

**REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT**

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
<b>HATCHERY-SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS</b>			
Aug. 1, 2010 – Feb. 28, 2011 7 a.m. April 2, 2011 – July 31, 2011 -All hatchery-supported waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2011 – April 1, 2011 **No fishing allowed -All hatchery-supported waters not listed below	**	None	**
No closed season -Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area -Power supply lakes and municipal water supply lakes	None	7	None
<b>WILD TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook.
<b>WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT WATERS</b>			
No closed season	7 inches	4	Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait.
<b>DELAYED-HARVEST TROUT WATERS</b>			
Oct. 1, 2010 – June 3, 2011 **No trout may be possessed **No fishing allowed from ½ hour after sunset on June 3, 2011, to 6 a.m. on June 4, 2011	**	**	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed. **
Aug. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2010 June 4, 2011 – July 31, 2011 (Note: youth only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 4, 2011)	None	7	None
<b>CATCH-AND-RELEASE ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	None	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
<b>CATCH-AND-RELEASE ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season **No trout may be possessed	**	None	Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
<b>SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS</b>			
No closed season -Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam	Only one fish may be greater than 14 inches long	7	None
<b>UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS</b>			
Aug. 1, 2010 – Feb. 28, 2011 7 a.m. April 2, 2011 – July 31, 2011	None	7	None
March 1, 2011 – April 1, 2011 **Fishing allowed, but no trout may be possessed, except in waters listed below	**	None	None
No closed season -Power supply lakes and municipal water supply lakes	None	7	None

\*See page 22 for a definition of artificial lures and natural bait

**REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT**

Brook, brown and rainbow trout require cold, clean water and are therefore generally restricted to mountain streams and lakes. Those mountain waters that support trout and are open to public fishing are designated as “Public Mountain Trout Waters” by the Wildlife Resources Commission and are managed for public trout fishing. A significant amount of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed for public access for fishing. Please respect their property. Your cooperation is needed to protect fishing opportunities for future generations. The Commission conspicuously marks Public Mountain Trout Waters with regulation signs that indicate locations for public access. When

anglers encounter “posted against trespass” signs along these designated sections on private lands, they should respect the property owner’s rights and choose another location along that stream to fish. Maps of trout water and their classifications may be viewed at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) under the link for *regulations – fishing – mountain trout*.

**Public Mountain Trout Waters** Public Mountain Trout Waters are classified for management purposes as either “Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters” or “Wild Trout Waters.” Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters must be stocked periodically with trout to sustain angling. Wild Trout Waters are high-quality waters that sustain trout populations by natural reproduction. Some Public Mountain Trout Waters are specially regulated to

meet specific management objectives. These are further classified as follows:

- “Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only”
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only”
- “Wild Trout/Natural Bait”
- “Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters”
- or “Special Regulation Trout Waters”
- Some of these public trout waters are also classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and are identified on page 26.

**Fishing in Public Mountain Trout Waters**

- Fishing is limited to hook and line only.
- An **artificial lure** is defined as a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated with any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- **Natural bait** is defined as any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- It is unlawful to take fish bait or bait fish from Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to possess natural bait while fishing Wild Trout and Catch-and-Release waters, unless those waters are also specifically classified for use of natural bait.
- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to fish with more than one line per person, except on power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs.
- There is no closed season for fishing on power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs designated as trout waters.
- Non-trout species may be harvested from Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters during the catch-and-release only trout season under applicable size and creel limits.
- It is unlawful to place hatchery-reared fish into a Wild Trout Water or move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization.
- Information and regulations about trout fishing on game lands are listed on page 27.

