



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
April 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor
Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER – *Chairman Mark Craig*

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner Tommy Fonville*

INVOCATION – *Commissioner Joe Budd*

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 Craig*

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2026 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the February 9, 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the February 19, 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT B)**

APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the March 24, 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT C)**

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 D)*

ENDOWMENT FUND EXPENDABLE INCOME ALLOCATION – Consider Approval of Calendar Year 2025 Investment Income Allocation – *Jason Cottle (EXHIBIT E)*

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Wild Turkey Committee – March 17, 2026 – Joe Budd, Vice Chair

Habitat Nongame & Endangered Species Committee – April 15, 2026– Brad Stanback, Chair

Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee – April 15, 2026 – Monty Crump, Chair

Migratory Birds & Waterfowl Committee – April 15, 2026 – John Coley, Chair

Education & Communication Committee – April 15, 2026 – Tom Haislip, Chair

Land Acquisition and Property Committee – April 15, 2026 – Tom Berry, Chair

Executive Committee – April 15, 2026 – Mark Craig, Chair

Committee of the Whole – April 15, 2026 – Mark Craig, Chair

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Genetic Applications for Conservation and Management – Dr. Heather Evans, Conservation Genetics Manager

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2026-2027 Webless Migratory Birds, Resident Canada Geese, Extended Falconry, and Waterfowl Seasons – Review U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service frameworks, receive public comments, and select the 2026-2027 season dates and bag limits for webless migratory birds, resident Canada geese, extended falconry, and waterfowl – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief* (**EXHIBITS F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4**)

2026 Migrant Peregrine Falconry – Consider staff recommendations to establish a season for taking up to 5 migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry in 2026 – *Brad Howard* (**EXHIBIT G**)

LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Ben Solomon, Land and Water Access Division Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Little Snowbird Tract – Cherokee and Graham Counties (**EXHIBIT H-1**)
- Franklin Bog – Henderson County (**EXHIBIT H-2**)
- Sparta Bog – Alleghany County (**EXHIBIT H-3**)
- Tallulah Bog – Graham County (**EXHIBIT H-4**)
- Jackson Tract – Bladen County (**EXHIBIT H-5**)
- Catherine Creek – Gates County (**EXHIBIT H-6**)
- Welch Tract – Chowan County (**EXHIBIT H-7**)
- Egypt Road – Brunswick County (**EXHIBIT H-8**)
- Odom Correctional Facility Re-allocation – Northampton County (**EXHIBIT H-9**)
- Buffalo Creek Headwaters – Watauga and Caldwell Counties (**EXHIBIT H-10**)

Other Property Matters – Consider approval of the following other property matter - *Ben Solomon*

- Easement Request (**EXHIBIT I**) Request from Tyr Energy Development (TED) Renewables for a utility easement on Bertie County Game Land

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 10F .0305 – *Will Casola, Policy Analyst (EXHIBITS J-1, J-2)*

RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0425 Sheepshead – Review public comments and consider request to adopt temporary amendments to 10C .0425 – *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief (EXHIBITS K-1, K-2)*

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – License Fees – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 10A .1601 and 10H .1801 – *Will Casola (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)*

Petition for Rulemaking – 10D .0211 Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land – Review petition and consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for amendments to 10D .0211. Review and consider approval of fiscal note. – *Will Casola (EXHIBITS M-1, M-2, M-3)*

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – CWD Management Areas – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for temporary amendments to 10B .0203 & 10B .0502 – *Brad Howard (EXHIBIT N)*

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 O)*

SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN – Consider staff recommendation for final adoption of the Yellow Lampmussel Conservation Plan – *Rachael Hoch, Inland Fisheries Division Assistant Chief (EXHIBIT P)*

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Craig*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Briggs*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A



MINUTES February 9, 2026 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Special Webinar Meeting

Chairman Mark Craig called the February 9, 2026, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Special Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Craig reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.gov.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison, called the roll. John Coley, Tom Berry, Brad Stanback, Ray Clifton, John Stone, Hayden Rogers, Joe Budd and Tom Haislip were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Mark Craig	Tommy Fonville	John Alexander	Justin Boyd
Landon Zimmer	Jim Ruffin	J.C. Cole	
David Hoyle	Steve Windham	Mike Alford	
Wes Seegars	Monty Crump	Reid Smith	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Craig advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C .0325 Sea Trout – On a motion by John Alexander and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for temporary amendments to 10C .0325 presented in **EXHIBIT A** by *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

EXHIBIT A is incorporated into the official record of this meeting

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Craig noted that he had no further comments and expressed his appreciation to the Board members for their attendance at the Special Commission Webinar Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Director Briggs concluded by stating he had no additional remarks and thanked the Board members for their participation in the Special Commission Webinar Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC meeting was adjourned at **10:07 A.M.**

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Mark Craig, Chairman

Date

Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Date

EXHIBIT B



MINUTES February 19, 2026 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Vice Chairman Landon Zimmer called the February 19, 2026, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Zimmer reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.gov.

Commissioner Ray Clifton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Mike Alford gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison, called the roll. Mark Craig, David Hoyle, Wes Seegars, and Tom Berry were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Landon Zimmer	Jim Ruffin	John Stone	J.C. Cole	Mike Alford
John Coley	Ray Clifton	Hayden Rogers	Joe Budd	
Tommy Fonville	Steve Windham	John Alexander	Reid Smith	
Brad Stanback	Monty Crump	Tom Haislip	Justin Boyd	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Vice Chairman Zimmer advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15. Vice Chairman Zimmer recused himself from discussion and action on **EXHIBIT K-2**.

MINUTES

On a motion by Joe Budd and second by John Alexander, the Commission approved the Minutes of the following meetings:

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 4, 2025, MEETING MINUTES – The December 4, 2025 Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2025, MEETING MINUTES – The December 16, 2025 Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Minutes were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT B**.

EXHIBITS A & B are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

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

EXHIBIT C is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Fisheries Committee Report – February 18, 2026 – *John Stone, Chair*, reported the Fisheries Committee met on February 18, 2026. Potential Inland Fisheries rule proposals for the 2027-2028 annual rulemaking cycle were shared. Staff presented an update on the renovation of the Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery and discussed how the agency is providing anglers with information about the temporary changes to the Public Mountain Trout Waters stocking program. Staff reviewed angling trends for Striped Bass along the Roanoke River. Results from the Lake Norman Bodie Bass Exploitation Study were presented showing that the fishery is very popular among anglers with an annual mortality rate of nearly 45%. Finally, staff introduced a concept for addressing proclamations issued by NCDMF to reduce confusion among anglers. After robust discussion, the committee determined the concept needed more evaluation. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Big Game Committee Report – February 18, 2026 – *Monty Crump, Committee Member*, reported the Big Game Committee met on February 18, 2026. Staff presented updates on a variety of big game topics related to deer and bear. First were updates on the 2025-2026 season's CWD testing results and the CWD management strategy. To date, there are 27 new CWD positives and 4 of those came from two new counties, Sampson and Edgecombe. North Carolina is now up to 61 confirmed positive cases of CWD from 7 different counties. Several potential rule ideas related to big game management were presented along with an update of the preliminary 2026-2027 deer and bear harvest; both were record years. Finally, staff shared the timeline for updates and revisions to the Bear Management Plan. Having no further business, the committee adjourned.

Small Game Committee Report – February 18, 2026 – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported the Small Game Committee met on February 18, 2026. Staff presented several potential rule ideas for the upcoming regulation cycle that are related to small game and furbearer species. Next, staff presented several topics of consideration for the Small Game Committee to address during the 2026-2027 Committee cycle. Topics included managing early successional habitat on private lands and the challenges and barriers landowners face, predation management and efforts to develop better recommendations for landowners, and furbearer management including reviewing the results of a survey of trappers and a review of trapping regulations. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Land Acquisition & Property Committee Report – February 18, 2026 – *Brad Stanback, Vice Chair*, reported the Land Acquisition and Property Committee met on February 18, 2026. The Committee began by reviewing the 2027-2028 Land and Water Access rule proposals. The Committee recommended removing one regulation from the regulation package, specifically the proposal requiring all tree stands, commercially produced blinds and trail cameras placed on game lands without a special use permit to be identified through a displayed tag that includes the name and address of the owner, or their WRC ID. The Committee also reviewed and approved eight Phase I land acquisition proposals, two Phase II land acquisition proposals, and one easement request at Juniper Creek Game Land. The easement request was amended by the Committee to grant an express easement for ingress and egress, with a restriction to only support one single family dwelling. Having no further business, the committee adjourned.

Committee of the Whole – February 18, 2026 – *Landon Zimmer, Vice Chair*, reported the Committee of the Whole met yesterday afternoon and began with a discussion on several proposed changes to Wildlife Management rules for the 2027–2028 rulemaking cycle. The committee then reviewed proposed rulemaking related to water safety, mandatory fish harvest reporting requirements, striped bass, bluefish, and sheepshead. Initial determinations for the periodic rules review were also shared. The rulemaking and periodic rules review items were presented as exhibits later in the meeting. An overview of the Owl Webcam project was presented. The meeting concluded with discussion of plans for the upcoming October Commission meeting. There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

Agency Spotlight – NCWRC Black Bass Management – *Kevin Dockendorf, Coastal Resident Fish Research Coordinator*, and *Kin Hodges, District 7 Fisheries Biologist*, highlighted black bass management across the state. Kevin introduced our native black bass species, described how survey data are used to design regulations, and discussed ongoing efforts to increase reservoir fish habitat. He explained the role of stockings, research projects, and how genetics are used to identify species and detect hybridization. The F1 Bass stocking project was presented as a combination of stocking, research, and genetics to answer questions relating to trophy potential of Largemouth Bass. Kin then discussed the threat Alabama Bass are posing to native bass species and highlighted educational strategies being used to counter the impacts of these invasive species. He then shared some positive aspects of North Carolina black bass fishing, noting that certain Piedmont and Coastal waters are considered to be among the best in the nation. He also shared results from a 2025 black bass angler opinion survey, in which more than 711,000 anglers fished for black bass and contributed over \$2.5 billion to the state's economy. He concluded by noting that the Black Bass Management Plan will be updated using insights gained from the angler opinion survey.

LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – On a motion by Brad Stanback and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved to proceed with acquisition of the following properties presented in **EXHIBITS D-1 and D-2**, by *Ben Solomon, Land and Water Access Division Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Stone Morris Tract – Transylvania County (**EXHIBIT D-1**)
- Rose Creek Waterline – Mitchell County (**EXHIBIT D-2**)

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

Other Property Matters – On a motion by Jim Ruffin and a second by Mike Alford, the Commission approved the Easement request from a private landowner for an ingress and egress easement on Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick County with a restriction to only support one single family dwelling presented in **EXHIBIT E** by *Ben Solomon*

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

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

On a motion by Monty Crump and second by Justin Boyd, the Commission approved the following water safety rules presented in **EXHIBITS F-2, G-2, H-2, I-2, and J-2** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*:

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0301 General Provisions – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT F-1** and adopted amendments to 10F .0301 presented in **EXHIBIT F-2**.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0303 Beaufort County – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT G-1** and adopted amendments to 10F .0303 presented in **EXHIBIT G-2**.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT H-1** and adopted amendments to 10F .0310 presented in **EXHIBIT H-2**.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0329 Rowan County – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT I-1** and adopted amendments to 10F .0329 presented in **EXHIBIT I-2**.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0354 Pitt County – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT J-1** and adopted amendments to 10F .0354 presented in **EXHIBIT J-2**

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

Temporary Rule Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0314 New Hanover County – With Commissioner Zimmer recused, and on a motion by Mike Alford and a second by John Alexander, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT K-1** and denied temporary amendments to 10F .0314 presented in **EXHIBIT K-2** by *Betsy Haywood*

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

Permanent Rule Repeal – 15A NCAC 10F .0368 Nags Head – On a motion by Ray Clifton and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT L-1** and repealed 10F .0368 presented in **EXHIBIT L-2** by *Betsy Haywood*

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

RULEMAKING

On a motion by Hayden Rogers and second by John Stone, the Commission approved the following temporary inland fisheries rules presented in **EXHIBITS M-2, N-2, and O-2** by *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*:

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0218 Harvest Reporting Requirements – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT M-1** and adopted temporary amendments to 10C .0218 presented in **EXHIBIT M-2**.

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0314 Striped Bass – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT N-1** and adopted temporary amendments to 10C .0314 presented in **EXHIBIT N-2**.

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0414 Bluefish – The Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT O-1** and adopted temporary amendments to 10C .0414 presented in **EXHIBIT O-2**.

EXHIBITS M-1, M-2, N-1, N-2, O-1 and O-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C .0425 Sheepshead – On a motion by John Alexander and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for temporary amendments to 10C .0425 presented in **EXHIBIT P** by *Corey Oakley*

EXHIBIT P is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Periodic Rules Review – Initial Determinations – On a motion by John Alexander and a second by Monty Crump, the Commission approved initial determinations on all WRC rules and joint WRC/MFC rules and to notice the reports for public comment presented in **EXHIBIT Q** by *Will Casola, Policy Analyst*.

EXHIBIT Q is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN – Vice Chairman Zimmer expressed appreciation for the opportunity to preside on behalf of Chairman Craig. He thanked the Commissioners for their attendance and valuable input. He also extended his gratitude to staff for their ongoing hard work and for organizing the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Executive Director Briggs congratulated all participants in the National Archery in the Schools Program Tournament, with special recognition to the winning teams. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournaments beginning next month. He also thanked staff for their hard work and expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their continued dedication and service.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.
All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Mark Craig, Chairman

Date

Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Date

EXHIBIT C



MINUTES March 24, 2026 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Special Webinar Meeting

Chairman Mark Craig called the March 24, 2026, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Special Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Craig reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.gov.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison, called the roll. David Hoyle, John Coley, Wes Seegars, Ray Clifton, John Stone, Hayden Rogers, and Justin Boyd were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Mark Craig	Brad Stanback	John Alexander	Joe Budd
Landon Zimmer	Jim Ruffin	Tom Haislip	Reid Smith
Tommy Fonville	Steve Windham	J. C. Cole	
Tom Berry	Monty Crump	Mike Alford	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Craig advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10C .0325 Seatrout – On a motion by Joe Budd and a second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT A-1** and adopted temporary amendments to 10C .0325 presented in **EXHIBIT A-2** by *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*.

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

2026 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE – On a motion by John Alexander and a second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved the proposed revisions to the 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule presented in **EXHIBIT B** by *Kyle Briggs, Executive Director*.

EXHIBIT B is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Craig noted the upcoming opening of the turkey hunting season and emphasized the importance of supporting youth participation. He encouraged hunters to mentor a young person during the season.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Director Briggs concluded by stating he had no additional remarks and thanked the Board members for their participation in the Special Commission Webinar Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC meeting was adjourned at **9:07 a.m.**

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Mark Craig, Chairman

Date

Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Date

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

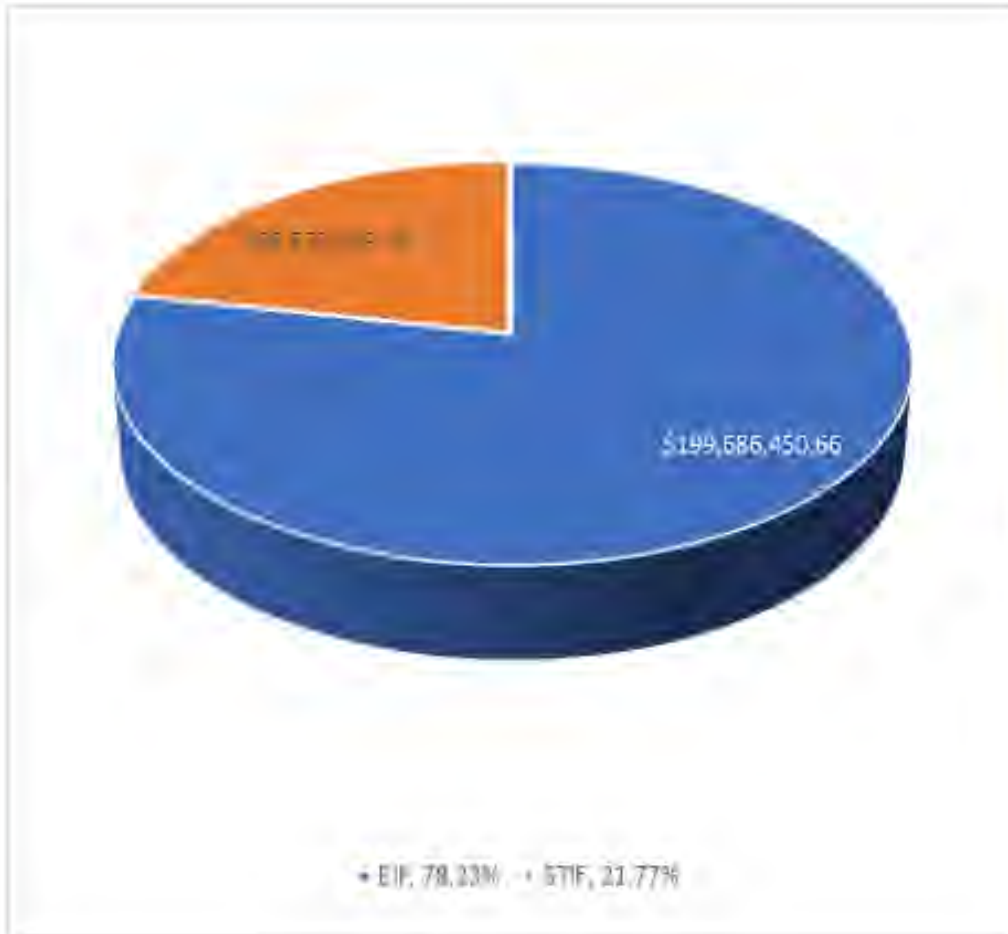
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2026

	FY 2026 General Fund	FY 2026 Capital Improvement Fund
REVENUES		
Federal funds	\$ 22,362,411.69	\$ 7,107,001.00
Local funds	\$ 2,756.92	\$ -
Investment earnings	\$ 315,591.09	\$ -
Sales and services	\$ 7,930,586.28	\$ -
Rental and lease of property	\$ 63,883.30	\$ -
Fees, licenses and fines	\$ 24,007,016.48	\$ -
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$ 3,095,701.53	\$ 3,142,464.72
Miscellaneous	\$ 10,193.13	\$ 550.34
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$ 456,347.66	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$ 10,264.74	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$ 38,673,970.88	\$ 6,284,150.90
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$ 12,631,536.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 109,560,259.70	\$ 16,534,166.96
EXPENDITURES		
Personal services	\$ 29,778,073.63	\$ -
Employee benefits	\$ 14,789,488.75	\$ -
Contracted personal services	\$ 8,829,095.04	\$ 35,961.00
Supplies and materials	\$ 6,302,376.89	\$ -
Purchases for Resale	\$ 30,464.52	\$ -
Travel	\$ 397,753.43	\$ -
Communication	\$ 941,874.13	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 446,169.85	\$ -
Data processing services	\$ 314,222.38	\$ -
Other services	\$ 3,200,807.17	\$ 1,204,143.68
Principal Retirement	\$ 8,440.00	\$ -
Interest and Fees	\$ 2,455.09	\$ -
Claims and benefits	\$ 1,094,353.59	\$ -
Other fixed charges	\$ 118,047.26	\$ 132.35
Capital outlay	\$ 5,093,635.41	\$ 12,666,076.19
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$ 1,462,898.02	\$ -
Insurance and bonding	\$ 24,782.00	\$ -
Other expenditures	\$ 3,461,694.01	\$ 27,609.25
Reimbursements	\$ (484,321.51)	\$ (58,366.00)
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$ 36,152,659.16	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 111,964,968.82	\$ 13,875,556.47
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ (2,404,709.12)	\$ 2,658,610.49
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2025	\$ 21,113,142.01	\$ 4,474,732.56
FUND BALANCE - FEBRUARY 28, 2026	\$ 18,708,432.89	\$ 7,133,343.05

**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO**

Fund Balance*: Feb 28, 2026: \$255,259,599.80

ASSET ALLOCATION



2026 February				
Status:	Principal	ANI		Total
		Nonexpendable	Expendable	
Adult	\$ 98,274,075.20		\$ 97,881,297.07	\$ 196,155,372.27
Magazine	\$ 1,573,477.50		\$ 1,477,415.12	\$ 3,050,892.62
Contributions	\$ 954,285.83		\$ 4,074,218.21	\$ 5,028,504.04
Diversity	\$ 1,471,533.06		\$ 203,321.11	\$ 1,674,854.17
Infant	\$ 23,817,026.50	\$ 17,751,219.37		\$ 41,568,245.87
Youth	\$ 3,265,924.00	\$ 1,733,489.18		\$ 4,999,413.18
				\$ 252,477,282.15
Total	\$ 129,356,322.09	\$ 19,484,708.55	\$ 103,636,251.51	\$ 252,477,282.15
				\$ -
			Total from detail area >>	\$ 252,477,282.15
				\$ -

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	\$30,700,000.00
Other Capital Projects	\$ 9,310,249.00
Other Agency Priorities	\$ 6,020,120.00
<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>\$ 3,253,007.00</u>

Remaining Available Expendable Income \$54,352,875.51



☒ NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ☒

M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Expendable Income Earned in Calendar Year 2025

	Amount of Expendable Income Earned
Adult Lifetime Licenses	\$ 29,480,720.62
Magazine Subs Lifetime	\$ 536,523.55
Contributions – General	\$ 442,334.58
Contributions – Diversity	\$ 364,666.49
Total	<u>\$ 30,824,245.24</u>

The formula for determining the amount of interest available to support *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine was passed in a motion by the Commission on May 18, 2007. The motion allocated 100 percent of the interest earned from magazine lifetime subscriptions to the magazine budget.

EXHIBIT F-1

April 16, 2026



Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 2026–27 Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Waterfowl Frameworks

Special September Teal Season

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and September 30, an open season on all species of teal may be selected by the following States in areas delineated by State regulations:

Atlantic Flyway: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 9 consecutive hunting days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

Atlantic Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) and January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 60 days. The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which can be female), 2 black ducks, 3 pintails, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). The season for scaup may be split into 2 segments, with one segment consisting of 40 consecutive days with a 1-scaup daily bag limit, and the second segment consisting of 20 consecutive days with a 2-scaup daily bag limit.

Closures: The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

Zoning and Split Seasons: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and West Virginia may split their seasons into 3 segments. Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont may select seasons in each of 3 zones; Pennsylvania may select seasons in each of 4 zones; and New York may select seasons in each of 5 zones; and all these States may split their season in each zone into 2 segments. Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia may select seasons in each of 2 zones; and all these States may split their season in each zone into 3 segments. Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia must conduct an evaluation of the impacts of zones and splits on hunter dynamics (e.g., hunter numbers, satisfaction) and harvest during the 2021–25 seasons.

Scoters, Eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks

A craft under power may be used to shoot and retrieve dead or crippled sea ducks in the Sea Duck Area in the Atlantic Flyway. The Sea Duck Area includes all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York; in New Jersey, all coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80.165, 80.501, 80.502, and 80.503; in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in South Carolina and Georgia; and in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia; and provided that any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States. Sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 total sea

ducks and no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders [one hen eider], and 3 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.

Canada Geese

Special Early Canada Goose Seasons:

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected for the Eastern Unit of Maryland. Seasons not to exceed 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York (Long Island Zone only), North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Seasons may not exceed 25 days during September 1–25 in the remainder of the Flyway. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 15 Canada geese.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during any special early Canada goose season, shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

Regular Canada Goose Seasons:

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: Specific regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State. These seasons may also include white-fronted geese in an aggregate daily bag limit. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

North Carolina

RP Zone: An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

Northeast Hunt Unit: A 30-day season may be held between the Saturday prior to December 25 (December 19) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

Light Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split

their seasons into three segments.

Brant

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:

States may select a 30-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Swans

General Swan Season:

In portions of the Atlantic Flyway (Delaware, North Carolina, and Virginia) and the Central Flyway (North Dakota, South Dakota [east of the Missouri River], and that portion of Montana in the Central Flyway), an open season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States that authorize the take of no more than 1 swan per permit. A second permit may be issued to hunters from unused permits remaining after the first drawing.

Each State choosing a general swan season must evaluate hunter participation, species-specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in providing measurements of harvested swans for species identification. Each State should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance with the State's program for swan harvest reporting. Each State must achieve a hunter compliance of at least 80 percent in providing species-determinant measurements of harvested swans for species identification. Each State must provide to the Service by June 30 following the swan season, a report detailing hunter participation, species specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in reporting harvest.

Tundra Swan Season:

In lieu of a general swan hunting season, states may select a season only for tundra swans. States selecting a season only for tundra swans must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. These general swan seasons and tundra swan seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

In the Atlantic Flyway

- The season may be 90 days, between October 1 and January 31.
- In Delaware, no more than 272 permits may be issued.
- In North Carolina, no more than 4,853 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 475 permits may be issued.

Webless Migratory Game Birds

Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 31 in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 70 days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 common moorhens and purple gallinules, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

Zoning: Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

Rails

Outside Dates: States included herein may select seasons between September 1 and January 31 on clapper, king, sora, and Virginia rails.

Hunting Seasons: Seasons may not exceed 70 days and may be split into 2 segments.

Daily Bag Limits:

Clapper and King Rails: In Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, 10, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, 15, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

Sora and Virginia Rails: In the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways and the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, 25 rails, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. The season is closed in the remainder of the Pacific Flyway.

Snipe

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and February 28, except in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia, where the season must end no later than January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 107 days and may be split into two segments. The daily bag limit is 8 snipe.

Zoning: Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

American Woodcock

Outside Dates: States in the Eastern and Central Management Regions may select hunting seasons between September 13 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 45 days in the Eastern and Central Regions. The daily bag limit is 3. Seasons may be split into two segments.

Zoning: New Jersey may select seasons in each of two zones. The season in each zone may not exceed 36 days.

Doves

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 31 in the Eastern Management Unit, and between September 1 and January 15 in the Central and Western Management Units, except as otherwise provided, States may select hunting seasons and daily bag limits as follows:

Eastern Management Unit

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

Zoning and Split Seasons: States may select hunting seasons in each of two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods. Regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within specific hunting zones.

Special Falconry Regulations

In accordance with 50 CFR 21.29, falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State except for Hawaii. States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

Extended Seasons: For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments.

Framework Dates: Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10.

Daily Bag Limits: Falconry daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 birds, singly or in the aggregate, during extended falconry seasons, any special or experimental seasons, and regular hunting seasons in all States, including those that do not select an extended falconry season.

Regular Seasons: General hunting regulations, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.

EXHIBIT F-2



April 16, 2026

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2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Dove Gun Season

(Includes Mourning Dove and White-Winged Dove)

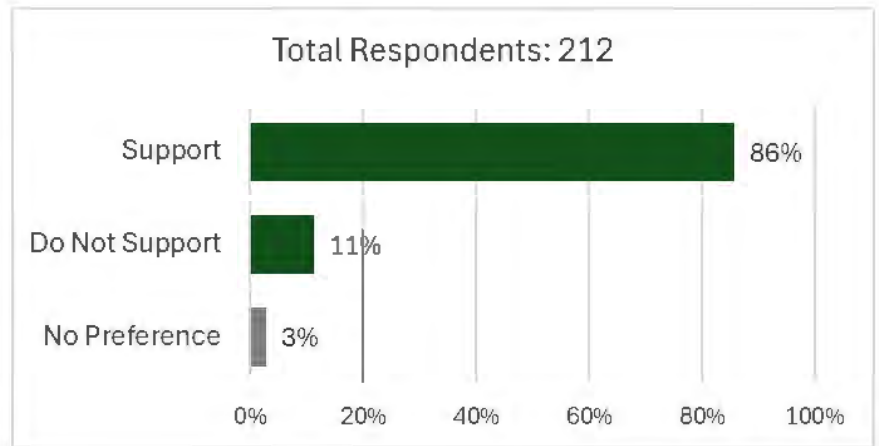
Frameworks:

90 days, no more than 3 season segments
 Earliest opening date: September 1st
 Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

September 5th – October 10th
 November 7th – November 28th
 December 16th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	182	86%
Do Not Support	24	11%
No Preference	6	3%
Total	212	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	15	42	34	13	20	17	10	9	10	2	10	182
Do Not Support	4	4	4	4	2	3	1	0	1	0	1	24
No Preference	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
Grand Total	19	49	39	17	22	20	11	9	11	2	13	212

Dove Gun Season Comments

1	add Jan 31
2	Allow hunting on Sunday so that people that work Monday-Friday so they can hunt for than 5 times a year
3	Consider a dove season during the duck late season spilt in Early Dec and remove the same number of days from Late Jan
4	Dove Season is perfect. State managed Dove fields have put many birds in my freezer over the years keep up the good work.
5	Extend it through February with a 4 th spilt
6	Glad the calendar allows for it to open on Saturday this year!
7	Glad to see you're keeping season segments around Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
8	Hunt on Sundays
9	I cant tell if this is the same date as opening day of early goose but I really wish those dates would be February3 each year hate having to choose ever year on opening day. I like dove on a sat and goose either on fri or Monday right before or following.
10	I especially support the late season date running to January 31 – even us non-residents can keep up with that closing date! I hunt in NC as a “good weather alternative” to VA’s winter weather. This past season, our weather was good, until the Big Storm clobbered the South!
11	I have liked it opening on the Labor Day Monday the past few years but I know that is not a favored thing in the state. It has actually made the hunting better on the first Saturday versus hunts held on the first Saturday and then the holiday Monday two days later.
12	I know that dove season always opens on either the 1 st Saturday or 1 st Monday of September whichever comes first. I feel it should always start on the Saturday before Labor Day. Especially since dove hunting is usually a family event. This would definitely be beneficial for hunters who are still in school.
13	I like opening on a Saturday – also like the 15 dove limit, no need to increase the limit at this time
14	I mostly dove hunt and have for the last 53 years. I have a couple of suggestions. (1) I know it is such a tradition to hunt dove Labor Day weekend. But there are still baby dove in the nest waiting to be fed by mama, and mama is in my game bag. Delay it a week or so. People will get used to it. I don't know what everyone else sees, but I see less qand less dove most every year. (2) Dove and duck hunting are so weather dependent. If we get a snow last day of the season, we should be able to hunt the next day, even if it's Sunday. That happens way more than you would think.
15	I would like to see the season start on Sept 1 st . I do not know the implications, but I believe in the eastern part of NC we see many more birds before the season comes in. As a hunter, I believe we could harvest more birds early. I realize that might not be a goal for management.
16	It would be great if dove season could be open for the late youth waterfowl hunt day
17	Keeping the season until late January is great. I have had much better hunts in the third segment.
18	No to Sunday hunting
19	Open cormorant season
20	Residents of north February should be allowed to hunt on Sunday
21	Season set is good, gives birds time to migrate with out too much pressure. Yes lots of gun pressure but enough time for them to migrate.
22	Since most hunters I know only have an organized dove hunt on opening day, Labor Day and the second Saturday, reduce the length of the season and increase the daily limit.
23	State fields are great for opening day but then nothing ever happens to keep birds for the other 89 days of the season

24	Sunday hunting restrictions must be removed. This is archaic and detrimental to working class families. It also severely reduces the ability for children to learn to hunt
25	Sunday hunting should be allowed
26	The Saturday opener is strange but I will take it!
27	Why not make the last season run along with the squirrel season in February?
28	Would like to see dove season opened up for Sunday hunting. Probably the most hunters are for doves and likely for some the only hunting they do. Around here it is a gathering of old friends and family, but our out of state group has just quit coming because they only get in the one day when the season opens on a Saturday. Think about the revenue from out of state hunters this will eventually bring in when those people are able to come, bring a friend or child to enjoy the rich history of opening day of dove season in NC.
29	Would like to see the start time moved to noon like it was. This fostered a group gathering together to start the season.
30	*Need to extend the 1 st Split later into October (by two Saturdays)* In over 40 years of exceptionally dedicated and passionately devoted dove shooting in Piedmont NC (all season segments), I (along with many others throughout my lifetime's experience) feel that the first season ends too early. Most years the best dove shooting (other than the opening days of September) occurs at the very end of the of the 1 st Split, often the last day/days. A lot more doves are around, moving through, and congregated by freshly harvested agricultural crops on into the middle and latter part of October. I have long witnessed a huge influx of doves in the few weeks after the early season goes out, far more than what was available to hunt at the end of September/beginning of October. Extending the 1 st Split by two weeks would make a huge difference in quality hunting opportunity. Very few people hunt doves after the first week (and following Saturday) of September anyway. Even fewer people hunt the middle and late seasons, except for diehards (real dove shooters). It doesn't make much sense to have the 2 nd and 3 rd Splits taking so many of the allowable days when dove shooting is more difficult and less popular (simply finding concentrations of doves in huntable numbers is so much more unlikely in the late fall and winter). I propose removing days from the 2 nd and 3 rd Split and adding them to the 1 st . I suggest more days from the November season (when folks are occupied with deer and waterfowl seasons), but a few days from the late season too. [I have compiled a document (per my proposal) with specific suggested dates (and total hunt days for each segment) in the next calendar years that have been provided to the appropriate WRC staff for review.]
31	Add Sunday hunting and shorten the seasons accordingly.
32	Allow hunting on Sunday
33	As a member of the waterfowl community, I think the first season should be moved in order to extend the season into February. This is due to the late migration in eastern NC.
34	Dove population has decreased in our area so shorten the season back to noon start
35	Eliminate December hunt and add those days to October.
36	Extend the first season with an additional week at least and postpone the second by a week
37	hunting ducks in September and early October is hit or miss
38	I prefer to start the season on 9/1/2026. Sometimes storms come and blow the doves out. We have missed the doves by just a few days before.
39	I support no dove season in November
40	It would give more hunting opportunities if dove season hunt days could be during time when waterfowl is out on dates prior to Jan 31. Thanks
41	It's past time we move the rest day off Sunday. Working folks can only hunt migratory birds on Saturdays. We need to move the rest day fro n Sunday to like Wednesday or something.
42	Make dove season longer, make duck and goose season longer
43	move it back to Sept 1 st . Season open sept 1 to jan 31 continuous. Why are you shortening the season?

44	Open earlier
45	Opening day needs to be the last Saturday in August every year and go out on October 10 th . The November and December dates are fine because not a lot of folks are dove hunting then because deer season and rabbit and squirrel seasons are in among quail season. So there is not very many people hunting dove in those last 2 seasons and migratory doves are gone and only the resident doves are here but scarce in those months and I believe we need to keep as many resident doves as possible to get our resident bird population built up.
46	Our birds do not show up until late January if not February. Let's push our early season back until first of November, middle season December, and late season January and February. We don't have the cold weather here in eastern North Carolina until late January. I'm tired of fighting mosquitos and cotton mouths to kill one wood duck. Let's make our sportsman's happy.
47	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the I with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation. .
48	prefer sept 7 as opening day
49	Push out until later in October
50	We need to allow hunting on Sunday. I do not support any framework that doesn't allow Sunday hunting.

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

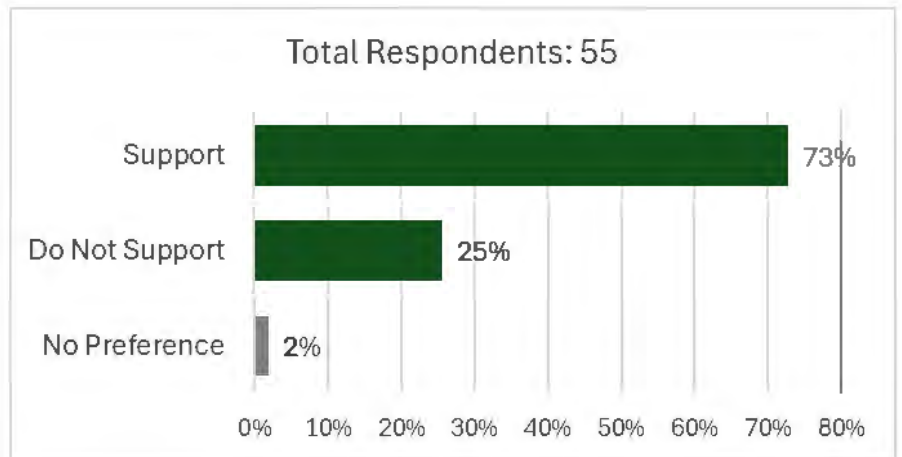
Woodcock Gun Season

Frameworks:

45 days, no more than 2 season segments
 Earliest opening date: September 13th
 Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:
 December 10th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	40	73%
Do Not Support	14	25%
No Preference	1	2%
Total	55	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	5	7	7	2	6	2	1	4	3	0	3	40
Do Not Support	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	14
No Preference	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	7	9	9	3	9	3	1	5	4	0	5	55

Woodcock Gun Season Comments

1	Hunt on Sundays
2	I strongly support your proposed season dates and your past traditional closing date of January 31st. Our VA winter weather was good this past season, so I did not purchase a NC license. Also, I would like to point out that Virginia's woodcock season dates and dog deer hunting dates overlap considerably, creating continual conflict between deer hounds and bird dog hunters. I have not experienced this conflict in NC. Thank you! I have not e
3	I think this is a good season for woodcock. But it is so hard to guess when the birds will be here and migrate. I would love if we could lower the daily limit on birds in order to get an extra week or 2 in February. However I know federally that is not allowed. The biggest thing that needs to happen as far as woodcock hunting is concerned is getting people walking off gameland. I see people frequently at Butner falls of the nuese with no orange, no hunting license, no scouting is being done. People just walking around and manipulating game. If you are not on gameland for hunting or fishing purposes you should not be allowed there. Or you should be forced to buy a permit/license just like the rest of us. Someone not wearing orange is going to get shot or get hurt. It is unsafe and the people on gameland not hunting are not friendly. Almost as if they think they have more right to be there than hunters. Something needs to be done.
4	I would prefer for Woodcock season to stay in until the end of February and start later. The only time I get the opportunity to harvest woodcocks are when I'm rabbit hunting.
5	It is a disservice to the species to not be actively managing portions of their habitat with timber cutting. It is sad that hardwoods cannot be managed because of an agreement.
6	It would be cool if the state highlighted areas they were managing for woodcock habitat. Training a young dog and still learning so not a whole lot of input yet, but it would be cool to know areas that the state is trying to focus on. I know its a double edge sword giving too much info to hunters.
7	Permit only WMA's should be open to small game and no webbed migratory game birds as huntable habitat is limited. I can see the benefit of permit hunts for Deer, Bear, Turkey for safety reasons. This is not applicable to small game hunters. Please consider opening permit only WMA to small game hunters.
8	Please consider Sunday hunting.
9	Sunday hunting should be allowed
10	With deer season lasting until Jan. in the mountain county's now. It messed up Dec. Hunting for fear of having someone shoot our dogs. Why not increase the limit on deer and return the season to the way it was.
11	Would like some consideration to extend the season into February
12	In the mountain counties sometimes we do not get flights in until february. Sometimes we get them before december. Would create more oportunity if woodcock gun season clsd february 28th.
13	Make season start later and end in February
14	More birds and better hunting in February add more weeks
15	Needs to be a little longer
16	Please extend the season to the extent possible
17	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
18	Prefer to move the season back a few weeks. Example *Start end of December and end of February*
19	Season should run Jan - Feb

20	Should be the same as quail season
21	The woodcock in this area usually do not show up until the last few days of January into mid February.
22	Woodcock season should go all the way to the end of grouse season. There's no reason it does not.
23	Would like the seson to start Dec. 1st. For most of North Carolina woodcock is the only upland bird we have to hunt plus a good number arrive well before the season starts and leave early.
24	Would like to see the season end later because of deer season. I have a lot of farms that I can't hunt until deer season is finished. I'm sure I'm not the only one in this exact situation. But if federal guidelines remain the same I see no other option.

