



**AGENDA**  
**N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**June 5, 2025 9:00 a.m.**  
**1751 Varsity Drive**  
**NCWRC Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina**

**CALL TO ORDER** – *Chairman Monty Crump*

**This meeting is being streamed live for the public to attend and recorded as a public record. The recording of the meeting will be available at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov).**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *Commissioner Wes Seegars*

**INVOCATION** – *Commissioner John Alexander*

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT** – *Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison*

**MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY** – North Carolina General Statute §138A-15 mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquires as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman Crump*

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 17 2025 MEETING MINUTES** – Take action on the April 17, 2025 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

**FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT** – Receive Financial Status Report on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund. – *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer (EXHIBIT B)*

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

**Habitat, Nongame, and Endangered Species Committee – June 4, 2025** – *Kelly Davis, Chair*  
**Small Game and Wild Turkey Committee – June 4, 2025** – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*  
**Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee – June 4, 2025** – *Landon Zimmer, Chair*  
**Education and Communication Committee – June 4, 2025** – *Tom Haislip, Chair*  
**Committee of the Whole – June 4, 2025** – *Monty Crump, Chair*

**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – NCWRC Prescribed Burning Program – Building, Training, Innovating** – *Casey Phillips, Land and Water Access, Forestry Program Leader*

**CONSIDERATION OF NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS** – Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-335, consider appointment of members to the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee – *Kyle Briggs, Executive Director* (EXHIBIT C)

## **RULEMAKING**

**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Inland Fisheries Rules** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearings for amendments to Inland Fisheries rules. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief* (EXHIBITS D-1, D-2)

**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Land and Water Access Rules** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearings for amendments to Land and Water Access rules. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access Division Chief* (EXHIBITS E-1, E-2)

**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Wildlife Management Rules** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearings for amendments to Wildlife Management rules. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief* (EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)

**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10H .1400 Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation** – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed amendments to 10H .01401 through .1406. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Brad Howard* (EXHIBITS G-1, G-2)

**Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0325 Sea Trout** – Review public comments and consider request to adopt temporary size and creel limits for sea trout in inland waters and for hook-and-line in joint fishing waters – *Will Casola, Policy Analyst* (EXHIBITS H-1, H-2)

**Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10D .0260 Pisgah Game Land** – Review public comments and consider request to adopt temporary rules for permitted activities on the Lutz Tract of Pisgah Game Land – *Will Casola* (EXHIBITS I-1, I-2)

**COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN** – *Chairman Crump*

**COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – *Executive Director Briggs*

**ADJOURN**

## EXHIBIT A



## MINUTES April 17, 2025

### N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the April 17, 2025 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Chairman Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov).

Commissioner Joe Budd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wes Seegars gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. John Coley, Steve Windham, John Stone, John Alexander, Tom Haislip, Mike Alford, and Reid Smith were absent.

### COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Thomas Fonville	Ray Clifton	J.C. Cole
Mark Craig	Tom Berry	Kelly Davis	Joe Budd
David Hoyle	Brad Stanback	Landon Zimmer	
Wes Seegars	Jim Ruffin	Hayden Rogers	

### MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15. Commissioner Zimmer recused himself from discussion and action on **EXHIBIT G-1**.

## **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2025 MEETING**

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Tom Berry, the Minutes of the February 6, 2025 meeting was approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

**EXHIBIT A** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

*Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, presented a status report in **EXHIBIT B** on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

**ENDOWMENT FUND EXPENDABLE INCOME ALLOCATION** – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved the Calendar Year 2024 Endowment Fund Investment Income Allocation presented in **EXHIBIT C** by *Jason Cottle*

**EXHIBITS B and C** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

**Migratory Birds & Waterfowl Committee Report – April 16, 2025** – *Wes Seegars, Vice Chair*, reported the Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Committee met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*, presented the federal migratory bird hunting season frameworks and staff recommendations for the 2025–2026 migratory bird hunting seasons, including the special falconry season. He then presented staff recommendations regarding the take of peregrine falcons for use in falconry. Lastly, he provided a brief overview of the federal migratory bird regulations development process, highlighting the role of the Atlantic Flyway Council in shaping those regulations. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Rules Committee Report – April 16, 2025** – *Wes Seegars, Chair*, reported the Rules Committee met on April 16, 2025 to review the 2026-2027 annual cycle rule proposals for inland fish, land and water access, and wildlife management. All proposals will move forward for rulemaking in June. Next, the Committee received an update on the captivity rule amendments and stakeholder process. Additional information was also provided on Wildlife Service Agent Rule readoption and the release of four rules subject to legislative review this session. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Land Acquisition & Property Committee Report – April 16, 2025** – *Brad Stanback, Vice Chair* reported the Land Acquisition and Property Committee met on April 16, 2025. The Committee began by reviewing nine Phase I land acquisition proposals, totaling just over 3,000 acres. The Committee voted to approve and move these nine proposals forward for further consideration. The Committee also approved two Phase II land acquisition proposals, including a hatchery purchase

in Transylvania County, and a land donation from Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. Lastly, four other property matters were considered and approved. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Boating Safety Committee Report – April 16, 2025** – *J.C. Cole, Chair* reported the Boating Safety Committee met on April 16, 2025. *Betsy Haywood, No Wake Zone Coordinator*, walked the committee through proposed permanent rulemaking adoptions for Craven, Person, and Caswell counties. She then presented a proposed rulemaking notice of text for Caldwell County. There being no further business the committee adjourned.

**Committee of The Whole Report – April 16, 2025** – *Monty Crump, Chair* reported the Committee of the Whole met on April 16, 2025. *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, provided an update on the Endowment Fund and presented the amount of expendable income earned in 2024. He also led a discussion regarding the Endowment Fund's investment allocation, and with sufficient expendable cash available to meet agency needs for the next 36 months, the Committee decided to maintain the current allocation. *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator*, presented proposed permanent rulemaking adoptions for rules related to youth definitions and deer season. She then presented proposed temporary rulemaking adoption for sea trout harvest closure. Following discussion, the Committee recommended extending the harvest closure until June 30. Carrie continued with proposed temporary rulemaking notices of text for sea trout size and creel limits, and activities on the Lutz Tract of Pisgah Game Land. Carrie was joined by *Kathryn Jewell, Lead Social Scientist*, to provide an update on the Conservation Access Pass. After a robust discussion, the committee asked staff to develop possible Pass options for consideration at a later meeting. *Shannon Deaton, Habitat Conservation Division Chief*, gave an overview of the process underway to revise the NC Wildlife Action Plan including to solicit public input starting in early May. *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access Division Chief*, provided an update on the Black Cove Fire Complex. *Kyle Briggs, Executive Director*, shared that staff are collaborating with the U.S. Forest Service on a potential agreement for Hurricane Helene recovery work on Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. Finally, *Tamara Zmuda, General Counsel*, provided an update on a recent Court of Appeals decision in the Oates case. There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

### **AGENCY SPOTLIGHT**

**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – ENGINEERING SPOTLIGHT – Recent Capital Improvements and Construction Projects** – *Jody Reavis, Capital Projects Coordinator* and *Jim Sullivan, Facility Construction Engineer*, gave a presentation highlighting recently completed Public Fishing Accesses (PFAs), Boating Access Areas (BAAs), and Capital Improvement Projects. Highlights included the new Samarcand Training Facility, Valdese Lakeside Park PFA, the recently completed Surf City BAA, and updates on the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**2025-2026 Webless Migratory Birds, Resident Canada Geese, Extended Falconry, and Waterfowl Seasons** – On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service migratory bird season frameworks (**EXHIBIT D-1**), and the public comments received on season options (**EXHIBIT D-2**) and approved staff recommendations for the 2025-2026 Webless Migratory Birds, Resident Canada Geese, Extended Falconry, and Waterfowl Seasons (**EXHIBITS D-3, D-4**) presented by *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

**EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D-3, and D-4** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**2025 Migrant Peregrine Falconry** – On a motion by Mark Craig and second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission approved staff recommendations to establish a season for taking up to 5 migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry in 2025 presented in **EXHIBIT E** by *Brad Howard*

**EXHIBIT E** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## **LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS**

**Phase II Land Acquisition** – On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved the acquisition of the following properties presented in **EXHIBITS F-1 and F-2** by *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*:

- Harris Cove Tract – Madison County (**F-1**)
- Gladly Fork Fish Hatchery – Transylvania County (**F-2**)

**EXHIBITS F-1 and F-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Other Property Matters** – With Commissioner Landon Zimmer recused, and on a motion by Kelly Davis and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved a land trade request from the North Carolina Department of Transportation in Dare and Tyrrell Counties presented in **EXHIBIT G-1** by *Ben Solomon*:

- Land Trade – NCDOT requests a property trade in Dare and Tyrrell Counties (**G-1**)

On a motion by Tom Berry and a second by Joe Budd, the Commission approved the following other property matters presented in **EXHIBITS G-2, G-3, and G-4** by *Ben Solomon*:

- Lease Renewal – Duke Energy requests a lease renewal for the Foothills Trail on Toxaway Game Land (**G-2**)
- Disposition – Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy requests the disposition of an easement area on a property in Avery County (**G-3**)
- Easement Request – Private landowner requests an ingress and egress easement on Holly Shelter Game Land (**G-4**)

**EXHIBITS G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING**

On a motion by J.C. Cole and second by Hayden Rogers, the Commission approved the following water safety rules presented in **EXHIBITS H-2 and I-2** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*:

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County** –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT H-1)** and adopted proposed amendments to create a no-wake zone shore to shore in Brice’s Creek from north of the Brice’s Creek Bridge, south-southwestward around the Merchant’s Grocery docking facilities, fuel dock and public boat ramp, ending at a line southeast of the peninsula and sharp curves on the east side of Brice’s Creek presented in **(EXHIBIT H-2)**

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0368 Caswell and Person Counties** – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT I-1)** and adopted proposed amendments to designate responsibility for placement and maintenance of markers on Hyco Lake to the Person and Caswell Boards of Commissioners presented in **(EXHIBIT I-2)**

**EXHIBITS H-1, H-2, I-1, and I-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County** – On a motion by Joe Budd and second by Ray Clifton, the Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for a proposed amendment on Gunpowder Creek on Lake Hickory in Caldwell County, to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge on Grace Chapel Road presented in **EXHIBIT J** by *Betsy Haywood*

**EXHIBIT J** is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **RULEMAKING**

On a motion by Mark Craig and second by Hayden Rogers, the Commission approved the following rules presented in **EXHIBITS K-2 and L-2** by *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator*:

**Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10B, 10C, and 10D Rules – Youth Definitions & Deer Season** –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT K-1** and adopted proposed amendments to the 10B, 10C, and 10D rules presented in **EXHIBIT K-2**

**Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout** –The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT L-1** and adopted proposed temporary closure of the sea trout season in inland waters and for hook-and-line in joint fishing waters presented in **EXHIBIT L-2**

**EXHIBITS K-1, K-2, L-1, and L-2** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

On a motion by Brad Stanback and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission approved the following rules presented in **EXHIBITS M and N** by *Carrie Ruhlman*:

**Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout** –The Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed temporary amendments to sea trout size and creel limits in inland waters and for hook-and-line in joint fishing waters presented in **EXHIBIT M**

**Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10D .0260 Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancy Counties** – The Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed temporary amendments to the activities allowed on the Lutz Tract in Caldwell County presented in **EXHIBIT N**

**EXHIBITS M and N** are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN** – Chairman Crump reminded Commissioners of the requirement to complete their annual Statement of Economic Interest and encouraged them to stay current with their Ethics Education Training. He concluded his remarks by joining in the comments and prayers offered in memory of Migratory Game Bird Coordinator Doug Howell. Chairman Crump described Doug as a consummate professional whose long-standing service to the Commission was marked by sound judgment and a calm demeanor. He recalled Doug's participation in the most recent trip to Canada, highlighting his deep knowledge and the significant value he brought to the Commission. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for Doug's contributions and noted that he will be greatly missed.

**COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Executive Director Briggs expressed his appreciation to the Commissioners for their continued dedication and service. He acknowledged not only their visible participation in meetings, but also the significant amount of work that occurs behind the scenes, including preparation, research, and ongoing communication. He noted that both staff and he personally are grateful for the Commissioners' efforts. He recognized the Land and Water Access staff for their work during recent wildfires. He commended these staff members for performing dangerous and demanding tasks under difficult conditions. These were responsibilities that, while outside their usual scope, were carried out with professionalism due to their training and experience. He stated that their actions directly contributed to the protection of lives and property, and he expressed pride in their service. In closing, he acknowledged the recent passing of colleague Doug Howell, describing him as a friend who will be deeply missed.



**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.  
All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

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Monty Crump, Chairman

Date

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Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Date

**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**CAFR 52G - STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES and CHANGES in FUND BALANCES**

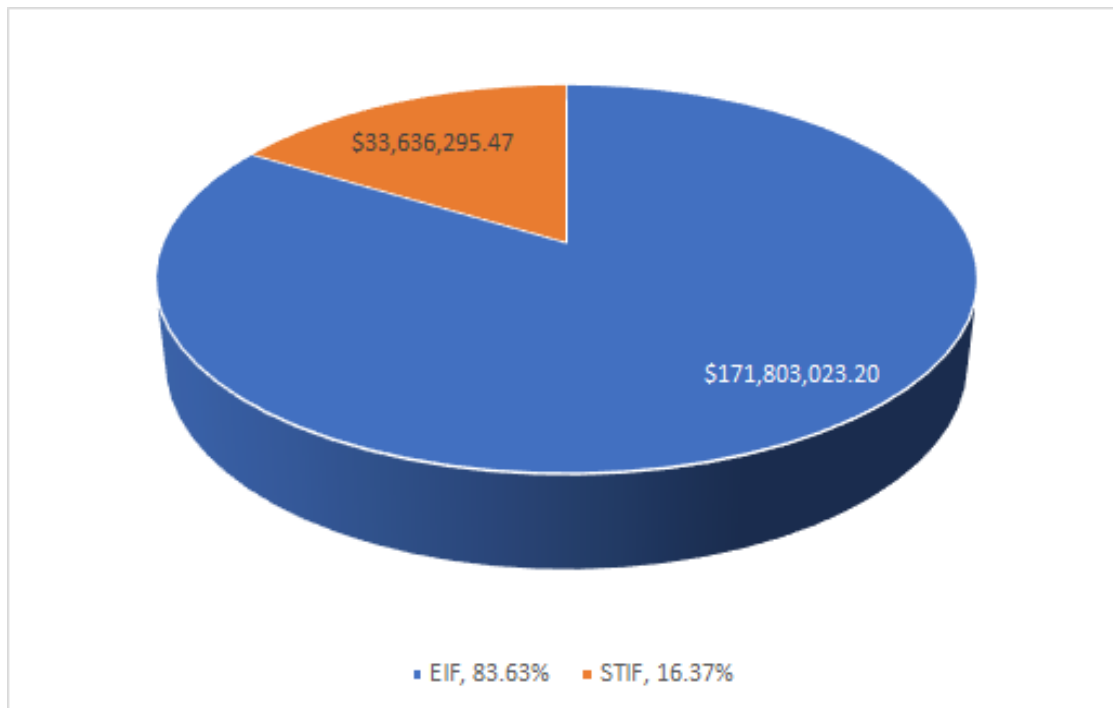
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**AS OF APR 30, 2025**

	FY 2025 General Fund	FY 2025 Capital Improvement Fund
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Federal funds	\$ 28,534,825.87	\$ 1,188,846.32
Local funds	\$ 1,663.08	\$ -
Investment earnings	\$ 580,382.96	\$ -
Sales and services	\$ 8,648,568.66	\$ -
Rental and lease of property	\$ 73,744.90	\$ -
Fees, licenses and fines	\$ 29,298,924.95	\$ -
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$ 1,393,222.49	\$ 1,006,140.14
Miscellaneous	\$ (12,329.40)	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$ 179,978.74	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$ 54,830,648.35	\$ 6,102,526.97
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$ 16,738,524.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 140,268,154.60</b>	<b>\$ 8,297,513.43</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Personal services	\$ 36,554,178.80	\$ -
Employee benefits	\$ 17,598,430.13	\$ -
Contracted personal services	\$ 13,043,459.94	\$ 290,744.27
Supplies and materials	\$ 7,282,297.33	\$ 430.35
Purchases for Resale	\$ 60,938.18	\$ -
Travel	\$ 664,637.06	\$ 319.26
Communication	\$ 807,513.94	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 579,804.76	\$ -
Data processing services	\$ 364,023.40	\$ -
Other services	\$ 4,486,177.83	\$ 7,795.00
Principal Retirement	\$ 10,458.00	\$ -
Interest and Fees	\$ 721.71	\$ -
Claims and benefits	\$ 1,335,132.00	\$ -
Other fixed charges	\$ 218,370.24	\$ 100.00
Capital outlay	\$ 9,682,238.84	\$ 6,896,970.17
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$ 2,125,499.50	\$ -
Insurance and bonding	\$ 308,446.83	\$ -
Other expenditures	\$ 3,130,519.59	\$ 19,776.38
Reimbursements	\$ (500,091.47)	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ 1,981.24	\$ -
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$ 50,421,142.00	\$ 120,881.06
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 148,175,879.85</b>	<b>\$ 7,337,016.49</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ (7,907,725.25)</b>	<b>\$ 960,496.94</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 28,742,870.36</b>	<b>\$ 4,689,552.52</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - APR 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 20,835,145.11</b>	<b>\$ 5,650,049.46</b>

# **NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO**

**Fund Balance\*: Apr 30, 2025 \$205,439,318.67**

## **ASSET ALLOCATION**



2025 April					
Status:		Principal	ANI Nonexpendable	ANI Expendable	Total
Adult	\$	92,473,175.70		\$ 67,819,278.96	\$ 160,292,454.66
Magazine	\$	1,573,477.50		\$ 981,746.26	\$ 2,555,223.76
Contributions	\$	910,376.38		\$ 3,160,160.10	\$ 4,070,536.48
Diversity	\$	363,267.91		\$ 67,002.79	\$ 430,270.70
Infant	\$	22,763,743.50	\$ 11,381,248.65		\$ 34,144,992.15
Youth	\$	3,257,661.00	\$ 1,027,778.87		\$ 4,285,439.87
					\$ 205,778,917.62
Total	\$	121,341,701.99	\$ 12,409,027.52	\$ 72,028,188.11	\$ 205,778,917.62
					\$ -
			Total from detail area >>		\$ 205,778,917.62
					\$ -

Of the amount noted above as expendable income, the figures below represent WRC's known obligations for Endowment income over the next three years:

Setzer Hatchery Renovation	\$19,700,000.00
Other Capital Projects	\$ 3,679,202.00
Other Agency Priorities	\$ 4,218,917.74
<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>\$ 4,916,226.00</u>

Remaining Available Expendable Income \$39,088,419.11

**EXHIBIT C**  
**June 5, 2025**



**CONSIDERATION OF NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §113-335, consider appointment of members to the  
Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee – M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

**NWAC Nominations - 2025**

Nominee	Seat	Nominated By	Staff Recommendation
Melissa Bahleda	Expert	Linda Kemp	
Jeff Beane	Government	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Dr. Ryan Heise	Expert	Self-Nomination	Appointment
Ella Howie	Affiliate	Self-Nomination	
Elaine Jordan	At-Large	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Dr. Michael Martin	Government	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Lauren Pharr	Expert	Jeff Beane	
Dr. Joe Poston	At-Large	Self-Nomination	Re-appointment
Dr. Carol Price	Affiliate	Self-Nomination	
Courtney Steed	Expert	Hadassah Patterson	

Governmental Affiliate

1. **Jeff Beane, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)**

**Length of NWAC membership:** since 2016

**Current Position:** Curator I/ Collections Manager for Herpetology

**Expertise:** Biology, especially herpetology, natural history, zoogeography, ecology, and conservation

2. **Dr. Michael Martin, North Carolina Department of Agriculture (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)**

**Length of NWAC membership:** since 2022

**Current Position:** Director of Veterinary Division, NC State Veterinarian

**Expertise:** Animal diseases, animal infectious diseases, and natural disasters that affect commercial and independently owned animals

### Expert Affiliate

**3. Dr. Ryan Heise, Duke Energy (*Recommended for Appointment*)**

**Current Position:** Senior Environmental Scientist, Environmental Health and Safety

**Expertise:** Technical guidance on restoration biology, stream hydrology and morphology, watershed, leadership in collaborative efforts for managing aquatic resources (e.g. Cape Fear Shiner, Robust Redhorse, Carolina Heelsplitter), Yadkin-Pee Dee River hydropower FERC relicensing, electrofishing, backpack electrofishing, and studies related to NPDES permit and Clean Water Act regulatory compliance

**4. Melissa Bahleda**

**Current Position:** *no information provided*

**Expertise:** Wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife control agent, education, wilderness search and rescue, and habitat restoration

**5. Lauren Pharr, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, NC State University**

**Current Position:** Graduate Research Assistant

**Expertise:** Behavioral ecology and conservation of birds, advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the sciences

**6. Dr. Joe Poston, Catawba College (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)**

**Length of NWAC membership:** since 2017

**Current Position:** Professor, Catawba College

**Expertise:** Courses taught Anatomy and Physiology, Animal Behavior, Behavioral Ecology, Biodiversity II, Biological Research Methods, Biology Capstone, Birds and Beans, Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, Conservation Biology, Conversation between Science and Culture in Britain 1600-2000, Ecology, Ecology and Evolution, Environmental Concepts and Issues, Evolution, Freshman Seminar, Human Origins, Marine Science, Molecules and Cells (lab), Ornithology, Ornithology Research Methods, Principles of Biology I and II, Tropical Conservation and Management, Tropical Ecology, and Vertebrate Field Zoology

**7. Courtney Steed**

**Current Position:** *no information provided*

**Expertise:** *no information provided*

### Affiliate or At-large Affiliate

**8. Ella L. Howie, Graduate**

**Current Position:** Recent Graduate – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Expertise:** Environmental awareness outreach and sustainable native plant gardens

**9. Elaine Jordan, Coastal Companies**

**Length of NWAC membership:** since 2019

**Current Position:** NC Longleaf Applied Scientist

**Expertise:** AV Preeminent peer review rating by Martindale, Leadership Brunswick County (chamber of commerce), Former Chairman, Virginia State Bar Construction & Real Estate Section, Former Chairman, Virginia Bar Association Construction & Real Estate Section, Founding director, two Virginia community banks, Former President, J. Sargent Reynolds Community College Foundation, Former Director, Base Alliance for a Sound Economy (BASE), Wilmington, NC

**10. Dr. Carol Price, NC Aquariums**

**Current Position:** Conservation Research Coordinator

**Expertise:** Sea Turtle SAFE Program Plan, Sea Turtle Conservation, Gopher Frog Head-Starting Program, Climate change, Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture in the U. S., and Marine Aquaculture

# EXHIBIT D-1

June 5, 2025



## **Proposed Amendments to Inland Fisheries Rules for 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing**

### **Public Mountain Trout Waters**

#### **1. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Reclassify 0.1 miles of Rich Branch in Buncombe County from Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to Wild Trout Waters.

#### **Justification:**

Rich Branch is located entirely on Pisgah Game Land and contains a population of wild Rainbow Trout. Most of the stream is classified by default as Wild Trout Waters. Stocking is no longer appropriate for the short reach on the lower end of Rich Branch classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters and should default to Wild Trout Waters.

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Page 7)*

#### **2. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Modify the boundaries of the following Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to represent the specific reach being stocked:

- Bent Creek in Buncombe County. The new reach will be from Rich Branch to the N.C. Arboretum boundary line.
- Cane Creek in Buncombe County. The new reach will be from S.R. 2785 to the S.R. 3138 bridge.
- Stony Creek in Buncombe County. The new reach will be from the confluence of Carter Creek and Mineral Creek to Dillingham Creek.
- West Buffalo Creek in Graham County. The new reach will be from the confluence of Squally Creek and Little Buffalo Creek to Lake Santeetlah.
- Shut-In Creek in Madison County. The new reach will be from the confluence of East Fork Shut-In Creek and West Fork Shut-In Creek to the French Board River.
- Spillcorn Creek in Madison County. The new reach will be from Baker Creek to S.R. 1330.



**Justification:**

When these waters were originally designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, the descriptions vaguely referenced the headwaters or entire stream. The proposed boundaries are more explicit and better reflect where trout are managed through stocking.

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Page 7)*

**3. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Reclassify 1.1 miles of Corner Rock Creek in Buncombe County located on Pisgah Game Land from Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to Wild Trout Waters and remove 130 yards of Corner Rock Creek downstream of the game land boundary from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:**

The reach of Corner Rock Creek located on game land contains a wild population of Rainbow Trout and would be more appropriately managed under the game land default Wild Trout Waters classification.

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Page 7)*

**4. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Swannanoa River in Buncombe County. The new reach will be from River Walk Park in Black Mountain to the Wood Avenue bridge, at the intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville, except where posted against trespassing. This proposal will remove 1.2 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:**

There is no public access on the Swannanoa River upstream of River Walk Park, and trout are not stocked in that reach. This change will better reflect where trout are managed through stocking.

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Page 7)*

**Mountain Trout****5. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Allow year-round fishing with no closed season on Hatchery Supported Trout Waters impoundments regardless of whether they are used for hydropower production or municipal water supply.

**Justification:**

Currently, the NCAC allows for an exception to the closed season for fishing on impoundments classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters which are hydropower reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs. Impoundments to which the exception applies are

listed in the NCAC. However, there are reservoirs classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters that are neither used for hydropower nor water supply for which the exception should apply. Cliffside Lake is one example, and the US Forest Service, the landowner, has requested that Cliffside Lake remain open to fishing year-round with no closed season. Removing the criteria applying only to power and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs will allow the flexibility to provide additional angling opportunities on Hatchery Supported Trout Waters impoundments, if deemed appropriate.

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Page 7)*  
*15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT (Page 26)*

**6. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Add the Cullowhee Dam Impoundment to the list of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters impoundments which are open for fishing year-round with no closed season.

**Justification:**

Cullowhee Dam impounds 0.5 miles of the Tuckasegee River in the Town of Cullowhee in Jackson County and was used for water supply until a few years ago. Prior to the 2015-2016 regulation cycle, the specific impoundments classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to which the exception to the closed season for fishing apply were not listed in the NCAC. Previously, the exception was applied to the Cullowhee Dam Impoundment, but due to the change in operation, the impoundment is not listed currently in the NCAC. Confusion among anglers has occurred as they were accustomed to the impoundment not having a closed season and were uninformed about the change. With the proposed change to eliminate the exception applying only to power and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs, adding the Cullowhee Dam Impoundment to the list of reservoirs classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters for which there is no closed season for fishing would be appropriate.

*15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (Page 7)*

**Fishing on Game Lands**

**7. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Designate waters on South Mountains Game Land in Burke and McDowell counties as Public Mountain Trout Waters and classify them as Wild Trout Waters.

**Justification:**

Wild Trout Waters regulations already apply to waters on South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties. This change will clarify that Wild Trout Waters regulations apply to waters on the entire game land.

*15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS (Page 32)*

## **Bass**

### **8. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Remove the daily creel and establish that no more than five fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed in Lake Cammack in Alamance County.

#### **Justification:**

Routine surveys, including the most recent (2023), indicate that the Lake Cammack Largemouth Bass population remains stunted with only a small percentage of the population greater than 14 inches. This condition has persisted for more than 20 years. Anglers often express displeasure with the quality of the fishery in conversations with Inland Fisheries staff. This change would allow for the harvest of smaller Largemouth Bass from the reservoir which should reduce crowding of smaller fish and allow the remaining Largemouth Bass grow to larger average sizes.

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS (Page 24)*

### **9. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Remove the daily creel limit, a protective slot limit of 14 to 22 inches, and possession restriction for fish greater than 22 inches for Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia).

#### **Justification:**

Size and creel limits have been removed for Spotted Bass and Alabama Bass in both North Carolina and Virginia. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources jointly manage this section of the New River with Wildlife Resources Commission because it meanders between each state multiple times. This change will make black bass size and creel limits on the New River consistent with other rules in North Carolina and Virginia.

*15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS (Page 24)*

*15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS (Page 29)*

*15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS (Page 30)*

### **10. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Remove the minimum size limit of 14 inches for White Bass. The creel limit of 10 fish per day will be retained.

#### **Justification:**

A minimum size limit of 14 inches and a daily creel limit of 10 fish was established beginning August 1, 2017. The goal of this regulation was to protect White Bass up to two years old and to increase the size structure and age structure of these populations. Results from recent surveys on the Yadkin and Eno rivers indicate that less than 10 percent of the fish collected are greater than or equal to 14 inches total length indicating the regulation has not resulted in an increased size or age structure. Retaining the current daily creel limit will help prevent overharvest in these fisheries.

*15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS (Page 28)*

## **Spotted Sea Trout**

### **11. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Establish a no possession slot limit from 20 to 26 inches and reduce the daily creel limit from four fish per person to three fish with only one fish greater than 26 inches for Spotted Seatrout in inland and joint fishing waters. The minimum size limit of 14 inches will be retained.

#### **Justification:**

The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries has determined Spotted Seatrout is experiencing overfishing, and the Spotted Seatrout Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 1 indicates harvest reductions are required. This change is consistent with the FMP as adopted by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission at their March 2025 business meeting. This change is designed to decrease overfishing within two years and will maintain consistency in Spotted Seatrout regulations across inland, joint, and coastal fishing waters.

*15A NCAC 10C .0325 SPOTTED SEA TROUT (Page 31)*

## **Spawning Areas**

### **12. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Prohibit fishing from March 1 to May 31 in the recently constructed Kings Bridge floodplain slough (35.377100 N, -82.530389 W) connected to the French Broad River 0.6 miles downstream of the NC 191 (Haywood Road) bridge in Henderson County.

#### **Justification:**

Closure of the Kings Bridge slough to fishing during the Muskellunge spawning season would prevent targeted angling and the potential harvest of Muskellunge during their spawning period. Construction of the Kings Bridge backwater slough was conducted specifically to restore spawning and nursery areas for adult and juvenile Muskellunge to promote natural reproduction and recruitment of juvenile fish to the population. The French Broad River Muskellunge population currently has extremely limited to no natural reproduction or measurable recruitment. The population has been supported by hatchery produced Muskellunge since 1970.

*15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS (Page 21)*

## **Possession of Certain Fishes**

### **13. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Add Asian Pond Mussel (any species of the genus *Sinanodonta*) and Golden Mussel (any species of the genus *Limnoperna*) to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina.

**Justification:**

Asian Pond Mussel and Golden Mussel are species native to Russia, China, and southeast Asia that can result in dense colonization. Asian Pond Mussels pose a serious threat to native populations of mussels from the family Unionidae. Similar in appearance and biology to Zebra and Quagga Mussels, Golden Pond Mussels can cause extensive ecological and economic harm if introduced. These species have recently been found in North America. There is concern of their spread throughout the United States.

*15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES (Page 22)*

1   **15A NCAC 10C .0205   PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

2   (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following manners of take definitions apply:

- 3           (1)    "Natural bait" means a living or dead plant or animal, or parts thereof, or prepared substances  
4                   designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 5           (2)    "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- 6           (3)    "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by a substance that  
7                   attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8           (4)    "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or a similar  
9                   material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon, or similar device is added.
- 10          ~~(5)    "Youth anglers" are individuals under 16 years of age.~~

11   (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications and  
12   restrictions apply:

- 13           (1)    "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are the waters included in Paragraph (d) of this Rule and those  
14                   designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104.
- 15           (2)    "Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters  
16                   where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. ~~No trout may be possessed~~  
17                   ~~or harvested while fishing these streams.~~ Waters with this designation include tributaries unless  
18                   otherwise noted.
- 19           (3)    "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and  
20                   one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful  
21                   to possess natural ~~bait, bait or~~ use more than one single hook on an artificial lure. ~~lure, or harvest or~~  
22                   ~~possess trout while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth~~  
23                   ~~anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday~~  
24                   in June until September 30, ~~October 1,~~ anglers may fish these waters with no bait or lure restrictions.  
25                   Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 26           (4)    "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure  
27                   restrictions. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted. Fishing  
28                   is prohibited from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April, except in the impounded  
29                   waters of the following reservoirs:

30           (A)    Bear Creek Lake;

31           (B)    Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

32           (C)    Calderwood Reservoir;

33           (D)    Cedar Cliff Lake;

34           (E)    Cheoah Reservoir;

35           (F)    Cliffside Lake;

36           (G)    Cullowhee Dam Impoundment, from the S.R. 1731 bridge downstream to the Cullowhee  
37                   Dam;

- (H) Tanassee Creek Lake;  
(I) Queens Creek Lake; and  
(J) Wolf Lake.

(5) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific regulations apply. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

(6) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters identified in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

(7) "Undesignated Waters" are the other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions.

~~(c) Seasons, creel, and size limits.~~ Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.

~~(d) Classifications.~~ This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. The other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

(1) Alleghany

(A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Pine Creek

Bledsoe Creek

Brush Creek from the N.C. 21 bridge to the confluence with the Little River, except where posted against trespassing

Cranberry Creek

Glade Creek

Little River from 400 yards upstream of the S.R. 1128 bridge, marked by a sign on each bank, to McCann Dam

Meadow Fork

Pine Swamp Creek

Piney Fork

Prathers Creek

(B) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

(2) Ashe County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

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

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River

- 1 Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both  
2 banks to a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536  
3 South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge  
4 Trout Lake
- 5 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
6 Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek  
7 Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge  
8 Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New  
9 River  
10 Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge  
11 Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River  
12 Nathans Creek  
13 North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam  
14 Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River  
15 Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research  
16 Station to Trout Lake  
17 Roan Creek  
18 Three Top Creek
- 19 (3) Avery County
- 20 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
21 Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond  
22 Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek  
23 Wilson Creek, the game land portion
- 24 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
25 Boyde Coffey Lake  
26 Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee  
27 state line  
28 Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where  
29 posted against trespassing  
30 Milltimber Creek  
31 North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational  
32 Park, except where posted against trespassing  
33 North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against  
34 trespassing  
35 Squirrel Creek  
36 Wildcat Lake
- 37 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:



- 1 Birchfield Creek  
2 Cow Camp Creek  
3 Cranberry Creek from the headwaters to the U.S. 19E, N.C. 194, bridge  
4 Gragg Prong  
5 Horse Creek  
6 Kentucky Creek  
7 North Harper Creek  
8 Plumtree Creek  
9 Roaring Creek  
10 Rockhouse Creek  
11 Shawneehaw Creek, the portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway  
12 South Harper Creek  
13 Webb Prong
- (4) Buncombe County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
Carter Creek, the game land portion
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Bent Creek from ~~the headwaters~~ Rich Branch to the N.C. Arboretum boundary line  
Cane Creek from ~~the headwaters~~ S.R. 2785 bridge to the S.R. 3138 bridge  
~~Corner Rock Creek from Little Andy Creek to the confluence with Walker Branch~~  
Dillingham Creek from Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek  
Ivy Creek from Dillingham Creek to the U.S. 19-23 bridge  
Lake Powhatan  
Reems Creek from Sugar Camp Fork to the U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing  
~~Rich Branch from downstream of the confluence with Rocky Branch~~  
Stony Creek from the confluence of Carter Creek and Mineral Creek downstream to Dillingham Creek  
Swannanoa from ~~the S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest~~ River Walk Park in Black Mountain to the Wood Avenue bridge, at the intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville, except where posted against trespassing
- (5) Burke County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
Henry Fork, the portion on South Mountains State Park
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Jacob Fork from Shinny Creek to the lower South Mountains State Park boundary
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Carroll Creek, the game land portion above S.R. 1405  
2 ~~Henry Fork from the lower South Mountain State Park line to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek~~  
3 Linville River, ~~the portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and~~ the portion below  
4 Lake James powerhouse from the upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek
- 5 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:  
6 Catawba River from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam
- 7 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 The waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts  
9 (A) and (B) of this Subparagraph
- 10 (6) Caldwell County
- 11 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 Wilson Creek, the game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch
- 13 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
14 Boone Fork Pond  
15 Buffalo Creek from the mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch  
16 Joes Creek from the first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to the confluence with Buffalo Creek  
17 Wilson Creek from Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted  
18 against trespassing  
19 Yadkin River from the Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515
- 20 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
21 Buffalo Creek from the Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land  
22 tributaries  
23 Joes Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574  
24 Rockhouse Creek
- 25 (7) Cherokee County
- 26 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
27 Davis Creek from the confluence of Bald Creek and Dockery Creek to Hanging Dog Creek  
28 Hyatt Creek from Big Dam Branch to the Valley River  
29 Junaluska Creek from Ashturn Creek to the Valley River  
30 Shuler Creek from the Joe Brown Hwy, S.R. 1325 bridge, to the Tennessee state line  
31 Valley River from S.R. 1359 to the U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy
- 32 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Apalachia Reservoir
- 34 (8) Clay County
- 35 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
36 Fires Creek from Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area
- 37 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Buck Creek, the game land portion downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge  
2 Fires Creek from the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300  
3 Tusquitee Creek from Compass Creek to the lower S.R. 1300 bridge
- 4 (9) Graham County
- 5 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
6 Snowbird Creek from the USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579
- 7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line  
9 Cheoah Reservoir  
10 Panther Creek from the confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana  
11 Santeetlah Creek from Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah  
12 Snowbird Creek from USFS Rd. 2579 to the S.R. 1127 bridge  
13 Stecoah Creek from the upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana  
14 Tulula Creek from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275  
15 West Buffalo Creek from the confluence of Squally Creek and Little Buffalo Creek  
16 downstream to Lake Santeetlah  
17 Yellow Creek from Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to the Cheoah River
- 18 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Little Buffalo Creek  
20 South Fork Squally Creek  
21 Squally Creek
- 22 (10) Haywood County
- 23 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
24 West Fork Pigeon River from Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of  
25 Lake Logan
- 26 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
27 Cold Springs Creek from Fall Branch to the Pigeon River  
28 Jonathan Creek from upstream of the S.R. 1302 bridge to the Pigeon River, except where  
29 posted against trespassing  
30 Pigeon River from Stamey Cove Branch to the upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge  
31 Richland Creek from the Russ Avenue, U.S. 276, bridge to the U.S. 19 bridge  
32 West Fork Pigeon River from Tom Creek to Queen Creek
- 33 (11) Henderson County
- 34 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
35 North Fork Mills River, the game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam
- 36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
37 Broad River from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford Co. line

- 1 Cane Creek from the railroad bridge upstream of the S.R. 1551 bridge to the U.S. 25 bridge  
2 Clear Creek from Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582  
3 Green River from the Lake Summit powerhouse to the game land boundary  
4 Hungry River from ~~S.R. 1885~~ Little Hungry River to the Green River
- 5 (12) Jackson County
- 6 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
7 Flat Creek  
8 Tuckasegee River, the game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including the  
9 Duke Energy powerline corridor  
10 Tuckasegee River the portion upstream from the Clark property
- 11 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 Tuckasegee River from downstream of the N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards  
13 upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks
- 14 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
15 Balsam Lake  
16 Bear Creek Lake  
17 Cedar Cliff Lake  
18 Cullowhee Creek from Tilley Creek to the Tuckasegee River  
19 Dark Ridge Creek from Jones Creek to Scott Creek  
20 Greens Creek from Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek  
21 Savannah Creek from Shell Branch to Cagle Branch  
22 Scott Creek from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River, except where posted against  
23 trespassing  
24 Tanasee Creek Lake  
25 Tuckasegee River from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge  
26 Tuckasegee River from the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge,  
27 marked by a sign on both banks, to the S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmont  
28 Wolf Creek Lake
- 29 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
30 Gage Creek  
31 North Fork Scott Creek  
32 Tanasee Creek  
33 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line  
34 Wolf Creek except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake
- 35 (13) Macon County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
37 Nantahala River from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Burningtown Creek from Left Prong to the Little Tennessee River  
Cartoogechaye Creek from downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge to the Little Tennessee River  
Cliffside Lake  
Cullasaja River from Sequoyah Dam to the U.S. 64 bridge near the junction of S.R. 1672  
Nantahala River from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek  
Nantahala River from the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to the Swain Co. line  
Queens Creek Lake

(14) Madison County

(A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Big Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge  
Shelton Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek  
Spring Creek from the N.C. 209 bridge at the Hot Springs city limits to the iron bridge at end of Andrews Ave.