**Trout Fishing in Undesignated Waters** Some waters that are not designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters (as identified above) contain mountain trout. When fishing in these undesignated waters, the trout fishing regulations are the same as for Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters, except that the trout fishing license is not required to fish undesignated waters, and there is no closed season for fishing. However, trout may not be possessed or retained in the creel when fishing undesignated waters during the closed season for Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

**Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters** There are approximately 1,100 miles of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters in North Carolina. In hatchery-supported waters there is no size limit or bait restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters are marked with green-and-white signs that are posted conspicuously along the watercourses. The following waters are classified as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters (**streams that are underlined are stocked with catchable-size trout at frequent intervals during the months of March through August**):

**Alleghany County**

- Little River (Whitehead to McCann Dam)
- Brush Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Big Pine Creek
- Glade Creek
- Bledsoe Creek
- Piney Fork

- Meadow Fork
- Pine Swamp Creek
- Prathers Creek
- Cranberry Creek

**Ashe County**

- North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
- Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to confluence with North Fork New River)
- Buffalo Creek (headwaters to junction of N.C. 194-88 and S.R. 1131)
- Big Laurel Creek
- Three Top Creek (except game land portion)
- Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
- Nathans Creek
- Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- Roan Creek
- Beaver Creek
- Pine Swamp Creek (all forks)
- Old Fields Creek
- Mill Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

**Avery County**

- North Toe River (headwaters to Mitchell Co. line) (except where posted against trespassing)
- Squirrel Creek
- Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
- Wildcat Lake**
- Boyde Coffey Lake
- Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)
- Milltimber Creek

**Buncombe County**

- Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
- Stony Creek
- Corner Rock Creek
- Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
- Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
- Lake Powhatan

**Burke County**

- Henry Fork (lower South Mountains State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
- Carroll Creek (game lands above S.R. 1405)
- Linville River (portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, (LGWA), including tributaries, and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek) (Note there is no closed season within LGWA.)

**Caldwell County**

- Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)
- Boone Fork Pond
- Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to SR 1515)**
- Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joe’s Creek to McCloud Branch)
- Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)

**Cherokee County**

- Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy. (S.R. 1325) bridge to Tennessee line)
- Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- Valley River (headwaters to U.S. 19 business bridge in Murphy)
- Hyatt Creek
- Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)

**Clay County**

- Fires Creek (**foot bridge in the U.S. Forest Service Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300**)
- Tusquitee Creek (headwaters to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)

**Graham County**

- Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- Yellow Creek
- Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to mouth, including portions of tributaries on game lands, excluding Johns Branch and Little Santeetlah Creek)
- West Buffalo Creek
- Mountain Creek (game lands boundary to S.R. 1138 bridge)
- Big Snowbird Creek (old railroad junction to S.R. 1127 bridge including portions of tributaries on game lands)
- Long Creek (portion not on game lands)
- Tulula Creek (headwaters to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- Cheoah Reservoir
- Stecoah Creek
- Panther Creek

**Haywood County**

- Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- Cold Springs Creek
- Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespass)
- West Fork Pigeon River (**Tom Creek** to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)
- Richland Creek (Russ Avenue (U.S. 276) bridge to U.S. 23-74 bridge)

**Henderson County**

- (Rocky) Broad River (**Rocky River Lane** to Rutherford Co. line)
- Green River—upper (mouth of Joe Creek to mouth of Bobs Creek)
- Green River—lower (Lake Summit Dam to I-26 bridge)
- (Big) Hungry River
- Little Hungry River
- Cane Creek (S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
- Clear Creek (S.R. 1591 bridge at Jack Mountain Lane to S.R. 1582)

**Jackson County**

- Tuckasegee River—upper (confluence with West Fork Tuckasegee River to N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field)
- Tuckasegee River—lower (Dillsboro Dam to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
- Scott Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
- Savannah Creek (headwaters to Bradley's packing house on N.C. 116)
- Green's Creek (Green's Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1730 to Savannah Creek)
- Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
- Balsam Lake
- Bear Creek Lake
- Wolf Creek Lake
- Tanasee Creek Lake

**Macon County**

- Nantahala River (Nantahala Dam to Whiteoak Creek and Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain County line)

- Queens Creek Lake
- Burningtown Creek
- Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672, excluding the game land portions of Buck Creek and Turtle Pond Creek)
- Elijay Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Cliffside Lake
- Cartoogechaye Creek (**downstream** U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)

