



## NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

### Wild Quail Management Area Overview and Application

A Wild Quail Management Area (WQMA) is land maintained to enhance enjoyment of sportsmen and support wild bobwhite quail conservation under a signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). This voluntary land designation offers two management activities not permitted outside of WQMAs. One is to allow trapping of certain nest predators during the reproductive season. The other is to supplementally feed without impacting the opportunity to quail hunt on the property. Enrolled properties may implement one or both of these two management activities. Please thoroughly read the following information.

1. **Minimum acreage requirements:** 500 contiguous acres, of which, 225 acres or 15%, whichever is greater, is managed for year-round bobwhite quail habitat. Adjoining landowners may combine properties to meet the minimum acreage requirements.
2. **Habitat description:** Wild bobwhite quail habitat is any early successional habitat dominated by herbaceous vegetation or shrub cover consisting of a mixture of young saplings, shrubs, forbs, and woody plants typically less than ten feet tall with scattered open patches of grasses, wildflowers, and vines. Managed forest stands must have a basal area no greater than 60 square feet per acre. Land managed and maintained primarily for human uses such as large lawns, golf courses, sod-forming pastures, production agriculture fields, monoculture hayfields, solar energy, or production timber stands do not qualify as early successional habitat.
3. **Hunting on a WQMA:** Hunting for bobwhite quail can only occur during the regulated established season listed in 15A NCAC 10B .0208. No domestically raised upland game birds can be released on WQMAs.
4. **Nest predator trapping:** The primary purpose of allowing trapping during the reproductive season is to boost quail nesting success. Trapping for raccoons, striped skunks, and opossums is extended from the end of the established regulated trapping season through May 31. Only enclosed foot-hold traps (commonly referred to as dog-proof traps) or cage traps may be used during this period. Trapped raccoons, striped skunks, and opossums may be euthanized or released at the trap site. Any other species, including coyotes and bobcats, must be released unharmed on site if incidentally trapped during this time period.
5. **Supplemental feeding:** The primary purpose of supplemental feeding is to ensure that wild bobwhite quail populations remain stable during droughts or other periods of stressful environmental conditions. With the exception of wild quail, no wild birds can be harvested near or with the aid of the supplement feed in the designated WQMA. Hunters should continue to adhere to applicable baiting restrictions for other game including wild turkey and migratory birds within the WQMA. Applicants who choose to conduct supplemental feeding must abide by ALL feeding guidelines. Supplemental feed must:
  - be broadcast into quail habitat along a minimum linear distance of at least one mile per 100 acres of habitat at the rate of three bushels per mile;
  - be broadcast on a bi-weekly schedule for at least 5 months each reporting period;
  - be broadcast using a non-stationary spreader;
  - be only natural grains or seeds; and
  - not be placed to attract birds for the purpose of hunting.

6. **Annual reporting requirements:** Applicants shall submit an annual report to the NCWRC within 30 days of the end of the reporting period (June 1-May 31) that includes:
- number of days and hours wild bobwhite quail were hunted on the area;
  - total annual harvest of wild bobwhite quail on the area;
  - total number of coveys flushed;
  - any supplemental feeding activities;
  - number of trap nights; and
  - number of animals trapped and their disposition or release by species for trapping activities conducted during the established season, as well as any conducted outside the trapping season.
7. **Agreement:** Signed agreements between the landowner(s) and NCWRC formally designate properties as WQMAs and are effective for 5-year periods. Signed agreements can be amended or voided as needed to accommodate changes in landownership or unforeseen conditions that impact planned management practices.
8. **Management plan:** As part of the signed agreement, applicants must provide a 5-year management plan that includes at minimum:
- a. a list of landowners and county parcel identification for all properties included in the WQMA;
  - b. a scaled map of the WQMA with year-round bobwhite quail habitat identified; and
  - c. management practices to be used to maintain bobwhite quail habitat and populations.
9. **Inspections:** An initial inspection of the properties will occur once the application has been received. Inspections thereafter will occur at a minimum once every 5 years.

The failure of an applicant to meet or comply with the above guidelines may result in denial of properties to be designated as WQMAs for the current or future years, whichever is applicable.

**To be completed by applicant**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ WRC Customer Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

WQMA address or GPS coordinate: \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ WQMA acres \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. year-round quail habitat \_\_\_\_\_

Number of landowners: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you planning to supplemental feed? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unsure \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read this overview and understand the purpose of and minimum requirements for WQMAs. I am interested in designating one of more properties as a WQMA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Please read the information above and contact your local [District Wildlife Biologist](#) with any questions.

Mail applications to: Wildlife Management Division, 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1700.  
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