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Big Laurel Creek from Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318, Big Laurel Rd., bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch  
Big Pine Creek from the S.R. 1151 bridge to the French Broad River  
Little Ivy Creek from the confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to the confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy  
Max Patch Pond  
Meadow Fork Creek from Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek  
Puncheon Fork from Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek  
Roaring Fork from Fall Branch to Meadow Fork  
Shelton Laurel Creek from the confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva  
Shut-in Creek from the confluence of East Fork Shut-in Creek and West Fork Shut-in Creek to the French Broad River  
Spillcorn Creek from Baker Creek to the S.R. 1330 bridge  
Spring Creek from the junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow Fork  
West Fork Shut-in Creek from the lower game land boundary to the confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek

(15) McDowell County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
Newberry Creek, the game land portion

- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Catawba River, the portion adjacent to the Marion Greenway  
Curtis Creek, the game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch  
Mill Creek from the U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Armstrong Creek from the Cato Holler line downstream to the upper Greenlee line  
Catawba River from the Catawba Falls Campground to the Old Fort Recreation Park  
Little Buck Creek, the game land portion  
North Fork Catawba River from the headwaters to North Cove School at the S.R. 1569 bridge
- (16) Mitchell County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Cane Creek from the N.C. 226 bridge to the S.R. 1189 bridge  
North Toe River from the U.S. 19E bridge to the N.C. 226 bridge
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Big Rock Creek from the headwaters to ~~the N.C. 226 bridge at the S.R. 1307 intersection~~  
the S.R. 1325 bridge  
Cane Creek from S.R. 1219 to the N.C. 226 bridge  
East Fork Grassy Creek  
Grassy Creek from East Fork Grassy Creek to the mouth  
~~Little Rock Creek from the Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing~~  
North Toe River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1121 bridge
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
Green Creek from the headwaters to the Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing  
Little Rock Creek the portion upstream of the Green Creek bridge, including the tributaries, except where posted against trespassing  
Wiles Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
- (17) Polk County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Green River from the Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Green River from the mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing  
North Pacolet River from Joels Creek to the N.C. 108 bridge
- (18) Rutherford County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Broad River from the Henderson Co. line to the U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted  
2 against trespassing
- 3 (19) Stokes County
- 4 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 Dan River from the Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of  
6 S.R. 1421
- 7 (20) Surry County
- 8 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 9 Ararat River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway downstream of the N.C.  
10 103 bridge
- 11 Mitchell River from 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge  
12 on S.R. 1330
- 13 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Ararat ~~River from the S.R. 1727 bridge to~~ River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River  
15 Greenway upstream of the N.C. 103 bridge
- 16 Big Elkin Creek from the dam 440 yards upstream of the N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265  
17 yards downstream of N.C. 268, marked by a sign on both banks
- 18 Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the I-77 bridge
- 19 Little Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the N.C. 89 bridge
- 20 Lovills Creek from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River
- 21 Pauls Creek from the Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below the S.R. 1625 bridge
- 22 (21) Swain County
- 23 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 Tuckasegee River from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge
- 25 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 Alarka Creek from the game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir
- 27 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
- 28 Cheoah Reservoir
- 29 Connelly Creek from Camp Branch to the Tuckasegee River
- 30 Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to the  
31 Tuckasegee River
- 32 Nantahala River from the Macon Co. line to the existing Fontana Lake water level
- 33 (22) Transylvania County
- 34 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Davidson River from the headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking  
36 Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch
- 37 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

1 East Fork French Broad River from East Fork Baptist Church to ~~the~~ 350 yards downstream  
2 S.R. 1107 of Whitmire Falls, marked by a sign on both banks ~~bridge~~

3 Little River from the confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls

4 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

5 Davidson River from Avery Creek to the lower USFS boundary

6 French Broad River from the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West  
7 Fork

8 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd., S.R. 1110, Access Area

9 Middle Fork French Broad River from upstream of the U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad  
10 River

11 West Fork French Broad River from S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French  
12 Broad River

13 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

14 The waters located on Gorges State Park

15 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line

16 (23) Watauga County

17 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

18 Laurel Creek from the confluence of North Fork Laurel Creek and South Fork Laurel Creek  
19 to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries

20 Pond Creek from the headwaters to the Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond  
21 adjacent to Coffee Lake

22 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

23 Lake Coffey

24 Watauga River from the S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower  
25 boundary

26 Watauga River from the S.R. 1103 bridge to the confluence with Laurel Creek

27 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

28 Beaverdam Creek from the confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek  
29 to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203

30 Beech Creek

31 Buckeye Creek from Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek

32 Buckeye Creek Reservoir

33 Cove Creek from the S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to the S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood

34 Dutch Creek from the second S.R. 1136 bridge to the mouth

35 Elk Creek from the S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to the Wilkes Co. line, except where posted  
36 against trespassing

37 Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1123 bridge at the S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River



- 1 Meat Camp Creek from the S.R. 1340 bridge at the S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194  
2 Middle Fork New River from adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to the  
3 South Fork New River  
4 Norris Fork Creek  
5 South Fork New River from the canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to the  
6 lower boundary of Brookshire Park  
7 Stony Fork from the S.R. 1500 bridge at the S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes Co. line  
8 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Dutch Creek from the headwaters to the second S.R. 1136 bridge  
10 Howard Creek  
11 Maine Branch from the headwaters to the North Fork New River  
12 North Fork New River from the confluence with Maine Branch and Mine Branch to the  
13 Ashe Co. line  
14 Winkler Creek from the lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to the confluence with the South Fork  
15 New River  
16 (24) Wilkes County  
17 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower  
19 boundary  
20 Elk Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain  
21 Club  
22 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development  
23 Reddies River from the Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to the confluence  
24 with the Yadkin River  
25 Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the  
26 East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek  
27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Basin Creek from the S.R. 1730 bridge to the confluence with Lovelace Creek  
29 Bell Branch Pond  
30 Boundary Line Pond  
31 Cub Creek from 0.5 miles upstream of the S.R. 2460 bridge to the S.R. 1001 bridge  
32 Darnell Creek from the downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to the confluence with the North  
33 Fork Reddies River  
34 East Prong Roaring River from the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to the Low  
35 Meadows Lane bridge  
36 Fall Creek from the S.R. 1300 bridge to the confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork,  
37 except where posted against trespassing

Middle Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the bridge on S.R. 1580  
 Middle Prong Roaring River from the headwaters to the second bridge on S.R. 1736  
 North Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the Union School bridge on S.R. 1559  
 Pike Creek  
 Pike Creek Pond  
 South Fork Reddies River from the S.R. 1355 bridge to the confluence with the Middle  
 Fork Reddies River  
 South Prong Lewis Fork from Fall Creek to the U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155  
 intersection  
 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from  
 Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest  
 Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany  
 Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone  
 Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply  
 (25) Yancey County  
 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
 South Toe River from the headwaters to Upper Creek  
 Upper Creek  
 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
 Cane River from Blackberry Ridge Rd. to the downstream boundary of Cane River County  
 Park  
 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
 Bald Mountain Creek, except where posted against trespassing  
 Cane River from Bee Branch, S.R. 1110, to Bowlens Creek  
 Price Creek from the junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek  
 South Toe River from Clear Creek to the lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation  
 Park, except where posted against trespassing  
 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
 Cattail Creek from the bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to the N.C. 197 bridge  
 Lickskillet Creek  
 Middle Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*  
*October 1, 1992;*

1                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
2                   *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
3                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
4                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*  
5                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
6                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
7                   *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
8                   *2003);*  
9                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
10                  *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
11                  *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
12                  *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
13                  *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021;*  
14                  *August 1, 2020.*  
15

**15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS**

(a) No person shall fish from March 1 to May 31 in the following restored floodplain sloughs ~~connected to the French Broad River and Mud Creek~~ in Henderson County:

- (1) Mud Creek Slough 1 at 35.403687 N, 82.531970 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd. (S.R. 1345).
- (2) Mud Creek Slough 2 at 35.398380 N, 82.528750 W connected to the French Broad River, located 1.0 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd.
- (3) Mud Creek Slough 3 at 35.396449 N, 82.525462 W connected to Mud Creek, located 0.1 miles upstream from confluence with the French Broad River.
- (4) Pleasant Grove slough at 35.298384 N, 82.584716 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles upstream from S.R. 1205, Etowah School Road.
- (5) King's Bridge slough at 35.377100 N, 82.530389 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.6 miles downstream from N.C. Hwy 191, Haywood Road.

(b) Each slough shall be marked with signs on both banks.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

*Amended Eff. May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1989; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;*

*Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

2 (a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina  
3 any live individuals of:

- 4 (1) African longfin eel (*Anguilla mossambica*);
- 5 (2) amur sleeper (*Perccottus glenii*);
- 6 (3) applesnail (any species of the genus *Pomacea*);
- 7 (4) Asian pond mussel (any species of the genus *Sinanodonta*)
- 8 ~~(4)(5)~~ Asian swamp eel, swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- 9 ~~(5)(6)~~ Australian red claw crayfish or red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species in the genus  
10 *Cherax*);
- 11 ~~(6)(7)~~ bigclaw crayfish (*Faxonius placidus*);
- 12 ~~(7)(8)~~ bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- 13 ~~(8)(9)~~ black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- 14 ~~(9)(10)~~ brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*);
- 15 ~~(10)(11)~~ Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*);
- 16 ~~(11)(12)~~ Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*);
- 17 ~~(12)(13)~~ Crucian Carp (*Carassius carassius*);
- 18 ~~(13)(14)~~ European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*);
- 19 ~~(14)(15)~~ European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*);
- 20 ~~(15)(16)~~ European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*);
- 21 (17) golden mussel (any species of the genus *Limnoperna*);
- 22 ~~(16)(18)~~ Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 23 ~~(17)(19)~~ marbled Crayfish or Marmorkrebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*);
- 24 ~~(18)(20)~~ olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*);
- 25 ~~(19)(21)~~ Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*);
- 26 ~~(20)(22)~~ piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*);
- 27 ~~(21)(23)~~ Prussian Carp (*Carassius gibelio*);
- 28 ~~(22)(24)~~ quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*;
- 29 ~~(23)(25)~~ red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 30 ~~(24)(26)~~ red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*);
- 31 ~~(25)(27)~~ redbelly catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*);
- 32 ~~(26)(28)~~ round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 33 ~~(27)(29)~~ rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus* or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*);
- 34 ~~(28)(30)~~ ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*);
- 35 ~~(29)(31)~~ rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*);
- 36 ~~(30)(32)~~ shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*);
- 37 ~~(31)(33)~~ silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);

~~(32)~~(34) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);  
~~(33)~~(35) tubenose goby (Proterorhinus marmoratus, Proterorhinus semilunaris, and Proterorhinus semipellucidus);  
~~(34)~~(36) virile crayfish (Faxonius virilis);  
~~(35)~~(37) walking catfish (any member of the genus Batrachus);  
~~(36)~~(38) white amur or grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella), except for triploid individuals as permitted in Paragraph (b) of this Rule;  
~~(37)~~(39) yellow bass (Morone mississippiensis); or  
~~(38)~~(40) zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha).

(b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

(c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring, in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
*Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0305    LARGEMOUTH BASS**

(a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (l), (m), ~~and (n) (n), and (o)~~ of this Rule.

(b) There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through ~~(n)~~ (o) of this Rule.

(c) There is no closed season, except in waters identified in Paragraph (n) of this Rule.

(d) ~~In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and~~ Lake Holt in Granville County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

(e) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in aggregate.

(f) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.

(g) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the following waters:

(1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

(2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;

(3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;

(4) New Lake in Hyde County; and

(5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and their tributaries, including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the N.C. Hwy 264/45 bridge, and the other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

(h) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

(i) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches, and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

(j) In Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass. No more than two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

(k) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.

(l) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth ~~Bass, Bass and~~ Smallmouth ~~Bass, and Spotted~~ Bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and one Largemouth ~~Bass, Bass or~~ Smallmouth ~~Bass, or Spotted~~ Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

(m) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches and one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

(n) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores in Dare County and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

(o) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, and only five Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*  
*Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
*Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*  
*March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*  
*2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*



1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT**

2 (a) Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

3 (1) The daily creel limit for trout ~~in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters~~ is seven fish.

4 (2) There is no minimum size ~~limit. limit for these fish.~~

5 (3) The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except in the reservoirs  
6 identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0205 where trout may be taken year-round. March 1, except for waters  
7 designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

8 (b) Wild Trout Waters.

9 (1) The daily creel limit for trout ~~in Wild Trout Waters~~ is four fish.

10 (2) The minimum size limit ~~for these fish~~ is seven inches.

11 (3) There is no closed season.

12 (c) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters. No trout shall be harvested ~~from Catch and~~  
13 ~~Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters.~~ Trout shall not be or possessed while fishing these waters.

14 (d) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters. ~~The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There~~  
15 ~~is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6:00 a.m. on~~  
16 ~~the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season individuals under 16 years of age may fish.~~  
17 ~~From 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open~~  
18 ~~for anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout shall~~  
19 ~~not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to fishing from~~  
20 ~~one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.~~

21 (1) From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout  
22 shall not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters.

23 (2) Only individuals under 16 years of age may fish from 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until  
24 12 p.m. that same day.

25 (A) The daily creel limit for trout is seven fish.

26 (B) There is no minimum size limit.

27 (3) The open season is from 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30.

28 (A) The daily creel limit for trout is seven fish.

29 (B) There is no minimum size limit.

30 (e) Special Regulation Trout Waters. ~~The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation~~  
31 ~~Trout Waters are as follows:~~

32 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County)

33 (A) ~~the~~ The daily creel limit for trout is three trout fish.

34 (B) There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches.

35 (C) There is no closed season.

36 (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam

37 (A) ~~the~~ The daily creel limit for trout is two fish.

1                   (B)       The minimum size limit is 14 inches.

2                   (C)       There is no closed season.

3 (f) Undesignated Waters.

4           (1)       The daily creel limit ~~for trout in undesignated trout waters~~ is seven fish.

5           (2)       There is no minimum size limit. ~~limit for these fish.~~

6           (3)       There is no closed season.

7 ~~(g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the~~  
8 ~~impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally owned water supply reservoirs open to the~~  
9 ~~public for fishing.~~

10           (1) ~~—— Bear Creek Lake;~~

11           (2) ~~—— Buckeye Creek Reservoir;~~

12           (3) ~~—— Calderwood Reservoir;~~

13           (4) ~~—— Cedar Cliff Lake;~~

14           (5) ~~—— Cheoah Reservoir;~~

15           (6) ~~—— Cliffside Lake;~~

16           (7) ~~—— Tanassee Creek Lake;~~

17           (8) ~~—— Queens Creek Lake; and~~

18           (9) ~~—— Wolf Lake.~~

19 ~~(h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing~~  
20 ~~season.~~

21 ~~(g)(i)~~ Trout water classifications ~~designations~~ and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

23 *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

24 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*

26 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS**

(a) The daily creel limit for white bass is 10 fish.

(b) There is ~~a 14 inch~~ no minimum size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

*Eff. November 1, 2013.*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 2017;*

*Readopted Eff. March 15, 2023.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

(a) The daily creel limit for smallmouth bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Rule.

(b) There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Rule.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in aggregate.

(e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass.

(f) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily creel limit for largemouth ~~bass, bass and~~ bass and smallmouth ~~bass, and spotted~~ bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one largemouth ~~bass, bass or~~ bass or smallmouth ~~bass, or spotted~~ bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
*Eff. August 1, 2020;*  
*Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*

1    **15A NCAC 10C .0322    ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

2    (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama bass or spotted bass, except for waters identified in ~~Paragraphs (d) and~~  
3    ~~(e) Paragraph (d)~~ of this Rule.

4    (b) There is no minimum size limit.

5    (c) There is no closed season.

6    (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and  
7    spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

8    ~~(e) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily~~  
9    ~~creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size~~  
10   ~~limit for spotted bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one largemouth bass,~~  
11   ~~smallmouth bass, or spotted bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.~~

12  
13   *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
14                    *Eff. August 1, 2020;*  
15                    *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT**

(a) The daily creel limit for sea trout (spotted or speckled) is ~~four~~ three fish.

(b) The minimum size limit is ~~14 inches~~ inches, but no fish between 20 and 26 inches in length may be possessed and only one sea trout greater than 26 inches may be possessed.

(c) There is no closed season.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*

*Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*

*Eff. March 15, 2023.*

1    **15A NCAC 10D .0104    FISHING ON GAME LANDS**

2    (a) Game lands are open to public fishing except:

- 3           (1)     restocked ponds when posted against fishing;
- 4           (2)     Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge;
- 5           (3)     Cedar Rock Creek, Grogan Creek, and John Rock Branch, in Transylvania County; and
- 6           (4)     private ponds where fishing is prohibited by the owners.

7    (b) No trotline, set-hook, net, trap, gig, or other special fishing device mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(b),(c),(d),  
8    and (f) may be used in impounded waters located entirely on game lands.

9    (c) Archery equipment may be used to take nongame fishes in impounded waters located entirely on game lands  
10   except for those waters mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(a).

11   (d) Waters located on the following game lands ~~listed in this Subparagraph~~ are designated as public mountain trout  
12   ~~waters except as noted. waters:~~

- 13           (1)     Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.
- 14           (2)     DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except:
- 15                 (A)     Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the DuPont State
- 16                         Forest boundary;
- 17                 (B)     Lake Imaging;
- 18                 (C)     Lake Dense;
- 19                 (D)     Lake Alfred;
- 20                 (E)     Lake Julia; and
- 21                 (F)     Fawn Lake.
- 22           (3)     Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, except Green River downstream of the
- 23                         natural gas pipeline crossing.
- 24           (4)     Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County.
- 25           (5)     Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and
- 26                         Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee
- 27                         Lake.
- 28           (6)     Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson,
- 29                         Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties, except:
- 30                 (A)     Cedar Rock Creek, Grogan Creek, and John Rock Branch;
- 31                 (B)     North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek;
- 32                 (C)     Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River;
- 33                 (D)     Mill Ridge Pond;
- 34                 (E)     Nolichucky River;
- 35                 (F)     Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line; and
- 36                 (G)     Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223.
- 37           (7)     Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.

- 1 (8) Little Fork State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County.  
2 (9) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties.  
3 (10) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.  
4 (11) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County.  
5 (12) Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County.  
6 (13) William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County.  
7 (e) The designated public mountain trout waters ~~located on the game lands listed~~ identified in Paragraph (d) of this  
8 Rule are Wild Trout Waters unless classified otherwise in 15A NCAC 10C .0205(d).  
9

10 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305;  
11 Eff. February 1, 1976;  
12 Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;  
13 July 1, 1992;  
14 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;  
15 Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);  
16 Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;  
17 Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2010;  
18 May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004;  
19 Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023.  
20  
21



# EXHIBIT D-2

June 5, 2025



## Fiscal Note for 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission - Inland Fisheries

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS  
15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS  
15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES  
15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS  
15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT  
15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS  
15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS  
15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS  
15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT  
15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS

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**Fiscal Impact:** State Government: Yes  
Local Government: No  
Private Impact: Yes  
Substantial Economic Impact: No

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292; 113-304; 113-305

## **BACKGROUND**

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, the WRC conducts an annual review of its inland fish, wildlife, and game land regulations to determine whether the rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of managing wildlife resources or Commission property through a biologically sustainable harvest consistent with sound conservation objectives; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources, and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A. Many of the proposed amendments change what anglers may harvest in specific waters and where anglers may harvest certain species. Some of the proposed amendments seek to increase restrictions to protect the resources, while others increase angling opportunity or provide clarity to anglers. All the proposed changes are intended to ensure future angling opportunity, and despite the changes, no impact to angling participation is expected.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY RULE**

### **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT**

The WRC manages approximately 5,300 miles and 2,100 acres of the State's coldwater resources within its Public Mountain Trout Waters (PMTW) program, and in 2022 an estimated 369,968 anglers fished for trout in PMTW and contributed approximately \$1.38 billion to the State's economy.<sup>1</sup> As noted within the WRC's Trout Management Plan, the purpose of PMTW is to use science-based decision making and biologically sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of trout populations for continued and varied angling opportunities. By designating waters as PMTW, the WRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensures the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendments will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported Trout or Wild Trout Waters. To reflect changes in partnerships with landowners and angler access, approximately 1.3 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will be removed and approximately 1.2 miles will be reclassified from Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to Wild Trout Waters. Changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to accurately define the segments being stocked and to clarify designations based upon partnerships with landowners, angler access, and overall trout management.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendments modifying the classification of PMTWs will not change on-the-ground management activities. Conservation biologists will change signage as part of their regular duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated one-time cost to the agency of approximately \$212 (\$53/hr x 4 hrs = \$212)<sup>2</sup>. New signage will cost the agency approximately \$9 (\$0.90/sign x 10 signs). The total one-time cost to the agency is estimated to be approximately \$219 (\$212 + \$9 = \$219).

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<sup>1</sup> Evaluation of North Carolina Trout Anglers' Opinions, Participation and Socioeconomic Impact, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Cost calculated using total compensation based on midpoint of Conservation Biologist classification.

### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

Changes to PMTW boundaries will result in a net loss of approximately 1.3 miles of PMTW from public access. While this will be a loss of angling opportunity to the public in specific areas, it represents only 0.02% of the total PMTW.

The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals. These changes will affect anglers' ability to use natural bait. In general, fewer people use natural bait compared to artificial in these specific streams. By not allowing natural bait, catch and release mortality decreases, leaving more fish in the water to be caught. The loss of 1.3 miles of PMTW could reduce fishing activity within the specific waterbodies. However, overall participation in recreational fishing is not expected to decline as a result of the changes because it is expected that anglers will shift their fishing effort to other PMTW waterbodies.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT**

The proposed amendments broaden the eligibility criteria for reservoirs that can be designated for year-round trout fishing in Hatchery Supported Trout Waters. Previously, only reservoirs used specifically for hydropower generation or as municipal water supplies were eligible for this exception to closed fishing seasons. By removing this requirement, the amendments will allow reservoirs like Cullowhee Dam (from the S. Wayhutta Road bridge to the Cullowhee Dam) in Jackson County -- which no longer serves as a municipal water supply -- to be added to the list of reservoirs open to trout fishing year-round. This change increases flexibility in managing fishing access and expands opportunities for anglers.

Cullowhee Dam impounds the Tuckasegee River in the Town of Cullowhee and was used for water supply until a few years ago. Previously, the no closed season exception was applied to the Cullowhee Dam Impoundment, but due to the change in operation, the impoundment was not specifically listed in Rule .0316. Allowing fishing year-round within the impoundment will alleviate confusion among anglers who were accustomed to fishing the impoundment previously without a closed season and provide additional angling opportunities without negatively impacting trout populations.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendments are expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendments are expected to have minimal impacts on private entities. The change will alleviate confusion among anglers and allow for additional angling opportunities. This change is not expected to negatively impact fish populations. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS**

The proposed amendment prohibits fishing from March 1 to May 31 in the recently constructed Kings Bridge floodplain slough (35.377100 N, -82.530389 W) connected to the French Broad River 0.6 miles downstream of the NC 191 (Haywood Road) bridge in Henderson County.

Construction of the Kings Bridge backwater slough was conducted specifically to restore spawning and nursery areas for adult and juvenile Muskellunge to promote natural reproduction and recruitment of juvenile fish to the population. The French Broad River Muskellunge population currently has extremely limited to no natural reproduction or measurable recruitment. Closure of the Kings Bridge slough to fishing during the Muskellunge spawning season would prevent targeted angling, catch and release mortality, and potential harvest during their spawning period.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have minimal impacts on private entities. The prohibition on fishing during the spawning season will briefly decrease angling opportunities in a limited area; however, the change is not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. Muskellunge stocking, public access, and fishing in the mainstem of the French Broad River will not be impacted. This change is expected to positively impact fish populations. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

The proposed amendment adds the Asian Pond Mussel (any species of the genus *Sinanodonta*) and Golden Mussel (any species of the genus *Limnoperna*) to the list of species that are unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina.

Although neither species has been found in NC waters, the Asian pond mussel has been found in New Jersey, and the Golden Pond Mussel has been found in California. Introductions outside of their native range have caused extensive ecological and economic harm. Both species cause rapid changes in benthic communities and threaten native biodiversity through negative impacts on aquatic food chains. Additionally, they have been known to negatively impact the water supply systems of many water-treatment plants, industrial refrigeration systems, and power stations.

The proposed amendment helps prevent these species from being introduced into NC waters by allowing WRC law enforcement to confiscate Asian Pond Mussels and Golden Mussels and charge individuals when appropriate. Additionally, permits for importation will not be issued under the proposed amendment.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated impact on private entities in the near term. Neither species is currently found in NC waters and have no known human uses within the U.S.<sup>3,4</sup>. There are likely long term environmental and economic benefits from preventing harm associated with these species.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS**

The proposed amendments remove the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass in Lake Cammack, Alamance County, and increase the number of Largemouth Bass over 14 inches that anglers may possess from two to five. Eliminating the daily creel limit for Lake Cammack Largemouth Bass is expected to improve the currently stunted Largemouth Bass population which will, in turn, improve angler satisfaction. Changing the size restriction is intended to increase angler satisfaction and promote bass harvest while still protecting some of the largest bass.

### Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

The proposed amendments are expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have minimal impacts on private entities. The changes will allow for additional angling opportunities. This change is not expected to negatively impact fish populations. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

## **SPOTTED BASS AMENDMENTS**

## **15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS**

## **15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

## **15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Chinese Pond Mussel Ecological Risk Screening Summary

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Golden Mussel Ecological Risk Screening Summary

Proposed amendments remove the daily creel limit, protective slot limit of 14 to 22 inches, and possession restriction for fish greater than 22 inches for Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia).

Size and creel limits have been removed for Spotted Bass in both North Carolina and Virginia. The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources jointly manage this section of the New River with WRC because it meanders between each state multiple times. This change will make bass size and creel limits on the New River consistent with other rules in North Carolina and Virginia. The change is not expected to negatively impact Spotted Bass populations. Additionally, the change is expected to make compliance easier for anglers and law enforcement.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

##### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

##### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have minimal impacts on private entities. The change will alleviate confusion among anglers and allow for additional angling opportunities. This change is not expected to negatively impact fish populations. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

#### **15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS**

The proposed amendment removes the minimum size limit of 14 inches for White Bass.

The minimum size limit of 14 inches and a daily creel limit of 10 fish was established in 2017. The goal was to protect White Bass up to two years old and to increase the size and age structure of these populations. Since that time, staff have routinely surveyed White Bass populations and results from surveys on the Yadkin and Eno Rivers indicate that less than 10 percent of the fish collected are greater than or equal to 14 inches total length, indicating the regulation has not been effective in increasing the size structure of the White Bass population.



### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have minimal impacts on private entities. The change will allow for additional angling opportunities. This change is not expected to negatively impact fish populations. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT**

The proposed amendments establish a no possession slot limit from 20 to 26 inches and reduce the daily creel limit from four fish per person to three fish with only one fish greater than 26 inches.

The 2022 Stock Assessment of Spotted Seatrout in Virginia and North Carolina Waters prepared by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries suggests Sea Trout are currently experiencing overfishing. This change is designed to decrease overfishing and protect spawning individuals, while maintaining consistency in Spotted Sea Trout regulations across inland, joint, and coastal fishing waters.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have minimal impacts on private entities. Changes to creel and size limits will decrease the number of fish anglers can legally harvest by one fish.

However, the change should alleviate confusion among anglers and establish consistency in the Sea Trout rules across inland, joint, and coastal fishing waters. This change is expected to positively impact fish populations. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS**

The proposed amendments designate the currently unclassified waters located on South Mountains Game Land in Burke and McDowell counties as Public Mountain Trout Waters and further classifies them as Wild Trout Waters, and incorporates technical corrections for improved rule clarity.

Wild Trout Waters regulations already apply to waters on South Mountain Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties. This change will clarify that Wild Trout Waters regulations apply to waters on the entire game land. The Wild Trout Waters designation includes the following accompanying regulations: creel limit reduced from seven to four, minimum size limit of seven inches, and artificial lure with single hook only.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment that modifies the designation of PMTWs will not change on-the-ground management activities. New signage will not be posted as all Public Mountain Trout Waters on South Mountains Game Land are Wild Trout Waters by default.

##### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

##### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have minimal impact on private entities. The change is expected to alleviate confusion among anglers and will impact angler opportunity. However, Wild Trout Waters protect native species by limiting take (size, creel and method) and by not allowing natural bait, catch and release mortality decreases, leaving more fish in the water to be caught. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of the proposed change.

1    **15A NCAC 10C .0205    PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

2    (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- 3           (1)    "Natural bait" means a living or dead plant or animal, or parts thereof, or prepared substances  
4                   designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 5           (2)    "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- 6           (3)    "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by a substance that  
7                   attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8           (4)    "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or a similar  
9                   material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon, or similar device is added.
- 10          (5)    "Youth anglers" are individuals under ~~18~~ 16 years of age.

11   (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- 12          (1)    "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are the waters included in this Rule and those designated in 15A  
13                   NCAC 10D .0104.
- 14          (2)    "Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters  
15                   where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed  
16                   or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters with this designation include tributaries unless  
17                   otherwise noted.
- 18          (3)    "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and  
19                   one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful  
20                   to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout  
21                   while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth anglers may fish  
22                   and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday in June until  
23                   October 1, anglers may fish these waters with no bait or lure restrictions. Waters with this  
24                   designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 25          (4)    "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure  
26                   restrictions. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 27          (5)    "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific  
28                   regulations apply. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 29          (6)    "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters identified in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D  
30                   .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural  
31                   bait while fishing these waters. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless  
32                   otherwise noted.
- 33          (7)    "Undesignated Waters" are the other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure  
34                   restrictions.

35   (c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.

