



# Fox and Coyote Populations Study Final Report

April 1, 2012



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Gray fox (photo: Maine Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife)

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

*North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
1701 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1701*

APRIL 1, 2012

TO: The Honorable, Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
Representative James H. Langdon, Jr., Co-chair, House Committee on Agriculture  
Representative Efton M. Sager, Co-chair, House Committee on Agriculture  
Senator Don East, Co-chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources  
Senator Brent Jackson, Co-chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources  
Senator David Rouzer, Co-chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources

On behalf of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, I submit this final report for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Gordon S. Myers, Executive Director

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2011, the North Carolina General Assembly directed the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) to study fox and coyote populations and to recommend management methods and controls designed to ensure statewide conservation of fox populations while managing adverse effects of coyote populations. Since that time, the Commission has gathered information about the attitudes and perspectives of numerous stakeholder groups. In addition, the Commission compiled all available information on the harvest and status of foxes and coyotes by hunters and trappers. Included herein is a detailed presentation of the different authorities for regulating take of foxes and coyotes, including the Commission's limited authority for regulating take of foxes, and the resulting significant variation in fox hunting and trapping seasons. The potential impacts (both positive and negative) of a statewide fox trapping season are evaluated.

Foxes have occurred in N.C. throughout recent history, but coyotes are a relatively new arrival. With changes in the landscape of our state; changing perspectives about fox hunting and fox and coyote trapping by hunters, trappers, and the general public; concerns over coyote predation on wild and domestic animals; and human/fox/coyote interactions, publically-acceptable approaches to managing fox and coyotes have changed. Because of these changes, we must determine how best to modify current approaches to regulating take of foxes and coyotes that meet the needs of our diverse citizenry while assuring the sound conservation and management of these species. The Commission's long-term goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coyote control measures by reducing regulatory barriers for our citizens while ensuring the sound conservation of fox populations.

Based upon this study, the Commission offers the following recommendations:

- Develop a structured decision-making process to guide all regulatory changes
- Maintain and expand hunting opportunities for foxes and coyotes where feasible
- Match new or amended fox trapping seasons with the statewide furbearer trapping season
- Increase public awareness of best management practices for trapping foxes and coyotes
- Authorize the Commission to regulate all gear types used in trapping
- Examine regulations pertaining to the operation of Controlled Fox Hunting Preserves including the live sale of foxes and coyotes
- Increase public awareness of coyotes
- Implement localized fox and coyote abundance surveys
- Consider providing additional urban fox and coyote trapping opportunities
- Consider removing prohibitions on hunting and trapping foxes in Yancey County

## INTRODUCTION

On June 17, 2011, the General Assembly passed a bill (N.C. Session Law 2011-380, House Bill 755) that directed the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) to study fox and coyote populations. Signed into law June 27, 2011, the statute called for the Commission to “undertake a study of fox and coyote populations in the State and recommend management methods and controls designed to ensure statewide conservation of fox populations while managing adverse effects of coyote populations.” HB 755 further directed the Commission to “solicit input from interested stakeholders, including hunters, trappers, controlled hunting preserve operators, public health authorities, local governments, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and private landowners.” The Commission was directed to complete its study by April 1, 2012, and submit a report, including any proposed legislation, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; the Chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture; and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources.

Our focus throughout this effort was to compile all data and other information available to the Commission on the history and status of foxes and coyotes in N.C., and feedback from various constituents, on issues and positive approaches to conserve foxes while optimizing management of coyotes. Our long-term goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of coyote control measures by reducing regulatory barriers for our citizens while ensuring the sound conservation of fox populations.

To compile information about their attitudes and opinions on issues related to managing foxes and coyotes, we contacted stakeholders through direct meetings, and telephone and e-mail surveys. Four meetings were held with representative groups of stakeholders, including: meetings held in Raleigh with the N.C Trappers Association and in Goldsboro with fox hunters on December 12, 2011; and meetings with representative controlled fox hunting preserve operators in Williamston on February 8, 2012 and in Troy on February 15, 2012. In total, 34 constituents attended these meetings. To gain additional information from our constituents, we contacted a goat farmer, horse owner, and representatives of the Quality Deer Management Association, Quail Unlimited, N.C. Cattlemen’s Association, N.C. League of Municipalities, N.C. Farm Bureau, N.C. County Commissioners Association, Association of Local Health Directors, N.C. State Health Director, and N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services either by telephone or e-mail and asked a series of nine questions related to management of foxes and coyotes in N.C. (Appendix A).

From these efforts, the Commission received direct feedback from trappers, hunters, and controlled fox hunting preserve operators and survey feedback from representatives of Quail Unlimited, Quality Deer Management Association, N.C. Cattleman’s Association, N.C. Cattlemen’s Beef Council, N.C. Farm Bureau, a goat farmer, a horse owner, Wilkes County Animal Control, N.C. Division of Public Health, N.C. Alliance of Public Health Agencies, Orange County Animal Services, and N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Veterinary Services Division and Forest Service.

Additional information and data provided herein on the distribution, status, and harvest of foxes and coyotes were compiled from Commission records.

## REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Over the years, numerous laws and rules have been adopted that result in diverse regulatory authorities and a broad range of legal options for managing fox and coyote populations. In many cases, this suite of diverse options creates confusion among the public and has created some barriers to effectively conserving fox populations while managing coyotes, which to most of our citizens are overabundant. Because one of the Commission's goals is to remove regulatory barriers and increase the options available to our citizens to manage foxes and coyotes, especially on private property, a thorough review of these regulatory authorities is important.

**Commission Authority to Regulate Fox Hunting** – Foxes are classified as game (NCGS § 113 129). However, according to NCGS § 113 291.4, *“All of the regulatory powers granted the Wildlife Resources Commission generally with respect to game, wild animals, and wildlife apply to foxes unless there are specific overriding restrictions in this section.”* Under current overriding restrictions, the Commission may not regulate the taking of foxes with the use of dogs except in areas where this would be detrimental to turkey restoration projects. Because turkey restoration now is completed statewide, the Commission may not restrict the use of dogs to take foxes anywhere in the state, including west of the line delineated in NCGS § 113-291.5, an area in which the Commission has authority to regulate all other aspects of hunting with dogs. NCGS § 113 291.4 specifically states that foxes may be taken with dogs year-round and during both night and day.

The Commission does not have the authority to regulate fox hunting with firearms, except to:

1. continue the fox hunting and trapping season for Caswell, Clay, Graham, Henderson, Hyde, Macon, and Tyrrell counties that was established in the early 1980s,
2. establish fox population control measures in areas where State Health Director has notified the Commission of the presence of a contagious animal disease in a local fox population, and
3. set bag limits for foxes taken with firearms east of I-77 and Mitchell and Caldwell counties.

The Commission may not allow the use of electronic calling devices for foxes.

The Commission has the authority to regulate take with archery equipment because there is no prohibition in § 113 291.4 or § 113 291.4.A against the use of archery equipment to take foxes.

**Commission Authority to Regulate Fox Trapping** – Foxes are not classified as fur-bearers, but rather as game. Therefore, the Commission has no authority over fox trapping except as specifically authorized in NCGS § 113 291.4, which states, *“If, on the basis of its studies and other information available, the Wildlife Resources Commission determines the population of foxes in an area is fully adequate to support a harvesting of that population, the Wildlife Resources Commission may, upon passage of local legislation permitting same, open a season for taking foxes by trapping.”* Any such local season open to fox trapping is open to fox hunting as well (NCGS § 113 291.4).

In regards to dead foxes, this same statute gives the Commission the authority to:

1. provide for the sale of foxes lawfully taken in areas of open season;

2. implement a system of tagging foxes and fox furs with a special fox tag;
3. charge two dollars and twenty five cents (\$2.25) for each tag furnished to hunters, trappers, and fur dealers;
4. limit the number of tags furnished to any individual as to area and as to number in accordance with area, bag, possession, or season limits;
5. require reporting and controlled disposition, not including sale, of foxes killed accidentally by dog hunters, motor vehicles, and in other situations; and
6. impose strict controls on the disposition of depredating foxes taken by owners of property, and authorize sale under controlled conditions of foxes taken under depredation permits.

**Commission Authority to Regulate Coyote Hunting** – Coyotes are classified as wild animals (NCGS § 113 129), but not game. Under this classification the Commission has the authority to set hunting seasons and bag limits (NCGS § 113 291.2) and designate manner of taking, including the use of artificial lights and electronic calls (NCGS § 113 291.1).

**Commission Authority to Regulate Coyote Trapping** – The Commission uses the same authority (NCGS § 113 291.2) to set trapping seasons and bag limits as for hunting seasons. Trap types for wild animals are specified in NCGS § 113 291.6. Trappers trap coyotes under the authority of their trapping license, although this license specifies that it is necessary for fur-bearing species (NCGS § 113 270.5).

**Commission Authority to Regulate Controlled Fox Hunting Preserves** – Persons who wish to operate a controlled fox hunting preserve must purchase a Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License. Currently there are 144 Controlled Fox Hunting Preserves across N.C. (Figure 1). Pursuant to NCGS § 113 273, operators of controlled fox hunting preserves may purchase live foxes and coyotes from licensed trappers who live trap foxes and coyotes during any open season for trapping them and may, at any time, take live foxes from their preserves for sale to other licensed operators. Except for the purchase of live animals, the Commission is authorized to set standards for, and to license the operation of, controlled fox hunting preserves (NCGS § 113 273).

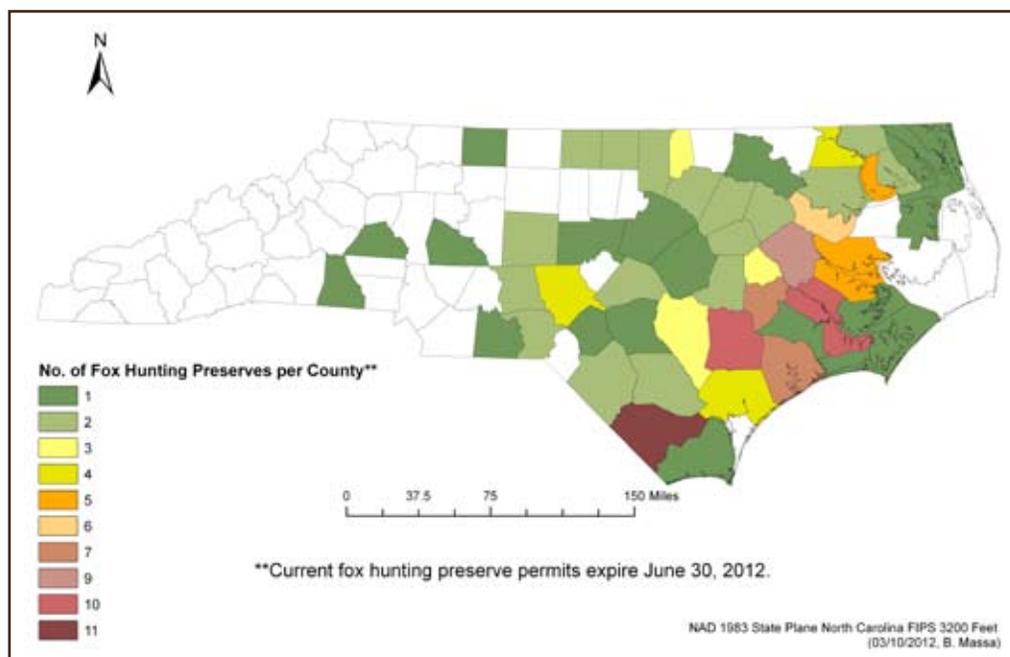


Figure 1. Distribution of 144 Controlled Fox Hunting Preserves in North Carolina, 2012.

**Commission Authority to Regulate Nuisance Foxes and Coyotes** – The Commission has the authority under NCGS § 113 274 to issue depredation permits to take foxes or coyotes that are “undesirable, harmful, predatory, excess, or surplus.” The Commission has the authority to regulate the manner of taking and the disposition of wildlife taken with or without a permit. Although the conditions for receiving a depredation permit are outlined in the Commission’s rules, NCGS § 113 274 states, “*Livestock or poultry owners shall be issued a depredation permit for coyotes upon request.*” Therefore, the Commission does not have authority to regulate issuance of depredation permits to livestock or poultry owners.

**Commission Authority to Regulate Use of Snares for Trapping** – NCGS § 113.291.1(b)(2) specifically prohibits the use of snares as a manner of take. However, NCGS § 113.291.6(h) specifies that “[a] person who has been issued a depredation permit for coyotes under G.S. 113 274(c) may use a Collarum™ trap, or similar trap approved by the Wildlife Resources Commission, solely for the purpose of taking coyotes under that permit.” Thus, the Collarum™-type trap is the only currently approved type of trap using a snare that is legal as a manner of take in N.C.