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Snipe Season

Frameworks:

107 days, no more than 2 season segments

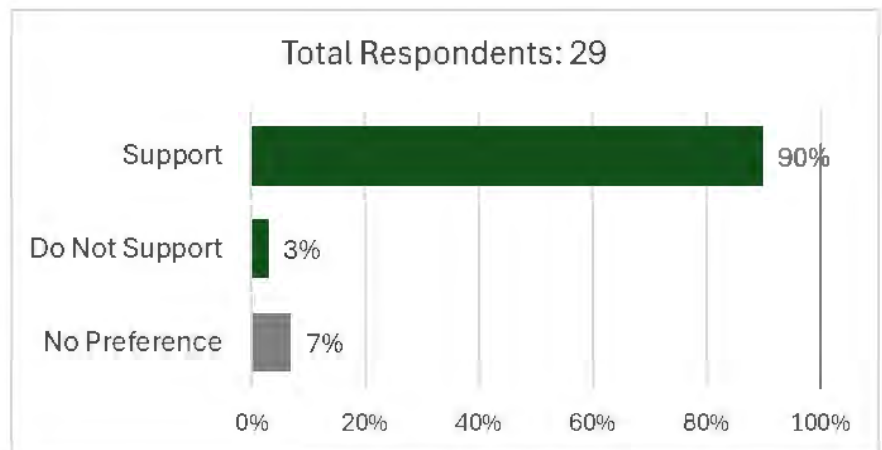
Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: February 28th

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

October 27th – February 27th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	26	90%
Do Not Support	1	3%
No Preference	2	7%
Total	29	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	3	6	6	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	3	26
Do Not Support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Grand Total	4	6	6	2	5	0	0	1	2	0	3	29

Snipe Season Comments

1	Hunt on Sundays
2	I believe the season dates are great for Snipe. But with so few numbers of dedicated Snipe hunters in the state I don't believe it would effect population to extend it
3	I strongly support the proposed season running until the end of February!
4	Love snipe hunting.
5	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
6	Sunday hunting should be allowed

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Rails, Gallinules, & Moorhens Gun Season

Frameworks:

70 days, no more than 2 season segments

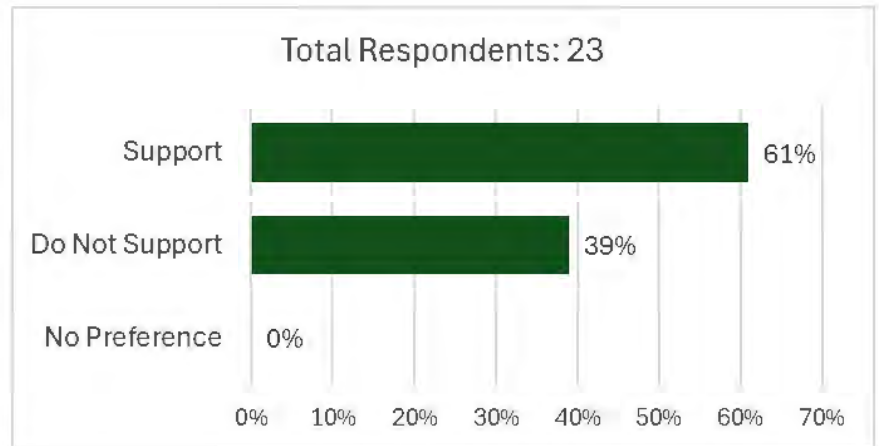
Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

September 5th – November 25th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	14	61%
Do Not Support	9	39%
No Preference	0	0%
Total	23	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	2	4	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	14
Do Not Support	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	9
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	4	7	3	0	3	1	0	1	2	1	1	23

Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Gun Season Comments

1	Hunt on Sundays
2	I believe it should run from November 27-January-30y
3	I messed up and went forward. I do not support the framework for rails, gallinules, moorhens. I would like to see it open when the teal season opens on the 10th and push it out the remainder of days.
4	I recommend establishing defined hunting seasons for invasive bird species such as the European Starling, House Sparrow, Mute Swan, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Rather than maintaining an open season, these species could be incorporated into existing seasonal frameworks for game, waterfowl and other regulated species. Doing so would simplify enforcement by reducing situations in which individuals claim to be targeting these birds while potentially harvesting protected species out of season.
5	I would like to see it open during the duck split between Nov and Dec. Having this timeframe open would allow access to more hunting during this time frame.
6	I would like to see the allowed segments to be used. Preferably close the season briefly around the worst moon phase and open the season through Thanksgiving week.
7	Move to allow later hunter in January
8	One must realize that all species of Rail Birds migrate at night during full moon periods and during periods of great and terrible NE tropical Storms moving en mass as large flocks of migrations (cf Rail Bird Hunters Bible's-research studies of migratory railbird species (over a ten year study) therefore in setting a split season in SE coastal flood tide and king tide periods that second split should not start until the first day of November allowing that second split in 2026 to include the King Tide periods of 5 Nov and 5 December which will be tremendous flood tides along NC Flood tide plain.
9	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
10	Sunday hunting should be allowed
11	would like the season to be open during Thanksgiving week, put the break around the worst moon/tide phase. Id also like a late season to overlap with the last week of duck season (not sure that's possible based on season framework but would be nice to target them as a bonus during that late duck season when lots of people are out hunting)
12	Would like to see the start date moved to September 1

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

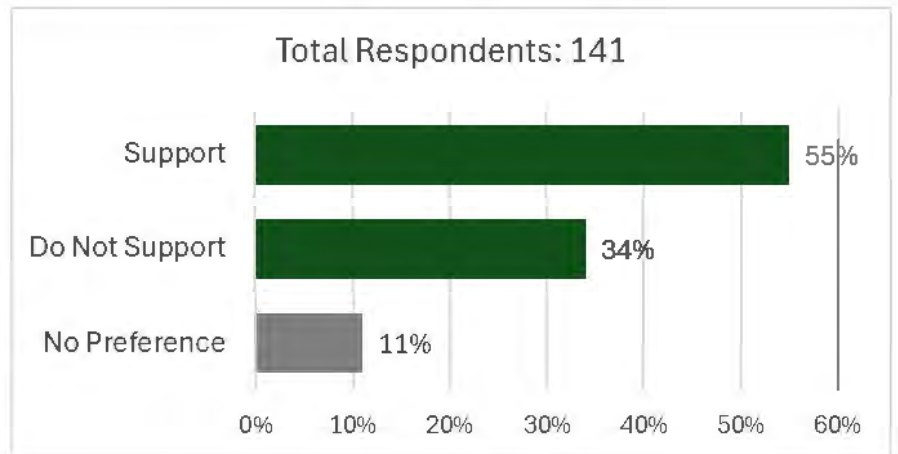
September Teal Season

Frameworks:

9 consecutive hunting days (East of US Hwy 17 only)
 Earliest opening date: September 1st
 Latest closing date: September 30th

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:
 September 10th – September 19th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	78	55%
Do Not Support	48	34%
No Preference	15	11%
Total	141	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	10	23	16	7	7	4	1	4	2	1	3	78
Do Not Support	6	11	9	3	4	2	3	2	3	0	5	48
No Preference	4	4	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	1	15
Grand Total	20	38	25	10	15	6	4	7	6	1	9	141

September Teal Season Comments

1	11th. through the 21st. would give people more flexibility to hunt either side of two weekends.
2	17-26th
3	Add Sunday hunting and shorten the season accordingly.
4	As a hunter, I support any effort to continue a teal season. I myself rarely hunt the teal season, but I support having a season. I see more teal in north eastern NC at the end of september.
5	Can we get a real season in the western part of the state? I get that resident goose allows electronic calls, unplugged guns and 30 minutes after sunset. Let's still allow goose season, limit the gun to 3 rounds and stop shooting at sunset. Leave the limit at 15 but allow us to shoot some teal. Please
6	Cut season or shorten and add days to later season
7	Dates should be after September 16
8	Desirable to overlap teal and flounder seasons to save trips to the coast
9	Expand this season to two full weeks (14 days).
10	Exstend it to the hole state
11	Get rid of it on the coast. We shoot teal all year round everywhere. Don't waste our waterfowl days early in the season
12	Get rid of teal season for inland nc and just add extra few days near the beginning of 3rd split or ending of 2nd split
13	Hunt on Sundays
14	I hunt west of the HWY
15	I messed up and went forward. I do not support the framework for rails, gallinules, moorhens. I would like to see it open when the teal season opens on the 10th and push it out the remainder of days.
16	I personally wish it was the entire month of september and followed the early goose season. I also wish the rest of NC would be granted an early teal season instead of just coastal NC.
17	I support these dates but would prefer 21-30 September
18	I would love to see it pushed back to the latter part of September. As well as shortening to maybe 5 or 7 days and then adding those days to the main duck season if that was possible.
19	I would prefer it to be pushed back a week
20	I would prefer to open on a Saturday.
21	I'm fine with a shorter season. I cannot understand why the season is not statewide. Western NC has teal migrating through with surrounding states AL, TN and GA, allowing statewide early season.
22	It should be longer
23	Keep it as it is
24	Look into possible expanding zone to east of I-95 rather than Highway 17
25	Move the season dates to the latest part of September where you could could get 2 saturdays out of it. Possibly the 17-26 to allow for a chance of it being cooler weather and an extra week away from Labor Day weekend.
26	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays
27	needs to be later in the month of September
28	No reason imo from any research i have seen from wildlife biologists on why we cant have an early teal season in wnc id be fine with that being part of the framework and days for regular duck season. We have teal every year here and cant hunt them in 5 years waterfowl hunting ive harvested one bluewing teal in my area of wnc.
29	One week later
30	Open cormorant season

31	Open season for whole state
32	Please make this season later in September. Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
33	Prefer Sept 21st - Sept 30th
34	Private duck impoundments need to be disbanded and unlawful to operate. They have a detrimental effect on hunting opportunities on public lands.
35	Remove the Location requirement of US HWY 17, where there is teal West of 17 its still very sparce
36	REQUEST CANCEL SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON
37	Sept 1 through 10th....teal arrive earlier last few years.
38	should be open statewide during these dates
39	Should be the last 9 days available
40	Start it on a Saturday and end it on a Saturday. Allow for Sunday hunting to account for the lost days.
41	Sunday hunting restrictions must be removed. this is archaic and detrimental to working class families. It also severely reduces the ability for children to learn to hunt
42	Sunday hunting should be allowed
43	Teal numbers seem good. I enjoy early season teal hunting, and I usually make it into a "cast and blast." Hunt early and fish the mid morning.
44	Teal season should open on a saturday
45	Tel numbers are soo low here this season needs to be pushed late as possible.
46	The teal season should be 9/21-9/30. There is no reason to not have this season as late into the month as possible to afford the best opportunity.
47	This is ridiculous, September Teal should be from Sept 1-30 like it was only a few years ago. Explain why you're removing days from a season that has no effect on any other dates
48	Too early for N.C. - birds are not here.
49	Why are we one of the only states that does not recognize a statewide early teal season. The framework tends to be a political one that supports big eastern guide services and landowners that benefit them and not the everyday sportsman. Most states have a statewide season for all counties. We in the areas west of Hwy. 17 have early teal as well as eastern NC. The disparity needs to stop as the teal we could hunt are not migrating to eastern NC. Very obvious about what's going on. By the way, I'm 77 and have hunted waterfowl since I was 14, most of it in eastern NC. I think I know the system and how it has worked through the years.
50	Would be nice to bump back to as late in the framework as possible
51	Would like it start on a saturday instead of thursday
52	Would like it to be a week later
53	Would like to see this opened up to the whole state
54	Would prefer a later opening date in the month
55	Would prefer it to be as late as possible in the month of September
56	Would rather see this early teal season removed and added to the later season when we see more ducks migrating. Add Sunday hunting like a lot of other states.

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

General Duck Gun Season – Coastal Zone

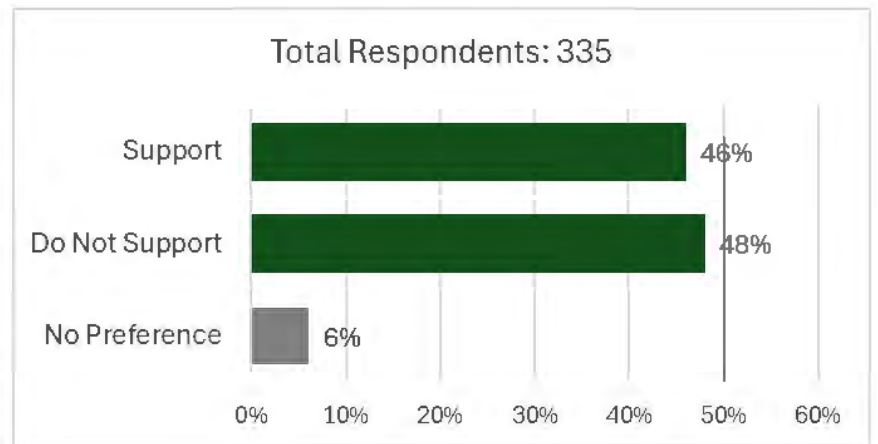
Frameworks:

60 days, no more than 3 season segments
 Earliest opening date: September 26th
 Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

October 23rd – October 24th
 November 7th – November 28th
 December 17th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	153	46%
Do Not Support	162	48%
No Preference	20	6%
Total	335	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	14	53	33	13	14	10	4	3	2	1	6	153
Do Not Support	21	53	29	25	10	7	5	3	0	2	7	162
No Preference	1	5	7	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	20
Grand Total	36	111	69	40	24	19	9	6	2	4	15	335

General Duck Gun Season – Coastal Zone Comments

1	A 2 day split in October is pointless.
2	A lot of us wish the state would move the early season and extend into February when the ducks actually show up. Thank you have a good day!
3	Abolish all local blind laws
4	Add Jan 31 and allow sunday hunting
5	ADD THE DAYS FROM SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON TO THE END OF THE GENERAL DUCK SEASON AND MOVE THEM INTO FEBRUARY
6	additional week needs to be added in the 2nd season and removed from the 3rd season
7	all waterfowl should be CLOSED, , I haven't hunted in 55 yrs., & have seen the resource go from one of plenty to one of near collapse. The only chance they have is to ban all waterfowl hunting. If not in another very few decades they will all go extinct
8	Allow for Sunday hunting across all seasons, and get rid of the splits. At least get rid of the October dates, there's no use in a 2 day October season. It's already too late for a legitimate chance to take a fulvous.
9	Allow hunting on Sunday
10	Allow hunting on Sunday.
11	Allow Sundays
12	Allow youth and military hunts both Saturdays following the late season if they're no more than 14 days past the January 31
13	Along the coastal zone in Core Sound significant numbers of birds do not arrive until mid to late January. To address this issue a December 24 - through February 7 late season may allow hunters to see more birds.
14	Anyway to say start the last split a little later and let the season go into Feb??? The last 2 wks are generally the best ,for us on the coast and i have been doing it for 45 yrs . Need a little more time.. 2more wks and Sundays would be nice . Why do yall listen to people that make money off the sport ? These guides shouldn't influence the Sunday hunting ... Ducks need a rest my ass . They need a rest this really sucks for the ones of us that have a 8-5. Thats it , Thanks for reading ,
15	As a member of the north Carolina waterfowl community, I think the first season should be eliminated and we should get more time in Feb du to the late migration in Eatern NC.
16	As a sportsman who is also a committed father and employer my ability to hunt and fish only comes on weekends. Being limited to only hunt one day and not the choice of one or both days of the weekend reduces my opportunity to hunt. Please consider allowing Sunday hunting so I can enjoy my time hunting in NC instead of Virginia or traveling out of state.
17	Based on observations of birds in area push back last season segments back 1-2 weeks
18	Bring the 3rd season back in sooner than December 17th. Do that by either having the 2nd season start later and/or eliminating the October season.
19	Bringing seasons in on weekdays is robbing hard working citizens of hunt days
20	Can you consider not delaying Black Duck Season
21	Can you please move all the duck seasons back one month there are no ducks that fly tried to go find teal in September not one teal was here they came in October I mean we had 10,000 canvas backs and redheaded ducks come in February. Can we please realize that hunting season every single season needs to be moved back one month started in October and go through February Including deer season I mean the deer act so funny now because it's 70° in November and December. I know global warming is not a real thing to y'all but when my John calls bloom in January and the deer survive through I mean every single animal realizes that it started moving migrations or changing into allow us to actually be able to hunt some ducks because there's no ducks to hunt in the first half of the season Went out on Jordan like probably eight or 10 times I didn't ever have a single shot
22	Close the October season and add it to the November season
23	COMMENT TO NCWRC ABOUT WATERFOWL SEASONS Lone Goose friends: the NCWRC just opened their public comment period re: waterfowl season. Go PLEASE RESTORE THE TWO YOUTH/VETERANS

	HUNTING DAYS TO THE 2 SATURDAYS AFTER THE REGULAR SEASON ENDS. This past season you had one youth/vet weekend during the December split (it was 6 Dec this past season), and the second youth/military weekend on the Saturday (7 Feb) after the season ended. As we all know, the later into the winter we can hunt, the more success we will have. The Feds will never allow the regular season to be extended later into February, so we lost potentially one of the best hunting weekends we might see. Thank you, BJK
24	Cut all splits in half. Shave season down to 30 days only!
25	CUT EARLY DAYS IN NOVEMBER SHORTEN DECEMBER SPLIT BIRDS MIGRATING LATER NEED 45 DAY SEASON CUT LIMIT TO 4 TOTAL
26	Cut the October season out and add it to the other seasons
27	Do away with October 23 & October 24. Make duck season continuous and start on November 5th and go through January 30th so that there is no splits to confuse people and so that when we get our typical cold snap the first week of December we could hunt it.
28	Do away with October Season and add onto last season
29	Do away with the first season in October and add those to the last season also allow sunday hunting and take away wed if a rest day is desired for ducks . I would also prefer the dec season be longer and the nov season shorter even if we had to have a break in the dec season for a couple days around christmas the nc waterfowl gets the best later in the season so let us hunt as much late season as we can
30	Do not make opening day duck same as Bear so dogs are not running through the impoundments while duck hunting
31	Ducks rarely show up on Neuse and Trent Rivers before the last day. I know many hunters that did not shoot more than 1 or 2 ducks the whole season this year. Ducks showed up as soon as the season closed.
32	Due to the nature of our climate, and the way the birds move through my observation, it would be much more worthwhile if we could pull two weeks off the beginning of the November Season and apply it to the end of out season making it end the second weekend in February.
33	Eliminate the October season
34	Excellent proposed dates for Coastal zone
35	Extend season into February.
36	Extend the season into February and take away days in November season. There is very little to no birds in the early season a waste of the 60 days
37	Get rid of 2 day season in October and add to one of the other splits
38	Get rid of inland and coastal zones. Start season Nov 7th until 60 days it up. No sunday hunting.
39	Get rid of no Sunday hunting. It's pathetic at this point. Every other state has it.
40	Get rid of September season, and October season, make November season 15- to end of November, then make the last split dec 20th- feb 20th
41	Get rid of starting in October and November. Start in December so we can hunt through February, which is when most of the ducks get down here. Thank you
42	Get rid of the early days, move to the split.
43	Get rid of the two October days and add the two days to November or December.
44	Get ride of the October days and add days in December, please.
45	Give us a week of season in October. Push the start date back for November. And bring back the original vet and youth days AFTER the whole duck season not one during the split.
46	Global warming is shifting the migrations. Ducks are migrating later in the season and we don't see any ducks in my area until late Jan. Season needs to open later and end in February. Can do away with the early season all together in my opinion.
47	Great season early then birds disappeared
48	Great Season Structure !
49	Have the season carry into February when ducks have actually migrated here all across the state
50	Hunt on Sundays
51	I believe the later October split that has been implemented in the most recent past years is not as good as the former October split that occurred in the first week of October.

52	I like the coastal season but would like to see zones done away with. Make the season for all of NC the same as the coastal season listed above
53	I like the overall dates. My only comment would be to give back 2 more days in October to have it run Wednesday to Saturday. But I like that it is not on Halloween weekend. I'm also very much in favor of opening duck hunting on Sundays. We now have a generation of new duck hunters coming up that don't know that we can't hunt waterfowl on Sunday's.
54	I love waterfowling more than anyone you know; however, with current duck numbers so limited, do we need to look at more conservative season dates?
55	I only say "do not support" because I would like to see the return of the early October season that was last in place during the 20-21 season
56	I prefer the early two day season in October. This change a few years ago has been very welcome
57	I primarily only hunt Puddle ducks with that being said I hunted every week this season 2 days a week, I did not have a successful hunt until the last week of January due to snow pushing them in. Would love to see a season extension into early February
58	I respectfully ask that the coastal duck season start on November 15th thru the 28th and the December season start on December 10th thru the 31st
59	I respectfully request that the NCWRC restore the two Youth and Veteran Waterfowl Hunting Days to the two Saturdays immediately following the close of the regular duck season. Late-season conditions provide the best opportunity for successful hunts due to increased migration, colder weather, and more consistent bird movement. Because federal frameworks do not allow the regular season to extend further into February, these youth and veteran days are one of the only ways to provide access to the most productive portion of the season. Splitting the days between December and February, as occurred this past season, reduced the value of one of these opportunities and worked against the original intent of youth and veteran hunting days. Consolidating both days after the regular season would better support participation, success, and mentorship without increasing harvest pressure.
60	I strongly believe this season should be 60 consecutive days minus Sundays ending on January 30, 2027.
61	I support a later season.
62	I support moving the October dates to earlier in October
63	I support no duck season in November until last full week in November.
64	I support the 2 later season dates but I wish you would move the October season back a week like the inland season. The last couple of years we've had good numbers of ducks along the coast early till mid October and then by the time late October comes most are gone. Please move it back a week. There is no real reason to have the October coastal season different than the inland October season. Unfortunately the commissioners don't seem to have a clue
65	I support the proposed season dates. I would prefer 4 days in the October season as it use to be, but support what the majority wants.
66	I think the season should run until the 1st week in February. That's when I've seen the most birds coming in and weather is better for the hunt
67	I wish the October season would go back to the first week.
68	I wish the season could be extended to go until mid/end of Feb
69	I would like the commission to consider limiting when impoundments can be flooded with the intent to hunt waterfowl. The impoundments particularly around mattamuskeet hold so many ducks and geese throughout the season that most waterfowl do no migrate much further south. Yes, they will venture down the sound but realistically, they have no reason to leave once reaching that area. I would like to see a season when impoundments could not be flooded until mid-december.
70	I would like the first split to be oct 30-31
71	I would like to see 12 weeks of 5-days each, Wednesday through Sunday, from November through the last weekend in January.
72	I would like to see commission eliminate the 2 days in October and reopen the season in December two days earlier. The October hunt is nothing more than a wood duck hunt as we have not received many migrating ducks at that time. I feel it is 2 days of our season wasted.
73	I would like to see Sunday waterfowl hunting this year

74	I would like to see the season be the last two weeks on November, 15 days, with the remaining 45 days being the last 45 available days in the current federal framework. This would make the last split start on the same days and the November split starting 8 days later. It would add 8 Sundays to the season that would provide more opportunity to hunters that can only hunt on weekends.
75	I would like to see the season extend into February. At least the first 2 weeks and have the middle season start 2 weeks later to accommodate for that or the final split start 2 weeks later to accommodate it.
76	I would prefer October segment to be earlier in October.
77	I would prefer that the second segment of the season start later in November and the third segment start a little later in order to extend the end of the season until the middle of February giving the cold weather to push more ducks to North Carolina. The ducks that do make it down seem to all frequent the impoundments for the available food provided for them. That leaves the average person who can't afford to be in those clubs with very little opportunity to get any ducks. Extending/rearranging the 60 days so that the season ends in mid February offers a better chance for the average hunter to be able to harvest some ducks.
78	I would prefer the Oct dates be 16-17th
79	I would prefer to take the early season and move those dates to start the last season one weekend earlier
80	I would rather the October season be discontinued and those days added on to the November season or moved to early October.
81	I would say the same with duck hunting on the snow storms. If it snows last day of the season, we should be able to hunt the next day. Hard to figure out how to do that? Sure it is. It's just a thought to help out hunters who wait all year for a weather event.
82	I'd prefer the October season go away and part of early November season too. I would love to see the season extended into February
83	I'd like to see the October season pushed to earlier in the season so there is more of a rest period for the birds before the Nov. segment
84	If we must have the October season make it one day and then tack that extra day on in December when we have a few more ducks around. Also, please ALLOW Sunday hunting. It is allowed in all of our bordering states, and is simply not fair to the man that has to work all week long.
85	In our area of NC, the birds are simply not here. Only resident wood ducks and green wing teal are in our area during the October and November seasons. The season happens from December to January. Our best hunts year after year occur the last two weeks of our season currently the way it's structured. This is also due to many locations not having any water until December.
86	It would be great if the Feds. would give N.C. 10 days into February and make the November season 10 days shorter.
87	It would be great to extend or shift the season into the first or second week of February to account for late cold weather affecting migration. With so much of the public land limited to only two days per week or by *permit only* □ hunts, this would provide more time and opportunity for hunters that don't draw permits and don't have a boat, especially when the last big push from VA occurs.
88	keep Sundays closed
89	Keep the youth age at 15 but go back to the 2 Saturdays after regular waterfowl season. Also let the veterans have there own day so they don't have to share.
90	Last segment needs to be pushed into February. Shorten November split to maintain 60 days.
91	Looks good to me
92	Lose the October dates. Shorten the gap from 11/28 to 12/17.
93	Make it only one split - Eliminate the first split so we can hunt more as it gets colder
94	make october season 3 day and move it back to the middle of the month like it used to be.
95	Make October split Saturday and Sunday. Add Sunday hunting for the other splits- start Nov. and Dec. splits later to account for Sunday additions.
96	Make the duck season start December 31 and go two weeks into February like goose season.
97	more Dec days. less Nov days
98	Most people would support getting rid of the October season and adding those days onto the last "split".

99	Move Coastal Zone Oct season to the following week with the dates of Oct 30th and 31st to have a chance at more ducks migrating down.
100	Move everything back, one week or two at least
101	Move the early season back to the first or second weekend of October
102	Move the october split up to early october to try to target the increasing tree ducks as well as wood ducks and teal. i'm fine with the 2nd and 3rd splits, i like the season ending as late as possible.
103	Move the season later back later. Until mid-February
104	NC Gets 60 days season from the federal gov. Start the season later so it will end later. This way we can have a better chance for the migratory ducks when the North gets it very cold weather and the ducks move South.
105	Ncwrc needs to do something about the impound draw hunts especially at goose creek gamelands. If you are lucky enough to get a draw hunt, you have to deal with 100 or more boats surrounding the impound. They spend the night out there son they have a place to hunt. Set up about 100 yards apart. Inside the impound if you have ducks working your decoys, someone outside shoots and the ducks are gone. Miserable hunt. Pamlico con500 yards from a blind is not fair either. Occupied blind I can see but unoccupied?? There is now a sign saying no hunting fro mouse harbor ditch all the way to jones bay. Do you know how far that is?? It's a long way and all that has erased some once good hunting. I don't see how this is legal in public water. How about a law gets the assed on high rock lake you can't fish within 500 yards of my dock. I bet that would get some attention
106	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
107	Need to extend season into February
108	Need to Make season go through February
109	Need to petition Federal Framework to allow first 2 weeks in February hunting
110	Needs to be extended
111	No October season
112	no october season move to week of thanksgiving, then dec. season until feb. 14th
113	No reason to open it that early
114	No Sunday hunting. Waterfowl is under high pressure at the coast. Guides hunts on the large sounds are at an all time high and it is my belief it is leading to rapid decline in quality hunts. High pressure with very little rest days.
115	No to Sunday hunting
116	October season isn't well-utilized
117	October season needs to be in the beginning of the month, like it used to be 3 days in the beginning not the end of the month.
118	October season should be 4 days again and a week earlier. Or just set it to match the inland season. Alot of ducks here in october that are missed with the new october season. Fully agree with the November and december/January season.
119	Only Two Inputs. 1. Allow hunting on Sundays. 2. At the end of the season it doesn't matter what dates you set. The ducks aren't here. The absolute worst season since starting waterfowl hunting.
120	Open cormorant season.
121	OPEN DUCK SEASON ON SUNDAYS. We do NOT need early November season. It should be 2 weeks in November. 2 week split. Then 7 weeks in.
122	Open season January 1st and end it February 28th..adapt the seasons to the actual migration!
123	Open season on sundays.
124	Open Sunday Waterfowl Hunting
125	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting since most people can only hunt weekends. Saturday only hunting limits effective hunting days for regular hunters.
126	Open Waterfowl hunting on Sundays
127	Please adjust the dates to have an off day in the middle of the week rather than on Sundays. There are a majority of hunters unable to get out during the work week so allowing Sunday hunting would be much appreciated.

128	Please consider a delayed harvest of sea ducks on the Neuse/Pamlico/Bay River basins and Pamlico Sound until at least 11/15. Opening earlier than that is allowing hens and immature birds to literally being slaughtered before the drakes have arrived. Even if legal harvest limits are being followed, the sheer amount of hunters and hunting pressure they are receiving cannot be good for them. Especially black scoters.
129	Please consider Sunday hunting.
130	Please extend late season thru mid February,, ducks are showing up later and later every year.. I would like it very much to hunt when it finally gets cold cold
131	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
132	Private duck impoundments need to be disbanded and unlawful to operate. They have a detrimental effect on hunting opportunities on public lands.
133	Push November split later, ducks just aren't abundant in this area that early.
134	Put some restrictions on for hire guides hunting on pubic waterways. They contribute absolutely nothing to the resource and hunt every single day. Something needs to be done before it's too late.
135	Recommend delete October dates and replace with Dec 15-16
136	Remove early segment and move to February
137	Remove early teal and the two days in October. Add the days to the second and third split and open Sunday hunting.
138	Remove October dates
139	Remove October dates. Remove Black Duck non harvest week..Begin Season Thanksgiving weekend like Arkansas, and add 2nd split to end Christmas eve. Allow 60 day season to extend into mid February Valentines weekend. With Veterans/youth hunt since no Migration anymore due to shift in weather patterns allow for federal bait
140	Remove restrictions for migratory bird hunting on Sundays.
141	Remove the October season
142	Remove the October Season and place those days in early December
143	Residents of north carolina should be allowed to hunt on Sundays.
144	Run November a week later into Dec and shorter in the front
145	Season should end no earlier than February 28th. Season should begin 30 days later and end 30 days later.
146	Seasons need to be extended to match migration patterns
147	Shift days from November to December.
148	Shift right one week
149	Shifting the second and third split later, with an ending in mid-February. Migrations, if they happen at all, seem so much later than the past.
150	Shorten the middle season to a week and add two weeks into February.
151	Should be moved back in the year
152	Should only be one split, for 10 days. Sunday hunting restrictions must be removed. this is archaic and detrimental to working class families. It also severely reduces the ability for children to learn to hunt
153	Skip the early teal season in NC for if there are no Tropical storms the Blue wings shoot down the NC Cosst to arrive in the numerous ancient rice rice fields prior to Thanksgiving.
154	Start the season later run it later so we get the late migratory ducks when it gets cold up north
155	Starts too early, ends too early.
156	Stop the November season and push those dates into the December season to where it ends in February.
157	Sunday hunting should be allowed
158	Take away 7 days in November & add to December season
159	Take away Nov 7th week and add that week to the end of January into the first week of February. Also, the NCWRC needs to action over Pamlico Counties blinds laws that take control of public water. There are blinds

	intentionally placed and never hunted. Taking away miles of public water away from sportsman. If you aren't in the blind or putting decoys out by a set time in the am then hunters can set up within 500 yards of the blind while hunting from their boat. It's common sense and let's get rid of politicians controlling public water. My pole blind in the water was cut down by chain saws when new rich landowner bought shoreline and not once has he hunted his blinds because he hunts Trent Creek and his impoundments. Swindle Bay in Bay River is a prime example of blinds not hunted but were placed there to keep public hunters from being in the area. No need to call the game warden for the area about anything because he is all for the locals. His first question this year when he pulled up was "Are you a local?".
160	Take away Oct 23 and 24 and add it to the beginning of second season or end of first segment.
161	Take out the October season and half of the November and extend into February
162	The birds don't get to Nc until late January The season needs to go into February not October and November
163	The dates are fine, don't listen to all the bozos begging for a February season. They only care about themselves and not the resource. I think there is two things y'all really need to do better, and it's not just NC. First of all, the public land available in NC for duck hunting is severely limited. Many states at least have some walk in options, North Carolina's walk in options are extremely few and far between. But that's not the issue, most people who duck hunt in NC hunt the reservoirs, so stop getting rid of the natural vegetation!!! I have watched the lake I lived on for years winter less and less waterfowl as more and more of the natural vegetation disappeared and more alligator weed showed up. What I am saying is, most all of us who duck hunt in NC only can hunt reservoirs, so work really needs to be done to make them more conducive for wintering waterfowl. It wouldn't take much after natural vegetation is reintroduced. Secondly, this goes for way beyond NC, why the hell are we having a liberal season? Duck numbers are struggling so so bad! The PPR region is dry and in the worst shape it's ever been in, and we are seeing less and less ducks every year. Just 5 years ago I can remember more waterfowl frequenting the lake I used to live on. I know there is a lot of guides and people that depend on the money that comes from a liberal season, but the resource has to be prioritized, not our pockets!!!
164	the duck season in NC and Southeast in general needs to be delayed by a month. We do not see any push of Cold weather or Migratory birds until late January or even February. If you want the sport to continue to grow and be successful in NC changes need to be made to the seasons
165	The early Oct season is a waste of hunt days
166	The early October season should be expanded and the November season should be shortened.
167	The lesser scaup limit needs to be increased to atleast 2 the entire season and 3 after jan 9
168	The major migration of ducks did not come into Craven County where I live, until the Thursday prior to the final day of the season. Last year they did not show up until January 15. We have to do something about having the duck season extended into February each year. I know you are bound by the federal dates, but they are not working. . We have got to do something about the whowrusday ere
169	The Oct split needs to return to 3 days to allow multiple permit hunts. Alternatively offer permit hunts on both days of Oct season to increase opportunity for those not owning private impoundments.
170	The October 2 day season should be removed. Added to Dec 15th and 16th
171	The October season should be moved back at least a week like the inland zone
172	The season is needing to be pushed back dude to when the wheather gets here and there's not much birds here when the season is in
173	The season should start in December instead of November because there is hardly any ducks here in November. I believe the first 20 days of the season should be in December and the other 40 be in January and February. L
174	The start of November season should be moved back by one or two weeks and shorten the split between by November and start of December season by the same.
175	Too complicated. Make it come in and stay in
176	Want the October season earlier in the month to mirror the Inland Zone.
177	When is anything going to be done about the cormorants? It is absolutely ridiculous how many there are in the Neuse river. They are wiping out the juvenile fish populations by the millions.
178	Why can't we take the first split out and some of the second split and add them to sundays just do like virgin does
179	Why continue the October season? Explain the reasons for splitting the state at I95 into inland and coastal. I don't see the point of it. The only birds I see during this time are some resident wood ducks.

180	Wish the Atlantic flyway would open up the season a little longer, I know this is out of the states hands. But it will open up more opportunity, habitat is the problem not the hunters....I'll get off my soap box, ultimately NC season is good. Wish migratory birds could be taken on Sundays that's only complaint I have with NC. It is hard to train a young dog when you can only get one hunt in a week without taking time from work. I think it would also get more people into the sport again, even if the state had to have their own duck stamp (people will slap me for saying this) to help pay for the needed funding for upkeep of waterfowl areas. The state has plenty of good areas that with a little more funding would become even better walk in opportunities.
181	Would be good if youth seasons were the first two weekends in February
182	Would be nice to add a third day to the first split. Temperatures during this split are typically mild and conducive to taking youth hunters as well as elderly hunters.
183	Would like to see the 3rd season dates moved further into February. Ducks seem to migrate later each year.
184	Would like to see the season shifted to end in February
185	Would love to see the season begin in November and extending into February when colder temps are actually present. If not, remove the two days in October and add them to the beginning split of November
186	Would prefer dropping the 2 October days and add at start of December split
187	would prefer more days in December, and finishing Jan 31st.
188	Would rather pull two weeks out of the beginning of November and add it to the first two weeks of February.
189	Would support an earlier opening date in the October segment.
190	You need to push the season dates to later into February. The freeze doesn't happen in the northern states until after thanksgiving, which starts a real push of birds our way.

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

General Duck Gun Season – Inland Zone

Frameworks:

60 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 26th

Latest closing date: January 31st

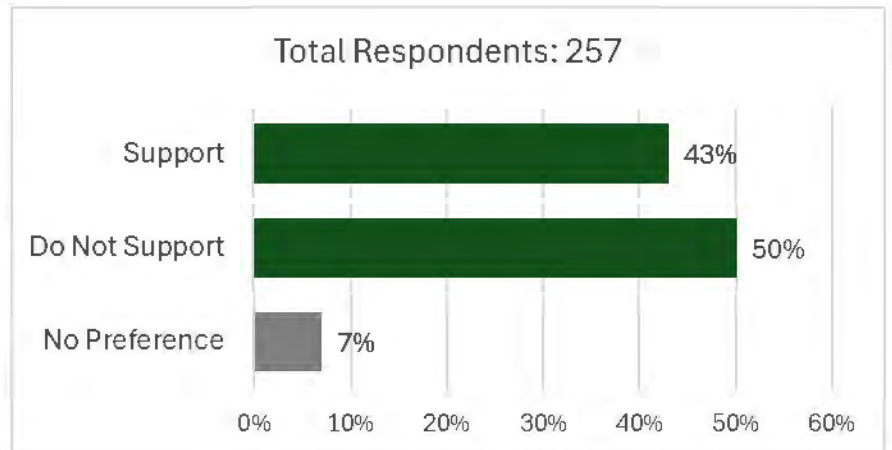
The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

October 15th – October 17th

November 7th – November 28th

December 18th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	111	43%
Do Not Support	129	50%
No Preference	17	7%
Total	257	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	6	10	26	10	18	17	5	10	7	0	2	111
Do Not Support	5	13	31	18	22	12	12	9	3	1	3	129
No Preference	2	3	6	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	17
Grand Total	13	26	63	29	41	30	20	19	10	1	5	257

General Duck Season – Inland Zone Comments

1	3 days in October is not sufficient. Extend or cancel.
2	3 weeks is too many days of a split between second and third season
3	A later season would be wonderful!
4	Add Sunday hunting for waterfowl. Would love the October split to be earlier in the month.
5	Again, it would be a better season if hunters had the first 10 days in February and give up 10 days in November.
6	Align these seasons with the Coastal, no clear reason to split them. It would take early pressure off the birds by not having split and consecutive early splits. Shifting the second and third split later, with an ending in mid-February. Migrations, if they happen at all, seem so much later than the past.
7	All three seasons should be pushed back an entire week, if not more.
8	Allow hunting on Sunday for people that work Full time
9	Allow Sunday hunting
10	Allow Sunday Hunting like Arkansas. Remove October dates, remove Black Duck week non harvest. Allow feeding for wildlife, and begin season like Arkansas on Thanksgiving weekend. Have the split over Christmas allow it to start back Day after Christmas until Superbowl Sunday. Veterans / Youth hunt week take place during Valentines weekend.
11	Allow Sunday hunting, and lets get rid of the early October season and tack those days on to the main season in December.
12	Allow youth and military hunts both Saturdays following the late season if they're no more than 14 days past the January 31
13	Based on observations of birds in area push back last season segments back 1-2 weeks
14	Birds dont get to NC u til late january
15	Bring the 3rd season back in sooner than December 17th. Do that by either having the 2nd season start later and/or eliminating the October season.
16	Bringing season dates in and out on week days robs hard working citizens of hunt days
17	Carry duck season into February when waterfowl have actually migrated here all over the state
18	Cormorants are getting out of hand and should no longer be protected to the degree that they are.
19	Do away with early season add to late season and open the November season a week later
20	Do away with October duck season
21	Do away with the October season. Move start of November opening day to the November 14th and move start of December season to December 8th. (counting the 3 days added to December if October is eliminated)There doesn't need to be 20 day gap between openers
22	Earlier season dates in September.
23	Eliminate first split and add to end of season
24	Eliminate the October season
25	End on January 31st
26	Extended 3rd split into February, NC tends to get a push of birds the last couple days of season
27	Fire everyone from the top down that has to do with management and setting dates. NC is the worst managed state there is by far. Get rid of no Sunday hunting
28	First segment needs to be oct.1-3
29	Get rid of oct-nov. start in dec and let us hunt through February, when most ducks make the push.
30	Get rid of October days and add days in December.
31	Get rid of the early season, add those days elsewhere

32	Get rid of the October dates. The weather isn't right in our parts of the state to kill ducks that early in the year. If you are doing this for the betterment of hunting and trying to help hunters you would get rid of October dates and give us into February to hunt. I've seen so many time season goes out Jan 31st and a week later we have a good cold push and ducks show up like crazy. Kind of similar to this year.
33	get rid of the october season and open on DEc 16th Allow sunday hunting
34	Get rid of the two October days and move the two days to November or December.
35	Get rid of zones. Start seaso Nov 7th and until 60 days is done. No sunday hunting.
36	Goose creek gameland. Stop people from hunting the outside on draw days. That hunt is ruined especially at pamlico point and cambell creek. 500 yard from a blind is stupid too. Someone has stopped the hunting from mouse harbor ditch all the way to jones bay. Probably so yankee bought it and put make shift blinds up
37	Grat
38	Have the same early season for both zones so there is no confusion on your zone!
39	Here again the powers that be have literally screwed the hunters in the western part of NC. I am 77 and have hunted waterfowl since I was 14. I know waterfowl and have hunted them not only in NC but throughout the US and Canada. For years we shot ducks in western NC in early October shooting mostly wood ducks. Now you've moved the season about two weeks later. Obvious to me but not your so called experts. Wood ducks tend to migrate in October on a cold front which for the last few years has occurred around the new western zone openings. Oh, by the way isn't it strange the new coastal zone season coincides the with the prior week opening of the regular middle segment of our states waterfowl season. How convenient for eastern hunters. I don't fault eastern hunters from wanting this. It makes since and there is a higher concentration is ducks in eastern NC then, but leave the western zone of NC alone. Return the season to early October so an earl cold front doesn't push or wood ducks and teal out as it has done the last few years. 63 years of hunting waterfowl throughout NC have made me aware of how our ducks migrate and react to the weather. Please look at my comments and honestly reflect on how much time and effort over the years have gone into my comments. Thank you
40	Hot and humid climate conditions prevent enjoyable waterfowl hunting in our area. A later season that carried to mid February would be better suited for our climate.
41	Hunt on Sundays
42	I believe the 2nd segment should open LATER to eliminate the gap between the 2nd and 3rd segments. This would enable the combining of the 2nd and 3rd seasons to have one uninterrupted segment.
43	I do not think we should have the October season and just make the season longer at the end of the season
44	I feel it the late season should last longer due to low limits of ducks flying in swamps during the late season due to the hot weather
45	I personally think the late duck season should start on December 25 and end on January 9th. This past year the late season really slowed down and then as soon as season ended there were a huge influx of watefowl coming to the area and certain species that weren't there showed up canvasbacks in particular. I know its due in part to the weather but these dates would help the moral and also the sport itself in the region I come from.
46	I strongly believe that the season should run 60 consecutive days minus Sundays ending on 1/30/27.
47	I think the inland duck season should open up earlier then October 15th and close later then January 30th due to a lot of our birds not migrating in till the last few weeks of duck season
48	I think the period of the start of the 3 Rd split should be cut back one week or 5 days. Seems the birds start coming in towards end of the start opening season. Instead of November 28 - December 18 th. Maybe the break should end around December 12 th. I hunt central NC around Reidsville seems to be better for a shorter break . Thanks 20 day break seems to long.