(d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. The other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

(1) Alleghany

(A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Pine Creek

Bledsoe Creek

Brush Creek from the N.C. 21 bridge to the confluence with the Little River, except where posted against trespassing

Cranberry Creek

Glade Creek

Little River from 400 yards upstream of the S.R. 1128 bridge, marked by a sign on each bank, to McCann Dam

Meadow Fork

Pine Swamp Creek

Piney Fork

Prathers Creek

(B) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

(2) Ashe County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

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

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River

Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks to a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536

South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge  
Trout Lake

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek

Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge

Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New River

Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge

Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River

Nathans Creek

- 1 North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam  
2 Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River  
3 Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research  
4 Station to Trout Lake  
5 Roan Creek  
6 Three Top Creek
- 7 (3) Avery County
- 8 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond  
10 Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek  
11 Wilson Creek, the game land portion
- 12 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Boyde Coffey Lake  
14 Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee  
15 state line  
16 Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where  
17 posted against trespassing  
18 Milltimber Creek  
19 North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational  
20 Park, except where posted against trespassing  
21 North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against  
22 trespassing  
23 Squirrel Creek  
24 Wildcat Lake
- 25 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Birchfield Creek  
27 Cow Camp Creek  
28 Cranberry Creek from the headwaters to the U.S. 19E, N.C. 194, bridge  
29 Gragg Prong  
30 Horse Creek  
31 Kentucky Creek  
32 North Harper Creek  
33 Plumtree Creek  
34 Roaring Creek  
35 Rockhouse Creek  
36 Shawneehaw Creek, the portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway  
37 South Harper Creek

- 1 Webb Prong
- 2 (4) Buncombe County
- 3 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 4 Carter Creek, the game land portion
- 5 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 6 Bent Creek from ~~the headwaters~~ Rich Branch to the N.C. Arboretum boundary line
- 7 Cane Creek from ~~the headwaters~~ S.R. 2785 bridge to the S.R. 3138 bridge
- 8 ~~Corner Rock Creek from Little Andy Creek to the confluence with Walker Branch~~
- 9 Dillingham Creek from Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek
- 10 Ivy Creek from Dillingham Creek to the U.S. 19-23 bridge
- 11 Lake Powhatan
- 12 Reems Creek from Sugar Camp Fork to the U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
- 13 trespassing
- 14 ~~Rich Branch from downstream of the confluence with Rocky Branch~~
- 15 Stony Creek from the confluence of Carter Creek and Mineral Creek downstream to
- 16 Dillingham Creek
- 17 Swannanoa from ~~the S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest~~ River Walk Park in Black Mountain
- 18 to the Wood Avenue bridge, at the intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville,
- 19 except where posted against trespassing
- 20 (5) Burke County
- 21 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Henry Fork, the portion on South Mountains State Park
- 23 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 Jacob Fork from Shinny Creek to the lower South Mountains State Park boundary
- 25 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 Carroll Creek, the game land portion above S.R. 1405
- 27 ~~Henry Fork from the lower South Mountain State Park line to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek~~
- 28 Linville River, ~~the portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and~~ the portion below
- 29 Lake James powerhouse from the upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek
- 30 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 Catawba River from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam
- 32 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33 The waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
- 34 (A) and (B) of this Subparagraph
- 35 (6) Caldwell County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Wilson Creek, the game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch

- 1 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
2 Boone Fork Pond  
3 Buffalo Creek from the mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch  
4 Joes Creek from the first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to the confluence with Buffalo Creek  
5 Wilson Creek from Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted  
6 against trespassing  
7 Yadkin River from the Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515  
8 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Buffalo Creek from the Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land  
10 tributaries  
11 Joes Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574  
12 Rockhouse Creek  
13 (7) Cherokee County  
14 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
15 Davis Creek from the confluence of Bald Creek and Dockery Creek to Hanging Dog Creek  
16 Hyatt Creek from Big Dam Branch to the Valley River  
17 Junaluska Creek from Ashturn Creek to the Valley River  
18 Shuler Creek from the Joe Brown Hwy, S.R. 1325 bridge, to the Tennessee state line  
19 Valley River from S.R. 1359 to the U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy  
20 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:  
21 Apalachia Reservoir  
22 (8) Clay County  
23 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
24 Fires Creek from Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area  
25 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Buck Creek, the game land portion downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge  
27 Fires Creek from the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300  
28 Tusquitee Creek from Compass Creek to the lower S.R. 1300 bridge  
29 (9) Graham County  
30 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
31 Snowbird Creek from the USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579  
32 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line  
34 Cheoah Reservoir  
35 Panther Creek from the confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana  
36 Santeetlah Creek from Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah  
37 Snowbird Creek from USFS Rd. 2579 to the S.R. 1127 bridge

- 1 Stecoah Creek from the upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana  
2 Tulula Creek from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275  
3 West Buffalo Creek from the confluence of Squally Creek and Little Buffalo Creek  
4 downstream to Lake Santeetlah  
5 Yellow Creek from Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to the Cheoah River  
6 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
7 Little Buffalo Creek  
8 South Fork Squally Creek  
9 Squally Creek  
10 (10) Haywood County  
11 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 West Fork Pigeon River from Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of  
13 Lake Logan  
14 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
15 Cold Springs Creek from Fall Branch to the Pigeon River  
16 Jonathan Creek from upstream of the S.R. 1302 bridge to the Pigeon River, except where  
17 posted against trespassing  
18 Pigeon River from Stamey Cove Branch to the upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge  
19 Richland Creek from the Russ Avenue, U.S. 276, bridge to the U.S. 19 bridge  
20 West Fork Pigeon River from Tom Creek to Queen Creek  
21 (11) Henderson County  
22 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
23 North Fork Mills River, the game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam  
24 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
25 Broad River from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford Co. line  
26 Cane Creek from the railroad bridge upstream of the S.R. 1551 bridge to the U.S. 25 bridge  
27 Clear Creek from Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582  
28 Green River from the Lake Summit powerhouse to the game land boundary  
29 Hungry River from ~~S.R. 1885~~ Little Hungry River to the Green River  
30 (12) Jackson County  
31 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
32 Flat Creek  
33 Tuckasegee River, the game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including the  
34 Duke Energy powerline corridor  
35 Tuckasegee River the portion upstream from the Clark property  
36 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:



- 1 Tuckasegee River from downstream of the N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards  
2 upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks
- 3 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
4 Balsam Lake  
5 Bear Creek Lake  
6 Cedar Cliff Lake  
7 Cullowhee Creek from Tilley Creek to the Tuckasegee River  
8 Dark Ridge Creek from Jones Creek to Scott Creek  
9 Greens Creek from Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek  
10 Savannah Creek from Shell Branch to Cagle Branch  
11 Scott Creek from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River, except where posted against  
12 trespassing  
13 Tanasee Creek Lake  
14 Tuckasegee River from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge  
15 Tuckasegee River from the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge,  
16 marked by a sign on both banks, to the S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmont  
17 Wolf Creek Lake
- 18 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Gage Creek  
20 North Fork Scott Creek  
21 Tanasee Creek  
22 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line  
23 Wolf Creek except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake
- 24 (13) Macon County
- 25 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Nantahala River from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal
- 27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Burningtown Creek from Left Prong to the Little Tennessee River  
29 Cartoogechaye Creek from downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge to the Little Tennessee River  
30 Cliffside Lake  
31 Cullasaja River from Sequoyah Dam to the U.S. 64 bridge near the junction of S.R. 1672  
32 Nantahala River from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek  
33 Nantahala River from the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to the Swain Co. line  
34 Queens Creek Lake
- 35 (14) Madison County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
37 Big Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge

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

Spring Creek from the N.C. 209 bridge at the Hot Springs city limits to the iron bridge at end of Andrews Ave.

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Big Laurel Creek from Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318, Big Laurel Rd., bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch

Big Pine Creek from the S.R. 1151 bridge to the French Broad River

Little Ivy Creek from the confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to the confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy

Max Patch Pond

Meadow Fork Creek from Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek

Puncheon Fork from Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek

Roaring Fork from Fall Branch to Meadow Fork

Shelton Laurel Creek from the confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva

Shut-in Creek from the confluence of East Fork Shut-in Creek and West Fork Shut-in Creek to the French Broad River

Spillcorn Creek from Baker Creek to the S.R. 1330 bridge

Spring Creek from the junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow Fork

West Fork Shut-in Creek from the lower game land boundary to the confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek

(15) McDowell County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

Newberry Creek, the game land portion

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

Catawba River, the portion adjacent to the Marion Greenway

Curtis Creek, the game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch

Mill Creek from the U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

Armstrong Creek from the Cato Holler line downstream to the upper Greenlee line

Catawba River from the Catawba Falls Campground to the Old Fort Recreation Park

Little Buck Creek, the game land portion

North Fork Catawba River from the headwaters to North Cove School at the S.R. 1569 bridge

(16) Mitchell County

- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Cane Creek from the N.C. 226 bridge to the S.R. 1189 bridge  
North Toe River from the U.S. 19E bridge to the N.C. 226 bridge
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Big Rock Creek from the headwaters to ~~the N.C. 226 bridge at the S.R. 1307 intersection~~  
the S.R. 1325 bridge  
Cane Creek from S.R. 1219 to the N.C. 226 bridge  
East Fork Grassy Creek  
Grassy Creek from East Fork Grassy Creek to the mouth  
~~Little Rock Creek from the Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted~~  
~~against trespassing~~  
North Toe River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1121 bridge
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
Green Creek from the headwaters to the Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing  
Little Rock Creek the portion upstream of the Green Creek bridge, including the tributaries, except where posted against trespassing  
Wiles Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
- (17) Polk County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Green River from the Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Green River from the mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing  
North Pacolet River from Joels Creek to the N.C. 108 bridge
- (18) Rutherford County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Broad River from the Henderson Co. line to the U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing
- (19) Stokes County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Dan River from the Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421
- (20) Surry County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Ararat River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway downstream of the N.C. 103 bridge

- 1 Mitchell River from 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge  
2 on S.R. 1330
- 3 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
4 ~~Ararat River from the S.R. 1727 bridge to~~ River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River  
5 Greenway upstream of the N.C. 103 bridge  
6 Big Elkin Creek from the dam 440 yards upstream of the N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265  
7 yards downstream of N.C. 268, marked by a sign on both banks  
8 Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the I-77 bridge  
9 Little Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the N.C. 89 bridge  
10 Lovills Creek from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River  
11 Pauls Creek from the Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below the S.R. 1625 bridge
- 12 (21) Swain County
- 13 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:  
14 Tuckasegee River from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge
- 15 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
16 Alarka Creek from the game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir  
17 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line  
18 Cheoah Reservoir  
19 Connelly Creek from Camp Branch to the Tuckasegee River  
20 Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to the  
21 Tuckasegee River  
22 Nantahala River from the Macon Co. line to the existing Fontana Lake water level
- 23 (22) Transylvania County
- 24 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
25 Davidson River from the headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking  
26 Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch
- 27 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 East Fork French Broad River from East Fork Baptist Church to ~~the~~ 350 yards downstream  
29 ~~S.R. 1107 of Whitmire Falls, marked by a sign on both banks~~ bridge  
30 Little River from the confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls
- 31 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
32 Davidson River from Avery Creek to the lower USFS boundary  
33 French Broad River from the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West  
34 Fork  
35 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd., S.R. 1110, Access Area  
36 Middle Fork French Broad River from upstream of the U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad  
37 River

- 1 West Fork French Broad River from S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French  
2 Broad River
- 3 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
4 The waters located on Gorges State Park  
5 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
- 6 (23) Watauga County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 Laurel Creek from the confluence of North Fork Laurel Creek and South Fork Laurel Creek  
9 to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries  
10 Pond Creek from the headwaters to the Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond  
11 adjacent to Coffee Lake
- 12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Lake Coffey  
14 Watauga River from the S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower  
15 boundary  
16 Watauga River from the S.R. 1103 bridge to the confluence with Laurel Creek
- 17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Beaverdam Creek from the confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek  
19 to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203  
20 Beech Creek  
21 Buckeye Creek from Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek  
22 Buckeye Creek Reservoir  
23 Cove Creek from the S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to the S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood  
24 Dutch Creek from the second S.R. 1136 bridge to the mouth  
25 Elk Creek from the S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to the Wilkes Co. line, except where posted  
26 against trespassing  
27 Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1123 bridge at the S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River  
28 Meat Camp Creek from the S.R. 1340 bridge at the S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194  
29 Middle Fork New River from adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to the  
30 South Fork New River  
31 Norris Fork Creek  
32 South Fork New River from the canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to the  
33 lower boundary of Brookshire Park  
34 Stony Fork from the S.R. 1500 bridge at the S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes Co. line
- 35 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
36 Dutch Creek from the headwaters to the second S.R. 1136 bridge  
37 Howard Creek

- 1 Maine Branch from the headwaters to the North Fork New River  
2 North Fork New River from the confluence with Maine Branch and Mine Branch to the  
3 Ashe Co. line  
4 Winkler Creek from the lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to the confluence with the South Fork  
5 New River  
6 (24) Wilkes County  
7 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower  
9 boundary  
10 Elk Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain  
11 Club  
12 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development  
13 Reddies River from the Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to the confluence  
14 with the Yadkin River  
15 Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the  
16 East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek  
17 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Basin Creek from the S.R. 1730 bridge to the confluence with Lovelace Creek  
19 Bell Branch Pond  
20 Boundary Line Pond  
21 Cub Creek from 0.5 miles upstream of the S.R. 2460 bridge to the S.R. 1001 bridge  
22 Darnell Creek from the downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to the confluence with the North  
23 Fork Reddies River  
24 East Prong Roaring River from the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to the Low  
25 Meadows Lane bridge  
26 Fall Creek from the S.R. 1300 bridge to the confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork,  
27 except where posted against trespassing  
28 Middle Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the bridge on S.R. 1580  
29 Middle Prong Roaring River from the headwaters to the second bridge on S.R. 1736  
30 North Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the Union School bridge on S.R. 1559  
31 Pike Creek  
32 Pike Creek Pond  
33 South Fork Reddies River from the S.R. 1355 bridge to the confluence with the Middle  
34 Fork Reddies River  
35 South Prong Lewis Fork from Fall Creek to the U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155  
36 intersection  
37 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from  
2 Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest  
3 Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany  
4 Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone  
5 Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 6 (25) Yancey County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 South Toe River from the headwaters to Upper Creek  
9 Upper Creek
- 10 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
11 Cane River from Blackberry Ridge Rd. to the downstream boundary of Cane River County  
12 Park
- 13 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
14 Bald Mountain Creek, except where posted against trespassing  
15 Cane River from Bee Branch, S.R. 1110, to Bowlens Creek  
16 Price Creek from the junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek  
17 South Toe River from Clear Creek to the lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation  
18 Park, except where posted against trespassing
- 19 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
20 Cattail Creek from the bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to the N.C. 197 bridge  
21 Lickskillet Creek  
22 Middle Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth

23

24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*  
25 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
26 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*  
27 *October 1, 1992;*  
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
29 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
31 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*  
32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
33 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
34 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
35 *2003);*

1                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
2                   *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
3                   *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
4                   *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
5                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021;*  
6                   *August 1, 2020.*



**15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT**

(a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

(b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

(c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters. Trout shall not be possessed while fishing these waters.

(d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout shall not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to fishing from one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

(e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

(1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish.

(g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the impounded waters of the following ~~power reservoirs and municipally owned water supply~~ reservoirs open to the public for fishing.

(1) Bear Creek Lake;

(2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

(3) Calderwood Reservoir;

(4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

(5) Cheoah Reservoir;

(6) Cliffside Lake;

(7) Cullowhee Dam Impoundment, from the S.R. 1731 bridge downstream to the Cullowhee Dam;

~~(7)(8)~~ Tanassee Creek Lake;

~~(8)(9)~~ Queens Creek Lake; and

~~(9)(10)~~ Wolf Lake.

(h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing season.

(i) Trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
*Eff. November 1, 2013;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS**

(a) No person shall fish from March 1 to May 31 in the following restored floodplain sloughs ~~connected to the French Broad River and Mud Creek~~ in Henderson County:

- (1) Mud Creek Slough 1 at 35.403687 N, 82.531970 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd. (S.R. 1345).
- (2) Mud Creek Slough 2 at 35.398380 N, 82.528750 W connected to the French Broad River, located 1.0 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd.
- (3) Mud Creek Slough 3 at 35.396449 N, 82.525462 W connected to Mud Creek, located 0.1 miles upstream from confluence with the French Broad River.
- (4) Pleasant Grove slough at 35.298384 N, 82.584716 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles upstream from S.R. 1205, Etowah School Road.
- (5) King's Bridge slough at 35.377100 N, 82.530389 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.6 miles downstream from N.C. Hwy 191, Haywood Road.

(b) Each slough shall be marked with signs on both banks.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

*Eff. February 1, 1976;*

*Amended Eff. May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1989; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;*

*Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*

1     **15A NCAC 10C .0211     POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

2     (a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina  
3     any live individuals of:

- 4         (1)     African longfin eel (*Anguilla mossambica*);
- 5         (2)     amur sleeper (*Perccottus glenii*);
- 6         (3)     applesnail (any species of the genus *Pomacea*);
- 7         (4)     Asian pond mussel (any species of the genus *Sinanodonta*)
- 8         ~~(4)(5)~~ Asian swamp eel, swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- 9         ~~(5)(6)~~ Australian red claw crayfish or red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species in the genus  
10         *Cherax*);
- 11        ~~(6)(7)~~ bigclaw crayfish (*Faxonius placidus*);
- 12        ~~(7)(8)~~ bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- 13        ~~(8)(9)~~ black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- 14        ~~(9)(10)~~ brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*);
- 15        ~~(10)(11)~~ Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*);
- 16        ~~(11)(12)~~ Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*);
- 17        ~~(12)(13)~~ Crucian Carp (*Carassius carassius*);
- 18        ~~(13)(14)~~ European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*);
- 19        ~~(14)(15)~~ European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*);
- 20        ~~(15)(16)~~ European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*);
- 21        (17)     golden mussel (any species of the genus *Limnoperna*);
- 22        ~~(16)(18)~~ Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 23        ~~(17)(19)~~ marbled Crayfish or Marmorkrebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*);
- 24        ~~(18)(20)~~ olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*);
- 25        ~~(19)(21)~~ Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*);
- 26        ~~(20)(22)~~ piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*);
- 27        ~~(21)(23)~~ Prussian Carp (*Carassius gibelio*);
- 28        ~~(22)(24)~~ quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*;
- 29        ~~(23)(25)~~ red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 30        ~~(24)(26)~~ red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*);
- 31        ~~(25)(27)~~ redbelly catfish (*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*);
- 32        ~~(26)(28)~~ round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 33        ~~(27)(29)~~ rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus* or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*);
- 34        ~~(28)(30)~~ ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*);
- 35        ~~(29)(31)~~ rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*);
- 36        ~~(30)(32)~~ shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*);
- 37        ~~(31)(33)~~ silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);

~~(32)~~(34) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);  
~~(33)~~(35) tubenose goby (Proterorhinus marmoratus, Proterorhinus semilunaris, and Proterorhinus semipellucidus);  
~~(34)~~(36) virile crayfish (Faxonius virilis);  
~~(35)~~(37) walking catfish (any member of the genus Batrachus);  
~~(36)~~(38) white amur or grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella), except for triploid individuals as permitted in Paragraph (b) of this Rule;  
~~(37)~~(39) yellow bass (Morone mississippiensis); or  
~~(38)~~(40) zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha).

(b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

(c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring, in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
*Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0305    LARGEMOUTH BASS**

- (a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (l), (m), ~~and (n) (n), and (o)~~ of this Rule.
- (b) There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through ~~(n)~~ (o) of this Rule.
- (c) There is no closed season, except in waters identified in Paragraph (n) of this Rule.
- (d) ~~In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and~~ Lake Holt in Granville County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.
- (e) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in aggregate.
- (f) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.
- (g) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the following waters:
- (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
  - (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
  - (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
  - (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
  - (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and their tributaries, including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the N.C. Hwy 264/45 bridge, and the other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.
- (h) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.
- (i) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches, and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.
- (j) In Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass. No more than two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.
- (k) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.
- (l) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth ~~Bass, Bass and~~ Smallmouth ~~Bass, and Spotted~~ Bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and one Largemouth ~~Bass, Bass or~~ Smallmouth ~~Bass, or Spotted~~ Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.
- (m) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches and one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

(n) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores in Dare County and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

(o) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, and only five Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*  
*Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
*Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*  
*March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*  
*2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS**

(a) The daily creel limit for white bass is 10 fish.

(b) There is ~~a 14 inch~~ no minimum size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

*Eff. November 1, 2013.*

*Amended Eff. August 1, 2017;*

*Readopted Eff. March 15, 2023.*



1    **15A NCAC 10C .0321    SMALLMOUTH BASS**

2    (a) The daily creel limit for smallmouth bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of  
3    this Rule.

4    (b) There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in  
5    waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Rule.

6    (c) There is no closed season.

7    (d) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass less  
8    than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in  
9    aggregate.

10   (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and  
11   spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass.

12   (f) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily  
13   creel limit for largemouth ~~bass, bass and~~ bass and smallmouth ~~bass, and spotted~~ bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no  
14   minimum size limit for smallmouth bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only  
15   one largemouth ~~bass, bass or~~ bass or smallmouth ~~bass, or spotted~~ bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

16  
17   *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
18                   *Eff. August 1, 2020;*  
19                   *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*

1    **15A NCAC 10C .0322    ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

2    (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama bass or spotted bass, except for waters identified in ~~Paragraphs (d) and~~  
3    ~~(e) Paragraph (d)~~ of this Rule.

4    (b) There is no minimum size limit.

5    (c) There is no closed season.

6    (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and  
7    spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

8    ~~(e) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily~~  
9    ~~creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size~~  
10   ~~limit for spotted bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one largemouth bass,~~  
11   ~~smallmouth bass, or spotted bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.~~

12  
13    *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
14                       *Eff. August 1, 2020;*  
15                       *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*  
16  
17

1      **15A NCAC 10C .0325      SEA TROUT**

- 2 (a) The daily creel limit for sea trout (spotted or speckled) is ~~four~~ three fish.
- 3 (b) The minimum size limit is ~~14 inches.~~ inches, but no fish between 20 and 26 inches in length may be possessed
- 4 and only one sea trout greater than 26 inches may be possessed.
- 5 (c) There is no closed season.

7 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;  
8 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*  
9 *Eff. March 15, 2023.*

1    **15A NCAC 10D .0104    FISHING ON GAME LANDS**

2    (a) Game lands are open to public fishing except:

- 3           (1)     restocked ponds when posted against fishing;
- 4           (2)     Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge;
- 5           (3)     Cedar Rock Creek, Grogan Creek, and John Rock Branch, in Transylvania County; and
- 6           (4)     private ponds where fishing is prohibited by the owners.

7    (b) No trotline, set-hook, net, trap, gig, or other special fishing device mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(b),(c),(d),  
8    and (f) may be used in impounded waters located entirely on game lands.

9    (c) Archery equipment may be used to take nongame fishes in impounded waters located entirely on game lands  
10   except for those waters mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(a).

11   (d) Waters located on the game lands listed in this Subparagraph are designated public mountain trout waters except  
12   as noted.

- 13           (1)     Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.
- 14           (2)     DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except:
  - 15               (A)     Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the DuPont State
  - 16                       Forest boundary;
  - 17               (B)     Lake Imaging;
  - 18               (C)     Lake Dense;
  - 19               (D)     Lake Alfred;
  - 20               (E)     Lake Julia; and
  - 21               (F)     Fawn Lake.
- 22           (3)     Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, except Green River downstream of the  
23                       natural gas pipeline crossing.
- 24           (4)     Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County.
- 25           (5)     Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and  
26                       Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee  
27                       Lake.
- 28           (6)     Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson,  
29                       Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties, except:
  - 30               (A)     Cedar Rock Creek, Grogan Creek, and John Rock Branch;
  - 31               (B)     North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek;
  - 32               (C)     Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River;
  - 33               (D)     Mill Ridge Pond;
  - 34               (E)     Nolichucky River;
  - 35               (F)     Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line; and
  - 36               (G)     Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223.
- 37           (7)     Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.

- 1 (8) Little Fork State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County.
- 2 (9) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties.
- 3 (10) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.
- 4 (11) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County.
- 5 (12) Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County.
- 6 (13) William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County.
- 7 (e) The designated public mountain trout waters located on the game lands listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule are
- 8 Wild Trout Waters unless classified otherwise in 15A NCAC 10C .0205(d).
- 9

10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305;*

11 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*

13 *July 1, 1992;*

14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*

15 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*

16 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*

17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2010;*

18 *May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004;*

19 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023.*

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21

# EXHIBIT E-1

June 5, 2025



## **Proposed Amendments to Land and Water Access Rules for 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing**

### **General Regulations Regarding Use of Game Lands**

#### **1. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Adjust the allowable camping days on game lands with designated camping areas to align with the newly adopted wild turkey season framework.

#### **Justification:**

Camping areas are traditionally open for use until May 14, which is through the end of the spring wild turkey season. With the wild turkey season framework change, it is possible for the wild turkey season to end after May 14. This proposal would move the closure of designated camping areas to May 31 on all applicable game lands with a spring camping period.

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE (Page 6)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0205 BLADEN LAKES STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN BLADEN COUNTY (Page 13)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES (Page 14)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY (Page 16)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0218 CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD COUNTIES (Page 18)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES (Page 19)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY (Page 20)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0236 HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY (Page 21)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY (Page 22)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES (Page 23)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES (Page 24)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0265 ROANOKE RIVER WETLANDS IN BERTIE, HALIFAX, MARTIN, AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES (Page 28)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES (Page 30)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND WARREN COUNTIES (Page 32)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES (Page 33)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0278 SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES (Page 34)*

*15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES (Page 35)*

**2. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Modify the current use of weapons rule on game lands that restricts the use of a weapon within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to game lands. This rule would allow the use of archery equipment within those 150 yards.

**Justification:**

Increased residential development is occurring near and even against game land boundaries, and depending on the number, adjacency, and boundary shape, these residences can ultimately remove large areas of useable public lands for hunters. This rule change would increase available hunting opportunities for a portion of our hunting constituency and still maintain a safe and reasonable buffer from potentially sensitive areas.

*15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE (Page 6)*

**Mountain Biking**

**3. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Adjust recreational bicycle riding dates on Butner-Falls Game Land for the designated New Light Mountain Bike Trail to align with the newly adopted wild turkey season framework.

**Justification:**

The use of bicycles on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land is prohibited, except by hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons, and by cyclists using the designated New Light Mountain Bike Trail. The current rule allows bicycle riding on the designated New Light Mountain Bike Trail from May 15th through August 31st, and on Sundays only from September 1st through May 14th. This proposal adjusts the dates to May 16th through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1st through May 15th. This change will align with the recently adopted turkey season framework preventing potential conflicts between turkey hunters and cyclists.

*15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES (Page 14)*

**Horseback Riding**

**4. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Prohibit horseback riding on Buxton Woods Game Land except on Piney Ridge Trail.

**Justification:**

Buxton Woods is managed by the NC Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve and allows horseback riding on Piney Ridge Trail, but horseback riders have been accessing other parts of Buxton Woods, including creating their own trails to connect with

neighboring properties. This activity is not consistent with the management plans of the NC Coastal Reserve and is also disruptive to other users including hunters and hikers.

*15A NCAC 10D .0212 BUXTON WOODS GAME LAND IN DARE COUNTY (Page 15)*

## **Chowan Swamp Game Land**

### **5. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Remove Chowan Game Land from the game land program and add the parcel to Chowan Swamp Game Land.

#### **Justification:**

Chowan Game Land is a 32-acre parcel in Chowan County located 2 miles east of Edenton along Pembroke Creek. The closest tract of Chowan Swamp Game Land is 11 miles north. Big game harvest reporting errors routinely occur because hunters confuse Chowan Game Land with Chowan Swamp Game Land.

*15A NCAC 10D .0217 CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY (Page 17)*

## **Mayo Game Land**

### **6. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Prohibit private construction of piers, docks, moorings, or similar facilities or structures at Mayo Game Land.

#### **Justification:**

Duke Energy Progress (DEP) has observed an increase in the number of major encroachments over the past several years, including unauthorized alteration of land, construction of piers/docks, and placement of personal property on DEP property. One of the most common encroachments found at Mayo Lake is the mooring of pontoon boat hulls with the intention of using the facility as a dock or pier, either for boating or non-boating uses.

*15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY (Page 25)*

## **Pisgah Game Land**

### **7. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Prohibit activities other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and authorized use of posted trails and parking areas on the Lutz Tract of the Pisgah Game Land.

#### **Justification:**

The Lutz Tract is heavily used and overcrowded in the summer months with people camping and gathering. This results in litter and human waste that creates environmental hazards and habitat degradation. The overcrowding also creates safety issues along the narrow roadway where cars block the thoroughfare, hindering access for emergency vehicles if needed. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has expressed concern and asked for allowed activities on



the property to be restricted. The portion of Wilson Creek on the Lutz Tract is designated as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, and additional use of the Lutz Tract impacts angler access and experience. The proposed amendment should help reduce overcrowding.

*15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL, HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL, TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES (Page 27)*

## **Sandhills Game Land**

### **8. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Restrict fox squirrel hunting by permit only on Sandhills Game Land.

#### **Justification:**

Requiring a permit for fox squirrel hunting will allow the agency to better estimate hunting pressure on Sandhills Game Land and determine the need for changes to management.

*15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES (Page 30)*

## **Dog Deer Hunting**

### **9. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Restrict dog deer and bear hunting to the portion east of Pee Dee River and north of US-74 by permit only. Prohibit pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training.

#### **Justification:**

Complaints about deer hunting with dogs have increased dramatically in recent years on the Pee Dee River Game Land. These complaints largely come from neighboring private landowners adjacent to smaller blocks of Game Land regarding hunters trespassing to release or retrieve dogs. Numerous citations have been written for trespassing. The largest block of Pee Dee River GL south of US 74 already prohibits dog deer and bear hunting.

*15A NCAC 10D .0258 PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND STANLY COUNTIES (Page 26)*

### **10. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Restrict dog deer hunting by permit only on Sandhills Game Land. Prohibit pursuing or chasing deer with dogs for the purposes of training. Prohibit individuals convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting deer with dogs from receiving a permit for hunting deer with dogs the season following conviction.

#### **Justification:**

Deer hunting with dogs complaints have increased dramatically in recent years on the Sandhills Game Land. These complaints largely come from neighboring private landowners adjacent to smaller blocks of Game Land regarding hunters trespassing to release or retrieve dogs. Numerous citations have been written for trespassing.

## **Wildlife Conservation Area**

### **11. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Remove Robeson Game Land from the game land program and convert it into a Wildlife Conservation Area.

#### **Justification:**

Robeson Game Land is a 42-acre parcel in Robeson County located in Ashpole Swamp within the Gabby Township of Robeson County. Currently the only legal ways to access the Game Land are to be dropped off at the end of Irene Drive and walk a wooded easement or to obtain written permission from one of two adjacent landowners to park a vehicle on their property to gain access. Habitat includes two ecologically significant habitat types: Bottomland Hardwoods transitioning to a Cypress-Gum Swamp, both of which provide important habitat for a variety of species including 20 species of greatest conservation need.

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0102   GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

2   (a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- 3           (1)   "Permanent Hunting Blind" means a structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from  
4                   manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of the day's hunt.
- 5           (2)   "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or  
6                   self-defense.
- 7           (3)   "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

8   (b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the  
9   landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional  
10 restrictions on entry or usage:

- 11           (1)   Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to archery  
12                   equipment and falconry. During the open deer seasons for these areas, antlered and antlerless deer  
13                   may be taken.
- 14           (2)   Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person  
15                   shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on a  
16                   game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- 17           (3)   Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use  
18                   of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- 19           (4)   Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public,  
20                   and entry on these areas is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources  
21                   Commission. The Commission may authorize entry when the primary purpose for the Restricted  
22                   Zone shall not be compromised and the persons requesting entry demonstrate a valid need, or official  
23                   business of the Commission is being conducted by a contractor or agent of the Commission. Valid  
24                   needs may include access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to  
25                   conduct activities in the public interest.
- 26           (5)   Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are  
27                   closed to use by the public, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife  
28                   Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone  
29                   when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public.
- 30           (6)   Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge  
31                   of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.
- 32           (7)   Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting  
33                   Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S.  
34                   113-264(d).
- 35           (8)   Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the  
36                   public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

- 1 (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to  
2 use by the public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry is prohibited without written  
3 approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a  
4 permit.

5 The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing  
6 the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the  
7 input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

8 (c) Littering. No person shall deposit litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse on any game land except in receptacles  
9 provided for disposal of refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary  
10 landfills shall be established on a game land by a person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as  
11 permitted by the landowner.

12 (d) Use of weapons. ~~No~~ Except for archery equipment, as defined in Rule 10B .0116, no person shall discharge:  
13 discharge a weapon within 150 yards of:

- 14 (1) ~~a weapon within 150 yards of a game land building or designated game land camping area, except~~  
15 ~~where posted otherwise; or~~  
16 (2) ~~a weapon within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on~~  
17 ~~Butner Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and~~  
18 (3) ~~a firearm within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to Butner Falls of Neuse and Jordan~~  
19 ~~Game Lands.~~

20 No person shall hunt with or have in possession a shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on a posted  
21 waterfowl impoundment on a game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer  
22 hunting. Individuals carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even  
23 if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott,  
24 and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other  
25 weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is  
26 incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document may be accessed at  
27 www.ecfr.gov at no cost. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee  
28 River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of  
29 U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days  
30 for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

- 31 (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length  
32 and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;  
33 (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;  
34 (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or  
35 (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

36 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

(1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, a person entering a game land to hunt, trap, run dogs, or train dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a valid North Carolina hunting or trapping license.

(2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114, in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.

(3) For other field trials using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

(4) Exceptions:

(A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;

(B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103 (j)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required for hunting doves; other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. ~~The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Training dogs is prohibited at the Sandhills Field Trial facilities. Unless otherwise specified in Rules of this Subchapter and except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission, Dogs may dogs shall not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on game lands located west of I-95, or I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be~~

~~trained or permitted to run unleashed~~ from March 15 through June 15 on game lands located east of ~~I-95, except when~~  
~~participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. I-95.~~ Additionally, on game lands  
located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program,  
dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special  
hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when the field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the game  
land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization demonstrates their experience and expertise in conducting  
genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be  
granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do  
not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0300, trapping of furbearing animals,  
armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the open trapping seasons for those areas,  
established by rule. Foxes may be trapped on game lands from October 1 through the end of February in a county with  
an open fox trapping season that falls between October 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping  
on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during a fox trapping season that occurs outside the  
dates of October 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham,  
Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the  
fourth Saturday in January. Trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on a game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south,  
US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- (4) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands; and
- (5) from April 1 through September 31.

At a trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed  
food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), is less than 3 cubic inches and is covered to prevent it from being seen  
from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and  
bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on a game land except on roads constructed,  
maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and on trails posted for vehicular travel, unless the person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land;  
or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program  
Permit as described in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph  
(k).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on a game land except on an area posted by the landowner for camping.

(2) Camping on posted camping areas is allowed from September 1 through the last day of February and from March 31 through May 31 unless otherwise specified in Rules of this Subchapter.

(3) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at a designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period, unless otherwise specified in rules of this Subchapter. After 14 consecutive days of camping, personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

~~(3)~~(4) A hunting, fishing, trapping or Game Lands License is required for individuals age 16 or older to camp on game lands in areas posted for camping except when camping within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land, within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land west of NC-43, and in posted areas along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.

(j) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and is in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(k) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on game lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from this restriction but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other all-terrain wheelchairs on areas where foot travel is allowed. Off road vehicles including ATVs, UTVs, and ebikes are not permitted.

(l) Disabled Access Program. Disabled individuals who meet the requirements of G.S. 113-296 may obtain a Disabled Access Permit and Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org). The Disabled Access Permit allows individuals to operate electric wheel chairs, all-terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to that use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated online, at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org). This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is constantly in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in lawful activities while assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. A vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under this provision shall have the Disabled Access Permit available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers upon request. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions

1 may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on  
2 a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land. It is unlawful for  
3 anyone other than disabled persons holding a Disabled Access Permit, during waterfowl season, to hunt within 100  
4 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.  
5 The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification allows individuals to apply for available Disabled sportsman permit  
6 hunting opportunities as prescribed in G.S. 113-296.

7 (m) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on game lands, including land or water.  
8 For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque  
9 covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while  
10 in a public place.

11 (n) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting  
12 ranges for purposes other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for  
13 other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. Other uses, including camping, building fires, operating  
14 concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, unless  
15 written authorization is obtained from the Commission. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit  
16 debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the  
17 range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot items made of glass on the  
18 grounds of the range. No person may leave a vehicle or other obstruction in a location or position that it will prevent,  
19 impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave a vehicle or other  
20 object parked in a place on the shooting range other than the place or zone that is designated and posted or marked as  
21 an authorized parking zone. No person shall handle firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting range in a careless or  
22 reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure  
23 while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause rifled or smoothbore  
24 projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the  
25 range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to a person. Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety  
26 rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard shall leave the shooting range  
27 if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission employees. No person shall handle firearms on  
28 a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic  
29 beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours of operation shall be designated on signs and at  
30 least one sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using a shooting range, shall do  
31 an act that is prohibited or neglect to do an act that is required by signs or markings placed on the area under authority  
32 of this Rule for regulating the use of the area.

33 (o) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are  
34 open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. These roads shall be posted with the opening and closing  
35 times.

36 (p) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of a bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part  
37 thereof, or possess a bird or animal that has been so mutilated.



1 (q) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on a game  
2 land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written  
3 authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific  
4 objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take wild birds or wild animals attracted to  
5 these foods.

6  
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*  
8 *143-318.10;*  
9 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
10 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*  
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*  
12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*  
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*  
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*  
17 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
18 *2003);*  
19 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*  
20 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*  
21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*  
22 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017;*  
23 *August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
24 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;*  
25 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2023.*  
26

**15A NCAC 10D .0205    BLADEN LAKES STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN BLADEN COUNTY**

Bladen Lakes State Forest ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (2) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- (3) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- (4) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14~~ in allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas; as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- (6) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through August 1.

*History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. November 1, 2022.*

**15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND  
WAKE COUNTIES**

Butner-Falls of Neuse ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
  - (a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;
  - (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
  - (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- (6) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.
- (7) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May ~~15~~ 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.
- (8) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- (9) Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. November 1, 2022;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0212 BUXTON WOODS GAME LAND IN DARE COUNTY**

2 Buxton Woods ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4 Season through the first Friday thereafter.  
5 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.  
6 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails.

7  
8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
9 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
10  
11

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0215   R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY**

2   (a) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

3           (1)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken from the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season  
4                   for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Wednesday thereafter.

5           (2)     Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through  
6                   August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed on  
7                   roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian  
8                   use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license  
9                   as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).

10          (3)     On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit after November 1.

11          (4)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
12                   ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

13          (5)     Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

14   (b) Hunting shall be by permit for the following species in the area posted as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area:

15           (1)     quail and woodcock; and

16           (2)     rabbit and squirrel on days outside of the three days per week framework.

17  
18   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
19                    *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
20                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*

1    **15A NCAC 10D .0217    CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY**

2    ~~Chowan game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:~~

3            ~~(1) — Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers~~  
4            ~~Season.~~

5            ~~(2) — Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.~~

6  
7    *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
8            *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
9  
10

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0218   CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD**  
2                                   **COUNTIES**

3   Chowan Swamp ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
5                   Season.
- 6           (2)     Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November bear season  
7                   and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December bear season except in that portion  
8                   of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway  
9                   158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season  
10                  is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
- 11          (3)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
12                   ~~14 in areas both designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule  
13                   .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 14          (4)     Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only  
15                   September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated  
16                   roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 17          (5)     Target shooting is prohibited.