**Commission Authority to Regulate Foxes and Coyotes for Public Health** – Pursuant to NCGS § 113 291.4, “*Upon notification by the State Health Director of the presence of a contagious animal disease in a local fox population, the Commission is authorized to establish such population control measures as are appropriate until notified by public health authorities that the problem is deemed to have passed.*” This reference to a “contagious animal disease” could apply to a canine-specific disease, such as distemper, or one with human health implications, such as rabies. Regulatory authority in regards to rabies is clarified in NCGS § 130A 201, which gives the Commission the authority to “... *develop a plan pursuant to G.S. 113 291.2 (a1) to reduce the threat of rabies exposure to humans and domestic animals by foxes, ...*” Additional details on the Commission’s authority and expectations on our agency are provided in NCGS § 113 291.2. Essentially, the Commission is authorized to implement a broad range of actions in response to a rabies emergency if declared by the State Health Director.

**Resulting Variations in Hunting and Trapping Seasons** – Under North Carolina General Statutes foxes are classified as game animals and all fox hunting and trapping seasons can only be established or changed by the General Assembly. Therefore, fox seasons cannot be established or altered by the Commission.

Fox hunting with dogs is allowed any time of year in all N.C. counties except Alamance, Caswell, Cleveland, Duplin, Lincoln, Madison, Wayne and Yancey which, through local law, either prohibit fox hunting altogether or establish a season. Eighty-five counties have a fox hunting season with weapons for all or part of the county (Figures 2 and 3). As specified in NCGS § 113 291.4, “*When the season is open for trapping, foxes may also be taken by the use of methods lawful for taking game animals, including the use of firearms.*” Therefore hunting is allowed in all counties in which trapping is allowed, but trapping is not allowed in all counties that allow hunting. Forty-seven counties allow hunting, but not trapping. Some of these fox hunting seasons are established in statute; some are established through session law. When considering season dates alone, there are at least 27 unique fox hunting seasons among 85 different counties across the state.

Fox trapping seasons must be established by the General Assembly. Thirty-eight counties or parts thereof and one municipality have established fox trapping seasons. However, these 39 local jurisdictions do not all have the

same season. Due to differences in season dates, trap-size restrictions, trap-type restrictions, tagging requirements, live sale prohibitions, bag limits and swivel requirements, the 38 counties and one municipality have 22 unique trapping seasons (Figure 4).

In North Carolina, coyotes are classified as a nongame animal. Coyote hunting seasons and bag limits are established in Commission rules. Currently, coyotes may be taken by firearms, archery equipment and dogs during the daytime six days a week in all counties of the state, unless such take is restricted by local law. Coyotes may be taken by archery equipment and dogs on Sundays on private land. Coyotes may be trapped during the two furbearer seasons set forth in the Commission’s rules. These seasons include all counties of the state. In addition, coyotes may be trapped anytime there is an open season for trapping foxes. Farmers can receive a depredation permit upon request to trap coyotes outside the trapping season. Depredation permits can also be issued for property owners experiencing damage from coyotes, or if there is a threat to public safety. Through these measures and within established statutory authority the Commission has maximized options for citizens to control coyote numbers. Currently, the Commission is promulgating rules to allow hunting coyotes at night with a light.



Figure 2. Counties with a fox hunting season with dogs in 2012, as legislated by the North Carolina General Assembly. Differences in color indicate differences among the fox hunting season (6 fox hunting seasons with dogs in 98 counties). Counties in white are currently closed to fox hunting with dogs.



Figure 3. Counties and areas with a fox hunting season allowing weapons in 2012, as legislated by the North Carolina General Assembly. Differences in color indicate differences among the fox hunting seasons (27 fox hunting seasons in 85 counties). Counties in white are currently closed to fox hunting with weapons.

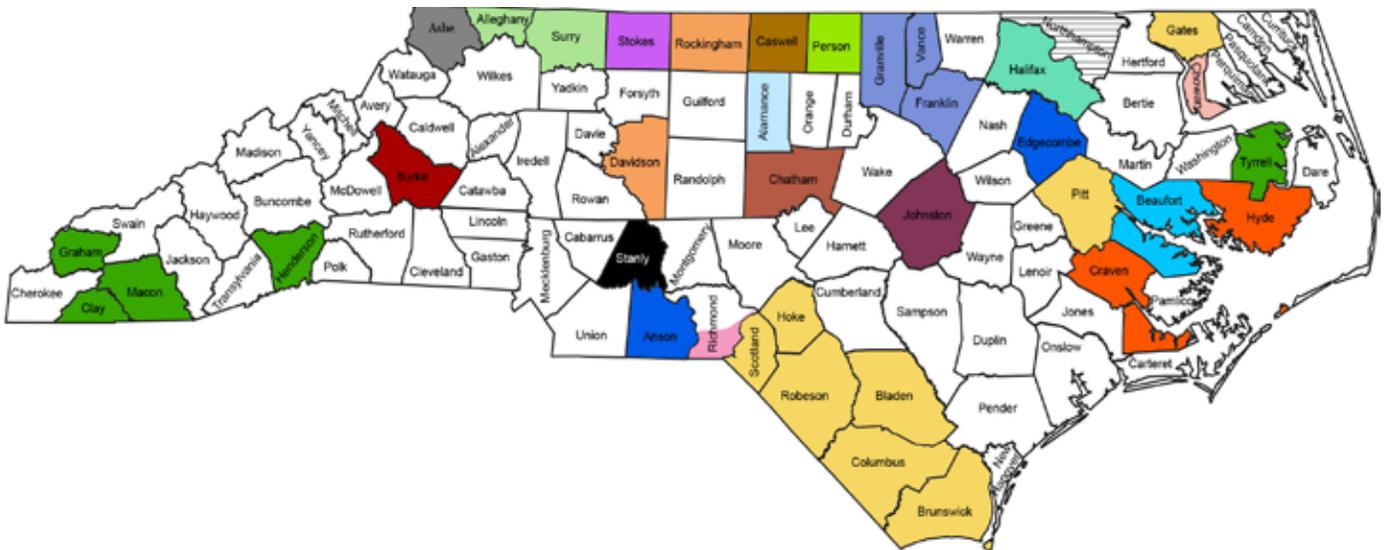


Figure 4. Counties and areas with a fox trapping season in 2012, as legislated by the North Carolina General Assembly. Differences in color indicate differences among the fox trapping seasons (22 fox trapping seasons in 38 counties). Counties in white are currently closed to a fox trapping season.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Gray Fox** – The gray fox is North Carolina’s only native fox. They have adapted well to human development and are common in suburban areas. Gray foxes are slightly smaller than red foxes and are much darker in color. They are sometimes confused with red foxes because of a reddish or rusty coloration on the sides of their necks and legs. The overall coloration is best described as a salt-and-pepper gray with a dark streak extending down the back, along the top of the tail and ending in a black tail tip. Adults may weigh as much as a red fox (seven to 15 pounds) but their shorter legs and shorter fur make them appear smaller. Gray foxes are unique in that they can climb trees.

In North Carolina, gray foxes inhabit all areas of the state from the Outer Banks to the Appalachian Mountains. Although viable populations are found in all of North Carolina’s major habitat types, gray foxes are most numerous in the more productive areas of the Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain. They are often present in large tracts of wooded areas and also thrive in open farmland.

Gray foxes eat many types of food items including mice, rabbits, birds, eggs, and insects. They also eat a significant amount of wild fruits such as persimmons and grapes, and agricultural crops such as corn and peanuts.

Gray fox home range sizes vary considerably — from just over 70 acres to over 6,000 acres — depending on habitat quality, population density and the reproductive status of individual foxes. As coyotes become more abundant and expand their range into areas inhabited by foxes, red foxes are sometimes displaced, but gray fox populations do not seem to be affected. Because gray foxes have the ability to climb trees, it is possible for them to escape from coyotes.

Gray foxes are typically nocturnal although they will forage during daylight hours. They mate once a year during January and February. The gestation period is 59 days and pups are born in March through April. Three to five pups are born in a den, which may be only a hollow log or tree stump. During the late fall and early winter, gray foxes establish new home ranges. The average life expectancy is one to two years, with few living longer than six years in the wild. The annual mortality rate may be 50% or more. Canine distemper may be the most important mortality factor for gray foxes, with local populations rising and falling in response to the prevalence of this disease.

Most issues and concerns that people have about gray foxes are related to depredation on domestic poultry and concerns about diseases, especially rabies. Properly enclosing poultry can usually prevent depredations. Gray foxes can contract rabies, but interactions between people and gray foxes are rare. Gray foxes seen during the daytime are not necessarily diseased; they are often responding to the presence of outdoor pet food and the concentration of small animals around bird feeders, or moving about as needed to take care of their pups.



*The gray fox, North Carolina’s only native fox, is unique in that it can climb trees.*  
(photo: Illinois Department of Natural Resources)

Gray foxes are economically important and a valuable natural resource. Foxes have long been hunted with hounds and they are an important furbearer to trappers. Gray fox fur became popular during the late 1970s for fur coats and collars and demand for their fur continues to some extent today. The number of licensed trappers and trapping effort varies over time and is largely related to the price paid for pelts in the fur market and prices paid for live animals sold to controlled fox hunting preserves. Based upon Commission records and records from other states, regulated hunting and trapping do not appear to affect overall gray fox population numbers. Relatively few foxes are annually taken from the population and because much of the state is in private ownership, there are numerous areas not open to hunting or trapping. Populations are maintained because foxes have a high reproduction rate and young disperse annually to colonize areas where others have been harvested.

**Red Fox** – The red fox is the most widely distributed canid (i.e., wild dog) in the world. There are no records of red foxes occurring in the eastern United States south of Rhode Island before the European red fox was introduced for sport hunting during colonial days. Red foxes are now common across N.C. and populations in most areas continue to remain stable, despite outbreaks of disease and sustained harvest levels. Red foxes have high reproductive rates, but as coyotes become more abundant they may be displaced.

The red fox is named for its reddish coloration. The tail, body and top of the head are all some shade of yellow-orange to reddish-orange. The undersides are light, the tips of the ears and lower legs are black, and the tail is bushy with a white tip. Adults are the size of a small dog and weigh from seven to 15 pounds.

Like many other wildlife species, red foxes prefer a diversity of habitats rather than large tracts of one habitat type. Preferred habitats include farmland, pastures, brushy fields, and open forest stands, where they frequently hunt the edges of these open habitats. Red foxes eat a variety of prey, but mice, meadow voles, and rabbits form the bulk of their diet.

They will also eat insects, birds, eggs, fruits, berries, animals they discover that are already dead, and garbage.

Red fox home ranges may vary in size with the abundance of food, the degree of competition with other animals, and the diversity of habitats. The average home range is between 1,000 and 5,000 acres. Most red fox activity occurs at night, but daytime movements are not uncommon. The gestation period is about 52 days and pups are born during late February through April. An average litter includes five pups, which are born in a den that the adults dig themselves or that was dug by another animal. Males bring food to the female until the pups can be left alone. The life expectancy of a red fox is about five years, although due to the many mortality factors, most do not live that long. Sarcoptic mange and canine distemper may be the most important mortality factors for red foxes, with local populations rising and falling in response to these diseases.



*The red fox, the most widely distributed canid in the world, is now common in North Carolina. (photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)*

Most conflicts that occur between people and red foxes also involve depredation on domestic poultry and concerns about diseases, especially rabies. Properly enclosing poultry will usually prevent depredations. While red foxes can contract rabies, interactions between people and red foxes are rare because red foxes are shy and non-aggressive animals. While red foxes are primarily nocturnal, it is not unusual to see a red fox during the daytime. However, daytime sightings of red foxes are not a sign that the animal is diseased. Such sightings usually occur because foxes are responding to an abundance of food or moving about as needed to take care of their pups. For the same reasons as the gray fox, the red fox is economically important and a valuable natural resource. Red foxes can be a beneficial predator on mice and groundhogs on farms and in other rural situations. However, red foxes may also prey on domestic poultry in both rural and suburban areas.

**Coyote** – Although they are a relatively new arrival to our state, coyotes are now established in all 100 counties across N.C. Prior to the 1800s, coyotes were restricted to the prairies and grasslands of the Midwest. But as Europeans arrived and settled across North America, subsequent landscape changes and elimination of wolves allowed the coyote to expand its range toward the eastern United States. Extensive efforts have been devoted to controlling coyotes across the U.S., but despite these extensive control attempts coyotes have continued to expand their range.

The first reported sighting of a coyote in N.C. was in Gaston County in 1938. The first confirmed coyotes that were collected came from Johnston County (1955) and Wake County (1970). Until the late 1980s, coyotes seen in North Carolina were likely due to illegal importation and release. By 1990, coyotes began to appear in western North Carolina as a result of natural range expansion from Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Coyotes in North Carolina are smaller than wolves, have pointed and erect ears, and long slender snouts. The tail is long, bushy and black-tipped and is usually carried pointing down. Their color is typically dark gray, but can range from blonde to black. Adults are about the size of a medium-sized dog and may weigh between 20 and 45 pounds. In N.C., coyotes may be mistaken for dogs or red wolves, and the existence of both dog-coyote hybrids and red wolf-coyote hybrids can make identification difficult.

Coyotes feed on a wide variety of food sources, depending on what is most readily available and easy to obtain. Primary foods include fruit, berries, pet food left outside, small mammals (voles, rats, and mice), deer, rabbits, birds, snakes, frogs, and insects. Coyotes will also prey on livestock and domestic pets.