49	I think the season should run until the 1st week of February that's when the birds are here and would be better hunting
50	I think this would help rural birds populate more and not be as pressured as the migratory birds are making their way down here.
51	I wish the October season was still the first week of October.
52	I would like to eliminate the early season (Oct 15-17) and add those days to the 3rd season. More ducks are around in the 3rd season.
53	I would like to see 12 weeks of 5-days each, Wednesday through Sunday, from November through the last weekend in January
54	I would like to see the entire county included in on or the other
55	I would like to see the season be the last two weeks on November, 15 days, with the remaining 45 days being the last 45 available days in the current federal framework. This would make the last split start on the same days and the November split starting 8 days later. It would add 8 Sundays to the season that would provide more opportunity to hunters that can only hunt on weekends.
56	I would like to see the season extend into February. At least the first 2 weeks of the month.
57	I would like to see the zones done away with and season for all of NC like the proposed coastal season
58	I would like to see us go back to three days at the very beginning of October. October 1-3 would be better. The later dates have not been good for hunters in the Inland Zone. Local wood ducks are leaving before the season opens and we do miss any chance at early teal migrating through. Also, I believe we need the second split to be November 14-28 and then open up December season on December 11. We are missing the early December migration completely with these dates.
59	I would like to take the first split away and extend the 3rd split because our ducks seem to arrive later in the season
60	I would prefer that the second segment of the season start later in November and the third segment start a little later in order to extend the end of the season until the middle of February giving the cold weather to push more ducks to North Carolina. The ducks that do make it down seem to all frequent the impoundments for the available food provided for them. That leaves the average person who can't afford to be in those clubs with very little opportunity to get any ducks. Extending/rearranging the 60 days so that the season ends in mid February offers a better chance for the average hunter to be able to harvest some ducks.
61	I would prefer the coastal zone dates to be used for the entire duck season - eliminate the different zones.
62	I would rather have the old split scheduled in the first week of October back.
63	I would support a shorter season for inland to give the ducks a rest. Hunting on the gameland around Raleigh seems to get worse and worse each season. We need to find a way to make Falls and Jordan a better destination for ducks somehow. Can certain impoundments be turned into refuges? It feels like ducks are responding to the pressure and know to avoid central NC.
64	Id rather close on the 31st of jan and close second split on the 27th. I also propose that we lower overall baglimit in my opinion 6 birds is 2 many considering how bad of shape the prarie pothole region is currently in. Lets get the b pop back to a good # and i think going back to 6 would be great. I also think no more than 3 mallards and no more than one hen.
65	If it's at all possible, I think the duck season should start later but run longer into February. I feel like the past few year we have gotten cold weather late. This season, the divers don't get here til the last week of season. Right now I drive around and see divers in almost every pond in the triad. I feel like it just doesn't get as cold as it used to so the birds come later than history suggests.
66	Impoundment waterfowl hunts should be flooded before the hunt. You charge \$10 to apply; you should then "manage" the hunt by either flooding the impoundment or refunding the \$10.

67	In my experience waterfowl hunting there are not many birds here until the last 2-3 weeks of the season it would be in the best interest of all waterfowl hunters in North Carolina to extend the season to the middle or end of February
68	In my opinion I believe we should get rid of the 3 day October season entirely, either add those days on the end of the November season or add them to the start of the December season or make it a separate 3 day season in between November and December .
69	It is pretty much the same layout as every prior year. I think it would be great to pull some days throughout the season and give us a week or two into February, as it seems every year that when we in central NC will get our biggest push of birds. I don't know if this is even a possible thing but that would be pretty cool to see.
70	John's River Gameland Lower Creek unit permitting needs to change. One of two things need to happen, the late season permit should allow duck hunting on Saturdays only. Or the gameland should be designated to be a resting area entirely, with a true draw permit for each week of the general duck season.
71	Keep first split, make it one more split but start after thanksgiving and go til around February 15 (second Saturday) and then allow one youth/veteran day.
72	Lose the October dates. Shorten the gap between 11/28-12/18.
73	Lose the October season and allow for Sunday waterfowl hunting.
74	Make duck season November 5th thru January 30th to make it less complicated for some to keep up with and so that when we get that first of December cold snap it can be hunted during. Makes it much simpler for everyone.
75	make first season 16th thru 18th. third season Dec 19th thru Jan 31
76	Make October split Saturday and Sunday. Add Sunday hunting to November and December splits- start both splits later to account for Sunday additions.
77	Make the splits longer, and extend the seasons through the end of February
78	Mirror GA or SC's hunting seasons to allow for Sunday hunting
79	Move early season to February
80	Move Oct Season to the following week for the dates of Oct 22nd, 23rd and 24th to have a chance at some sorta migratory birds being around. The rest of the dates I'm satisfied with.
81	Need the seasons to roll into February. Do away with the October season.
82	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
83	Need to push seasons back that way we can hunt in February because a lot of birds show up in February
84	Need to shorten the season for a few years.
85	Needs to be a month longer
86	Needs to be extended past January
87	Needs to be longer
88	no nov season move to week of thanksgiving then dec season to feb 14th
89	No November duck season until last week of November
90	No October season
91	No to Sunday hunting
92	November till end of December. Take days from end of January and move them to lessen the 3 week gap
93	October 15th - October 19th, support the other dates

94	October Season should be removed. Add to December season
95	Open season on Sunday.
96	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting
97	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting like every other surrounding state
98	Open Waterfowl Hunting on Sundays
99	Our weather for ducks doesn't usually kick in until mid January-February when the weather is cold enough I think the season should run through Feb 15th
100	Please add a season for Cormorants. They are over taking Badin and other lakes. They are very harmful to the fish population and especially vegetation.
101	Please bring back our early October opening split. We lose so many of our wood ducks on that first October cold front that comes through in the middle of the month. We used to get 4 days in the first part of October and we were so much more successful. I watch the ducks all summer and fall and without fail we lose 70-80% of the birds the week before our first split comes in.
102	Please eliminate the early October Season. Except on the coast we only hunt only wood ducks and it is 1) too hot, 2) with too many mosquitoes, snakes and wasps. I gave up going in this October season long ago. Rather than opening the second season on November 7th, please push this season back two weeks and add the two weeks to the third segment of the season. Again, except at the coast, we only have wood ducks the second and third week in November and our migratory ducks do not arrive until the ten days before Thanksgiving.
103	Please move the season back by one month and close it in February instead of January
104	Prefer October 8-10 as opener. I support the others
105	Private duck impoundments need to be disbanded and unlawful to operate. They have a detrimental effect on hunting opportunities on public lands.
106	Push the dates back into February, please see previous comment.
107	Push the first split to end of October. Don't need ducks shot up starting mid October
108	Reduce the middle season to one week and add two weeks into February.
109	Remove a week in the November season and add it to December
110	Remove early teal season and the October days add to the other two splits and open Sunday Hunting.
111	Remove October dates add to end of season dates
112	Remove restrictions for migratory bird hunting on Sundays.
113	Remove the October Dates and add them to the beginning of November split, start on 11/5
114	Run the season until 31 January
115	Same as last comment, remove October days and place them in early December
116	Same comments as before. Stop killing natural vegetation on public reservoirs which is practically the only public land inland that NC has available for duck hunting, and a liberal season really doesn't make sense right now with the way duck populations are doing and the continued loss and degradation of habitats. Stop prioritizing money over the resource!!!
117	season needs to be pushed back a month to optimize the typical push of birds we see in NC.
118	Season should end no earlier than February 28th. Season should start 30 days later and end 30 days later.
119	See previous comments.
120	Shave each split in half, make 30 day season.
121	Shift right one week
122	Should be moved back later in the year
123	Should be the same as coastal

124	Should give us time in February and less time in November. Duck migration has changed. Also or woodduck population gets pounded and I don't want to loose that resource. I think you should have to kill at least one drake for your 3 bird limit
125	Should limit total day harvest to 3 ducks/hunter per day. Only 1 Hen mallard, 1 Hen Wood Duck
126	Should only be one split, for 10 days. Sunday hunting restrictions must be removed. this is archaic and detrimental to working class families. It also severely reduces the ability for children to learn to hunt
127	Sometimes it doesn't even get cold in NC until January. When the birds are starting to push down the season goes out. As a duck hunter who has hunted in NC for almost 20 years it's a shame that some good groups of birds come through in February but we can't hunt them. Early November hunting is pretty much a waste of time unless you are hunting local wood ducks.
128	Start a week later, or two weeks
129	Starts too early, ends too early. Some ducks don't even show up until after the season ends.
130	Stop the November season and push the dates into December season to where it ends in February.
131	Sunday hunting should be allowed
132	Take away october and give us more days in december
133	Take away October season, add Sunday hunting, shorter season in November to accommodate Sunday hunting
134	Take out the October season and half of the November and extend into February
135	Take the first split out and some of the second split and sundays just do what Virginia does it's that simple
136	That giant split between 2 and 3 really hurt the western hunters. Our largest push of birds typically happens between 11/12 and 12/25
137	The best times to hunt often fall during this gap between the first and second break. Additionally, unregulated access on limited public access opportunities puts additional stress on birds to where you seldom see migratory birds in optimal habitat after the second week of the first break.
138	The ducks are not here during that first split beside local woodies. Season needs to go an extra two weeks in Feb
139	The state of North Carolina should allow water fowl hunting on Sundays. The restriction for most employed individuals means that Saturday hunts are incredibly competitive and reduce opportunities for new and inexperienced hunters to experience any type of harvest. If North Carolina opened Sundays for water fowl hunting, they could follow the same restriction as dear rifle season, meaning no firing after 9 AM or within 500 yards of a place of worship. I feel among other hunters that this would be an acceptable compromise.
140	Too complicated
141	We literally don't get any ducks until January! Stop pushing the season forward And push it backwards.
142	We need to allow hunting on Sunday. I do not support any framework that doesn't allow Sunday hunting. I don't think the splits zones meets the stated goal of providing more hunting opportunities as it is only a couple days in October. Do away with the October season and add Sundays. 15 days at the end of November and the last 45 days of the season ending on Jan 31.
143	We need to move duck season back. Not forward
144	Where possible, please tie to goose season because its just confusing when the seasons arent linked and you have to keep checking to see what is actually open.
145	Why 3 days in OCT??? GET RID OF SUNDAY PROHIBITION!!! Add these days to either of 2 phases!
146	Would also like to pull two weeks out of beginning of December and add to the beginning of February.
147	Would be good if youth seasons were the first two weekends in February
148	Would like to see licenses for each zone.

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Canada Goose Season – Resident Population Zone

(Also includes White-Fronted Geese)

Frameworks:

80 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: March 10th

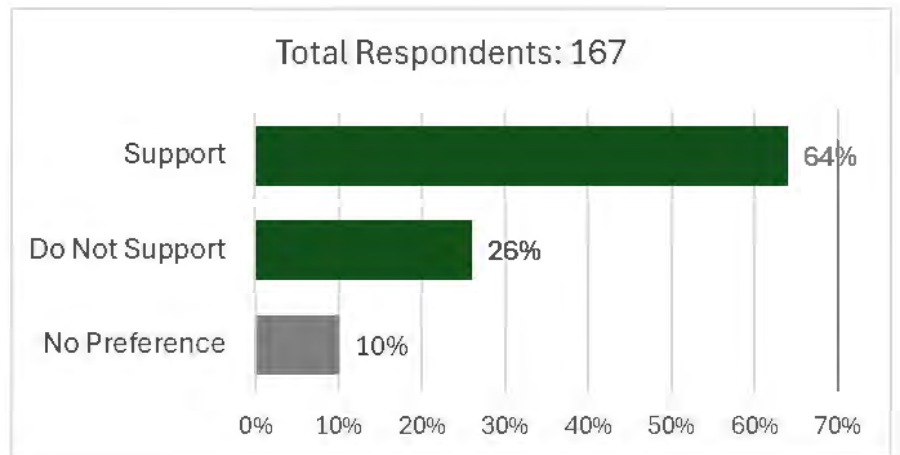
The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

October 15th – October 24th

November 7th – December 5th

December 17th – February 6th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	106	64%
Do Not Support	44	26%
No Preference	17	10%
Total	167	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	8	27	23	6	12	10	6	6	6	1	1	106
Do Not Support	3	8	9	4	7	3	4	3	1	0	2	44
No Preference	2	5	4	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	17
Grand Total	13	40	36	13	20	13	10	10	8	1	3	167

Canada Goose Season – Resident Population Zone Comments

1	Allow hunting on Sunday for people that work 50 hours a week so we have more opportunity to harvest birds.
2	Allow Sundays
3	END SUNDAY HUNTING PROHIBITION!!! Add the 3 OCT days to either of 2 phases!!
4	End the 2nd split on same date as duck split and run 3rd split for resident goose into 2nd week of February
5	Extend past Feb 7th remove the October and first week of Nov to allow hunting till Feb 15th
6	February is when we start to see a good number of migrating Canada Geese in our part of the state. Several reported Ontario bands confirm this. We used to be able to Goose hunt until the second weekend of February, and that was often one of our best days of the season. Please consider December 24th - February 13th instead. To our South, South Carolina stays open until March 1st.
7	first season Oct 16-Oct24. third season Dec 18- Feb 7
8	Get rid of no Sunday hunting. It's not fair to the working class who pretty much make up the entire hunting population
9	Get rid of October and let us hunt through February.
10	Get rid of the October season and extend the November season. Allow for Sunday hunting.
11	Give us back the 2nd week in February!
12	Give us back the second week of february for late goose season
13	Give us every day we can. If the latest is march 10th then give us until March 1st at least
14	Goose season should be as close to duck season as possible But should extend later
15	Hunt on Sundays
16	I believe the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd segments should be combined to permit as long of a single continuous season as possible. Splitting goose into three segments makes no sense to me.
17	I dont like goose ending on the same day as youth and vet day like this year id prefer to take a week away in the middle of the season and allow goose to run until mid feb
18	I like having the November-December 5th open, when duck is closed to allow for the opportunity to still hunt geese, as well as extended into February.
19	I personally wish that "late canada goose" season went the entire month of February.
20	I support no goose season in November until last week in November
21	I think RP zone should not overlap with youth season in February.
22	I would like to have an extra week like qe used to after regular waterfowl season closes. Seems like geese show up here more often around the 11th of February or later.
23	I would like to see the season extended until the end of February
24	It needs to stay in for a longer period of time into February. I would like to see it extended to the end of February. Take it off earlier in the season when you are still hunting local birds only since we don't see migrators come in until December anyway.
25	It should be a longer seat because there is a lot of geese
26	It would be great to have an additional week in February to account for late season migration and allow more hunting opportunities for waterfowlers after the closing day and youth/military day for duck season.
27	Keep season open until march 10. Take away earlier season.
28	Keep the same dates, but extend through the end of February
29	Limit Geese to 5 per day
30	Lose the October dates. Take season later into February & March.

31	Make October split Saturday and Sunday. Add Sunday hunting to November and December splits- start both splits later to account for Sunday additions.
32	Mirror GA or SC's hunting seasons to allow for Sunday hunting.
33	Move season later, we want to harvest geese after duck season throughout the month of February
34	Move some days later in February
35	My opinion should get rid of the October goose season entirely and add it to the end of the last split lengthening the season farther into February.
36	Need the additional week in February as we have had in the past.
37	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
38	Needs to be longer
39	no need to extend goose past Feb 6th. they are starting to pair off and mate the start of February
40	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting
41	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting like every other surrounding state
42	Open Waterfowl Hunting on Sundays
43	Perfect.
44	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
45	Please link it as closely possible to duck dates to avoid confusion. October is wasted time becuase almost all of us are deer huntingt. Would prefer that moved to february so I can keep hunting.
46	Please open earlier and close the season later.
47	Remove the October dates and add to the back end of February.
48	resident populations are higher in early september to early october.
49	Same as waterfowl, the option to hunt sunday's would finally allow a choice for sportsmen who can hunt during the week more than one opportunity to hunt and reduce Saturday pressure
50	Shorten first or second split and extend season into second week of February as in previous year. Many resident geese used to be killed in the second week of February after the birds have a chance to settle back in to areas that were heavily hunted during last split of inland duck season. season.
51	Somehow promote better land access at farms/private farms, golf courses, parks, urban land
52	State wide
53	Still need more season into February to control local population. Cold weather at this time of February forced birds to get out common areas to search for food and water. There are more areas accessible to hunting in the later month of February than in early October.
54	Sunday hunting should be allowed
55	This year I saw more geese in the triad than I ever have. That said, right now I am seeing more than the whole season. I think it should start later in Dec but run further into February. Right now you can find geese in almost every pond and every cut field. During the last week of January is really when I saw a lot of new flocks in spots I normally don't see them, suggesting a migratory push. But by then you only have a week to pattern them and gain permission to hunt.
56	Too complicated
57	Too early opener
58	Truth with geese is the numbers just are not here in the state of NC. I traveled to VA just to Hunt geese this year

59	<p>Underlying theme: geese are overpopulated in suburban areas and some method to curb the population may be beneficial to the local citizenry and others in the migratory flyway. Economic impact observed locally include utilization of expansive retention pond nets, loud sound recordings, decoys etc. to discourage goose settlement and resettlement. The geese pose a traffic hazard and frequently observed not yielding to motor vehicles in the road. Disease hazard in shopping centers, several deceased geese have been observed left to decompose on merchant grounds and right of ways. Living geese tend to foul the local sidewalks/greenways. These local geese are apparently attracted to public resources including municipal water leaks, fire hydrants, certain non-water underground utilities, storefronts where they have been previously fed/watered and municipal retention ponds on privately managed merchant land. Whereas seasonal goslings are also observed, there is evidence of long term residency and potential for unfettered exploitation for their goose down, eggs or food. There is reason to suspect that some regulated wildlife species (including Branta c.) are habitually attracted to the vicinity of certain underground utilities and consequently suffer from obtunded sensorium near those same utilities (details upon request and should be compared to other geographic regions with/without similar topography/geography/atmospheric qualities.)</p>
60	<p>Very very overpopulated and a nuisance. I think we should have as much opportunity to harvest them as possible. Clearly we cannot eliminate the population.</p>
61	<p>why the hell don't you keep one open season no splits move it further back on the calendar[allow sunday hunting</p>
62	<p>Wish it would end on January 30th with the duck season</p>
63	<p>would like to see more dates in February</p>
64	<p>Would prefer just 1 contiguous season end 2/6.</p>

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Canada Goose Season – Northeast Hunt Zone

(Also includes White-Fronted Geese)

Frameworks:

30 days

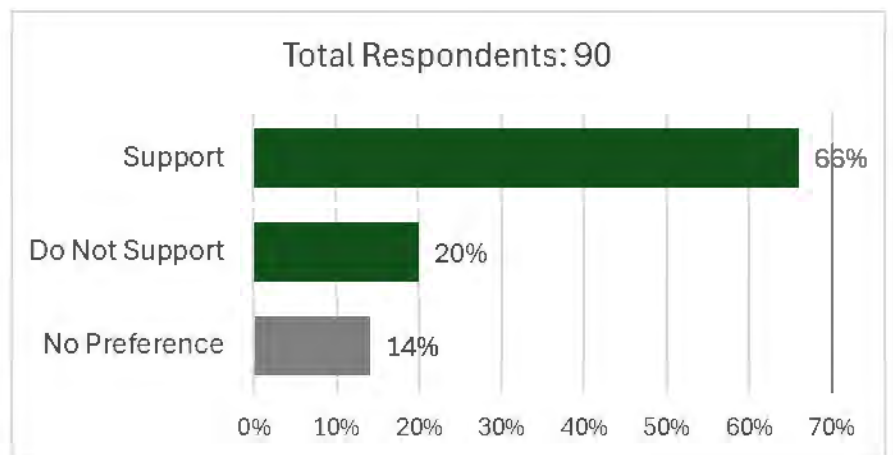
Earliest opening date: December 19th

Closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

December 28th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	59	66%
Do Not Support	18	20%
No Preference	13	14%
Total	90	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	17	11	15	2	5	3	1	2	1	0	2	59
Do Not Support	8	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
No Preference	1	4	3	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	13
Grand Total	26	19	20	8	5	3	2	2	2	0	3	90

Canada Goose Season – Northeast Hunt Zone Comments

1	Add Sunday hunting. Start season later to account for Sunday additions.
2	Allow goose hunting into February with youth and veteran days.
3	Allow Sunday hunting
4	Don't need a separate North east zone. Need to be statewide same.
5	Hunt on Sundays
6	I support this but I wish we could just have it be the entire late season split that followed the ducks to make it easy to remember.
7	If the 30 day limit is going to be 2 geese, then open it for 60 days and let the limit be 1 goose.
8	Is the "framework" a federal frame or our state? If we are not bound by a federal frame, i believe it is time to open the entire season to 1 goose a day for the open waterfowl season. Is there evidence that shows that we are protecting the migratory population? Northeastern NC has many thousands of acres of protected Refuge for geese. I believe all other public/private land/water should be open to hunt.
9	NE Zone needs top have dates that match general Canada Goose Season, no public scientific data that supports a shorter season.
10	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
11	Need to have more of a bag limit. There is ample amount of geese, and people are not going to just go goose hunting when you can only kill one. I recommend at the minimum 7 if not 10. This would make it worth while when scouting, and locating flight patterns.
12	Needs to be longer
13	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting
14	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
15	Same comment as the coastal goose season.
16	Season needs to open when duck season comes in with a limit of 3 per person and extend February like you do for the folks west of 17 ain't right they can shoot 5 a person and we get one for a couple weeks let us hunt them instead of gassing them and then burying them in the state sand pits
17	Start later and end later into February
18	Sunday hunting should be allowed
19	This area should look at an expansion due to the low number of migratory geese remaining and likelihood that we are just harvesting the non-James Bay birds.
20	This should mirror regular duck season so should come in Dec 17th and go through the end of January. Definitely needs to be extended more then 30 days.
21	Too complicated

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Light Goose Regular Season (Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)

Frameworks:

107 days, no more than 3 season segments

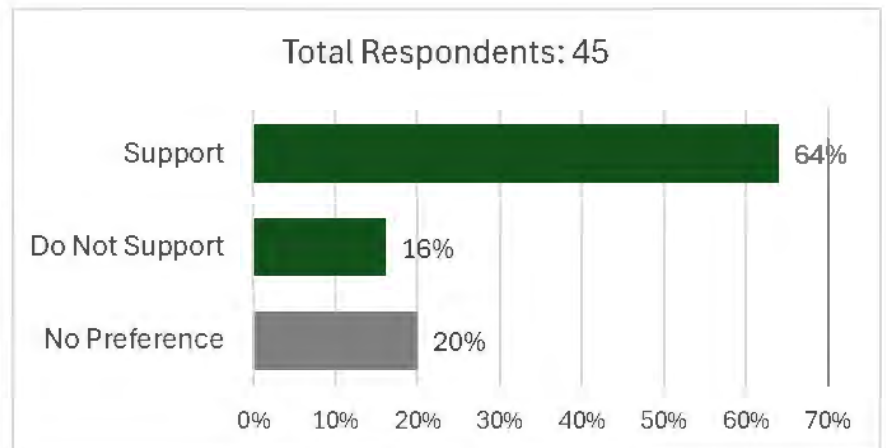
Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: March 10th

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

November 7th – March 10th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	29	64%
Do Not Support	7	16%
No Preference	9	20%
Total	45	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	8	3	7	1	4	1	1	3	1	0	0	29
Do Not Support	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
No Preference	1	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	9
Grand Total	10	9	9	3	5	1	3	3	2	0	0	45

Light Goose Regular Season Comments

1	Add Sunday hunting. This is the most egregious example... the point of Conservation Order is to eliminate as many as possible but you don't allow hunting on one of the days most people are off?
2	At what point does the light geese shift from the conservation season back to what was prior to its need to help with tundra destruction? There doesn't seem to be as many light geese in eastern NC as there was 15 years ago.
3	Create opportunities for hunting these geese to the public.
4	Don't open light goose season until last week of November
5	Hunt on Sundays
6	I would prefer to use the available segments to open the season earlier. Snow geese begin arriving in early October and are more susceptible to hunting then.
7	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
8	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting
9	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
10	Sunday hunting should be allowed

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Brant Season

Frameworks:

30 days, no more than 2 season segments

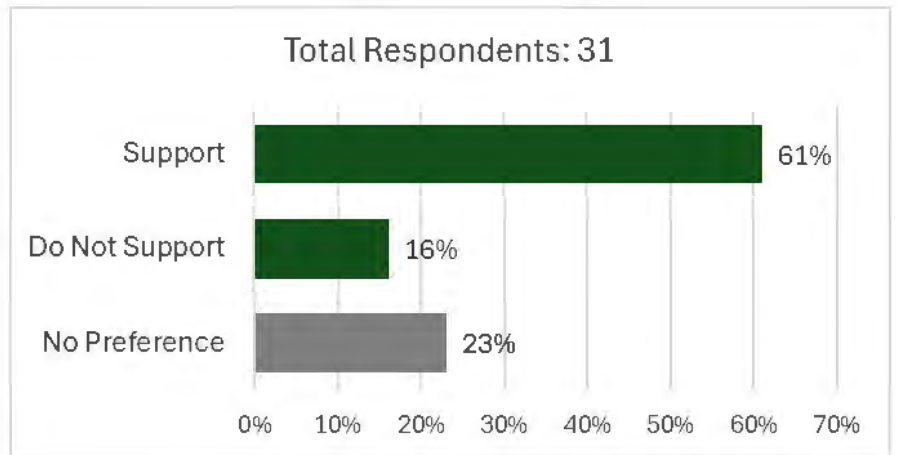
Earliest opening date: September 26th

Closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

December 28th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	19	61%
Do Not Support	5	16%
No Preference	7	23%
Total	31	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	6	3	5	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	19
Do Not Support	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
No Preference	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Grand Total	7	8	6	2	2	1	0	2	2	0	1	31

Brant Season Comments

1	Add Sunday hunting. Shorten the season to accommodate the addition of Sundays. I would prefer an earlier closure.
2	Allow for Sunday hunting.
3	Continue to overlap with duck seasons
4	Expand the Brant season to a full 90 days to match the regular waterfowl season. There are too many ridiculous, over-burdensome rules associated with duck hunting as it is, that I am not convinced improves overall waterfowl health and breeding/nesting numbers. Let's keep things practical and straightforward for a change. Does that compute?
5	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
6	Need to cut it down even more so population can build back up
7	No Brant here. You don't take care of the food sources they would need to thrive
8	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
9	Undecided, cannot remember the last time I saw a Brant on the big sounds. It is my belief hunting pressure by guides on public water has lead to the lack of. We should look at the correlation of waterfowl numbers and guide's license over the past two decades. I'm 36 years old and can tell if we continue on the path we are on my daughter age 9 will not have the same quality experiences that I enjoyed growing up.

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Tundra Swan Season

Frameworks:

90 days, permit only (4,853 permits)

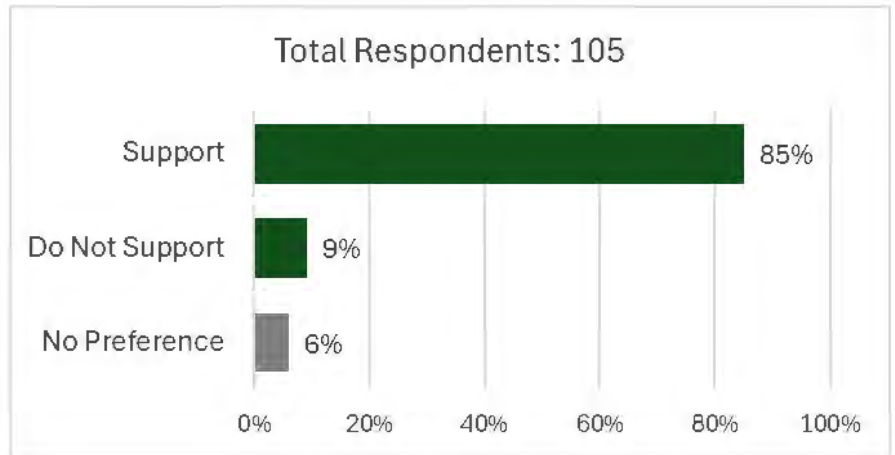
Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2026-2027 season dates are:

November 7th – January 30th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	89	85%
Do Not Support	10	9%
No Preference	6	6%
Total	105	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	12	25	18	6	10	6	4	4	3	1	0	89
Do Not Support	2	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	10
No Preference	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Grand Total	14	29	24	8	10	6	5	4	4	1	0	105

Tundra Swan Season Comments

1	Add Sunday hunting. Start the season later.
2	Allow for Sunday hunting, adjust season dates accordingly to account for it.
3	Allow hunting into February with youth and veteran days. Issue more permits.
4	Give out 1,500 more permits!
5	I agree with the season but I think more then 4,853 permits should be given out to the people of NC
6	I am a proponent of allowing one tag per hunter, similar to turkey or deer tags, for the same purchase price as the current permits.
7	I believe it is important to continue productivity and observation counts of swans and not rely on harvest data for setting number of given permits. I believe the harvest will be down this year, but it is due to swans using new areas of the state that are not traditionally hunted. We observed swans in areas this year that we have never seen them before.
8	I didn't harvest o swan this season but I had a chance.
9	I seldom see swans before Thanksgiving. I wish there was a way to issue a tag yearly. Some seasons the swans are not on or flying over lands I have access to..
10	Im fine with the season dates but i think out of state hunters should not be rquired to purchase an nc hunting license before they ever know if they are drawn. Id also like to see evidence on why we cant harvest more than one bird in a single day if you draw a permit. What i mean is the day you kill 1 swan you are done but if you could harvest one or 2 more on that day id like to know the science behind a one bird limit. Its a great hunt i love it but its an expensive hunt for one bird. Swans make great table fare as well. Id also like to see if there is any solution to deterring anti hunters from applying for swan tags just to trash the tag and cost a hunter a hunting opportunity. Thats as bad as hunter harrasment or worse. I obviously do not have the answers for these sort of things. Just putting it out there on the table to be made aware of.
11	Let Tundra Swan end with Canada Goose season. Typically hunters are focused on ducks with a swan tag in their pocket. It would be nice to have the swan tag extended to a weekend where ducks are out of season to strictly hunt swans
12	Need to be able to hunt on Sundays. Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why? Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.
13	One week, still many swans around as of posting this 02/16/26
14	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting
15	open week of thanksgiving closing last week in feb
16	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the feild with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
17	Population would indicated more permits should be made available
18	Sunday hunting should be allowed
19	This should be extended to "any swan species" to include the take of invasive mute swan.
20	Would like to see "out of state" hunters not have to buy a license to be considered for draw. This puts a burden on anyone out of state to have to buy a license "pre-draw" with only a chance to be drawn for a permit. You could require them to purchase a license if they are drawn and if they don't then disqualify them from future draws
21	Would like to see the permits increased to 5000

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Youth Waterfowl Days

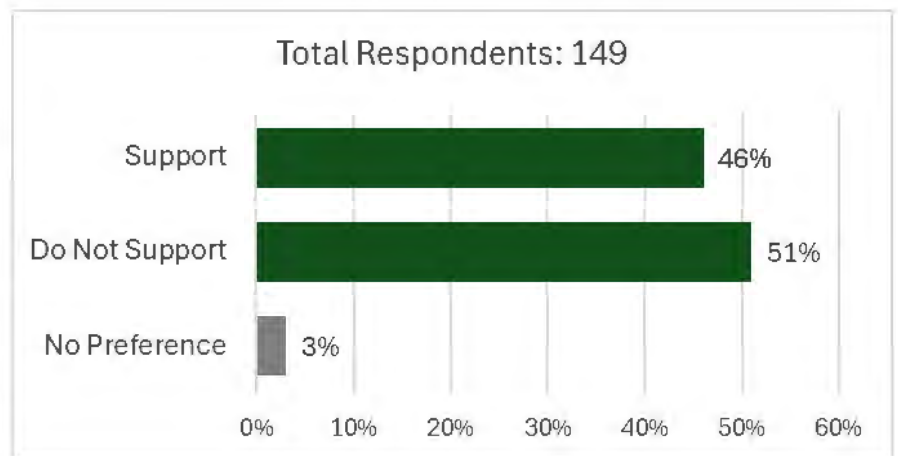
Guidelines for selecting Youth Waterfowl Days include:

1. The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular hunting season for ducks, mergansers and coots or in the closed portion between season segments.
2. The day(s) must occur on any non-school day. In North Carolina, this includes Saturdays and any statewide holidays.
3. There can be no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days in the Inland duck hunting zone and no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days in the Coastal duck hunting zone (4 total Youth Waterfowl Days).
4. Youth waterfowl days can be held concurrently with Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days.

The proposed 2026-2027 Youth Waterfowl Days in both the Inland Zone and Coastal Zone are:

December 5th and February 6th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	68	46%
Do Not Support	76	51%
No Preference	5	3%
Total	149	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	9	19	13	7	5	7	0	3	2	1	2	68
Do Not Support	13	23	15	3	6	9	2	1	2	0	2	76
No Preference	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Grand Total	22	42	30	11	12	17	2	4	4	1	4	149

Youth Waterfowl Days Comments

1	Sunday hunting restrictions must be removed. this is archaic and detrimental to working class families. It also severely reduces the ability for children to learn to hunt
2	#4 It is unfair to hold these days for youth when that pits them being in competition with veteran hunters. Let these kids compete with their peers.
3	1 Veteran day can be in December, both youth days should be moved back to original framework, the first 2 Saturdays in February
4	Additional advertising for individuals, vets and parents (and grandparents) who are not experienced hunters.
5	All youth hunts should be in December during the split. No hunting for anyone after Jan 31
6	Allow Sunday Hunting like Arkansas. Remove October dates, remove Black Duck week non harvest. Allow feeding for wildlife, and begin season like Arkansas on Thanksgiving weekend. Have the split over Christmas allow it to start back Day after Christmas
7	Alternate the youth days between zones to allow them more days overall.
8	Both dates at end of season, 2/6 & 2/13
9	both dates need to be after the regular season in february
10	Both dates need to be at the very end of the waterfowl season.
11	Both days at end of regular season.
12	Bring it back to the two days after the season all in February
13	Consider adding 1 more day to end of season for youth, only a single day makes it tough with safety and weather
14	Dec 5th needs to removed and feb 13th added
15	Do not like the dec youth day
16	Do not support the December 5th Youth Hunt - if 2nd youth day is given prefer it to be after Feb. 6th
17	Don't like dec youth day
18	Don't agree with the date in the split
19	For the best opportunity for Youth and Veterans alike, they should both come at the end of the duck season. There is less pressure on the birds at that point, being its only the Saturdays that are open. Hunt clubs are more likely to support this initiative if it is after the season as well, only improving the opportunities for youth and veterans alike.
20	Give the vets there own days as well as the kids, separate
21	Go back to 2 days in February December youth waterfowl day is and was a terrible idea.
22	Go back to the 2 Saturdays following the regular season.
23	Have all Youth and Veteran hunt dates ONLY after completion of the regular seasons on the first and third Saturdays to take advantage of the late migrations and allow a realistic study of these dates and research analysis via mathematical studies of species and numbers of hunters in specific counties. Be Realistic North Carolina wildfowl biologists and hunters who actually utilize these hunts. Do not allow frivolous studies to compromise future studies of actual species and veteran and youth hunters. There's too little studies or banding done in NC as it is. Use these analysis to study NC migration wildfowl studies and look at what data comes out of it. You will see more citizens who qualify utilize these late special hunt dates. Why did my parents send me to Yale to study mathematical logistics? Use the numbers/species to NC best efforts to understand late migrations of waterfowl.
24	Have both waterfowl youth days in February and let the veterans have there own day.

25	Have both Youth/Vets days the 1st and 2nd Saturdays in Feb. Or you can have 2 inland days as well as 2 coastal days for a total of 4 days like stated above. Dec 5th Inland, Dec 12th Coastal, Feb 6th Inland and Feb 13th Coastal.
26	Have different days for coastal and inland so that kids can hunt in both places. Move both days back to February, there is a better chance of having a more successful hunt then and this will help keep the kids interested in the sport!!!
27	Having a youth day in the middle of the season does not make sense since the purpose of the season splits are to give the birds time to rest. It worked much better to have two Saturdays after the regular season.
28	I am in favor of youth days but NOT including veterans concurrently. Veterans/Military should have a different set of dates than youth.
29	I am more a proponent of the two Feb. youth days. Our club did not hold a youth hunt during December, as we were trying to allow the birds to rest between splits.
30	I am thankful you do not give an entire week for youth and only one day in February.
31	I believe the youth/veteran days should both be in February - next year Feb 6th and 13th. These dates are better overall hunting generally and many do not wish to hunt their respective hunt areas during the break in the regular season to hunt the December dates.
32	I believe two days in February would be best, but if the biology and the science as far as it concerns waterfowl breeding says that we don't need that many February days then I am fine with the December date
33	I do like the December date and like that yall changed the age last year but make the February date as late as possible
34	I do not agree with how the first youth day is placed in December. The better hunting is in February and would like to see it changed back to the first two Saturdays in February.
35	I do NOT support the change in Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Days. Having both Youth/Vet hunts in February allows participants more access to private property because the general duck season is over. I host youth/vet hunts every year and those are highlights of the season for me. When the first youth/vet hunt was scheduled for December this year, we decided NOT to hunt it because we always need to rest our hunting areas during that time to allow birds numbers to rebuild before the December opener. The change to a December hunt limited youth/vet hunt opportunities at my property and many other properties in the area. Please have the youth/vet hunt back to the first two Saturday's in February.
36	I do not support this proposal. I believe the dates should be Feb 6th and 13th, as it has been in the past. I believe we should give our youth the best opportunity possible to be successful. I fully believe that opportunity is the second saturday in Feb.
37	I greatly support youth days the way they are structured. I would like for you to consider adding seniors to the eligible group. &0 and older. We do noy have many seasons left and the youg guys push us around during the regular season.
38	I like this plan.
39	I liked it better with both youth weekends used in February but I don't hate this schedule either
40	I mostly support this it would be nice to see inland and coastal staggered days tho could potetially give a youth 4 4 hunts that are soley about them.
41	I prefer to have these days on the two Saturdays following the season when waterfowl populations are typically highest.
42	I REALLY AM ANGERED HOW YOU CHANGED THE AGE THIS PAST SEASON WITHOUT ANY PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE!!! Those outgoing youth should have been grandfathered in for another year or town. Could have been done just like when you implemented the HE requirements back in the 90's. Shameful.
43	I support moving both Youth/Veteran's day hunts "back" to first two saturdays in February.
44	I would like both days to be in February

45	I would prefer that the youth days are both placed back in February. This would give ducks a true break from pressure during the split. It would also allow youth hunters the opportunity to participate for duck season, but not lose out on the other seasons that are open in December such as deer and bear.
46	I'm against giving additional days to youth and veterans. We all get the same days to hunt. If they get extra days then seniors and people that hold a full time job should get extra days too. Some adults taking youth are also shooting ducks. With goose season being in adults can carry a firearm and say they're shooting geese. Game wardens can't be everywhere to catch people doing this but it's being done.
47	In central NC, there are very few ducks around on Dec 5. Both youth days should be in Feb (first 2 Saturdays) to give kids a chance to see ducks
48	It should be the next 2 Saturdays after duck season ends
49	Keeping with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. These dates should be Feb 6 and Feb 13. This would allow for better youth hunts, since we would have more birds and not birds highly pressured.
50	Let it go back to like before 2 sats after jan 30
51	Make both days in February after regular season.
52	Make it a week long season for youth
53	Make it two days, Friday and Saturday
54	Make youth/veterans days two random days in the December season.
55	Move back to the first two Saturdays of February.
56	Move both youth days back to February.
57	Move the dates back to consecutive weekends first of February
58	Need to be one day and not going into February and to do away with the military days.
59	Needs to be first two Saturdays in February
60	North Carolina needs to go back to what the frame work was 2 years ago the two hunt dates in February. Having a hunt during the split defeats the purpose of the split and majorly limits the opportunity to hunt. No hunt club allows youth or vets to hunt during the split but fully support the Feb dates and welcome as many participants as possible. These are prime locations to bring people into the sport and see the water fowling tradition.
61	One day in October or November would have temperatures more conducive to taking out very young hunters.
62	Private duck impoundments need to be disbanded and unlawful to operate. They have a detrimental effect on hunting opportunities on public lands.
63	Push both days to after season like it was
64	Put them all in February and do not combine with Veterans
65	Put these days in late October or early November. We are dealing with children here and their bodies can't handle cold weather like an adult can
66	Put youth day back as the first 2 Saturdays after duck season in February so that they get good hunt instead of an 80 degree December day when the ducks haven't made it here yet.
67	Return the first 2 weekends in February
68	Thank you for making an early December day for Youth day. This was a good move. Might be even better to make one the first weekend of October if you do not move normal season to early October. The warmer it is, the better to get young hunters out.
69	The days should be the first 2 Saturdays after the end of the regular season
70	The December 5 date is too close to the end of the November season December is a very stale month. I've been taking kids for close to 15 years now we had much more success doing it the first two Saturdays in February then we did this year having it in December
71	The last youth needs to be by itself not with veterans.