18  
19   *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
20                       *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
21  
22

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0229   GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES**

2   Goose Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)    Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season.
- 5           (2)    Except as provided in 15A NCAC 10D ~~.0103(d)(2)~~, .0103(e), waterfowl in posted waterfowl  
6                   impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 7                   (a)    the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 8                   (b)    Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 9                   (c)    Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 10          (3)    Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in ~~October~~ October, through the end of all  
11                   waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments:  
12                   Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- 13          (4)    On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point, and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments, all activities,  
14                   except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping  
15                   season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through  
16                   March 15.
- 17          (5)    Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February, February, and March 31~~  
18                   ~~through May 14 14, in areas both designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as  
19                   specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 20          (6)    Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through  
21                   January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- 22          (7)    Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on  
23                   the Beaufort County portion north of ~~NC N.C. 33 33~~, except for that portion east of Smith Creek  
24                   and south of Campbell Creek.
- 25          (8)    Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 26          (9)    Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.

27

28   *History Note:   Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
29                   *Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2022;*  
30                   *Eff. March 15, ~~2023~~ 2023;*  
31                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025.*  
32



1   **15A NCAC 10D .0232    GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY**

2   Gull Rock Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)    Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season.
- 5           (2)    Waterfowl on ~~posted waterfowl impoundments~~ the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Impoundment  
6                   shall be taken only on the following days:
- 7                   (a)    the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 8                   (b)    Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 9                   (c)    Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 10          (3)    Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February, February, and March 31~~  
11                   ~~through May 14 14, in~~ allowed on areas designated and posted as for camping areas: as specified in  
12                   Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 13          (4)    Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear ~~Season~~  
14                   Season, and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.
- 15          (5)    Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments on the Willow Point tract is by permit only.

16

17   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
18                    *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
19                    *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 2022;*  
20                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025; June 1, 2023.*  
21

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0236    HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY**

2   Holly Shelter ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)    Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season.
- 5           (2)    Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- 6                   (a)    the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 7                   (b)    Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 8                   (c)    Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 9           (3)    Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
10               ~~14 in areas designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102  
11               of this Subchapter.
- 12          (4)    On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the  
13               Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are  
14               permit only.
- 15          (5)    The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
- 16                   (a)    all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west  
17                           to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park  
18                           Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
- 19                   (b)    on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and  
20                           New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road  
21                           to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50,  
22                           where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
- 23          (6)    Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of  
24               February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless  
25               otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 26          (7)    Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within  
27               100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 28          (8)    Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 29          (9)    Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

30

31   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
32                    *Eff. November 1, 2022.*

33

34

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0239   JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

2   Johns River ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 3           (1)     During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.
- 4           (2)     The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 5           (3)     Camping is ~~restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~
- 6                     allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 7           (4)     Target shooting is prohibited.
- 8           (5)     During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, the use of bicycles is
- 9                     restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.

10

11   *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12                     *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

13                     *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025; August 1, 2023.*

14

**15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES**

Jordan ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on open days of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers.
- (2) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
  - (a) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
  - (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
  - (c) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (3) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed only on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older shall obtain a game land license prior to engaging in horseback riding on an area other than the American Tobacco Trail.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- (6) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.
- (7) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
*Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
*Eff. March 15, 2023;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0241   JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES**

2   (a) Juniper Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following applies:

3       (1)     Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

4       (2)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
5               ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102  
6               of this Subchapter.

7       (3)     Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

8  
9   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
10               *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0249   MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY**

2   Mayo ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)   Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5           (2)   Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 6                   (a)    Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 7                   (b)    Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 8                   (c)    the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 9           (3)   Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10          (4)   Placement of docks, piers, and personal property for more than 24 consecutive hours on the shoreline  
11                   or lakebed of Mayo Lake is prohibited.

12

13   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
14                    *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

15

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0258    PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND**  
2                                   **STANLY COUNTIES**

3   Pee Dee River ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for  
5                   Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6           (2)     Target shooting is prohibited.
- 7           (3)     Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays  
8                   only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and gated roads and  
9                   trails posted for equestrian use.
- 10          (4)     Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be ~~prohibited~~  
11                   ~~on that portion south of US-74. prohibited, except on that portion north of US-74 and east of Pee~~  
12                   Dee River where hunting shall be by permit only.

13

14   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
15                   *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
16                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*  
17  
18

**15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,  
HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,  
TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES**

Pisgah game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- (4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited in the Wilson Creek portion of Pisgah Game Land (Caldwell County)
- (5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (6) Activities other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and authorized use of posted trails and parking areas are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County).

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. October 1, 2022*



1 **15A NCAC 10D .0265 ROANOKE RIVER WETLANDS IN BERTIE, HALIFAX, MARTIN, AND**  
2 **NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES**

3 Roanoke River Wetlands is hunting and trapping by Permit only, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business or by  
5 permit holders.
- 6 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
7 ~~14 in allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas, provided, however, that~~  
8 ~~camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state owned portion~~  
9 ~~of the game land, as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.~~
- 10 (3) Target Shooting is prohibited.

11  
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
13 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
14  
15

1    **15A NCAC 10D .0267    ROBESON GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY**

2    ~~Robeson game land is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:~~

3            ~~(1) — Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers~~  
4            ~~Season.~~

5            ~~(2) — Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.~~

6  
7    *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
8            *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
9

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0271   SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND**  
2                                   **COUNTIES**

3   Sandhills ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from the Wednesday on or  
5                   nearest October 18 through March 31 except as follows:
- 6                   (a)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on the open days of the  
7                           archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder  
8                           firearms and archery equipment the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through  
9                           the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be  
10                          taken with all lawful weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through  
11                          the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 12                  (b)     dove may be taken on open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third  
13                          Saturday thereafter;
- 14                  (c)     gray and fox squirrel may be taken on open days from the second Saturday before  
15                          Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 16                  (d)     rabbit may be taken on open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day  
17                          through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 18                  (e)     waterfowl may be taken on open days during waterfowl season;
- 19                  (f)     wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit  
20                          Hunt; and
- 21                  (g)     raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest  
22                          October 15 through the last day of February.
- 23           (2)     Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the  
24                   Saturday on or nearest to September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 25           (3)     Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with Blackpowder firearms or archery equipment on open  
26                   hunting days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the  
27                   second week thereafter.
- 28           (2)(4) ~~The Antlered deer may be taken with all lawful weapons on Deer With Visible Antlers season is the~~  
29                   open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday  
30                   after Thanksgiving ~~Day Day~~, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 31           (5)     Antlerless deer hunting during the All Lawful Weapons Season is by permit only.
- 32           (6)     Antlered deer may be taken with Blackpowder firearms or archery equipment, except on the J.  
33                   Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, on open hunting days from the third Monday after  
34                   Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 35           (3)     ~~The archery season is on open days from the Saturday on or nearest to September 10 to the fourth~~  
36                   ~~Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third~~  
37                   ~~Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with~~

1 archery equipment on open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with  
2 Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only  
3 deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through  
4 January 1.

5 (4) Blackpowder firearms season is the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving  
6 Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon  
7 Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or  
8 antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days during the  
9 blackpowder firearms season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday  
10 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.

11 (5) Antlered and antlerless deer hunting during the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible  
12 Antlers is by permit only.

13 (6)(7) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of  
14 the applicable waterfowl seasons.

15 (7)(8) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

16 (8)(9) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 through March  
17 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the  
18 remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular  
19 traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

20 (9)(10) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
21 14. allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

22 (10)(11) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

23 (11)(12) Swimming is prohibited in the lakes.

24 (13) Fox squirrel hunting is by permit only.

25 (14) Hunting deer with dogs is by permit only.

26 (15) Training dogs for the purpose of pursuing or chasing deer is prohibited.

27 (16) An individual convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting deer with dogs shall not be  
28 eligible to receive a permit for hunting deer with dogs the season following conviction.

31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
32 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND**  
2 **WARREN COUNTIES**

3 Shocco Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
5 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 7 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
8 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and~~ posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102  
9 of this Subchapter.
- 10 (4) Target Shooting is prohibited.

11

12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
13 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

**15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL,  
AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES**

South Mountains ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers Season begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this Rule. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
  - (a) January 2 through March 31;
  - (b) May 16 through August 31;
  - (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
  - (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas; as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. October 1, 2022;  
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 5, 2024;  
Amended Eff. October 1, 2024.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0278 SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND CUMBERLAND**  
2 **COUNTIES**

3 Suggs Mill Pond ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting and trapping by permit only, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
5 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102  
6 of this Subchapter.
- 7 (2) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:  
8 (a) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and  
9 (b) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
- 10 (3) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels on  
11 Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl  
12 hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources  
13 Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 14 (4) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed waterfowl  
15 impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and  
16 current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S.  
17 113-264(d).

18  
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
20 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
21  
22

**15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES  
COUNTIES**

Thurmond Chatham ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. October 1, 2022;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*



1 **15A NCAC 10D .0291 WHITEHALL PLANTATION GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND PENDER**  
2 **COUNTIES**

3 Whitehall Plantation ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting and trapping by permit only, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
5 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102  
6 of this Subchapter.
- 7 (2) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on  
8 the Long Ridge Tract.

9  
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
11 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
12  
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**15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

North Bend ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- (1) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated trails, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. August 1, 2024.*

# EXHIBIT E-2

June 5, 2025



## **Fiscal Note for 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission – Land and Water Access**

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE  
15A NCAC 10D .0205 BLADEN LAKES STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN BLADEN COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0212 BUXTON WOODS GAME LAND IN DARE COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0217 CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0218 CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0236 HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0258 PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND STANLY COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL, HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL, TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0265 ROANOKE RIVER WETLANDS IN BERTIE, HALIFAX, MARTIN, AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0267 ROBESON GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY  
15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND WARREN COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0278 SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0291 WHITEHALL PLANTATION GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND PENDER COUNTIES  
15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

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**Fiscal Impact:** State Government: Yes  
Local Government: Yes  
Private Impact: Yes  
Substantial Economic Impact: No

**Authority:** G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305; 113-306

## **BACKGROUND**

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, the WRC conducts an annual review of its inland fish, wildlife, and game land regulations to determine whether the rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of managing wildlife resources or Commission property through a biologically sustainable harvest consistent with sound conservation objectives; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources, and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

The proposed rule changes will modify the use of game lands, some will increase outdoor recreation opportunities, while others are expected to restrict such opportunities. A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY CATEGORY AND RULE**

### **CAMPING:**

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

15A NCAC 10D .0205 BLADEN LAKES STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN BLADEN COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0218 CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0236 HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0265 ROANOKE RIVER WETLANDS IN BERTIE, HALIFAX, MARTIN, AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND WARREN COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0278 SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0291 WHITEHALL PLANTATION GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND PENDER COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

The proposed amendments extend the camping season by shifting the last day camping is allowed in the spring from May 14 to May 31. This change increases the total number of days camping is allowed on these game lands by 17 days. The fall and winter camping dates will remain unchanged, continuing to run from September 1 through the last day of February. This is being done to align with the newly adopted wild turkey season framework, ensuring hunters can camp on game lands for the entirety of turkey season.

The new wild turkey season goes into effect in the spring of 2026 and shifts the opening date of the Youth-only season from the first to the second Saturday in April and the opening date for the regular wild turkey season from the second to the third Saturday in April, with the season length unchanged. These changes were approved as part of the WRC's 2025/2026 annual cycle rules package.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

The extended camping opportunities could attract more hunters to these 18 game lands during wild turkey hunting season, potentially increasing applications for permit hunts. Since permit applications cost hunters \$8 plus a transaction fee (ranging from \$0 to \$4 depending on the sales channel), this could result in additional revenue. However, the WRC currently does not have a mechanism to accurately estimate the total additional revenue that may be generated for the state because of this proposed change.

### *Local Impact*

Adding additional camping opportunities on these 18 game lands may increase the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, camping supplies, etc.). This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment may benefit hunters, allowing them to camp additional days on game lands during the wild turkey season. The proposed amendment will impact hunters that choose to turkey hunt on game lands that require a permit. Permit applications cost \$8 plus transaction fee (up to \$4). The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the total impact of the proposed change on private entities.

## **USE OF WEAPONS:**

### 15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

The proposed amendments would modify the rule that restricts the use of weapons within 150 yards of a building or camping area on a game land or residence located on or adjacent to game lands. The amended rule will continue to prohibit the discharge of firearms within 150 yards of a game land building or camping area or a residence located on or adjacent to a game land, but will remove the restriction on the use of archery equipment in these locations. In summary, these changes will provide greater flexibility for archery while enhancing safety measures regarding firearms near designated areas and residences.

Residential development along game land boundaries reduces the area of useable public land for hunting. This rule change would increase the area available to some hunters, while maintaining a safe and reasonable buffer.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact.

##### *Local Impact*

This rule may bring more archery hunters to game lands, however the WRC has no way of knowing how many additional hunters this would bring. New users could bring increased revenue to the immediate area in the form of spending on lodging and dining, in particular. The Commission has no way of knowing how many hunters will take advantage of this opportunity; as such, the estimated benefits to local government could not be quantified.

##### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment will benefit hunters by increasing the area available to hunt for those using archery equipment. By limiting the change to archery equipment, noise and safety concerns are minimized. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on individuals and the WRC has no way of knowing how many hunters will take advantage of this increased opportunity.

#### **USE OF BICYCLES:**

##### **15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES**

The proposed amendment adjusts the recreational bicycle riding dates on the New Light Mountain Bike Trail at Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land to accommodate the newly adopted wild turkey season framework. Under the current rule, bicycle riding is allowed during open seasons for hunters engaged in the act of hunting, and on the designated trail areas from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14. The proposed amendment will adjust these dates slightly, allowing bicycle riding from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 15. This change simply shifts the start and end dates by one day, while maintaining the same overall access for bicyclists.

The new wild turkey season goes into effect in the spring of 2026 and shifts the opening date of the Youth-only season from the first to the second Saturday in April and reduces the Youth-only season from seven to two days. It also shifts the opening date for the regular wild turkey season



from the second to the third Saturday in April, with the season length unchanged. These changes were approved as part of the WRC's 2025/2026 annual cycle rules package.

Adjusting the bicycle riding dates to avoid wild turkey season will increase public safety, prevent the disruption of wildlife, and alleviate user conflicts.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

##### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

##### *Private Impact*

The proposed rule amendment will not increase or decrease the total number of days available for bicycling on this game land but does adjust when those days occur. This amendment should benefit hunters who will not be disturbed by recreational bike riders while turkey hunting. There are several other nearby public areas that provide bicycling opportunities; therefore, we do not anticipate any impact to bicyclists aside from a potential shift in the dates they utilize Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.

This amendment should benefit hunters by avoiding potential interference and conflicts with recreational bicyclists during wild turkey hunting season.

#### **HORSEBACK RIDING:**

##### 15A NCAC 10D .0212 BUXTON WOODS GAME LAND IN DARE COUNTY

The proposed amendment prohibits horseback riding except on designated trails.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

##### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment will impact horseback riders by requiring them to stay on designated trails and prevents horseback riders from creating their own trails. The amendment may benefit hunters and hikers who often find off-trail horseback riding to be disruptive. The amendment is also expected to lower trespass incidences on neighboring properties. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

### **HUNTING WITH DOGS:**

#### **15A NCAC 10D .0258 PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND STANLY COUNTIES**

The proposed amendment modifies the regulation on pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs in the Pee Dee River Game Land. The current rule prohibits pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for training or hunting on the portion of the game land south of US-74. The proposed rule will prohibit this activity on the entire game land, except on the portion east of Pee Dee River and north of US-74, where pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for hunting is by permit only.

Dog deer and bear hunting complaints have increased in recent years, primarily related to hunters trespassing to release or retrieve dogs. Numerous citations have been written for trespassing.

### **Fiscal Impact**

#### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment will generate revenue through the sale of applications for permit hunts. Applications cost hunters \$8 plus a transaction fee (transaction fees vary from \$0 to \$4 depending on the sales channel). Though expected revenue can vary greatly in any given year, as many factors can influence the number of hunts and the interest in those hunts, based on similar game lands, the agency can likely anticipate at least \$500 ( $\$8/\text{permit} \times 50 \text{ applications} = \$400$ ; average  $\$2/\text{transaction fee} \times 50 \text{ applications} = \$100$ ;  $\$400 + \$100 = \$500$ ) in application and transaction fees for permit hunts at this game land.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments are anticipated to have minimal impacts on local government. Requiring permits for dog deer and bear hunting may lower hunter participation which may result in decreased visitation and revenue to the surrounding counties. However, this impact cannot be quantified. The proposed amendments may benefit local law enforcement by reducing conflicts between landowners and hunters.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment to deer and bear hunting with dogs may negatively impact some hunters, as opportunities will be limited, and they may not be awarded a permit. However, because opportunities will be limited, the quality of those hunts may improve. The proposed amendment may also benefit still hunters and other recreationists who find dog deer and bear hunting to be disruptive to their experience. Additionally, the amendment is expected to lower trespass incidences on neighboring properties, thus positively impacting landowners. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

### 15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

### 15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES

The proposed amendments clarify the existing deer hunting seasons and modify the regulation on deer hunting with dogs in Sandhills Game Land. The current rule does not prohibit pursuing or chasing deer with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting. The proposed rule will prohibit pursuing or chasing deer with dogs for the purpose of training and will restrict deer hunting with dogs by permit only. Dog deer hunting complaints have increased in recent years, primarily related to hunters trespassing to release or retrieve dogs. Numerous citations have been written for trespassing. Additionally, the proposed amendments will prevent individuals convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting deer with dogs from receiving a permit for hunting deer with dogs during the season following conviction.

In addition, the proposed amendments will require a permit for fox squirrel hunting on this game land. The number of permits will not be limited, and the season will be retained. The number of fox squirrel hunters using Sandhill Game Land is currently unknown. Requiring a permit allows the WRC to better estimate hunting pressure and determine the need for changes to management.

### Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

The proposed amendments will generate revenue through the sale of applications for permit hunts and point of sale (POS) permits. Applications cost hunters \$8 plus a transaction fee (transaction fees vary from \$0 to \$4 depending on the sales channel). Though expected revenue can vary greatly in any given year, as many factors can influence the number of hunts and the interest in hunting opportunities, the agency estimates at least \$13,000 ( $\$8/\text{permit} \times 1,300$  applications/permits = \$10,400; average \$2/transaction fee  $\times 1,300$  applications = \$2,600;  $\$10,400 + \$2,600 = \$13,000$ ) in revenue from proposed changes on this game land.

The proposed amendments will require agency staff review permit applications to ensure permits are not awarded to individuals convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting deer with dogs. Permit application review is part of routine operations conducted by the Land and Water Access team who process permit applications.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments are anticipated to have minimal impacts to local government. Requiring permits may lower hunter participation or interest, which may result in decreased visitation and revenue to the surrounding counties. However, this impact cannot be quantified.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment requiring a permit to hunt deer with dogs may negatively impact hunters, as opportunities will be limited, permit applications will cost hunt parties \$8 - \$12 per application, and they may not be awarded a permit. However, because opportunities will be limited, the quality of those hunts may improve. The proposed amendment may also benefit still hunters and other recreationists who find dog deer hunting to be disruptive to their experience. Additionally, the amendment is expected to lower trespass incidences on neighboring properties, thus positively impacting landowners.

The proposed amendment to require permits for fox squirrels will not limit opportunities but will have a fiscal impact on hunters of \$8 to \$12 per season. This is likely to be a minor inconvenience, as permits can be purchased online, but may also be a deterrent to fox squirrel hunting on Sandhills Game Land.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL, HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL, TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES

The proposed amendment prohibits activities other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and authorized use of posted trails and parking areas on the Lutz Tract of the Pisgah Game Land.

The Lutz Tract portion of the game land is heavily used and overcrowded in the summer months with people camping and gathering. This use results in litter and human waste that creates environmental hazards and habitat degradation. The overcrowding also creates safety issues

along the narrow roadway where cars block the thoroughfare on a NCDOT roadway, hindering access for emergency vehicles if needed. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has expressed concern and asked for allowed activities on the property to be restricted. The portion of Wilson Creek on the Lutz Tract is designated as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, and additional use of the Lutz Tract impacts angler access and experience. The proposed amendment should help reduce overcrowding.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement. Staff will enforce the amendment as part of their regular duties.

##### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment is anticipated to reduce overcrowding and reduce instances where visitors block road access for authorized users and/or emergency vehicles. This may lead to decreased effort in this area for local law enforcement. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific fiscal impacts of this potential benefit to local government.

##### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to negatively impact visitors who use the Lutz Tract for unauthorized recreational purposes, such as swimming and picnicking. It is expected that these visitors will switch to recreating on other nearby public lands that allow such activities. However, this reduction in unauthorized use is expected to have a positive impact on individuals who use the area for hunting, fishing and trapping by minimizing user conflicts and potentially improving user experience. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

#### **GAME LAND DESIGNATIONS:**

##### 15A NCAC 10D .0217 CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY

The proposed amendment removes Chowan Game Land from the game land program and adds it to Chowan Swamp Game Land. The two game lands are geographically close and combining them will alleviate confusion among hunters and improve the accuracy of harvest reports.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

*Private Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to alleviate confusion among hunters and recreationists; however, it will decrease hunting opportunities on the former Chowan Game Land from seven days per week to six days per week during the open seasons. The WRC does not know how many hunters use Chowan Game Land and thus, has no mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

15A NCAC 10D .0267 ROBESON GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

The proposed amendment removes Robeson Game Land from the game land program and converts it to a Wildlife Conservation Area. The game land's size and location make it a poor fit for the game land program. The property is situated adjacent to a mobile home park and access to the game land is via the park's main access road. Many game land users park in homeowner's front yards and field staff have received multiple calls with questions and concerns about access and trespassing. Additionally, residential dwellings are located within 75 feet of the game land boundary resulting in a significant portion of the game land off-limits for hunting with firearms.

Fiscal Impact

*State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

*Private Impact*

The proposed amendment will decrease hunting opportunities on Robeson Game Land from four days per week to three days per week during the open seasons. The proposed amendment includes accompanying restrictions for Wildlife Conservation Areas that prohibit activities other than wildlife observation, hunting, trapping, or fishing. This restriction may negatively impact recreationists who use the property for those activities. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

**CONSTRUCTION:**

**15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY**

The proposed amendment prohibits private construction of piers, docks, moorings, or similar facilities or structures for more than 24 hours on the shoreline or lakebed of Mayo Lake.

The property owner, Duke Energy, has observed an increase in the number of major encroachments including unauthorized alteration of land and the construction of piers and docks, which violates their agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers. One of the most common encroachments found at Mayo Lake is the mooring of pontoon boat hulls with the intention of using the facility as a dock or pier, which is a violation of the USACE permit.

**Fiscal Impact**

*State Impact*

The proposed amendment is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement. Staff will enforce the amendment as part of their regular duties.

*Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

*Private Impact*

The proposed amendment may negatively impact some property owners who have unlawfully placed these prohibited structures in or next to the lake. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

(a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means a structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of the day's hunt.
- (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or self-defense.
- (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional restrictions on entry or usage:

- (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to archery equipment and falconry. During the open deer seasons for these areas, antlered and antlerless deer may be taken.
- (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on a game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public, and entry on these areas is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Commission may authorize entry when the primary purpose for the Restricted Zone shall not be compromised and the persons requesting entry demonstrate a valid need, or official business of the Commission is being conducted by a contractor or agent of the Commission. Valid needs may include access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public.
- (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.
- (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S. 113-264(d).
- (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.



- (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to use by the public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a permit.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

(c) Littering. No person shall deposit litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse on any game land except in receptacles provided for disposal of refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary landfills shall be established on a game land by a person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as permitted by the landowner.

(d) Use of weapons. ~~No~~ Except for archery equipment, as defined in Rule 10B .0116, no person shall discharge:  
discharge a weapon within 150 yards of:

- (1) ~~a weapon within 150 yards of a game land building or designated game land camping area, except where posted otherwise; or~~
- (2) ~~a weapon within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and~~
- (3) ~~a firearm within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to Butner Falls of Neuse and Jordan Game Lands.~~

No person shall hunt with or have in possession a shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on a posted waterfowl impoundment on a game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Individuals carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document may be accessed at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov) at no cost. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

- (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

(e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- (1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, a person entering a game land to hunt, trap, run dogs, or train dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a valid North Carolina hunting or trapping license.
- (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114, in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- (3) For other field trials using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.
- (4) Exceptions:
- (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;
- (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103 (j)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required for hunting doves; other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.
- (f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. ~~The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Training dogs is prohibited at the Sandhills Field Trial facilities. Unless otherwise specified in Rules of this Subchapter and except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission, Dogs may dogs shall~~ not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on game lands located west of I-95, or I-95, ~~except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be~~

~~trained or permitted to run unleashed~~ from March 15 through June 15 on game lands located east of I-95, ~~except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~ I-95. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when the field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the game land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization demonstrates their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0300, trapping of furbearing animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the open trapping seasons for those areas, established by rule. Foxes may be trapped on game lands from October 1 through the end of February in a county with an open fox trapping season that falls between October 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during a fox trapping season that occurs outside the dates of October 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. Trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on a game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- (4) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands; and
- (5) from April 1 through September 31.

At a trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), is less than 3 cubic inches and is covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on a game land except on roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and on trails posted for vehicular travel, unless the person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (k).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on a game land except on an area posted by the landowner for camping.

- (2) Camping on posted camping areas is allowed from September 1 through the last day of February and from March 31 through May 31 unless otherwise specified in Rules of this Subchapter.
- (3) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at a designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period, unless otherwise specified in rules of this Subchapter. After 14 consecutive days of camping, personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.
- ~~(3)~~(4) A hunting, fishing, trapping or Game Lands License is required for individuals age 16 or older to camp on game lands in areas posted for camping except when camping within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land, within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land west of NC-43, and in posted areas along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.
- (j) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and is in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (k) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on game lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from this restriction but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other all-terrain wheelchairs on areas where foot travel is allowed. Off road vehicles including ATVs, UTVs, and ebikes are not permitted.
- (l) Disabled Access Program. Disabled individuals who meet the requirements of G.S. 113-296 may obtain a Disabled Access Permit and Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org). The Disabled Access Permit allows individuals to operate electric wheel chairs, all-terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to that use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated online, at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org). This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is constantly in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in lawful activities while assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. A vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under this provision shall have the Disabled Access Permit available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers upon request. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions

may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land. It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons holding a Disabled Access Permit, during waterfowl season, to hunt within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind. The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification allows individuals to apply for available Disabled sportsman permit hunting opportunities as prescribed in G.S. 113-296.

(m) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on game lands, including land or water. For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while in a public place.

(n) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting ranges for purposes other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. Other uses, including camping, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, unless written authorization is obtained from the Commission. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot items made of glass on the grounds of the range. No person may leave a vehicle or other obstruction in a location or position that it will prevent, impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave a vehicle or other object parked in a place on the shooting range other than the place or zone that is designated and posted or marked as an authorized parking zone. No person shall handle firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to a person. Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission employees. No person shall handle firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using a shooting range, shall do an act that is prohibited or neglect to do an act that is required by signs or markings placed on the area under authority of this Rule for regulating the use of the area.

(o) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. These roads shall be posted with the opening and closing times.

(p) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of a bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess a bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

(q) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on a game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take wild birds or wild animals attracted to these foods.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306; 143-318.10;*  
*Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
*Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*  
*Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*  
*Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*  
*Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;*  
*Amended Eff. November 1, 2023.*

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0205   BLADEN LAKES STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN BLADEN COUNTY**

2   Bladen Lakes State Forest ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)    Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season.
- 5           (2)    Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 6           (3)    On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 7           (4)    Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 8           (5)    Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
9                   ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas; as specified in Rule .0102  
10                  of this Subchapter.
- 11          (6)    The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through August  
12                   1.

13

14   *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
15                   *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
16

**15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES**

Butner-Falls of Neuse ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
  - (a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;
  - (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
  - (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- (6) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.
- (7) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May ~~15~~ 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.
- (8) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- (9) Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. November 1, 2022;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*



1   **15A NCAC 10D .0212    BUXTON WOODS GAME LAND IN DARE COUNTY**

2   Buxton Woods ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)     Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- 5           (2)     Target shooting is prohibited.
- 6           (3)     Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails.

7

8   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
9                   *Eff. November 1, 2022.*

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0215   R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY**

2   (a) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

3           (1)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken from the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season  
4                   for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Wednesday thereafter.

5           (2)     Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through  
6                   August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed on  
7                   roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian  
8                   use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license  
9                   as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).

10          (3)     On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit after November 1.

11          (4)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
12                   ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

13          (5)     Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

14   (b) Hunting shall be by permit for the following species in the area posted as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area:

15           (1)     quail and woodcock; and

16           (2)     rabbit and squirrel on days outside of the three days per week framework.

17  
18   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
19                    *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
20                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*

1    **15A NCAC 10D .0217    CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY**

2    ~~Chowan game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:~~

3           ~~(1) — Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers~~  
4           ~~Season.~~

5           ~~(2) — Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.~~

6  
7    *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
8           *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
9  
10

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0218   CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD**  
2                                   **COUNTIES**

3   Chowan Swamp ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
5                   Season.
- 6           (2)     Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November bear season  
7                   and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December bear season except in that portion  
8                   of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway  
9                   158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season  
10                  is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
- 11          (3)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
12                   ~~14 in areas both designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule  
13                   .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 14          (4)     Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only  
15                   September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated  
16                   roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 17          (5)     Target shooting is prohibited.

18  
19   *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
20                        *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
21  
22

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES**

2 Goose Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4 Season.
- 5 (2) Except as provided in 15A NCAC 10D ~~.0103(d)(2)~~, .0103(e), waterfowl in posted waterfowl  
6 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
- 7 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 8 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 9 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 10 (3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in ~~October~~ October, through the end of all  
11 waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments:  
12 Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- 13 (4) On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point, and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments, all activities,  
14 except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping  
15 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through  
16 March 15.
- 17 (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February~~ February, and March 31  
18 ~~through May 14 14, in areas both designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas; as  
19 specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 20 (6) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through  
21 January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- 22 (7) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on  
23 the Beaufort County portion north of ~~NC N.C. 33 33~~, except for that portion east of Smith Creek  
24 and south of Campbell Creek.
- 25 (8) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 26 (9) Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.

27  
28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
29 *Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2022;*  
30 *Eff. March 15, 2023. 2023;*  
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025.*  
32

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0232    GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY**

2   Gull Rock Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)    Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season.
- 5           (2)    Waterfowl on ~~posted waterfowl impoundments~~ the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Impoundment  
6                   shall be taken only on the following days:
- 7                   (a)    the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 8                   (b)    Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 9                   (c)    Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 10          (3)    Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February February, and March 31~~  
11                   ~~through May 14 14, in~~ allowed on areas designated and posted as for camping areas: as specified in  
12                   Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 13          (4)    Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear ~~Season~~  
14                   Season, and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.
- 15          (5)    Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments on the Willow Point tract is by permit only.

16

17   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
18                    *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
19                    *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 2022;*  
20                    *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025; June 1, 2023.*

21

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0236    HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY**

2   Holly Shelter ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)   Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season.
- 5           (2)   Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
- 6                   (a)   the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 7                   (b)   Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 8                   (c)   Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 9           (3)   Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
10               ~~14 in areas designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102  
11               of this Subchapter.
- 12          (4)   On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the  
13               Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are  
14               permit only.
- 15          (5)   The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
- 16                   (a)   all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west  
17                           to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park  
18                           Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
- 19                   (b)   on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and  
20                           New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road  
21                           to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50,  
22                           where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
- 23          (6)   Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of  
24               February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless  
25               otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 26          (7)   Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within  
27               100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 28          (8)   Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 29          (9)   Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

30  
31   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
32                       *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
33  
34

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0239   JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

2   Johns River ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 3           (1)     During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.
- 4           (2)     The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 5           (3)     Camping is ~~restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~
- 6                     allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 7           (4)     Target shooting is prohibited.
- 8           (5)     During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, the use of bicycles is
- 9                     restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.

10

11   *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12                     *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

13                     *Amended Eff. August 1, 2025; August 1, 2023.*

14



**15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES**

Jordan ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on open days of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers.
- (2) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
  - (a) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
  - (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
  - (c) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (3) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed only on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older shall obtain a game land license prior to engaging in horseback riding on an area other than the American Tobacco Trail.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- (6) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.
- (7) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2022;  
Eff. March 15, 2023;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0241   JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES**

2   (a) Juniper Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following applies:

3           (1)     Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

4           (2)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
5                   ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102  
6                   of this Subchapter.

7           (3)     Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

8  
9   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
10                   *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0249   MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY**

2   Mayo ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3           (1)     Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
4                   Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5           (2)     Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 6                   (a)     Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 7                   (b)     Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 8                   (c)     the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 9           (3)     Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10          (4)     Placement of docks, piers, and personal property for more than 24 consecutive hours on the shoreline  
11                   or lakebed of Mayo Lake is prohibited.

12

13   *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
14                       *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

15

16

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0258    PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND**  
2                                   **STANLY COUNTIES**

3   Pee Dee River ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for  
5                   Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6           (2)     Target shooting is prohibited.
- 7           (3)     Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays  
8                   only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and gated roads and  
9                   trails posted for equestrian use.
- 10          (4)     Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be ~~prohibited~~  
11                   ~~on that portion south of US-74. prohibited, except on that portion north of US-74 and east of Pee~~  
12                   Dee River where hunting shall be by permit only.

13

14   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
15                   *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
16                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*  
17  
18

**15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,  
HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,  
TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES**

Pisgah game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- (4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited in the Wilson Creek portion of Pisgah Game Land (Caldwell County)
- (5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (6) Activities other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and authorized use of posted trails and parking areas are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County).

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. October 1, 2022.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0265 ROANOKE RIVER WETLANDS IN BERTIE, HALIFAX, MARTIN, AND**  
2 **NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES**

3 Roanoke River Wetlands is hunting and trapping by Permit only, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business or by  
5 permit holders.
- 6 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
7 ~~14 in allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas, provided, however, that~~  
8 ~~camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state owned portion~~  
9 ~~of the game land, as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.~~
- 10 (3) Target Shooting is prohibited.

11  
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
13 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
14  
15

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0267    ROBESON GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY**

2   ~~Robeson game land is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:~~

3           ~~(1) — Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers~~  
4           ~~Season.~~

5           ~~(2) — Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.~~

6  
7   *History Note:    Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
8           *Eff. October 1, 2022.*  
9

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0271   SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND**  
2                                   **COUNTIES**

3   Sandhills ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from the Wednesday on or  
5                   nearest October 18 through March 31 except as follows:
- 6                   (a)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on the open days of the  
7                           archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder  
8                           firearms and archery equipment the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through  
9                           the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be  
10                          taken with all lawful weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through  
11                          the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 12                  (b)     dove may be taken on open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third  
13                          Saturday thereafter;
- 14                  (c)     gray and fox squirrel may be taken on open days from the second Saturday before  
15                          Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 16                  (d)     rabbit may be taken on open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day  
17                          through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- 18                  (e)     waterfowl may be taken on open days during waterfowl season;
- 19                  (f)     wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit  
20                          Hunt; and
- 21                  (g)     raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest  
22                          October 15 through the last day of February.
- 23           (2)     Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the  
24                   Saturday on or nearest to September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- 25           (3)     Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with Blackpowder firearms or archery equipment on open  
26                   hunting days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the  
27                   second week thereafter.
- 28           ~~(2)(4)~~   The Antlered deer may be taken with all lawful weapons on Deer With Visible Antlers season is the  
29                   open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday  
30                   after Thanksgiving ~~Day~~ Day, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- 31           (5)     Antlerless deer hunting during the All Lawful Weapons Season is by permit only.
- 32           (6)     Antlered deer may be taken with Blackpowder firearms or archery equipment, except on the J.  
33                   Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, on open hunting days from the third Monday after  
34                   Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- 35           ~~(3)~~     The archery season is on open days from the Saturday on or nearest to September 10 to the fourth  
36                   Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third  
37                   Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with



1 archery equipment on open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with  
2 Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only  
3 deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through  
4 January 1.

5 (4) Blackpowder firearms season is the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving  
6 Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon  
7 Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or  
8 antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days during the  
9 blackpowder firearms season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday  
10 after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.

11 (5) Antlered and antlerless deer hunting during the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible  
12 Antlers is by permit only.

13 (6)(7) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of  
14 the applicable waterfowl seasons.

15 (7)(8) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

16 (8)(9) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 through March  
17 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the  
18 remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular  
19 traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

20 (9)(10) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
21 ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

22 (10)(11) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

23 (11)(12) Swimming is prohibited in the lakes.

24 (13) Fox squirrel hunting is by permit only.

25 (14) Hunting deer with dogs is by permit only.

