



Questions on Sunday Hunting Presentation at 2021 Public Hearing

Q: Will you entertain species specific closures of Sunday hunting?

A: Based on feedback from stakeholders during focus group meetings, there was little interest in making regulations more complex. While the exclusion of bear hunting on Sundays at game lands in the Central Bear Management Unit (CBMU) has been proposed, and other exclusions for specific species may be necessary in the future, prohibiting the take of certain species on Sundays during the open seasons would be unnecessarily complex at this point.

Q: Why do non-hunting game land users influence the decisions?

A: The Commission undertook a stakeholder process that included both hunters and non-hunters because most game lands have multiple uses. No one particular group of users influenced the decision to propose Sunday hunting on game lands more than another.

Q: What does "quality of the hunt" mean?

A: "Quality of hunt" can mean different things to different people. The NCWRC uses the term to describe the overall hunting experience. This would include factors such as how many animals are seen, how many are harvested, and how much interference there might be with other hunters.

Q: Are you going to require all game lands users to have a license?

A: Requiring all game land users to have a license is an idea that the Commission may consider in the future after adequate data are gathered to inform that decision.

Q: Will bear hunting with dogs be allowed?

A: Yes. Bear hunting with dogs will be allowed on Sundays in areas where this activity is permitted on other days of the week, except in the CBMU where it is proposed to prohibit the harvest of bear, by any means, on Sundays on game lands.

Q: Can you discuss some of the reasons for excluding hunting with hounds from the Sunday hunting areas, even in areas where dogs are permitted other days of the week?

A: Hunting deer with the use of dogs is prohibited by [G.S. 103-2](#).

Q: NC is one of only a few states in the country that does not allow Sunday hunting. Why is NC so far behind?

A: Since shortly after the [Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act](#) was signed into law on July 25, 2017, the NCWRC has been gathering data and public input to help inform its decision about allowing Sunday hunting on game lands. The Commission understands the impact of this decision and wants to ensure that there is ample, diverse public input to inform this decision. This process has taken time to ensure that we are thoughtful, thorough, and deliberate in our recommended changes.

Q: Which game lands are included in the Sunday hunting proposal?

A: Fifty-five of the agency's 92 game lands were proposed for allowing Sunday hunting. A list of these game lands can be found at ncwildlife.org/SundayHuntingGL.

Q: Is there is any consideration for disabled hunters?

A: Six of the 14 game lands owned by the Commission and listed in the [Disabled Hunting Program](#) are proposed to be open for Sunday hunting.

Q: Has area population growth surrounding these lands been considered?

A: Among other factors, the location of game lands in relation to population centers was considered. We recognize that conditions change over time and we plan to adapt as necessary.