72	the late youth hunt is great, I travel in from out of state every year to bring kids for the late youth hunt, you guys do a great job giving kids a great opportunity.
73	The youth day being in the split significantly reduced the opportunities for hunting in clubs/impoundments in my area. Nobody wants to have their impoundment shot up during the split. Other states are around us are still doing both youth days in February, I don't know why NC can't go back to the first 2 Saturdays of February.
74	There should be no hunting allowed in February at all. And only One youth day is enough.
75	There shouldn't be 2 youth days
76	These are great opportunities.
77	They 2 days in February are better for the youth season
78	They should be in February and it should be for a whole week Saturday-saturday.
79	two late days offer much more opportunity. I suggest Feb 6 and Feb 13. Even more important, youth should be up to and including age 16. The change to 15 was big negative impact to youth opportunities. Arent you trying to recruit new hunters? if so, then youth opportunities should be expanded, not reduced!
80	We do not need a youth season.
81	Would be nice for 2 youth Saturdays at end!
82	Would rather have both days in December
83	You should be able to hunt on youth days till you're 18
84	Youth are the future of our sport!. Please consider 3 - 4 dates, not only the 2 proposed. The more chances to get youth into the sport, the better
85	Youth days need to go back to the two weekends after Jan 31, and have military date in the breaks between the seasons
86	Youth days should not be combined with Veterans days
87	Youth season should be held the last 2 weekends after the season ends. Split between November and December should rest and not be hunted
88	Youth should have two in February

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

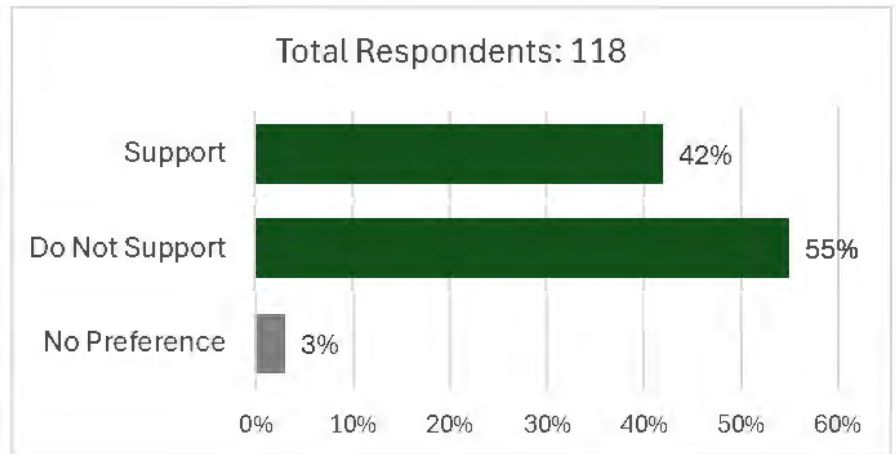
Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)

Guidelines for selecting Veterans/Military days include:

1. The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular hunting season for ducks, mergansers and coots or in the closed portion between season segments.
2. There can be no more than 2 Veteran/Military Waterfowl days in the Inland duck hunting zone and no more than 2 Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days in the Coastal duck hunting zone (4 total Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days).
3. Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days can be held concurrently with Youth Waterfowl Days.

The proposed 2026-2027 Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days in both the Inland Zone and Coastal Zone are: December 5th and February 6th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	50	42%
Do Not Support	65	55%
No Preference	3	3%
Total	118	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	7	13	9	4	1	6	2	4	2	0	2	50
Do Not Support	8	21	10	5	6	10	0	3	1	0	1	65
No Preference	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Grand Total	17	34	20	9	7	16	2	7	3	0	3	118

Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s) Comments

1	#3 Let these vets complete with their peers, not with kids. Separate veterans from hunting with kids. Let the kids compete with kids, not adults. Otherwise it isn't "Youth day"
2	Add leo and first responders
3	Again, keeping with The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. These dates should be Feb 6 and Feb 13.
4	Allow Sunday Hunting like Arkansas. Remove October dates, remove Black Duck week non harvest. Allow feeding for wildlife, and begin season like Arkansas on Thanksgiving weekend. Have the split over Christmas allow it to start back Day after Christmas
5	Alternate the veteran days between zones to give more opportunity
6	As a 88 year old veteran both dates should be after the season
7	Both dates need to be at the end of the season
8	both days need to be after the regular season in February
9	Both veteran/youth days allow the birds to have more of a "rest" than doing it betwee a split
10	Do not like dec youth day
11	Do not like the December veterans hunt
12	Either Feb 6th and 13th for Youth/Military or have 2 for each Zone (Dec 5th and Feb 6th Inland), (Dec 12th and Feb 13th Coastal)
13	For the best opportunity for Youth and Veterans alike, they should both come at the end of the duck season. There is less pressure on the birds at that point, being its only the Saturdays that are open. Hunt clubs are more likely to support this initiative if it is after the season as well, only improving the opportunities for youth and veterans alike.
14	Give the vets and the kids their own separate days
15	Go back to 2 days in February. December Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day waterfowl day is and was a terrible idea. A lot of people are actually hunting whitetail
16	Go back to the 2 sats after the regular season
17	Grateful for these opportunities but the rules are unclear and complicated regarding permits, open areas etc. The rules in the book differ so much that multiple customer service agents gave me false or conflicting information. Recommend a specific section for waterfowl hunting which contains all information including public land and impoundment info.
18	I am against veteran and youth days. If they get extra days to hunt then seniors and people who have full time jobs should get extra days too.
19	I am not opposed to the proposed dates. I would like to see the vet and youth days be split apart for at least 1 day. I fully support the 1st Vet day on Dec 5th without youth, 2nd Vet day and youth be Feb 6th and 2nd Youth be Feb 13th. I believe splitting Vet and Youth up will provide both groups more opportunities and success.
20	I do not support Veteran/youth day being in December. I believe that the waterfowl should have more of a resting period between the seasons. I also believe that the veteran/youth waterfowl days were better both being in February and would like to see them go back to that. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
21	I don't support military waterfowl days. If they get extra days then I want extra days. You should offer extra senior days too since we don't have much time left.
22	I just spoke of the need to push these dates out to the 1/3 Saturdays in February 2027. Here is a real ability to study actual numbers of Veteran and youth Waterfoel hunters utilizing these hunt opportunities and looking at capturing the numbers of waterfowl killed or add a comment line as to numbers of species seen in various counties hunted in order to show proper late migration of species for real migratory data because you are allowing 1/3 Saturdays in February 2027. Thank you wildfowl Committee for at least

	attention to migratory study and records data input by NC Waterfowl Hunters utilizing special Waterfowl veteran/youth hunt periods and in at least a different series of expanded Saturdays
23	I prefer to have these fall on the 2 Saturdays following the season when waterfowl populations are typically the highest.
24	I respectfully request that the NCWRC restore the two Youth and Veteran Waterfowl Hunting Days to the two Saturdays immediately following the close of the regular duck season. Late-season conditions provide the best opportunity for successful hunts due to increased migration, colder weather, and more consistent bird movement. Because federal frameworks do not allow the regular season to extend further into February, these youth and veteran days are one of the only ways to provide access to the most productive portion of the season. Splitting the days between December and February, as occurred this past season, reduced the value of one of these opportunities and worked against the original intent of youth and veteran hunting days. Consolidating both days after the regular season would better support participation, success, and mentorship without increasing harvest pressure.
25	I support Feb 6 and Feb 13. The later season days will offer more opportunities and better hunting. These dates will promote hunting and promote recruitment of new hunters.
26	I think the Veterans hunt should be separate from youth. I would have pick a Saturday before the Nov split and a Saturday between the Nov and Dec splits for the Veterans.
27	I would like both days to be in February
28	I would like to see both days of the military/ veterans and youth hint hunt be after the general season in febrile. The reason for that is land owners are more likely to allow military and youth to hunt compared to before the general season begins.
29	I would like to see Disabled Veterans have their own hunt. Other veterans can hunt the same 60 days that the general population can hunt. Do away with any hunt during the December split season.
30	I would rather see the military days done in between the breaks in the seasons
31	If the entire duck season cant be pushed or extended to the first two weeks of February, recommend shifting the second youth/Veterans Day to a weekend that 1) occurs after the closing of goose season, and 2) is not the same day as northern neighboring states (VA). This will provide one more day for a limited population to hunt late season/late migration birds without having to choose between hunting the last day of goose season, a neighboring state's youth/Veterans Day, or NC youth/Veterans Day.
32	Im strongly against having the first day in December and would like to see both days moved back to February
33	Include senior citizens
34	It should be at the end of regular duck season and be a whole week from Saturday- Saturday
35	Just wanted to say how much I appreciate the Veterans-Military hunting days and wish they could be extended. I primarily hunted the Catfish Lake Impoundment this past season as well as the disabled access blinds. I feel that this impoundment could benefit from a permit process for a couple of hunting seasons. Outside of the Veterans-Military hunting dates, there is a tremendous amount of pressure on the waterfowl from hunters.
36	Make both days in February after regular season.
37	Make inland and coastal days different so that veterans have 4 possible days to hunt across the state. That creates more opportunities for them. Also make 2 of the coastal days in February because that is the best potential for the most successful hunts and they deserve to have the best hunts possible!!!
38	Make them the same as youth days
39	Military should not be during youth. We have seen abuse with Military in impoundments which are closed to Military during youth season.
40	Move back to first two Saturdays in February
41	Move both days back to February
42	Move to consecutive weekends first of February

43	Need to be done away with. Feel like it is taking a way from the youth hunt and other groups has done more for the duck especially the seniors. I do appreciate what the military has done for the country
44	one of the veterans days needs to be separate from youth day, too many people hunting youth day.
45	Open this period for seniors over 75 also. Not many seasons left for them.
46	Please put the Youth/Vet hunts back to February.
47	Push December 5th 2026 date to February 13th 2027.
48	Removed dec 5th and add feb. 13th
49	Return the first 2 weekends in February concurrent with youth days
50	Same as my your season comments
51	Same as the youth, would rather these be the first two Saturdays in February.
52	Same as with the youth, I've taken more youth than veterans, but it's the days are the same anyway would much rather see back to the first two Saturdays in February
53	Same comment as for Youth day.
54	See comment about youth days
55	Separate from youth season!
56	Should be on a different day than the youth
57	Thanks for doing this, but it needs to be a day totally separate from both open duck and goose seasons. To just throw us an extra day of duck hunting when folks are still on the water goose hunting does almost nothing to actually give us a special day to be out. Wait til goose closes, then add the special day so we can hunt all waterfowl, and have much less competition.
58	The military and youth days need to be put back to the first two Saturdays in February, as a veteran and a father I do not support the other day being moved to December.
59	THE TWO VETERAN HUNTING DATES SHOULD BE IN FEBRUARY AS THEY HAVE FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS.
60	There should be no hunting allowed in February and one Veteran/Military day is enough. I also think Senior's 65 or older should be allowed to hunt and this needs to be changed to Veterans/Military/Senior Day
61	These are great opportunities.
62	Theyknew what they were signing up for. Deserve no special treatment.
63	Two days, Friday and Saturday
64	Two Saturdays in Feb?
65	Use alternate date from the youth days, Veteran's should have their own days!!!
66	Vet / Military hunts should be held in December during the split Dec 5th & 12th. No hunting of waterfowl for anyone after Jan 31st
67	Veterans hunt should be held before the regular season
68	Veterans/Military should have different hunting dates than the youth. Make youth hunts about the youth ONLY. Give Veterans/Military different hunting dates.
69	Week long season for veterans
70	Why are other special groups, teachers, health care and other groups not granted the same benefit?
71	Would prefer veterans hunt to not overlap with the youth hunt.
72	Would rather both days be in December
73	Youth can go with their parents any day. Youth day just allows violators to vilocate.
74	youth days should not be combined with veterans days

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Doves

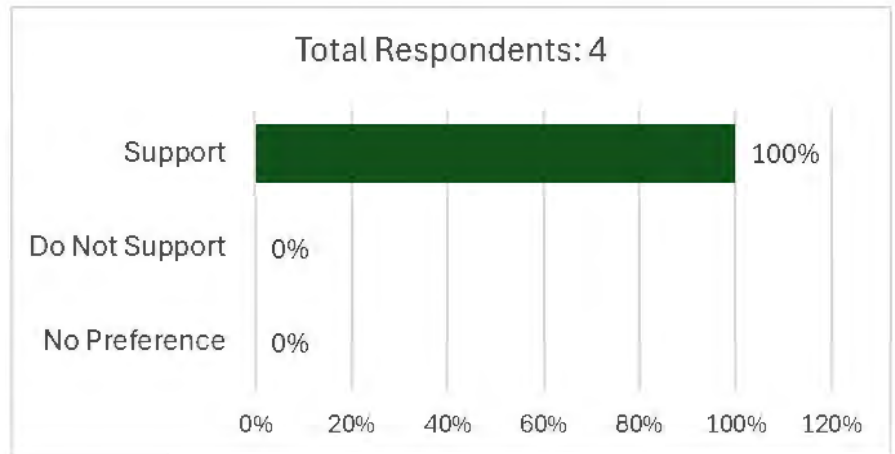
Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2026-2027 Extended Falconry season dates are:

October 12th – October 24th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	4	100%
Do Not Support	0	0%
No Preference	0	0%
Total	4	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4

Extended Falconry Season for Doves Comments

No Comments

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Woodcock

Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

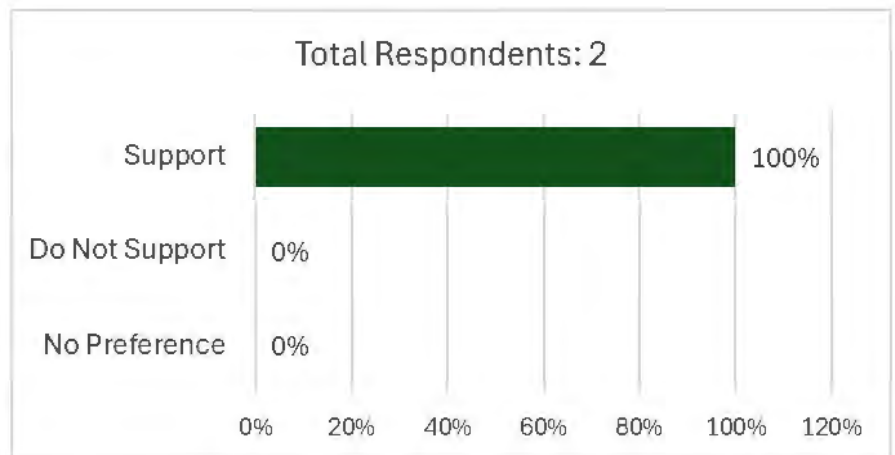
1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2026-2027 Extended Falconry season dates are:

December 1st - December 9th

February 1st - February 20th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	2	100%
Do Not Support	0	0%
No Preference	0	0%
Total	2	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.			
Support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2

Extended Falconry Season for Woodcock Comments

No Comments

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens

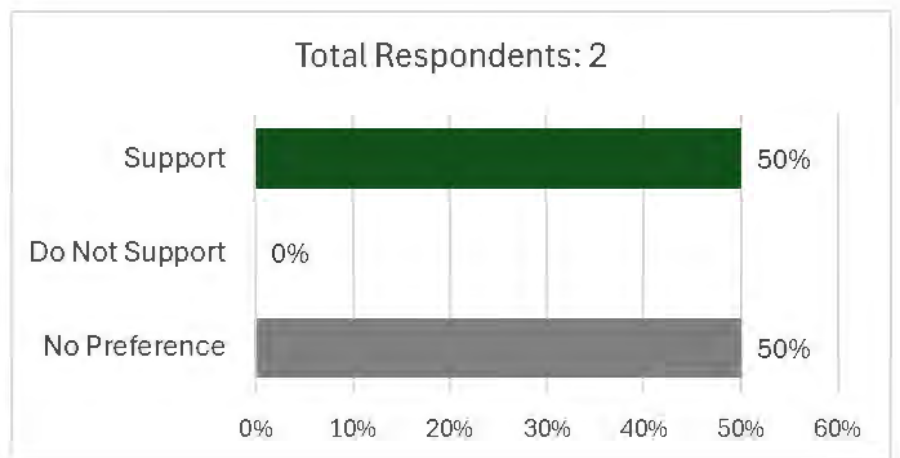
Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2026-2027 Extended Falconry season dates are:

December 5th - January 9th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	1	50%
Do Not Support	0	0%
No Preference	1	50%
Total	2	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.			
Support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2

Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Comments

No Comments

2026-2027 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Ducks – Inland & Coastal Zones

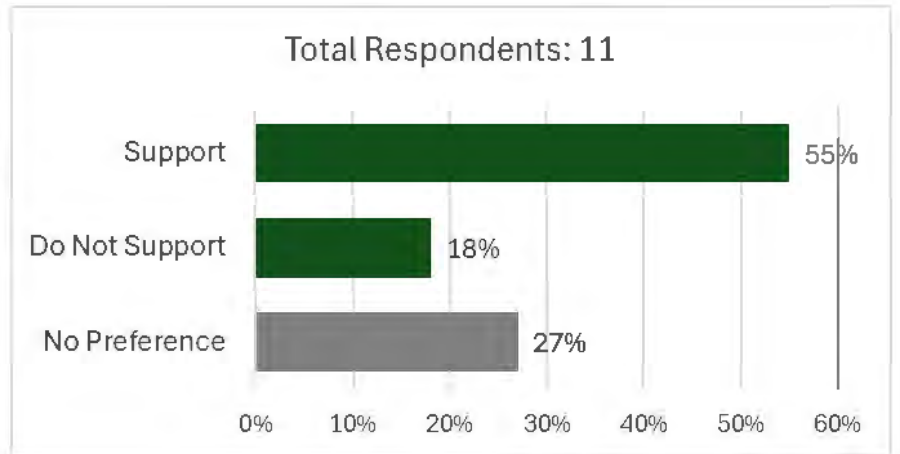
Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2026-2027 Extended Falconry season dates are:

October 1st - October 10th
 February 1st - February 6th

Choices	Responses	
	Number	Percentage
Support	6	55%
Do Not Support	2	18%
No Preference	3	27%
Total	11	100%



Choices	District										Out of State	Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	unk.		
Support	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6
Do Not Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
No Preference	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Grand Total	2	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	11

Extended Falconry Season for Ducks – Inland & Coastal Zones Comments

1	Should be 1 month longer
2	Take away the October dates and another week in February.
3	This is a little better!

General Comments on Migratory Game Birds

1	I am a guide around Lake Mattamuskeet. I really think we should have a shell limit on ducks. It's unfair to the birds to come and, shoot 50 shells trying to kill 6 ducks. Many birds fly off wounded unknowingly. I see feathers float down often when the hunter thinks he's made a clean miss. I also believe it would keep people from trying ducks that are too far because they just reach around and, get MORE shells. I truly think a 1 box limit should be sufficient. If you can't kill six ducks with 25 shots then it's on the shooter to make adjustments..not just wound more birds. Thanks, JW
2	50 yrs ago when I hunted waterfowl on Core Sound we would look up toward Atlantic & Cedar Island and think there was a large fire and then the smoke from that fire would flair and you'd realize it was a living flight of Redheads & Scaup & Canvasbacks & certainly others! Those days are gone by a few decades and if you fast forward another couple there won't be any at all. I asked a camo clad hunter in a local store the other day if any Black Duck had been seen and he replied, "No and very little else, I don't even know why we go anymore". This was in Davis Shore and he was a local. My last hunt was in 1970 in southern Core Sound from a stake blind on a grassy shoal close to the Banks. About mid-morning a flight of about a dozen Canada's flew over my decoys and I brought one down. The flight scrambled and veered off downwind but one circled back and lit to his downed pardner. I shot again and then just sat there thinking about that devotion. I pulled my set and called it a day and when I got home buried them both along with my old double and never went again.
3	60 day season is too long 50 days would be plenty 6 bird limit is too many 5 would be plenty 6 bird limit on Widgeon is to many. should be no more than 4 total number of ducks killed in Hyde County is out of proportion to the total number killed in the state. Duck impoundments have concentrated the ducks to the deterrent of anyone not having access to one. Hyde county should be in a separate unit on private land with a smaller limit or less number of days to hunt
4	Abolish all local laws and standardize access for all license holders on public grounds and waters.
5	Active/Retired First Responders in NC should be allowed to hunt on the youth/veteran days to help with first responder recruitment across the state.
6	Again, I support liberalizing the North Eastern Goose season, if federal frame allows. I support and believe we need to have both youth waterfowl days be in February as before. I would support splitting up Vet and Youth days. I was and am in favor of the youth age being 15 and younger.
7	Again, please bring back the early October season. October 1-3 would give Inland hunters more local wood ducks and also possibility of migrating teal. The Mid-October dates currently used, offer zero advantages to Inland hunters.
8	All migratory birds being closed on Sundays, diminishes the ability for most sportsman in the state to be able to hunt on their days off. We need to move the day of rest off of Sunday. It's past time.
9	All of comments have been stated. They come from a working hunters stand point. It would be nice to hunt Sundays as well, I know many that make time for their religious beliefs on Sundays. I always plan hunts around mass, we should be afforded the opportunity to hunt if we can.
10	Allow hunting on Sunday. It is very simple. Almost every other state in this nation allows waterfowl hunting on Sunday. Why is NC not allowing waterfowl hunting on Sunday?
11	Allow migratory bird hunting on sundays. Some of us in the military cannot hunt migratory birds during the week due to conflicting schedules. It's also an outdated law that should be repealed.
12	Allow Migratory Game Bird Hunting on Sundays. I see no logical reason for it to not be allowed. The only "explanation" I have ever seen/heard is that it is tied to an old throwback to Sunday generally being considered a religious rest day. While I am a Christian, I still do not see this as justification, especially when compared to other forms of hunting/fishing, which ARE allowed on Sundays (even if there are limited restrictions, such as no gun hunting for deer during certain hours). If there is some logical reason, please clearly publish it in the Regulations Digest for all to see and be aware, as well as other forms of public announcement.
13	Allow Sunday hunting

14	Allow Sundays even if it shortens the season dates. Make duck season start later and allow hunting Sundays till the regular closing season date.
15	Allowing for Sunday hunting of migratory game birds is well overdue. Adjust season dates accordingly to account for the Sundays. NC is one of the few remaining states that don't allow for Sunday duck hunting. Increase regulations on private impoundments to fall in line with rest of the state's baiting laws and get rid of the ambiguity around it.
16	Appreciate the proposed dates and the no migratory bird hunting on Sunday. It's like dog hunting - it is best that we keep a quiet Sunday morning to coexist with our neighbors, as banging away on a Sunday morning does not help our long-term cause.
17	As in years past , 2026 received the most severe weather in early February. This coincidences with more ducks arriving into North Carolina and into a closed season .
18	As our climate continues to change, our best duck hunting tends to be in December and January. I would like to see the commission adjust our season dates to align with the times the ducks are here in NC. Thanks
19	Atlantic flyway has gone down hill the last 25yrs...have later seasons! And no hunting on Sunday!
20	<p>Blind laws in Pamlico need to be addressed by the NCWRC. It's an overreach law forcing hunters on top of each other, take risk with smaller boats to go to big water, and taking away public water opportunities. For example, there are blinds in Swindle Bay on Bay River that are never hunted and were put there just to keep public water hunters away. I know, I see it every season. No intentions to hunt the blinds. My own pole blind I've had in the water my two sons and others have hunted for years was cut down by a new landowner because he put up a land blind on each side of my blind which now gave him the authority to cut my blind down. I have no repercussion. For years I have watched other hunters enjoy that area without any issues and now blinds litter the banks and we are forced out. My property sits on the water and I can't hunt it now without feeling like a fight is about to break out.</p> <p>Amend the law. Step in and let the state take control of public water, not the county and local politicians. If you aren't setting out decoys or in your blind an hour before sunrise then a hunter(s) should be allowed to set up in the water on their boat within 500 yards of a blind. How hard is that. I know a lot of hunters who have stopped taking their children duck hunting because of the harassment they get trying to hunt public water. Not everyone can afford a 20-23 foot boat to go hunt big water because that is the only option they have. What public land you can hunt near is so crowded with people setting up 100 yards from you is no fun. Duck hunting years ago was enjoyable, now it is anger management. Delta Waterfowl nor DU will say anything about it because of donors. Sooner or later a tragic event will happen, it's just a matter of time. Good people, ethical hunters, are fed up with county overreach.</p> <p>It's public to fish but becomes private to hunt.</p>
21	Bring back early Oct. season when we start seeing more birds that the end of the month. Separate one of the youth and veterans days for just kids. Too many people hunting when trying to get a youth there first bird. Thank you
22	Can there be an increase in the wood duck limit
23	Change scaup limit to 2 season wide. Extend regular season into February. Birds have not shown up the past 5 years until late January/early February.
24	Coastal duck opportunities are greater in early December. We have a lot of ducks that leave in the third week. Move second segment up a week to the 12th, take a week off in early November.
25	Cormorant season, Sunday hunting, no October split,
26	Cormorants are getting out of hand and decimating fish stock in small lakes and ponds. These cormorants should not be protected to the level that they are and should not be considered protected at the same current level.
27	<p>Currently there are several issues swirling around waterfowl hunting that public land managers will have to address.</p> <p>First, the issue of avian influenza and other diseases as they relate to the concentration of birds in privately managed areas. Are scientists able to sample birds from these areas and are there differences in from birds that don't utilize these areas? Information on this question would be important for managers.</p> <p>Second, the general issues surrounding privately managed areas, intentionally inefficient farming practices, and</p>

	<p>flooding of fields. There is much suspicion about the private areas "stealing birds". Competition with publicly managed lands seems very much skewed toward the well financed private lands. Land managers providing clarity on this would be helpful. The resources are for everyone, not just the wealthy.</p> <p>Third, effectively managing public land opportunities. The lack of funding and staffing for public land management agencies is a huge challenge and might be the barrier to affective management. I can only speak from my own experience, but this year I had more opportunities on public lands than I ever had in the past but had the lowest success. The lack of birds was primary reason. Other reasons include marginal managed habitat, certainly not the quality of habitat that could compete with privately managed areas. Another reason is hunter behavior, such as sky busting, it just drives birds away.</p> <p>I think it would be helpful for NC WRC to publish a white paper on what management is (or is not) occurring on the various public waterfowl areas. It would also be helpful to have some materials posted at the impoundment kiosks that discourages sky busting, shooting before legal, etc. I truly believe many hunters don't understand the ethics of hunting public lands.</p> <p>I appreciate all the the NC WRC does. The amount of public access and opportunities is awesome. I am thankful that I am able to explore this state through its public lands.</p>
28	Do away with the 2 October days for duck and add them to December
29	Do away with the 3 day early season and add it to the last split
30	<p>Do away with the early October waterfowl season and extend the 3rd split into Feb.</p> <p>Also have 100 yard rule in permitted impoundments.</p>
31	<p>Do something about guided hunts on public water. The quality of the hunt is on the decline. They are running multiple half day trips, day after day. This is blowing the birds out.</p> <p>On public game lands all hunting should be cut off at a certain time frame. The Croatan has tuesdays/saturdays/holidays. This is great, but, the roosts are being blown out and there should be a cut off time. The waterfowl need more of a break. Please, no Sunday hunting!</p> <p>I've noticed the decline of quality numbers in carteret, jones, and craven county. Honestly curious as to a no season, to see what the birds would do. Is it pressure, habitat, pollution, or coastal human populations on the rise?</p>
32	Don't listen to all the bozos that want a February season. We don't need to rape the resource anymore than we already do. Why do we have a liberal framework when numbers and habitat has looked the worst it has in decades????
33	Duck hunting is one of my greatest passions. It is the best excuse me and my buddies have to get together and spend some time together and enjoy Gods creation. I truly hope that NC wildlife helps protect our right to chase these amazing creatures as well as protect our public lands that we have access to hunt. I wish the groups of hunters that dont have respect and appreciation for the birds and dont go about the hunting the right way could get a wake up call and be taught the right way. They unfortunatley give us all a bad look and make others who dont understand hunting think we are just out there to kill pretty ducks and be a bunch of menaces. When in reality, the majority of us care about and love these birds more than anyone.
34	Duck numbers are the lowest ever and continues to decline. Areas I hunt mainly pamlico sound and albermarle. Numbers are low I have a second residence in hyde county. I am actively in these areas both hunting and fishing. We even lack resident black ducks at this point. Private Impoundment numbers are down in the area as well. Refuge is mismanaged hasn't held birds in years. Corn is all up and down the sound it's pretty obvious when a group is hunting over corn. At this point legalize it. Also nationwide the sport needs a rest. Alot a closure like DMF does on any other species. Close the season for one whole year and monitor the numbers I doubt you will see much difference in numbers. Make it lucrative make hunters apply for a permit to bait charge a premium. Turn around the funding from it and create habitat. The lack of grass and mussels do not suffice to maintain duck population corn littering the sound would be an all around benefit? We have lost an industry down east and a migration.

35	Duck season ends too early. Where I hunt on the coast, the majority of the ducks show up in February. The blue bill limit of one per person per day until mid-January makes zero sense from my perspective. The two per person per day that goes into effect the last two weeks of the season also makes no sense. I don't understand why there is such a strict limit on blue bills. There does not seem to be a shortage of blue bills from what I see.
36	duck season needs to be extended into february since ducks are showing up later and later every year
37	Ducks around here are slim and what birds we do have have a lot of pressure on them I think our season dates should run through February 15 th when the colder weather seems to really kick in and provide the elements for decent hunting
38	Due to the natural shift of seasons and migrations running later, a consideration to extend duck season to second Saturday in February seems reasonable. Add weekday rest days/no hunting throughout all segments to keep the 60 day season. Consider limits to be 1 hen max per species that do not currently have restrictions. Eliminate row crops from duck impoundments. Native plant species only to eliminate illegal broadcasting of grain and to align with past CRP success programs.
39	Either make the early teal season statewide or eliminate it. As it stands now it is unfair to all statewide waterfowl hunters. I have reviewed as many states as possible and have not found any other states where the early teal season has a regional zone. End the politics and big money of eastern NC hunting. I'm 77 and have hunted waterfowl since I was 14, mostly in eastern NC, so I know how the system works. Make hunting waterfowl in NC fair for everyone. The other issue is the early duck season in western NC. Moving the early season from early October to mid October increases the chance of losing wood ducks because of an early cold front as has happened over the past few years.
40	Either the season needs to be cut in half, or the total duck limit for all species needs to be cut in half.
41	Encouraging the removal of invasive bird species, particularly in suburban habitats, perhaps through public training and education programs focused on the regulated use of air guns and other lower-range, lower-noise control methods, could potentially benefit native bird populations.
42	END SUNDAY HUNTING PROHIBITION!!! This is an antiquated rule that should no longer exist on the books. Several East Coast states have recently overturned this rule. NC is one of the last states remaining with this rule. OPPORTUNITY is what this is about. Particularly for the youth. Not allowing Sunday hunting is severely impacting their chance to become lifetime hunters!
43	Everything needs to be pushed into February, birds were finally showing up from up north the last week of the season, but many were unable to hunt because water was frozen, even parts of the pamlico and Currituck soundsâ€ teal, general, all the splits, push it back at least a week, preferably two
44	Female ducks have to limited in daily harvest as well as Geese.
45	For inland it would be best to push the second and third wave longer. I noticed more birds migrating later November closer to the opening for the third wave. The state should also open up more opportunities publicly for the Iredell/meckleburg area for hunters without access to boats. I also think education of the residents on lake Norman in particular would be great. My group has been harassed multiple times while hunting legally.
46	Give back more days in October and use them for youth and veterans/ military hunts
47	Hard to hunt migratory birds when they start moving in late January- early February when the season ends in January, Allow hunting on Sunday so that people like myself that work a Full time job can enjoy more than 3 days a month hunting birds. Get rid of early goose season and extend to the end of February from January 1st.
48	Have hunting on Sunday
49	hi
50	How bout a law in Rowan county gets passed that you can't fish within 500 yards of my dock? I bet that would get some action
51	Hunt migratory birds on Sundays
52	Hunt on sundays!!

53	I also vote that black duck season comes in same as every other species. The Virginia border is only a mile or less from one of my hunting locations and to by knowledge Virginia has no such delay on shooting American Black Ducks.
54	I am annually a bit stunned at the liberal seasons and limits given the duck population estimates. I love to hunt, but I know we may need to sacrifice some limits or seasons to enjoy long-term excellent hunting.
55	I am hunting the western region not coastal but I would support longer segments...final end date is acceptable for goose and duck
56	I appreciate NC Wildfowl Committee members to allow its citizens hunters the opportunity to speak to these changes and WHY some specific date changes are necessary. How you capture data is always informative as well. Perhaps we will see just how many birds arrive too late in normal migration along the NC coast by considering some of my recommendations as to their merriit! Much thanks from a grateful Veteran Wounded Warrior and an old man !
57	I believe duck season should be moved back into the year. Ducks do not show up in North Carolina untill the middle of January.
58	I believe the migratory game bird season should be adjusted to better reflect bird movement patterns in our area. In my opinion, the season should extend through at least the second week of February. By that time, more birds have pushed down and hunting opportunities are generally better, especially inland. There are currently too many days allocated in November, when bird numbers and migration timing can be inconsistent. Additionally, the October days are largely ineffective for inland hunters, as bird presence is typically limited during that period. Adjusting the season to reduce early dates and extend later into February would provide more meaningful hunting opportunities and better align with actual migration trends.
59	I believe there should be a short season open for cormorants. Over the years I've noticed there population growing and the more of them the less fish we are going to have in our lakes and rivers. I believe that cormorants have practically ruined the fishing in Jordan lake and Harris lake. A small season of a few days or week or two would help a lot with keeping there population down some, this will intern help fish population not just in Jordan and Harris but any body of water that is having this cormorant infestation problem. I would recommend 3 bird limit per day. Thank you for reading this and taking this into consideration as this means a lot to me as a fisherman of two dying lakes and as a hunter of said lakes.
60	I believe we need to be allowed to hunt migratory waterfowl on Sundays. Two of our border states (Tennessee, Virginia) allow Sunday waterfowl hunting. This would not only benefit the everyday outdoorsman but the state as well. It would keep tax dollars in the state from hunters forced to travel just to get another days hunt.
61	I believe with the limited migratory opportunity in the piedmont region of NC, the daily limit of wood duck should be raised to 4 at least. The numbers are strong a many times are the only birds in the area.
62	I don't have faith that this body can't make a decision that is for the residents of the State. This body only considers money and has lost all confidence of the people. This organization needs to rebuilt from the ground up. From the bottom to the top with all new people who are not corrupt.
63	I don't see the harm at all in pushing waterfowl season slightly into February for any late season push, I just as we had this season! I will add the Pamlico sound and certain county's need to work on the "Blind laws" of public water and what is considered public to private along with the distance between blinds. It's not specific at all on exactly the rules and code of conduct when hunting the sounds
64	I drive down from PA to hunt waterfowl with my son who lives in NC a couple times a year. It would add a lot of value to the trip if we could hunt waterfowl on Sundays. It would benefit him because he works a regular Mon-Fri job.
65	I enjoyed hunting migratory birds. Thank you for the opportunity.
66	I feel that the season needs to be shortened and limit shortened to four ducks a day , No more than 2 Mallards to bring back numbers. For at least a couple years.
67	I feel the early season split in October is a waste, typically shooting local birds. I believe everyone would prefer this split done away with and the current 3rd split extended into February. When referencing the last 10 years of average temperatures by month, it is obvious February holds colder

	temps than October. Temperature is not the sole driving factor for migration but it certainly helps. The 25-26 season was a good example for this as the cold snap we received towards the end of January complete froze up the Atlantic Flyway, areas like the Chesapeake were completely locked up. This caused greater numbers of migrating birds to move in and provide one of the more exciting closing weekends we have seen in recent years. Youth hunters the following weekend had great successes because of this weather front as well. It would be nice to see the season extended into February to allow all licensed hunters to enjoy the historically colder temperatures.
68	I generally believe the dates should be pushed to the right for regular season (coastal zone) by two weeks at minimum and push into mid February. In recent past decade, Colder weather and ducks have not been arriving in numbers during regular season. As it now stands, ducks are coming and the current regular season is over.
69	I highly support changing the youth dates back to two February Saturdays
70	I hope these submitted comments are actually given careful consideration and are not treated as perfunctory waterfowl hunter feedback solicitation by the NCWRC. That would be extremely disrespectful to me and other waterfowl hunters who actually participated in this survey. I took the time out of my day to submit thoughtful, written comments and at the very least I expect them to be acknowledged by the NCWRC staff. Thank you.
71	I hunt Hyde County that currently does not have any blind laws relating to distances between hunters. This past season had quite a bit of new hunters in my area hunting from boat blinds. I had 2 run ins with Hunter groups setting up to close to my permanent shore blinds even when I had already occupied my blinds 1st. I feel the state needs to establish a state wide minimum distance between waterfowl hunters to ensure both safety and providing for a quality hunting experience. Thank you
72	I hunt the mountain counties mainly Clay, Macon and Cherokee counties. Woodcock flights can be in November through February. Most years I dont see many woodcock until February after season closes. The flights can sometimes only last a couple days. There can be different woodcock migration flights through the winter, but I see more in February. Would create more interest and opportunities for woodcock if opened through February. I found plenty during Georgia's season in the Piedmont area. I didn't fly a single woodcock in NC and probably put on 80 miles during the grouse/woodcock season. Only flew 7 grouse all season. Would be nice to have woodcock on the menu through February. I live on the GA / NC border.
73	I know our legislature doesn't believe in global warming and no one else seems to even though my jungles are now blooming a month earlier when I used to find morels in May I now find them in March and I mean I was out and for the first time in years, I got to see canvas bags redheads thousands of ducks flying in the lake Mattamuskeet in February. They don't even come in till they let end of January 1 February and because it doesn't get cold up north anymore so they stay up north mallards, black ducks, whistling, ducks, all the ducks there were no teal in September. I don't know who you're talking to, but I went out six times and there were none but what do I know .
74	I know September teal season is typical but I do wonder if it is too early for us. Lots of teal here on the 2 day October season. Wouldn't mind shifting September back into half of October.
75	I know you have a lot to consider - please focus on our youth. Let's drive them to want a tackle box, not an Xbox!. The more access we give to youth and the more they feel "special" with additional access dates or bag/size limits, the better. Lee
76	I like the coastal season and think that should be the season for all of NC. There's no need for zones with it only being a week different. Veteran and youth days should be done away with. Those days were not allowed during my youth and I got to hunt as much and more than some adults I hunted with. If they are allowed more days then people who have full time jobs should get two extra days so they can hunt more too.
77	I personally don't think my comments or any others really matter or sway anything. I believe this is what the Commission wants and has already decided.
78	I really hope Sunday waterfowl hunting is a topic that is being considered again, public land is one thing and I am all for the restriction. But a guy with a small duck impoundment on his farm should be able to pick the best weather day of Saturday and Sunday to duck hunt his farm, versus being forced to only hunt on Saturdays, especially for the working man that cant hunt during the week. Best,