26 (15) Training dogs for the purpose of pursuing or chasing deer is prohibited.

27 (16) An individual convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting deer with dogs shall not be  
28 eligible to receive a permit for hunting deer with dogs the season following conviction.

29  
30  
31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
32 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*  
34  
35

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND**  
2 **WARREN COUNTIES**

3 Shocco Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers  
5 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 7 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
8 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and~~ posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102  
9 of this Subchapter.
- 10 (4) Target Shooting is prohibited.

11

12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
13 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*

**15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL,  
AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES**

South Mountains ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers Season begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this Rule. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the second Friday thereafter.
- (2) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
  - (a) January 2 through March 31;
  - (b) May 16 through August 31;
  - (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
  - (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas; as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. October 1, 2022;  
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 5, 2024;  
Amended Eff. October 1, 2024.*

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0278 SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND CUMBERLAND**  
2 **COUNTIES**

3 Suggs Mill Pond ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting and trapping by permit only, in which the following applies:

- 4 (1) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
5 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102  
6 of this Subchapter.
- 7 (2) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:  
8 (a) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and  
9 (b) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
- 10 (3) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels on  
11 Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl  
12 hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources  
13 Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- 14 (4) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed waterfowl  
15 impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and  
16 current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S.  
17 113-264(d).

18  
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
20 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
21  
22

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0283   THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES**  
2                                   **COUNTIES**

3   Thurmond Chatham ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible  
5                   Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 6           (2)     Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all  
7                   horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback  
8                   riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- 9           (3)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
10                   ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

11

12   *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
13                   *Eff. October 1, 2022;*  
14                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*  
15  
16

1   **15A NCAC 10D .0291   WHITEHALL PLANTATION GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND PENDER**  
2                                   **COUNTIES**

3   Whitehall Plantation ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting and trapping by permit only, in which the following applies:

- 4           (1)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
5                    ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102  
6                    of this Subchapter.
- 7           (2)     Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on  
8                    the Long Ridge Tract.

9

10   *History Note:*     *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
11                        *Eff. November 1, 2022.*  
12  
13

1    **15A NCAC 10D .0294    NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

2    North Bend ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 3           (1)     The use of bicycles is restricted to designated trails, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting  
4                   during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
- 5           (2)     Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~  
6                   14. allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 7           (3)     Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 8           (4)     Target shooting is prohibited.

9

10   *History Note:*    *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*  
11                    *Eff. August 1, 2024.*

12

13

14

# EXHIBIT F-1

June 5, 2025



## **Proposed Amendments to Wildlife Management Rules for 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing**

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

#### **1. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Establish CWD Management Area counties (Cumberland, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties) and deer seasons. Shift the timing of blackpowder and gun seasons to open one week earlier in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties. The opening date for archery season would not be changed, but archery is shortened by one week since blackpowder season will open earlier.

#### **Justification:**

The proposed changes shift harvest timing earlier in the hunting season and before peak breeding which increases the opportunity for hunters to take adult bucks that are making long-distance excursions and yearling bucks that are dispersing from natal ranges. The additional buck harvest during this time should help reduce disease transmission and help achieve the Wildlife Management Division's goal for CWD herd management of 70% or more of buck harvest occurring before peak breeding time.

*15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD MANAGEMENT AREAS (Page 10)*

#### **2. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Establish a two-day early season (Velvet Season) for antlered buck-only on all lands (public and private) on the weekend of the 4th Saturday in August in all CWD Management Area counties. All lawful weapons would be allowed. The normal 2-buck season limit would apply plus any CWD MAP tags that have been issued to individuals.

#### **Justification:**

Create a unique and special opportunity in the CWD counties to encourage additional antlered buck harvest, which are the segment of the deer population most likely to have, and



therefore spread, CWD, and to increase the opportunity for hunters to take adult bucks and yearling bucks prior to dispersal.

*15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD MANAGEMENT AREAS (Page 10)*

**3. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Change the carcass transportation rules to emphasize disposal, requiring non-edible portions to be disposed of in a lined landfill, buried under specific conditions, or left on the ground within the county of origin.

**Justification:**

Current cervid carcass transportation rules are complex and not being followed by many hunters. Hopefully, this simplification will lead to better adherence by hunters and better overall CWD management. Implementation of this would be statewide. This will not change the importation rules from out of state.

*15A NCAC 10B .0503 SURVEILLANCE AREA (Page 12)*

*15A NCAC 10B .0504 DISPOSAL OF CERVID CARCASSES (Page 13)*

## **White-tailed Deer**

**4. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Remove the CWD Management Area counties from the Deer Rule. Increases Either-Sex season on private lands in six Western Season counties (Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Madison, Michell, Yancey), and increase Either-Sex season on private lands in three Northwestern Season counties (Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford).

**Justification:**

The harvest objective of at least 1.0 antlered buck per square mile is being met on private lands in these counties. Additionally, long-term trends in harvest data and deer hunter observation surveys continue to show these herds growing. Additional antlerless harvest is sustainable, will provide hunters with additional hunting opportunity, and help to improve balance in the adult sex ratio.

*15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER (Page 4)*

## **Squirrels**

**5. General Description of Proposed Change:**

Adjust the opening of the spring gray squirrel season to ensure no overlap with turkey season and expands the spring gray squirrel season to game lands.

**Justification:**

This rule change is necessary to avoid overlap of the spring gray squirrel season with the last week of turkey season and will extend hunting opportunities over Memorial Day weekend.

The shift would have no biological impact on gray squirrel populations.

*15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS (Page 9)*

NOTE: THIS RULE IS CURRENTLY NOTICED FOR CHANGES TO DEFINITION OF YOUTH AND YOUTH DEER DAYS. CHANGES ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN AS IF CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE.

**15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

(a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by ~~skin or velvet~~, skin, may be taken during the following seasons, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, ~~Cumberland~~, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

(B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

(C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, ~~Forsyth~~, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, ~~Stokes~~, ~~Surry~~, ~~Watauga~~, ~~Wilkes~~, and ~~Yadkin~~ and Watauga counties.

(D) Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

(E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.

(F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through ~~(G)~~ (E) of this Subparagraph.

(A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort ~~Liberty~~ Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

(C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties.

(D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, ~~Madison~~, and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts ~~(a)(2)(G)(i)~~ (a)(2)(E)(i) and (ii) of this Rule.

~~(E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.~~

~~(F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.~~

~~(G)~~(E) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of ~~Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston~~ Avery, Burke, Rutherford, and Polk counties and in Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey counties, and the following parts of counties:

(i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and

(ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.

(b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the Archery Season.
- (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part ~~(b)(1)(A)~~ (b)(1) of this Rule.
- (c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:
- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), ~~(E), (F), or (G)~~ (E) of this Rule that has one or more open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.
- (B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.
- (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.
- (D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed

or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

(d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands within a city boundary.

(2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

(3) Restrictions:

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the Urban Season.

(e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals under 16 years of age during the following days:

(1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

(2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin ~~or velvet~~ as distinguished from antlers or spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

(g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer

1 harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as  
2 instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided  
3 with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and  
4 not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the  
5 restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus  
6 antlerless harvest report card.

7 (h) Seasons for counties identified as Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas shall be as specified in Rule .0502  
8 of this Subchapter.

9  
10  
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*  
12 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
13 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*  
14 *1994; July 1, 1993;*  
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*  
18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
20 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
21 *2003);*  
22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*  
23 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*  
24 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
25 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*  
26 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*  
27  
28

1   **15A NCAC 10B .0206   SQUIRRELS**

2   (a) The open season for gray and red squirrels is the Monday on or closest to October 15 through the last day of  
3   February. Gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the Monday following the closing of the open season for  
4   wild turkey in 15A NCAC 10B .0209(a) through the second Monday thereafter.

5   (b) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.

6   (c) The open season for fox squirrels is the Monday on or nearest October 15 through January 31.

7   ~~(e) Except on game lands, gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the second Monday in May through the~~  
8   ~~fourth Monday in May.~~

9   ~~(d) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.~~

10   ~~(e)~~(d) The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.

11  
12   *History Note       Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

13       *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

14       *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*  
15       *2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

16       *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

17       *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022.*  
18  
19



1 **15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD SURVEILLANCE AREAS DEFINED MANAGEMENT AREAS**

2 (a) The following counties are CWD Management Areas:

- 3 (1) Cumberland;  
4 (2) Forsyth;  
5 (3) Stokes;  
6 (4) Surry;  
7 (5) Wilkes; and  
8 (6) Yadkin.

9 (b) Prohibitions specified in Rule .0503 apply to the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

10 (c) Open seasons for hunting deer are as follows:

- 11 (1) Special Early Season. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished  
12 from knobs or buttons covered by skin, may be taken on the fourth Saturday in August and the  
13 Sunday immediately following with a lawful weapon, including on game lands unless otherwise  
14 specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.  
15 (2) All Lawful Weapons.  
16 (A) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin  
17 counties two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1, including on game  
18 lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.  
19 (B) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Cumberland County the Saturday on or  
20 nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands unless otherwise  
21 specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.  
22 (3) Archery Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized  
23 in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 on the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day  
24 immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in  
25 Subparagraph (c)(4) of this Rule.  
26 (4) Blackpowder Firearms Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment  
27 as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, and blackpowder firearms as defined in 15A NCAC 10B  
28 .0203(c)(3), from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the All Lawful Weapons Season  
29 described in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter, including on  
30 game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

31 (d) Seasons, bag limits, and programs specified in paragraphs (d) through (g) of Rule 10B .0203 of this Subchapter  
32 shall apply in the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

33  
34 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*  
35 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;*  
36 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*  
37 *Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, 2024*

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0503 SURVEILLANCE AREA**

2 (a) Inside a surveillance area, placement of minerals or salt licks to purposefully congregate wildlife shall be  
3 prohibited. Placement of bait, food, or food product to purposefully congregate wildlife shall be prohibited from  
4 January 2 through August 31 inside a Surveillance Area, except that:

- 5 (1) bird feeders specifically designed for nongame birds shall be allowed;  
6 (2) placement of bait, food, or food products to hunt during the urban archery season shall be allowed  
7 within the established season in participating municipalities; and  
8 (3) the placement of food specifically permitted by the Commission for scientific research, population  
9 management, and wildlife control may be allowed.

10 (b) White-tailed deer fawn rehabilitation is prohibited in a Surveillance Area.

11 (c) White-tailed deer fawns originating from within a Surveillance Area shall not be transported alive outside the  
12 Surveillance Area.

13 ~~(d) No cervid carcass or carcass parts originating from inside a Primary Surveillance Area (PSA) or Secondary~~  
14 ~~Surveillance Area (SSA) shall be transported outside of the county of origin, except:~~

- 15 ~~(1) meat that has been boned out so that no pieces or fragments of bone remain;~~  
16 ~~(2) caped hides with no part of the skull or spinal column attached;~~  
17 ~~(3) antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or skulls free from meat or brain tissue;~~  
18 ~~(4) cleaned lower jawbones with teeth or cleaned teeth;~~  
19 ~~(5) finished taxidermy products and tanned hides;~~  
20 ~~(6) carcass or carcass parts permitted by the Commission for disposal outside of the Surveillance Area;~~  
21 ~~(7) carcass or carcass parts originating inside a PSA county may be transported into contiguous PSA~~  
22 ~~counties; and~~  
23 ~~(8) carcass or carcass parts originating inside a SSA county may be transported into contiguous SSA or~~  
24 ~~PSA counties.~~

25 ~~(e)(d)~~ No person shall possess or use a substance or material that contains or is labeled as containing any excretion  
26 collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or  
27 attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife inside a surveillance area. This prohibition shall not apply to the  
28 following substances:

- 29 (1) products labeled as containing synthetic analogs of cervid excretions;  
30 (2) natural substances labeled as being collected from facilities within North Carolina that have a valid  
31 Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Services;  
32 (3) natural deer urine products labeled as containing excretions from facilities within North Carolina  
33 that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and  
34 Consumer Services; and  
35 (4) natural deer urine products labeled as containing excretions from facilities that meet all the  
36 following requirements:

- 1 (A) determined to be free of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) based on testing by an  
2 independent laboratory using a method that may help detect the presence of CWD prions;  
3 (B) complies with a federally approved CWD herd certification program and any federal CWD  
4 protocols; and  
5 (C) participates in additional herd management requirements as specified by the Wildlife  
6 Resources Commission.  
7

8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*  
9 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;*  
10 *Emergency Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*  
11 *Temporary Adoption Eff. November 29, 2022;*  
12 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*  
13 *Eff. January 1, 2024.*  
14  
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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0504 ~~PRIMARY SURVEILLANCE AREA~~ DISPOSAL OF CERVID CARCASSES**

2 (a) The final disposition of non-edible portions of cervid carcasses and carcass parts originating from North Carolina  
3 shall be:

4 (1) in a lined landfill;

5 (2) buried 3 feet below ground and 300 feet from a waterbody; or

6 (3) lawfully left on the ground within the county of origin.

7 (b) This section shall not apply to cervid carcass parts that are lawful to possess pursuant to Rule .0124 of this

8 Subchapter.

9  
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*

11 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 2, 2022;*

12 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*

13 *Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, 2024.*  
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15

# EXHIBIT F-2

June 5, 2025



## **Fiscal Note for 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission – Wildlife Management**

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD MANAGEMENT AREAS  
15A NCAC 10B .0503 SURVEILLANCE AREA  
15A NCAC 10B .0504 DISPOSAL OF CERVID CARCASSES  
15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER  
15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS

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**Fiscal Impact:** State Government: Yes  
Local Government: Yes  
Private Impact: Yes  
Substantial Economic Impact: No

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-306

## **BACKGROUND**

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, the WRC conducts an annual review of its inland fish, wildlife, and game land regulations to determine whether the rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of managing wildlife resources or Commission property through a biologically sustainable harvest consistent with sound conservation objectives; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources, and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rules and rule amendments is shown below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A. The proposed changes will shift or align hunting season dates for white-tailed deer and gray squirrels and update Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management rules. These proposed changes are intended to help ensure future hunting opportunities and wildlife conservation while minimizing costs to the regulated community.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY RULE**

### **15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD MANAGEMENT AREAS**

### **15A NCAC 10B .0503 SURVEILLANCE AREA**

### **15A NCAC 10B .0504 DISPOSAL OF CERVID CARCASSES**

Chronic wasting disease is managed through both rule and proclamation. When a cervid tests positive for CWD, the WRC is authorized to issue proclamations in accordance with G.S. 113-291.2(a2), to establish and modify Primary Surveillance Area(s) and Secondary Surveillance Area(s) and mandatory sampling requirements for cervids taken in those areas. These actions are augmented with CWD rules which are designed to reduce movement and transmission of the disease.

Proposed rules .0502 through .0504 build on the existing CWD regulations in 15A NCAC 10B .0500 and requirements established by the Wildlife Resources Commission's proclamation authority. The current requirements primarily emphasize surveillance and sampling, whereas the proposed requirements shift the focus to ongoing management in affected areas and introduce additional measures designed to limit the movement of CWD within the state.

**Rule 10B .0502:** The proposed rule establishes the following counties as CWD Management Areas: Cumberland, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin. It also establishes a special, two-day antlered buck-only season on public and private lands within the CWD Management Area counties. The deer seasons and two-day antlered buck only season will shift harvest timing earlier in the hunting season, thus increasing opportunities for deer hunters and encouraging additional harvest of antlered bucks, which are the segment of the deer population most likely to have and spread CWD.

**Rule 10B .0503:** The cervid carcass transport requirements are proposed to be removed from this rule, revised, and incorporated into new Rule 10B .0504.

**Rule 10B .0504:** The proposed rule simplifies cervid carcass transport requirements and shifts the focus to disposal, requiring non-edible portions to be disposed of in a lined landfill, buried under specific conditions, or left on the ground within the county of origin.

Under current rule 10B .0503, cervid carcasses or carcass parts originating from inside a CWD surveillance area cannot be transported outside of the county of origin, except for specific cleaned or processed parts and for movement between the primary and secondary surveillance areas. This new proposed rule will allow unrestricted transportation of cervids harvested within the State as long as the carcass is disposed of in one of the three ways outlined in the rule. These proposed changes give hunters in Surveillance Area counties more transportation and disposal

options, whereas for hunters in the rest of the State, it will either have no impact or impose additional disposal requirements, depending on if they cross county lines with a cervid carcass.

Current cervid carcass transportation rules are complex and are not being followed by many hunters. The proposed amendments and accompanying new rule simplify requirements and are anticipated to result in better compliance by hunters and better overall CWD management. The implementation of the proposed rule will be statewide.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

The proposed rules and rule amendments have no anticipated state government impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation or enforcement. If the CWD interventions are effective, they could help prevent declines in local business visitation and sales. As a result, state governments would also be more likely to maintain sales tax revenue generated by the economic activity associated with deer hunting.

Licensed hunters provide a significant portion of funding for WRC, not only through the license fees themselves, but also the matching federal funding dollars from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based on license sales. Maintaining the NC deer herd will help avoid potential losses to this source of conservation funding.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed rules and rule amendments continue to allow cervid carcass disposal in lined landfills, some of which may be owned by municipal or county governments. Some hunters and deer processors already dispose of deer carcasses in landfills. Additional carcasses resulting from this rule proposal are not anticipated to significantly impact landfill operations.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed rules and rule amendments will benefit hunters by providing additional deer hunting opportunities. The streamlined carcass transport restrictions are likely to reduce confusion among hunters and additional disposal options should make compliance easier. Hunters who currently transport cervid carcasses outside the county of harvest may be negatively impacted because they will now be required to dispose of the carcass in a landfill or via burial, both of which will require additional time and/or labor compared to leaving a carcass on the ground in the county of origin.

Businesses that process deer into venison products could benefit from hunters potentially harvesting more deer due to the additional deer harvest opportunities. These businesses are not



expected to be impacted by the changes to the disposal requirements as they already typically dispose of carcasses in landfills already.

North Carolina’s “Call Before You Dig” service (“NC811”) may experience a slight increase in calls from hunters who choose to bury carcasses and want to locate underground utilities before they dig a three-foot hole.

It is the agency’s hope that these streamlined transport and disposal requirements and defined management areas will improve compliance by hunters and build upon ongoing efforts to contain the distribution of CWD within the NC deer herd. By restricting the movement of potentially infectious carcass materials and mandating proper disposal methods, the agency aims to reduce the risk of human-assisted transmission of the disease, which is a key factor in its spread. These efforts are part of a broader, adaptive management strategy designed to protect the long-term health and viability of North Carolina’s deer population.

According to annual hunter harvest surveys, deer remain the most hunted species in North Carolina. Eighty-one percent of licensed hunters (241,619) hunt deer. Eighty percent of NC resident hunters (238,478) hunt deer. These individuals contribute over \$731M to the economy annually<sup>1</sup>. Though the NCWRC does not have data on how many hunting trips are made to these six counties specifically, Northwestern NC is known to be popular with deer hunters.

Reducing the spread of CWD will have significant long-term benefits to hunters, local businesses, wildlife conservation, and the North Carolina economy. If successful, the bulk of these benefits will be realized over the course of many years. Although the long-term benefits are highly uncertain and could not be quantified, the benefits are highly likely to exceed the marginal costs associated with the proposed increased carcass disposal requirements. If no action is taken, this could potentially contribute to significant losses to the cervid population and harm to local and state economies which benefit from significant revenues generated by NC hunting.

### **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

The proposed amendments remove the CWD Management Areas counties from the deer rule and increase the antlerless white-tailed deer season on private lands in three Northwestern Season counties and six Western Season counties. The proposed amendments increase the antlerless white-tailed deer season 11 days in Polk, Cleveland, and Rutherford counties, 25 days in Madison County, and 18 days in Avery, Caldwell, Burke, Mitchell, and Yancy counties.

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<sup>1</sup>

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. 2023. North Carolina Outdoor Experiences Survey

The CWD Management Area county seasons are in the CWD Management Area Rule (10B .0502). The harvest objective of at least one antlered buck per square mile is being met on private lands in the counties specified in the Northwest and Western seasons. Additionally, long-term trends in harvest data and deer hunter observation surveys continue to show these herds growing. Additional antlerless harvest is sustainable, will provide hunters with additional hunting opportunity, and help to improve balance in the adult buck to doe ratio.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

Expanding opportunities for deer hunting may increase participation and possibly recruit new or lapsed hunters. The Commission has no way to predict how many people might purchase hunting licenses or continue hunting because of the additional opportunities.

##### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments to the deer seasons are expected to increase hunter participation, which may result in increased visitation to the western counties. More deer hunters may result in increased visitation to local businesses which is likely to result in increased revenues for those businesses. However, this anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

##### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment will benefit hunters by providing additional deer hunting opportunities. Additional deer harvest may benefit businesses that process deer into venison products. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

#### **15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS**

The proposed amendment adjusts the opening of the spring gray squirrel season to ensure no overlap with turkey season and expand the spring gray squirrel season to game lands.

Currently, the spring squirrel season and turkey season do not overlap. Previous adjustments to the turkey season dates require adjustment to the spring squirrel dates to avoid overlap. The proposed amendment accomplishes this by tying the opening of spring squirrel season to the closing date of turkey season. Avoiding overlap may improve hunter safety and satisfaction, ensuring hunters targeting each species do not disturb one another by being on the landscape at the same time.

Additionally, the proposed amendment will extend hunting opportunities over Memorial Day weekend and to game lands. Numerous requests have been received to include game lands in the

spring squirrel season. The proposed change will increase hunting opportunities and is not expected to have a biologically significant impact on gray squirrel populations.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

Expanding opportunities for squirrel hunting may increase participation and possibly recruit new or lapsed hunters. The Commission has no way to predict how many people might purchase hunting licenses or continue hunting because of the additional opportunities.

#### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments to the squirrel season and game lands are expected to increase hunter participation. More squirrel hunters may result in increased visitation to local businesses which is likely to result in increased revenues for those businesses. However, this anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendment will provide additional hunting opportunities on game lands and improve hunter safety and satisfaction by ensuring no overlap between turkey and spring gray squirrel season. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD SURVEILLANCE AREAS DEFINED MANAGEMENT AREAS**

(a) The following counties are CWD Management Areas:

- (1) Cumberland;
- (2) Forsyth;
- (3) Stokes;
- (4) Surry;
- (5) Wilkes; and
- (6) Yadkin.

(b) Prohibitions specified in Rule .0503 apply to the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Open seasons for hunting deer are as follows:

- (1) Special Early Season. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin, may be taken on the fourth Saturday in August and the Sunday immediately following with a lawful weapon, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) All Lawful Weapons.
  - (A) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
  - (B) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Cumberland County the Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (3) Archery Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 on the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(4) of this Rule.
- (4) Blackpowder Firearms Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, and blackpowder firearms as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0203(c)(3), from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the All Lawful Weapons Season described in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(d) Seasons, bag limits, and programs specified in paragraphs (d) through (g) of Rule 10B .0203 of this Subchapter shall apply in the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

*History Note:*                      *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*  
                                                 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;*  
                                                 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*

37  
38  
39

*Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, 2024*

1   **15A NCAC 10B .0503   SURVEILLANCE AREA**

2   (a) Inside a surveillance area, placement of minerals or salt licks to purposefully congregate wildlife shall be  
3   prohibited. Placement of bait, food, or food product to purposefully congregate wildlife shall be prohibited from  
4   January 2 through August 31 inside a Surveillance Area, except that:

- 5           (1)     bird feeders specifically designed for nongame birds shall be allowed;
- 6           (2)     placement of bait, food, or food products to hunt during the urban archery season shall be allowed  
7                   within the established season in participating municipalities; and
- 8           (3)     the placement of food specifically permitted by the Commission for scientific research, population  
9                   management, and wildlife control may be allowed.

10   (b) White-tailed deer fawn rehabilitation is prohibited in a Surveillance Area.

11   (c) White-tailed deer fawns originating from within a Surveillance Area shall not be transported alive outside the  
12   Surveillance Area.

13   ~~(d) No cervid carcass or carcass parts originating from inside a Primary Surveillance Area (PSA) or Secondary~~  
14   ~~Surveillance Area (SSA) shall be transported outside of the county of origin, except:~~

- 15           ~~(1) — meat that has been boned out so that no pieces or fragments of bone remain;~~
- 16           ~~(2) — caped hides with no part of the skull or spinal column attached;~~
- 17           ~~(3) — antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or skulls free from meat or brain tissue;~~
- 18           ~~(4) — cleaned lower jawbones with teeth or cleaned teeth;~~
- 19           ~~(5) — finished taxidermy products and tanned hides;~~
- 20           ~~(6) — carcass or carcass parts permitted by the Commission for disposal outside of the Surveillance Area;~~
- 21           ~~(7) — carcass or carcass parts originating inside a PSA county may be transported into contiguous PSA~~  
22           ~~counties; and~~
- 23           ~~(8) — carcass or carcass parts originating inside a SSA county may be transported into contiguous SSA or~~  
24           ~~PSA counties.~~

25   ~~(e)(d)~~ No person shall possess or use a substance or material that contains or is labeled as containing any excretion  
26   collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or  
27   attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife inside a surveillance area. This prohibition shall not apply to the  
28   following substances:

- 29           (1)     products labeled as containing synthetic analogs of cervid excretions;
- 30           (2)     natural substances labeled as being collected from facilities within North Carolina that have a valid  
31                   Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Services;
- 32           (3)     natural deer urine products labeled as containing excretions from facilities within North Carolina  
33                   that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and  
34                   Consumer Services; and
- 35           (4)     natural deer urine products labeled as containing excretions from facilities that meet all the  
36                   following requirements:

- 1 (A) determined to be free of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) based on testing by an  
2 independent laboratory using a method that may help detect the presence of CWD prions;  
3 (B) complies with a federally approved CWD herd certification program and any federal CWD  
4 protocols; and  
5 (C) participates in additional herd management requirements as specified by the Wildlife  
6 Resources Commission.  
7

8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*  
9 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;*  
10 *Emergency Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*  
11 *Temporary Adoption Eff. November 29, 2022;*  
12 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*  
13 *Eff. January 1, 2024.*  
14  
15

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0504 ~~PRIMARY SURVEILLANCE AREA~~ DISPOSAL OF CERVID CARCASSES**

2 (a) The final disposition of non-edible portions of cervid carcasses and carcass parts originating from North Carolina  
3 shall be:

4 (1) in a lined landfill;

5 (2) buried 3 feet below ground and 300 feet from a waterbody; or

6 (3) lawfully left on the ground within the county of origin.

7 (b) No cervid carcass or carcass part shall be placed on the ground outside of the county of origin.

8 (c) This section shall not apply to cervid carcass parts that are lawful to possess pursuant to Rule .0124 of this  
9 Subchapter.

10  
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*

12 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 2, 2022;*

13 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*

14 *Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, 2024.*



NOTE: THIS RULE IS CURRENTLY NOTICED FOR CHANGES TO DEFINITION OF YOUTH AND YOUTH DEER DAYS. CHANGES ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN AS IF CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE.

**15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

(a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by ~~skin or velvet~~, skin, may be taken during the following seasons, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, ~~Cumberland~~, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

(B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

(C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, ~~Forsyth~~, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, ~~Stokes~~, ~~Surry~~, ~~Watauga~~, ~~Wilkes~~, and ~~Yadkin~~ and Watauga counties.

(D) Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

(E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.

(F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

- (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through ~~(G)~~ (E) of this Subparagraph.
- (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- (B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort ~~Liberty~~ Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.
- (C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties.
- (D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, ~~Madison~~, and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts ~~(a)(2)(G)(i)~~ (a)(2)(E)(i) and (ii) of this Rule.
- ~~(E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.~~
- ~~(F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.~~
- ~~(G)~~(E) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of ~~Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston~~ Avery, Burke, Rutherford, and Polk counties and in Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey counties, and the following parts of counties:
- (i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and
- (ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.
- (b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the Archery Season.
- (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part ~~(b)(1)(A)~~ (b)(1) of this Rule.
- (c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:
- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), ~~(E), (F), or (G)~~ (E) of this Rule that has one or more open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.
- (B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.
- (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.
- (D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed

or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

(d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands within a city boundary.

(2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

(3) Restrictions:

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the Urban Season.

(e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals under 16 years of age during the following days:

(1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

(2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin ~~or velvet~~ as distinguished from antlers or spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

(g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer

1 harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as  
2 instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided  
3 with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and  
4 not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the  
5 restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus  
6 antlerless harvest report card.

7 (h) Seasons for counties identified as Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas shall be as specified in Rule .0502  
8 of this Subchapter.

9  
10  
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*  
12 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
13 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*  
14 *1994; July 1, 1993;*  
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*  
18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
20 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
21 *2003);*  
22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*  
23 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*  
24 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
25 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*  
26 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*  
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1   **15A NCAC 10B .0206   SQUIRRELS**

2   (a) The open season for gray and red squirrels is the Monday on or closest to October 15 through the last day of  
3   February. Gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the Monday following the closing of the open season for  
4   wild turkey in 15A NCAC 10B .0209(a) through the second Monday thereafter.

5   (b) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.

6   (c) The open season for fox squirrels is the Monday on or nearest October 15 through January 31.

7   ~~(e) Except on game lands, gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the second Monday in May through the~~  
8   ~~fourth Monday in May.~~

9   ~~(d) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.~~

10   ~~(e)~~(d) The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.

11  
12   *History Note       Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

13                   *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

14                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*  
15                   *2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

16                   *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

17                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022.*  
18  
19

# EXHIBIT G-1

June 5, 2025



## **Proposed Amendments to Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation Rules Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing**

The proposed amendments to Rules within 15A NCAC 10H .1400 provide minor updates to the framework for Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation licenses in North Carolina. Changes to the rules include updates to language for improved clarity, additional requirements and conditions for rehabilitation Apprentices and Mentors, and addition of rehabilitation for armadillos and the removal of language regarding the rehabilitation and holding of elk calves and non-farmed cervids. Updates to requirements for rehabilitating and holding rabies species have been incorporated and minimum standards for license eligibility have been updated to include no convictions for violations of the rules in the previous three years.

*15A NCAC 10H .1401 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES (Page 2)*

*15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION (Page 5)*

*15A NCAC 10H .1403 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING (Page 12)*

*15A NCAC 10H .1404 MINIMUM STANDARDS CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING (Page 18)*

*15A NCAC 10H .1405 CAPTIVITY LICENSE REVOCATION AND ENFORCEMENT (Page 22)*

*15A NCAC 10H .1406 FORMS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES (Page 24)*

1                                   **SECTION .1400 – WILDLIFE CAPTIVITY AND REHABILITATION**

2

3   **15A NCAC 10H .1401    DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES**

4   (a) The rules in this Section apply to all captivity licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources ~~Commission, Commission.~~

5   ~~including those applicable to non-farmed cervids in accordance with G.S. 106-549.97.~~

6   (b) The possession of ~~any species of~~ native wild animal ~~animals~~ or wild birds ~~bird and any member of the family~~

7   ~~Cervidae~~ is unlawful, unless the individual ~~in possession~~ obtains a captivity license from the Commission as provided

8   by this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to ~~any endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined by 15A~~

9   ~~NCAC 10I-0100~~ or farmed cervids as defined by G.S. 106-549.97.

10   (c) Captivity licenses may be issued by the Commission to ~~qualified~~ individuals meeting the requirements ~~for~~

11   ~~rehabilitation and captivity licenses~~ detailed in this Section for holding ~~of~~ wild animals or wild birds alive in captivity

12   for ~~scientific, educational, exhibition, or other purposes, as~~ purposes specified in G.S. 113-272.5.

13   (d) The following definitions shall apply to ~~all rules~~ the Rules in this Section:

14           (1)    "Apprentice" means an individual applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation that has not held

15                   this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state.

16           ~~(1)(2)~~   "Animal" means a wild animal and wild bird, as defined in this Rule.

17           ~~(2)(3)~~   "Category" means a designation on a captivity license for rehabilitation that defines a species or

18                   subset of species.

19           ~~(3)(4)~~   "Educational institution" or "scientific research institution" means any public or private school,

20                   facility, organization, or institution of vocational, professional, or higher education that uses live

21                   animals as part of a course of training, or for research, or other experiments, and is at least 50 percent

22                   funded by grants, awards, loans, or contracts from a department, agency, or instrumentality of

23                   federal, State, or local government. These terms do not include elementary or secondary schools.

24           ~~(4)(5)~~   "Education" or "educational purposes" means providing instruction or information to the public

25                   about wild animals or wild birds.

26           ~~(5)(6)~~   "Enclosure" means a structure housing captive wild animals or wild birds that prevents escape,

27                   protects the animal from injury, and is equipped with structural barriers to prevent any physical

28                   contact between the animal and the public.

29           ~~(6)(7)~~   "Exhibition" means any display of wild animals or wild birds for the public, whether for-profit or

30                   not-for-profit.

31           ~~(7)(8)~~   "Facility" means a designated location in North Carolina where wild animals or wild birds are held

32                   for rehabilitation or holding purposes. This includes enclosures, rooms, and buildings.

33           ~~(8)(9)~~   "Farmed cervid" means the term as defined in G.S. 106-549.97.

34           ~~(9)(10)~~   "Foster" or "surrogate" means a wild animal, or a wild bird held under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife

35                   Service federal migratory bird rehabilitation ~~permit~~ permit, used to rear wild animals or wild birds

36                   being held under a captivity license for rehabilitation.



1 ~~(10)~~(11) "Habituation" means causing a wild animal or wild bird to temporarily lose fear of humans, pets, or  
2 objects that impacts its ability to survive in the wild unassisted.

3 ~~(11)~~(12) "Imprinting" means causing a wild animal or wild bird to permanently lose fear of humans, pets, or  
4 objects that impacts its ability to survive in the wild unassisted, and is a non-reversible condition.

5 ~~(12)~~(13) "Migratory birds" means the term as defined in G.S. 113-129.

6 ~~(13)~~(14) "Native" means a wild animal or wild bird that occurs or historically occurred in the wild in North  
7 Carolina.

8 ~~(14)~~(15) "Nest box" or "den" means a structure that provides a retreat area that is within, attached to, or  
9 adjacent to an enclosure.

10 ~~(15)~~(16) "Non-farmed cervid" means the term as defined in G.S. 106-549.97.

11 ~~(16)~~(17) "Non-native" means a wild animal or wild bird that does not occur and has not historically occurred  
12 in the wild in North Carolina.

13 ~~(17)~~(18) "Pet" means ~~any~~ an animal kept or used for amusement or companionship.

14 ~~(18)~~(19) "Publicly operated zoo" means a park or facility where living animals are kept and exhibited to the  
15 public, and that is operated by a federal, State, or local government agency.

16 ~~(19)~~(20) "Rabies species" are raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, bobcat, ~~or~~ and coyote.

17 ~~(20)~~(21) "Residence" means a private home, dwelling unit in a multiple family structure, hotel, motel, camp,  
18 manufactured home, or any other place where people reside.

19 ~~(21)~~(22) "Shelter" means a structure or feature that protects captive wild animals or wild birds from direct  
20 sunlight and precipitation.

21 ~~(22)~~(23) "Scientific use" and "scientific purpose" means the use of wild animals or wild birds for application  
22 of the scientific method to investigate any relationships amongst natural phenomena or to solve a  
23 biological or medical problem. This definition applies only to educational or scientific research  
24 institutions unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

25 ~~(23)~~(24) "Unfit" means wild animals or wild birds that are:

26 (A) incapacitated by injury or other means to the extent that they cannot feed or care for  
27 themselves without human assistance;

28 (B) rendered imprinted by proximity to humans, pets, or objects; or

29 (C) a non-native species.

30 ~~(24)~~(25) "Wild animal" means game animals, fur-bearing animals, and all other wild mammals except feral  
31 swine or marine mammals found in coastal fishing waters.

32 ~~(25)~~(26) "Wild bird" means the term as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0121.

33 (e) Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license for rehabilitation or a captivity license for holding shall apply  
34 for the license by completing and submitting the appropriate forms set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section.

35 (f) Applicants for either license shall meet the following requirements:

36 (1) ~~Be~~ be 18 years of age ~~or older~~ at the time of application;

1           (2)     have no convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years;

2           ~~(2)(3)~~   Have have no criminal convictions under G.S. 113-294 or G.S. 14, Article 47 of the North Carolina  
3           General Statutes within 10 years of the date of application; and

4           ~~(3)(4)~~   Have have no criminal convictions under the federal Animal Welfare Act within 10 years of the date  
5           of application.

6       (g) ~~No~~ A captivity license shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a holding facility.

7       (h) Captivity licenses are annual licenses and shall terminate no later than December 31 of the year the license is  
8       issued.