**Madison County**

- Shut-in Creek
- Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to **U.S. Forest Service Road 223**)
- Little Creek
- Meadow Fork Creek (except Little Creek)
- Roaring Fork
- Max Patch Pond
- Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill watershed boundary to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Road] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
- Spillcorn Creek (entire stream, excluding tributaries)
- Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- Mill Creek (headwaters to confluence with Big Creek)
- Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)
- Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)

**McDowell County**

- Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler lower line downstream to Greenlee upper line)
- Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

**Mitchell County**

- Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
- Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- East Fork Grassy Creek
- North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)

**Polk County**

- North Pacolet River (**Joels Creek** to N.C. 108 bridge)
- Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)

**Rutherford County**

- (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

**Stokes County**

- Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)

**Surry County**

- Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to Interstate 77 bridge)
- Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
- Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)

**Swain County**

- Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- Cheoah Reservoir
- Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
- Connelly Creek
- Alarka Creek (game lands boundary to mouth)
- Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)

**Transylvania County**

- French Broad River (junction of west and north forks to U.S. 276 bridge)
- Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower U.S. Forest Service boundary line)
- Middle Fork French Broad River
- West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 and S.R. 1309 intersection to junction of west and north forks)

**Watauga County**

- North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
- Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
- Meat Camp Creek
- Norris Fork Creek
- Howard Creek (downstream from lower falls)
- Middle Fork New River (Lake Chetola dam to South Fork New River)
- Stony Fork (headwaters to Wilkes Co. line)
- Elk Creek (headwaters to gravel pit on S.R. 1508, except where posted against trespassing)
- Beech Creek
- Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- Coffee Lake
- Laurel Creek
- Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1233 bridge at Amantha)
- Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
- Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)

**Wilkes County**

- East Prong Roaring River (lower state park boundary to Brewer's Mill on S.R. 1943)
- Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
- Pike Creek Pond
- Bell Branch Pond
- Boundary Line Pond
- Pike Creek
- Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
- Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
- South Fork Reddies River (headwaters to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)
- North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)
- Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)
- South Prong Lewis Fork (headwaters to Lewis Fork Baptist Church)
- Fall Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

**Yancey County**

- Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
- Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
- South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. recreation park, except where posted against trespassing)

**Wild Trout Waters**

In all Wild Trout Waters, the minimum length limit is seven inches and the creel limit is four trout per day. Only artificial lures with one single hook may be used. All Public Mountain Trout Waters located on game lands are Wild Trout Waters unless classified and posted otherwise. The following streams are also classified as Wild Trout Waters and are marked with blue-and-gold signs, which are posted conspicuously along the watercourses:

**Alleghany County**

- Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Stone Mountain Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

**Avery County**

- Birchfield Creek
- Cow Camp Creek
- Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
- Gragg Prong
- Horse Creek
- Jones Creek
- Kentucky Creek
- North Harper Creek
- Plumtree Creek
- Roaring Creek
- Rockhouse Creek
- South Harper Creek
- Webb Prong

**Burke County**

All waters located on South Mountains State Park except the main stream of Jacob Fork between the mouth of Shinny Creek and the lower park boundary and Henry Fork and its tributaries. Nettle Branch (game land portion)

**Caldwell County**

- Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including tributaries on game lands)
- Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
- Rockhouse Creek

**Graham County**

- Little Buffalo Creek
- South Fork Squally Creek
- Squally Creek

**Henderson County**

- Green River (I-26 bridge to Henderson/Polk Co. line)

**Jackson County**

- Gage Creek
- North Fork Scott Creek
- Tanasee Creek
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake)

**Mitchell County**

- Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
- Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

**Polk County**

Green River (Henderson/Polk Co. line to Fishtop Falls Access Area)

**Transylvania County**

All waters located on Gorges State Park

Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)

**Watauga County**

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

Howards Creek (headwaters to lower falls)

Watauga River (Avery Co. line to steel bridge at Riverside Farm Road)

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

**Wilkes County**

Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

**Yancey County**

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

Licksillet Creek

Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

**OTHER REGULATED TROUT WATERS**

Certain Public Mountain Trout Waters are managed under very restrictive regulations to meet specific management objectives. These waters are marked with signs that are posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

**Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lures Only Waters**

The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with purple-and-gold signs.