Coyote home ranges can vary from between 1,000 and 16,000 acres depending on season, habitat and food availability. Preferred habitats range from agricultural fields to forested regions and suburban neighborhoods. Coyotes usually dig their own den, but they will sometimes enlarge an old animal hole or use a natural hole in a rocky ledge as a den. Dens are usually hidden from view and used by coyotes to birth their young and sleep. Coyotes



**The coyote is now established in all 100 counties in North Carolina.**  
(photo: National Park Service)

mate for life and breeding occurs from January through early March. Pups are born in March and April and the typical litter size is six to eight pups. The family unit usually begins to disperse by late November or December. In many cases, one pup stays behind as a “helper” for the next year’s litter. Coyotes are territorial and actively keep non-family members outside of their home range. Dispersal rates are high and distances can be extensive; several coyotes in North Carolina have dispersed more than 200 miles in just a few months. When an individual coyote or family group leaves or is removed, new coyotes will usually move into the vacated territory. These territories frequently overlap with a transient coyote that is searching for a mate or its own territory. This transient nature of the population makes estimating the number of coyotes in a particular area difficult, which, in turn, makes controlling coyote populations difficult.

Coyotes readily adapt to suburban and urban environments once thought unsuitable and they exhibit great plasticity in their behavior and diet. The coyote is arguably the hardiest and most adaptable species on this continent. They are naturally wary of people and will avoid areas in which threats are perceived. They will also become acclimated to humans in the absence of threats, such as hunting and trapping, and in areas where typically unnatural food, such as pet food, garbage and unsupervised small pets, are readily available.

For decades, hounds men have pursued coyotes for sport and in 2003 the General Assembly passed legislation (NCGS § 113 273) allowing controlled fox hunting preserves owners to buy live coyotes and hunt them within the enclosures. The number of licensed trappers and trapping effort varies over time and is largely related to the price paid for pelts in the fur market and prices paid for live animals sold to licensed fox pen enclosures.

Coyotes can be useful in keeping prey species such as rodents and groundhogs in balance with their habitat, and removing feral cats, which negatively impact many wildlife species, especially birds. However, coyotes are currently a focus of attention in N.C. because they also prey on livestock, other wildlife species, such as deer, that are important to our citizens, and domestic pets.

Despite intensive control efforts in other states that have had high coyote populations, they continue to thrive. Historically, bounties have been used in various states as one possible way to control coyotes. In all cases, the use of bounties has been an ineffective and inefficient tool for controlling coyote populations.

**Harvest Records and Abundance Data** – Current harvest data for foxes and coyotes include estimated take by hunters as derived through hunter harvest surveys of license holders (Table 1), reported take under depredation permits (Table 1), and take by trappers as reported through annual surveys (Table 2). Currently, we have annual data on fox and coyote harvest by trappers; hunter harvest surveys were conducted on average every three years until 2011. Beginning in 2011, the hunter harvest surveys, which include both still hunters and hounds men, are being conducted annually. These annual surveys will allow the Commission to more accurately track harvest by hunters and to improve our estimates of hunting effort. The Commission realizes that not all groups agree with these data, but they provide the most comprehensive information we have on the current status of foxes and coyotes and form a solid basis for Commission conclusions and recommendations provided herein.

Estimates of take by hunters have a large standard error so results must be interpreted with caution, but based on these data there does not appear to be a change in trend for fox harvest by hunters, while harvest of coyotes by

hunters has increased since 2005 (Table 1). Based on these data it also appears that statewide fox harvest under deprecation permits varies annually with no clear trend, whereas coyote take under deprecation permits continues to increase. Take of foxes by trappers has varied by year peaking in 2007-08 and decreasing since then (Table 2). Take of coyotes by trappers continues to increase (Table 2).

Using these same data, we can compare estimated take between the coastal, piedmont, and mountain regions (Table 3). Based upon these data, take of foxes by hunters and trappers in 2007-08 was similar, but in 2010-11 hunters took substantially more foxes in the piedmont and coastal regions than trappers. Hunters have historically and continue to take significantly more coyotes than trappers.

Many variables influence the number of foxes or coyotes taken by hunters or trappers, including fur prices, the value of an animal on the live market, access, and available time. For foxes, reported take by trappers has closely tracked prices paid for fox pelts (Figure 5). In more recent years, coyotes taken in N.C. have historically been most valuable through sale to controlled fox hunting preserves (i.e., live market). Based on information from preserve operators and trappers during 2011-12, live coyotes sold for between \$75 and \$125, gray foxes sold for between \$25 and \$40, and red foxes sold for between \$40 and \$85.

An important consideration in discussions about the interface between fox and coyote hunters and trappers is the relative take spatially across the landscape. To evaluate this relationship, we compared reported take of foxes by trappers and hunters from our 2010-11 surveys of each constituent group. Based on the results of this comparison (Table 4), it appears that the overall removal of foxes from the landscape by both trappers and hunters is low. For example, in the coastal plain in 2010-11, one fox was removed by a trapper per each 5 mi<sup>2</sup> open to trapping, whereas one fox was removed by a hunter per 10 mi<sup>2</sup> open to fox hunting. Even noting that not all areas in each open county are trapped or hunted, and that over twice as many counties are open to fox hunting, these data are indicative of low trapping or hunting pressure being placed on the fox population across our state. On a finer scale, impact of trappers on the fox resource can also be evaluated by comparing the average number of animals taken by an individual trapper. Using our annual trapper harvest survey data, we compared the average number of coyotes, gray foxes, and red foxes harvested by licensed trappers (Table 5). Based upon these data from 2002-03 through 2010-11, the average take of coyotes by individual trappers has increased, while the take of both gray and red foxes has decreased.

**Table 1. Statewide fox and coyote take under depredation permit and hunting, 2002 – 2011.**

Year	Reported Depredation		Hunting <sup>1</sup>			
	Estimated Coyote Depredation Take <sup>2</sup>	Estimated Fox Depredation Take <sup>2</sup>	Estimated # Fox Hunters	Estimated Fox Harvest	Estimated # Coyote Hunters	Estimated Coyote Harvest
2002-03	15	289	No Survey Conducted			
2003-04	18	74	No Survey Conducted			
2004-05	28	92	No Survey Conducted			
2005-06	54	143	7,356 (±4,309)	9,808 (±5,337)	19,506 (±3,343)	19,422 (±4,826)
2006-07	37	133	No Survey Conducted			
2007-08	69	184	6,068 (±772)	6,472 (±1,468)	23,967 (±1,487)	36,144 (±6,039)
2008-09	98	121	No Survey Conducted			
2009-10	127	114	No Survey Conducted			
2010-11	38 <sup>3</sup>	100 <sup>3</sup>	4,960 (±955)	7,416 (±3,242)	32,388 (±2,322)	36,041 (±7,327)

<sup>1</sup> Estimates are from the voluntary Hunter Harvest Surveys of license holders. The number of hunters and harvest are estimates and based on number of hunters responding to survey. As of 2010-11, hunter harvest surveys are conducted annually. Hunters include both still hunters and hounds men.

<sup>2</sup> Based on quarterly reports from Wildlife Damage Control Agents.

<sup>3</sup> Not all quarterly reports have been received for 2011, so reported take by Wildlife Damage Control Agents is preliminary.

**Table 2. Statewide fox and coyote take by trappers, 2002 – 2011.**

Year	Trapping				
	# Licensed Trappers <sup>1</sup>	Coyote Harvest <sup>2</sup>	Gray Fox Captures <sup>3</sup>	Red Fox Captures <sup>3</sup>	Total Fox <sup>3</sup>
2002-03	1,138	133	1,078	287	1,365
2003-04	1,286	325	2,831	587	3,418
2004-05	1,547	593	2,770	631	3,401
2005-06	1,744	567	2,392	613	3,005
2006-07	1,867	847	3,020	695	3,715
2007-08	2,027	1,434	5,560	1,180	6,740
2008-09	2,233	1,747	4,212	838	5,050
2009-10	2,120	2,092	3,313	769	4,082
2010-11	2,186	2,843	3,995	872	4,867

<sup>1</sup> Number of licensed trappers based on the sale of resident, county and non-resident trapping licenses during each trapping season.

<sup>2</sup> Coyote trapping harvest is based on number reported by licensed trappers responding to the annual voluntary trapper harvest survey.

<sup>3</sup> Fox captures are based on annual voluntary trapper harvest survey and include harvested foxes and foxes incidentally captured/released in counties currently closed to fox trapping.

**Table 3. Estimated regional fox and coyote harvest, 2002-03 through 2010-11.**

	Year	Fox Harvest				Coyote Harvest			
		Coastal	Piedmont	Mountain	Unknown	Coastal	Piedmont	Mountain	Unknown
Trapping <sup>1</sup>	2002-03	84	0	2	0	Not Surveyed			
	2003-04	2	167	0	0	2	0	0	0
	2004-05	1,947	1,350	72	34	168	211	181	33
	2005-06	1,487	1,397	54	1	159	255	139	0
	2006-07	1,937	1,693	84	1	332	338	177	0
	2007-08	3,930	2,659	99	77	529	547	355	3
	2008-09	2,639	2,043	246	5	608	575	564	0
	2009-10	2,082	1,761	108	98	721	743	330	27
	2010-11	2,666	1,940	196	0	1,100	1,108	603	0
Hunting <sup>2</sup>	2007-08	3,641	2,427	405	0	4,045	16,520	15,579	0
	2010-11	2,432	4,328	642	0	10,261	15,805	9,874	0

<sup>1</sup> Regional trapping harvest based on annual voluntary survey of all licensed trappers. Survey started in 2002-03. Fox trapping harvest includes harvested foxes and foxes incidentally captured/released in counties closed to fox trapping.

<sup>2</sup> Regional hunting harvest estimates based on voluntary hunter harvest survey. No regional harvest estimates available prior to 2007-08.

**Table 4. Estimated regional fox harvest per square mile by licensed trappers and licensed hunters, 2010-11. Area based on counties open to fox trapping (36 counties) and fox hunting (100 counties).**

Region	Fox Trapper Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Counties Open to Fox Trapping	Trapper Harvest/mi <sup>2</sup>	Fox Hunter Harvest <sup>3</sup>	Counties Open to Fox Hunting	Hunter Harvest/mi <sup>2</sup>
Coastal Plain	1,842	15	0.19	2,432	39	0.11
Piedmont	1,357	15	0.60	4,231	37	0.25
Mountains	59	6	0.01	681	24	0.07

<sup>1</sup> Regional fox trapping harvest based on annual voluntary survey of all licensed trappers.

<sup>2</sup> Regional hunting harvest estimates based on voluntary hunter harvest survey of license holder for the 2010-11 season. All counties open to fox hunting either by weapon and/or hound hunting.

**Table 5. Average number of coyotes, gray foxes, and red foxes incidentally captured or harvested by licensed trappers in North Carolina, 2002-03 – 2010-11.**

**Captures per Active Trapper<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Coyote	Gray Fox	Red Fox
2002-03	3.5	14.2	4.7
2003-04	3.4	14.8	5.0
2004-05	4.5	13.1	4.6
2005-06	4.2	11.0	4.9
2006-07	4.7	13.5	4.5
2007-08	5.6	17.1	5.1
2008-09	6.4	14.4	4.3
2009-10	6.6	10.0	3.6
2010-11	7.2	11.8	3.7

<sup>1</sup>Captures per active trapper based on response from the annual voluntary trapper harvest survey conducted of all trapping license holders. Captures include harvested foxes and foxes incidentally captured/released in counties currently closed to fox trapping.