9       (i) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, ~~no~~ a transportation permit ~~shall be~~ is not required to move wild  
10      animals or wild birds held under a captivity license within the State. ~~Any~~ A person transporting an animal ~~that is~~ held  
11      under a captivity license shall have the captivity license or a copy of the license in ~~his or her~~ their possession. ~~An~~  
12      ~~exportation or importation permit as defined in G.S. 113-274(c)(3) is required to transport wild animals or wild birds~~  
13      ~~into or out of the State.~~

14      ~~(j)~~ An exportation or importation permit as defined in G.S. 113-274(c)(3) is required to transport wild animals or wild  
15      birds into or out of the State.

16      ~~(j)(k)~~ (k) Individuals holding a captivity license shall comply with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and  
17      Consumer Services requirements for disclosing reportable diseases. A list of current reportable diseases as determined  
18      by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is available at no cost at [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov),  
19      and is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions.

21      *History Note:     Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

22                     *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION**

2 (a) A captivity license for rehabilitation ~~shall be required for~~ authorizes the lawful possession of injured, crippled, or  
3 orphaned native wild animals or wild birds for the purpose of providing short term care and eventual release into the  
4 animal's natural habitat. ~~A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:~~

- 5 (1) ~~— Possession of~~ endangered, threatened, or special concern species ~~as defined by 15A NCAC 10I~~  
6 ~~.0100, specified in Rules 10I .0103 through .0105 of this Chapter~~ Rehabilitation of these species  
7 also requires an endangered species permit from the ~~Commission;~~ Commission.

8 (b) A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:

- 9 ~~(2)~~(1) domestic animals;  
10 ~~(3)~~(2) feral swine;  
11 ~~(4)~~(3) nutria;  
12 ~~(5)~~(4) coyote;  
13 ~~(6)~~(5) adult black bear;  
14 ~~(7)~~(6) adult white-tailed ~~deer or elk;~~ deer;  
15 ~~(8)~~(7) elk; ~~nine banded armadillo;~~ or  
16 ~~(9)~~(8) eggs of upland game birds.

17 ~~(b)(c)~~ A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for the purpose of holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 18 (1) as pets;  
19 (2) for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes, ~~except as provided in Rule .1403 of this Section;~~  
20 purposes;  
21 (3) for dog training;  
22 (4) for hunting; or  
23 (5) acquired unlawfully.

24 ~~(e)(d)~~ Individuals who do not possess a captivity license for rehabilitation may take temporary possession of injured,  
25 crippled, or orphaned wild animals or wild birds, except rabies species and black bear cubs, provided they are  
26 surrendered to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian or an individual licensed under this Rule within 24 hours of  
27 taking possession of such animals.

28 ~~(d)(e)~~ North Carolina licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or crippled wild animals or wild  
29 birds are not required to have a license for rehabilitation from the Commission. North Carolina licensed veterinarians  
30 without a captivity license for rehabilitation may ~~hold~~ treat wild animals or wild birds until the animal is medically  
31 stable. Once medically stable, the wild animal or wild bird shall be transferred to an individual ~~possessing~~ with a valid  
32 captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species. ~~Licensed veterinarians~~  
33 ~~rehabilitating wild animals or wild birds shall have a valid captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

34 ~~(e)(f)~~ Apprenticeship. Individuals shall designate a rehabilitation mentor with a valid captivity license for  
35 rehabilitation in North Carolina on their application for a captivity license for rehabilitation and submit the Wildlife  
36 Rehabilitation Mentor Apprentice Agreement Form described in Rule .1406 of this Section. ~~applying for a captivity~~  
37 ~~license for rehabilitation that have never held this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state shall~~

1 ~~be designated as an apprentice.~~ The following ~~requirements~~ conditions shall apply to an ~~apprentice license:~~  
2 apprentices:

3 (1) ~~On the application, the apprentice shall designate a mentor with a valid captivity license for~~  
4 ~~rehabilitation in NC, who has held that license for two or more years;~~

5 (2) ~~An apprentice shall complete at least 12 months of supervised rehabilitation activities under a~~  
6 ~~licensed rehabilitator; and~~

7 (3)(1) ~~An apprentice license shall may only possess at their own facility authorize the possession of~~  
8 ~~squirrels, rabbits, and opossums. opossums, and chipmunks approved by their mentor if the mentor~~  
9 ~~is authorized to rehabilitate small mammals.~~

10 (2) An apprentice shall keep records of small mammals at their facility. Records shall contain the  
11 following information:

12 (i) species;

13 (ii) quantity;

14 (iii) date acquired; and

15 (iv) final disposition and date.

16 To remove the apprentice conditions from a captivity license for rehabilitation, an apprentice shall complete 12 months  
17 of supervised rehabilitation activities under a licensed rehabilitator and submit a completed Wildlife Rehabilitation  
18 Apprentice Upgrade Form described in Rule .1406 of this Section.

19 (g) Mentorship. Individuals who have held a valid captivity license for rehabilitation in North Carolina for two years  
20 may serve as a rehabilitation mentor to apprentices. Mentors shall:

21 (1) have no convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years; and

22 (2) keep records of the small mammals assigned to their apprentices for rehabilitation, if applicable.

23 Records shall contain the following information:

24 (i) species;

25 (ii) quantity;

26 (iii) date acquired; and

27 (iv) final disposition and date.

28 (f)(h) ~~Individuals applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation shall meet statutory and regulatory requirements,~~  
29 ~~including those in G.S. 113-272.5 and all applicable rules of this Section.~~ Individuals seeking to rehabilitate migratory  
30 birds shall provide proof of a valid and concurrent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Migratory Bird  
31 Rehabilitation permit for each category of migratory birds to be rehabilitated. ~~The Commission shall state on the~~  
32 ~~captivity license for rehabilitation the categories of wild animals and wild birds that the individual is licensed to~~  
33 ~~possess.~~

34 (g)(i) Required facilities.

35 (1) Individuals holding with a captivity license for rehabilitation shall conduct their rehabilitation  
36 activities at the facility designated on their license that meets the minimum standards set forth in the  
37 "Miller, E.A., edition. E.A. 2000. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 3rd edition.

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages. ISBN 1-931439-00-1." This publication is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available at no cost at [http://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Minimum\\_Standards](http://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Minimum_Standards). free of charge at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov).

(2) ~~All wild~~ Wild animals and wild birds undergoing rehabilitation shall be separated from pets, domestic animals, livestock, and non-native animals.

(3) ~~All wild~~ Wild animals shall be kept in separate enclosures by species.

(4) Rehabilitation in a residence shall have designated, separate rooms used only for housing, treatment, and rehabilitation.

(5) Handling of wild animals and wild birds shall be for treatment only.

~~(h) Wild animals or wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be euthanized or treated prior to release, based upon advice from a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.~~

~~(i)(j)~~ Release of rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds.

(1) Wild animals and wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be euthanized or treated prior to release.

~~(1)(2) All rehabilitated~~ Rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds shall be released ~~as soon as~~ when the animal can be expected to survive in the wild or has attained full recovery from illness or ~~injury, as determined by the rehabilitator or a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.~~ injury.

~~(2)(3)~~ Wild animals and wild birds may remain in a rehabilitation facility for ~~no longer than~~ 180 days. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case-by-case basis by evaluation, which may include the nature of the animal's condition and recommended treatment plan.

~~(3)(4)~~ Wild animals and wild birds shall not be released on the property ~~owned by~~ of another unless the rehabilitator has written permission dated within the last 12 months from the landowner.

~~(4) Wild animals or wild birds that are unfit shall be non-releasable and humanely euthanized. However, the Commission shall consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds on a case-by-case basis when written authorization is requested from the Commission. The wild animal or wild bird shall only be transferred to an individual or facility with a captivity license for holding as set forth in Rule .1403 of this Section when written authorization is obtained from the Commission.~~

~~(j)(k)~~ Transfer of Animals.

(1) Wild animals originating outside the State shall not be accepted for the purpose of rehabilitation unless written authorization is obtained from the Commission.

(2) Wild animals received for rehabilitation ~~may~~ shall not be exported outside the State for the purpose of rehabilitation or release ~~after rehabilitation~~ unless written authorization is obtained from both the Commission and the state where the wild animal will be exported to or released from.

(3) ~~It shall be unlawful for a license holder to sell any wild animal or wild bird~~ Wild animals and wild birds being held under a captivity license for rehabilitation, rehabilitation shall not be sold.

(4) ~~It shall be lawful for a license holder to transfer a wild animal or wild bird~~ Wild animals and wild birds may be transferred to another individual who possesses a valid captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species ~~or a wild bird to another individual with a valid permit for the given species.~~

(5) Wild animals and wild birds that are unfit for release shall be humanely euthanized, except that the Commission may consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds upon written request from the rehabilitator. The wild animal or wild bird unfit for release may be transferred to an individual or facility with a valid captivity license for holding as set forth in Rule .1403 of this Section after written authorization is obtained from the Commission.

~~(4)(l)~~ White-tailed Deer ~~Fawn.~~ Fawns.

(1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the white-tailed deer fawn category may ~~possess, rehabilitate, and release~~ possess and rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

(2) ~~No white-tailed~~ White-tailed deer ~~fawn~~ fawns shall not be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping ~~fawn~~ fawns that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph ~~(g)~~(i) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

(3) ~~Any white-tailed~~ White-tailed deer ~~fawn-fawns~~ held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using ~~only~~ Commission-provided tags.

(4) Orphaned white-tailed deer fawns shall be held ~~for~~ no longer than 90 days. Injured white-tailed deer fawns shall be held ~~for~~ no longer than 180 ~~days~~ days. No white-tailed deer fawns shall be possessed after or until December 31, whichever occurs first. 31. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case by case basis. A fawn shall be considered an adult on December 31 of the birth year. Upon written request from the rehabilitator, the Commission may consider extended rehabilitation depending on the likelihood of rehabilitation success as determined by the Commission.

(5) Records of ~~all white-tail~~ white-tailed deer fawn rehabilitation shall be ~~maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission on the Annual White-tailed Deer Fawn Rehabilitation Activity Form specified in Rule .1406 of this Section~~ within 15 days of license expiration, expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.

(6) ~~Any individual or facility with the white-tailed deer category may not rehabilitate white-tailed fawn~~ White-tailed deer fawns shall not be rehabilitated on properties licensed for farmed cervids.

~~(4)~~ Elk Calves.

~~(1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate elk calves.~~

- (2) ~~Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for rehabilitation with the elk calf category. To become licensed to rehabilitate elk calves, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~
- (3) ~~Any elk calves held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using only Commission-provided tags.~~
- (4) ~~Any individual or facility with the elk calf category may not rehabilitate elk calves on properties licensed for farmed cervids.~~
- (5) ~~No elk calf shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping elk calves that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.~~
- (6) ~~Records of all elk calf rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license~~

(m) Black Bear Cubs.

- (1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate black bear cubs.
- (2) Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for rehabilitation with the black bear cub category. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate black bear cubs, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~
- (2) No black bear cub shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping black bear cubs that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph ~~(g)~~(i) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

(n) Rabies Species.

- (1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the rabies species category may ~~possess, rehabilitate, or release~~ possess and rehabilitate rabies species. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate rabies species, an individual shall meet all requirements of and~~ In addition to the general captivity license for rehabilitation requirements, individuals requesting to rehabilitate rabies species shall:
- (A) have held an active rehabilitation license within or outside of the State for ~~at least~~ the previous three years and have rehabilitated wild animals during that time;
- (B) certify 12 hours of rabies or rabies species-specific ~~training~~ training, or a combination ~~thereof; thereof, for their initial application;~~
- (C) certify up-to-date rabies ~~immunization~~ pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov) for ~~any rehabilitator, themselves, staff member members, or volunteer, and volunteers~~ who may ~~come in contact with rabies species. Proof species; of immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was administered shall be~~

- ~~provided and upon the request of the Commission or authorized representative and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;~~
- (D) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with whom the rehabilitator has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical treatment to the rabies species. ~~Contact information for the veterinarian shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated;~~
- (E) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their anticipated activities and ~~location. location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities; Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated.~~
- (F) have separate ~~facilities~~ enclosures from non-rabies species adequate for the species ~~to be rehabilitated. being rehabilitated. Enclosures within the facility shall that are locked to prevent escape of the animal and egress of the animal, and ingress of other wild mammals; exposure to people, pets, livestock, and other captive or free ranging wildlife. Exterior~~ eaging shall be locked and surrounded by double fencing or a solid wall barrier; and
- (G) have a secondary barrier surrounding the rabies species enclosure that restricts contact with people other than those identified in Part (n)(2)(A) of this Rule, pets, and livestock.
- ~~(G) coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of rabies species. A written protocol for testing shall be posted at the facility and made available for inspection by the Commission upon request.~~
- (2) The following information shall be posted at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies species;
- (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the rabies species;
- (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department; and
- (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- ~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Except for bats, rehabilitation and release of rabies species is not authorized in counties where the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program is conducted, as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).
- ~~(3)(4)~~ (4) Except as otherwise specified in this Section, rabies species shall not be removed from their containment except for treatment, release, maintenance of the enclosure, or euthanasia.



1       ~~(4)(5)~~   Rehabilitated rabies species ~~must~~ shall be released in ~~either~~ the county where they were rehabilitated  
2       or the county where they were found.

3       ~~(5)(6)~~   All rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If ~~any~~ a human or  
4       domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain  
5       and spinal cord, or brain ~~and~~ or spinal cord material from ~~any~~ a rabies species, the license holder  
6       shall contact the local ~~Health Department~~ health department immediately to report the incident. ~~The~~  
7       ~~local Health Department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the brain for rabies~~  
8       ~~testing.~~ Rehabilitators shall abide by ~~all requests made by~~ requests from authorized public health  
9       department personnel, animal control, ~~or~~ and Commission personnel regarding disposition of the  
10      animal. ~~No rabies~~ Rabies species that ~~has~~ have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal or  
11      ~~dies~~ die in captivity ~~can be~~ shall not be released or disposed of until the local ~~Health Department~~  
12      health department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test  
13      results shall be reported to the Commission within five business days of receipt from the health  
14      department.

15      ~~(6)(7)~~   Records of ~~all~~ rabies species rehabilitation shall be ~~maintained on a form, as described~~ submitted to  
16      the Commission on the Annual Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Activity Report specified in  
17      Rule .1406 of this ~~Section, and submitted to the Commission~~ Section within 15 days of license  
18      expiration. ~~expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.~~

20      History Note:     Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;  
21                             Eff. January 1, 2020;  
22                             Amended Eff. May 1, 2022.

1   **15A NCAC 10H .1403   CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING**

2   (a) The purpose of a captivity license for holding is to authorize the possession of lawfully taken or acquired native  
3   wild animals or wild birds for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes. ~~A captivity license for holding shall not~~  
4   ~~be issued for endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined in 15A NCAC 10I .0100. Possession of~~  
5   ~~these endangered, threatened, or special concern species specified in Rules 10I .0103 through .0105 of this Chapter~~  
6   also requires an endangered species permit from the Commission.

7   (b) A captivity license for holding shall not be issued for holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 8           (1)   ~~As~~ as pets;  
9           (2)   ~~For~~ for breeding unless approved by the Commission;  
10          (3)   ~~For~~ for dog training;  
11          (4)   ~~For~~ for hunting; or  
12          (5)   ~~Acquired~~ acquired unlawfully.

13   (c) Individuals seeking to obtain a captivity license for holding migratory birds shall possess and provide proof of a  
14   valid, concurrent, and applicable federal permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, if required.

15   (d) Individuals seeking to hold wild animals for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes that require a license  
16   from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall obtain a captivity permit as defined by G.S. 113-274 prior to obtaining  
17   the animal.

18   ~~(e) No captivity license for holding shall be issued and no wild~~ Wild animals ~~or and~~ wild birds shall not be possessed  
19   until ~~the applicant~~ an individual has ~~constructed or acquired~~ an enclosure for keeping a wild animal or wild bird in  
20   captivity that complies with the standards set forth in Rule .1404 of this Section, ~~and the facility has been verified by~~  
21   ~~a representative of the Commission or and~~ the individual has ~~shown proof of~~ a valid, concurrent, and applicable U.S.  
22   Department of Agriculture license or exemption from ~~USDA licensing requirements.~~ requirements, both verified  
23   proven by a representative of the Commission.

24   ~~(f) Changes to an animal's enclosure after verification shall be reported to the Commission in writing within 10~~  
25   ~~business days.~~

26   ~~(f)(g)~~ The following conditions ~~shall~~ apply to captivity licenses for holding wild animals ~~or and~~ wild birds:

- 27           (1)   Wild animals and wild birds shall not come in contact with pets, non-native animals, livestock, or wild  
28                animals or wild birds held under a captivity license for ~~rehabilitation. This provision shall not apply~~  
29                to rehabilitation, except for surrogate animals or wild animals or wild birds used to foster other wild  
30                animals and wild birds;  
31           (2)   Wild species outside of their enclosure shall be kept restrained ~~at all times so that~~ the license holder  
32                or their designee is in control of the animal and it does not have physical contact with the public,  
33                domestic animals, non-native animals, livestock, or other wild animals or wild birds; and  
34           (3)   Wild animals outside their enclosure shall be kept restrained ~~at all times so that~~ the license holder  
35                or their designee is in control of the animal and it presents no danger to the public; and public.  
36           (4)   ~~Wild animals shall not roam free unrestrained outside of an enclosure.~~

~~(g)~~(h) License holders with wild animals or wild birds used for education or exhibition outside of their facility, facility shall maintain records of all education and exhibition activities on a form, as described activities. Records shall be submitted to the Commission on the Captivity License for Holding Education and Exhibition Activity Form specified in Rule .1406 of this Section, Section within 15 days of license expiration, and shall retain records be retained for a period of 12 months following expiration of the license.

~~(h)~~(i) It is unlawful for a license holder to sell, Sale, transfer, or and release the of a wild animal or wild bird held under the license, a captivity license for holding is prohibited, except that such the wild animal or wild bird may be surrendered to an agent of the Commission, Commission or transferred to another individual who has obtained a license to hold the wild animal or wild bird in captivity. Upon transfer, the transferor shall create a record for the wild animal or wild bird showing the transferors transferor's name, address, tag number if available, license number, date of transfer, and transferor's signature, verifying that the information contained in the record is true and correct. A copy of the record shall be retained by the transferee for three years from the date of transfer.

~~(i)~~(j) Non-releasable animals lawfully held under a captivity license for rehabilitation pursuant to Rule .1402 of this Section, except for white-tailed deer fawns and elk calves, fawns, may be transferred to a captivity license for holding under the following conditions:

- (1) A a North Carolina licensed veterinarian submits a written recommendation stating the reason or reasons why the wild animal or wild bird cannot be released into the wild. The explanation shall include a description of the incapacitation of the animal and a detailed explanation of why the animal will not experience chronic pain from its condition or injuries;
- (2) The the Commission authorizes the transfer and or continued possession of the wild animal or wild bird; and
- (3) For for an imprinted animals, animal, the individual with the captivity license for holding shall not be the same individual that rehabilitated that specific the animal.

~~(j)~~(k) Rabies Species Species.

- (1) License holders with rabies species shall:
  - (A) certify up-to-date rabies immunization pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.CDC.gov for any themselves, staff member members and or volunteer volunteers who may come in contact with rabies species; species. Proof of immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was administered shall be provided upon request of the Commission and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;
  - (B) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with whom the license holder has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical treatment to the rabies species; species. Contact information for the veterinarian shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being held;
  - (C) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and their local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their

- 1 anticipated activities and location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities;  
2 location. Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility where the  
3 rabies species are being held;
- 4 (D) have separate enclosures from non-rabies species. Enclosures shall that are locked  
5 to prevent escape egress of the animal animal and ingress of other wild mammals; and  
6 exposure to people, pets, livestock and other captive or free ranging wildlife. Enclosures  
7 shall be locked and surrounded by a
- 8 (E) have a secondary barrier to prevent unauthorized contact with the public; and barrier  
9 surrounding the rabies species enclosure that restricts contact with people other than those  
10 identified in Part (k)(2)(A) of this Rule, pets, and livestock.
- 11 (F) coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of  
12 rabies species. Written protocols for testing shall be posted at the facility and made  
13 available for inspection by the Commission upon request.
- 14 (2) The following information shall be posted at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon  
15 request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- 16 (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies  
17 species;
- 18 (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the  
19 rabies species;
- 20 (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department;  
21 and
- 22 (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- 23 (2)(3) All rabies Rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If any a  
24 human or domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds  
25 the brain and spinal cord, or brain and or spinal cord material from any a rabies species, he or she  
26 the license holder shall immediately contact the local health department immediately to report the  
27 incident. The local health department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the  
28 brain for rabies testing. License holders shall abide by all requests made by from authorized public  
29 health department personnel, animal control, or and Commission personnel regarding disposition of  
30 the animal. No rabies Rabies species that has have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal  
31 or dies die in captivity can shall not be disposed of until the local Health Department health  
32 department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test results  
33 shall be reported to the Commission within 5 business days of receipt from the health department.
- 34 (k)(1) Black Bear: Bear.
- 35 (1) In accordance with G.S. 19A-10 and G.S. 19A-11, no captivity license licenses for black bear may  
36 be issued for a black bear, except to:
- 37 (A) a publicly operated zoo;

- 1 (B) an educational institution; or
- 2 (C) a facility holding a black bear under conditions simulating natural habitat pursuant to Rule
- 3 ~~.1404(e)~~ .1404(d) of this Section.
- 4 (2) Except for emergency transport to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian, no individual shall
- 5 transport black bear ~~for any purpose~~ without first obtaining a transportation permit from the
- 6 Commission.
- 7 ~~(h)(m) Cougar:~~ Cougar.
- 8 (1) In accordance with G.S. 113-272.5, ~~no captivity license~~ licenses for cougars may be issued ~~for a~~
- 9 ~~cougar, except to:~~
- 10 (A) a publicly operated zoo;
- 11 (B) an educational or scientific institution; or
- 12 (C) a facility holding a cougar under conditions simulating a natural habitat pursuant to Rule
- 13 ~~.1404(f)~~ .1404(e) of this Section.
- 14 (2) Except for emergency transport to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian, no individual shall
- 15 transport cougar ~~for any purpose~~ without first obtaining a transportation permit from the
- 16 Commission.
- 17 ~~(m)(n) Non-Farmed Cervids:~~ Cervids.
- 18 (1) ~~It is unlawful to hold any non farmed cervids under a~~ No captivity licenses for holding shall be
- 19 issued for cervids. holding, except for animals being held under a valid captive cervid license issued
- 20 prior to September 30, 2015 that are not farmed cervids, as specified by G.S. 106-549.97.
- 21 ~~(2) The following conditions shall apply to non farmed cervid licenses issued prior to September 30,~~
- 22 ~~2015:~~
- 23 ~~(A) no reproduction within the existing herd;~~
- 24 ~~(B) no new non farmed cervids shall be added to the existing herd from the wild or from farmed~~
- 25 ~~cervids held under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services~~
- 26 ~~farmed cervid program;~~
- 27 ~~(C) the escape of any non farmed cervid from the facility shall be reported to the Commission~~
- 28 ~~within one hour of discovery. The license holder shall request a permit to take the escaped~~
- 29 ~~non farmed cervid pursuant to the terms of the permit. The dead cervid shall be submitted~~
- 30 ~~by the license holder to a North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) approved~~
- 31 ~~laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing, unless the Commission determines~~
- 32 ~~that the risk of CWD transmission as a result of this escape is negligible;~~
- 33 ~~(D) the Commission shall be notified within 24 hours if any non farmed cervid within the~~
- 34 ~~facility exhibits clinical symptoms of CWD, as described on the CWD Alliance website at~~
- 35 ~~www.cwd-info.org, or if a quarantine is placed on the facility by the State Veterinarian.~~
- 36 ~~All non farmed cervids that exhibit symptoms of CWD shall be tested for CWD;~~

- (E) ~~the carcass of any non farmed cervid that was six months or older at time of death shall be submitted by the license holder to a NCDA approved laboratory and tested for CWD within 48 hours of knowledge of the cervid's death, or by the end of the next business day, whichever is later. The Commission issued ear tag shall not be removed from the cervid's head prior to submitting the head for CWD testing;~~
- (F) ~~the license holder shall make all records pertaining to tags, licenses, or permits issued by the Commission available for inspection by the Commission upon request, during the facility's business hours, or at any time an outbreak of CWD is suspected or confirmed within five miles of the facility or within the facility itself;~~
- (G) ~~the license holder shall make all licensed facilities, enclosures, and the record book(s) documenting required monitoring of the outer fence of the enclosure(s) at each licensed facility available for inspection by the Commission upon request, during the facility's business hours, or at any time an outbreak of CWD is suspected or confirmed within five miles of the facility or within the facility itself;~~
- (H) ~~the fence surrounding the enclosure shall be inspected by the license holder once a week to verify its stability and to detect the existence of any conditions or activities that threaten its stability. In the event of severe weather or any other condition that presents potential for damage to the fence, inspection shall occur every three hours until cessation of the threatening condition, except that no inspection is required under circumstances that threaten the safety of the person conducting the inspection and inspections shall resume as soon as possible.~~
- (i) ~~a record book shall be maintained to record the time and date of each inspection of the fence, the name of the person who performed the inspection of the fence, and the condition of the fence at time of inspection. The person who performs the inspection shall enter the date and time of detection and the location of any damage threatening the stability of the fence. If the fence is damaged, the license holder shall record a description of measures taken to prevent ingress or egress by non farmed cervids. Each record book entry shall bear the signature or initials of the license holder attesting to the veracity of the entry. The record book shall be made available for inspection by a representative of the Commission upon request, or during the facility's business hours; and~~
- (ii) ~~any opening or passage through the enclosure fence shall, within one hour of detection, be sealed or otherwise secured to prevent a non farmed cervid from entry or escape. Any damage to the enclosure fence that threatens its stability shall be repaired within one week of detection;~~
- (I) ~~each non farmed cervid held under this license shall be tagged as follows:~~

- 1 (i) ~~a single button ear tag provided by the Commission shall be permanently affixed~~  
2 ~~by the license holder onto either the right or left ear of each non-farmed cervid,~~  
3 ~~provided that the ear chosen to bear the button tag shall not also bear a bangle tag,~~  
4 ~~so that each ear of the cervid bears only one tag;~~
- 5 (ii) ~~a single bangle ear tag provided by the Commission shall be permanently affixed~~  
6 ~~by the license holder onto the right or left ear of each non-farmed cervid, provided~~  
7 ~~that the ear bearing the bangle tag does not also bear the button tag; and~~
- 8 (iii) ~~once a tag is affixed in the manner required by this Rule, it shall not be removed;~~
- 9 (J) ~~a permit to transport non-farmed cervids may be issued by the Commission to an applicant~~  
10 ~~for the purpose of transporting the animal(s) for export out of State, to a slaughterhouse for~~  
11 ~~slaughter, between non-farmed cervid facilities covered by this Rule, or to a veterinary~~  
12 ~~medical facility for treatment provided that the animal for which the permit is issued does~~  
13 ~~not exhibit clinical symptoms of CWD. Application for a transportation permit shall be~~  
14 ~~made to the Commission by completing and submitting the non-farmed cervid~~  
15 ~~transportation form detailed in Rule .1406 of this Section. Any person transporting a non-~~  
16 ~~farmed cervid shall present the transportation permit to any law enforcement officer or~~  
17 ~~representative of the Commission upon request, except that a person transporting a non-~~  
18 ~~farmed cervid by verbal authorization for veterinary treatment shall provide the name of~~  
19 ~~the person who issued the approval to any law enforcement officer or representative of the~~  
20 ~~Commission upon request.~~

21  
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*  
23 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1404 MINIMUM STANDARDS CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING**

2 (a) The following minimum standards shall apply to wild animals and wild birds held under a captivity license for  
3 ~~holding; holding.~~ Each license holder shall comply with the following general requirements in addition to requirements  
4 specified by species.

5 (1) General Sanitation and Food Requirements. ~~Each license holder shall comply with the following~~  
6 ~~general requirements in addition to any requirements specified by species:~~

7 (A) ~~water; clean~~ Clean drinking water shall be provided. All pools, tanks, water areas, and  
8 water containers provided for swimming, wading, or drinking shall be clean. Enclosures  
9 shall provide drainage for surface water and ~~runoff; runoff.~~

10 (B) ~~sanitation; water~~ Water disposal and waste disposal shall be in accordance with all  
11 applicable local, State, and federal ~~laws; laws.~~

12 (C) ~~food; food~~ Food shall be of a type and quantity that is appropriate for the ~~particular~~ species  
13 and shall be provided in an unspoiled and uncontaminated ~~condition; and condition.~~

14 (D) ~~waste; fecal~~ Fecal and food waste shall be removed from inside, under, and around  
15 enclosures and disposed of in a manner that prevents noxious odors or pests.

16 (2) General Enclosure Requirements. ~~Each license holder shall comply with the following general~~  
17 ~~requirements in addition to any requirements specified by species:~~

18 (A) ~~all enclosures~~ Enclosures constructed of chain link or other approved materials shall be  
19 braced and securely ~~anchored; anchored.~~

20 (B) ~~enclosures~~ Enclosures shall be ~~ventilated; ventilated.~~

21 (C) ~~enclosures~~ Enclosures with a natural substrate shall have a dig barrier that prevents ~~escape;~~  
22 escape.

23 (D) ~~the~~ The young of ~~any~~ an animal may be kept with the parent or foster animal of the same  
24 species in a single-animal enclosure until ~~weaning; weaned.~~ After weaning, if the animals  
25 are kept together, the requirements for multiple-animal enclosures shall ~~apply; apply.~~

26 (E) ~~chains~~ Chains or tethers shall not be used as a method of confinement for wild animals  
27 inside ~~the enclosure; an enclosure.~~

28 (F) ~~each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall be equipped with ~~at least~~ one shelter, nest box, or den large  
29 enough to accommodate all animals in the enclosure at the same ~~time; and time.~~

30 (G) ~~each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall have ~~at least~~ one elevated area large enough to  
31 accommodate all animals in the enclosure at the same time.

32 (3) Single animal enclosures shall have the following minimum dimensions and horizontal areas, or  
33 dimensional equivalents:

34

Animal	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Height (ft.)	Total Square Footage
Wild Turkey	6	4	8	24



Coyote	8	8	6	64
Fox (Red and Gray)	8	4	4	32
Raccoon	8	4	4	32
Bobcat	10	5	5	50
Otter	10	5	5	50
Squirrel	4	2	2	8
Groundhog	8	4	4	32
Rabbit	6	3	3	18
Opossum	6	3	3	18
Skunk	6	3	3	18
Armadillo	8	6	4	48

For animals not mentioned elsewhere in this Rule, a single animal ~~enclosures~~ enclosure shall be a cage with one horizontal dimension being ~~at least~~ four times the nose-rump length of the animal and the other horizontal dimension being ~~at least~~ two times the nose-rump length of the animal. The vertical dimensions shall be ~~at least~~ two times the nose-rump length of the animal. No cages shall be less than four feet by two feet by two feet, or less than eight square feet.

- (4) The minimum square footage for a multiple animal ~~enclosures~~ enclosure shall be determined by multiplying the required square footage for a single animal enclosure by a factor of 1.5 for one additional animal and that result by the same factor, successively, for each additional animal. Vertical dimensions may remain the same as for single animal enclosures.

~~(b) Non farmed Cervids.~~

- ~~(1) the minimum size of the enclosure shall not be less than one half acre for the first three animals and an additional one fourth acre for each additional animal. No more than 25 percent of the enclosure shall be covered with water;~~
- ~~(2) the enclosure shall be surrounded by a fence at least eight feet high, of sufficient strength and design to contain cervids and prevent contact with wild cervids;~~
- ~~(3) each enclosure shall be equipped with a shelter or shelters large enough to accommodate all the animals in the enclosure at the same time; and~~
- ~~(4) cervids shall not be contained within or allowed to enter a place of residence or any enclosure that has not been approved to hold cervids by the Commission, except as specifically authorized by law or rule of the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

~~(e)(b) Alligators.~~

- (1) ~~the~~ The minimum land area ~~size~~ of the enclosure shall be based upon the length of the longest animal. Land area with both horizontal dimensions ~~at least~~ as long as the longest animal shall be provided. In case of more than one animal, the combined area covered by all their bodies while aligned parallel without overlap shall not exceed 50 percent of the land ~~area; area.~~ area.

(2) The enclosure shall contain a pool of water large enough for all the animals in the enclosure to completely submerge themselves at the same time. Steps shall be taken to prevent the surface of the water from freezing solid.

(3) ~~the~~ The enclosure shall have a structural barrier of sufficient strength to contain the animals, and shall prevent contact between an ~~the~~ observer and ~~alligator(s); the alligators.~~

~~(3) in addition to the land area, the enclosure shall contain a pool of water large enough for all the animals in the enclosure to completely submerge themselves at the same time. Steps shall be taken to prevent the surface of the water from freezing solid;~~

~~(4) steps shall be taken to provide opportunities for the alligator to regulate its body temperature;~~

~~(5)(4) each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall be equipped with a shelter or shelters large enough to accommodate all ~~alligators animals in the enclosure at the same time; and time.~~

~~(6)(5) the~~ The facility shall have a perimeter boundary 8 eight feet in height, to prevent unauthorized entry and confine the animals. This boundary should be located at least 3 three feet from the primary enclosure, be no less than 8 feet in height, and be ~~and~~ constructed of not less than 11.5 gauge chain link or equivalent.

~~(d)(c)~~ Wild Birds. Enclosures for wild birds may house more than one animal, provided that the enclosure is ~~built to the standards specified below and~~ permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(1) Enclosures for wild birds shall be designed using the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for a fee at <https://national-wildlife-rehabilitators-association.myshopify.com/>.

~~enclosures for raptors shall be built to standards detailed in the University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for order at <https://bookstores.umn.edu/product/gift/raptors-captivity-0->~~

(2) Enclosures for raptors shall be built to standards detailed in the University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for a fee at <https://www.hancockhouse.com/>. ~~enclosure for all other wild birds shall be designed using the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for order at <https://www.nwrawildlife.org/store/default.aspx->~~

~~(e)(d)~~ Black Bear. Black bears held in captivity at facilities other than publicly operated zoos or educational institutions shall be held in enclosures simulating a natural habitat, developed in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 19A-11.

1 ~~(f)~~(e) Cougar. Cougars held in captivity ~~by~~ at facilities other than publicly operated zoos, educational, or scientific  
2 research institutions shall be held in enclosures simulating a natural habitat, developed in accordance with the  
3 requirements of G.S. 113-272.5(e)(4).

4  
5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*  
6 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

1   **15A NCAC 10H .1405   CAPTIVITY LICENSE REVOCATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

2   (a) Representatives of the Commission ~~shall be permitted to~~ may enter the premises of ~~any~~ a license holder's facility  
3   upon request or during the facility's business hours for inspection or scientific purposes.

4   (b) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a license holder's  
5   captivity ~~license~~, license if the license holder violates ~~any~~ a provision of G.S. 14, Article 47, or G.S. 113, Subchapter  
6   IV, ~~or any~~ rules promulgated by the Commission in this ~~Chapter~~ Chapter, or any conditions of the license. The  
7   determination whether to warn, cite, suspend, or revoke a captivity license for rehabilitation or holding shall be based  
8   upon the seriousness of the violation, and may include:

9       (1)   ~~Failing~~ failure to provide required facilities for the housing of wild animals and wild birds as  
10       specified in Rule ~~.1402(g)~~ .1402(i) and Rule .1404 of this Section;

11       (2)   ~~Providing~~ providing false or inaccurate information on license applications or reports submitted to  
12       the Commission;

13       (3)   ~~Possessing~~ possessing wild animals or wild birds not permitted by the captivity license for  
14       rehabilitation, or the captivity license for holding;

15       (4)   ~~Using~~ using animals undergoing rehabilitation for education, exhibition, profit, or ~~science~~ science;

16       (5)   ~~allowing wild animals undergoing rehabilitation to have~~ involving contact with or proximity to the  
17       public;

18       ~~(5)(6)~~ ~~Failing~~ failure to comply with monitoring or record-keeping ~~requirements as provided by the rules~~  
19       ~~of this Section;~~ requirements;

20       ~~(6)(7)~~ ~~Taming~~, taming, ~~taming~~, imprinting, or otherwise improperly handling animals held for  
21       rehabilitation;

22       ~~(7)(8)~~ ~~Failing~~ failure to treat conditions that warrant medical attention;

23       ~~(8)(9)~~ ~~Failing~~ failure to notify the appropriate agencies after a rabies exposure as described in Rules .1402  
24       and .1403 this Section; or

25       ~~(9)(10)~~ ~~Allowing~~ allowing a wild animal held under a captivity license for holding to roam free unrestrained  
26       outside of its ~~enclosure~~; or enclosure.