**Ashe County**

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

Unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek (game land portion)

**Avery County**

Wilson Creek (game land portion)

**Buncombe County**

Carter Creek (game land portion)

**Burke County**

Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

**Jackson County**

Tuckasegee River (above the Clark property)

Flat Creek

**McDowell County**

Newberry Creek (game land portion)

**Watauga County**

Dugger Creek (portions on Reynolds Blue Ridge development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at their security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)

Laurel Creek (portions on Reynolds Blue Ridge development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at their security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)

**Wilkes County**

Dugger Creek (portions on Reynolds Blue Ridge development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at their security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)

Harris Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

**Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Waters**

The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies having one single hook. No trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-and-gold signs.

**Avery County**

Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)

Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)

**Transylvania County**

Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

**Yancey County**

South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek, including tributaries)

Upper Creek (headwaters to South Toe River, including tributaries)

**Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters**

The following trout waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures with one single hook. No natural bait may be possessed, and no trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters between Oct. 1, 2010 and 30 minutes after sunset on June 3, 2011. These waters are closed to fishing between 30 minutes after sunset on June 3 and 6 a.m. on June 4. At 6 a.m. on June 4, 2011, these waters open to fishing for youths under 16 years old under Hatchery-Supported regulations—no bait restriction, no minimum length limit and seven-trout-per-day creel limit. At 12 p.m. on June 4, 2011, these waters open for all anglers under Hatchery-Supported regulations. These waters are marked with black-and-white signs.

**Ashe County**

Trout Lake

Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)

**Burke County**

Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

**Caldwell County**

Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Phillips Branch)

**Haywood County**

West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

**Henderson County**

North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)

**Jackson County**

Tuckasegee River (N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field to the Dillsboro dam)

**Macon County**

Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

**Madison County**

Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)

Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)

**McDowell County**

Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the U.S. Forest Service boundary at Deep Branch)

Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)

**Mitchell County**

Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to N.C. 80 bridge)  
North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)

**Polk County**

Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)

**Surry County**

Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)

**Transylvania County**

East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River)  
Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

**Watauga County**

Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)

**Wilkes County**

East Prong Roaring River (mouth of Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park boundary line)  
Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)  
Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)

**Wild Trout: Natural Bait Waters** The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished with artificial lures or natural bait, except live fish. Lures and natural baits are restricted to one single hook. The minimum length limit is seven inches, and the daily creel limit is four trout. These streams are marked with brown-and-gold signs.

**Cherokee County**

Bald Creek (game land portions)  
Dockery Creek (game land portions)  
**North Shoal Creek (game land portions)**

**Graham County**

Deep Creek  
Long Creek (game land portion)  
**Franks Creek**

**Haywood County**

Hemphill Creek  
Hurricane Creek (including portions of tributaries on game lands)

**Jackson County**

Buff Creek (uppermost crossing on S.R. 1457 to Scott Creek)  
Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)  
Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)  
Scotsman Creek (game land portion)  
Shoal Creek (Glenville Reservoir pipeline to mouth)  
West Fork Tuckasegee River (Shoal Creek to existing water level of Little Glenville Lake)

**Macon County**

Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)  
Jarrett Creek (game land portion)  
Kimsey Creek  
Overflow Creek (game land portion)  
Park Creek  
Tellico Creek (game land portion)  
Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)

**Madison County**

Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)

**Transylvania County**

North Fork French Broad River (game land portions downstream of S.R. 1326)  
Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)

**Special Regulation Trout Waters** The following portions of Public Mountain Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, are subject to the following special regulations. These streams are marked with white-and-red signs.