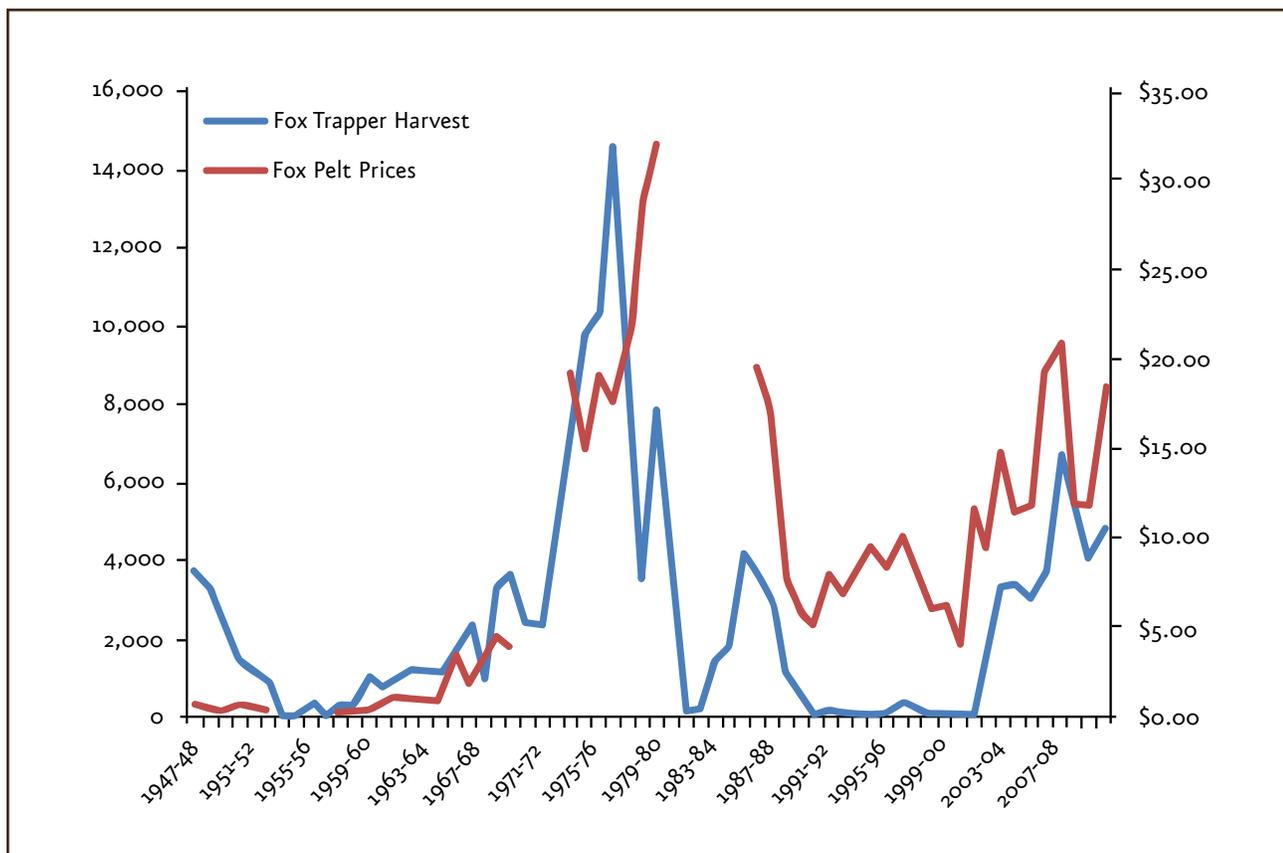


Figure 5. Reported harvest of foxes by trappers and fox pelt prices in North Carolina, 1947 - 2011.

Increases in human populations, development, and associated land use changes continue rapidly in N.C. Using geospatial analyses, the Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) projected that by 2030 many areas that were rural in 1940 “will be overtaken by population growth and development such that by 2030, roughly half of the state will be settled at a density equivalent to being urban, suburban, or sprawling exurban” (Figures 6-8). During this time period, the CTNC predicts that there will be a 534% increase in housing units in N.C. Certainly, this level of development will impact all aspects of coyote and fox management in N.C., including the ability of hunters and trappers to pursue these species. Regarding the hunting and trapping of foxes, the Commission believes that this increased development will likely impact opportunities for hunting foxes with dogs more negatively than trapping.

Based upon current human development, the Commission predicted areas across N.C. that may not currently be suitable for fox hunting based on conditions outside of the Commission’s control (Figure 9). Areas believed to be unsuitable include federal and state parks and municipalities; and Yancey County where fox hunting is prohibited. Areas of relatively high traffic volume (where the average annual daily traffic volume is greater than the median average annual daily traffic volume) or where human density is relatively high (i.e., greater than one person for every two acres); and water bodies were also excluded. In this predictive analysis, other areas were considered to be suitable for hunting foxes with dogs. In addition, we also predicted counties that may not be suitable for fox hunting but that could be opened to fox trapping.

In this analysis, the Commission made a number of assumptions. We assumed that the traffic below the median value is suitable for fox hunting. Because the median value for traffic volume in N.C. of 210 cars per day averaged over 2010 is considered a low volume of traffic, this assumption is likely true. However, fox hunting could occur at greater traffic volumes. We assumed that human densities greater than one person per two acres is unsuitable for fox hunting. This is a low human density and the assumption is based on previous predictions associated with hunting deer with dogs. It may be that hunting foxes with dogs can be done at higher human densities. Lastly, we assumed that there are no other factors that limit or prohibit fox hunting with dogs. Likely there are many other factors, including landowner attitudes and opinions, which are not accounted for in this analysis. Further studies are required to gain a better understanding of what makes an area suitable or not suitable for hunting foxes with dogs. Counties in which we suggest that trapping could be allowed are those in which at least 25% of the land area is predicted to be unsuitable for hunting foxes with dogs.

Our goal in this analysis is to point out that increases in human development have and will continue to impact hunting foxes with dogs and the Commission and all stakeholders must evaluate these changes and look for possible ways to optimize both hunting and trapping opportunities across space and time.

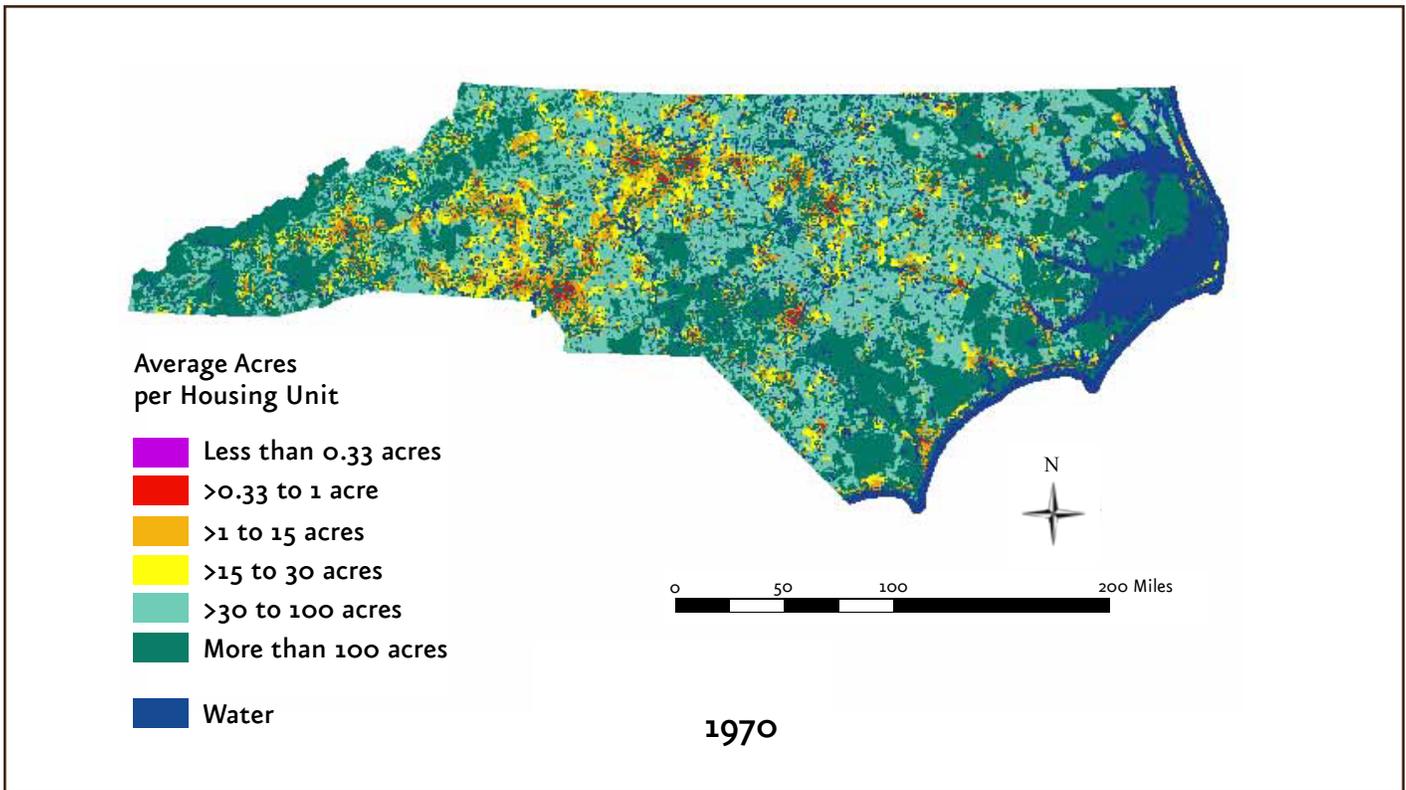


Figure 6. Human housing density in North Carolina, 1970 (from R.B. Hammer and V.C. Radeloff, University of Wisconsin-Madison, courtesy of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina).

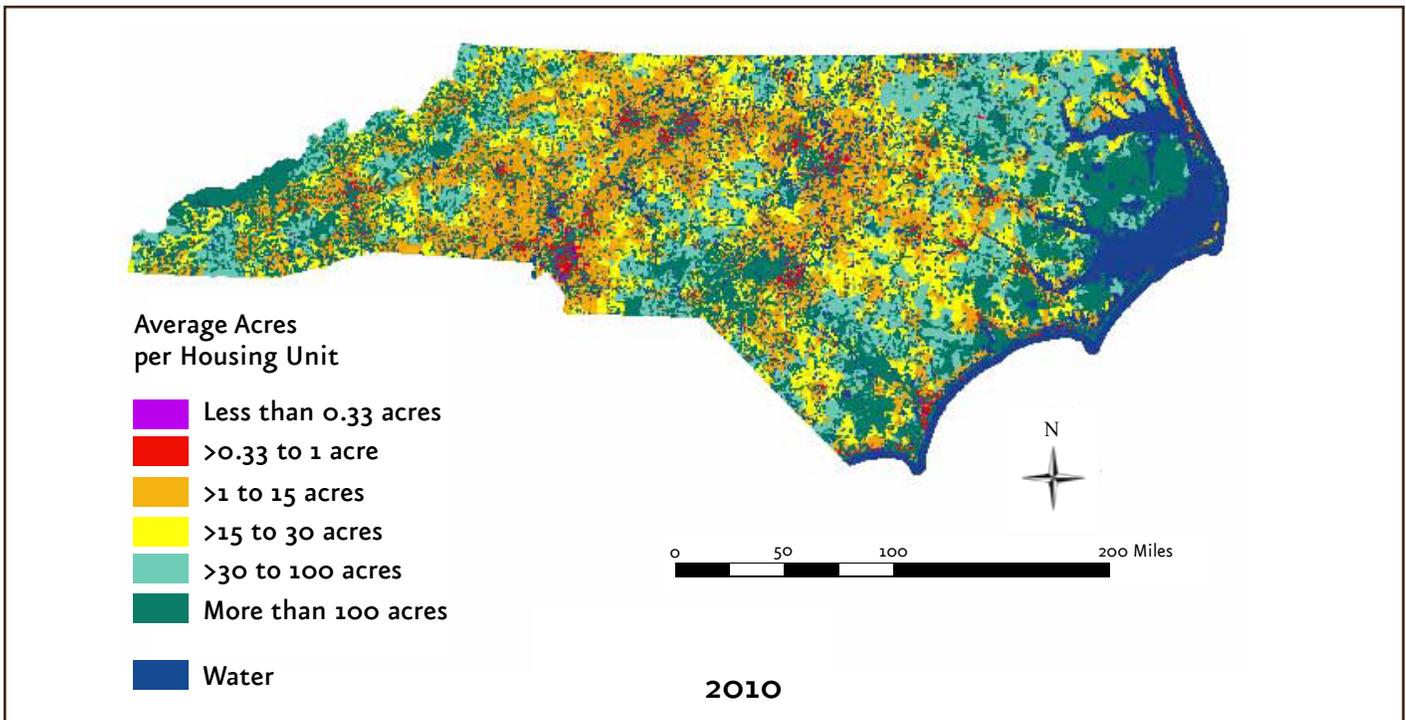


Figure 7. Projected human housing density in North Carolina, 2010 (from R.B. Hammer and V.C. Radeloff, University of Wisconsin-Madison, courtesy of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina).