79	<p>I respectfully request that the NCWRC restore the two Youth and Veteran Waterfowl Hunting Days to the two Saturdays immediately following the close of the regular duck season.</p> <p>Late-season conditions provide the best opportunity for successful hunts due to increased migration, colder weather, and more consistent bird movement. Because federal frameworks do not allow the regular season to extend further into February, these youth and veteran days are one of the only ways to provide access to the most productive portion of the season.</p> <p>Splitting the days between December and February, as occurred this past season, reduced the value of one of these opportunities and worked against the original intent of youth and veteran hunting days. Consolidating both days after the regular season would better support participation, success, and mentorship without increasing harvest pressure.</p>
80	I support Saturday opener for dove season to give birds a break and a second opportunity to shoot Monday (Labor Day)
81	<p>I support Sunday hunting being allowed.</p> <p>Reduce duck limits from 6 to 4 6 bird limit shoots mainly only possible if hunting an impoundment. Duck hunting now a rich man's sport</p>
82	<p>I support the bag limit for Canada Geese being 2 for the Northeast Hunt Zone during the late season. Additionally, is there a basis for having an inland and coastal zone? There is very minuscule differences between their seasons so what benefit is it bringing to the waterfowl and hunters? This just seems to bring confusion that is unnecessary and I think it should be changed back to a single state season and not split into those particular zones.</p>
83	<p>I think it is time to reduce bag limits of all species, especially Wood Ducks. They are hammered. I've been hunting waterfowl since 1995. I have watched these birds almost disappear. Most every early season impoundment used to have hundreds of birds. We typically harvested 30-40 per season. Now there are a few at best even on closed portions of the season. It's sad. Pressure is high on all game-lands. Stopping hunting at 1 like would be a great thought like it used to be on some game-lands. I've seen more rallying and law breaking in the evenings than ever before. Listening to people shoot birds well after legal hours. It's disheartening. With so much pressure, birds don't roost on game lands like they used to. There's somebody waiting behind every tree. Protect the resource, give the birds a break. Hunters clearly cannot self regulate.. Thanks!</p>
84	<p>I think the avian diseases have played a major role in the decline of migratory birds we are seeing. This year was the absolute worst in my 36 yrs . Ducks and geese are not showing up liked they did 5 & 10 yrs ago. Our resident birds are conditioned on the lakes not to leave the yards nor the golf course. This 2025 season in December & January finally got cold like it was in the 90s™ and the migration was more consistent. However the migration did not to mount to anything here in the piedmont area. Don't know how the coast guys did. They could have a different story.</p> <p>I do know New Jersey was lacking in ducks all year. Maryland had few ducks and lots of geese. Virginia I got mixed reviews. Biologist need to figure out soon what is the cause.</p>
85	<p>I think the duck season should run through the first week of February. That's when the birds and weather got here this year 25-26 for good hunting. Also the population of comrats seems very over populated if there is away to be able to take some of them to thin the population that be amazing.</p>
86	I think we should be able to hunt Sunday.
87	<p>I wish the October season was the first weekend in October, especially coastal zone as we generally still have blue wing teal then. Otherwise it is just a wood duck shoot.</p> <p>I would welcome all other dates.</p>
88	<p>I would be interested to see the state seek opinions on proximity to hunting draw/permit waterfowl areas, particularly those in the coastal region. I understand that the waters surrounding many of these areas are public, however hunting the dykes or hunting from a boat up against the dykes to these permit areas can present an issue to the individuals who drew a permit on the inside of the waterfowl area. The individuals who have been awarded a permit have spent money on applying for the permit(s), took time off work, spent money on gas, travel, and sometimes lodging to hunt these areas. Then others who weren't awarded these permits set-up shop</p>

	<p>directly on the edge of the waterfowl area taking shots at birds that are being worked inside the waterfowl area or trying to get inside the waterfowl area, therefore flaring many of these birds. The waterfowl area (or impoundment) is an area designated to not only provide a quality hunting experience to the public land hunter but decent habitat and rest area to the migrating waterfowl. This also can allow for more even pressure on these birds. But if people are setting up in very close proximity to these impoundments, it creates an issue to those who've actually invested time and resources to getting to that impoundment, decreases the hunting experience, and decreases their ability to make quality harvests on the birds. Not only that, I would be inclined to believe that the added pressures on the exterior of these impoundments affect birds willingness to work and fly during huntable hours adding unreasonable pressure to these migrating birds.</p> <p>Maybe a solution could be creating no hunting within 300-500yd of these waterfowl areas that are permit draws.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and commitment to trying to make waterfowl hunting in NC an enjoyable experience for all.</p>
89	<p>I would like to propose a 30 or 45 day season which I understand hurts guides that duck hunt to pay their bills. What I would like to propose is a 10 day season including Sunday's where the hunter chooses his 10 days of hunting in the 60 day season by calling in on the day he chooses.</p> <p>There are lots of talks about corn and flooded corn and in my opinion this is not helping or hurting the duck hunting in nc but in my opinion with the law planting corn and intentionally flooding it is the same as baiting waterfowl. I am mainly 100 percent a diver hunter so this corn talk does not bother me more than an opinion.</p>
90	<p>I would like to see NC inland game land waterfowl hunting limited to a 12:00 hunting cut off and a 25 shell limit (one box). I believe this would help reduce hunting pressure. Individuals routinely roost hunt and shoot after legal shooting. In January, given cold temperatures and ducks flying later...extending the cut off until 2 could be okay.</p>
91	<p>I would like to see the ability to bait for ducks. There's no difference than flooding 10 acres of corn or rice or wheat. The duck population is week in north Carolina because of flooded food. Either flooding crops needs to stop or legalize the use of bait. Ducks dont wanna go south when there's thousands of acres of flooded food all over the north. Changes need to be made. Not season changes.</p>
92	<p>I would love to learn about on going studies, and how to help.</p>
93	<p>I would love to see the 3 day October split remain in place as it is a great opportunity to harvest migrating wood ducks.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
94	<p>I would suggest taking another day during the week like Wednesday or Thursday and making it where you cannot waterfowl hunt in order to lessen the amount of pressure on the birds and add those days to increase the November season.</p>
95	<p>I'll actually never understand who comes up with the changes you all make. Everyone gets acclimated to the normal rules and regulations, then someone new comes along to make a name for themselves and starts making changes that just puts ripples in the normal calm lake. Youth needs to go back to under 18 and put both youth days back in February. I'm pretty certain my comments will not make a difference, but at least I made one. I'm speaking on behalf of about 20 wildlife precipitants.</p>
96	<p>I'm just a small voice! But I know several people that feel the same way. I live in western NC. And the ducks always show up a week or two after season. If we get lucky and get a big front coming out of the west it will push some ducks down. But that never happens until the last week of season or after. I'm tired of paying thousands of dollars to go hunt out of state. And of course this state will never get the amount of ducks that other states will but it would really be nice to stay home and hunt when the ducks actually get here. Please excuse the grammar. Thanks</p>
97	<p>If you're not hunting the coast, the waterfowl always show up at the end of the season. The late season should be pushed back a week, if not two. The other two seasons should also be pushed back a week for a better chance at birds.</p>
98	<p>In general, I find waterfowl hunting in NC very challenging. Of course the game birds are hard enough to hunt, but the regulations are a total pain because it is very confusing to figure out what is open and when. Please step back and look at the regs/seasons thru the lense of an outsider and do anything possible to make it easy to</p>

	understand. Also, the regulations on how close you can be to docks, buildings, boats, etc needs to be made very clear. That is the #1 contributor to angst and confrontations on the water. The regs are almost completely void of any mention of that.
99	In my experience seasons and bag limits are appropriate. As a resident DIY hunter, opening Sundays to Waterfowl hunting would effectively double the length of my season. If there is biological support for opening Sunday hunting, even if it shortened the overall season, I would support that. Thanks
100	In my opinion and experience the seasons would be better for hunters to have them roll into February, and if the wealthy have means to flood fields for ducks baiting should be allowed for others.
101	In my opinion, general duck season needs to be moved back 2-3 weeks from the ending date of Jan 31st. The reason I believe it should be moved back, at least in my area and typical hunting grounds is due to local impoundments in eastern NC. These impoundments hold birds very heavily until they run out of food, obviously. I think if these dates were pushed back and birds were given the chance to migrate even 45 minutes further south, it would give hunters a chance at some larger birds rather than local wood ducks.
102	increase scaup limit to 2 til Jan 9, then increase to 3 per person
103	Instead of an October season, add those days to the first weekend in February.
104	It increasingly feels like each year the voices that carry the most weight in Raleigh are those of coastal waterfowl hunters. Meanwhile, hunters in the western part of the state particularly west of Burke County are left dealing with season structures that simply do not reflect our reality. There may be fewer of us in the mountains, but we are just as invested in waterfowl conservation and just as passionate about the tradition. The current three-split season structure is especially frustrating for western hunters and makes it unnecessarily difficult to plan time afield, introduce new hunters, or maintain consistent participation Many of us would gladly support a simple, continuous 60-day season running roughly from mid-November through mid-January. That kind of structure better aligns with migration patterns in the mountains and would greatly improve hunting opportunity. Unfortunately, that option never seems to be seriously considered for our region. If western hunters are going to be forced into an October seasons often before birds are truly present then at the very least we should be given the opportunity to hunt during the first week of October, as was allowed in the past. That approach worked better for our area and provided a more meaningful opportunity than the current framework.
105	It makes more sense as a small game hunter, to allow dove season to run into the end of squirrel and other small game seasons.
106	It's extremely outdated to still have no Sunday hunting in this state. It's been proven many times over it is ineffective and could never work in our favor since every other state around us allows it. Get with the times and stop telling us when we can hunt in which days.
107	It's typically too hot during the October season cancel it and add those days to the November season
108	Just do things like Virginia does and all the work people in nc can have two days to hunt let us hunt on Sunday like Virginia
109	Just want season pushed back so we can hunt February that way we can hunt when the birds are showing up a February season would be loved by many. And also make draw hunts in flooded food because I hunt a draw that was flooded corn but I couldn't tell there was any corn.
110	Keep up the good work!
111	LAST 5 YEARS BIRD MIGRATING LATER EARLY NOVEMBER A WASTE EXCEPT FOR WOOD DUCKS BEEN HUNTING 50 YEARS HERE SEEN UPS AND DOWNS THE LAST 5 YEARS LESS DUCKS EACH YEAR... DUCKS SHOWED WITH WEATHER LAST OF SEASON I THINK USA SHOULD SHORTEN THE SEASON TO 45 DAYS AND CUT LIMIT TO 4I REMEMBER A 30 DAY SEASON WAY BACK WHEN ... NEED TO MANAGE NOW BEFORE IT GETS WORSE ALREADY BAD I THINK THE BEST HUNTING IS SEA DUCKS NOW BUT GETTING ALOT MORE PRESSURE THERE

	AND NOT SURE HOW MANY ACTUALLY GET EATEN ,,,, SHOULD REALLY JACK UP FINES FOR STATE HUNTING LAWS...HIRE MORE GAME WARDENS WITH IT NORTHERN STATES GET BIG MONEY FOR BIG GAME VIOLATORS THERE IS ALOT OF BAITING GO ON FEDERAL LEVEL FOR FINES AND SHOW SOME PROSECUTIONS
112	<p>Lengthen september teal, birds are here and gone so quick and there isn't much chance to get them with a 1 week season. I'd also be in favor of moving it earlier in september possibly the weekend after dove opener or even the week of</p> <p>Allow the harvest of black ducks earlier in the November split. A good majority of puddle ducks I see are black ducks and the population seems to be stable if not growing. You could also possibly have a limit change after a certain date like there is for bluebills. Maybe 1 black duck per day in the November split and it goes to 2 in the final split to accommodate for the extra time in harvest.</p> <p>Not a game bird but something really needs to be done about cormorants. They are out of control</p>
113	<p>Let us hunt on Sundays!!!!</p> <p>Most other states allow waterfowl hunting. Others have been changing this to allow Sunday hunting. Are you trying to restrict hunter access? Why?</p> <p>Separation of church and state right? Who do we sue for our rights being violated? NC wildlife? Please respond to let me know so I can.</p> <p>I really do want an explanation to this and for this topic to be publicly addressed. I'm sure it won't be though.</p>
114	Like to see our 4 day October season back at the beginning of October of NE/NC. Take some December dates is need be!
115	Limiting the managed waterfowl impoundments to two days a week (and holidays), with one of those days being in the middle of the work week results in those impoundments being overrun with hunters on Saturdays. It would be great to open those impoundments for at least one additional day per week, preferably Sundays to provide waterfowlers without a boat or permit draw, and those that have to work during the week, with an additional opportunity to hunt ducks in eastern NC. It could also alleviate some of the over crowding on Saturdays. Full disclosure, this was my first year hunting those NC impoundments, but every time I went was the same story. Additionally, having seasons that don't match other states would not only provide additional hunting opportunities for waterfowlers in the region, but it may also encourage more hunters from neighboring states to purchase hunting licenses from multiple states to increase the number of days they can hunt, which would also result in more revenue for NC and neighboring states' wildlife agencies.
116	Lots of seniors like myself don't have many years left. Any extra days like youth and veterans have would be greatly appreciated.
117	Make a one week season in November and add the days on later in the season
118	Make the wood duck limit more than 3 birds
119	Need more and better management of public areas for duck hunting, increase blue bill limit to 3 and then 6 after a certain date. Less hunts available for the permit only areas to allow more birds to come in and to allow hunters to be able to harvest more birds on those hunts, allow baiting in a specific time frame and in that time frame allow limits on totally harvest of birds for a day. So for example, 6 teal per day so if the specific baiting season if 1 month so 30 days then hunters could shoot 180 teal in one day or spread out through the season example 30 one day 60 the next and 90 on the last day of split. Allso allow rotational hunting on no hunt allowed refuges to allow birds to not get comfortable in one area for so long, gets birds to move around and allows hunters better hunts.
120	Need to extend duck season longer due to early season being unsuccessful
121	No to Sunday Hunting
122	North Carolina water fowl isn't great already, taking away 21 days out of teal season doesn't help anything when do we ducks don't even show up till almost the end of January. At least teal are here during September and allow coastal hunters to chase after birds of quality rather than having to shoot mergansers 45 out of the 60 days

123	Northeastern Canada Goose Zone. Would like to see it at 2 geese a day. Having a 1 bird limit, limits hunters opportunity to go and target geese. I would be willing to bet most geese are shot while targeting ducks. Setting a 2 bird limit would allow hunters to target geese.
124	Not enough emphasis on small game in NC If it's not deer or bear it gets no support Sad
125	Not sure if you control the state run hunting days in Currituck marsh however back when the hunting days were Wednesdays and Saturdays, it seemed there was much more success on both days than the current Friday Saturday. It is too much pressure back to back days not only that most kids can only hunt Saturdays so they're getting penalized by going behind all the general hunters on Friday. If you have a say in it would love to see it go back to Wednesday Saturdays.
126	Oh, when will be there any precautions taken for the amount of cormorants in the new trailer? I have seen hundreds of thousands of them, and they're absolutely demolishing the fish population. They eat 3 to 4 pounds of fish or day, usually juveniles. Please bring this to the attention of any applicable authority.
127	Open hunting on Sunday
128	OPEN SEASON ON CORMORANTS. THEY NEED TO BE CONTROLLED. TOO MANY. DEPLETING FISH STOCKS. HURTING WATER QUALITY.
129	Open Sunday hunting remove September teal season and October dates. We do not have the birds on a typical year to make those dates viable to the majority of hunters. Adding Sundays would boost the economy in areas that are commonly visited for waterfowl hunting. Those extra days during the season are wasted during September when no one are traveling to areas where waterfowl are expected to be.
130	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting
131	Open Sunday waterfowl hunting in the State of NC to allow the working class to be able to enjoy the season. Rejoin the youth/vet days back to consecutive weekends first of February.
132	Open waterfowl hunting on Sundays as other states have done.
133	Open waterfowl hunting on Sundays.
134	Our duck season goes out to early I don't see ducks until late January hunting the Yasmin chain seems like once season goes out there are birds here when I hunt October through December feels like I am just wasting money the people that seem to kill ducks are just baiting
135	Over the past few seasons, I've noted fewer doves in NC. We generally hunt Sampson County and Harnett County. Perhaps by regulating the seasons, for example, opening dove season on the Saturday before Labor Day, might be helpful. Granted, the Federal Government will not open the season on a Saturday before Labor Day that falls in the month of August, but maybe the NCWSC could lobby on behalf of hunters to change the law. Thank you,
136	Overall duck hunting inland areas is not managed well. Rules are spread across multiple sections of the regulation book and make it complicated to understand. Recommend a single section containing all waterfowl rules similar to deer regulations. Permit draw hunts are not managed well. Other hunters camped overnight on the roost in the impoundment making any success for other permit holders challenging. Recommend better enforcement or remove permit hunts and rules that are not enforced. Any public gameland with a primary waterway or swamp should be authorized for waterfowl hunting. Customer service agents follow the chart in the regulation book which shows no waterfowl hunting for Uwharrie National Forest although there is an impoundment, river and lake.
137	Overall ncwrc has done a great job with setting seasons. Only exception is it would be nice to be able to hunt doves during waterfowl splits. Also I hope we never add sundays to migratory bird hunting. It is nice to have a day off to be with family. I know the data does not support a rest day beneficial to birds but it is great for humans.
138	Overall seasons are good only thing would be nice to hunt on Sundays. I would rather lose a day mid week like Wednesday.

139	<p>Please actively manage for woodcock with simple selective cuts in the hardwoods on coastal plain. There's so much that can be done to benefit them on their journey south and back north by offering a variety of habitats. Also, would benefit the quail.</p> <p>I don't care about waterfowl. Public duck impoundments are a waste of funds. They provide little actual opportunity other than saying "I went". I don't know anyone that enjoys hunting public duck impoundments regularly. The notion that everything has to be planted is a shame when you can manage for some migratory species like doves by simply burning areas.</p> <p>So much time could be saved for technicians if they didn't have to spend over half the burn days planting a fertilizing food plots, dove fields, and impoundments.</p>
140	Please allow the late season to extend thru mid February,,, Ducks are showing up later and later every yr,,, I would like to hunt when it gets cold
141	Please change the october season to 3 or 4 days for coastal and move it to earlier in october. There are alot of birds that are missed as it is now right at the end of october. matching it with the inland would be perfect. Thanks!
142	<p>Please consider adding more hunting days at public waterfowl impoundments. Surely most could handle at least 3 days a week. Monday Wednesday Friday or Tuesday Thursday Saturday</p> <p>Thanks for considering my input. As a 71 year old who has hunted over 50 years I have seen many changes. Waterfowl hunting is my favorite, but most public waterfowl hunting in NC has gone downhill. Hopefully this will change for the better in the future. Sincerely, SB</p>
143	Please consider encouraging the take of invasive mute swan.
144	Please consider ending the hunting day one hour before sunset during the first two segments of the waterfowl season. Except at the coast, we are hunting wood ducks at this time and they should be allowed to return to the roost safely during the last hour of the day.
145	Please consider moving Woodcock season back a few weeks.
146	Please consider starting the duck season later on in December. The majority of birds show up after the season ends and most hunters only go on the weekends. I sometimes believe this is due to weather but it seems as though with cold weather coming in every year doesn't always mean the birds migrate with each cold front.
147	Please consider Sunday hunting.
148	<p>Please consider this change for the upcoming season as a trial to see if it works out. If you don't try, you will never know. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>MG Kerr Lake Ducks Unlimited</p>
149	Please extend late goose season back into the second week of February.
150	Please include Sunday hunting for migratory birds. In order to spread and grow the hunting culture with children and those interested in the outdoors we must allow for Sunday migratory bird hunting. Most fathers work all week and only have 1 days to get their children out in the field with the current setup. This is not acceptable if we want to pass our hunting traditions down to the next generation.
151	Please lift the regulatory prohibition against hunting migratory birds on Sundays.
152	Please make the data in GoOutdoors online without use of the app, so much data is hidden in the tool
153	PLEASE move the October coastal duck season back a week like the inland season! Anybody who actively hunts the coastal area that season knows what I'm talking about. There is no sensible reason to have it different
154	Please open the season earlier and let it run longer, especially for Canada Goose.
155	Please reduce limits and season length for all waterfowl. The number have really decreased in the inland zone. I would strongly prefer to see more birds on most hunts than have one or two average hunts.

156	<p>PLEASE RESTORE THE TWO YOUTH/VETERANS HUNTING DAYS TO THE 2 SATURDAYS AFTER THE REGULAR SEASON ENDS.</p> <p>This past season you had one youth/vet weekend during the December split (it was 6 Dec this past season), and the second youth/military weekend on the Saturday (7 Feb) after the season ended.</p> <p>As we all know, the later into the winter we can hunt, the more success we will have. The Feds will never allow the regular season to be extended later into February, so we lost potentially one of the best hunting weekends we might see.</p> <p>BJK</p>
157	<p>Private duck impoundments need to be disbanded and unlawful to operate. They have a detrimental effect on hunting opportunities on public lands.</p>
158	<p>Proposing all seasons push to later. Cut out Oct, start November later and shorter. Make December and Jan priority. Weather never pushes birds down from the North till end of January.</p>
159	<p>Provide better food sources in your Gameland impoundments especially inland areas. Also review soil conditions, planting of appropriate grains and fertilization rates for them to mature.</p>
160	<p>Public hunting opportunity in the inland zones has only deteriorated over time. Current structure depends on limiting the number of days at certain hot-spots (e.g., Jordan, Butner, Harris) but does so ineffectively. The pressure on these zones and their surrounding impoundments are too great to sustain healthy bird populations.</p> <p>Over the past few years, I've seen less and less migratory birds and only resident wood ducks as the season progresses. This is a result of too much pressure which is preventing migratory birds from roosting in said hot-spots.</p> <p>To improve the hunting experience for all, certain areas need to be established as refuges that have a reduced hunting cadence or policed warden presences to limit poaching. Other areas could greatly benefit from a "draw" structure that reduces the pressure on certain areas of optimal habitat within the pre-defined days. Permit opportunities were designed to this end, but many of the permitted zones do not hold water on a consistent year-to-year basis. It brings to question both the effectiveness of the current system and the ethics around charging individuals for a permitted hunt at a "non-huntable" location.</p> <p>I've drawn permits in the past and have seen instances where non-permitted individuals still hunt or trespass past locked gates due to the known lack of a warden presence. Simply adding cell cameras at access points and requesting plate information on permit applications could greatly reduce this.</p> <p>These suggestions would be useful tools in improving the hunter experience and bird populations throughout the entirety of the season. This is unfortunately a dying sport, and I hate to see it further diminish when we can address some of the problems mentioned here.</p>
161	<p>Push for federal and state wide across the country for a 30 day 3 bird season. To assist and revamp the duck numbers. Also commercial guiding has got out of hand to many people paying to kill ducks instead of actually hunting, this in reference to country wide not just local to the state. Do something so our children can still enjoy waterfowling 50-100 plus years from now. There has been virtually no change to the frameworks the last 25 plus years and it shows in conjunction with the lack of rain in praries for several seasons and lack of winter. Calander birds have been on a constant decline.</p>
162	<p>Push the dates back for birds. Early doesn't do anything other than make me sweat.</p>
163	<p>Put restrictions on for hide guides on public waterways. They do no good for the resource and hunt every single day. Take action of this matter before it's too late.</p>
164	<p>Put the entire county in the inland or coastal zone instead of parts of the county in one zone and the other part in another zone</p>
165	<p>Quality public waterfowling opportunities are limited in central NC. Can NCWRC encourage additional opportunities at locations like Randleman Reservoir or Pee Dee NWR?</p>

	NCWRC can increase waterfowling opportunity by returning to 3-days-per-week on permitted hunting locations.
166	Received 2 lottery managed hunt permits on impoundments. The impoundments were not flooded. Waste of \$20. You need to "manage" the hunts.
167	Remove restrictions for migratory bird hunting on Sundays.
168	Responsibilities prevent me, my children, and many sportsmen from the option to hunt any day but Saturday given the restriction of no Sunday hunting. I would choose the better day based on weather and on occasion may hunt both but overall it would be less about increasing my chances, but rather to offer flexibility to choose. Currently myself and many hunters will leave to go waterfowl hunt out of state to take advantage of a weekend with more hunting opportunity than here. I hope there will be a consideration for opening Sunday waterfowl hunting in NC.
169	Restrict hunters to 25 shells on NCWRC posted waterfowl impoundmnts. To much "sky busting" of high flying ducks. This is casing cripples and loss of birds that could have been cleanly killed. This has been a problem NCWRC public impoundments for years. All impoundments. (Goose Creek, Suggs Millpond etc.) I would like to see the option of more blinds for public impoundments as well. (like Spring Creek) If an individual wants to apply for a designated blind let them apply for just that blind. EX. Campbell Creek #1 leave open for hunters to go as they please. Campbell Creek #2 have designated blinds. You can apply for one or the other but not both.
170	Same as previous comments
171	Saw the most ducks this year I've seen in a while. Always good to see that.
172	Sea Duck protections must be enhanced. Especially in the Pamlico Sound and surrounding rivers and tributaries.
173	Season needs to extend past January and the state impoundment hunts need to be planted with food and flooded properly instead of me wasting my money to get drawn for one and get there and there's no water or food planted it's ridiculous so that's the reason I don't apply for them anymore and if you did it properly it would hold birds better for NC
174	Season should end no earlier than February 28th. Season should start 30 days later and end 30 days later.
175	Seasons are ok except the October season, which is unnecessary, and the youth day in between early/late seasons. Bag limits need to be reduced to support overall duck population improvements.
176	seasons should begin and end as close to and include as many weekends as possible. This gives working people aka. the taxpayers funding all of this, more chance to hunt.
177	See previous comment..... Reduce length of season and increase daily limit, still allowing control of total harvest.
178	See previous comments
179	Seems as if our migrators shiw up the very last week of season or right after season closes
180	Separate the youth and veterans hunting days. Don't schedule youth and veterans days together. That pits the youth having to compete against possibly adult seasoned hunters. Youth Days should give the kids a chance to hunt and not have to compete with adults carrying shotguns and hunting too. Let the kids have their time out not having to hunt against adults. It isn't "YOUTH" days when they have to go up against seasoned hunters. Have separate days for kids !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
181	Separate youth and veterans days the best possible way , the youth hunt days should be the first 2 Saturdays in February just like how it used to be
182	Shooting hours are good. We get a lot of our birds coming in around January-February and we need to be able to hunt later into February to allow us the best opportunities our state has to offer. The goose limit could be expanded to 10 per person during the regular season though. I wouldn't be opposed to having check in stations at all the public lands to help with poachers.

	<p>Open up a season for cormorants in December or January so we can start to curb their harm on our local waterways.</p> <p>Put a 200 yard distance requirement for the entire state on public waters for anyone setting up from another person who arrived first.</p> <p>Better crackdown on private land baiting is necessary.</p>
183	Should only be one split, for 10 days. Sunday hunting restrictions must be removed. this is archaic and detrimental to working class families. It also severely reduces the ability for children to learn to hunt. North Carolina needs to stop hurting the growth of the sport, and start using hunting regulations and dates that align with the 21st century.
184	Specie limit reviews continue to be critical in the management of the harvest. Scaup populations have been a concern for several years.
185	Start the season later so the migratory ducks will move down when the cold weather hits up north.
186	Stop allowing walkers with no hunting license and no permit to walk on public gameland during hunting season. At minimum make them wear orange or pay for a permit. If they are not hunting, no reason to be on gameland. They create an unsafe hunting environment and manipulate the game. Something needs to be done to benefit hunters and wildlife. How much national park land is there to walk on where you cannot hunt? They have plenty of opportunity to walk. A hunters opportunity to hunt is dwindling.
187	Strongly support Sunday hunting option for migratory game birds in NC.
188	Sunday hunting for ducks is overdue
189	Sunday hunting for migratory birds needs to be added in North Carolina. In recent seasons, a few other longstanding no-Sunday states in the Atlantic Flyway have allowed Sunday hunting (PA and DE) to match the VAST majority of the country. Rumor has it Maryland will be allowing Sunday hunting for '26-'27. It's obviously not a question of biology if almost every other state allows Sunday hunting. This is a direct violation of separation of church and State, and prevents most people with "normal" jobs from hunting all weekend. Personally, it would effectively double my opportunity to hunt as a person with a "normal" job. I hunted waterfowl on Sunday in Virginia and Washington this year. States that allow Sunday hunting no doubt see an increase in license sales because an out of state trip becomes more "worth it" for a full weekend of hunting. It's time to get with the times!
190	Sunday Hunting needs to happen. Big majority of the states have it. The season is 60 days regardless. Make the rest day on a Wednesday or something instead. People who worry a 9-5 would enjoy being able to hunt more than once a week.
191	Sunday hunting should be allowed
192	Take away the first split and extend the 3rd split into February which seems to be when most of our ducks arrive
193	Thanks for all that you do. Please take into account the migration dates are all delayed do to the warming trend and the season dates should be adjusted accordingly.
194	<p>Thanks for soliciting input.</p> <p>I realize that states must follow the Federal framework.</p> <p>My feeling</p> <p>Bring the 3rd season back in sooner than December 17th. Do that by either having the 2nd season start later and/or eliminating the October season</p> <p>... is based on the fact that our birds are generally not here until mid to late November. I further believe we are using up valuable hunting dates in October, just to potentially shoot a few local Wood ducks and/or Teal.</p>
195	Thanks for your efforts on providing proposals for these dates.
196	Thankyou for this opportunity. This past dove season a friend of mine and myself put in a dove field. Corn, sunflower and millet. About 10 days out from opening day we started bush hogging the stuff we had planted

	<p>along with the surrounding field we did not plant. I read in the carolina sportsmen magazine that you could top sew with wheat so we did a strip of that as well. I had about 3 lbs of left over millet seed from the spring planting left over and figured if you could top sew wheat you should be ok to mix in the millet. I know now that was wrong. Game wardens showed up first morning and gave me and my friend tickets for using millet saying we baited the field. That was never our intention. They reference a planting chart on the Ag commissions web site that they go by. After literally 2 days of searching I stumbled on the chart by doing a Google search. I never found it on the Ags website to this day. The regulation book we get when we purchase our license mentions normal agricultural process or operations. I challenge you to find that on the Ags web site..I looked. I realize now why we were wrong and im not arguing that point. Nor am I down on the officers for doing there job but if they are going to write a ticket for using the wrong seed at a given time of year then that information should be easier to find. A simple reference of the seeding chart in the regulations book would have avoided alot of mix up. I also looked at the US fish and wildlife web site which gave mention of the seeding rates, types, and times based off of your local ags recommendations but you still have to know there's a chart somewhere to go by. I know now but still can only Google it and look through the results for a pdf to open. This truly doesn't seem like the correct way to put information out to hunters knowing there will be tickets wrote for information that isnt in the regulations book and very difficult to find especially when you don't know there's a seeding chart to start with. Pages and pages are given for trout fishing or bear hunting and dove, a federal regulated bird, gets all of what 2 pages with critical information missing? I and every hunter who dove hunts or puts in dove field deserve to have clear regulations and information as to were to find the necessary facts to make informed decisions. A simple link to the chart would have been wonderful. Thanks for all your and your officers hard work.</p>
197	<p>The ban on Sunday hunting is an outdated blue law that restricts working class hunters. It is unfortunate that half of the days most people have off are closed for waterfowl hunting. Following the 2017 Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act, 51 NC made some progress in expanding opportunity but more can and must be done to continue to increase opportunities for hunters.</p>
198	<p>The birds are not here. They're held up north or switched flyways. Worst season in nine years.</p>
199	<p>the birds get here late in jan season goes out when hunting gets good</p>
200	<p>The duck and goose hunting in 2025 on my property in Camden was disgraceful. There were not any ducks or geese on my lake where I hunt. Disappointing!</p>
201	<p>The duck season in North Carolina should extend at least two weeks into February because northern states are increasingly using ice eaters and other water management techniques to keep birds from migrating south as early as they once did. These artificial open-water areas allow ducks to stay farther north well into January, which means large numbers of birds don't reach North Carolina until late in the season. By the time they finally push down, our season is closing or already over. Extending the season would align North Carolina's hunting opportunities with the modern migration patterns that are being delayed by these northern management practices and warmer winters. This adjustment would create a fair opportunity for hunters here while keeping our regulations consistent with current waterfowl behavior.</p>
202	<p>The federal frame work does not state that there is a need for a delay opening on black ducks. It would be better if they were opened along with all the other duck species. I have seen too often from other hunters the harvesting of black ducks before they open and then just discarding them in the marsh. This is a wasted resource and places a lot of pressure on those remaining before they can be legally harvested.</p> <p>Please keep the hybrid scaup season. These ducks are the dominant harvest in many coastal gunners bags in the later part of the season.</p> <p>Please just open the hunting of waterfowl on Sundays already. This is an antiquated blue law with no grounds in scientific reasoning.</p>
203	<p>the feds allow for the black duck season be the full 60 day. give us the full season so that the ones that are killed don't get stuck in the mud.</p> <p>move the coastal October season back to the middle of the month.</p> <p>make the October season the same across the state. The way it is gives the western folks to extra days to hunt.</p>

	Most hunters go east to hunt not west in the state. and most of the people in the west have places to hunt in the east.
204	The general season should come in December 1st and go out the second week of February. The next two Saturdays in February should be veteran/youth day. Thank you
205	The Jan 31 latest closing day needs to be moved to Feb 14 here.
206	The military and youth days need to moved back to the first two Saturdays in February, especially since we don't even have any ducks till then. it provides more opportunity for young hunters to be successful. Also the public/permit impoundments are a disaster, there's no excuse any of the impoundments should be dry or have no food source during the hunting season especially when we are the ones paying for them.
207	The N.C. general duck season would be enhanced greatly if we could have 10 days from November season moved to the first ten days of February.
208	<p>The number of people purchasing duck stamps decreases each year. A good option to try to increase the duck hunters is to allow hunting on Sunday. NC is one of the only states in the USA that does not allow waterfowl hunting on Sunday. Why is that?</p> <p>As i get older and have more responsibilities, I have less time during the week to hunt. Hunting on the weekends is some of the only hunting that I am able to participant. I feel not allowing hunting on Sunday's is a disservice to all NC residence.</p> <p>Thank you WN</p>
209	<p>The October duck season is pointless for most hunters. Basically only shooting our resident wood ducks and that's it. I would like to see NC move this two day hunt to in-between the November December split.</p> <p>Also limiting us in the north east hunt zone to 1 goose a day ruins hunting them at all. No one is loading up all their gear and hunting geese in a field for 1 goose. Why do this when we know populations are more than healthy and if I drive 13 miles from my house magically I'm allowed five since I crossed a road.</p>
210	The season should go into Febuary there are no ducks in early or even late November. The blue bill limit should also be higher you see more blue bills than any other ducks in nc yet you can only shoot 1 for most of the year makes no sense they aren't hurting in population they just dont get here until february even march some years.
211	<p>The state provides limited public hunting opportunities that are often poorly managed. I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday. There is no scientific evidence that indicates not hunting on Sunday reduces pressure on birds. Six days of hunting is no less pressure than 7 days. With no scientific basis for this framework, the only reason it remains is due to social pressure derived from religious motives. Many hunters openly state this. These motives should not be a part of how natural resources are maintained. Also, in my opinion we should not have an October season as it is still too early to have good hunting opportunities in NC. I also don't think splitting the state into two zones meets the intended goal of increasing hunting opportunities. I think adding Sundays would serve this goal much batter. If two zones are used, the respective splits should take place in the main part of the season, Nov-Jan. I would like to see the season be the last two weeks on November, 15 days, with the remaining 45 days being the last 45 available days in the current federal framework. This would make the last spit start on the same says and the November split starting 8 days later. It would add 8 Sundays to the season that would provide more opportunity to hunters that can only hunt on weekends. Game lands with 3 day a week structures for waterfowl hunting should be arranged with some game lands open on Sundays. For example Tues, Thurs, Sat for some game lands and Wed, Fri, Sun for others or something similar. Also, game lands that are in close proximity to each other should be on alternating schedules to maximize hunting opportunities in those area.</p> <p>I do not support the change to J Morgan Futch and Texas Plantation moving to one day a week. I think this decision was based on a flawed survey and defeats the purpose of providing hunters with more hunting opportunities. This is the second year I was not drawn for either unit and since I was not selected I will not receive the survey the manager of those impoundments sends out. The results will be skewed because of this. The hunters selected may report that they are satisfied but those that were not select are likely unsatisfied but they will not receive that survey. That survey should be sent to, at least, everyone that submitted to the drawing and realistically to everyone with the waterfowl privilege on their license. This will provide a more accurate picture of hunter satisfaction with the waterfowl permit draw process. I also think the drawing should be</p>

	<p>CLOSER to the hunting dates and not farther away as was done last season. The drawing should be no more than a month away from the season. Some states have weekly drawings and with NC's move to the online app, I suspect it would be possible to automate a weekly drawing. This will help ensure hunters are able to attend hunts they are drawn for and are less likely to have conflicts arise that could not be foreseen 2+ month in advance. Conceivably, with a weekly drawing the Commission could sell more permits at a lower cost but overall bring in more revenue. I also don't think the blind draw locations are always managed correctly. For example, last year in North River, the millet planted did very well but the open areas by blind 3 were set far away from the blind instead of centered on the blind. This is not the correct way to arrange crops around a blind. The water was also to low in that impoundment we no water directly in front of the blind. It was basically a mud flat. Birds where in the area but didn't come in as well as they would have with better management. I also think the draw process should revert to the old system of one person drawing for the permit and being able to take two guests. I suspect the current system was adopted as it was seen as more fair to solo hunters but I am doubtful this is true as I have never seen any less than 3 person parties when hunting permit locations. With the conflicts that can arise from drawing permits more than two months ahead of the hunt date, allow two guests to be added to the permit up until the day before the hunt increases hunter opportunity. The two guest would still need to log in to the app and pay for the permit to be eligible to hunt. There should also be a preferent point system for permit hunts. As stated, this is the second year in a row I have not been drawn for Futch or Texas Plantation. Hunters should receive one preference point for each permit that is not awarded a hunt. Preference points would be specific to a game land and I would consider allowing hunters to choose when to apply the preference points. Preference points would expire at the end of the hunting season and would not carry over to the next season. My final recommendation would be to limit the number of shells a hunt may carry on their person when hunting game lands managed for waterfowl hunting. I believe that the average is 5 shells per duck harvested. I have personally witnessed hunters taking shots at ducks that are to far away or too high, ie sky busting, and limiting the number of shells would potentially help this. Again, this is something that other states do to combat this problem. Sincerely, TR</p>
212	<p>The swamps I generally hunt are changing as they age. I see fewer birds until late in the season. Sometimes they freeze up causing the birds to move on somewhere else. Move hunting days later in the season.</p>
213	<p>The two youth hunt days should be after the regular season is over. The splits in the regular season are times to let the birds rest.</p>
214	<p>The weather is too warm in October the hunting isn't good until February. Please give us two days in February instead of October or even trade the November season</p>
215	<p>There are no Migratory birds due to no Migration. Only birds with Navigation tendencies frequent Lake Mattamussett therefore every bird is locally hatched & surviving. Allow Sunday Hunting like Arkansas. Remove October dates, remove Black Duck week non harvest. Allow feeding for wildlife, and begin season like Arkansas on Thanksgiving weekend. Have the split over Christmas allow it to start back Day after Christmas. Youth / Veterans Day extend to full week between super bowl Sunday & Valentines Week.</p>
216	<p>There should be no difference in coastal and inland</p>
217	<p>There should not be nearly 3 weeks of a split. The most should be 2 weeks like it used to be. 2 weeks hunting in November. One or two week split. Then 7 weeks for the final split. Having 18-21 days off late November through the third week in December is just insane.</p>
218	<p>These are the same comments I have made in past years. I am very dissatisfied with how waterfowl hunting is managed in North Carolina. The state provides limited public hunting opportunities that are often poorly managed. I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday. There is no scientific evidence that indicates not hunting on Sunday reduces pressure on birds. Six days of hunting is no less pressure than 7 days. With no scientific basis for this framework, the only reason it remains is due to social pressure derived from religious motives. Many hunters openly state this. These motives should not be a part of how natural resources are maintained. Also, in my opinion we should not have an October season as it is still to early to have good hunting opportunities in NC. I also don't think splitting the state into two zones meets the intended goal of increasing hunting opportunities. I think adding Sundays would serve this goal much batter. If two zones are used, the respective splits should take place in the main part of the season, Nov-Jan. I would like to see the season be the last two weeks on November, 15 days, with the remaining 45 days being the last 45 available days in the current federal framework. This would make the last spit start on the same says and the November split starting 8 days later. It would add 8 Sundays to the season that would</p>