27       (10) — ~~The license holder of a facility holding captive cervid(s) failing to:~~

28           ~~(A) — comply with tagging requirements as provided by rules of this Section; or~~

29           ~~(B) — comply with requirements for maintaining the enclosure fence as provided by rules of this~~  
30           Section.

31   (c) An individual holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with ~~the apprentice designation~~ apprenticeship  
32   conditions shall notify the Commission within 10 business days if he or she no longer has a mentor ~~mentor~~, and  
33   provide a list of animals in their possession by species and quantity. The apprentice shall obtain another mentor within  
34   30 days and notify the Commission with that individual's information. If the apprentice fails to obtain another mentor  
35   ~~within 60 days~~, the Commission shall revoke ~~his or her~~ their license and he or she shall be required to reapply for a  
36   license with apprenticeship conditions. ~~an apprentice license.~~

1 (d) If a wild animal or wild bird is unlawfully possessed or the Commission revokes a captivity license for  
2 rehabilitation or holding, ~~then~~ the Commission may seize and determine future treatment of the wild animal or wild  
3 bird, to include release, relocation, or euthanasia.

4 ~~(e) The Commission shall revoke a non-farmed cervid license, and the holder of that license shall forfeit the right to~~  
5 ~~keep non-farmed cervids and be required to turn the animals over to a representative of the Commission upon request~~  
6 ~~of the Commission, under any of the following circumstances or conditions:~~

7 ~~(1) The license holder fails to submit a cervid carcass to a NCDA approved laboratory for testing for~~  
8 ~~Chronic Wasting Disease within 48 hours of knowledge of that cervid's death or close of the next~~  
9 ~~business day, whichever is later, as provided by Rule .1403(m) in this Section;~~

10 ~~(2) A cervid has been transported without a permit; or~~

11 ~~(3) Chronic Wasting Disease has been confirmed in a cervid at that facility.~~

12  
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

14 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

1   **15A NCAC 10H .1406   FORMS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES**

2   (a) Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license ~~for rehabilitation~~ shall apply ~~to the Commission using the~~  
3   ~~Captivity License for Rehabilitation Form available at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org), [www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).~~

4   (b) Information required ~~by~~ from the applicant ~~for a captivity license for rehabilitation~~ shall include:

- 5       (1)   ~~The applicant's~~ name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;
- 6       (2)   ~~The~~ facility site address;
- 7       (3)   ~~Any~~ organizational affiliation, if applicable;
- 8       (4)   ~~The~~ categories of wild animals and wild birds to be rehabilitated;
- 9       (5)   ~~A~~ a copy of a valid Federal Migratory Bird Permit, if applicable;
- 10      (6)   ~~The name and signature~~ of mentor, if applicable; ~~and~~
- 11      (7)   a completed Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form or Wildlife Rehabilitation  
12         Apprentice Upgrade Form, if applicable;
- 13      ~~(7)(8)~~ ~~Certification~~ certification of 12 hours of rehabilitation related ~~training~~, training for rabies species  
14         application, if applicable. applicable; and
- 15      (9)   certification of up-to-date rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis, if applicable.

16   ~~(b)(c)~~ Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license ~~for holding~~ shall apply ~~to the Commission using the~~  
17   ~~Captivity License for Holding Form available at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org).~~ Information ~~supplied by~~ required from the  
18   applicant for a captivity license for holding shall include:

- 19      (1)   ~~The Applicant's~~ name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;
- 20      (2)   ~~The~~ facility site address;
- 21      (3)   ~~Any~~ organizational affiliation, if applicable;
- 22      (4)   ~~The~~ species information including quantity and source for all animals to be held; ~~and~~
- 23      (5)   ~~The purpose for holding animals in captivity.~~ captivity; and
- 24      (6)   a copy of a valid Federal Migratory Bird Permit and USDA License, if applicable.

25   ~~(c)~~ Individuals requesting a transportation permit for non farmed cervids shall apply ~~to the Commission using the~~  
26   ~~Non farmed Cervid Transportation Form available at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org).~~ Information supplied by the applicant shall  
27   include:

- 28      (1) ~~— The applicant's name, mailing address, residence address, and telephone number;~~
- 29      (2) ~~— The facility site address;~~
- 30      (3) ~~— The captivity license number;~~
- 31      (4) ~~— The species and sex of each non farmed cervid transported;~~
- 32      (5) ~~— The tag number(s) for each non farmed cervid transported;~~
- 33      (6) ~~— The date of transportation;~~
- 34      (7) ~~— The vehicle or trailer license plate number and state of issuance of the vehicle or trailer used to~~  
35         ~~transport the non farmed cervid;~~
- 36      (8) ~~— The name, address, county and phone number of the destination facility to which the non farmed~~  
37         ~~cervid will be transported;~~

1           ~~(9) — The symptoms for which the non-farmed cervid requires veterinary treatment, if applicable;~~

2           ~~(10) — The date of slaughter, if applicable;~~

3           ~~(11) — The name and location of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Diagnostic lab where the~~  
4           ~~head of the non-farmed cervid is to be submitted for CWD testing, if applicable.~~

5       (d) Individuals rehabilitating white-tailed deer fawns ~~or elk calves~~ shall record their name, license number, and the  
6       following information for each cervid on the Annual White-tailed Deer Fawn / Elk Calf Fawn Rehabilitation Activity  
7       Form available at www.newwildlife.org; www.ncwildlife.gov;

8           ~~(1) — The captivity license number;~~

9           ~~(2)(1) The date of acceptance; received;~~

10          ~~(3)(2) The species and sex;~~

11          ~~(4)(3) The tag number;~~

12          ~~(5)(4) The disposition; and disposition and date;~~

13          ~~(5) name and license number of transferee, if applicable; and~~

14          ~~(6) The date and location county of release, if applicable.~~

15       (e) Individuals rehabilitating rabies species shall record their name, license number, and the following information  
16       for each animal on the Annual Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Activity Form Report available at  
17       www.newwildlife.org; www.ncwildlife.gov;

18          ~~(1) — The captivity license number;~~

19          ~~(2)(1) The date of acceptance; received;~~

20          ~~(3)(2) The species and sex; species;~~

21          ~~(4)(3) The location county of origin, if known;~~

22          ~~(4) sex;~~

23          ~~(5) estimated age;~~

24          ~~(5)(6) The disposition; disposition and date; and~~

25          ~~(6)(7) The date name and license number of transferee, transfer to other appropriately licensed captivity~~  
26          ~~license holder, if applicable; or and~~

27          ~~(7)(8) The date and location county of release, if applicable.~~

28       (f) Individuals holding species under a Captivity captivity License license for ~~Holding~~, holding for educational and  
29       exhibition purposes shall record the following information on the Captivity License for Holding Education and  
30       Exhibition Form available at www.newwildlife.org; www.ncwildlife.gov;

31          ~~(1) The captivity license number;~~

32          ~~(2) The date of educational or exhibition activity;~~

33          ~~(3) The species and numbers of wild animals or wild birds used in the educational or exhibition activity;~~

34          ~~(4) The organization or group involved in the educational or exhibition activity; and~~

35          ~~(5) The description of educational or exhibition activity, if applicable; applicable.~~

1 (g) Information required from an apprentice on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form,  
2 available at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov) shall include:

3 (1) apprentice's name, facility address, phone number, and signature;

4 (2) mentor's name, address, WRC number, rehabilitation license number, and signature.

5 (h) Wildlife rehabilitation mentors shall provide the following information on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice  
6 Upgrade Form, available at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov), to certify compliance with requirements of Rule .1402(f) of this  
7 Section:

8 (1) name, address, phone number, captivity license number, and signature;

9 (2) apprentice name, address, phone number, and captivity license number; and

10 (3) dates of mentorship.

11 ~~(g)(i) All forms~~ Reports and forms shall be signed, dated, and submitted to the Wildlife Resources Commission with  
12 ~~applicable fees mandated by G.S. 113-272.5 and G.S. 113-270.1B.~~ [rapr@ncwildlife.gov](mailto:rapr@ncwildlife.gov), 1707 Mail Service Center,  
13 Raleigh NC 27699-1700, or through [www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com) upon application or within 15 days of license  
14 expiration, as required by the Rules of this Section.

15  
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*  
17 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*  
18  
19



# EXHIBIT G-2

June 5, 2025



## Fiscal Note for Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10H .1401 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES  
15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION  
15A NCAC 10H .1403 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING  
15A NCAC 10H .1404 MINIMUM STANDARDS CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING  
15A NCAC 10H .1405 CAPTIVITY LICENSE REVOCATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
15A NCAC 10H .1406 FORMS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES

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**Fiscal Impact:** State Government: Minimal  
Local Government: No  
Private Impact: Minimal  
Substantial Economic Impact: No

**Authority:** G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274

## Background

The proposed amendments to Rules within 15A NCAC 10H .1400 provide minor updates to the framework for Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation in North Carolina. Highlights below include updates to language throughout the rules for improved clarity, additional requirements and conditions for rehabilitation Apprentices and Mentors, and the removal of language regarding the rehabilitation and holding of elk calves and non-farmed cervids. Amendments to the Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation rules were informed by captivity license holders and agency staff. Input and feedback were collected via two in-person meetings and an online survey distributed to license holders.

## Proposed Rule Amendments and Impacts

### 15A NCAC 10H .1401 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES

- The definition of Apprentice is now included in the definitions section.
- Captivity license holders must not have convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years to be eligible for a Captivity License.
  - The proposed amendments are anticipated to have a minimal impact on existing and future captivity license holders. Captivity licenses are issued on an annual basis. Individuals seeking to maintain a captivity license are required to reapply annually, as licenses expire no later than December 31 of the year they are issued. Due to updated licensing requirements -- specifically, the provision that applicants must have no convictions for violations of the rules in Section 10H .1400 within the previous three years -- some individuals may no longer qualify for a captivity license. However, the agency expects that this change will affect very few existing and future applicants. The WRC's Regulated Activities and Permits Section is aware of previous license holders' convictions and estimates that less than 1% of the approximately 473 current captivity license holders would be impacted upon reapplication. If an existing captivity license no longer qualifies for a captivity license because of a conviction, the Commission may seize and determine future treatment of the wild animal or wild bird, including release, relocation, or euthanasia. This change could negatively impact license holders who violate the rules and rehabilitate wild animals or wild birds as part of a business. Their business may lose money or donations because of this. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.
  - The proposed amendments significantly improve rule clarity which should make compliance with the rules and standards easier. Most existing captivity license holders will be in compliance with the proposed rules pending minor

administrative adjustments to record keeping and forms. Overall, these clarifications should lead to small administrative efficiencies for the agency and improve overall compliance. The effect on agency workload and time savings for licensees is expected to be minimal.

- The proposed amendments are anticipated to have no impact on local government.

#### 15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION

- Conditions and recordkeeping for Apprentices and Mentors are more clearly defined. Apprentices and Mentors will be required to keep a list of small mammals held by the apprentice including species, quantity, date acquired, and final disposition and date.
  - The recordkeeping requirements impose a minor administrative burden on Apprentices and Mentors; however, they prepare the apprentice for continued recordkeeping requirements when holding other species as a rehabilitator (post-apprenticeship).
- The rehabilitation of elk calves has been removed. Elk calves may not be rehabilitated.
  - Due to the size and complexity of elk calve rehabilitation, the agency will no longer allow license holders to rehabilitate the species. The agency has never issued a rehabilitation license for elk calves.
- Nine-banded armadillo may be rehabilitated under a captivity license for rehabilitation.
  - Over the past decade Nine-banded armadillos have expanded their range into much of NC and are increasingly coming into contact with humans, mostly through vehicle collisions. A recent survey distributed to license holders revealed that about 10% have been asked to rehabilitate armadillos and about 60% are willing to rehabilitate the species.
- Chipmunks are added to the species that are allowed to be possessed by an apprentice.
  - Chipmunks are found throughout the northwestern half of NC and have similar rehabilitation requirements as other small mammals like squirrels. Since the rule already allows apprentices to rehabilitate other small mammals, it is appropriate that apprentices may also rehabilitate Chipmunks.
- Individuals rehabilitating rabies species must post the following information at their facility: (1) proof of immunization or titer checks and (2) a written protocol for euthanasia.
  - This information was previously required but it must now be posted at the license holder's facility. This improves safety and transparency among license holders, volunteers, and employees, and makes it easier if a representative of the Commission needs to inspect the facilities records.
- Positive rabies test results shall be reported to the Commission within five business days of receipt from the health department.

- Rehabilitators are no longer required to obtain advice from a licensed veterinarian before treating or euthanizing a wild animal or wild bird showing symptoms of a zoonotic disease.
  - All rehabilitators already have a veterinarian who they work with. Removing this requirement may expedite treatment or reduce suffering of sick animals and reduce the burden to the license holder that knows the animal needs to be euthanized.
- The proposed amendments are anticipated to have no impact on local government.

#### 15A NCAC 10H .1403 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING

- Changes to an animal's enclosure after verification shall be reported to the Commission in writing within 10 business days.
- Individuals holding rabies species must post the following information at their facility: (1) proof of immunization or titer checks and (2) a written protocol for euthanasia.
- The holding of non-farmed cervids has been removed. No captivity licenses for holding will be issued for non-farmed cervids.
  - Removing non-farmed cervids from the rules will have no practical impact on licensed individuals in North Carolina. Currently, there are no facilities housing non-farmed cervids under legacy licenses, and the rule changes do not affect the rehabilitation of wild, free-ranging fawns, which is governed by separate regulations. The change simply eliminates obsolete requirements for a category of animals and facilities that no longer exist in the State.
  - Similarly, removing non-farmed cervids from the rules will have little practical impact on the WRC's workload. The current rule does not allow for new permits to be issued for non-farmed cervids; it only applies to licenses that were issued prior to September 30, 2015. As a result, there is no time or resource savings related to reviewing permit applications. While the rule change could theoretically reduce the time spent on facility inspections, there are currently no facilities in North Carolina housing non-farmed cervids. Therefore, in practice, this change will not result in any savings or reduction in workload for the WRC.
  - The proposed amendments are anticipated to have no impact on local government.

#### 15A NCAC 10H .1404 MINIMUM STANDARDS CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING

#### 15A NCAC 10H .1405 CAPTIVITY LICENSE REVOCATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- Standards for non-farmed cervids have been removed.
- Revocation and enforcement rules for non-farmed cervids have been removed.
  - A rule regarding holding non-farmed cervids for licenses issued prior to 2015 is no longer needed because there are no remaining facilities in North Carolina

holding non-farmed cervids under these legacy licenses. After legislative changes in 2015, any animal registered or tagged in a licensed captive cervid facility as of July 1, 2015, is now classified as a farmed cervid, and new non-farmed cervid licenses cannot be issued. The remaining rules for non-farmed cervids applied only to animals and facilities grandfathered in before this date, with conditions such as no reproduction and no addition of new animals.

- Since there are currently no such facilities or animals in the State, maintaining these rules serves no practical purpose and eliminating them will have no impact on current operations.
- The proposed amendments are anticipated to have no impact on local government.

#### 15A NCAC 10H .1406 FORMS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES

- Information required on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form is defined.
- Information required on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice Upgrade Form is defined.
  - These changes will improve rule clarity which should make compliance easier for both agency staff and licensees. By specifying exactly what information is needed, it will help streamline the form review process, reduce errors or incomplete submissions, and minimize the time spent on follow-up or corrections. Overall, these clarifications can lead to small efficiencies in administrative processing and improve overall compliance, but the effect on agency workload and time savings to licensees is expected to be minimal.
  - The proposed amendments are anticipated to have no impact on local government.

1                                   **SECTION .1400 – WILDLIFE CAPTIVITY AND REHABILITATION**

2  
3   **15A NCAC 10H .1401    DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES**

4   (a) The rules in this Section apply to all captivity licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources ~~Commission, Commission.~~  
5 ~~including those applicable to non-farmed cervids in accordance with G.S. 106-549.97.~~

6   (b) The possession of ~~any species of~~ native wild ~~animal~~ animals or wild ~~birds~~ bird ~~and any member of the family~~  
7 Cervidae is unlawful, unless the individual in possession obtains a captivity license from the Commission as provided  
8 by this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to ~~any endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined by 15A~~  
9 ~~NCAC 10I-0100 or~~ farmed cervids as defined by G.S. 106-549.97.

10   (c) Captivity licenses may be issued by the Commission to ~~qualified~~ individuals meeting the requirements ~~for~~  
11 ~~rehabilitation and captivity licenses~~ detailed in this Section for holding ~~of~~ wild animals or wild birds alive in captivity  
12 for ~~scientific, educational, exhibition, or other purposes, as~~ purposes specified in G.S. 113-272.5.

13   (d) The following definitions shall apply to ~~all rules~~ the Rules in this Section:

14       (1)    "Apprentice" means an individual applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation that has not held  
15              this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state.

16       ~~(1)(2)~~ "Animal" means a wild animal and wild bird, as defined in this Rule.

17       ~~(2)(3)~~ "Category" means a designation on a captivity license for rehabilitation that defines a species or  
18 subset of species.

19       ~~(3)(4)~~ "Educational institution" or "scientific research institution" means any public or private school,  
20 facility, organization, or institution of vocational, professional, or higher education that uses live  
21 animals as part of a course of training, or for research, or other experiments, and is at least 50 percent  
22 funded by grants, awards, loans, or contracts from a department, agency, or instrumentality of  
23 federal, State, or local government. These terms do not include elementary or secondary schools.

24       ~~(4)(5)~~ "Education" or "educational purposes" means providing instruction or information to the public  
25 about wild animals or wild birds.

26       ~~(5)(6)~~ "Enclosure" means a structure housing captive wild animals or wild birds that prevents escape,  
27 protects the animal from injury, and is equipped with structural barriers to prevent any physical  
28 contact between the animal and the public.

29       ~~(6)(7)~~ "Exhibition" means any display of wild animals or wild birds for the public, whether for-profit or  
30 not-for-profit.

31       ~~(7)(8)~~ "Facility" means a designated location in North Carolina where wild animals or wild birds are held  
32 for rehabilitation or holding purposes. This includes enclosures, rooms, and buildings.

33       ~~(8)(9)~~ "Farmed cervid" means the term as defined in G.S. 106-549.97.

34       ~~(9)(10)~~ "Foster" or "surrogate" means a wild animal, or a wild bird held under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
35 Service federal migratory bird rehabilitation ~~permit~~ permit, used to rear wild animals or wild birds  
36 being held under a captivity license for rehabilitation.

1 ~~(10)~~(11) "Habituation" means causing a wild animal or wild bird to temporarily lose fear of humans, pets, or  
2 objects that impacts its ability to survive in the wild unassisted.

3 ~~(11)~~(12) "Imprinting" means causing a wild animal or wild bird to permanently lose fear of humans, pets, or  
4 objects that impacts its ability to survive in the wild unassisted, and is a non-reversible condition.

5 ~~(12)~~(13) "Migratory birds" means the term as defined in G.S. 113-129.

6 ~~(13)~~(14) "Native" means a wild animal or wild bird that occurs or historically occurred in the wild in North  
7 Carolina.

8 ~~(14)~~(15) "Nest box" or "den" means a structure that provides a retreat area that is within, attached to, or  
9 adjacent to an enclosure.

10 ~~(15)~~(16) "Non-farmed cervid" means the term as defined in G.S. 106-549.97.

11 ~~(16)~~(17) "Non-native" means a wild animal or wild bird that does not occur and has not historically occurred  
12 in the wild in North Carolina.

13 ~~(17)~~(18) "Pet" means ~~any~~ an animal kept or used for amusement or companionship.

14 ~~(18)~~(19) "Publicly operated zoo" means a park or facility where living animals are kept and exhibited to the  
15 public, and that is operated by a federal, State, or local government agency.

16 ~~(19)~~(20) "Rabies species" are raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, bobcat, ~~or~~ and coyote.

17 ~~(20)~~(21) "Residence" means a private home, dwelling unit in a multiple family structure, hotel, motel, camp,  
18 manufactured home, or any other place where people reside.

19 ~~(21)~~(22) "Shelter" means a structure or feature that protects captive wild animals or wild birds from direct  
20 sunlight and precipitation.

21 ~~(22)~~(23) "Scientific use" and "scientific purpose" means the use of wild animals or wild birds for application  
22 of the scientific method to investigate any relationships amongst natural phenomena or to solve a  
23 biological or medical problem. This definition applies only to educational or scientific research  
24 institutions unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

25 ~~(23)~~(24) "Unfit" means wild animals or wild birds that are:

26 (A) incapacitated by injury or other means to the extent that they cannot feed or care for  
27 themselves without human assistance;

28 (B) rendered imprinted by proximity to humans, pets, or objects; or

29 (C) a non-native species.

30 ~~(24)~~(25) "Wild animal" means game animals, fur-bearing animals, and all other wild mammals except feral  
31 swine or marine mammals found in coastal fishing waters.

32 ~~(25)~~(26) "Wild bird" means the term as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0121.

33 (e) Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license for rehabilitation or a captivity license for holding shall apply  
34 for the license by completing and submitting the appropriate forms set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section.

35 (f) Applicants for either license shall meet the following requirements:

36 (1) ~~Be~~ be 18 years of age ~~or older~~ at the time of application;

1           (2)     have no convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years;

2           ~~(2)(3)~~   Have have no criminal convictions under G.S. 113-294 or G.S. 14, Article 47 of the North Carolina  
3           General Statutes within 10 years of the date of application; and

4           ~~(3)(4)~~   Have have no criminal convictions under the federal Animal Welfare Act within 10 years of the date  
5           of application.

6       (g) ~~No~~ A captivity license shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a holding facility.

7       (h) Captivity licenses are annual licenses and shall terminate no later than December 31 of the year the license is  
8       issued.

9       (i) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, ~~no~~ a transportation permit ~~shall be~~ is not required to move wild  
10      animals or wild birds held under a captivity license within the State. ~~Any~~ A person transporting an animal ~~that is~~ held  
11      under a captivity license shall have the captivity license or a copy of the license in ~~his or her~~ their possession. ~~An~~  
12      ~~exportation or importation permit as defined in G.S. 113-274(c)(3) is required to transport wild animals or wild birds~~  
13      ~~into or out of the State.~~

14      ~~(j)~~ An exportation or importation permit as defined in G.S. 113-274(c)(3) is required to transport wild animals or wild  
15      birds into or out of the State.

16      ~~(j)(k)~~ (k) Individuals holding a captivity license shall comply with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and  
17      Consumer Services requirements for disclosing reportable diseases. A list of current reportable diseases as determined  
18      by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is available at no cost at [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov),  
19      and is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions.

21      *History Note:     Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

22                     *Eff. January 1, 2020.*



1 **15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION**

2 (a) A captivity license for rehabilitation ~~shall be required for~~ authorizes the lawful possession of injured, crippled, or  
3 orphaned native wild animals or wild birds for the purpose of providing short term care and eventual release into the  
4 animal's natural habitat. ~~A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:~~

- 5 (1) ~~— Possession of~~ endangered, threatened, or special concern species ~~as defined by 15A NCAC 10I~~  
6 ~~.0100, specified in Rules 10I .0103 through .0105 of this Chapter~~ Rehabilitation of these species  
7 also requires an endangered species permit from the ~~Commission;~~ Commission.

8 (b) A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:

- 9 ~~(2)~~(1) domestic animals;  
10 ~~(3)~~(2) feral swine;  
11 ~~(4)~~(3) nutria;  
12 ~~(5)~~(4) coyote;  
13 ~~(6)~~(5) adult black bear;  
14 ~~(7)~~(6) adult white-tailed ~~deer or elk;~~ deer;  
15 ~~(8)~~(7) elk; ~~nine banded armadillo;~~ or  
16 ~~(9)~~(8) eggs of upland game birds.

17 ~~(b)(c)~~ A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for the purpose of holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 18 (1) as pets;  
19 (2) for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes, ~~except as provided in Rule .1403 of this Section;~~  
20 purposes;  
21 (3) for dog training;  
22 (4) for hunting; or  
23 (5) acquired unlawfully.

24 ~~(e)(d)~~ Individuals who do not possess a captivity license for rehabilitation may take temporary possession of injured,  
25 crippled, or orphaned wild animals or wild birds, except rabies species and black bear cubs, provided they are  
26 surrendered to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian or an individual licensed under this Rule within 24 hours of  
27 taking possession of such animals.

28 ~~(d)(e)~~ North Carolina licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or crippled wild animals or wild  
29 birds are not required to have a license for rehabilitation from the Commission. North Carolina licensed veterinarians  
30 without a captivity license for rehabilitation may ~~hold~~ treat wild animals or wild birds until the animal is medically  
31 stable. Once medically stable, the wild animal or wild bird shall be transferred to an individual ~~possessing~~ with a valid  
32 captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species. ~~Licensed veterinarians~~  
33 ~~rehabilitating wild animals or wild birds shall have a valid captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

34 ~~(e)(f)~~ Apprenticeship. Individuals shall designate a rehabilitation mentor with a valid captivity license for  
35 rehabilitation in North Carolina on their application for a captivity license for rehabilitation and submit the Wildlife  
36 Rehabilitation Mentor Apprentice Agreement Form described in Rule .1406 of this Section. ~~applying for a captivity~~  
37 ~~license for rehabilitation that have never held this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state shall~~

1 ~~be designated as an apprentice.~~ The following ~~requirements~~ conditions shall apply to an ~~apprentice license:~~  
2 apprentices:

3 (1) ~~On the application, the apprentice shall designate a mentor with a valid captivity license for~~  
4 ~~rehabilitation in NC, who has held that license for two or more years;~~

5 (2) ~~An apprentice shall complete at least 12 months of supervised rehabilitation activities under a~~  
6 ~~licensed rehabilitator; and~~

7 (3)(1) ~~An apprentice license shall may only possess at their own facility authorize the possession of~~  
8 ~~squirrels, rabbits, and opossums. opossums, and chipmunks acquired through their mentor if the~~  
9 ~~mentor is authorized to rehabilitate small mammals.~~

10 (2) An apprentice shall keep records of small mammals at their facility. Records shall contain the  
11 following information:

12 (i) species;

13 (ii) quantity;

14 (iii) date acquired; and

15 (iv) final disposition and date.

16 To remove the apprentice conditions from a captivity license for rehabilitation, an apprentice shall complete 12 months  
17 of supervised rehabilitation activities under a licensed rehabilitator and submit a completed Wildlife Rehabilitation  
18 Apprentice Upgrade Form described in Rule .1406 of this Section.

19 (g) Mentorship. Individuals who have held a valid captivity license for rehabilitation in North Carolina for two years  
20 may serve as a rehabilitation mentor to apprentices. Mentors shall:

21 (1) have no convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years; and

22 (2) keep records of the small mammals assigned to their apprentices for rehabilitation, if applicable.

23 Records shall contain the following information:

24 (i) species;

25 (ii) quantity;

26 (iii) date acquired; and

27 (iv) final disposition and date.

28 (f)(h) ~~Individuals applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation shall meet statutory and regulatory requirements,~~  
29 ~~including those in G.S. 113-272.5 and all applicable rules of this Section.~~ Individuals seeking to rehabilitate migratory  
30 birds shall provide proof of a valid and concurrent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Migratory Bird  
31 Rehabilitation permit for each category of migratory birds to be rehabilitated. ~~The Commission shall state on the~~  
32 ~~captivity license for rehabilitation the categories of wild animals and wild birds that the individual is licensed to~~  
33 ~~possess.~~

34 (g)(i) Required facilities.

35 (1) Individuals holding with a captivity license for rehabilitation shall conduct their rehabilitation  
36 activities at the facility designated on their license that meets the minimum standards set forth in the  
37 "Miller, E.A., edition. E.A. 2000. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 3rd edition.

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages. ISBN 1-931439-00-1." This publication is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available at no cost at [http://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Minimum\\_Standards](http://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Minimum_Standards). free of charge at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov).

(2) ~~All wild~~ Wild animals and wild birds undergoing rehabilitation shall be separated from pets, domestic animals, livestock, and non-native animals.

(3) ~~All wild~~ Wild animals shall be kept in separate enclosures by species.

(4) Rehabilitation in a residence shall have designated, separate rooms used only for housing, treatment, and rehabilitation.

(5) Handling of wild animals and wild birds shall be for treatment only.

~~(h) Wild animals or wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be euthanized or treated prior to release, based upon advice from a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.~~

~~(i)(j)~~ Release of rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds.

(1) Wild animals and wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be euthanized or treated prior to release.

~~(1)(2) All rehabilitated~~ Rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds shall be released ~~as soon as~~ when the animal can be expected to survive in the wild or has attained full recovery from illness or ~~injury, as determined by the rehabilitator or a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.~~ injury.

~~(2)(3)~~ Wild animals and wild birds may remain in a rehabilitation facility for ~~no longer than~~ 180 days. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case-by-case basis by evaluation, which may include the nature of the animal's condition and recommended treatment plan.

~~(3)(4)~~ Wild animals and wild birds shall not be released on the property ~~owned by~~ of another unless the rehabilitator has written permission dated within the last 12 months from the landowner.

~~(4) Wild animals or wild birds that are unfit shall be non-releasable and humanely euthanized. However, the Commission shall consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds on a case-by-case basis when written authorization is requested from the Commission. The wild animal or wild bird shall only be transferred to an individual or facility with a captivity license for holding as set forth in Rule .1403 of this Section when written authorization is obtained from the Commission.~~

~~(j)(k)~~ Transfer of Animals.

(1) Wild animals originating outside the State shall not be accepted for the purpose of rehabilitation unless written authorization is obtained from the Commission.

(2) Wild animals received for rehabilitation ~~may~~ shall not be exported outside the State for the purpose of rehabilitation or release ~~after rehabilitation~~ unless written authorization is obtained from both the Commission and the state where the wild animal will be exported to or released from.

(3) ~~It shall be unlawful for a license holder to sell any wild animal or wild bird~~ Wild animals and wild birds being held under a captivity license for rehabilitation, rehabilitation shall not be sold.

(4) ~~It shall be lawful for a license holder to transfer a wild animal or wild bird~~ Wild animals and wild birds may be transferred to another individual who possesses a valid captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species ~~or a wild bird to another individual with a valid permit for the given species.~~

(5) Wild animals and wild birds that are unfit for release shall be humanely euthanized, except that the Commission may consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds upon written request from the rehabilitator. The wild animal or wild bird unfit for release may be transferred to an individual or facility with a valid captivity license for holding as set forth in Rule .1403 of this Section after written authorization is obtained from the Commission.

~~(4)(l)~~ White-tailed Deer Fawn. Fawns.

(1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the white-tailed deer fawn category may ~~possess, rehabilitate, and release~~ possess and rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

(2) ~~No white-tailed~~ White-tailed deer ~~fawn~~ fawns shall not be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping ~~fawn~~ fawns that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph ~~(g)~~(i) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

(3) ~~Any white-tailed~~ White-tailed deer ~~fawn-fawns~~ held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using ~~only~~ Commission-provided tags.

(4) Orphaned white-tailed deer fawns shall be held ~~for~~ no longer than 90 days. Injured white-tailed deer fawns shall be held ~~for~~ no longer than 180 ~~days~~ days. ~~No white-tailed deer fawns shall be possessed after or until December 31, whichever occurs first. 31. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case by case basis. A fawn shall be considered an adult on December 31 of the birth year.~~ Upon written request from the rehabilitator, the Commission may consider extended rehabilitation depending on the likelihood of rehabilitation success as determined by the Commission.

(5) Records of ~~all white-tail~~ white-tailed deer fawn rehabilitation shall be ~~maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission on the Annual White-tailed Deer Fawn Rehabilitation Activity Form specified in Rule .1406 of this Section~~ within 15 days of license expiration, expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.

(6) ~~Any individual or facility with the white-tailed deer category may not rehabilitate white-tailed fawn~~ White-tailed deer fawns shall not be rehabilitated on properties licensed for farmed cervids.

~~(4)~~ Elk Calves.

~~(1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate elk calves.~~

- (2) ~~Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for rehabilitation with the elk calf category. To become licensed to rehabilitate elk calves, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~
- (3) ~~Any elk calves held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using only Commission-provided tags.~~
- (4) ~~Any individual or facility with the elk calf category may not rehabilitate elk calves on properties licensed for farmed cervids.~~
- (5) ~~No elk calf shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping elk calves that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.~~
- (6) ~~Records of all elk calf rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license~~

(m) Black Bear Cubs.

- (1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate black bear cubs.
- (2) Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for rehabilitation with the black bear cub category. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate black bear cubs, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~
- (2) No black bear cub shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping black bear cubs that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph ~~(g)~~(i) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

(n) Rabies Species.

- (1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the rabies species category may ~~possess, rehabilitate, or release~~ possess and rehabilitate rabies species. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate rabies species, an individual shall meet all requirements of and~~ In addition to the general captivity license for rehabilitation requirements, individuals requesting to rehabilitate rabies species shall:
- (A) have held an active rehabilitation license within or outside of the State for ~~at least~~ the previous three years and have rehabilitated wild animals during that time;
- (B) certify 12 hours of rabies or rabies species-specific ~~training~~ training, or a combination ~~thereof; thereof, for their initial application;~~
- (C) certify up-to-date rabies ~~immunization~~ pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov) for ~~any rehabilitator, themselves, staff member members, or volunteer, and volunteers~~ who may ~~come in contact with rabies species. Proof species; of immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was administered shall be~~

- ~~provided and upon the request of the Commission or authorized representative and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;~~
- (D) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with whom the rehabilitator has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical treatment to the rabies species. ~~Contact information for the veterinarian shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated;~~
- (E) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their anticipated activities and ~~location. location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities; Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated.~~
- (F) have separate ~~facilities~~ enclosures from non-rabies species adequate for the species ~~to be rehabilitated. being rehabilitated. Enclosures within the facility shall that are locked to prevent escape of the animal and egress of the animal, and ingress of other wild mammals; exposure to people, pets, livestock, and other captive or free ranging wildlife. Exterior~~ eaging shall be locked and surrounded by double fencing or a solid wall barrier; and
- (G) have a secondary barrier surrounding the rabies species enclosure that restricts contact with people other than those identified in Part (n)(2)(A) of this Rule, pets, and livestock.
- ~~(G) coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of rabies species. A written protocol for testing shall be posted at the facility and made available for inspection by the Commission upon request.~~
- (2) The following information shall be posted at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies species;
- (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the rabies species;
- (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department; and
- (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- ~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Except for bats, rehabilitation and release of rabies species is not authorized in counties where the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program is conducted, as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).
- ~~(3)(4)~~ (4) Except as otherwise specified in this Section, rabies species shall not be removed from their containment except for treatment, release, maintenance of the enclosure, or euthanasia.

1       ~~(4)(5)~~   Rehabilitated rabies species ~~must~~ shall be released in ~~either~~ the county where they were rehabilitated  
2       or the county where they were found.

3       ~~(5)(6)~~   All rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If ~~any~~ a human or  
4       domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain  
5       and spinal cord, or brain ~~and~~ or spinal cord material from ~~any~~ a rabies species, the license holder  
6       shall contact the local ~~Health Department~~ health department immediately to report the incident. ~~The~~  
7       ~~local Health Department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the brain for rabies~~  
8       ~~testing.~~ Rehabilitators shall abide by ~~all requests made by~~ requests from authorized public health  
9       department personnel, animal control, ~~or~~ and Commission personnel regarding disposition of the  
10      animal. ~~No rabies~~ Rabies species that ~~has~~ have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal or  
11      ~~dies~~ die in captivity ~~can be~~ shall not be released or disposed of until the local ~~Health Department~~  
12      health department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test  
13      results shall be reported to the Commission within five business days of receipt from the health  
14      department.

15      ~~(6)(7)~~   Records of all rabies species rehabilitation shall be ~~maintained on a form, as described~~ submitted to  
16      the Commission on the Annual Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Activity Report specified in  
17      Rule .1406 of this ~~Section, and submitted to the Commission~~ Section within 15 days of license  
18      expiration. ~~expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.~~

20    History Note:    Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;  
21                      Eff. January 1, 2020;  
22                      Amended Eff. May 1, 2022.

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1403 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING**

2 (a) The purpose of a captivity license for holding is to authorize the possession of lawfully taken or acquired native  
3 wild animals or wild birds for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes. ~~A captivity license for holding shall not~~  
4 ~~be issued for endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined in 15A NCAC 10I .0100. Possession of~~  
5 ~~these endangered, threatened, or special concern species specified in Rules 10I .0103 through .0105 of this Chapter~~  
6 also requires an endangered species permit from the Commission.

7 (b) A captivity license for holding shall not be issued for holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 8 (1) ~~As~~ as pets;  
9 (2) ~~For~~ for breeding unless approved by the Commission;  
10 (3) ~~For~~ for dog training;  
11 (4) ~~For~~ for hunting; or  
12 (5) ~~Acquired~~ acquired unlawfully.