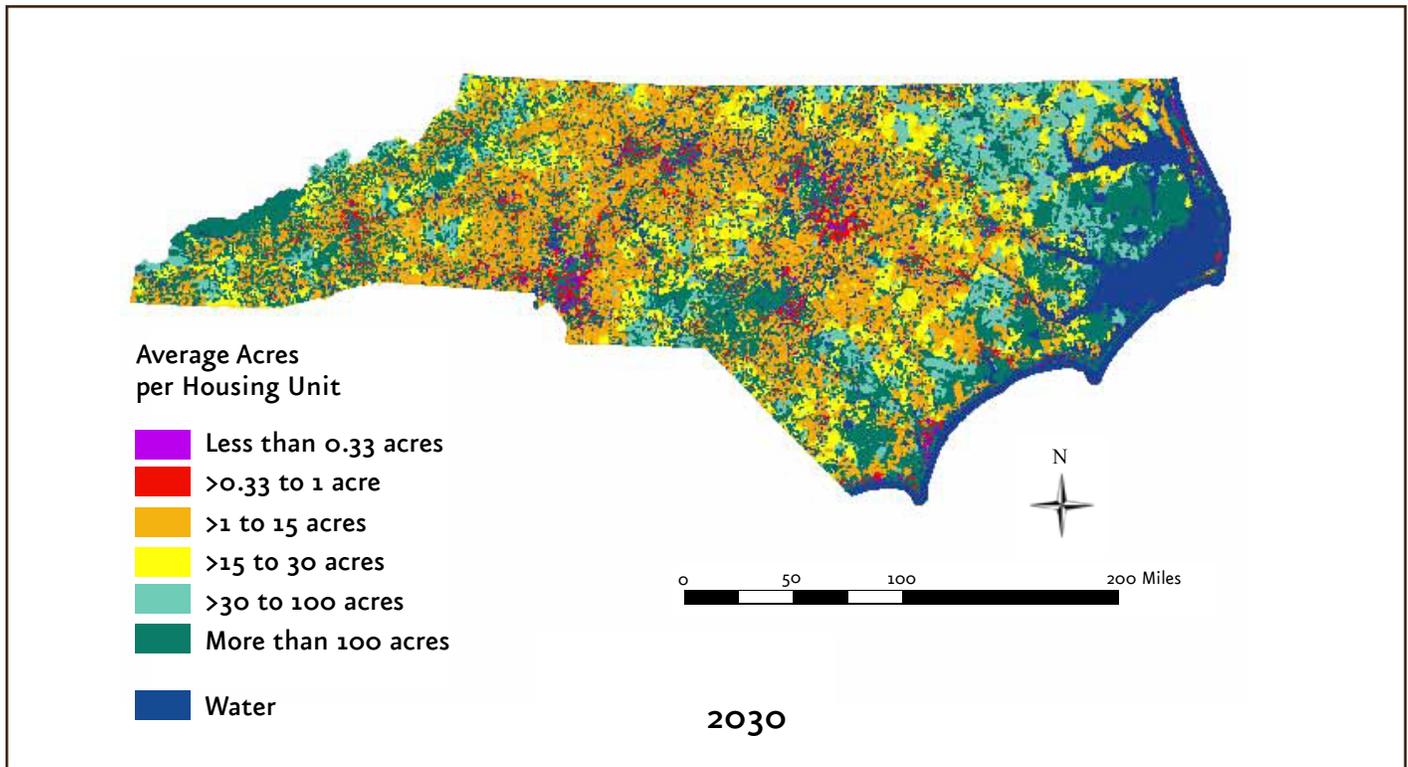


Figure 8. Projected human housing density in North Carolina, 2030 (from R.B. Hammer and V.C. Radeloff, University of Wisconsin-Madison, courtesy of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina).

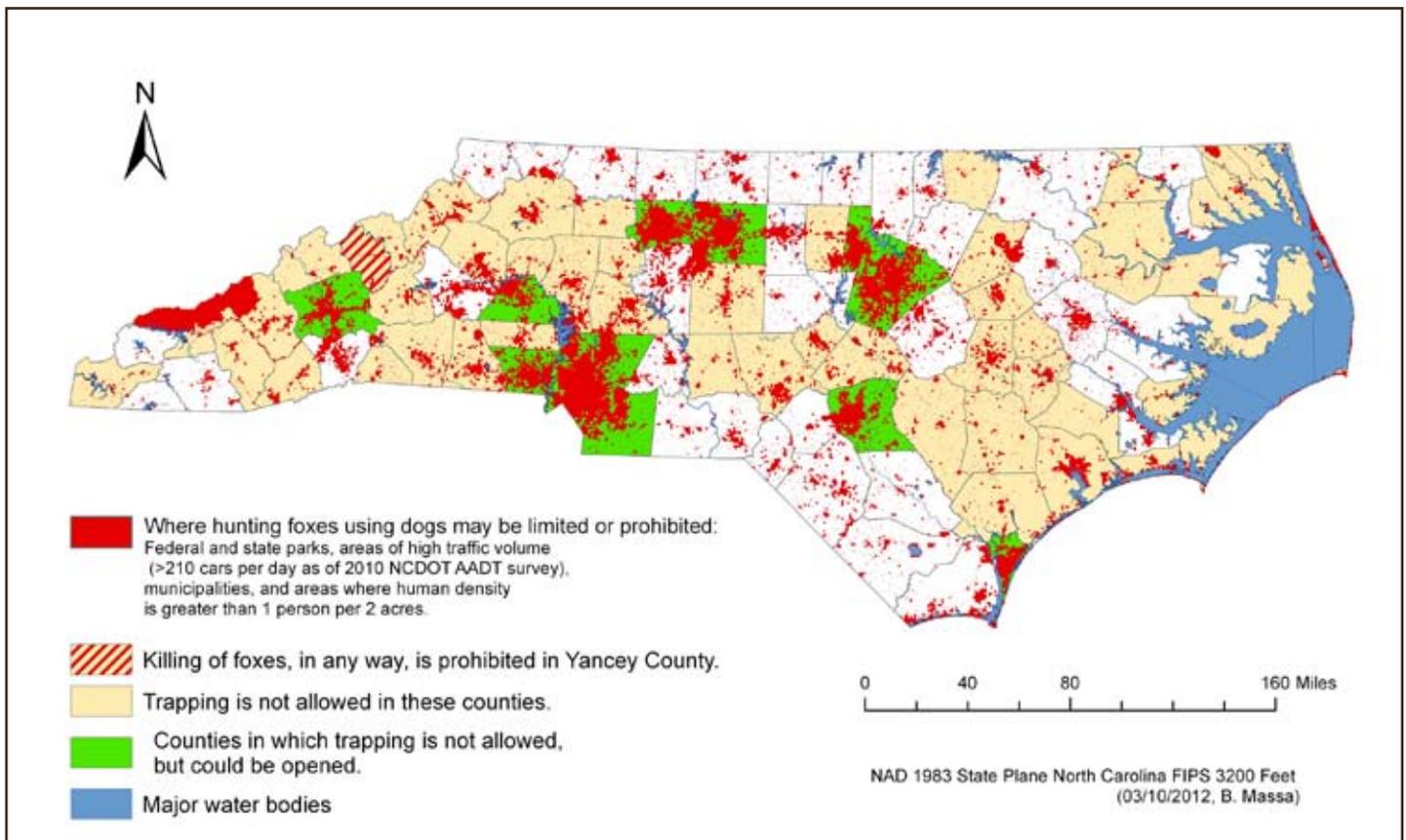


Figure 9. Predicted areas where hunting foxes with dogs may be limited, unsuitable, or prohibited.

## STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

In efforts to compile information about attitudes and opinions of our constituents on issues related to managing foxes and coyotes, the Commission received invaluable feedback from the direct meetings, and telephone and e-mail surveys. While there were some divergent opinions, generally, trappers, fox hunters, and controlled fox hunting preserve operators believe that issues related to the conservation and management of both foxes and coyotes are important. Other constituents were mostly concerned with what they view as an overabundant and increasing coyote population.

**Fox Hunters** – Fox hunters do not believe foxes are widely abundant across our state. They believe the Commission caters to trappers and therefore do not trust the Commission to regulate fox harvest. Nor do they trust Commission data regarding the status of fox populations. Fox hunters see trapping as the greatest threat to fox populations. They specifically indicated that they prefer the current scenario where foxes are regulated locally through the General Assembly and oppose transference of regulatory authority over foxes to the Commission.

**N.C. Trappers Association** – Representatives of the N.C. Trappers Association indicated that they see foxes as a public trust resources and their goal is to have equal access among all constituents to fox resources. They believe that foxes are abundant in most areas of the state, many of which can't support hunting foxes with dogs, but could be trapped. Trappers see opportunities for removing coyotes as a primary reason for establishing a statewide fox trapping season. They recommend listing foxes as furbearers and transferring authority to the Commission for regulating the harvest of foxes using the best available scientific data.

**Controlled Fox Hunting Preserve Operators** – There were varying opinions among attendees at these two meetings on the most important issues pertaining to conservation of foxes and management of coyotes. In general, they believe preserves positively contribute to fox and coyote management. While many attendees recommended strengthening regulations on operational details of fox hunting preserves, others opposed any additional regulations. Similar to fox hunters, this group also believes that allowing additional fox trapping would be detrimental to fox populations. They believe the best ways to control coyotes is to allow for a longer trapping season for coyotes, to allow them to be shot on sight, and to provide for hunting them at night. While being generally opposed to opening additional trapping opportunities, most attendees acknowledged getting foxes and coyotes from trappers for release into their preserves. Attendees at these meeting also oppose transferring authority to regulate foxes from the General Assembly to the Commission.

**Non-governmental Wildlife Organizations** – Responses to survey questions from both Quail Unlimited and the Quality Deer Management Association are included in this category. The management of foxes and coyotes is important to both of these organizations. They believe the most important issues related to management of foxes are the timing of seasons, public awareness, trapping regulations, urban development, habitat loss, and gaining additional knowledge about population status. For this group, the most important issues related to management of coyotes are public education, urban development, the inability to use snares, and the need for additional trapping opportunities. Opinions on relative abundance of foxes and coyotes differ. They consistently believe coyotes are too abundant, but that the acceptability of current abundance of foxes depends on the species and location. These groups believe that management of foxes and coyotes is important across the entire state, not just in specific

areas. When asked about regulatory authority, these groups did not clearly differentiate between the Commission's regulatory authority for coyotes versus the General Assembly's regulatory authority for foxes. These stakeholders are not satisfied with how either foxes or coyotes are being managed in our state and indicated support for increasing opportunities to trap and hunt both species, transferring regulatory authority over foxes to the Commission, increasing options for the public to handle fox and coyote depredations, increasing education and outreach efforts, and increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and the public. Both organizations indicated a strong interest in being involved in future efforts to manage foxes and coyotes in our state.

**Non-governmental Agricultural Stakeholders** – Responses to survey questions from a goat farmer, horse owner, the N.C. Cattleman's Association, N.C. Cattlemen's Beef Council, and N.C. Farm Bureau are included in this category. While the management of foxes and coyotes is important to all these stakeholders, they clearly consider coyote issues to be of greater importance. They believe the most important issues related to management of foxes and coyotes are disease transmission from foxes, specifically rabies, and predation by coyotes on livestock. Opinions on relative abundance of foxes and coyotes differ. They consistently believe coyotes are too abundant statewide, but they indicated little knowledge or concern about abundance of foxes. When asked about regulatory authority, these groups indicated that they do not know about differences between the Commission's regulatory authority for coyotes and the General Assembly's regulatory authority for foxes. Satisfaction among these stakeholders concerning how foxes and coyotes are being managed in our state also varied. Regarding fox management, respondents supported increasing education and outreach efforts, and increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and the public. Pertaining to coyote management, these stakeholders indicated support for increasing opportunities to trap and hunt coyotes, increasing options for the public to handle fox and coyote depredations, increasing education and outreach efforts, and increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and the public. All respondents indicated a strong interest in being involved in future efforts to manage foxes and coyotes in our state.

**N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services** – Responses to survey questions from the Veterinary Services Division and Forest Service are included in this category. The management of foxes and coyotes is important to both of these agencies. They believe the most important issues related to management of foxes and coyotes are balancing all wildlife species, disease transmission, livestock depredation, and habitat protection. These stakeholders believe that both fox and coyote populations are "about right" to "too abundant." These groups believe that management of foxes and coyotes is important across the entire state, especially State Forests. When asked about regulatory authority, these groups clearly understand and differentiate between the Commission's regulatory authority for coyotes versus the General Assembly's regulatory authority for foxes. The Veterinary Services Division is satisfied with how foxes are managed in our state, but the Forest Service is not satisfied. Regarding fox management, the N.C. Forest Service indicated support for increasing opportunities to trap and hunt foxes, transferring regulatory authority over foxes to the Commission, increasing options for the public to handle fox and coyote depredations, increasing education and outreach efforts, and increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and the public. These stakeholders are uniformly dissatisfied with how coyotes are being managed in our state and indicated support for increasing opportunities to trap and hunt coyotes, transferring regulatory authority over foxes to the Commission, increasing options for the public to handle coyote depredations, increasing education and outreach efforts, and increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and the public. Both organizations indicated a strong interest in being involved in future efforts to manage foxes and coyotes in our state.

**Public Health Agencies** – Responses to survey questions from the N.C. Division of Public Health and N.C. Alliance of Public Health Agencies are included in this category. The management of foxes and coyotes is important to both of these organizations. They believe the most important issues related to management of foxes and coyotes are education and outreach about population status, distribution, and regulations on possession; rabies control; and habitat protection. These stakeholders are unsure about the abundance of foxes but generally believe that coyotes are too abundant. When asked about regulatory authority, these groups' responses indicated that they do not understand differences between the Commission's regulatory authority for coyotes and the General Assembly's regulatory authority for foxes. When asked if they are satisfied with how foxes and coyotes are managed in N.C., they indicated a concern only with public exposure to rabies, but gave no recommendations for improving management activities. Both organizations expressed interest in being involved in future efforts to manage foxes and coyotes in our state.