**Burke County**

Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam). The creel limit is seven trout per day; only one of which may be greater than 14 inches. No bait restrictions. No closed season.

**Mountain Heritage Trout Waters** Some Public Mountain Trout Waters running through or adjacent to certain cities or towns may be further classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Any license that provides trout fishing privileges may be used to fish on Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Resident and nonresident anglers may instead purchase a three-day Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license valid only on Heritage Trout Waters. This license is \$5 for both residents and nonresidents and can be purchased online at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or by calling (888) 248-6834, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The following waters are classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and listed by county, Mountain Heritage Trout City name and regulation type. The boundaries for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are marked with signs posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

**Avery County**

**Newland:** North Toe River (Watauga St. bridge to Roby Shomaker Wetlands and Family Recreation Park) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

**Haywood County**

**Maggie Valley:** Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to S.R. 1389 bridge) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]  
**Waynesville:** Richland Creek (Russ Avenue bridge to U.S. 23-74 bridge) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

**McDowell County**

**Old Fort:** Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]

**Mitchell County**

**Bakersville:** Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to Baker Lane bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]  
**Spruce Pine:** North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]

**Yancey County**

**Burnsville:** South Toe River (property boundaries of the Yancey County Toe River Campground) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

**Fishing on Game Lands**

- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
  - Re-stocked ponds when posted against fishing.
  - Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
  - Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
  - Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.

- In all game lands ponds, forked-tail catfish may be taken only by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is six catfish for all species combined.
- The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots, is prohibited in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow (except crossbows) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally from designated waterfowl impoundments on game lands with hand-held lines with single baits and a collapsible crab trap with a maximum opening of 18 inches. The limit is 50 crabs per person, per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

**Trout Fishing on Game Lands**

- Fishing hours in any trout waters located on game lands are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except in the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Land from the mouth of Cove Creek downstream to the natural gas pipeline crossing, where night fishing is allowed. All waters on the game lands listed below are Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:
- Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
- Nantahala National Forest Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake.
- Pisgah National Forest Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, and Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line.
- Dupont State Forest Game Land in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake.
- Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
- Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.
- South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
- Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co., except West Fork Pigeon River below Lake Logan.

- Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural pipeline crossing and Spring Creek below U.S. Forest Service Road 223.

**Blue Ridge Parkway** Angling opportunities on the Blue Ridge Parkway are managed by the National Park Service which establishes fishing regulations for parkway waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission aides with management by stocking catchable-size trout into the following waters:

County	Water
Alleghany	Brush Creek
Alleghany	Big Pine Creek
Alleghany	Meadow Fork
Avery	Linville River
Buncombe	Swannanoa River
Watauga	Middle Fork of the New River
Watauga	Price Lake

Specific fishing regulations are displayed on signs located near fishing access points, and all persons age 16 or older must possess a valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license to fish parkway waters. In addition, the parkway provides wild and catch-and-release trout fishing, as well as, angling for bass and sunfish.

For more information on fishing in parkway waters, contact: Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Telephone: (828) 271-4779, Ext. 200, or at their website: <http://www.nps.gov/blri/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

**DuPont State Forest** Night fishing is prohibited from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise in all waters on the DuPont State Forest Game Land.

**North Carolina State Parks** South Mountains State Park in Burke County, Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes and Alleghany counties and Gorges State Park in Transylvania County offer many miles of trout fishing waters. As established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for other trout streams, a valid trout license and a valid North Carolina inland fishing license are requirements in state park inland streams. A game lands license is not required. A special catch-and-release stream is located in Stone Mountain State Park with additional regulations. The possession of any type of firearms, explosives, bows and arrows, or alcoholic beverages within state parks is unlawful. Park entrance gates are opened and closed daily according to the following schedule:

November – February.....	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
March, April, September, October .....	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
May – August .....	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day	

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the following park offices:

- South Mountains State Park** (828) 433-4772
- Stone Mountain State Park** (336) 957-8185
- Gorges State Park** (828) 966-9099