nonresident Elk License - \$1,000.00.
6 (f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.
7 113-270.4:
8 (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - \$16.00.
9 (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - \$159.00.
10 (g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:
11 (1) Resident State Trapping License - \$32.00.
12 (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - \$300.00.
13 (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - \$133.00.
14 (h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the
15 Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:
16 (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - \$25.00.
17 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - \$265.00.
18 (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - \$45.00.
19 (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
20 (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - \$9.00.
21 (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - \$23.00.
22 (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$16.00.
23 (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
24 (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
25 (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - \$106.00.
26 (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing License - \$8.00.
27 (i) The following fees shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.2:
28 (1) Resident Special Device License - \$80.00.
29 (2) Nonresident Special Device License - \$530.00.
30 (j) The fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall be \$10.00.
31 (k) The following fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.5:
32 (1) Captivity License for Holding - \$50.00.
33 (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - \$10.00.
34 (l) The following fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S. 113-273:
35 (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - \$64.00.
36 (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - \$318.00.
37 (3) Fur-dealer Station License - \$128.00.

- (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - \$100.00.
- (5) Game Bird Propagation License - \$10.00.
- (6) Furbearer Propagation License - \$27.00.
- (7) Taxidermy License - \$50.00.
- (8) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - \$5.00.
- (9) Wildlife Control Agent License - \$50.00.
- (10) Alligator Control Agent Certification - \$25.00.

(m) The following fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:

- (1) Possession Permit - \$10.00.
- (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - \$10.00.
- (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - \$10.00.
- (4) Endangered Species Permit - \$10.00.
- (5) Field Trial Permit - \$10.00.

(n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:

- (1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$69.00.
- (2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$43.00.
- (3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:
 - (A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$292.00.
 - (B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$477.00.
 - (C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$716.00.
 - (D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$1,643.00.
 - (E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$32.00.
 - (F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$117.00.
 - (G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$117.00.
- (4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$477.00.

(o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-174.2:

- (1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$16.00.
- (2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$32.00.
- (3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$6.00.
- (4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.
- (5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$106.00.

- 1 (6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$159.00.
- 2 (7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$265.00.
- 3 (8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$530.00.
- 4 (9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$16.00.
- 5 (10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.
- 6 (11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.

7

8 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);

9

EXHIBIT K

October 24, 2019



DRAFT SCHEDULE 2020 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETINGS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020