**County Animal Control Agencies** – Responses to survey questions from the Orange County Animal Services and Wilkes County Animal Control are included in this category. These constituents believe the most important issues related to management of foxes and coyotes are increasing population of coyotes, rabies control, and safety of pets. Wilkes County Animal Control believes that fox populations are "about right," while coyotes populations are "too abundant." As county animal control agencies, both respondents indicated a focus within their individual county. When asked about regulatory authority, these groups' responses indicated that they do not understand differences between the Commission's regulatory authority for coyotes and the General Assembly's regulatory authority for foxes. When asked if they are satisfied with how foxes and coyotes are managed in N.C., they recommended improving management by increasing education and outreach efforts; increasing coordination and collaboration among agencies, organizations, and the public; controlling population density; and developing a model tracking system. Neither organization expressed interest in being involved in future efforts to manage foxes and coyotes in our state.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the results of this study as reported herein, we make the following recommendations.

1) Fox trapping seasons vary substantially across our state. There would be significant benefits to establishing a uniform fox trapping season.

Allowing trapping of foxes during the statewide furbearer trapping season would increase the harvest of coyotes. From 2006-2012, the average number of coyotes harvested per county with an established fox trapping season was 31% to 112% higher than in counties without a fox trapping season. From 2004-2011 in Alamance, Ashe, Craven, Davidson, Johnston, and Person counties the average coyote harvest for the two years after opening a fox trapping season increased from 168% to 3,087% from the coyote harvest during the two years immediately prior to opening a fox trapping season.

Inclusion of foxes in the statewide furbearer trapping season would remove regulatory barriers while increasing options available for landowners to resolve fox and coyotes related conflicts. Landowners could manage fox and

coyote populations locally during trapping season potentially reducing their costs for resolving conflicts.

Allowing the trapping of foxes during furbearer trapping season would simplify regulatory complexity and increase enforcement effectiveness. There are currently 22 unique fox trapping seasons across 38 counties. This regulatory complexity is confusing for our citizens and makes it difficult to interpret local trapping laws.

Finally, allowing the take of foxes during the statewide furbearer trapping season would decrease safety risks to trappers. Where no fox trapping season exists, trappers must place themselves in close proximity to the fox in order to remove it from the trap. If foxes were included in the season, they could be dispatched before being removed from the trap.

Successful wildlife conservation requires effective involvement of stakeholders. In regards to fox hunting and trapping, allocation of resources among constituent groups a critical issue. Neither hunters nor trappers, the primary constituent groups utilizing fox and coyote resources, trust the other, nor do fox hunters trust the Commission. Foxes are state-trust resources, like many other species including deer, turkeys, bears, and rabbits, and as such can be regulated and managed by the Commission pursuant to NCGS § 143-239 in ways that ensure sound resource conservation while addressing wishes of our citizens. Management of foxes by the Commission would require transferring authority from the General Assembly. **However, before authority for regulating hunting and trapping of foxes should be transferred to the Commission much of the subjectivity in the current dialogue must be removed by developing a structured decision making process that includes formalized adaptive feedback mechanisms for all regulatory changes. Otherwise, such a transfer of authority is unlikely to be successful. The Commission recommends development of this structured decision making process.**

2) Hunting opportunities should be maintained and, where feasible and appropriate, expanded for both coyotes and foxes. Current efforts by the Commission to establish a night hunting season for coyotes is consistent with the findings of this study.

3) While authority to establish fox trapping seasons is retained by the General Assembly, the Commission recommends that any new or changed fox or coyote trapping season coincide with the current statewide furbearer trapping season (November 1 – February 28).

4) The Commission recommends increased education and outreach regarding Best Management Practices for trapping red foxes, ([http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/RedFox\\_BMP.pdf](http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/RedFox_BMP.pdf)) gray foxes, ([http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Grayfox\\_BMP.pdf](http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Grayfox_BMP.pdf)) and coyotes ([http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/EasternCoyote\\_BMP.pdf](http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/EasternCoyote_BMP.pdf)).

5) The Commission recommends that the General Assembly amend NCGS § 113.291.1(b)(2) and amend NCGS § 113.291.6 to give the Commission the authority to regulate the use of all gear types in trapping.

6) Activities associated with controlled fox hunting preserves have been of particular interest to numerous stakeholders over recent years. Based on feedback from this study, the Commission, in conjunction with a representative group of preserve operators, will initiate a review of all NCAC rules pertaining to Controlled Fox Hunting Preserves and in situations where opportunities for improvement are identified, initiate rulemaking to effect these changes. This review will include considerations found in the publication “Guidelines for Establishing Hound

Running Pen Regulations with Recommendations to Running Pen Operators for Pen Management” prepared by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ Fur Resources Committee.

In 2013 while this review is being completed, Commission staff will examine rulemaking options for monitoring the sale of live coyotes and foxes to controlled fox hunting preserves, and evaluating disease concerns resulting from increased movement of foxes and coyotes to controlled fox hunting preserves.

7) Although foxes have been a part of our landscape for a very long time, coyotes are a relatively new arrival. As with any newly colonizing species, there is both fact and myth associated with coyotes. In many instances, especially those in urban settings, nuisance situations resulting from interactions between humans and foxes or coyotes can be reduced or eliminated by managing food sources, other attractants, and habitats conditions that attract foxes and coyotes. Coyotes are highly adaptable and most N.C. citizens have very limited exposure to or knowledge about them. They can be a human and wildlife disease vector, and can have significant impacts on livestock, wildlife, and pets. For these reasons, the Commission, working with other stakeholders identified through this study, will develop and initiate an additional education and outreach effort focusing on the biology and status of coyotes in N.C. and the Southeast, approaches for landowners to manage foxes or coyotes on their property, and available options for dealing with negative human/fox/coyote interactions.

8) The Commission’s current data collection efforts provide population trend information, but the data are limited with respect to fox or coyote population density in localized areas. We also have limited data on take of foxes or coyotes by hunters, including actual harvest or hunter/trapper effort. The Commission will initiate efforts to reliably determine the status and distribution of foxes and coyotes generally across the state and in specific areas identified by constituents. In addition, an approach for collecting effort data for fox hunters and trappers will be developed. Because 94% of the lands in N.C. are privately owned, the Commission will initiate a human dimensions survey of private landowners and the general public to determine their attitudes and opinions concerning the hunting, trapping, status, and management of foxes and coyotes.

9) A wide range of stakeholders have vested interests in the annual and long-term outcomes of activities that impact fox and coyote populations. With that in mind, the Commission recommends development of a structured process through which stakeholders can collaborate on cooperative approaches to manage these important species. In addition to the Commission, agencies and organizations involved in these efforts should include representatives of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, N.C. Division of Public Health, N.C. Trappers Association, N.C. Wildlife Preserve Association, N.C. Cattlemen’s Association, N.C. League of Municipalities, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USDA – Wildlife Services.

10) The Commission recommends that the General Assembly consider opening fox trapping seasons to run from November 1 through February 28 in Buncombe, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cumberland, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Union, and Wake counties (Figure 9). Opening these seasons will increase the removal of coyotes and provide opportunities for fox trapping in areas with high human development while limiting the potential for conflicts between fox hunters and fox trappers. This would also allow the Commission to monitor impacts of the removals on distribution and abundance of both foxes and coyotes.

11) The Commission recommends that the General Assembly consider removing prohibitions on hunting and trapping foxes in Yancey County.

## APPENDIX A

### Questions for Fox Study Stakeholders:

- 1) Are issues related to the management of foxes and coyotes important to your organization?
  - A) If yes, what are the top three most important issues related to management of foxes?
  - B) If yes, what are the top three most important issues related to management of coyotes?
- 2) Do you believe fox populations in N.C. are not abundant enough, about right, or too abundant?
- 3) Do you believe coyote populations in N.C. are not abundant enough, about right, or too abundant?
- 4) Are there particular areas in the state where fox management is most important to your organization?
  - A) If yes, where?
- 5) Are there particular areas in the state where coyote management is most important to your organization?
  - A) If yes, where?
- 6) Are you currently aware of how foxes and coyotes are regulated in N.C.?
  - A) If yes, who is primarily responsible for regulating foxes in N.C.?
  - B) If yes, who is primarily responsible for regulating coyotes in N.C.?
- 7) Are you satisfied with how foxes are currently managed in N.C.?
  - A) If no, which of these recommendations below do you support to improve management of foxes?
    - i) Increase opportunities to trap foxes
    - ii) Increase opportunities to hunt foxes
    - iii) Transfer complete regulatory authority for foxes to the WRC
    - iv) Increase options for the public to handle depredation by foxes
    - v) Increase education and outreach efforts
    - vi) Increase coordination and collaboration among state agencies, NGOs, and the public
    - vii) Other?
- 8) Are you satisfied with how coyotes are currently managed in N.C.?
  - A) If no, which of these recommendations below do you support to improve management of coyotes?
    - i) Increase opportunities to trap coyotes
    - ii) Increase opportunities to hunt coyotes
    - iii) Increase options for the public to handle depredation by coyotes
    - iv) Increase education and outreach efforts
    - v) Increase coordination and collaboration among state agencies, NGOs, and the public
    - vi) Other?
- 9) Would you like to be involved in future efforts to manage foxes and coyotes in N.C.?

**APPENDIX B**

**COUNTY FOX HARVEST SEASONS  
LEGISLATED BY THE  
NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



Updated: July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**



The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) has very limited authority to regulate fox hunting and trapping seasons. The North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) has elected to classify foxes only as game animals rather than game and furbearers as bobcat, opossum and raccoon are designated. This classification means that the WRC may not allow foxes to be taken by trapping during regular trapping seasons.

There are numerous statutes that have been approved by the NCGA regulating wildlife related activities. These laws supersede any accompanying rules that have been promulgated by the WRC. Many of these laws passed by the NCGA apply only to a specific county, counties or parts of counties and generally are referred to as “local laws”. Some of these laws are listed by county in the WRC's’ annual Inland Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Regulations Digest. The number and complexity of the “local laws” enacted by the NCGA over the past 20 years which allow the taking of foxes with weapons and traps make them unsuitable to include in the annual digest.

This document provides a general listing of current statutes pertaining to allowing the harvest of foxes by the NCGA. It includes all known “local laws” as well as a listing of those counties that fall under the fox firearms season set by G.S. 113-291-4A. “Local laws” which prohibit an activity or harvest are listed in the Regulations Digest.

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**Chapter 113.**  
**Conservation and Development.**  
**SUBCHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**  
**SUBCHAPTER IV. CONSERVATION OF MARINE AND ESTUARINE AND**  
**WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**  
Article 22.

**§ 113-291.4. Regulation of foxes; study of fox and fur-bearer populations.**

- (a) All of the regulatory powers granted the Wildlife Resources Commission generally with respect to game, wild animals, and wildlife apply to foxes unless there are specific overriding restrictions in this section.
- (b) Except for any closed season under subsection (h), foxes may be taken with dogs both night and day on a year-round basis.
- (c) Foxes may not be taken with firearms except:
  - (1) As provided in subsection (f) or (i) of this section or G.S. 113-291.4A(a).
  - (2) As an incidental method of humanely killing them following any lawful method of taking that does not result in death.
  - (3) When they are lawfully shot under laws and rules pertaining to the destruction of animals committing depredations to property.
- (d) Foxes may not be taken with the aid of any electronic calling device.
- (e) The Wildlife Resources Commission is directed to improve its capabilities for studying fox and fur-bearer populations generally and, on the basis of its present knowledge and future studies, to implement management methods and impose controls designed to produce optimum fox and fur-bearer populations in the various areas of the State.
- (f) If, on the basis of its studies and other information available, the Wildlife Resources Commission determines the population of foxes in an area is fully adequate to support a harvesting of that population, the Wildlife Resources Commission may, upon passage of local legislation permitting same, open a season for taking foxes by trapping. When the

season is open for trapping, foxes may also be taken by the use of methods lawful for taking game animals, including the use of firearms. Any bag, possession, or season limits imposed on foxes taken from the area in question will apply in the aggregate to all foxes killed without regard to the method of taking.

