15A NCAC 10B .0113 is proposed for readoption with changes as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0113  BIG GAME KILL HARVEST REPORTS

(a) Upon killing a bear, deer, or wild turkey and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter shall validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card furnished with the big game hunting license by cutting or punching out the validation box that correctly identifies the big game animal harvested. In lieu of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, antlerless deer may be recorded as outlined on the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card acquired from the Wildlife Resources Commission or a Wildlife Service Agent. Deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) program, not validated with either a Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, shall be validated by affixing a Commission-issued DMAP tag to the deer as required by G.S. 113-291.2(e).

(b) Before any harvested bear, deer, or wild turkey is skinned, dressed, or dismembered for consumption and within 24 hours of the kill, the animal shall be registered through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System. The hunter may field dress the animal at the site of kill or before registering it by bleeding and removing the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory organs. However, the hunter may not further process the carcass in a manner that obscures its species identity, age, or sex before registering the animal. When the kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered. When a hunter harvests a big game animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the remote area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time limit to register the kill is extended until the hunter leaves the area. Upon leaving the remote area, the hunter shall register the kill within 24 hours.

(c) When a hunter registers a kill, the Electronic Big Game Reporting System shall issue an authorization number to the big game hunter. The hunter shall record the authorization number obtained through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System in the space provided immediately adjacent to the validation box that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card. Any hunter validating a deer harvest with a Commission-issued DMAP tag shall record and maintain the issued authorization number to serve as proof of registration. The authorization number shall thereafter constitute authorization for the continued possession of the carcass. Possession of a harvested bear, deer, or wild turkey without the validated Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card where applicable, including the authorization number obtained through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System, is unlawful.

(d) Persons who kill a big game animal and leave it unattended shall identify the carcass with their name, their hunting license number, and the date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, the animal need only be identified with the authorization number received by registering the kill. It is unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card on which the species validation box has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number received by registering the kill has not been recorded, or to possess a used or affixed Commission-issued DMAP tag without a valid authorization number, unless the animal is in the person's possession or is identified as described in this Paragraph and not more than 24 hours have passed since the harvest.
(e) Persons who are by law exempt from the big game hunting license by G.S. 113-276 shall obtain a Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card for License Exempt Hunters from a Wildlife Service Agent or possess a valid Commission issued DMAP tag. Upon harvesting a bear, deer, or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate and register the kill as provided by this Rule.

(f) Persons who use special tags issued pursuant to G.S. 113-291.2(e) to validate the harvest of a deer shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements set forth by statute and shall not take any action under this Rule.

(a) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply in this Rule:

1. “Authorization number” means the number or code issued by the Electronic Big Game Reporting System upon completion of big game harvest registration, that shall serve as proof of registration and allow continued possession of the carcass.

2. “Big Game” means bear, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer, as defined in G.S. 113-129.

3. “Big Game Harvest Report Card” means the reporting card supplied to the hunter by the Commission as part of the big game license, upon which the successful hunter validates and records the authorization number for a big game harvest.

4. “Field Dress” means the bleeding or removal of the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory organs.

5. “Validate” or “validation” means cutting or punching-out the day and month the harvest occurred on the appropriate line of the Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card or by affixing a Commission-issued Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) tag, as required by G.S. 113-291.2(e).

6. “Register” or “Registration” means the process by which the harvest of big game is reported through the Electronic Big Game Reporting System and an authorization number is issued.

7. “Remote Area” means an area where access to the big game harvest reporting system is unavailable.

8. “Site of kill” or “site of harvest” means the location that a person takes possession of harvested big game.

9. “Successful hunter” means a person that has lawfully taken and reduced to possession a big game animal.

(b) Validation. The successful hunter shall validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card before moving any big game from the site of kill. Deer harvested pursuant to the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP), that are not validated by the Big Game Harvest Report Card or the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, shall be validated by affixing a Commission-issued DMAP tag.

(c) Field Dressing. Harvested big game may be field dressed at the site of kill or before registration. Further processing that obscures the identification of the harvested animal’s species, age, or sex shall be prohibited without a valid authorization number.

(d) Registration. Harvested big game shall be registered via the Electronic Big Game Reporting System at www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-800-446-8663. Harvested big game shall be registered before the animal is:

(1) skinned; or

(2) dismembered; or
(3) left unattended by the successful hunter; or
(4) placed in the possession of another person.

Harvested big game animals that are not skinned, dismembered, left unattended by the successful hunter, or placed in the possession of another person, shall be registered by 12pm noon the day following the harvest.

(e) Registration in Remote Areas. Big game harvested in remote areas shall be registered by 12pm noon the day after leaving the remote area. Notwithstanding the registration requirements in Paragraph (d) of this Rule, big game harvested in remote areas may:

(1) be placed in the possession of another, provided that the person in possession of the big game has the successful hunter’s name and date of kill on their person; and
(2) be skinned and dismembered before registration, if the carcass cannot be transported as an intact carcass may be skinned and dismembered before registration.

(f) Authorization number. The authorization number shall be recorded in the space provided for the appropriate harvested big game animal on the Big Game Harvest Report Card or on the Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card. Successful hunters validating a deer harvest by affixing a Commission-issued DMAP tag shall record and maintain the authorization number upon registration.

(g) Unattended Harvests. Successful hunters that leave a harvested big game animal unattended or in the possession of another person shall identify the carcass by attaching the authorization number issued at the time of registration. Except as provided in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, a person that takes possession of a big game animal from a successful hunter shall retain the authorization number of that animal.

(h) Exceptions. Requirements of this Rule shall not be applicable to special deer tags issued pursuant to G.S. 113-291.2(e).

(i) Any person hunting big game animals, including license exempt individuals, persons, shall have a valid Big Game Harvest Report Card, valid Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card, or special tag pursuant to NCGS 113-291.2 in their possession. The Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Card is part of the big game license and shall not be transferrable.

(j) Any persons who has requested a Big Game Harvest Report Card by phone or internet but has not yet received the Big Game Harvest Report Card by mail, shall validate the kill by affixing the harvest id number provided by the Commission to the carcass and shall register in accordance with parts (d) or (e) of this rule. The hunter shall retain all authorization numbers from reported harvests and shall transcribe those authorization numbers to the Big Game Harvest Report Card upon receipt of the card.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291;
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