13 (c) Individuals seeking to obtain a captivity license for holding migratory birds shall possess and provide proof of a  
14 valid, concurrent, and applicable federal permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, if required.

15 (d) Individuals seeking to hold wild animals for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes that require a license  
16 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall obtain a captivity permit as defined by G.S. 113-274 prior to obtaining  
17 the animal.

18 (e) ~~No captivity license for holding shall be issued and no wild~~ Wild animals or ~~and~~ and wild birds shall not be possessed  
19 until ~~the applicant~~ an individual has ~~constructed or acquired~~ an enclosure for keeping a wild animal or wild bird in  
20 captivity that complies with the standards set forth in Rule .1404 of this Section, ~~and the facility has been verified by~~  
21 ~~a representative of the Commission or~~ and the individual has ~~shown proof of~~ a valid, concurrent, and applicable U.S.  
22 Department of Agriculture license or exemption from ~~USDA licensing requirements.~~ requirements, both verified  
23 proven by a representative of the Commission.

24 (f) Changes to an animal's enclosure after verification shall be reported to the Commission in writing within 10  
25 business days.

26 (g) The following conditions ~~shall~~ apply to captivity licenses for holding wild animals ~~or~~ and wild birds:

- 27 (1) Wild animals and wild birds shall not come into contact with pets, non-native animals, livestock, or wild  
28 animals or wild birds held under a captivity license for ~~rehabilitation. This provision shall not apply~~  
29 ~~to rehabilitation, except for surrogate animals or~~ wild animals or wild birds used to foster other wild  
30 animals and wild birds;  
31 (2) Rabies species outside of their enclosure shall be kept restrained ~~at all times so that~~ the license holder  
32 or their designee is in control of the animal and it does not have physical contact with the public,  
33 domestic animals, non-native animals, livestock, or other wild animals or wild birds; and  
34 (3) Wild animals outside their enclosure shall be kept restrained ~~at all times so that~~ the license holder  
35 or their designee is in control of the animal and it presents no danger to the ~~public; and~~ public.  
36 (4) ~~Wild animals shall not roam free unrestrained outside of an enclosure.~~



~~(g)~~(h) License holders with wild animals or wild birds used for education or exhibition outside of their facility, facility shall maintain records of all education and exhibition activities on a form, as described activities. Records shall be submitted to the Commission on the Captivity License for Holding Education and Exhibition Activity Form specified in Rule .1406 of this Section, Section within 15 days of license expiration, and shall retain records be retained for a period of 12 months following expiration of the license.

~~(h)~~(i) It is unlawful for a license holder to sell, Sale, transfer, or and release the of a wild animal or wild bird held under the license, a captivity license for holding is prohibited, except that such the wild animal or wild bird may be surrendered to an agent of the Commission, Commission or transferred to another individual who has obtained a license to hold the wild animal or wild bird in captivity. Upon transfer, the transferor shall create a record for the wild animal or wild bird showing the transferors transferor's name, address, tag number if available, license number, date of transfer, and transferor's signature, verifying that the information contained in the record is true and correct. A copy of the record shall be retained by the transferee for three years from the date of transfer.

~~(i)~~(j) Non-releasable animals lawfully held under a captivity license for rehabilitation pursuant to Rule .1402 of this Section, except for white-tailed deer fawns and elk calves, fawns, may be transferred to a captivity license for holding under the following conditions:

- (1) A a North Carolina licensed veterinarian submits a written recommendation stating the reason or reasons why the wild animal or wild bird cannot be released into the wild. The explanation shall include a description of the incapacitation of the animal and a detailed explanation of why the animal will not experience chronic pain from its condition or injuries;
- (2) The the Commission authorizes the transfer and or continued possession of the wild animal or wild bird; and
- (3) For for an imprinted animals, animal, the individual with the captivity license for holding shall not be the same individual that rehabilitated that specific the animal.

~~(j)~~(k) Rabies Species Species.

- (1) License holders with rabies species shall:
  - (A) certify up-to-date rabies immunization pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.CDC.gov for any themselves, staff member members and or volunteer volunteers who may come in contact with rabies species; species. Proof of immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was administered shall be provided upon request of the Commission and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;
  - (B) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with whom the license holder has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical treatment to the rabies species; species. Contact information for the veterinarian shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being held;
  - (C) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and their local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their

- 1 anticipated activities and location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities;  
2 location. Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility where the  
3 rabies species are being held;
- 4 (D) have separate enclosures from non-rabies species. Enclosures shall that are locked  
5 to prevent escape egress of the animal animal and ingress of other wild mammals; and  
6 exposure to people, pets, livestock and other captive or free ranging wildlife. Enclosures  
7 shall be locked and surrounded by a
- 8 (E) have a secondary barrier to prevent unauthorized contact with the public; and barrier  
9 surrounding the rabies species enclosure that restricts contact with people other than those  
10 identified in Part (k)(2)(A) of this Rule, pets, and livestock.
- 11 (F) coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of  
12 rabies species. Written protocols for testing shall be posted at the facility and made  
13 available for inspection by the Commission upon request.
- 14 (2) The following information shall be posted at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon  
15 request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- 16 (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies  
17 species;
- 18 (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the  
19 rabies species;
- 20 (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department;  
21 and
- 22 (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- 23 (2)(3) All rabies Rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If any a  
24 human or domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds  
25 the brain and spinal cord, or brain and or spinal cord material from any a rabies species, he or she  
26 the license holder shall immediately contact the local health department immediately to report the  
27 incident. The local health department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the  
28 brain for rabies testing. License holders shall abide by all requests made by from authorized public  
29 health department personnel, animal control, or and Commission personnel regarding disposition of  
30 the animal. No rabies Rabies species that has have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal  
31 or dies die in captivity can shall not be disposed of until the local Health Department health  
32 department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test results  
33 shall be reported to the Commission within 5 business days of receipt from the health department.
- 34 (k)(1) Black Bear: Bear.
- 35 (1) In accordance with G.S. 19A-10 and G.S. 19A-11, no captivity license licenses for black bear may  
36 be issued for a black bear, except to:
- 37 (A) a publicly operated zoo;

- 1 (B) an educational institution; or
- 2 (C) a facility holding a black bear under conditions simulating natural habitat pursuant to Rule
- 3 ~~.1404(e)~~ .1404(d) of this Section.
- 4 (2) Except for emergency transport to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian, no individual shall
- 5 transport black bear ~~for any purpose~~ without first obtaining a transportation permit from the
- 6 Commission.
- 7 ~~(h)(m) Cougar:~~ Cougar.
- 8 (1) In accordance with G.S. 113-272.5, ~~no captivity license~~ licenses for cougars may be issued ~~for a~~
- 9 ~~cougar, except to:~~
- 10 (A) a publicly operated zoo;
- 11 (B) an educational or scientific institution; or
- 12 (C) a facility holding a cougar under conditions simulating a natural habitat pursuant to Rule
- 13 ~~.1404(f)~~ .1404(e) of this Section.
- 14 (2) Except for emergency transport to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian, no individual shall
- 15 transport cougar ~~for any purpose~~ without first obtaining a transportation permit from the
- 16 Commission.
- 17 ~~(m)(n) Non-Farmed Cervids:~~ Cervids.
- 18 (1) ~~It is unlawful to hold any non farmed cervids under a~~ No captivity licenses for holding shall be
- 19 issued for cervids. ~~holding, except for animals being held under a valid captive cervid license issued~~
- 20 ~~prior to September 30, 2015 that are not farmed cervids, as specified by G.S. 106-549.97.~~
- 21 (2) ~~The following conditions shall apply to non farmed cervid licenses issued prior to September 30,~~
- 22 ~~2015:~~
- 23 (A) ~~no reproduction within the existing herd;~~
- 24 (B) ~~no new non farmed cervids shall be added to the existing herd from the wild or from farmed~~
- 25 ~~cervids held under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services~~
- 26 ~~farmed cervid program;~~
- 27 (C) ~~the escape of any non farmed cervid from the facility shall be reported to the Commission~~
- 28 ~~within one hour of discovery. The license holder shall request a permit to take the escaped~~
- 29 ~~non farmed cervid pursuant to the terms of the permit. The dead cervid shall be submitted~~
- 30 ~~by the license holder to a North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) approved~~
- 31 ~~laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing, unless the Commission determines~~
- 32 ~~that the risk of CWD transmission as a result of this escape is negligible;~~
- 33 (D) ~~the Commission shall be notified within 24 hours if any non farmed cervid within the~~
- 34 ~~facility exhibits clinical symptoms of CWD, as described on the CWD Alliance website at~~
- 35 ~~www.cwd-info.org, or if a quarantine is placed on the facility by the State Veterinarian.~~
- 36 ~~All non farmed cervids that exhibit symptoms of CWD shall be tested for CWD;~~

- (E) ~~the carcass of any non farmed cervid that was six months or older at time of death shall be submitted by the license holder to a NCDA approved laboratory and tested for CWD within 48 hours of knowledge of the cervid's death, or by the end of the next business day, whichever is later. The Commission issued ear tag shall not be removed from the cervid's head prior to submitting the head for CWD testing;~~
- (F) ~~the license holder shall make all records pertaining to tags, licenses, or permits issued by the Commission available for inspection by the Commission upon request, during the facility's business hours, or at any time an outbreak of CWD is suspected or confirmed within five miles of the facility or within the facility itself;~~
- (G) ~~the license holder shall make all licensed facilities, enclosures, and the record book(s) documenting required monitoring of the outer fence of the enclosure(s) at each licensed facility available for inspection by the Commission upon request, during the facility's business hours, or at any time an outbreak of CWD is suspected or confirmed within five miles of the facility or within the facility itself;~~
- (H) ~~the fence surrounding the enclosure shall be inspected by the license holder once a week to verify its stability and to detect the existence of any conditions or activities that threaten its stability. In the event of severe weather or any other condition that presents potential for damage to the fence, inspection shall occur every three hours until cessation of the threatening condition, except that no inspection is required under circumstances that threaten the safety of the person conducting the inspection and inspections shall resume as soon as possible.~~
- (i) ~~a record book shall be maintained to record the time and date of each inspection of the fence, the name of the person who performed the inspection of the fence, and the condition of the fence at time of inspection. The person who performs the inspection shall enter the date and time of detection and the location of any damage threatening the stability of the fence. If the fence is damaged, the license holder shall record a description of measures taken to prevent ingress or egress by non farmed cervids. Each record book entry shall bear the signature or initials of the license holder attesting to the veracity of the entry. The record book shall be made available for inspection by a representative of the Commission upon request, or during the facility's business hours; and~~
- (ii) ~~any opening or passage through the enclosure fence shall, within one hour of detection, be sealed or otherwise secured to prevent a non farmed cervid from entry or escape. Any damage to the enclosure fence that threatens its stability shall be repaired within one week of detection;~~
- (I) ~~each non farmed cervid held under this license shall be tagged as follows:~~

- 1 (i) ~~a single button ear tag provided by the Commission shall be permanently affixed~~  
2 ~~by the license holder onto either the right or left ear of each non-farmed cervid,~~  
3 ~~provided that the ear chosen to bear the button tag shall not also bear a bangle tag,~~  
4 ~~so that each ear of the cervid bears only one tag;~~
- 5 (ii) ~~a single bangle ear tag provided by the Commission shall be permanently affixed~~  
6 ~~by the license holder onto the right or left ear of each non-farmed cervid, provided~~  
7 ~~that the ear bearing the bangle tag does not also bear the button tag; and~~
- 8 (iii) ~~once a tag is affixed in the manner required by this Rule, it shall not be removed;~~
- 9 (J) ~~a permit to transport non-farmed cervids may be issued by the Commission to an applicant~~  
10 ~~for the purpose of transporting the animal(s) for export out of State, to a slaughterhouse for~~  
11 ~~slaughter, between non-farmed cervid facilities covered by this Rule, or to a veterinary~~  
12 ~~medical facility for treatment provided that the animal for which the permit is issued does~~  
13 ~~not exhibit clinical symptoms of CWD. Application for a transportation permit shall be~~  
14 ~~made to the Commission by completing and submitting the non-farmed cervid~~  
15 ~~transportation form detailed in Rule .1406 of this Section. Any person transporting a non-~~  
16 ~~farmed cervid shall present the transportation permit to any law enforcement officer or~~  
17 ~~representative of the Commission upon request, except that a person transporting a non-~~  
18 ~~farmed cervid by verbal authorization for veterinary treatment shall provide the name of~~  
19 ~~the person who issued the approval to any law enforcement officer or representative of the~~  
20 ~~Commission upon request.~~

21  
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*  
23 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

**15A NCAC 10H .1404 MINIMUM STANDARDS CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING**

(a) The following minimum standards shall apply to wild animals and wild birds held under a captivity license for ~~holding; holding~~. Each license holder shall comply with the following general requirements in addition to requirements specified by species.

(1) General Sanitation and Food Requirements. ~~Each license holder shall comply with the following general requirements in addition to any requirements specified by species:~~

- (A) ~~water; clean~~ Clean drinking water shall be provided. All pools, tanks, water areas, and water containers provided for swimming, wading, or drinking shall be clean. Enclosures shall provide drainage for surface water and ~~runoff; runoff~~.
- (B) ~~sanitation; water~~ Water disposal and waste disposal shall be in accordance with all applicable local, State, and federal ~~laws; laws~~.
- (C) ~~food; food~~ Food shall be of a type and quantity that is appropriate for the ~~particular~~ species and shall be provided in an unspoiled and uncontaminated ~~condition; and condition~~.
- (D) ~~waste; fecal~~ Fecal and food waste shall be removed from inside, under, and around enclosures and disposed of in a manner that prevents noxious odors or pests.

(2) General Enclosure Requirements. ~~Each license holder shall comply with the following general requirements in addition to any requirements specified by species:~~

- (A) ~~all enclosures~~ Enclosures constructed of chain link or other approved materials shall be braced and securely ~~anchored; anchored~~.
- (B) ~~enclosures~~ Enclosures shall be ~~ventilated; ventilated~~.
- (C) ~~enclosures~~ Enclosures with a natural substrate shall have a dig barrier that prevents ~~escape; escape~~.
- (D) ~~the~~ The young of ~~any~~ an animal may be kept with the parent or foster animal of the same species in a single-animal enclosure until ~~weaning; weaned~~. After weaning, if the animals are kept together, the requirements for multiple-animal enclosures shall ~~apply; apply~~.
- (E) ~~chains~~ Chains or tethers shall not be used as a method of confinement for wild animals inside ~~the enclosure; an enclosure~~.
- (F) ~~each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall be equipped with ~~at least~~ one shelter, nest box, or den large enough to accommodate all animals in the enclosure at the same ~~time; and time~~.
- (G) ~~each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall have ~~at least~~ one elevated area large enough to accommodate all animals in the enclosure at the same time.

(3) Single animal enclosures shall have the following minimum dimensions and horizontal areas, or dimensional equivalents:

Animal	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Height (ft.)	Total Square Footage
Wild Turkey	6	4	8	24

Coyote	8	8	6	64
Fox (Red and Gray)	8	4	4	32
Raccoon	8	4	4	32
Bobcat	10	5	5	50
Otter	10	5	5	50
Squirrel	4	2	2	8
Groundhog	8	4	4	32
Rabbit	6	3	3	18
Opossum	6	3	3	18
Skunk	6	3	3	18
Armadillo	8	6	4	48

For animals not mentioned elsewhere in this Rule, a single animal ~~enclosures~~ enclosure shall be a cage with one horizontal dimension being ~~at least~~ four times the nose-rump length of the animal and the other horizontal dimension being ~~at least~~ two times the nose-rump length of the animal. The vertical dimensions shall be ~~at least~~ two times the nose-rump length of the animal. No cages shall be less than four feet by two feet by two feet, or eight square feet.

- (4) The minimum square footage for a multiple animal enclosure shall be determined by multiplying the required square footage for a single animal enclosure by a factor of 1.5 for one additional animal and that result by the same factor, successively, for each additional animal. Vertical dimensions may remain the same as for single animal enclosures.

~~(b) Non farmed Cervids.~~

- ~~(1) the minimum size of the enclosure shall not be less than one half acre for the first three animals and an additional one fourth acre for each additional animal. No more than 25 percent of the enclosure shall be covered with water;~~
- ~~(2) the enclosure shall be surrounded by a fence at least eight feet high, of sufficient strength and design to contain cervids and prevent contact with wild cervids;~~
- ~~(3) each enclosure shall be equipped with a shelter or shelters large enough to accommodate all the animals in the enclosure at the same time; and~~
- ~~(4) cervids shall not be contained within or allowed to enter a place of residence or any enclosure that has not been approved to hold cervids by the Commission, except as specifically authorized by law or rule of the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

~~(e)(b) Alligators.~~

- (1) ~~the~~ The minimum land area ~~size~~ of the enclosure shall be based upon the length of the longest animal. Land area with both horizontal dimensions ~~at least~~ as long as the longest animal shall be provided. In case of more than one animal, the combined area covered by all their bodies while aligned parallel without overlap shall not exceed 50 percent of the land ~~area; area.~~

- (2) The enclosure shall contain a pool of water large enough for all the animals in the enclosure to completely submerge themselves at the same time. Steps shall be taken to prevent the surface of the water from freezing solid.
- (3) ~~the~~ The enclosure shall have a structural barrier of sufficient strength to contain the animals, and shall prevent contact between an observer and alligator(s); the alligators.
- ~~(3) in addition to the land area, the enclosure shall contain a pool of water large enough for all the animals in the enclosure to completely submerge themselves at the same time. Steps shall be taken to prevent the surface of the water from freezing solid;~~
- ~~(4) steps shall be taken to provide opportunities for the alligator to regulate its body temperature;~~
- ~~(5)(4) each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall be equipped with a shelter or shelters large enough to accommodate all alligators animals in the enclosure at the same time; and time.
- ~~(6)(5) the~~ The facility shall have a perimeter boundary 8 feet in height, to prevent unauthorized entry and confine the animals. This boundary should be located at least 3 feet from the primary enclosure, be no less than 8 feet in height, and be and constructed of not less than 11.5 gauge chain link or equivalent.
- ~~(d)(c)~~ Wild Birds. Enclosures for wild birds may house more than one animal, provided that the enclosure is built to the standards specified below and permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- (1) Enclosures for wild birds shall be designed using the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for a fee at <https://national-wildlife-rehabilitators-association.myshopify.com/>.
- ~~enclosures for raptors shall be built to standards detailed in the University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for order at <https://bookstores.umn.edu/product/gift/raptors-captivity-0->~~
- (2) Enclosures for raptors shall be built to standards detailed in the University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for a fee at <https://www.hancockhouse.com/>. ~~enclosure for all other wild birds shall be designed using the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for order at <https://www.nwrawildlife.org/store/default.aspx->~~
- ~~(e)(d)~~ Black Bear. Black bears held in captivity at facilities other than publicly operated zoos or educational institutions shall be held in enclosures simulating a natural habitat, developed in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 19A-11.



1 ~~(f)~~(e) Cougar. Cougars held in captivity ~~by~~ at facilities other than publicly operated zoos, educational, or scientific  
2 research institutions shall be held in enclosures simulating a natural habitat, developed in accordance with the  
3 requirements of G.S. 113-272.5(e)(4).

4  
5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*  
6 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

1   **15A NCAC 10H .1405   CAPTIVITY LICENSE REVOCATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

2   (a) Representatives of the Commission ~~shall be permitted to~~ may enter the premises of ~~any~~ a license holder's facility  
3   upon request or during the facility's business hours for inspection or scientific purposes.

4   (b) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a license holder's  
5   captivity ~~license~~, license if the license holder violates ~~any~~ a provision of G.S. 14, Article 47, or G.S. 113, Subchapter  
6   IV, ~~or any~~ rules promulgated by the Commission in this ~~Chapter~~ Chapter, or any conditions of the license. The  
7   determination whether to warn, cite, suspend, or revoke a captivity license for rehabilitation or holding shall be based  
8   upon the seriousness of the violation, and may include:

9       (1)   ~~Failing~~ failure to provide required facilities for the housing of wild animals and wild birds as  
10       specified in Rule ~~.1402(g)~~ .1402(i) and Rule .1404 of this Section;

11       (2)   ~~Providing~~ providing false or inaccurate information on license applications or reports submitted to  
12       the Commission;

13       (3)   ~~Possessing~~ possessing wild animals or wild birds not permitted by the captivity license for  
14       rehabilitation, or the captivity license for holding;

15       (4)   ~~Using~~ using animals undergoing rehabilitation for education, exhibition, profit, or ~~science~~ science;

16       (5)   ~~allowing wild animals undergoing rehabilitation to have~~ involving contact with or proximity to the  
17       public;

18       (5)(6) ~~Failing~~ failure to comply with monitoring or record-keeping ~~requirements as provided by the rules~~  
19       ~~of this Section;~~ requirements;

20       (6)(7) ~~Taming,~~ taming, ~~taming,~~ taming, imprinting, or otherwise improperly handling animals held for  
21       rehabilitation;

22       (7)(8) ~~Failing~~ failure to treat conditions that warrant medical attention;

23       (8)(9) ~~Failing~~ failure to notify the appropriate agencies after a rabies exposure as described in Rules .1402  
24       and .1403 this Section; ~~or~~

25       (9)(10) ~~Allowing~~ allowing a wild animal held under a captivity license for holding to roam free unrestrained  
26       outside of its ~~enclosure;~~ or enclosure.

27       (10) — ~~The license holder of a facility holding captive cervid(s) failing to:~~

28           (A) — ~~comply with tagging requirements as provided by rules of this Section; or~~

29           (B) — ~~comply with requirements for maintaining the enclosure fence as provided by rules of this~~  
30           Section.

31   (c) An individual holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with ~~the apprentice designation~~ apprenticeship  
32   conditions shall notify the Commission within 10 business days if he or she no longer has a mentor ~~mentor.~~ and  
33   provide a list of animals in their possession by species and quantity. The apprentice shall obtain another mentor within  
34   30 days and notify the Commission with that individual's information. If the apprentice fails to obtain another mentor  
35   ~~within 60 days,~~ the Commission shall revoke ~~his or her~~ their license and he or she shall be required to reapply for a  
36   license with apprenticeship conditions. ~~an apprentice license.~~

1 (d) If a wild animal or wild bird is unlawfully possessed or the Commission revokes a captivity license for  
2 rehabilitation or holding, ~~then~~ the Commission may seize and determine future treatment of the wild animal or wild  
3 bird, to include release, relocation, or euthanasia.

4 ~~(e) The Commission shall revoke a non-farmed cervid license, and the holder of that license shall forfeit the right to~~  
5 ~~keep non-farmed cervids and be required to turn the animals over to a representative of the Commission upon request~~  
6 ~~of the Commission, under any of the following circumstances or conditions:~~

7 ~~(1) The license holder fails to submit a cervid carcass to a NCDA approved laboratory for testing for~~  
8 ~~Chronic Wasting Disease within 48 hours of knowledge of that cervid's death or close of the next~~  
9 ~~business day, whichever is later, as provided by Rule .1403(m) in this Section;~~

10 ~~(2) A cervid has been transported without a permit; or~~

11 ~~(3) Chronic Wasting Disease has been confirmed in a cervid at that facility.~~

12  
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

14 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1406 FORMS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES**

2 (a) Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license ~~for rehabilitation~~ shall apply ~~to the Commission using the~~  
3 ~~Captivity License for Rehabilitation Form available at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org), [www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com).~~

4 (b) Information required ~~by~~ from the applicant ~~for a captivity license for rehabilitation~~ shall include:

- 5 (1) ~~The applicant's~~ name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;
- 6 (2) ~~The~~ facility site address;
- 7 (3) ~~Any~~ organizational affiliation, if applicable;
- 8 (4) ~~The~~ categories of wild animals and wild birds to be rehabilitated;
- 9 (5) ~~A~~ a copy of a valid Federal Migratory Bird Permit, if applicable;
- 10 (6) ~~The name and signature~~ of mentor, if applicable; ~~and~~
- 11 (7) a completed Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form or Wildlife Rehabilitation  
12 Apprentice Upgrade Form, if applicable;
- 13 (7)(8) ~~Certification~~ certification of 12 hours of rehabilitation related ~~training~~, training for initial  
14 application, if applicable. applicable; and
- 15 (9) certification of up-to-date rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis, if applicable.

16 (b)(c) ~~Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license for holding shall apply to the Commission using the~~  
17 ~~Captivity License for Holding Form available at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org).~~ Information ~~supplied by~~ required from the  
18 applicant for a captivity license for holding shall include:

- 19 (1) ~~The Applicant's~~ name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;
- 20 (2) ~~The~~ facility site address;
- 21 (3) ~~Any~~ organizational affiliation, if applicable;
- 22 (4) ~~The~~ species information including quantity and source for all animals to be held; ~~and~~
- 23 (5) ~~The purpose for holding animals in captivity.~~ captivity; and
- 24 (6) a copy of a valid Federal Migratory Bird Permit and USDA License, if applicable.

25 (c) ~~Individuals requesting a transportation permit for non farmed cervids shall apply to the Commission using the~~  
26 ~~Non farmed Cervid Transportation Form available at [www.newwildlife.org](http://www.newwildlife.org).~~ Information ~~supplied by the applicant~~ shall  
27 include:

- 28 (1) ~~The applicant's name, mailing address, residence address, and telephone number;~~
- 29 (2) ~~The facility site address;~~
- 30 (3) ~~The captivity license number;~~
- 31 (4) ~~The species and sex of each non farmed cervid transported;~~
- 32 (5) ~~The tag number(s) for each non farmed cervid transported;~~
- 33 (6) ~~The date of transportation;~~
- 34 (7) ~~The vehicle or trailer license plate number and state of issuance of the vehicle or trailer used to~~  
35 ~~transport the non farmed cervid;~~
- 36 (8) ~~The name, address, county and phone number of the destination facility to which the non farmed~~  
37 ~~cervid will be transported;~~

1           ~~(9) — The symptoms for which the non-farmed cervid requires veterinary treatment, if applicable;~~

2           ~~(10) — The date of slaughter, if applicable;~~

3           ~~(11) — The name and location of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Diagnostic lab where the~~  
4           ~~head of the non-farmed cervid is to be submitted for CWD testing, if applicable.~~

5       (d) Individuals rehabilitating white-tailed deer fawns ~~or elk calves~~ shall record their name, license number, and the  
6       following information for each cervid on the Annual White-tailed Deer Fawn / Elk Calf Fawn Rehabilitation Activity  
7       Form available at www.newwildlife.org; www.ncwildlife.gov;

8           ~~(1) — The captivity license number;~~

9           ~~(2)(1) The date of acceptance; received;~~

10          ~~(3)(2) The species and sex;~~

11          ~~(4)(3) The tag number;~~

12          ~~(5)(4) The disposition; and disposition and date;~~

13          ~~(5) name and license number of transferee, if applicable; and~~

14          ~~(6) The date and location county of release, if applicable.~~

15       (e) Individuals rehabilitating rabies species shall record their name, license number, and the following information  
16       for each animal on the Annual Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Activity Form Report available at  
17       www.newwildlife.org; www.ncwildlife.gov;

18          ~~(1) — The captivity license number;~~

19          ~~(2)(1) The date of acceptance; received;~~

20          ~~(3)(2) The species and sex; species;~~

21          ~~(4)(3) The location county of origin, if known;~~

22          ~~(4) sex;~~

23          ~~(5) estimated age;~~

24          ~~(5)(6) The disposition; disposition and date; and~~

25          ~~(6)(7) The date name and license number of transferee, transfer to other appropriately licensed captivity~~  
26          ~~license holder, if applicable; or and~~

27          ~~(7)(8) The date and location county of release, if applicable.~~

28       (f) Individuals holding species under a Captivity captivity License license for ~~Holding~~, holding for educational and  
29       exhibition purposes shall record the following information on the Captivity License for Holding Education and  
30       Exhibition Form available at www.newwildlife.org; www.ncwildlife.gov;

31          ~~(1) The captivity license number;~~

32          ~~(2) The date of educational or exhibition activity;~~

33          ~~(3) The species and numbers of wild animals or wild birds used in the educational or exhibition activity;~~

34          ~~(4) The organization or group involved in the educational or exhibition activity; and~~

35          ~~(5) The description of educational or exhibition activity, if applicable; applicable.~~

1 (g) Information required from an apprentice on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form,  
2 available at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov) shall include:

3 (1) apprentice's name, facility address, phone number, and signature;

4 (2) mentor's name, address, WRC number, rehabilitation license number, and signature.

5 (h) Wildlife rehabilitation mentors shall provide the following information on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice  
6 Upgrade Form, available at [www.ncwildlife.gov](http://www.ncwildlife.gov), to certify compliance with requirements of Rule .1402(f) of this  
7 Section:

8 (1) name, address, phone number, captivity license number, and signature;

9 (2) apprentice name, address, phone number, and captivity license number; and

10 (3) dates of mentorship.

11 ~~(g)(i) All forms~~ Reports and forms shall be signed, dated, and submitted to the Wildlife Resources Commission with  
12 ~~applicable fees mandated by G.S. 113-272.5 and G.S. 113-270.1B.~~ [rapr@ncwildlife.gov](mailto:rapr@ncwildlife.gov), 1707 Mail Service Center,  
13 Raleigh NC 27699-1700, or through [www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com](http://www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com) upon application or within 15 days of license  
14 expiration, as required by the Rules of this Section.

15  
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*  
17 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*  
18  
19

# **EXHIBIT H-1**

**June 5, 2025**



## **Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout Rule Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption**

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission adopted the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 at their March 2025 meeting. To be consistent with the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan, a slot limit for Spotted Seatrout where the minimum size limit remains 14 inches, but no fish may be possessed between 20 and 26 inches and only one fish in the creel may be over 26 inches in length is proposed. The daily creel limit will be reduced from four fish to three fish per person. Current data indicates that the Spotted Seatrout population is not overfished but overfishing is occurring. These measures should end overfishing within two years.

*15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT*

**15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT**

(a) The daily creel limit for sea trout (spotted or speckled) is ~~four~~ three fish.

(b) The minimum size limit is ~~14 inches.~~ inches, but no fish between 20 and 26 inches in length may be possessed and only one sea trout greater than 26 inches may be possessed.

(c) There is no closed season.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*

*Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*

*Eff. March 15, 2023.*

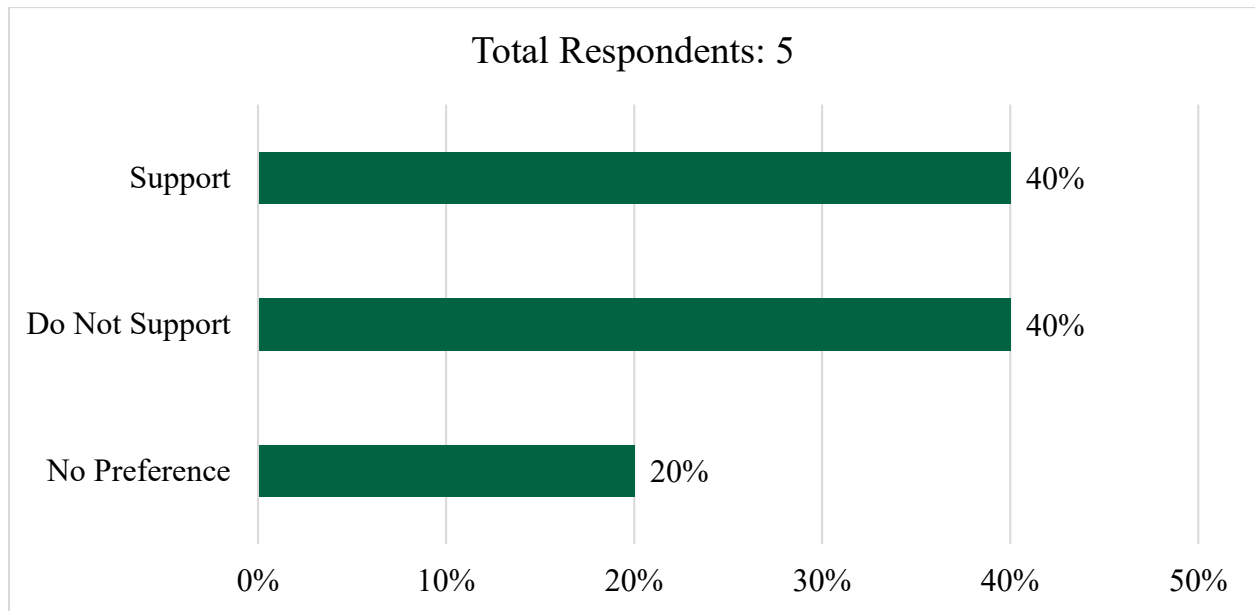


## EHIBIT H-2

June 5, 2025



### Summary of Public Comments on Seatrout Temporary Amendments 15A NCAC 10C .0325



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
No Preference	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

One public hearing was held on May 8, 2025.

# EXHIBIT I-1

June 5, 2025



## **Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10D .0260 Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey Counties Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption**

The proposed amendment will prohibit activities other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and authorized use of posted trails and parking areas on the Lutz Tract of the Pisgah Game Land to help reduce overcrowding. The Lutz Tract portion of the game land is heavily used and overcrowded in the summer months with people camping and gathering. This use results in litter and human waste that creates environmental hazards and habitat degradation. The overcrowding also creates safety issues along the narrow roadway where cars block the thoroughfare on a NCDOT roadway, hindering access for emergency vehicles if needed. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has expressed concern and asked for allowed activities on the property to be restricted.

The US Forest Service is closing the southern section of the Wilson Creek corridor, and NCDOT is beginning construction on the access road which will exacerbate issues on the game land. The portion of Wilson Creek on the Lutz Tract is designated as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, and additional use of the Lutz Tract will impact angler access and experience.

*15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,  
HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,  
TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES*

**15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,  
HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,  
TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES**

Pisgah game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

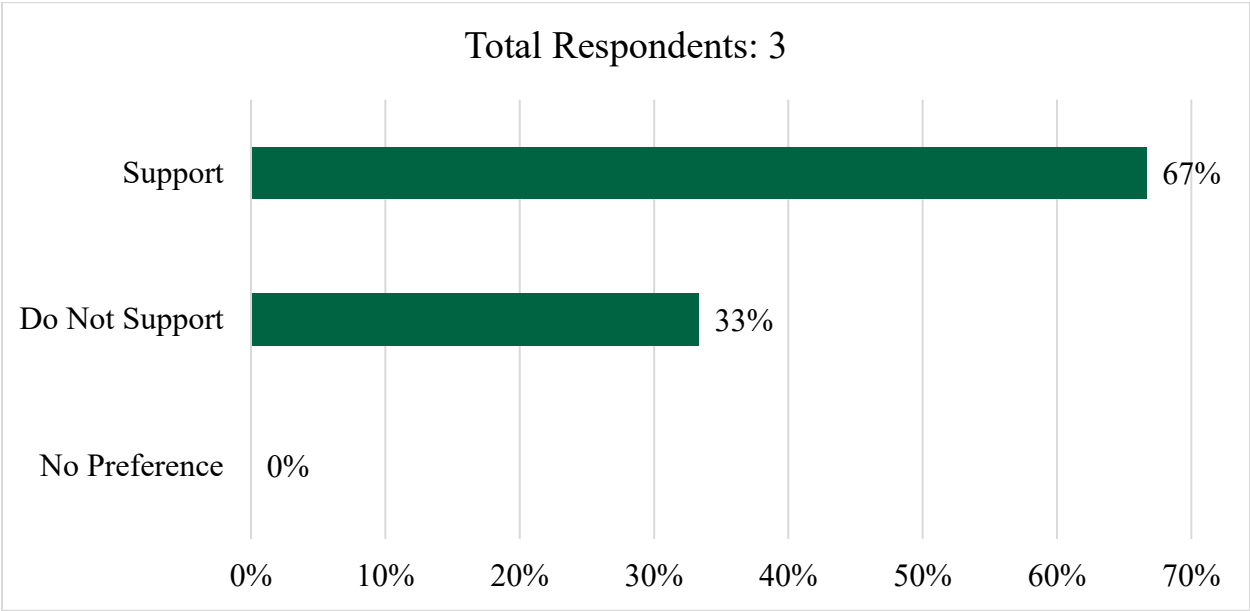
- (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- (4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited in the Wilson Creek portion of Pisgah Game Land (Caldwell County)
- (5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (6) Activities other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and authorized use of posted trails and parking areas are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County).

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;  
Eff. October 1, 2022.*

**EHIBIT I-2**  
**June 5, 2025**



**Summary of Public Comments on  
Pisgah Game Land Temporary Amendments  
15A NCAC 10D .0260**



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3

One public hearing was held on May 7, 2025.