- (f1) In those counties in which open seasons for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping were established between June 18, 1982, and July 1, 1987, in accordance with the procedure then set forth in subsection (f) of this section, the Wildlife Resources Commission is authorized to continue such seasons from year to year so long as the fox populations of such counties remain adequate to support the resulting harvest. The counties referred to in this subsection are as follows: Caswell, Clay, Graham, Henderson, Hyde, Macon, Stokes and Tyrrell.
- (g) The Wildlife Resources Commission may provide for the sale of foxes lawfully taken in areas of open season as provided in subsection (f), under a system providing strict controls. The Wildlife Resources Commission must implement a system of tagging foxes and fox furs with a special fox tag, and the Commission may charge two dollars and twenty-five cents (\$2.25) for each tag furnished to hunters, trappers, and fur dealers. The fox tag or tags must be procured before taking foxes by any method designed to kill foxes or when the intent is to harvest foxes. The number of tags furnished to any individual may be limited as to area and as to number in accordance with area, bag, possession, or season limits that may be imposed on foxes. No person may continue to hunt or trap foxes under this fox harvesting provision unless he still has at least one valid unused fox tag lawful for use in the area in question. A person hunting foxes with dogs not intending to kill them need not have any fox tag, but any fox accidentally killed by that hunter must be disposed of without sale as provided below, and no foxes not tagged may be sold. The Wildlife Resources Commission may by rule provide reporting and controlled-disposition requirements, not including sale, of foxes killed accidentally by dog hunters, motor vehicles, and in other situations; it may also impose strict controls on the disposition of foxes taken by owners of property under the laws and rules relating to depredations, and authorize sale under controlled conditions of foxes taken under depredation permits.
- (h) In any area of the State in which the Wildlife Resources Commission determines that hunting of foxes with dogs has an appreciably harmful effect upon turkey restoration projects, it may declare a closed season for an appropriate length of time upon the taking with dogs of all species of wild animals and birds. Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 113-291.1(d) or (d1), this subsection does not prohibit lawful field trials or the training of dogs.
- (i) Upon notification by the State Health Director of the presence of a contagious animal disease in a local fox population, the Commission is authorized to establish such population control measures as are appropriate until notified by public health authorities that the problem is deemed to have passed. (1979, c. 830, s. 1; 1981 (Reg. Sess., 1982), c. 1203, ss. 1-3; 1985, c. 476, s. 2; 1987, c. 726, s. 1, c. 827, s. 98; 1989, c. 504, s. 2, c. 616, s. 4, c. 727, s. 113; 1991, c. 483, s. 1(a), (b); 1993, c. 208, s. 4.)

**§ 113-291.4A. Open seasons for taking foxes with firearms.**

- (a) There is an open season for the taking of foxes with firearms in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Mitchell and Caldwell Counties from the beginning of the season established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for the taking of rabbits and quail through January 1 of each year. The selling, buying, or possessing for sale of any fox or fox part taken pursuant to this subsection is prohibited, and is punishable as provided by G.S. 113-294(a) or (j).
- (b) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall establish appropriate bag and season limits that may be imposed upon the taking of foxes pursuant to this act, and may make reasonable rules governing the possession of foxes killed by motor vehicles or other accidental means. (1989, c. 616, s. 1; 1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 811; 1995, c. 32, s. 1; 1999-456, s. 32.)

**15A NCAC 10B .0212(a)(3) Foxes (Gray and Red)**

(a) Seasons.

- (1) There shall be no closed season on taking foxes with dogs;
- (2) Foxes may be taken with weapons or traps the first to fourth Saturday in January in the following counties:

Caswell	Henderson
Clay	Macon
Graham	Tyrrell

- (3) Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Mitchell County.

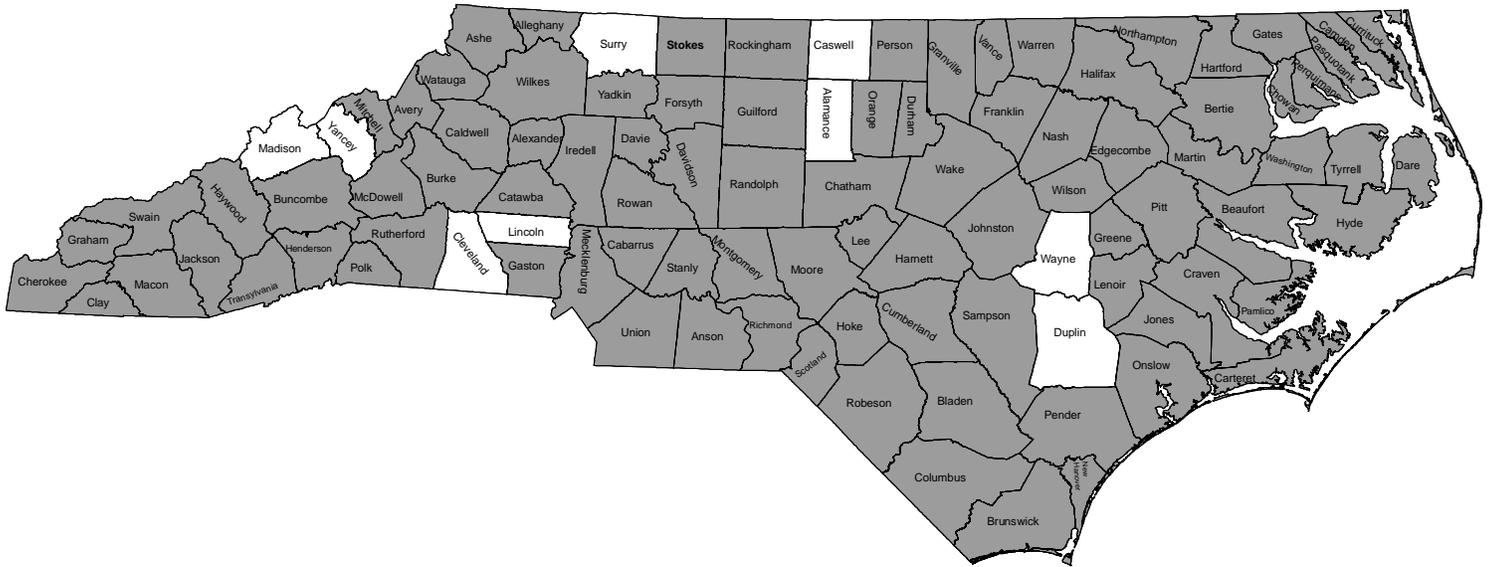
(b) Bag Limit.

- (1) Except in areas of open season for taking foxes with weapons or traps, foxes may not be intentionally killed by any method;
- (2) In areas of open season in all areas east of Interstate Highway 77 as set by the Legislature and in Subparagraph (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this Rule, the following bag limit applies: Daily, two; season, 10.

Note: Where local laws governing the taking of foxes conflict with these Regulations, the local laws shall prevail.

## Counties with No Closed Season on Taking Foxes with Dogs

Foxes may be taken with dogs both night and day on a daily, year-round basis.



■ Counties with no restrictions on taking fox with dogs.

□ Counties with restrictions on taking fox with dogs.

**NOTE: See general listing for restrictions in Alamance, Caswell, Cleveland, Duplin, Lincoln, Madison, New Hanover, Surry, Wayne and Yancey counties**



**Fox Tags:** Fox tags are required in all counties with an open season on foxes, unless an exemption is stated in local law.

However, licensed trappers are exempt from tagging requirements if live-trapped foxes are trapped for purpose of sale to licensed controlled fox hunting preserves.

**Coyotes:** It is legal to trap coyotes during the furbearer trapping seasons established by the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC). To find out the trapping season in your area, please see page 39 in the WRC Hunting and Trapping regulation digest or visit <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/> and click on "Trapping Regulations."

It is also legal to trap coyotes during any fox-trapping season established by statute or by local law, using methods described in statute, even when those fox-trapping seasons open prior to and extend after the regular trapping seasons.

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**ALAMANCE**

S.L. 1979, c. 825, sec.2 - Prohibits pursuing, hunting, taking or killing deer or foxes with dogs.

S.L. 1989, c.825 - Opens season for taking foxes with weapons during the season for taking rabbits as established by regulation by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Opens season for trapping foxes from January 2 through January 31. A season bag limit of 30 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken during the weapons and trapping seasons. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

S.L.2008, c. 44, H2123 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for trapping foxes and coyotes with rubber cleat traps from June 1 through February 28 of each year. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

**ALLEGHENY**

S.L. 2011-32, SB46 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes and coyotes with lawful weapons or traps from October 15 through March 1 of each year.

No season bag limit applies to foxes and coyotes taken under this act.

**ANSON**

Former G.S. 113-111, as amended by S.L. 1955, c.286 - Authorized the hunting and killing of foxes at any time by any lawful method. This allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. The 1955 act prohibits importation and release of foxes in the county. Sale of foxes taken under the year-round hunting authorization is not permitted.

S.L. 1989, c.879 - Opens season for taking foxes with weapons from November 18-January 1 each year. Opens season for taking foxes with foothold traps from January 2-January 31 of each year. Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken pursuant to this act. A season bag limit of 30 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken.

**ASHE**

Former G.S. 113-111, as amended by G.S. 113-133.1 (e) - Allows foxes to be taken at any time by any lawful method; this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

S.L. 2007, S364, as amended by S.L. 2010 H1893 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from November 1 through February 28 of each year. A season bag limit of 10 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken during the trapping season established in this act. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act and pursuant to former G.S. 113-111, as retained to the extent of its application to Ashe County pursuant to G.S. 113-133.1(e).

**AVERY**

S.L. 1985.c.180 - Authorizes foxes to be taken with weapons from December 1 through February 1 each year, and sets a season bag limit of 30. Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken pursuant to this act.

**BEAUFORT**

S.L. 1987, c.98 - Authorized the taking of foxes by rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate

season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is ten. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

S.L. 1997,c.132, as amended by S.L. 2001, c. 19 - Authorizes the trapping season for foxes from the day after the close of gun deer season until February 28 of each year. Eliminates the bag limits on hunting or trapping foxes and raccoons and the requirement to tag foxes prior to or after sale. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, foxes and raccoons may be taken during any trapping season established by the Wildlife Resources Commission or by the provisions of this act with steel-jaw or leghold traps with trap chains of up to 18 inches in length.

It is lawful to use snares when trapping fur-bearing animals during seasons for trapping furbearing animals as established by the Wildlife Resources Commission and by the provisions of this act.

#### **BERTIE**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **BLADEN**

S.L. 1985,c.722 as amended by S.L. 1985 c. 880 - Permits the taking of foxes by rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is

thirty. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **BRUNSWICK**

S.L. 1993, c. 208 - Opens the season for taking foxes with weapons from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is 30. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **BURKE**

S.L. 1989, c.163 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for hunting, taking, or killing foxes with firearms and bow and arrow during the season for hunting any game animal as established by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for hunting, taking, or killing foxes by trapping from January 1 through January 31 of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **CABARRUS**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **CALDWELL**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **CAMDEN**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **CARTERET**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **CASWELL**

P-L.L. 1937, c. 411 - Fixes the open season for fox hunting from September 1 to June 30.

S.L. 1991,c.908 as amended by S.L. 1993,c.727 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with rubber cleat traps from June 1 through February 28 each year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from January 5 through February 10 of each year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons

from November 2 through February 10 of each year. A season bag limit of 30 applies to all foxes taken during the trapping season. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully under this act.

These two acts read together allow hunting foxes with dogs from September 1 through June 30 and allows hunting foxes with weapons from November 2 through February 10.

#### **CATAWBA**

Former G.S. 113-111, as amended by S.L. 1955,c.1037 - Authorizes the hunting and killing of foxes at any time by any lawful method. Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

#### **CHATHAM**

S.L. 1995, c.80 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to trapping of foxes, there will be open season for taking foxes with traps of the leghold type no larger than one and one-half, with coil spring and with trap chain and at least three swivels set on dry land with solid anchor. No trap larger than number one and one-half coil spring may be used. This season shall be from December 1 to February 15 of each year. No person shall place traps on the land of another without first obtaining written permission from the landowner or lessee. There shall be no bag limit for foxes taken during the trapping season. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10.

Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **CHOWAN**

Ch. 301 of 1999 S.L. adds Chowan to S.L. 1989,c.128 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons from December 1 through January 1 of each year.

S.L. 2011-40, SB261 -

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping during the trapping season set by the Wildlife Resources Commission each year, with no tagging requirements prior to or after sale. No bag limit applies to foxes taken under this act.

#### **CLAY**

G.S. 113-291.4, (f), (f1), and (g) - Opens a special permit season from the first to the fourth Saturday in January with traps or weapons with a daily bag limit of 2 and a season bag limit of 10. Permit holder must have fox tags in possession prior to taking of foxes that must be tagged prior to sale. Sale of live foxes under this statute is not permitted.

#### **CLEVELAND**

P.L. 1907, c.388 - Provides an open season on gray foxes from December 2 to the last day of February. Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

S.L. 1951, c.1101 - Prohibits hunting red foxes at any time.

These two acts read together apparently ban all hunting of red foxes, including with dogs, and opens season for hunting gray foxes during authorized hours by all lawful hunting methods (rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs) from December 2 to the last day of February. Sale of harvested foxes is not permitted

#### **COLUMBUS**

S.L. 1993, c. 208 amended by S.L. 2004-66, HB 1346 - Opens the season for taking foxes with weapons from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is 30. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **CRAVEN**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

S.L. 2008, c. 8, S1989 -

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from January 2 through February 28 of each year. No season bag limits applies to foxes taken under this act. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **CUMBERLAND**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**CURRITUCK**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**DARE**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**DAVIDSON**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

S.L. 2009, c.43, H551 -

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping during the trapping season set by the Wildlife Resources Commission each year, with no tagging requirements prior to or after sale. No bag limit applies to foxes taken under this act.

**DAVIE**

G.S. 113-111, as amended by S.L. 1947, c.333 - Authorized the hunting and killing of foxes at any time by any lawful method. The amending law prohibits importation and release of foxes and authorizes the board of

county commissioners to pay a bounty on foxes. Sale of harvested foxes is not permitted.