	<p>provide more opportunity to hunters that can only hunt on weekends. Gamelands with 3 day a week structures for waterfowl hunting should be arranged with some gamelands open on Sundays. For example Tues, Thurs, Sat for some gamelands and Wed, Fri, Sun for others or something similar. Also, gamelands that are in close proximity to each other should be on alternating schedules to maximize hunting opportunities in those area.</p> <p>I do not support the change to J Morgan Futch and Texas Plantation moving to one day a week. I think this decision was based on a flawed survey and defeats the purpose of providing hunters with more hunting opportunities. This is the second year I was not drawn for either unit and since I was not selected I will not receive the survey the manager of those impoundments sends out. The results will be skewed because of this. The hunters selected may report that they are satisfied but those that were not select are likely unsatisfied but they will not receive that survey. That survey should be sent to, at least, everyone that submitted to the drawing and realistically to everyone with the waterfowl privilege on their license. This will provide a more accurate picture of hunter satisfaction with the waterfowl permit draw process. I also think the drawing should be CLOSER to the hunting dates and not farther away as was done last season. The drawing should be no more than a month away from the season. Some states have weekly drawings and with NC's move to the online app, I suspect it would be possible to automate a weekly drawing. This will help ensure hunters are able to attend hunts they are drawn for and are less likely to have conflicts arise that could not be foreseen 2+ month in advance. Conceivably, with a weekly drawing the Commission could sell more permits at a lower cost but overall bring in more revenue. I also don't think the blind draw locations are always managed correctly. For example, last year in North River, the millet planted did very well but the open areas by blind 3 were set far away from the blind instead of centered on the blind. This is not the correct way to arrange crops around a blind. The water was also to low in that impoundment we no water directly in front of the blind. It was basically a mud flat. Birds where in the area but didn't come in as well as they would have with better management. I also think the draw process should revert to the old system of one person drawing for the permit and being able to take two guests. I suspect the current system was adopted as it was seen as more fair to solo hunters but I am doubtful this is true as I have never seen any less that 3 person parties when hunting permit locations. With the conflicts that can arise from drawing permits more then two months ahead of the hunt date, allow two guests to be added to the permit up until the day before the hunt increases hunter opportunity. The two guest would still need to log in to the app and pay for the permit to be eligible to hunt. There should also be a preferent point system for permit hunts. As stated, this is the second year in a row I have not been drawn for Futch or Texas Plantation. Hunters should receive one preference point for each permit that is not awarded a hunt. Preference points would be specific to a gameland and I would consider allowing hunters to choose when to apply the preference points. Preference points would expire at the end of the hunting season and would not carry over to the next season. My final recommendation would be to limit the number of shells a hunt may carry on their person when hunting gamelands managed for waterfowl hunting. I believe that the average is 5 shells per duck harvested. I have personally witnessed hunters taking shots at ducks that are to far away or too high, ie sky busting, and limiting the number of shells would potentially help this. Again, this is something that other states do to combat this problem.</p>
219	<p>This comment will go nowhere I'm sure but the limit on buffleheads should be dropped some. The guides along the coast are literally slaughtering them day after day and most are thrown away by the clients. The limit should be reduced like they did to the scoters. What is happening is absolutely disgusting.</p>
220	<p>To preface my comments, I feel this is a waste of time as the seasons will be set as is no matter what hunter comments are. Comments: I have been hunting migratory birds for over 5 decades and the migration (specifically waterfowl) has changed significantly with it occurring later and later each passing year. The bulk of migratory birds occur in February which misses our seasons. Also, what few birds we have become refuge hopping birds (through imprinting) due to standing crops all season long. Add the refuge factor to the "legal" baiting in impoundments and ducks no longer stop in tradition migration locations. I myself have started spending my resources in other states with better waterfowl management and plenty of birds. I no longer contribute to the NC economy from a hunting perspective. I still manage every year to guide young perspective hunters during youth days in NC, but myself and hunting companions do not waste our time/money in NC.</p>
221	<p>Try to plant food plots that will attrach geese on the Sandhill gamelands.</p>
222	<p>Underlying theme: geese are overpopulated in suburban areas and some method to curb the population may be beneficial to the local citizenry and others in the migratory flyway. Economic impact observed locally include utilization of expansive retention pond nets, loud sound recordings,</p>

	<p>decoys etc. to discourage goose settlement and resettlement.</p> <p>The geese pose a traffic hazard and frequently observed not yielding to motor vehicles in the road.</p> <p>Disease hazard in shopping centers, several deceased geese have been observed left to decompose on merchant grounds and right of ways. Living geese tend to foul the local sidewalks/greenways.</p> <p>These local geese are apparently attracted to public resources including municipal water leaks, fire hydrants, certain non-water underground utilities, storefronts where they have been previously fed/watered and municipal retention ponds on privately managed merchant land. Whereas seasonal goslings are also observed, there is evidence of residency and potential for unfettered exploitation for their goose down, eggs or as a food source.</p> <p>There is reason to suspect that some regulated wildlife species (including Branta c.) are habitually attracted to the vicinity of certain underground utilities and consequently suffer from obtunded sensorium near those same utilities (details upon request and should be compared to other geographic regions with/without similar topography/geography/atmospheric qualities.)</p>
223	Veteran days should not overlap youth and should occur between splits if they continue to occur. Youth should have their own separate days. Veterans do not appear to know the rules that they cannot hunt impoundments without a permit like youth and are competing for hunting spots.
224	<p>Veterans/Youth should be first 2 Saturdays in February.</p> <p>Teal season should end on last day of federal framework and include the number of days allowed prior to (in this year's case 9)</p>
225	We need to get back to the split coming in and out on Saturdays. The second split should come in on Dec 12 and do away with the October season. Also we need to get with the rest of the world and allow hunting on Sunday for waterfowl
226	We need to open NC up for Sunday waterfowl hunting just as we do for Big Game and other hunting. We are not giving NC hunters a fair weekend timeframe to hunt waterfowl. This should be corrected ASAP!
227	We used to have 2 weeks into February to hunt geese and it needs to be put back that way
228	Western nc needs more draw hunt and hunting opportunities for waterfowl. They're are plenty of places that belong to the state that could be planted and flooded and a few blinds installed and create more hunting opportunities for western nc waterfowlers. Duck hunters do exist this side of Charlotte but seems as if we are forgotten about by ncwrc at times. Also sandy mush gamelands should be planted for dove better than they are considering the price of licensing and permits. Thank all of you for your time.
229	<p>Why is there a 2-3 week delay in black duck harvest from the start of general duck season on the coast? Start it with the start of general season. There is zero scientific reasoning for the delayed start and it's supposed to be a science based decision.</p> <p>Why is the blue bill framework set the way it is? Make it 2 from the get go of the split. The data show the harvest can be supported and more people will partake in the sport</p>
230	Wish we can get season start later and end later
231	Would appreciate Sunday hunting as an option for migratory game birds
232	Would be nice to extend the season into February a little. Cold fronts move in around the 2nd week of February and the birds start showing up.
233	Would like to get a early teal season for the inland zones
234	Would like to see dove friendly plantings on green river game lands. NWRC seems to snub dove hunters on this game lands and wait too late in season to cut and plant available fields.
235	Would like to see Sunday hunting available as every state surrounding North Carolina allows hunting on Sundays. Most people (above average) try to utilize the weekends as times to hunt. Deer hunting is available on Sundays. If the need for rest is a concern, allow Sunday hunting and give a rest day on Monday
236	WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SEPT. TEAL SEASON DELETED AND ADD THOSE DAYS TO THE END OF THE GEN. SEASON AND MOVE THE SEASON INTO FEB. THE BIRDS DON'T SEAM TO GET TO NORTH CAROLINA INTEL LATE JAN. INTO FEB.
237	Would like to see us go to a 2 pintail limit of which only one hen. If you keep it at 3, go to one hen! Need a 3 bird a day limit on bufflehead due to the insane pressure they are getting by guided hunters along the coast. We are going to wind up like we are with the sea ducks if we do not take action.

238	Yall do a great job. It's hard to keep everyone happy. For me, my biggest issue I had this year was the weather. It just comes later than normal. If states above us aren't freezing, they won't come. It just seems like that happens later now. For geese, they came good the last two weeks of the season for them. But it's hard to get permission to hunt these days in that amount of time. And when I could get permission to hunt a field, a house would be closer than 150 yards so I couldn't hunt it.
239	You should be able to hunt on youth day till your 18 seasons need to be longer
240	You're still trying to get too cute with these segments. Lengthen them in duration, simplify them to one or 2. Zones, species, on/off dates - it's all hogwash. Set a simple season, stick to it.
241	<p>Youth and Vet hunts should be after the whole duck season is over. This is allowed though the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This will allow our youth to have better hunts and more shots on birds.</p> <p>I'd also like to see a higher presence of Game Wardens on the water ways during duck season. Having all these layout hunters chasing and jumping birds around gets very frustrating.</p>
242	Youth and Veteran Hunting Days are great for our state.
243	<p>Youth and Veteran's hunt days should be combined!! All youth dates need to be in February. Also cut out the October season and add it to the other seasons.</p> <p>Also NC Wildlife needs to spend more attention to the public impoundments and work on draining properly and doing wet soil management or something. Ditching was done at Pamlico Point but it still doesn't drain properly and sometimes it never gets drained.</p>

EXHIBIT F-3

April 16, 2026



2026-27 Migratory Game Bird Gun Season Proposed Frameworks and WMD Staff Recommendations

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Mourning Dove & White-winged dove	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 90 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 5 – October 10, November 7 – November 28, December 16 – January 30	15
King & Clapper Rails	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 5 – November 25	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 25 singly or in the aggregate	September 5 – November 25	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 5 – November 25	15
Woodcock	Outside Dates: September 13 – January 31; 45 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 3	December 10 – January 30	3
Common Snipe	Outside Dates: September 1 – February 28; 107 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 8	October 27 – February 27	8

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Canada Goose (September season)	<p>Outside Dates: September 1 – 30 (statewide); 30 days, daily bag of 15</p> <p>Special methods: During the September Canada goose season only, the following expanded hunting methods area allowed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extended shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset. 2. unplugged guns 3. electronic calls <p>Note: The special methods are not allowed in areas with another open waterfowl season, e.g., September teal.</p>	<p>September 1 – 30 (statewide)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset 2. allow use of unplugged guns 3. allow use of electronic calls <p>These expanded methods are <u>only</u> to be allowed west of U.S. 17.</p>	15
September Teal	<p>Outside Dates: September 1 – 30; 9 consecutive days, daily bag of 6, east of U.S. 17 only</p>	<p>September 10 – September 19 (East of U.S. 17 only)</p>	6
General Duck Season	<p>Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) – January 31; 2 duck hunting zones with no more than 3 segments in either zone, 60 days & daily bag of 6 ducks in each zone. <u>Species specific bag limits are the same in each zone.</u></p> <p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. For scaup, the recommendation is a “hybrid” season consisting of 40 consecutive days with a 1-bird daily bag limit and 20 consecutive days with a 2-bird daily bag limit. The season on harlequin ducks is closed.</p>	<p><u>Inland Zone:</u> October 15 – October 17, November 7 – November 28, December 18 – January 30</p> <p><u>Coastal Zone:</u> October 23 – October 24, November 7 – November 28, December 17 – January 30</p>	<p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck and 1 fulvous whistling duck. Prior to January 8 the scaup bag limit is 1, on January 8 and after it is 2. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 21.</p>

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Mergansers	Outside dates: same as general duck season; daily bag of 5 mergansers.	Same as general duck season	5 mergansers with no more than 2 hooded mergansers
Coots	Outside dates: same as general duck season; daily bag of 15 coots	Same as general duck season	15 coots
Sea Ducks	Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) – January 31; season must coincide with the general duck season, daily bag of 4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. The sea duck bag limit counts towards the general duck bag limit of 6 ducks.	October 23 – October 24, November 7 – November 28, December 17 – January 30	4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. Sea duck daily bag limits count towards the general duck daily bag limit of 6 ducks.
Canada Geese (Resident Population Zone) – includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese	Outside Dates: October 1 – March 10; 80 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 5 Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate	October 15 – October 24, November 7 – December 5, December 17 – February 6	5
Canada Geese (Northeast Hunt Zone) – includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese	Outside Dates: Saturday prior to December 25 (December 19) – January 31; 30 days, daily bag of 2 Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate	December 28 – January 30	2*

***Subject to final federal approval of 2026/27 frameworks**

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Brant	Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) – January 31; 30 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 1	December 28 – January 30	1
Light Geese (includes snow and Ross's geese) – regular season	Outside Dates: October 1 – March 10; 107 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 25 (no possession limit)	November 7 - March 10	25 (no possession limit) After the closure of all other waterfowl seasons on February 6 th , some expanded hunting methods for light geese are allowed. These include the use of unplugged guns and electronic calls only.
Tundra Swan	Outside Dates: October 1 – January 31; 90 days, no segments allowed, 1 per season with valid permit (4,853 permits available)	November 7 – January 30	1 per season with valid permit

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Youth Waterfowl Day(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 youth days allowed in each duck zone. • The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season or in the closed portion between season segments. • The day must occur on any non-school day. In North Carolina, this includes Saturdays and any statewide holidays. • States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, Youth hunters must be under the age of 16. 	<u>Inland Zone:</u> December 5 & February 6 <u>Coastal Zone:</u> December 5 & February 6	Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots (in each zone). Must have a valid permit if hunting tundra swans.
Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 veterans/military days allowed in each duck zone. • Includes veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training). • The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season or in the closed portion between season segments. • Can be held concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Day(s). 	<u>Inland Zone:</u> December 5 & February 6 <u>Coastal Zone:</u> December 5 & February 6	Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots (in each zone). Must have a valid permit if hunting tundra swans.

- Federal guidelines allow for shooting hours for all migratory game birds to be from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Possession limit is three times the daily bag for all species.

EXHIBIT F-4

April 16, 2026



Extended Falconry Season Highlights & WMD Staff Recommendations for 2026-27 Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Bird Species

General Restrictions/Guidelines

- Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10
- Total days available for falconry cannot exceed 107 (for each species) and includes regular, i.e., gun seasons, experimental seasons and extended falconry seasons
- The falconry daily bag limit is 3 permitted migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate. The regular, i.e., gun season bag limits for individual species do not apply.
- Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments
- The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit

WMD Staff Recommendations

If the Commission chooses staff recommended “gun” seasons as presented, we recommend the following extended falconry seasons.

Mourning dove/White-winged dove	October 12 – October 24
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	December 5 – January 9
Woodcock	December 1 – December 9 and February 1 – February 20
Ducks, mergansers and coots	October 1 – October 10 and February 1 – February 6

EXHIBIT

G-1

April 16, 2026



Staff Recommendations to Allow Take of Migrant Peregrine Falcons From the Wild for Use in Falconry - 2026

The Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils approved an allowable take of 144 Peregrine Falcons by falconers. Based upon this allocation, the USFWS is allowing the take of up to 48 fall migrants in 2026 east of 100 degrees W longitude to Atlantic Flyway states. North Carolina is allocated up to 5 birds.

Based on this allocation of up to 5 birds for take from within North Carolina, WMD staff recommends that the WRC accept the USFWS allocation framework and establish a season in 2026 with the following stipulations.

- Total allowable take is up to 5 birds during the period from September 20, 2026 through October 20, 2026.
- Any bird taken must be a juvenile.
- Take would be allowed only by permit from the WRC and only east of US Highway 17.
- No banded birds could be taken. Any banded birds captured must be released immediately at the site of capture.
- Permits will be issued through our special hunts permitting system (random).
- An individual issued a permit must have the proper state and federal falconry licenses/permits.
- Each person receiving a permit must complete a post-season survey provided by WMD staff and submit that survey no later than December 15, 2026.

Little Snowbird Tract (Exhibit H-1)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$12,169,320

OSI LWF Grant	\$2,500,000.00
Forest Legacy Grant	\$8,780,000.00
<u>Endowment Fund</u>	<u>\$570,000.00</u>
Total	\$11,850,000.00

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

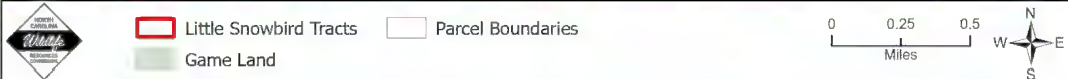
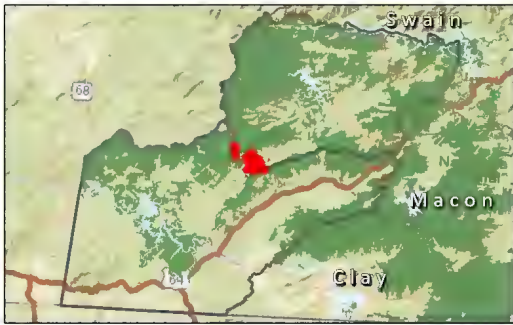
Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$65,000.00

- Boundary establishment
- Gates
- Road improvements
- Parking area establishment
- Kiosks

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval

Little Snowbird Tracts
Cherokee & Graham Counties
+/- 2,050 Acres



Franklin Bog Tracts
Henderson County
+/- 9 Acres



Franklin Bog (Exhibit H-2)

Acquisition Plan

- Re-allocation from NCDOT

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$7,000.00

- Boundary establishment

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Map legend and scale:

- Franklin Bog Tracts (Red outline)
- NCWRC Wildlife Conservation Area (Green outline)
- Game Land (Light Green shading)
- Parcel Boundaries (Thin grey lines)

Scale: 0 250 500 US Feet

Compass rose: N, S, E, W

Sparta Bog
Alleghany County
+/- 310 acres



Sparta Bog (Exhibit H-3)

Acquisition Plan

- Re-allocation from NCDOT

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$60,000.00

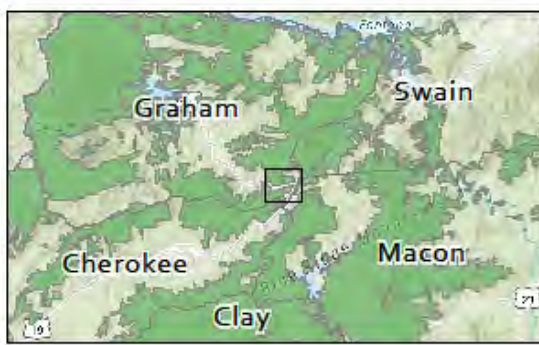
- Boundary establishment

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Tallulah Bog
Graham County
+/- 228.9 acres



Tallulah Bog (Exhibit H-4)

Acquisition Plan

- Re-allocation from NCDOT

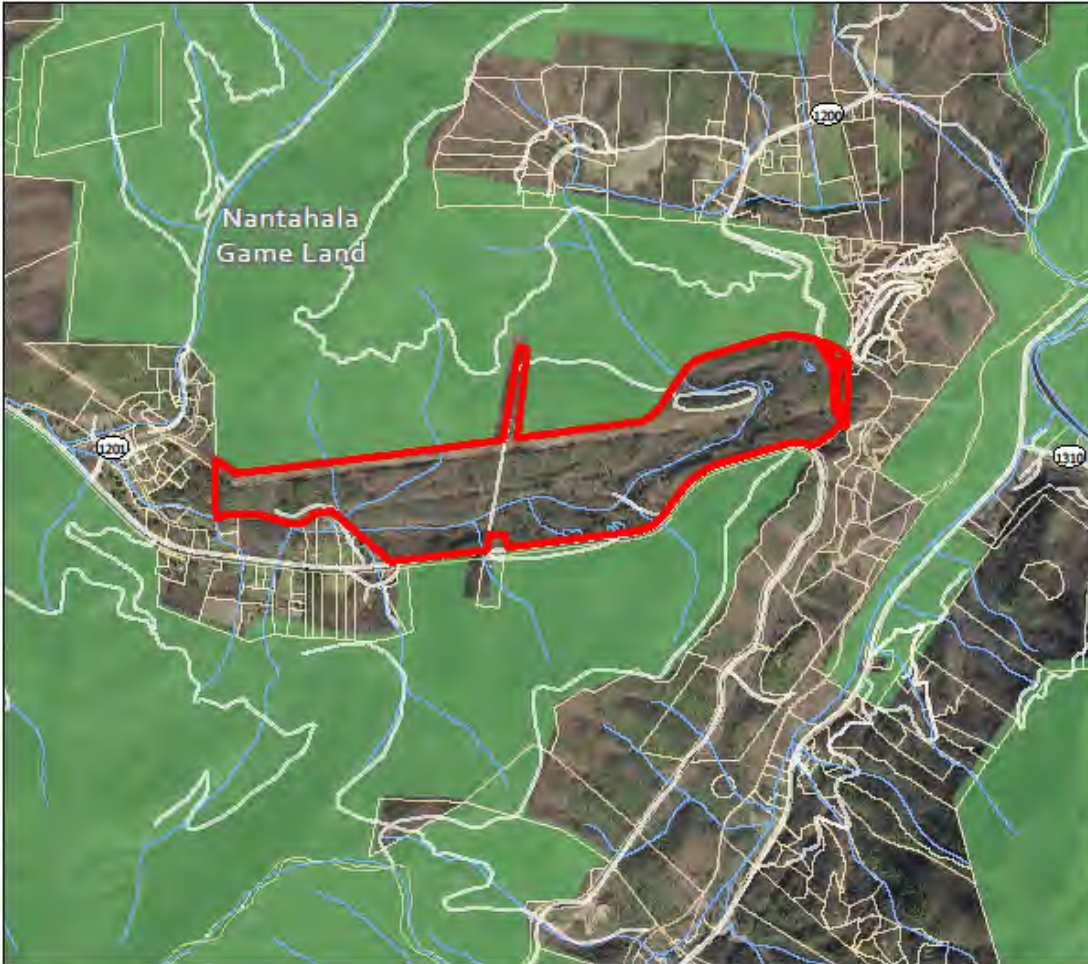
Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

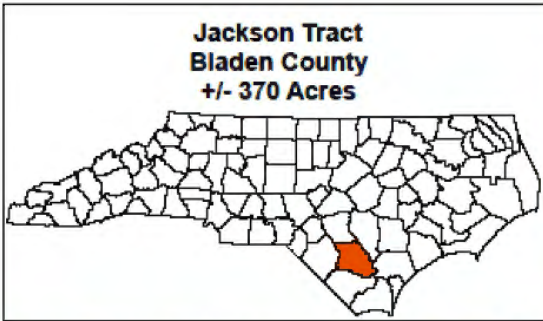
Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$34,382.00

- Boundary establishment

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval





Jackson Tract (Exhibit H-5)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$520,000

NAWCA Grant	\$260,000.00
Endowment Fund	\$260,000.00
Total	\$520,000.00

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$15,885.00

- Boundary establishment
- Gates
- Prescribed burn

Total Revenue Estimate: \$14,000.00

- Timber harvest of 35 acres

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Jackson Tract
 Suggs Mill Pond Game Land
 Parcel Boundaries

0 0.1 0.2 Miles



Catherine Creek (Exhibit H-6)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$226,000.00

NAWCA Grant	\$95,750.00
Endowment Fund	\$130,250.00
Total	\$226,000.00

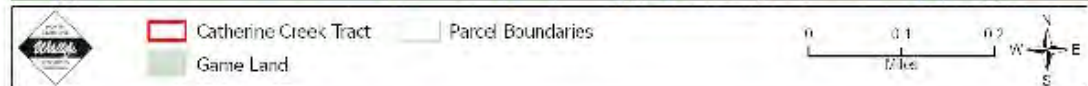
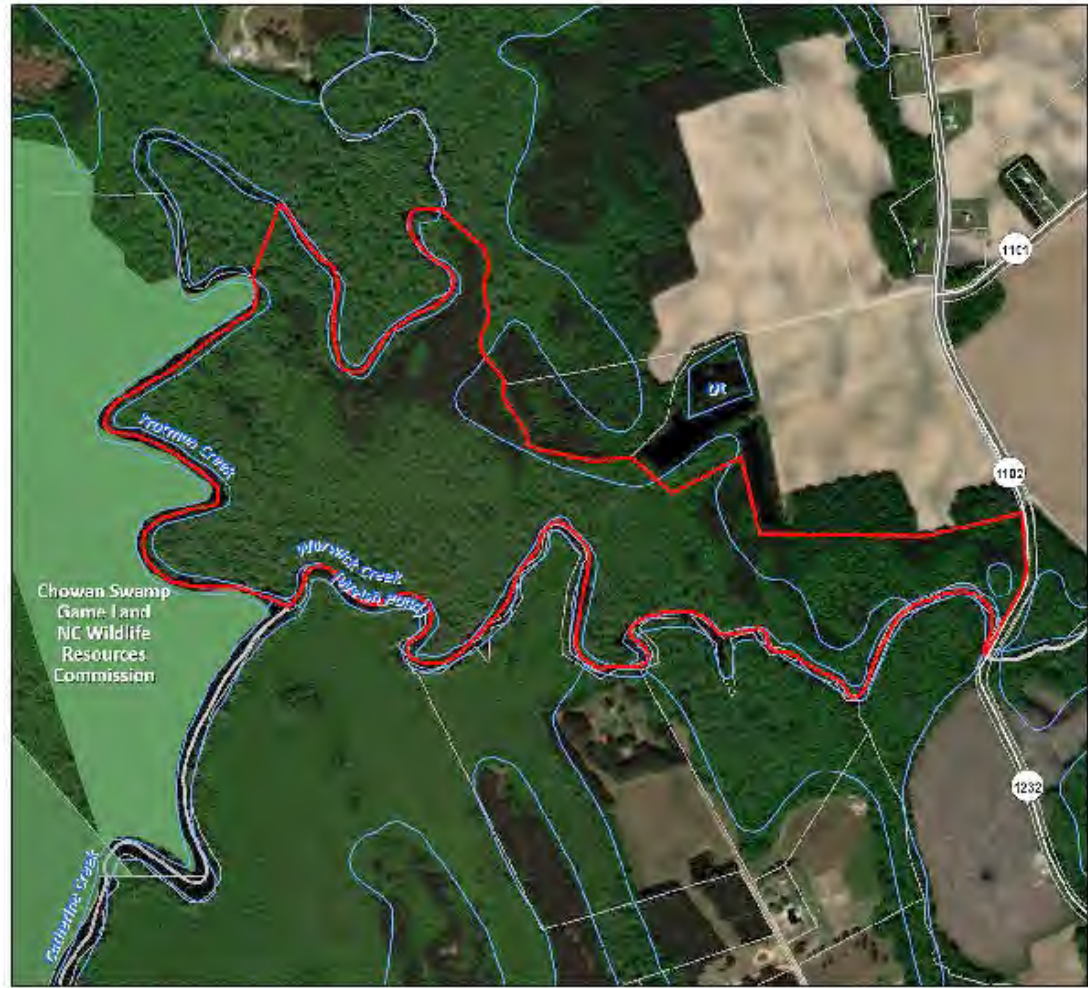
Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$21,000.00

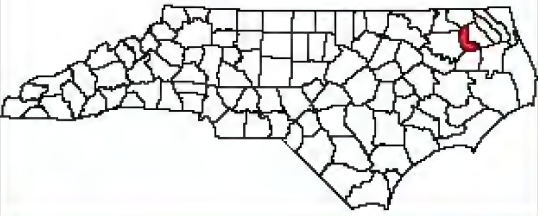
- Boundary establishment
- Boundary maintenance

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Welch Tract +/- 125 acres
Chowan County



Welch Tract (Exhibit H-7)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$109,000

NAWCA Grant	\$54,500.00
Endowment	\$54,500.00
Total	\$109,000.00

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

- Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$2,715.00
- Boundary establishment
 - Boundary maintenance

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Egypt Road Tract
115 acres
Brunswick County



Egypt Road Tract (Exhibit H-8)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$400,000

NAWCA Grant	\$180,000.00
Endowment Fund	\$220,000.00
Total	\$400,000.00

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

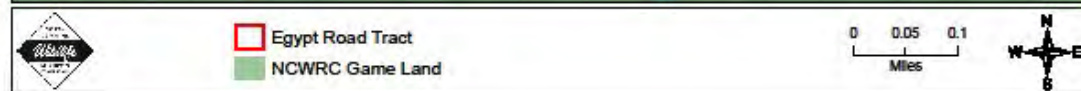
Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$12,000.00

- Boundary establishment and maintenance
- Gates
- Prescribed burn

Total Revenue Estimate: \$22,400.00

- Timber Harvest of 56 acres

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Septic Field at Odom Shooting Range
Northampton County
17-Acres Reallocation from DPS to WRC



Odom Correction Facility Re-allocation (Exhibit H-9)

Acquisition Plan

- Re-allocation from NC Department of Public Safety

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$0.00

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval

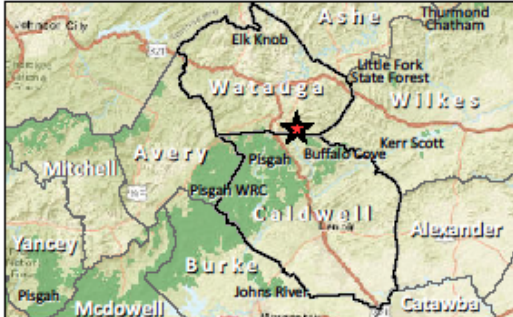
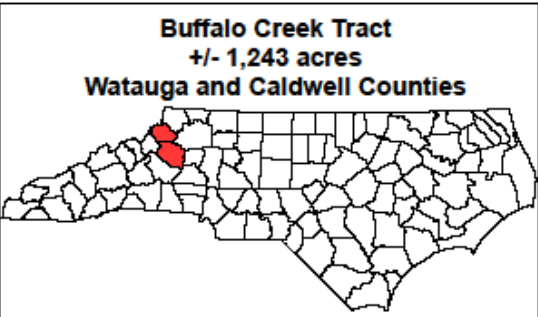


Map legend and scale:

- Septic Field (Red outline)
- Boating Access Area (Blue outline)
- Parcel Boundaries (Black outline)
- Shooting Range (Red square)

Scale: 0 250 500 US Feet

Compass rose: N, S, E, W



Buffalo Creek Headwaters (Exhibit H-10)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$16,786,000.00

Forest Legacy Grant	\$12,589,500.00
Endowment Fund	\$910,500.00
Total	\$13,500,000.00

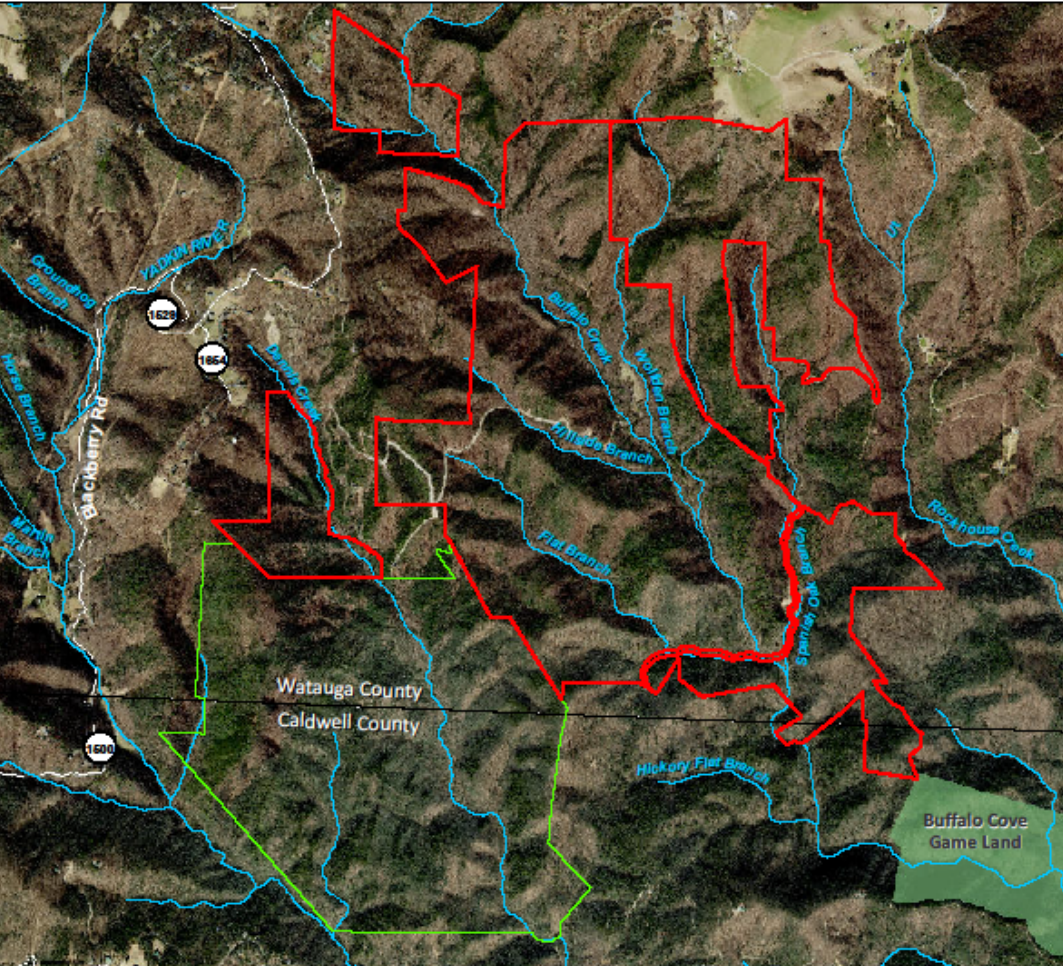
Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$46,000

- Boundary establishment
- Gate installation

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

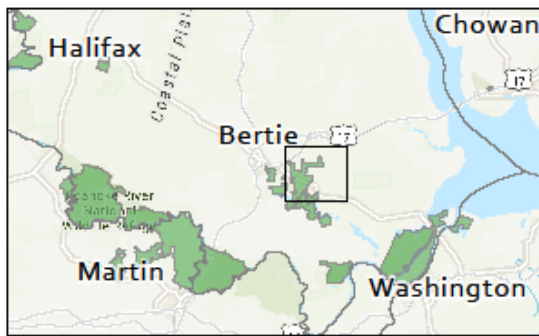
Staff recommend Phase II approval



█ Buffalo Creek Tract
█ Dennis Creek Tract ~623 ac. (separate Phase I item)
 Game Land

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

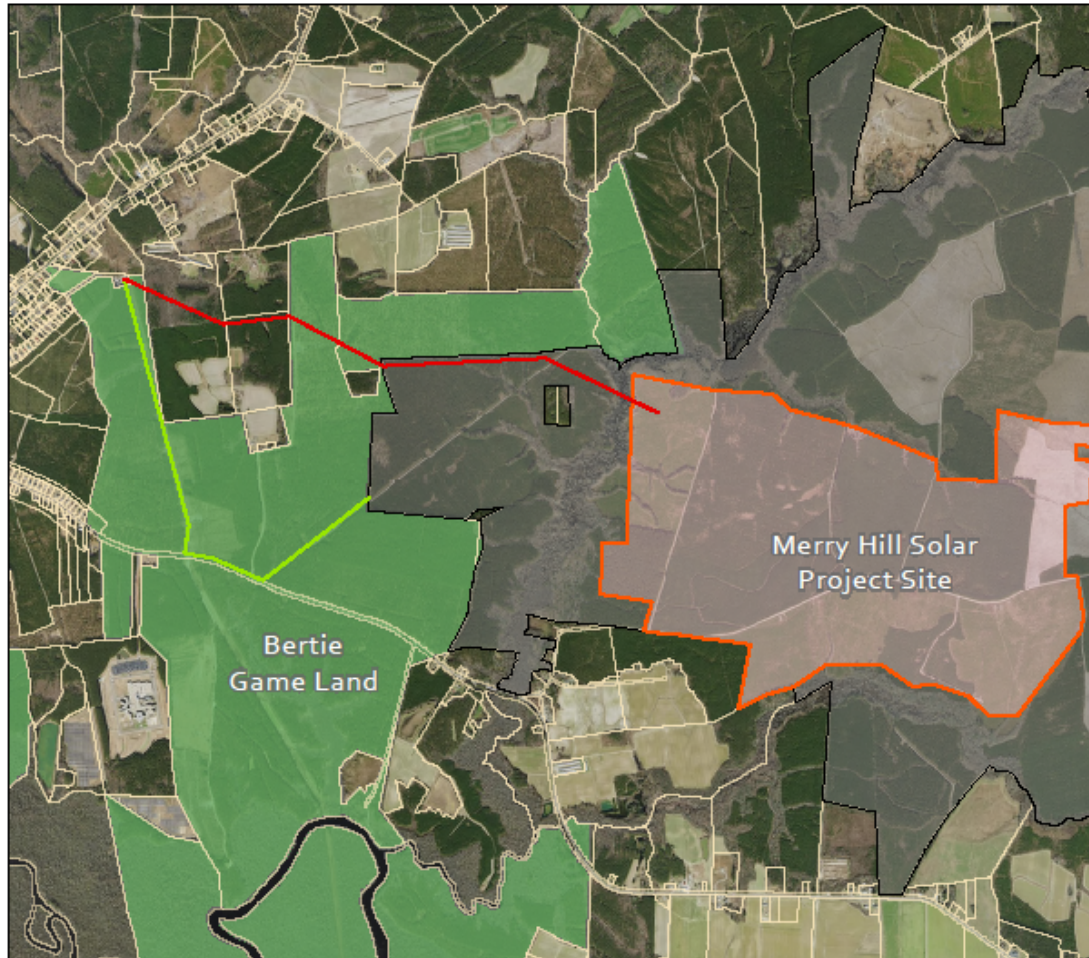

**Merry Hill Solar Easement Request
Bertie County**



Easement Request – Bertie County Game Land (Exhibit I)

- TED Renewables requests a utility easement on Bertie County Game Land to supply a proposed solar energy generating facility (Merry Hill Solar Project).
- Original proposal was denied by the Board in June 2024
- This revised proposal impacts 6 acres of game land, as compared to the original proposal that impacted 20 acres of game land.
- The easement path crosses two private landowners. TED Renewables has a LOI in place with both landowners.
- Proposed location of the solar farm is adjacent Weyerhaeuser forested land and the size of the project site is listed at 1,000 acres.
- Alternative routes were considered by the company and were found to be prohibited by multiple factors, such as participation from 15+ landowners (higher density of homes and farms), routes crossed multiple public and residential roads and created additional stream crossings.
- Project due diligence and permitting is complete, except for the Interconnection Agreement. TED Renewables must show secured real estate before completing this step.

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Project Parcels
 Merry Hill Solar Project Site
 Weyerhaeuser Parcel
 NCWRC Game Lands

Proposed Route
 Original (~10,000 ft on GL)
 Alternate (~2,500 ft on GL)

0 0.5 1
 Miles




EXHIBIT J-2

April 16, 2026



Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Notice of Text was published in the *North Carolina Register* with open comment period and public hearing for an amendment to 10F .0305 to create a no-wake zone at Oak Island in a portion of the Intracoastal Waterway 50 yards west and 50 yards east of the G.V. Barbee Bridge, otherwise known as the Oak Island Bridge, and assign responsibility for implementation of placement of regulatory markers to various agencies in Brunswick County.

15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY

~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the waters described as follows:~~

- ~~(1) Lockwood Folly River in the Town of Varnamtown, from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W, 500 yards northwest of the boat ramp located at the end of S.R. 1123 otherwise known as Fisherman Road, to a point at 33.94498 N, 78.22206 W, 180 yards southeast of the boat ramp, and including the portion of the river otherwise known as Mill Creek where it meets Lockwood Folly River directly across from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W;~~
- ~~(2) Calabash River in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep-sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W;~~
- ~~(3) Morningstar Marinas Southport, shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91685 N, 78.02865 W;~~
- ~~(4) Shallotte River east of S.R. 1233, otherwise known as Village Point Road SW south of the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W to point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W;~~
- ~~(5) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, within 100 yards of the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island;~~

- ~~(6) — the waters in the natural and concrete canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach;~~
- ~~(7) — Town Creek east of S.R. 1609, otherwise known as Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to shore from a point at 34.16788 N, 78.07139 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16910 N, 78.07030 W;~~
- ~~(8) — Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, shore to shore from its entrance at the Intracoastal Waterway west of SW Yacht Drive at a point at 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at NE 40th Street in the Town of Oak Island;~~
- ~~(9) — Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Sunset Beach in the vicinity of the S.R. 1172 Sunset Beach Bridge and Sunset Beach Boating Access Area at 101 Sunset Boulevard, shore to shore from a point 150 yards east of the Sunset Beach Bridge at 33.88173 N, 78.50995 W, to a point 50 yards west of the bridge at 33.88111 N, 78.51194 W;~~
- ~~(10) — Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach in the vicinity of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge and Ocean Isle Beach Boating Access Area at 67 Causeway Drive, shore to shore from a point 100 yards east of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge at 33.89578 N, 78.43870 W, to a point 100 yards west of the Bridge at 33.89551 N, 78.44077 W;~~
- ~~(11) — Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision, beginning at a point south of the subdivision at 33.95338 N, 78.22553 W, north and west around two sharp bends in the channel and ending north at a point at 33.95539 N, 78.22900 W;~~
- ~~(12) — Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Holden Beach, N.C. Highway 130 Holden Beach Bridge and Holden Beach Boating Access Area at 99 S. Shore Drive, shore to shore between a point 250 feet west and a point 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge;~~
- ~~(13) — Intracoastal Waterway, within 50 yards of the Oak Island Boating Access Area at 4950 Fish Factory Road SE in Southport;~~
- ~~(14) — within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway at 356 Riverview Drive SE in Bolivia;~~
- ~~(15) — within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing Boating Access Area on the Intracoastal Waterway at 1921 Brick Landing Road SW in Shallotte;~~
- ~~(16) — within 50 yards of Rices Creek Boating Access Area on Rice Creek at 797 Gordon Lewis Drive SE in Winnabow; and~~
- ~~(17) — within 50 yards of the Pireway Boating Access Area on Waccamaw River at 9739 Pireway Road NW in Ash.~~

~~(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

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

- ~~(1) the Board of Aldermen of Varnamtown for placement in the area indicated in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule;~~
- ~~(2) the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County for placement in areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (8) and (a)(11) of this Rule; and~~
- ~~(3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the placement and maintenance of areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(9), (a)(10), and (a)(12) through (17) of this Rule.~~

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters in Brunswick County:

- (1) Varnamtown. Lockwood Folly River in the Town of Varnamtown from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W, 500 yards northwest of the boat ramp at the end of S.R. 1123 otherwise known as Fisherman Road, to a point at 33.94498 N, 78.22206 W, 180 yards southeast of the boat ramp, and including the portion of the river otherwise known as Mill Creek where it meets Lockwood Folly River directly across from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W
- (2) Calabash. Calabash River in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep-sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W;
- (3) Southport. Morningstar Marinas Southport, shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91685 N, 78.02865 W;
- (4) Town Creek Township. Town Creek east of S.R. 1609, otherwise known as Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to shore from a point at 34.16788 N, 78.07139 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16910 N, 78.07030 W;
- (5) Shallotte:
 - (A) Shallotte River east of S.R. 1233, otherwise known as Village Point Road SW south of the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W to point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W;
 - (B) Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision, beginning at a point south of the subdivision at 33.95338 N, 78.22553 W, north and west around two sharp bends in the channel and ending north at a point at 33.95539 N, 78.22900 W; and
 - (C) within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing Boating Access Area on the Intracoastal Waterway at 1921 Brick Landing Road SW in Shallotte.
- (6) Ocean Isle Beach:
 - (A) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach in the vicinity of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge and Ocean Isle Beach Boating Access Area at 67 Causeway Drive, shore to shore from a point 100 yards east of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge at 33.89578 N, 78.43870 W, to a point 100 yards west of the Bridge at 33.89551 N, 78.44077 W; and

- (B) the waters in the natural and concrete canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach.
- (7) Oak Island:
- (A) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, within 100 yards of the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island;
- (B) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, shore to shore from its entrance at the Intracoastal Waterway west of SW Yacht Drive at a point at 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at NE 40th Street in the Town of Oak Island;
- (C) Intracoastal Waterway, within 50 yards of the Oak Island Boating Access Area at 4950 Fish Factory Road SE in Oak Island; and
- (D) Intracoastal Waterway 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the G.V. Barbee Bridge otherwise known as the Oak Island Bridge, in Oak Island.
- (8) Sunset Beach. Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Sunset Beach in the vicinity of the S.R. 1172 Sunset Beach Bridge and Sunset Beach Boating Access Area at 101 Sunset Boulevard, shore to shore from a point 150 yards east of the Sunset Beach Bridge at 33.88173 N, 78.50995 W, to a point 50 yards west of the bridge at 33.88111 N, 78.51194 W;
- (9) Bolivia. The waters within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway at 356 Riverview Drive SE in Bolivia;
- (10) Holden Beach. Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Holden Beach, N.C. Highway 130 Holden Beach Bridge and Holden Beach Boating Access Area at 99 S. Shore Drive, shore to shore between a point 250 feet west and a point 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge;
- (11) Winnabow. The waters within 50 yards of Rices Creek Boating Access Area on Rice Creek at 797 Gordon Lewis Drive SE in Winnabow; and
- (12) Ash. The waters within 50 yards of the Pireway Boating Access Area on Waccamaw River at 9739 Pireway Road NW in Ash.
- (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Placement of Markers.
- (1) the Board of Aldermen of Varnamtown shall be the designated agency implementing Part (a)(1) of this Rule;
- (2) the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County shall be the designated agency implementing Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (4), (a)(5)(A) and (B), (a)(6)(B), and (a)(7)(A), (B), and (D) of this Rule;
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing Subparagraphs (a)(5)(C), (a)(6)(A), (a)(7)(C), and (a)(8) through (12) of this Rule.

