



Fiscal Note for No-Wake Zone Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County

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

Authority: G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15

The City of Hickory applied to extend the no wake zone from south of the U.S. Highway 321 Bridge on Lake Hickory shore to shore, northward to a point approximately 460 yards north of the bridge, to mitigate hazards to boater and water recreation safety. Development of the Riverwalk on the east shore north of the bridge by the City of Hickory for water and pedestrian recreation has created congestion and multiple safety hazards with obstructed sight lines. A narrow walkway extends over the lake, supported by pillars, under which kayaks, canoes, and jet skis congregate. Non-motorized vessels are rented from Lake Hickory Marina across the lake from an access point in the Riverwalk parking lots. Boat wakes have damaged some of the non-

motorized vessels. The Lake Hickory Pub and Marina and fuel dock is an existing no-wake zone only 30 yards from shore. The extension shore to shore will better protect both facilities and the bridge, especially on high traffic days. The City of Hickory will implement the extended no-wake zone and will purchase five buoys. The WRC will assist with buoy placement.

Also, in Caldwell County on Lake Hickory, Wildlife Resources Commission Law Enforcement recommended a no-wake zone in Gunpowder Creek shore to shore 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge on Grace Chapel Road in Granite Falls to mitigate hazards to boater and water recreation safety. The WRC will purchase and place two buoys.

The proposed amendments remove reference to the Catawba River and Little Gunpowder Lake in Paragraph (a) as neither water body contains a regulated area. Swimming Areas, currently Paragraph (d), is also proposed for removal from the Rule as the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) do not contain a swimming area and swimming areas are broadly regulated in 15A NCAC 10F .0301.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment in the City of Hickory will have a minimal impact to the State. Two Land and Water Access technicians will place five buoys at a total cost of approximately \$140.00 (2 hours of labor x 2 technicians x \$35/hr = \$140.00)¹.

At the Adam Klutz Bridge in Granite Falls, the WRC will purchase two no-wake buoys at a cost of \$600 (\$300 each x 2). Two Land and Water Access technicians will place 2 buoys at a total cost of approximately \$70.00 (1 hours of labor x 2 technicians x \$35/hr = \$70.00).

Local Impact

The City of Hickory will be responsible for purchase of five no-wake buoys to mark the no-wake zone from south of the U.S. Highway 321 Bridge to a point north of Riverwalk and Lake Hickory Marina, at a total cost of \$1,500 (\$300 per buoy x 5). The City of Hickory may incur future costs to replace damaged or missing buoys.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments are expected to have minimal private impact. The regulated community will not incur any direct financial cost because of this rule. Their behavior will be restricted in that boaters will be required to reduce speeds in the regulated portions of Lake Hickory in Hickory at Riverwalk, and within 50 yards of both sides of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge

¹ Calculated using average salary and benefits of current technicians as of July 2025.

in Granite Falls. The reduction in speed has the potential to improve boating traffic safety and reduce the potential for damage to vessels and collisions with water recreationists. Given the increasing safety and navigation hazards caused by increasing development in this area, these potential benefits are likely to be realized; however, these benefits could not be quantified.

15A NCAC 10F .0323 & 15A NCAC 10F .0338 - Requested No-Wake Zone Extension by the City of Hickory
Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rental docks, Lake Hickory, Burke and Caldwell Counties



Created by NCWRC, February 2025

15A NCAC 10F .0338 - Requested No-Wake Zone
Deputy Adam W. Klutz Bridge, Gunpowder Creek, Lake Hickory, Caldwell County



Created by NCWRC, February 20 24

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY**

2 (a) Regulated Areas. This Rule ~~shall apply~~ applies to the following waters in Caldwell County:

3 ~~(1) — Catawba River;~~

4 ~~(2)(1)~~ Lake Rhodhiss:

5 (A) within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, 6131 Castle Bridge Drive
6 in Granite Falls;

7 (B) within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area, 6131 Connelly Springs Road in
8 Granite Falls; and

9 (C) within 50 yards of the Conley Creek Boating Access Area, 5475 Waterworks Road in
10 Granite Falls Falls; and

11 ~~(3) — Little Gunpowder Lake; and~~

12 ~~(4)(2)~~ Lake Hickory:

13 ~~(A) — within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals, on Limbaugh~~
14 ~~Lane in the City of Hickory;~~

15 (A) the waters shore to shore beginning 50 yards south of the U.S. Highway 321 Bridge, from
16 a line at a point on the east shore of Lake Hickory at 35.75636 N, 81.37646 W to a point
17 on the west shore at 35.75820 N, 81.37843 W, northeast past River Walk on the east shore
18 and Lake Hickory Pub and Marina on the west shore, ending at a line from a point on the
19 east shore at 35.76041 N, 81.37425 W to a point on the west shore at 35.76054 N, 81.37713
20 W in the City of Hickory;

21 (B) within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area, at 5450 Hurricane Hill Road in
22 Granite Falls; ~~and~~

23 (C) within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area, at 5682 Rocky Mount Road in
24 Granite Falls. Falls; and

25 (D) the waters of Gunpowder Creek shore to shore, within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards
26 southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge on Grace Chapel Road in Granite Falls.

27 (b) Speed limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any regulated area described
28 in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

29 (c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a
30 marked mooring area on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

31 ~~(d) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any~~
32 ~~marked public swimming area on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

33 ~~(e)(d) Placement of Markers. The following agencies shall place or place and maintain the markers implementing this~~
34 ~~Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and United States Army Corps of Engineers:~~

35 (1) the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County shall ~~place the~~ be the designated agency markers
36 implementing ~~Subparagraph Part (a)(1)(A) and (a)(3), and Part (a)(2)(A) of this Rule;~~

- 1 (2) the City of Hickory shall ~~place the~~ be the designated agency markers implementing Part ~~(a)(4)(A)~~
2 (a)(2)(A) of this Rule; and
3 (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall ~~place and maintain the~~ be the designated
4 agency markers implementing Parts ~~(a)(2)(B), (C), and (a)(4)(B), (C)~~ (a)(1)(B) and (C) and (a)(2)(B)
5 through (D) of this Rule.

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7 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*
8 *Eff. August 23, 1981;*
9 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
10 *6, 2016;*
11 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2024; July 1, 2018.*
12