**DUPLIN**

S.L. 1965, c.774 - Provided an open season from August 2 to March 15 for hunting foxes with dogs, and permits the use of guns and dogs when the season is open for any other game. Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

**DURHAM**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**EDGECOMBE:**

S.L. 1991, c.483 s.4 - Opens a season for taking foxes by trapping from January 2 or the last day of deer season, whichever is later, through January 31 of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for sale of foxes. Aggregate bag limit is 30.

**FORSYTH**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**FRANKLIN**

S.L. 1993, c. 208 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping from October 1 through January 31 each

year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of lawfully taken foxes.

**GATES**

S.L. 1989, c.128 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons from December 1 through January 1 of each year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from January 2 or the last day of deer season, whichever is later, through January 31 of each year. During this season, all leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor shall have at least three swivels in the trap chain and no leghold traps larger than size one and one-half may be used. A season bag limit of 30 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken during the weapons and trapping seasons established in this act. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

**GRAHAM**

G.S. 113-291.4, (f), (f1), and (g) - Opens a special permit season from the first to the fourth Saturday in January with traps or weapons with a daily bag limit of 2 and a season bag limit of 10. Permit holder must have fox tags in possession prior to taking of foxes that must be tagged prior to sale. Sale of live foxes under this statute is not permitted.

**GRANVILLE**

S.L. 1963, c.670 - Provides that foxes may be taken by use of dogs year-round, day or night, and by "any manner" during the open season. ("Any manner" should be interpreted to mean during authorized hunting hours by any lawful hunting method in addition to dogs: rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow. "Open season" should be interpreted to mean when the season is open for any game animal or game bird in the county.)

Sale of foxes taken under this local act is not permitted.

S.L. 1993, c.208 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping from October 1 through January 31 each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of lawfully taken foxes.

#### **GREENE**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

S.L. 1975, c.219, as amended by S.L. 1987, c.132 - Prohibits hunting foxes with firearms “during the two-week deer season.”

The current interpretation of this act is that during any gun deer season , the use of firearms to hunt foxes is prohibited.

#### **GUILFORD**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **HALIFAX**

P-L.L. 1925, c.571,s.3 - Makes it lawful to “hunt foxes at any time.” This should be interpreted to allow year-round dog hunting, day or night (because of the statewide law), and year-round hunting during authorized hunting hours by other normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, and

bow and arrow. Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

S.L. 1995, c.279 - Notwithstanding any other law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from January 7 through February 10 of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully under this act. A bag limit of 30 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken during the fox season established in this act.

#### **HARNETT**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **HAYWOOD**

Former G.S. 113-111, as modified by S.L. 1963,c.322 - Provides generally that foxes may be taken “at any time by any lawful method”—but red foxes may not be taken with guns.

This should be interpreted to authorize year-round taking of red foxes with dogs and with bow and arrow, and year-round taking of gray foxes by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. (Because of the statewide law, dog hunting of both gray and red foxes may be day or night. Other takings would be limited to authorized hunting hours.) Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

#### **HENDERSON**

Former G.S. 113-111 - Allows foxes to be taken “at any time by any lawful method”; this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and

arrow, and dogs. (The statewide law would allow dog hunting at night.). Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

G.S. 113-291.4, (f), (f1), and (g) – Opens a special permit season from the first to the fourth Saturday in January with traps or weapons with a daily bag limit of 2 and a season bag limit of 10. Permit holder must have fox tags in possession prior to taking of foxes that must be tagged prior to sale. Sale of live foxes under this statute is not permitted.

#### **HERTFORD**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **HOKE**

S.L. 1985, c.108 - Authorizes the taking of foxes by rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is 30. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **HYDE**

S.L. 1989,c.229 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is a season for taking, hunting, or killing foxes with bow and arrow, rifle, shotgun, and dogs from November 15 through January 1 of each year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is a season for taking, hunting, or killing foxes with traps

from January 2 through the last day of February of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act. A season bag limit of 20 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken during the fox seasons established in this act.

S.L. 1997, c.132, as amended by S.L. 2001, c. 19 - Authorizes the trapping season for foxes from the day after the close of gun deer season until February 28 of each year. Eliminates the bag limits on hunting or trapping foxes and raccoons and the requirement to tag foxes prior to or after sale. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, foxes and raccoons may be taken during any trapping season established by the Wildlife Resources Commission or by the provisions of this act with steel-jaw or leghold traps with trap chains of up to 18 inches in length.

It is lawful to use snares when trapping fur-bearing animals during seasons for trapping furbearing animals as established by the Wildlife Resources Commission and by the provisions of this act.

#### **IREDELL**

S.L. 1985, c.664, H1418 - Provides that foxes may be taken by use of "weapons" in the Townships of Fallstown, Davidson, and Coddle Creek from December 1 through January 1 each year. ("Weapons" would mean rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow.) The Wildlife Resources Commission must provide for sale of foxes taken legally under the local act.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may

not be bought or sold. This applies only to that portion of the county east of I-77.

#### **JOHNSTON**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

S.L. 2007, H1185 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season from December 1 through February 20 of each year for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping, with no tagging requirements prior to or after sale. No bag limit applies to foxes taken under this act.

#### **JONES**

S.L. 1989, c.134 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is a season for taking, hunting, or killing of foxes with firearms from November 1 through December 31 of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

#### **LEE**

S.L. 1977, c. 636 - Classifies the fox as a game animal which may be taken only with dogs at any time during day or night and prohibits the purchase or sale of foxes or parts thereof, except for live foxes for restocking purposes.

#### **LENOIR**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10.

Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **LINCOLN**

P-L.L. 1925, c. 449, sections 1 and 2 - Provides an open season for hunting red foxes with dogs only from October 1 to March 1.

S.L. 1955, c.878 - Provides that one may "hunt, take or kill gray foxes at any time..." This should be interpreted to allow year-round hunting of gray foxes, day or night (because of statewide law); year-round hunting of gray foxes during authorized hunting hours with shotgun, rifle, and bow and arrow; and day and night hunting of red foxes with dogs from October 1 to March 1. Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

#### **MACON**

G.S. 113-291.4, (f), (f1), and (g) - Opens a special permit season from the first to the fourth Saturday in January with traps or weapons with a daily bag limit of 2 and a season bag limit of 10. Permit holder must have fox tags in possession prior to taking of foxes that must be tagged prior to sale. Sale of live foxes under this statute is not permitted.

#### **MADISON**

S.L. 1951, c. 1040- Prohibits hunting red foxes at any time.

#### **MARTIN**

S.L. 1977, c. 636 - Classifies the fox as a game animal which may be taken only with dogs at any time during the day or night, and prohibits the purchase or sale of foxes or parts thereof, except for live foxes for restocking purposes.

#### **MECKLENBURG**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate

Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold. This applies only to that portion of the county east of I-77.

#### **MITCHELL**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **MONTGOMERY**

S.L. 1977, c.1142,s1 - Provides that (1) there is “no closed season for hunting foxes with dogs or guns”; (2) it is unlawful to “buy or sell a dead fox, fox pelt or other part of a fox”; and(3) foxes may be taken with dogs during the day or night. (The specification of “dogs or guns” would prevent use of the bow and arrow.)

#### **MOORE**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **NASH**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **NEW HANOVER**

S.L. 1971, c.559 - Prohibits hunting foxes with dogs in that portion of Federal Point Township which lies south of Snow’s Cut (the Intracoastal Waterway).

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **NORTHAMPTON**

S.L. 1993, c.727 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from January 5 through February 10 of each year. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons from November 2 through February 10 of each year. No provisions for sale are provided.

#### **ONSLOW**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **ORANGE**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **PAMLICO**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **PASQUOTANK**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **PENDER**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

#### **PERQUIMANS**

Former G.S. 113-111 - Allows foxes to be taken “at any time by any lawful method”; this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. (The statewide law would allow dog hunting at night.) Sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

#### **PERSON**

S.L. 1985,c.108, as amended by S. O. 1985 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. 1986), c.890 and further amended by house bill 820 in 2005 - Authorizes the taking of foxes

by rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from September 1 through September 30 and from December 1 through February 20 of each year. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one half may be used. There is no season bag limit. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

**PITT**

S.L. 1993, c. 208 amended by S.L. 2004-199, SB 1225 - Opens the season for taking foxes with weapons from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is 30. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

**RANDOLPH**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**RICHMOND**

S.L. 2001, c. 133, H903 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is a season for taking foxes with box-type traps only from January 2 through January 31 of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant

to this act. A season bag limit of 30 applies in the aggregate to gray and red foxes taken during the fox season established in this act. This act applies only to that portion of Richmond County located north of U.S. Highway 74 and west of U.S. Highway 1.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**ROBESON**

S.L. 1985, c.108 - Authorizes the taking of foxes by rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is 30. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

**ROCKINGHAM**

S.L. 1985, c.179, as amended by S.L. 2011-136, HB463 - Authorizes the taking of foxes by firearms, bow and arrow, or crossbow during any open small game season each year. There is an open season for taking foxes by trapping from November 1 through February 28 of each year. During this season, all leghold traps set on dry shall be in accordance with State law. No bag limit applies to foxes taken under this act. No tags shall be required for the sale of the fur of foxes taken in accordance with this act.

**ROWAN**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**SAMPSON**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**SCOTLAND**

S.L. 1985, c.108 - Authorizes the taking of foxes by rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow from December 1 through January 1, and by trapping from January 2 through January 31. Leghold traps set on dry land with solid anchor must have at least three swivels in the trap chain, and no leghold trap larger than size one and one-half may be used. The aggregate season bag limit, for both the weapons and trapping season, is 30. The local act applies in that portion of Scotland County northeast of N.C. Highway 381 from the Richmond County line to the South Carolina border. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken lawfully pursuant to this act.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10.

Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**STANLY**

S.L. 1989,c.879 - Opens season for taking foxes with weapons from November 18-January 1 of each year. Opens season for taking foxes with foothold traps from January 2-January 31 of each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of foxes taken pursuant to this act. A season bag limit of 10 applies in the aggregate to all foxes taken.

**STOKES**

Former G.S. 113-111, as amended by S.L. 1955, c.685 - Allows foxes to be taken “at any time by any lawful method”; this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. (The statewide law would allow dog hunting at night.). The sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

S.L. 2008, c. 102. H2760 – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season from the first Saturday in January through the last Saturday in January of each year for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping, with no tagging requirements prior to or after sale. No bag limits applies to foxes taken under this act.

**SURRY**

P-L. L. 1925,c.474,s.6 - Provides that gray and red foxes may be taken only from October 15 through March 1. This should be interpreted to authorize fox hunting with dogs, day and night, during the open season, and normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow. The sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

S.L. 2011-32, SB46 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for

taking foxes and coyotes with lawful weapons or traps from October 15 through March 1 of each year. No season bag limit applies to foxes and coyotes taken under this act.

**TYRRELL**

Former G.S. 113-111 - Allows foxes to be taken “at any time by any lawful method” this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs.(Sale under this provision is not permitted).

G.S. 113-291.4, (f), (f1), and (g) – Opens a special permit season from the first to the fourth Saturday in January with traps or weapons with a daily bag limit of 2 and a season bag limit of 10. Permit holder must have fox tags in possession prior to taking of foxes that must be tagged prior to sale. Sale of live foxes under this statute is not permitted.

**UNION**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**VANCE**

S.L. 1993, c. 208 as amended by S.L. 2004-44 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes with weapons and by trapping from October 1 through January 31 each year. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall provide for the sale of lawfully taken foxes.

**WAKE**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all

areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**WARREN**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**WASHINGTON**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**WAYNE**

S.L. 1981, c. 697, as amended by S.L. 1987, c. 958 - Prohibits hunting foxes in any manner from March 16 to August 1. Amendment exempts persons training dogs to hunt foxes in a dog training facility larger than 500 acres that is enclosed with a dog-proof fence.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**WILKES**

Former G.S. 113-111, as amended by S.L. 1971, c.385 - Allows foxes to be taken “at any time by any lawful method”; this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. (The statewide law would allow dog hunting at night.) The 1971 act prohibits the use of electronic calling devices in taking foxes in Wilkes County. The sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

**WILSON**

15A NCAC 10B .0212 - Foxes may be taken the Saturday next preceding Thanksgiving through January 1 by firearms or bow and arrow in all areas of the State east of Interstate

Highway 77 and in Caldwell and Mitchell Counties with a daily bag limit of 2 and season limit of 10. Foxes taken under this season may not be bought or sold.

**WINSTON-SALEM**

S.L. 2010, H1893 - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is an open season for taking foxes by trapping with cage traps only during the trapping season set by the Wildlife Resources Commission each year, with no tagging requirements prior to or after sale. No bag limit applies to foxes taken under this act.

**YADKIN**

Former G.S. 113-111, as amended by S.L. 1953,c.199 - Allows foxes to be taken “at any time by any lawful

method”; this allows year-round taking during authorized hunting hours by normal hunting methods: rifle, shotgun, bow and arrow, and dogs. (The statewide law would allow dog hunting at night.) The 1953 act prohibits importation and release of foxes in Yadkin County. The sale of foxes taken under this act is not permitted.

**YANCY**

S.L. 1965, c. 522 - Prohibits killing foxes in any manner.