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1987;

Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; April 1, 1999;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2021; July 1, 2018;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2022;

Temporary Amendment Eff. August 15, 2023;

Amended Eff. February 1, 2024;

Temporary Amendment Exp. Eff. May 11, 2024;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2026; February 1, 2025.

Wilmington District Brunswick Co Oak Island Bridge within 50 yards

Write a description for your map.

- Harborline Points
 - Navigation Channel Points
 - Setback Points
 - Right-of-Way
 - Harborline
 - Placement Areas
 - Navigation Channel
 - Setback
- Updated: November 2019

- American Fish Shop
- G. V. Barbee Sr Bridge
- of bridge



Intracoastal Waterway

50 yards west of bridge

G. V. Barbee Sr Bridge

133

133

50 yards east of bridge

American Fish Shop

Old Bridge Rd

Old Bridge Rd

Intracoastal Waterway

300 ft



EXHIBIT K-1

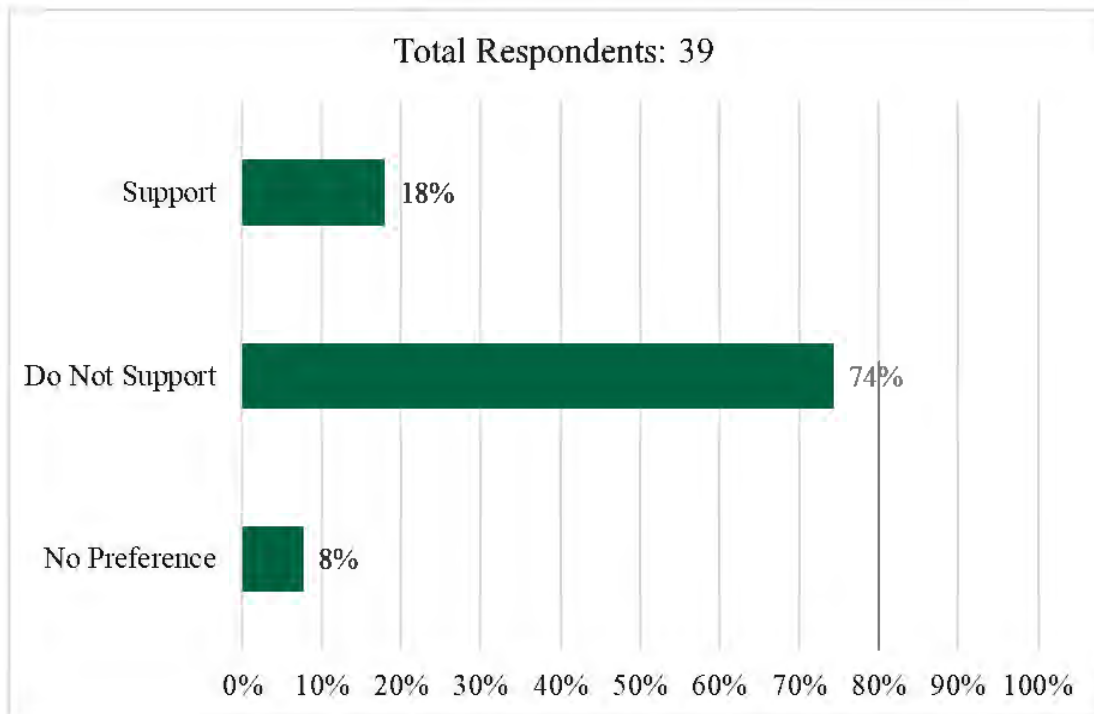
April 16, 2026



Summary of Public Comments on Sheepshead 15A NCAC 10C .0425

One virtual public hearing was held on March 17, 2026, with two attendees and one in-person public hearing was held on March 10, 2026, with seven attendees.

15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Do Not Support	2	10	2	8	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	29
No Preference	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	3	16	3	10	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	39

EXHIBIT K-2

April 16, 2026



Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10C .0425 Sheepshead Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) issued a proclamation modifying sheepshead size and creel limit for recreational and commercial harvest in joint and coastal fishing waters. The amendments will decrease the daily creel limit from 10 fish to five fish and increase the minimum size from 10 to 14 inches within NCWRC's jurisdiction (Inland Fishing Waters and hook-and-line in Joint Fishing Waters) to be consistent with the NCDMF proclamation.

15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD

1 15A NCAC 10C .0425 is amended under temporary procedures as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for sheepshead is ~~40~~ 5 fish.

5 (b) The minimum size limit is ~~40~~ 14 inches.

6 (c) There is no closed season.

7 (d) Sheepshead shall not be sold.

8

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

10 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*

11 *Eff. March 15, 2023; ~~2023~~.*

12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 8, 2026.*

13

EXHIBIT L-1

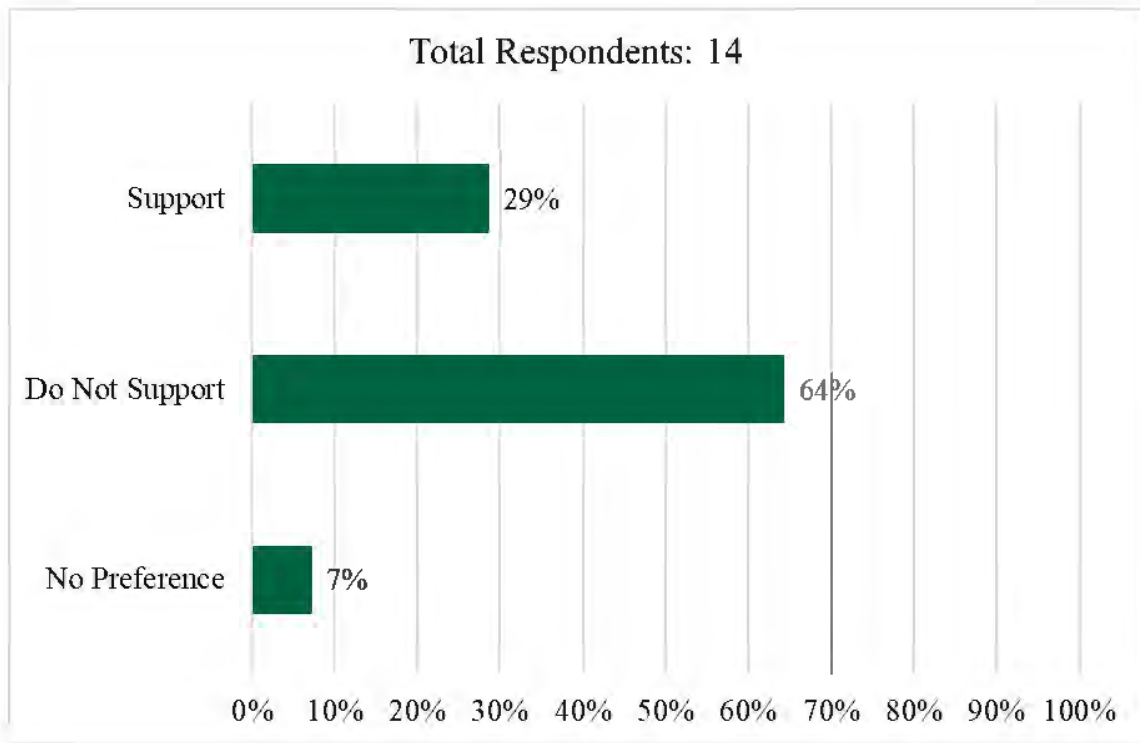
April 16, 2026



Summary of Public Comments on 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees and 15A NCAC 10H .1801 General Requirements and Fees

One public hearing was held on February 12, 2026, with no attendees.

15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES 15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	4
Do Not Support	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	9
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	1	4	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	1	14

EXHIBIT L-2

April 16, 2026



Amendments to 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees and 15A NCAC 10H .1801 General Requirements and Fees Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Rule amendments increase fees for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications the Wildlife Resources Commission issues and administers, except Commercial Activity Permits, by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (3.4%) since the last fee increase (July 2024), rounded up to the next whole dollar, as allowed by Paragraph (e) of 113- 270.1B. The fee increase will help the agency address funding issues related to increased operating costs exacerbated by inflation, increased demand for agency services, legislative salary increases, and stagnant state appropriations. Session Law 2022-65 adjusted the fee for resident and nonresident fur-dealer licenses set forth in G.S. 113-273(f). The rule amendments reflect a 3.4% increase in the adjusted statutory fee.

Amendments to 10H .1801 increase fees for Commercial Activity Permits by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (1.7%) since their establishment (January 2025), rounded up to the next whole dollar, as allowed by Paragraph (e) of 113- 270.1B. Additionally, amendments require license holders to remit quarterly, rather than every other month, and to submit a certificate of insurance as part of their application.

*15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES
15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES*

1 15A NCAC 10A .1601 is amended with changes as published in 40:13 NCAC 1070 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES**

4 (a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-
5 270.1B(e).

6 (b) The following fees shall apply to combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as
7 set forth in G.S. 113-270.1C:

- 8 (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$42.00.~~ \$44.00.
- 9 (2) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~
10 \$15.00.
- 11 (3) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~
12 \$15.00.

13 (c) The following fees shall apply to sportsman licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1D:

- 14 (1) Annual Sportsman License - ~~\$63.00.~~ \$66.00.
- 15 (2) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$252.00.~~ \$261.00.
- 16 (3) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$441.00.~~ \$456.00.
- 17 (4) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.
- 18 (5) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$1,511.00.~~ \$1,563.00.
- 19 (6) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- 20 (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.
- 21 (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.

22 (d) The following fees shall apply to hunting licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.2:

- 23 (1) Resident State Hunting License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 24 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.
- 25 (3) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License - ~~\$27.00.~~ \$28.00.
- 26 (4) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$47.00.~~ \$49.00.
- 27 (5) Nonresident State Hunting Licenses:
 - 28 (A) Season License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
 - 29 (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
- 30 (6) Falconry Hunting License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.

31 (e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-
32 270.3:

- 33 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - ~~\$17.00.~~ \$18.00.
- 34 (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - ~~\$284.00.~~ \$294.00.
- 35 (3) Bear Management Stamp - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- 36 (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:
 - 37 (A) Season License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.

- 1 (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$95.00~~ \$99.00.
- 2 (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - ~~\$14.00~~ \$15.00.
- 3 (6) Game Land License - ~~\$19.00~~ \$20.00.
- 4 (7) Falconry License - ~~\$14.00~~ \$15.00.
- 5 (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - ~~\$17.00~~ \$18.00.
- 6 (9) Resident American Alligator License - ~~\$297.00~~ \$308.00.
- 7 (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - ~~\$594.00~~ \$615.00.
- 8 (11) Resident Elk License - ~~\$594.00~~ \$615.00.
- 9 (12) Nonresident Elk License - ~~\$1,188.00~~ \$1,229.00.
- 10 (f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.
- 11 113-270.4:
- 12 (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$19.00~~ \$20.00.
- 13 (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$189.00~~ \$196.00.
- 14 (g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:
- 15 (1) Resident State Trapping License - ~~\$38.00~~ \$40.00.
- 16 (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - ~~\$357.00~~ \$370.00.
- 17 (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - ~~\$158.00~~ \$164.00.
- 18 (h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the
- 19 Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:
- 20 (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$30.00~~ \$32.00.
- 21 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - ~~\$315.00~~ \$326.00.
- 22 (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$54.00~~ \$56.00.
- 23 (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
- 24 (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$11.00~~ \$12.00.
- 25 (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$28.00~~ \$29.00.
- 26 (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$19.00~~ \$20.00.
- 27 (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00~~ \$15.00.
- 28 (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00~~ \$15.00.
- 29 (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - ~~\$126.00~~ \$131.00.
- 30 (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Three-Day Fishing License - ~~\$10.00~~ \$11.00.
- 31 (i) The following shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.2:
- 32 (1) Resident Special Device License - ~~\$95.00~~ \$99.00.
- 33 (2) Nonresident Special Device License - ~~\$630.00~~ \$652.00.
- 34 (j) The non-refundable ~~fees~~ fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall
- 35 be ~~\$12.00~~ \$13.00.
- 36 (k) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.
- 37 113-272.5:

- 1 (1) Captivity License for Holding - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 2 (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 3 (l) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S.
- 4 113-273:
- 5 (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$76.00.~~ [~~\$79.00.~~] \$32.00.
- 6 (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$378.00.~~ [~~\$391.00.~~] \$63.00.
- 7 (3) Fur-dealer Station License - ~~\$152.00.~~ [~~\$158.00.~~] \$125.00.
- 8 (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
- 9 (5) Controlled Hunting Preserve Rabbit Operator License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 10 (6) Game Bird Propagation License - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 11 (7) Furbearer Propagation License - ~~\$33.00.~~ \$35.00.
- 12 (8) Taxidermy License - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 13 (9) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - ~~\$6.00.~~ \$7.00.
- 14 (10) Wildlife Control Agent License - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 15 (11) Wildlife Control Technician Certification - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 16 (12) Alligator Control Agent Certification - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 17 (m) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:
- 18 (1) Possession Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 19 (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 20 (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 21 (4) Endangered Species Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 22 (5) Field Trial Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 23 (n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:
- 24 (1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$82.00.~~ \$85.00.
- 25 (2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$49.00.~~ \$51.00.
- 26 (3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:
- 27 (A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$347.00.~~
- 28 \$359.00.
- 29 (B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$567.00.~~
- 30 \$587.00.
- 31 (C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 32 ~~\$851.00.~~ \$880.00.
- 33 (D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 34 ~~\$1,952.00.~~ \$2,019.00.
- 35 (E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 36 ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.

1 (F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing
2 License - ~~\$139.00.~~ \$144.00.

3 (G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing
4 License - ~~\$139.00.~~ \$144.00.

5 (4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$567.00.~~ \$587.00.

6 (o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in
7 G.S. 113-174.2:

8 (1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.

9 (2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.

10 (3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$8.00.~~ \$9.00.

11 (4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.

12 (5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.

13 (6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$189.00.~~ \$196.00.

14 (7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.

15 (8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.

16 (9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.

17 (10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.

18 (11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.

19

20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);*

21 *Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2020;*

22 *Eff. July 1, 2020;*

23 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2026; July 1, 2024; May 1, 2022.*

24

25

15A NCAC 10H .1801 is amended with changes as published in 40:13 NCAC 1072 as follows:

15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

- (a) The rules in this Section apply to commercial permits issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (b) The use of Wildlife Resources Commission property, as defined by G.S. 113-129, by an individual or business for profit or benefit is unlawful, unless the individual or business using the property for an unlicensed activity first obtains a commercial permit as provided by this Rule.
- (c) The following definitions shall apply to all rules in this Section:
 - (1) "Benefit" means the exchange of money, goods, services, or the growth or promotion of a business or organization.
 - (2) "Commercial activity" means an unlicensed activity for which individuals pay to participate or use equipment and that takes individuals or groups to Commission property for participation in the unlicensed activity, the purpose of which is financial gain or benefit of the commercial business.
 - (3) "Commercial business" means any individual or business using Commission property for financial gain or benefit.
 - (4) "Commercial permit" means either a commercial use permit or event permit for otherwise unlicensed activities.
 - (5) "Commission property" means Wildlife Resources Commission property as defined in G.S. 113-129(18).
 - (6) "Commercial use" means the use of Commission property for financial gain or benefit.
 - (7) "Commercial use permit" means a permit that allows for the commercial use of Wildlife Resources Commission property.
 - (8) "Event" means an organized gathering of more than 10 people on Commission property where money is exchanged for participation in an unlicensed activity.
 - (9) "Event permit" means a permit that allows for the use of Commission property for a one-time event.
 - (10) "Unlicensed activity" means any outdoor activity that the Commission does not regulate through a Commission-issued license or permit.
- (d) Application for a commercial permit shall be made online at www.ncwildlife.org or at Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. Information required from the applicant shall include:
 - (1) the applicant's name, address, telephone number;
 - (2) name of business, company, or organization;
 - (3) type of commercial activity or event;
 - (4) dates of activity or event;
 - (5) locations of commercial activity or event; ~~and~~
 - (6) certificate of insurance; and
 - ~~(6)~~(7) for event permits, the number of individuals anticipated to partake in the event.

(e) The fee for a commercial use permit shall be one hundred ~~and two~~ ~~[and four]~~ dollars ~~(\$102.00).~~ ~~[(~~\$104.00~~)]~~ ~~(\$100.00)~~. The fee for an event permit shall be based on the number individuals participating in the event, including event participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators. The event permit fee schedule is as follows:

- (1) ten to 100 individuals - ~~\$50;~~ ~~[\$52;]~~ ~~\$51;~~
- (2) one hundred and one to 250 individuals - ~~\$100;~~ ~~[\$104;]~~ ~~\$102;~~
- (3) two hundred and fifty-one to 500 individuals - ~~\$150;~~ ~~[\$156;]~~ ~~\$153;~~
- (4) five hundred and one to 1000 individuals - ~~\$200;~~ ~~[\$207;]~~ ~~\$204;~~ and
- (5) over 1000 individuals - ~~\$250.~~ ~~[\$259;]~~ ~~\$255.~~

(f) In addition to the commercial permit fee, a fee of three dollars (\$3.00) per individual participating in the permitted activity on Commission property shall be required and remitted to the Commission no more than 30 days after the event for which the permit was acquired or every quarter ~~other month~~ during the year for which the commercial use permit is valid.

(g) Unless authorized by the Commission, commercial permit holders and their patrons shall not block access or prevent others from entering or exiting any Commission property.

(h) Commercial permits are non-transferable between individuals, businesses, or companies and a separate permit is required for each commercial activity or event.

(i) The Commission may deny permits or issue permit requirements for use of its property based on the time of year, holidays, safety concerns, biological impacts, compatibility of requested activity with intended use of an area or property, failure to adhere to the conditions set forth in these Rules and Commission planned or sponsored events.

(j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the permit, a commercial use permit shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the same year. An event permit shall be valid for the duration of the event and expires at its conclusion.

(k) Records of commercial activities shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon request and during normal operating hours.

(l) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a permit holder's commercial permit, if the permit holder violates any rules set forth by the Commission in this Subchapter or any conditions of the permit.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264;

Eff. January 1, ~~2025;~~ 2025.

Amended Eff. July 1, 2026;

EXHIBIT M-1

April 16, 2026



Petition for Rulemaking

Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10D .0211 Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake Counties

The Executive Director received a Petition for Rulemaking on Feb. 2, 2026, in compliance with 15A NCAC 10A .0401, and distributed the information, via email, to all Commissioners for consideration on Feb. 3, 2026. The petition requests two amendments to 15A NCAC 10D .0211 Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake Counties. The first amendment would prohibit the use of dogs on the portion of the game land south of Purnell Road (SR1909), north of Bent Road, and east of New Light Creek/Falls Lake. The second amendment would designate the same geographic area as archery only.

The rule text submitted by the petitioner has been revised by staff to comply with the rulemaking style guidelines of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

A regulatory impact analysis has been prepared for the proposed amendments in Exhibit M-2. The full packet of materials submitted by the petitioner can be found in Exhibit M-3.

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

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND**
2 **WAKE COUNTIES**

3 Butner-Falls of Neuse ~~game-land~~ Game Land is a Six 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) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

7 (a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;

8 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

9 (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

10 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
11 hunting after November 1.

12 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.

13 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

14 (5) On that portion south of Purnell Road (SR1909), north of Bent Road, and east of New Light Creek,
15 hunting with firearms is prohibited.

16 ~~(5)(6)~~ Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

17 ~~(6)(7)~~ The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake-
18 Lake, and on that portion south of Purnell Road (SR1909), north of Bent Road, and east of New
19 Light Creek.

20 ~~(7)(8)~~ The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to
21 hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game
22 animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through
23 August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.

24 ~~(8)(9)~~ Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May
25 14. allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

26 ~~(9)(10)~~ Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall
27 not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping
28 area.

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

31 *Eff. November 1, 2022;*

32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

33
34
35

EXHIBIT M-2

April 16, 2026



Fiscal Note for Butner-Falls Game Land Petition for Rulemaking

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

Agency Contact: William Casola
Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 707-0125
william.casola@ncwildlife.gov

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

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305

Proposed Rule Actions and Need

The Wildlife Resources Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking on Feb. 2, 2026, in compliance with 15A NCAC 10A .0401. The petition requests changes to 15A NCAC 10D .0211 for a 230-acre portion of the Butner-Falls Game Land located south of Purnell Road, north of Bent Road, and east of New Light Creek (see Figures 1-3). The petition seeks to prohibit hunting with firearms and to prohibit the use of dogs while hunting in this area.

Petitioners cited several concerns associated with current hunting activities in this part of the game land, including:

- Safety risks from firearms discharged near residential subdivisions. Petitioners assert that limiting this area to archery-only use will reduce this risk.
- Conflicts between hunters who use dogs and adjacent property owners. Petitioners report damage and harassment of private property resulting from hunting with dogs. They assert that prohibiting the use of dogs in this specific section will reduce those conflicts.

The Commission is currently evaluating the changes proposed by the petitioners and has developed this analysis for the purpose of informing and encouraging public input.

Fiscal Analysis

State Impact

The proposed amendment to prohibit the use of dogs in the affected portion of the Butner-Falls game land is expected to have no State impact and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement. Staff already patrol this area and enforcement actions will be integrated into their regular duties. No new signage is needed for this change as the prohibition could be enforced without additional on-site markers.

The proposed change to establish an archery-only area on the affected portion of the game land would require posting signage noting the boundary of the archery zone. The agency estimates a one-time cost of approximately \$1,972 to post the approximately 5-mile boundary. This includes \$900 in material costs ($\$3/\text{sign} \times 300 \text{ signs} = \900) and \$1,072 in labor costs ($\$33.50/\text{hr} \times 32 \text{ hours}$ based on Wildlife Conservation Technician I [NC05] annual total compensation, including benefits [\$67,000].)

Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impacts. The affected game land area is managed solely by the Wildlife Resources Commission and does not require any county or municipal services, resources, or enforcement support. Because some hunters are expected to shift their activities to other portions of this game land or to nearby game lands, some related spending – such as expenditures on lodging, meals, fuel, and hunting supplies – may occur in other local jurisdictions. However, since the affected area represents less than 1% of the 37,500-acre game land, the Commission anticipates any resulting shifts in local government tax revenue to be negligible.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments would eliminate opportunities for hunting with dogs and hunting with firearms on a 230-acre portion of the 37,500-acre Butner-Falls game land. Hunting with dogs and hunting with firearms do occur in this portion of the game land, however, the WRC does not have a method for quantifying the level of use specific to this tract. This change is expected to have the greatest impact on deer hunters, although the popularity of that practice in this specific location is not known. The proposed changes may also impact hunters targeting other species such as turkey, small game, and waterfowl.

Hunters who prefer to use dogs or firearms may reduce visits to this specific tract but are more likely to shift their use to other sections of the game land or to neighboring game lands. It is possible that some hunters may switch from using dogs or firearms to using archery equipment to continue using this portion of the property if the proposed changes are adopted. We do not have a measure of recreational use on this portion of the game land and cannot estimate the number of hunters potentially impacted or accurately predict how their use patterns may change.

With respect to the proposed prohibition on the use of firearms within this 230-acre tract, the Commission acknowledges that petitioners have expressed concerns about their use near residential areas. Existing regulations – such as requirements that hunters using rifles must be positioned at least eight feet above ground level or the prohibition on the discharge of firearms within 150 yards of a residence adjacent to game lands – are designed to reduce the likelihood of unsafe projectile travel and may address many of the safety concerns raised by petitioners. While the proposed firearm restriction may provide residents with an increased sense of safety, the Commission cannot conclude that the change would materially reduce an identifiable safety risk based on available information.

Additionally, prohibiting the use of dogs on this portion of the game land may reduce conflict with still hunters and surrounding property owners. Although specific conflict data are limited, the Law Enforcement Division is aware of general instances of conflict across the game land involving hunting with dogs and nearby landowners. These conflicts are dispersed and are not routinely reported in a way that allows quantitative analysis.

No biological impacts are anticipated for game animal populations due to the proposed changes. The proposed amendments only impact a small portion (less than 1%) of a much larger game land, and hunting in this area does not significantly contribute to landscape-level hunting pressure.

BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, N.C. Department of Agriculture, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Town of Butner. Durham, Granville and Wake Counties (37,480 total acres)

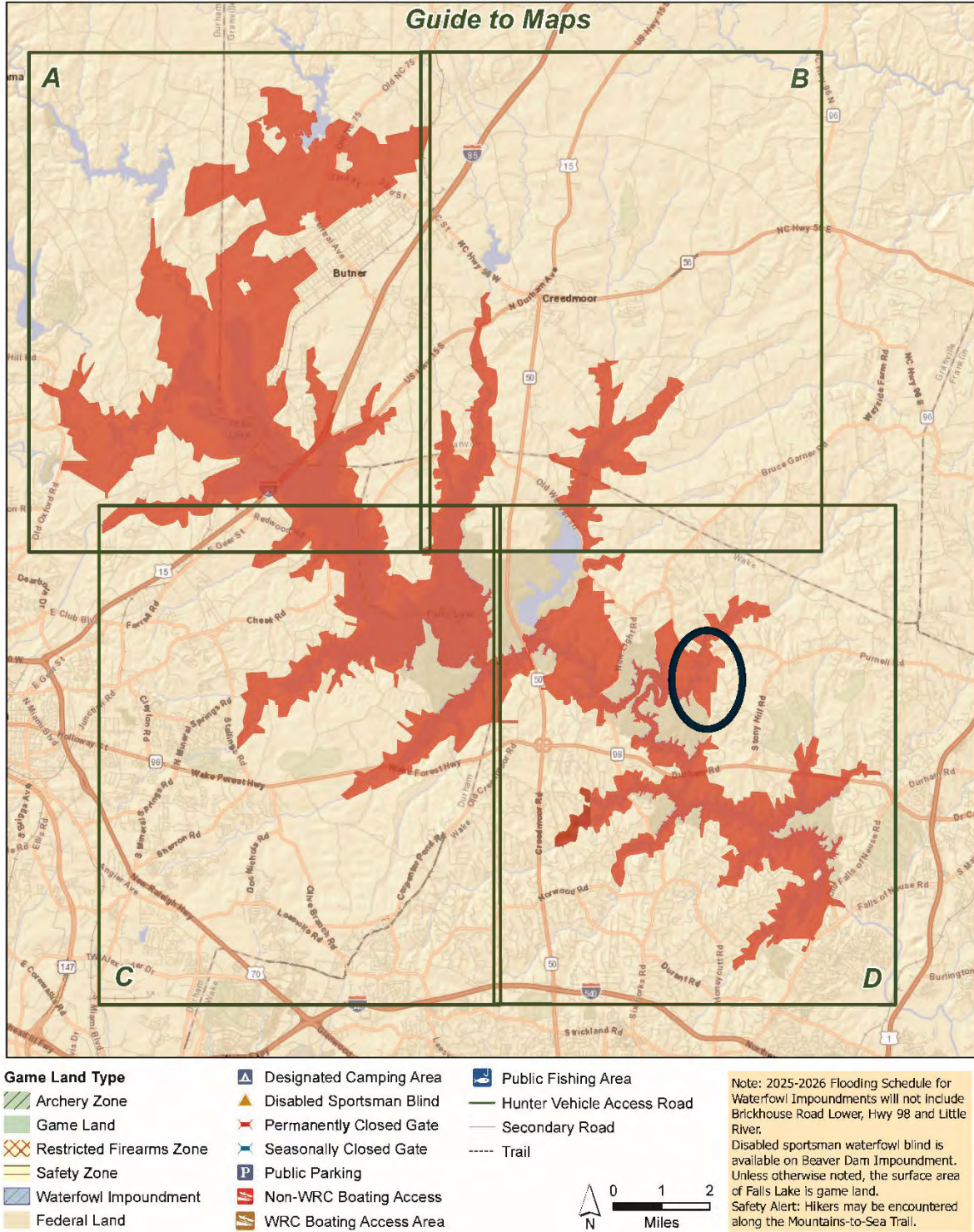


Figure 1. Map of Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land (approximately 37,500 acres)

BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND (continued)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, N.C. Department of Agriculture, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services,
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Town of Butner, Durham, Granville and Wake Counties

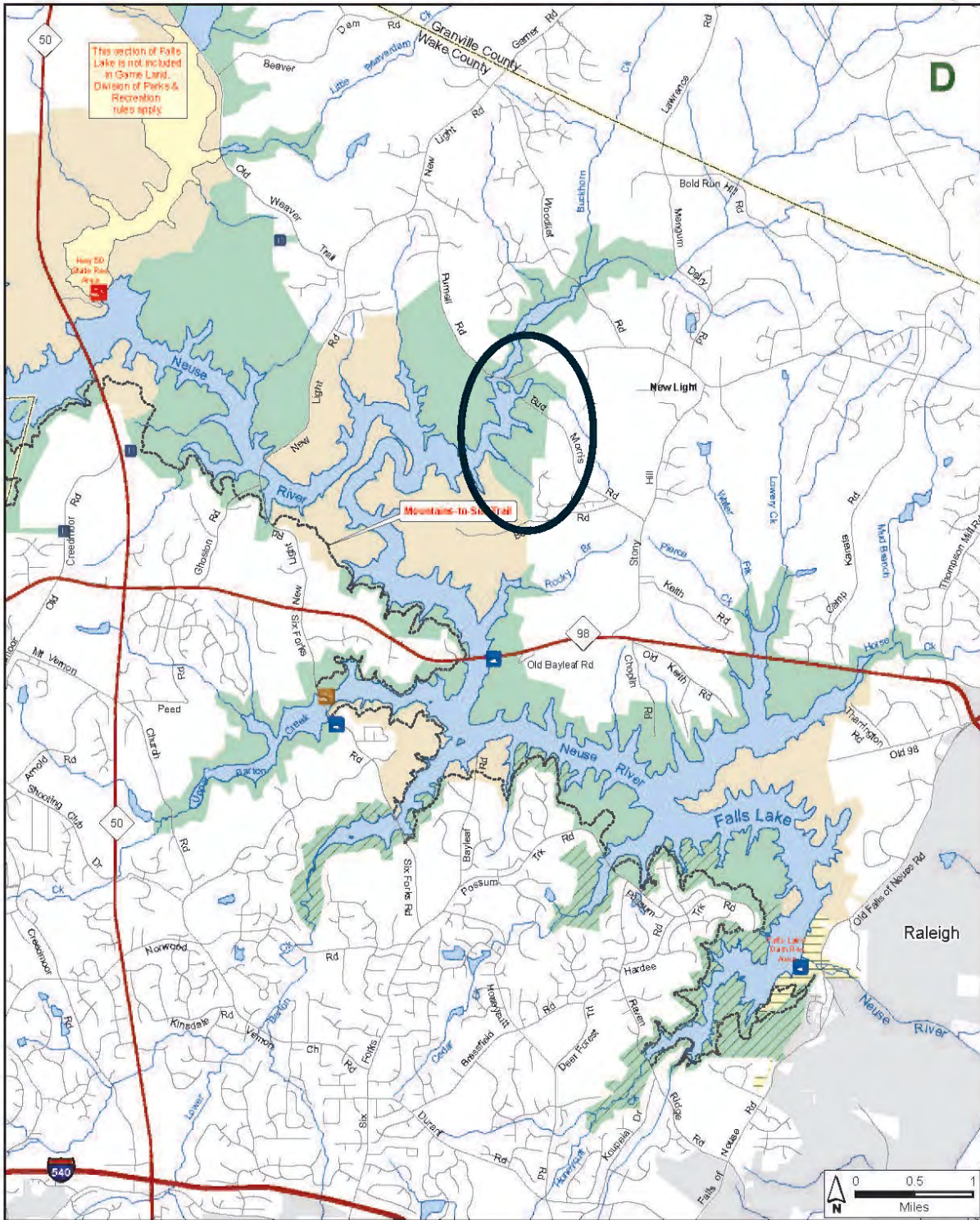


Figure 2. Regional view of the affected area within the Butner-Falls Game Land.

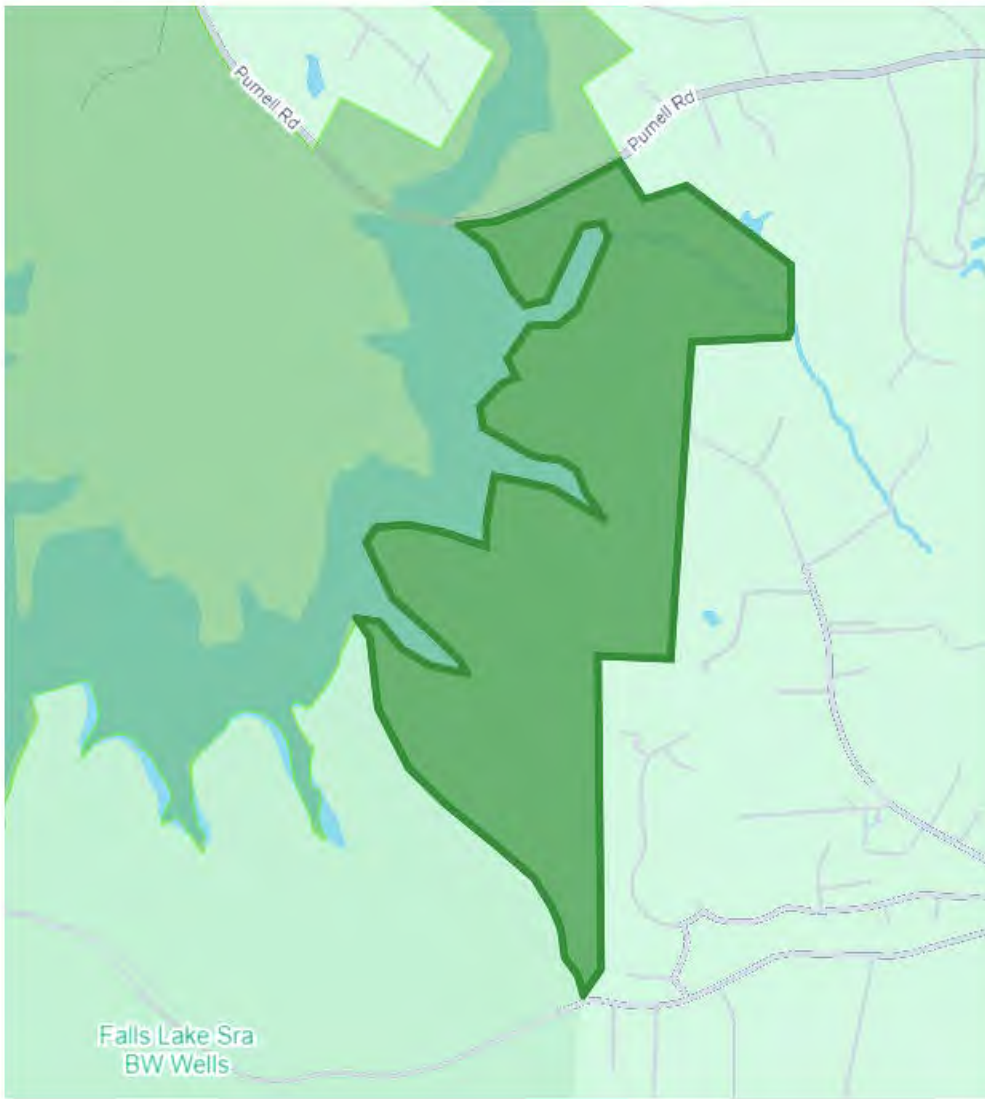


Figure 3. Detailed view of the portion of Butner-Falls of the Neuse Game Land impacted by the requested changes. Total acreage is approximately 230 acres.

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND**
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8 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

9 (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

10 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
11 hunting after November 1.

12 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.

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14 (5) On that portion south of Purnell Road (SR1909), north of Bent Road, and east of New Light Creek,
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23 August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.

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29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

31 *Eff. November 1, 2022;*

32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023.*

33

EXHIBIT M-3

April 16, 2026



Petition for Rulemaking – Materials Submitted by Petitioner

**15A NCAC 10D .0211 Butner-Falls of Neuse
Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake Counties**

DATE: February 2, 2026

NCWRC

FEB 02 2026



TO: Executive Director of the Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606-2576

FROM: Elaine Owens



SUBJECT: Petition to Ban the Use of Hunting Dogs and to change a portion of Butner-Falls of Neuse Falls Lands to Bow-Only

In compliance to 15A NCAC 10A.0401 – Form and Contents of Petition, I would like to submit this hand-delivered petition, along with supporting documents.

1. Petitioner: Elaine Owens, 
2. Group/Representation: Elaine Owens, 
I am filing on behalf of the Kenwood Reserve and Bent Place subdivisions. Per the attached petition, I am filing with the permission of the Kenwood Reserve and Bent Place residents.
3. We wish to amend 15A NCAC 10D.0211 (6) which pertains to the use of dogs for hunting and to add a new regulation that stipules bow-only in the game lands surrounding our subdivisions.

4. Amend 15A NCAC 10D.0211 (6) to read:
The use of dogs for hunting is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake. The use of dogs for hunting is also prohibited on that portion of the Falls Lake Game Land south of Purnell Road and boarding the subdivisions of Bent Hill, Kenwood Reserve, and Stone Walls subdivisions (see attached map for clarity in boundaries).

Desired effect:

Banning the use of dogs for hunting would eliminate the damage and harassment of residents' private property and reduce the abuse of hunting dogs.

Adopt the following:

Designate game lands surrounding Falls Lake as a bow-only area in the portion of the Falls Lake Game Land south of Purnell Road and boarding the subdivisions of Bent Hill, Kenwood Reserve, and Stone Walls subdivisions (see attached map for clarity in boundaries). No firearms allowed.

Desired effect:

Bow-only would eliminate the current dangerous situation to residents in adjacent subdivisions. The BW Wells area includes public campgrounds and a main access road leading to the lake, with game lands located immediately adjacent. These conditions result in regular vehicles, pedestrian, and recreational use. The game lands service road is a popular trail used daily by the residents in the adjacent subdivisions. Wake County has documented

incidents involving residences being struck by rounds from high-powered rifles, underscoring the importance of careful consideration of public safety. Hunting is supported as a wildlife management tool, and archery methods are a practical option in areas experiencing significant deer population growth. Population control efforts should be implemented in a manner that minimizes risk and prioritizes the safety of residents and visitors. These changes are long overdue and absolutely necessary. Continuing to allow gun hunting in such close proximity is irresponsible and creates an unacceptable public-safety risk. Bow-only hunting is the only reasonable and defensible option under current conditions.

5. Signature of Petitioner: _____

Elaine Owens

If permissible, I would like to attend the director's meeting that will be discussing this petition, so I can be present for any questions. We would be grateful for any consideration in granting our requests outlined in this petition.

Respectfully,

Elaine Owens

ATTACHMENTS:

- Regulation 15A NCAC 10D.0211 – Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake Counties
- **Map of the portion of the Falls Lake Game Land south of Purnell Road and boarding the subdivisions of Bent Hill, Kenwood Reserve, and Stone Walls subdivisions that we mention in our request to amend (6) use of dogs in hunting and adopt new regulation regarding bow-only.**
- Description of enclosed pictures by picture number

ENCLOSURES:

- Speech to 1/20/26 Commissioners Meeting
- Petition with Kenwood and Bent Place signature logs
- Chapter 130 Firearm Ordinances
- Local News – Death of teen at BW Wells State Park
- Timeline of numerous hunter issues – Note recent 2025 incidents on pages 2-4
- Deer Issue, Trespassing & Dumping Issues
- Miscellaneous support documents
- 26 Pictures that include Abused pup, deer carcass in cul-de-sac, the close proximity of the hunter blind to Kenwood homes and trail, the location where the teen was shot in close location to Kenwood homes, picture of burning ashes and beer bottles in parking lot, hunter trucks in Kenwood and Bent Place subdivisions.

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

Butner-Falls of Neuse 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 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14.
- (8) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (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.*



Picture Descriptions

Deer Carcass shot/dumped in cul-de-sac on 12/9/24.

Smoking fire and spotlight for hunting deer in trail parking lot on 10/22/16.

Supporting email report in Miscellaneous documents.

Beer Bottles in woods by parking lot on 10/22/16. Supporting email report in Miscellaneous documents.

Pictures #1-4 - Two (2) of the three (3) hunter trucks with dogs in the Bent Place subdivision cul-de-sac on 11/24/25. Note, the same red truck was in the Kenwood Reserve subdivision on 1/1/26, per the 1/1/26 email in the miscellaneous support documents.

Pictures #5-6 - Sadie, the abused, malnourished, and flea-infested pup at neighbor's house, 11/24/25. Dog flinched and cowered down when hunter in red truck came to get her. It was obvious she was scared of him.

Picture #7 – Trail picture showing Hunter's Blind distance from Kenwood homes. Note, blind was only 100 yards right of trail.

Picture #8 – Bent Road approaching Memorial and trail on right used by residents and public where hunter blind was located.

Pictures #9-10 – Memorial at corner of Bent Road and trail for 12-year old shot and killed on 12/28/12.

Pictures #11 – 16: Parking lot entrance to trail showing close proximity of Kenwood Reserve subdivision homes.

Pictures #17 – 23: Start of trail showing close proximity of hunter's blind to trail. Only 100 yards from trail used daily by residents and public.

FEB 02 2026

Date: December 22, 2025

Subject: Request to ban use of hunting dogs in Wake County and Request for bow-only hunting in the game lands surrounding Falls Lake

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing on behalf of myself, my Bent Place subdivision, Kenwood Reserve subdivision, and other people in Wake County about an ongoing situation regarding the use of dogs for hunting, and the need to redesignate game lands surrounding Falls Lake to a bow-only hunting zone .

In regard to the use of hunting dogs, we would like to request your assistance to help stop and ban the use of hunting dogs in public game lands. The use of hunting dogs affects other non-dog hunters by not giving them a fair chance to hunt. It also impacts auto drivers when deer are chased and run out of their habitat onto the roads and highways causing accidents, damaging other vehicles and possible injury. As a result, this affects both car and medical insurance companies, resulting in higher premiums. It also results in an increase in government expenses to clean up the highway, resulting in higher taxes. In addition to these expenses, hunting dogs run into private property chasing deer. There are some hunters that go into a neighborhood and release their dogs so the dogs will chase the deer back into the game lands. The use of dogs for hunting impacts the serenity and safety of residents' private property.

A major concern is the treatment of hunting dogs. There are many reports that indicate they are often abused, beaten, abandoned, and starved as an incentive to hunt the deer for food. These hunting dogs are so skinny that you can see their ribs and hip bones. They are shoved into tight kennels and live in the cold, heat and rain year-round. They endure a very sad, poor quality of life.

In regard to surrounding Falls Lake game lands, we would like to request that they be redesignated to bow-only hunting.

We would request Wake County hunting laws be updated to reflect the immediate and permanent banning of using dogs for hunting and redesignation of the Falls Lake game lands to bow-only hunting.

Whereas: The owners of private property possess rights regarding the enjoyment, use, safety and peace of their property that legally surpass the privileges of hunters when the pursuit of the sport deprives private property owners of rights, and

Whereas: Hunters using loose dogs, by their own admission, cannot hunt without their dogs trespassing and doing damage to private property, and are therefore undertaking a sport that they know beforehand, will at some point, involve breaking the law, and

Whereas: It is often not possible for private property owners to prosecute for trespassing or sue for damages because dogs are unattended by hunters when damage occurs, despite the hunter being aware of the expectation of damage and trespass when he undertakes loose dog hunting, and

Whereas: There exists specifically within the population of loose dog hunters a large and ungovernable contingent that does not respect private property and believes, wrongly, that they have a right to terrorize and intimidate their way onto private property despite the wishes of the property owner, and

Whereas: Loose dog hunting is responsible for the majority of hunting complaints from property owners regarding trespassing, threats of bodily injury, threats of arson, harassment, animal cruelty, and livestock injury and killing, and

Whereas: Only 6% of the population in North Carolina have a paid hunting license. Note, there were no stats available for just Wake County. Nationwide, the percentage of the population that hunts has been steadily declining over the past few decades.

Whereas: Wake County's population in 2000 was 627,846 according to the US Census. In 2010, it was 906,875. In 2022, it increased to 1,2 million; a 29.6%

increase from 2010. For comparison, the US population grew 7.7% and North Carolina's population grew 11.7% during this same 12-year period. Estimated population for Wake County in early 2025 is approximately 1,261,494. Last year's county's population growth rate was 2.36%, averaging 29,100 new county residents annually. Wake County has a larger population than Mecklenburg County. It is the largest county in North Carolina and has seen a 39.1% growth since 2010. There is a growing conflict with hunters and their dogs as North Carolina becomes more populated, and

Whereas: The NC Wildlife Resource Commission can only issue fines if the registered private property is posted every 200 Yards with no trespassing signs. It is very easy for the hunters to deface or remove signs, removing all authority from the NC Wildlife Commission, forcing the property owner to bear the cost to repost their property and allowing the hunters to grant self-endowed immunity for trespassing and poaching, and

Whereas: Loosed hunting dogs are often abused, abandoned, have a poor quality of life and are not neutered, resulting in unwanted puppies and a greater cost for the communities' animal control and increased disease and parasite transmission, and

Whereas: Dogs set loose beyond the hunter's control cannot be provided food or water by their owner and often become lost, injured and/or inhumanely dehydrated and starved, and

Whereas: The practice of hunting deer with loose dogs is detrimental to the health of the deer population, because dogs cannot be retrieved unless a kill is made, even if quarry is young or it is desirable to be left alive in the population, and

Whereas: Modern loose dog hunting involves turning dogs loose with tracking collars, taking advantage of modern roads, technologies and vehicles, is unsportsmanlike, dishonors the historical hunting tradition, is unneighborly and inhumane, and

Whereas: Hunting deer with dogs has been banned since 2001 in adjacent Durham County. The ban of dogs for hunting has also been implemented in the states of Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming. The states of Texas and West Virginia only allow the use of leashed dogs to track wounded deer.

Whereas: Wake County Wildlife department only has two (2) officers to enforce hunting regulations. Being so short staffed, it is impossible for them to adequately and thoroughly investigate all hunting irregularities.

Whereas: The harassment from the dogs and hunters lowers the desirability, functionality, usability for raising livestock or fowl and sale value of private property and tax revenue, and

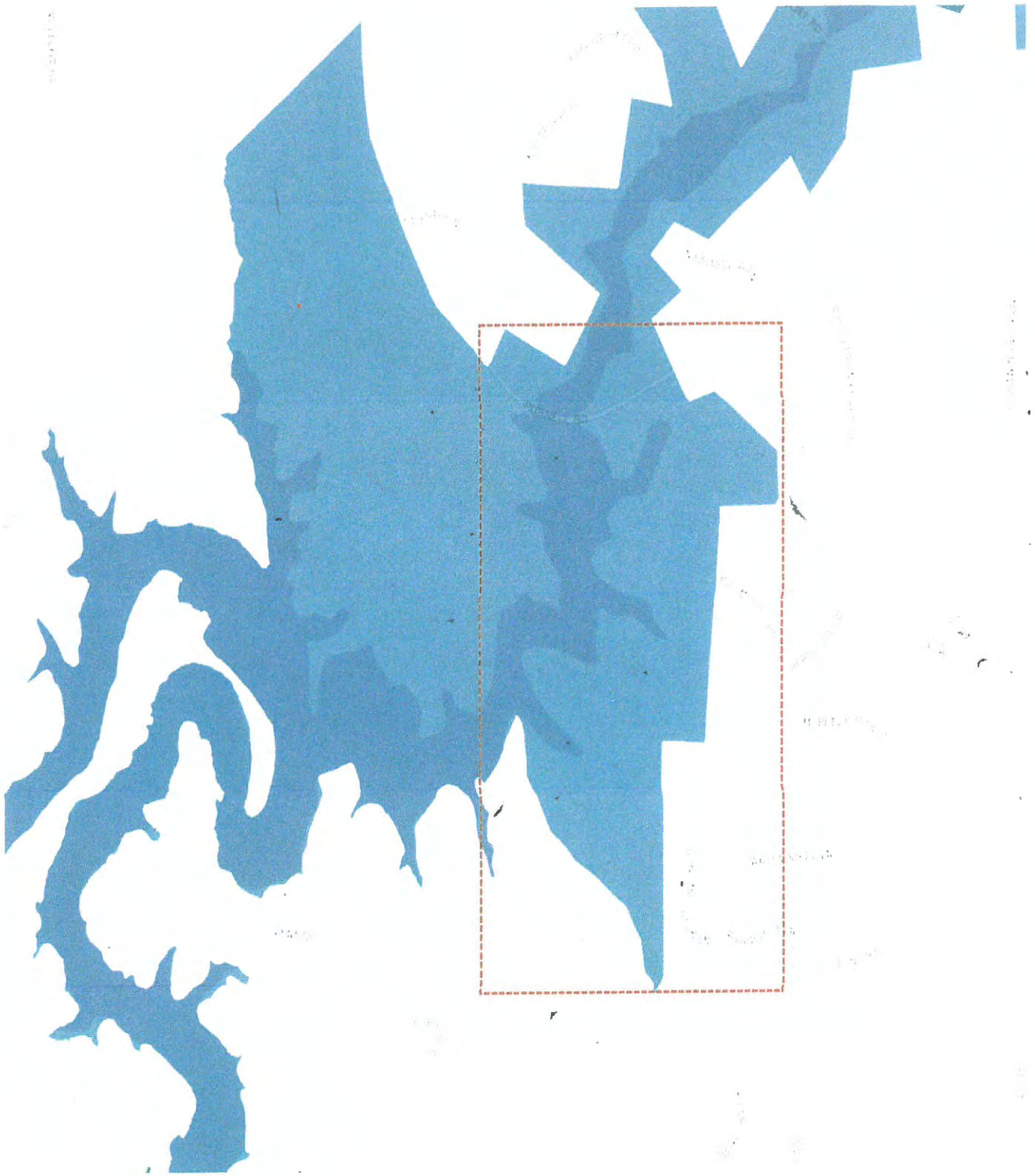
Whereas: The above-mentioned instances represent a significant monetary injury and harassment of the taxpayers and property owners of Wake County and create well documented evidence of widespread and habitual abuse of the privilege extended to hunters and fair justification for the permanent revocation of the privilege of using hunting dogs in Wake County.

Whereas: Many of the Falls Lake areas are directly bordered by subdivisions and by public park property where families, children, hikers, and people walking their pets are present every day. With Wake County's population growth and heavy recreational use of these parks, continuing to allow gun hunting in such close proximity is dangerous and irresponsible, and creates an unacceptable public-safety risk. Bow-only hunting is the only reasonable and defensible option under these current conditions.

Therefore: We, the undersigned residents of Wake County, request that the Falls Lake game lands be redesignated for bow-only hunting. We also request that the practice of hunting with loose dogs, having been deemed by us to be unacceptable, anti-social behavior that causes great damage, expense, harassment, animal abuse, and is undertaken by hunters with full knowledge and understanding that laws will be broken, property owners harassed and private property destroyed or livestock injured, be permanently banned in Wake County.

We, the undersigned property owners living in the Bent Place and Kenwood Subdivisions, along with other Wake County residents, hereby petition Wake County to ban the use of dogs for deer hunting and redesignate surrounding areas of Falls Lake to bow-only hunting.

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PETITION SIGNATURES LOGS)



Bent Place SUBDIVISION

BENT PLACE SUBDIVISION, WAKE FOREST, NC PROPERTY OWNERS - BAN OF DOGS FOR DEER HUNTING PETITION SIGNATURE LOG

OWNER	ADDRESS	CITY/STATE/ZIP	EMAIL	SIGNATURE	DATE
Jan Fabolla					12/1/25
Oscar Andrade					12/1/25
Marla Andrade					12/1/25
Mark Voss					12/2/25
Laura Voss					12/2/25
Richard Scheuerle					12/11/25
Metanie Scheuerle					12/11/25
Snezhana Johnson					12/1/25
Shanlyn Price					12/1/25
Justin Price					12/1/25
William Owens					11/30/25
Elaine Owens					11/30/25
Daniel Ehrhardt					12/1/25
Dominee Ehrhardt					12/1/25
Heidi Mullen					12/1/25
Others in WAKE COUNTY					
Amy DeMuth					12/3/25
Phillip DeMuth					12/3/25
Sarah DeMuth					12/3/25
Ben Goeman					12/3/25
Mike Hanter					12/3/25
ANDREA CAMPBELL					12/3/25
WILLIAM CAMPBELL					12/3/25
M. CAMPBELL					12/3/25
					12/3/25

Elaine Owens

*Kindred Reserve
Submission*

From: Jeff Knight [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:29 AM
To: Elaine Owens
Subject: FW: Your petition download for "Ban use of deer dogs and designate the game lands surrounding Falls Lake as archery only*" is ready
Attachments: petition_signatures_jobs_490935896_20260110144305.csv

Good morning Elaine,

I just downloaded the petition for you and have discovered something that is a little discouraging. Shortly after posting, the petition must have been shared with a foreign group of some kind. Could be a Facebook group in Europe. In any case, the majority of signatures we have gotten appear to be foreign. I am attaching the CSV here for your review. If we filter the state to NC, there are only 53 signatures. I pasted them below for your review.

I am also including the download email from Change.org in case you need to reference it for some reason. You cannot access the link page without my login, but you can use it if someone were to ask about the source.

Again, I apologize for this last-minute surprised. I did some checking into this and it appears that this does happen. I am amazed that we did not get more local support, as our neighborhood email list alone has 73 people on it.

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Jeff Knight	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/21/2025
Lauren Knight	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/21/2025
Daniel Vreeman Jennifer & Jason Seghere	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/21/2025
Luz Bermudez	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/21/2025
Elizabeth Reio	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/21/2025
Marsha Burt	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/22/2025
Suzanne Michaets	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/22/2025
Julee Knight	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/22/2025
Timothy Park	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/22/2025
Elaine Owens	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	12/22/2025

*53 Kindred
23 from PL
76
-10 Duplicates
66 TOTAL*

ellen mckim	12/22/2025
Snezhana Johnson	12/23/2025
Jennifer Fabella	12/23/2025
Deborah Zeledon	12/23/2025
Richard Robinson	12/23/2025
Bruce McKim	12/23/2025
Oscar Andrade	12/23/2025
Gina Pritts	12/24/2025
Adam Pritts	12/24/2025
Mark Voss	12/24/2025
Laura Voss	12/24/2025
Benjamin Goewey	12/24/2025
Amy DeMuth	12/24/2025
Shannon Hall	12/24/2025
Diane Stubbs	12/24/2025
Sarah kehrberg	12/24/2025
William Owens	12/26/2025
James Hamburger	12/29/2025
Julie Kane	1/2/2026
Sue Woodling	1/2/2026
Jim Young	1/2/2026
Carmen Crutchfield	1/3/2026
amy wilson	1/5/2026
Ashlee Allen	1/8/2026
Colleen Torchio	1/8/2026
Nicholas Torchio	1/8/2026

Catherine Timchak	1/8/2026
Rose Sommer	1/8/2026
Henry Dixor	1/8/2026
Mark Lanning	1/8/2026
Marianne Park	1/8/2026
Daniel Ehrhardt	1/8/2026
Dominee Ehrhardt	1/8/2026
Heidi mullen	1/8/2026
Jenny Roberts	1/8/2026
Susana Navas	1/9/2026
Victor Malpica	1/9/2026
Elsa Navas	1/9/2026
Amanda Mullen	1/9/2026
Kai Mullen	1/9/2026
Emily Glisson	1/9/2026
Darlene Urquhart	1/9/2026

From: Change.org [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2026 9:43 AM

To: Bent Place and Kenwood Reserve Neighborhoods [REDACTED]

Subject: Your petition download for "Ban use of deer dogs and designate the game lands surrounding Falls Lake as archery only*" is ready

change.org

Hi Bent Place and Kenwood Reserve,

Speech Presented to Wake County Commissioners on 1/20/26

Petition to ban use of hunting dogs and to change Neuse Game Lands as bow-only

Over the past years, neighborhoods adjacent to BW Wells State Park, Wake Forest, NC have shared strong concerns about hunting with dogs and about the use of high-powered rifles so close to our homes, parks, and walking areas around Falls Lake.

Our petition request Wake County and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to permanently ban the use of hunting dogs for deer hunting, especially on public game lands around our neighborhoods. We also request that the Falls Lake game lands directly bordering our Bent Place and Kenwood subdivisions, and the nearby park areas, be redesignated as bow-only hunting zones. This is intended to address the very real danger of rifle shots being fired within 100–300 yards of homes, playgrounds, walking trails, and park users, even when dogs are not involved.

I have included in your presentation folder the following:

1. Our petition – Signed by Bent Place & Kenwood residents
2. Chapter 130, Firearms Regulations. Note 130.02 states unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm within 300 yards of any dwelling. **Wildlife officer advised hunting excluded. Hunting is only 150 yards. WHY???**
3. Local News articles on 12-year death due to being shot 12/28/12, **100 yards in the woods near Kenwood subdivision. Uncle had improperly acquired hunting license and had not taken mandatory free hunting education course.**
4. Timeline of Hunting issues – starting 2007 to current
 - a. Numerous Dumping of deer carcasses
 - b. **Dogs running throughout neighborhood**
 - c. **Smoking fire ash and beer bottles in woods**
 - d. Spotlighting
 - e. **Abuse of hunting dogs**
 - f. Firearms in park
 - g. 11/9/25 – **HUNTER IN BLIND AIMED RED BEAM ON KENWOOD RESIDENT**
 12/27/25 – Gunshots fired and hunter on trail
 1/17/26 – Hunter attempting to deer hunt after the 1/1/26 deadline
 Rogue hunters; Wildlife department short staff and can't control them
 - h. Pictures- 12/9/24 Deer Carcass in cul-de-sac
 Hunter trucks with dog cages
 Trail – hunter blind 100 ft from trail
 Trail – 12- year old memorial at trail entrance
 Smoking fire ash and beer bottles
 Sadie – Abused hunting dog

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With only 2 wild-life officers, hard to control these rogue hunters. Unable to ensure hunting dogs are well cared for. Hunters are more aggressive and reckless, becoming a danger to nearby residents.

In short, the petition now asks for two related safety measures:

1. A permanent ban on hunting deer with loose dogs in Wake County. Durham County as this ban and we should too.
2. Redesignation of the Falls Lake game lands adjoining our neighborhoods to bow-only hunting, given the dense residential development and heavy family use of nearby public parks.

Our hope is that you will continue to stand with us, as these two changes work together toward the same goal: protecting the safety, peace, and property rights of families living next to the Butner – Falls of Neuse/Falls Lake game lands while still allowing responsible, safer hunting methods.

CHAPTER 130: FIREARMS

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FEB 02 2026

Section

Discharge of Firearms

- [130.01](#) On public streets or highways
- [130.02](#) Within 300 yards of a dwelling
- [130.03](#) Within 300 yards of a public building
- [130.04](#) Within 300 yards of livestock
- [130.05](#) Firearm discharge standards
- [130.06](#) Exceptions
- [130.07](#) Penalty

DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

§ 130.01 ON PUBLIC STREETS OR HIGHWAYS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm on or from the traveled portion of any public street or highway. For purposes of this subchapter, **FIREARM** is defined as any gun, rifle, pistol or other barreled weapon capable of discharging projectiles such as shot, bullets, pellets or other missiles at a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second and actually loaded with such a projectile.

(1984 Code, § 2-9-16) (Ord. passed 5-4-1981; Ord. passed 6-4-2001; Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

§ 130.02 WITHIN 300 YARDS OF A DWELLING.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm within 300 yards of any dwelling owned and/or occupied by another unless the person first procures the written permission of the owner or occupant of the dwelling.

(B) (1) The written permission shall be executed on a form provided by Wake County. It shall be dated and valid for no longer than one year after its issuance.

(2) The permission must be displayed upon the request of any law enforcement officer with authority to enforce this subchapter.

(1984 Code, § 2-9-17) (Ord. passed 5-4-1981; Ord. passed 6-4-2001; Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

§ 130.03 WITHIN 300 YARDS OF A PUBLIC BUILDING.

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm within 300 yards of any building reasonably likely to be occupied, including, but not limited to, any school, church, warehouse or any playground or park.

(1984 Code, § 2-9-18) (Ord. passed 5-4-1981; Ord. passed 6-4-2001; Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

§ 130.04 WITHIN 300 YARDS OF LIVESTOCK.

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm within 300 yards of any domestic livestock belonging to others unless the person first procures the permission of the owner of the domestic livestock.

(1984 Code, § 2-9-19) (Ord. passed 5-4-1981; Ord. passed 6-4-2001; Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

§ 130.05 FIREARM DISCHARGE STANDARDS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm:

(A) In such a way as will, or is likely to, result in the load thereof leaving the property upon which the firearm is lawfully discharged.

(B) Without a backstop that will adequately contain the projectile to the property upon which it was discharged. The backstop shall be based on specifications promulgated by the National Rifle Association or any equivalent nationally recognized firearms safety organization for the type and caliber of firearms being fired. At a minimum, the backstop shall be composed of a berm, dike, or other physical barrier that is located behind and beyond the target, that has a minimum thickness of two feet, that extends a minimum of four feet above the target, and that is constructed of a material that will allow the projectile to penetrate the backstop, berm, dike, or other physical barrier but not pass all the way through it.

(C) At any object other than a fixed, stationary target at which the firearm is specifically aimed, directed and fired.

(D) Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
(1984 Code, § 2-9-20) (Ord. passed 6-4-2001; Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

§ 130.06 EXCEPTIONS.

(A) *Commercial facilities.* No provision in this subchapter shall interfere with the operation of recognized or approved rifle or pistol ranges, skeet or trapshooting facilities or "turkey shoots", when conducted in compliance with [Chapter 92](#) of this code.

(B) *Miscellaneous exceptions.* None of the provisions of this subchapter shall apply to law enforcement officers or members of the armed forces acting in the line of duty; to the shooting or killing of any dangerous or destructive animal or reptile when necessary to protect life or property; to the lawful taking of birds or animals pursuant to G.S. Chapter 113, Subchapter IV, as it is from time to time amended, or pursuant to a lawfully issued federal permit; to the use of firearms for defense of person or property; or the use of firearms pursuant to lawful directions of law enforcement officers.
(1984 Code, § 2-9-21) (Ord. passed 5-4-1981; Ord. passed 6-4-2001; Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

§ 130.07 PENALTY.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter of this code of ordinances shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, and each day that any of the provisions of this chapter of this code of ordinances are violated shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. passed 11-9-2022)

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LOCAL NEWS

Authorities: Uncle accidentally shot nephew on hunting trip

A 12-year-old Tarboro boy was accidentally shot and killed while hunting with his family in Wake Forest on Friday morning, according to the Wake County Sheriff's Office.


Posted 6:08 p.m. Dec 28, 2012 - Updated 7:22 a.m. Dec 29, 2012

[Play Video](#)

Authorities said Friday that a 12-year-old Tarboro boy who was killed while hunting with his family in Wake Forest was accidentally shot by his uncle. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission officers, who took over the investigation from the Wake County Sheriff's Office, said preliminary findings show 30-year-old Jason Matthews Parker accidentally shot his nephew, James Lee Parker, with a 12-gauge shotgun during the excursion.

A spokesman for the agency said Jason Parker had an "improperly acquired" hunting license and had not taken a mandatory free hunting education course. Wildlife officers plan to discuss the case with Wake County prosecutors before deciding whether to press charges.

James was hunting deer with his father, uncle and 16-year-old cousin when he was shot just before 8 a.m., according to the boy's grandfather, Jimmy Parker III.

James, who had hunted since he was 4 years old, was about 100 yards in the woods near 1617 Bent Road when the shooting occurred. 

Authorities released a redacted recording of the 911 call made shortly after the shooting. The sobbing caller tells the dispatcher, "My son is dead in a hunting accident. We were hunting. My son has been shot in a hunting accident."

The caller tells 911 that the boy is not breathing and limp, then begins to weep.

James was a sixth-grader at Phillips Middle School in Edgecombe County, according to his family.

[Play Video](#)

12-year-old killed in Wake Forest hunting accident

"He loved to hunt. He just went hunting yesterday, actually. He said it was so fun," said Michaela Roberts, James' cousin. "His favorite food was pizza rolls. Last night, we were just hanging out eating pizza rolls from my house, and we were watching TV. It was the funnest time ever, greatest memory. Can't get it back now."

Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison called the shooting "a tragedy."
"I mean, just imagine, Christmas just over with, a 12-year-old is out, just like my grandson was excited about going hunting with me," Harrison said. "I can't even imagine the thoughts that would be going through my mind if my grandson had gotten shot."



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12 year old killed in hunting accident

By ABC11

Friday, December 28, 2012

WAKE FOREST, N.C.

A 911 operator took a call from James Lee Parker's distraught father just after 7:30 a.m.

"My son is dead," he said through tears.

It happened near Bent Road and Colombard Court in the Falls Lake Recreation Area.

[» Click here for Google map «](#)

Harrison said Parker - of Jeremy Lane in Tarboro - was hunting deer with three other people when it happened.

A picture of Parker provided by a relative showed a happy young blond-haired boy posing with a cousin.

North Carolina Wildlife officials said the uncle Jason Matthews Parker of Franklinton fired a single shot with a 12 gauge shotgun which hit 12-year-old James Lee Parker.

Officials said Parker improperly acquired a hunting license and had not taken the hunting education course as is required by the state of North Carolina.

Though the investigation is still ongoing, Parker could face criminal charges.

Sheriff Harrison said 12 year olds can hunt if they're accompanied by an adult. As they're out of school, the Christmas holidays are often a time when young people go out with their families to get their first deer.

The boy's grandfather told ABC11 Friday that his grandson died doing what he loved and took his first deer last year.

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TOP STORIES

Google Maps



Bw Walk State Park

Kendwood Subdivision

Bent Place Subdivision

Trail

Memorial for teen shot in 2012 at beginning of trail entrance

Imagery ©2026, Map data ©2026 Google 100 ft



Google Maps

Bent Rd & Colombard Ct



Imagery ©2026, Map data ©2026 Google 500 ft



→ Bent Hill Ct

Bent Rd & Colombard Ct
Intersection

* Tow Works State Park



Directions



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North Carolina 27587

Photos

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FEB 02 2026

Hunter Issues Timeline – Updated 1/17/26

Nov 2007 – **Deer carcasses dumped in Benthill Ct cul-de-sac**

=====

Sat 11/1/08 – **Deer carcasses dumped in cul-de-sac**. Sara, Neighbor at Cul-de-sac, advised she had talked to Sheriff Fishel and Wildlife Officer Brantley regarding her confrontation with two guys in a NAVY PICK-UP TRUCK XSC-3407.

Tuesday, 11/4/08, 1:50 - 2:30 p.m. – **Deer carcasses in Benthill Ct cul-de-sac. Case # 01-08-114600:** We trapped 3 boys in cul-de-sac; said they were looking for their friends hunting dogs. Sheriff asked if they knew anything about the deer carcass and they said no. He responded he didn't believe them and told them. Also told them they were trespassing and I nor neighbor wanted them on our street (private road) and walking around on our land.

WHITE FORD, CROWN VICTORIA WXC-6542; Alex Bailey; Father, Wayne Bailey, [REDACTED] street behind us).

BLUE VW, YPK-3617; Ryan Christopher Stitt, [REDACTED] Mother, Beth J Stitt, [REDACTED] Has 12 charges against him; one serious.

Cars registered to boys. Both 17 and attend Wake Field High School

=====

Friday morning, 12/1/12 – A 12 year old Tarboro boy killed while hunting with his family at BW Wells State Park, Wake Forest. Teen was accidentally shot with a 12-gauge shotgun, by his uncle. His uncle had an improperly acquired hunting license and had not taken the mandatory free hunting education course.

The teen was about 100 yards in the woods near 1617 Bent Rd. when the shooting occurred.

=====

Nov/Dec 2014 --- Walking my dog Mocha on trail; she had blood on her face. **Hunter had left deer insides on trail**, on park side.

October 22, 9:45 a.m. - 2016 – **Smoking fire ash, beer bottles and spotlight in parking lot.** Red Ford Truck ZZN-8596 in parking lot. Hunter named David Farrenze/Farance (?) by red truck. Asked if he set fire; he said no. But said a WHITE BRONCO was pulling out at 5:30 a.m. when he arrived. Appears they spent the night spotlighting, which is illegal.

=====
 Sunday afternoon, 12/8/24 – There was 7-8 trucks with hunters and dogs in right trail parking area.

Monday night 12/9/24, 11:00 p.m. – Heard a couple of big sounding truck(s) coming rolling down the cul-de-sac.

Tuesday, 12/10/24 – **Deer carcasses in Benthill Ct cul-de-sac.** Neighbor Dominee sent email advising hunters dumped gutted deer carcass in cul-de-sac; Tony cleared it out for her.

=====

2025 HUNTING SEASON;

Saturday, 11/8/25 – Heidi called me. **Hunting dogs running through back of Dominee’s and my property.**

Sunday, 11/9/25, 8:00 a.m. - **Hunter shot a red beam on Laura Robinson’s chest as she approached hunter blind close to trail.**

Sunday, 11/9/25, mid/late morning – **Found fresh young deer leg on trail.**

Friday, 11/14/25 afternoon – **Hunting dogs running through back of our properties again.** Dominee called sheriff as saw 3 trucks with hunting cages come into our neighborhood. Believe hunters letting their dogs loose in cul-de-sac to run deer back into game lands. She was able to get pics of the red and gray trucks, but not the white truck. The hunter in the red truck was questioned by sheriff. He was looking for his dog. We found his dog, Sadie, at Mark’s house. It was malnourished and flea infested. Sadie flinched when owner came up to get her. You could tell she was scared of him.

Wed, 12/24/25 morning – Laura Robinson advised blind removed. She went and took down yellow ribbons on trees adjacent to blind.

Saturday, 12/27/25, 10:30 a.m. – Bill and I, along with our 2 pups were on the right trail. Hunter blocking trail at halfway mark. Heard gunshots – warning or shooting at deer? Saw hunter orange cap and rifle. Turned around as dangerous situation. Took pictures of blue Dodge(License SR-8136) and silver Tacoma (License LLT-9153) trucks parked at beginning of trail.

Monday, 12/29/25 – **Ashes dumped illegally on gravel parking area by main entrance.**

Thursday, 1/1/26, 3:32 p.m. – Kenwood resident, Shannon Hall, sent me email of a red truck with dog cages on back, on Sonoma Creek. **Said he was looking for his dog.** White Truck also came up but she was not able to get a picture of white truck. Red truck was the same one that we confronted on 11/14.

Saturday, 1/3/26- Received email from Range Orcutt questioning if the silver Tacoma truck had passenger window taped up as he was investigating **situation of hunters carrying firearms into the park.** Unfortunately, not able to confirm as my pictures were from the driver’s side.

HUNTERS:

Group 1 – Hunters with dog cages on back of truck, coming into Bent Place and Kenwood subdivisions looking for their dogs.

- Red Nissan Truck, License LML-3961 - **Michael Rigsbee charged with having an unleashed animal in state park.** He’s the hunter on 11/4/25, with the pup that looked abused.
- Older Chevrolet White Truck with Hooper’s Plumbing on truck - **Jerry Hooper charged with driving on a revoked license.**
- Dark Gray Truck, License 2UD-889 - OH license per Ranger Orcutt.

Group 2 – 12/27/25 incident where I saw hunter on trail at halfway point with rifle. I had heard 3-4 gunshots prior to walking up on hunter.

- Dark Blue Dodge Ram Truck, License SR-8136
- Silver Tacoma Truck, License LLT-9153 – Ranger Orcutt checking on this vehicle as had received concern of firearms in park. Not able to confirm if passenger back window taped up by pictures I had taken. Thus, not able to confirm if same hunter noted in Group 5.

Group 3:

- Dark Blue/Black GMC Truck – **Tyler Carden issued warrant for arrest due to possessing a firearm in state park.**

Group 4:

- White Ford F-150 Truck – Driver observed with a shotgun while inside the park. Identity has not been confirmed. No good image of his face or license.

Group 5:

- Dark Blue Truck - Ranger Orcutt had this truck on camera dumping ashes. Different one than the one parked 12/27 at the game lands gate. License plate came back to a Honda.
- Silver Tacoma Truck – Ranger Orcutt had this truck on camera on Jan 1. He was unable to identify. And unable to say whether this Tacoma was the same one parked 12/27 at the game lands gate.

=====

Saturday, 1/17/25, 9:30 a.m. - Bill and I returning from walk with our 2 leashed pups. UNLEASHED black and white dog that looked like a border collie came running towards us. **Dog had tracker collar on it.** I yelled to warn Bill. Dog then ran back towards parking lot. Man besides **a white Tacoma truck (new model type), License LFW-6134.** He was wearing camouflage hoodie with orange strap across chest. Dog was no where in site. Man looking towards parklands (I took a picture of him doing this), so I believe it ran into parklands. I asked him if he was a hunter and he said yes. **I told him DEER hunting ended and he is not suppose to be hunting. He said it had not ended;** I responded it did and told him I was going to take pictures of him and his truck. He immediately got on his phone/walkie talkie and was talking to someone. I overheard him say I was following him and taking pictures. I approached him and told him I googled deer hunting dates and it ended January 1. He told me he was calling the sheriff. I told him great, I would be calling the park ranger and wildlife officer. He told me he did not have a gun, and added he was walking his dog. I believe whoever he was talking to, told him to tell me he had no gun and walking his dog. I believe he was waiting for someone to arrive and then go hunting. Note, his dog, who he was suppose to be walking, never came back to him during this entire exchange. I left to run errands and returned to trail at 11:30 a.m. - his truck was not in parking lot.

Sat 1/17/26, 9:42 a.m. - I called and left a detailed message for Park Ranger Orcutt regarding this exchange; later that afternoon, I sent him an email with pictures I had taken for any future reference.

Sat. 1/17/26, 10:23 a.m. - I also called and spoke to both Officer Lawrence Tkin and Eric Blalock, Area Sgt over Johnson and Wake counties. Blalock said small game hunting still in effect and hard to prove he was there for deer hunting. I responded that the hunter and I specifically talked and mentioned "deer hunting". I shared with him the various issues we have had with rogue hunters and it would not surprise me if this hunter did not have a license and taken the mandatory safety class as he did not even know the actual deer hunting dates. I mentioned to him that I would be presenting a petition to the Wake County Commissioners this Tuesday requesting a ban on the use of hunting dogs and for Archery-only in the game lands in the park. **He advised the commissioners could not do anything about changing it to Archery-only; that was up to the Wildlife commission. We also discussed the 300 yards firearm discharge regulation, but he advised that it did NOT apply to hunting. He said it was only 150 yards.** He was very nice and provided me his work cell [REDACTED] for future concerns, and requested I let him know how the results of the 1/20 commissioners' meeting.

DEER ISSUE, TRESPASSING & DUMPING ISSUES *updated 11/17/25*

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SHERIFF DEPT CONTACTS:

- RECORD DEPT- Nicassa [REDACTED]
- Investigation Dept: Bonnie [REDACTED]
- Major Herbert Holding, [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]
- Sgt Patrick, [REDACTED]
- Lt Byrd (919) [REDACTED] direct
- Deputy Hendrix [REDACTED] 11/4/08 Incident - Case # 01-08-114600.
- Deputy Fishel [REDACTED] direct
- Deputy Faatiliga [REDACTED]
- Deputy J. Smith [REDACTED] 2/8/09 Incident - Case # 09-15182
- Deputy Sefton [REDACTED] 11/24/09 Trespassing Incident – Case # 09-111419

Drug & Vice Dept – Re: Suspected 6/15/09 Drug Incident

- Detective Matthews [REDACTED] direct ; E-mail: [REDACTED]
- Sgt McCormack [REDACTED]
- Detective Wright [REDACTED]

WILDLIFE & PARK RANGER CONTACTS:

- Park Ranger – Greg Orcutt [REDACTED]
- Wildlife - 1-800-662-7137; Officer Burlingame cell [REDACTED]
- Animal Control - (919) 212-7387; Jared Johnson [REDACTED]; email: [REDACTED]

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACTS:

- Jason Holmes, Dept of Transportation [REDACTED]
- Ron Garrett, Asst Division Traffic Engineer, Durham Sign Dept [REDACTED]
- Steve Johnson (Ron Garrett's Boss) [REDACTED]

MISC CONTACTS:

- Baileys' tow truck [REDACTED]
- Record dept (919) 856- 6949; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., M-F; 330 S. Salisbury St. across from courthouse; P. O. Box 550, Raleigh, NC 27602, Attn. Records 2nd Floor. \$2 for "media" copy.

BENTHILL CT NEIGHBORS:

- Elaine Owens – [REDACTED] cell [REDACTED]
- Mike Szafran – Owner of cul-de-sac lot by our house; Wk [REDACTED] cell [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]
Beth Wk [REDACTED] cell [REDACTED]
- Joanna Bircher – Developer of Benthill Ct. subdivision (corner of Bent & Benthill Ct.) ; [REDACTED] cell [REDACTED]
- Joanne, Greg, & Hedi Shumucker, [REDACTED]
- Rob & Yana, [REDACTED]

BENT RD NEIGHBORS:

- Sara & Chris Kusan - Last drive on left by park; [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]
- Dan – has spoken to Game Warden Michael Willaford; E-mail: [REDACTED]

VIOLATORS/TRESPASSERS

On 11/4/08:

- **Alex Bailey,** [REDACTED] Father, Parents – Wayne & Terri Bailey, [REDACTED] Terri's email: [REDACTED] **WHITE FORD, CROWN VICTORIA WXC-6542**
- **Ryan Christopher Stitt** [REDACTED] Parents: Richard & Beth Stitt, [REDACTED] Beth's email: [REDACTED] Has 12 charges against him; 1 serious; **BLUE VW, YPK-3617;**
- **Alex Spengenberg,** Ryan Stitt's cousin. Was with in car with Ryan.

Possible 2/8/09:

Alex Bailey, [REDACTED] (see above).
Jason George, [REDACTED] Parents – Gary and Patricia, [REDACTED] **BIG BLUE TRUCK BP 6769,**

On 6/15/09, 7:30 p.m.:

WHITE 1982 CHEVY SUV - YPK-2732 NC
 BLUE 2001 MERCURY SABLE - YVC-8168

On 11/24/09, 1:20 p.m.:

Alex Bailey, [REDACTED] Father, Parents – Wayne & Terri Bailey, [REDACTED] Driving down Benthill on his 4-wheeler as I was coming in; **Was issued TRESSPASSING WARNING.**

Tues 12/2/08:

Red 2008 Honda Civic , 12/2/08 @ 7:15 a.m. with young man in vehicle in cul-de-sac. Registered to company in Charlotte; Hispanic name. Lives on Mica (??) off Thompson Mill Rd.; **XWS-5596.**

Sat, 11/1/08 (per Sara):

Jason Melnyk [REDACTED] (off Falls of Neuse Rd.) 20 yr white male; brown hair.
NAVY PICK-UP TRUCK XSC-3407;

LEGAL HUNTER:

Jonathan Lloyd, Red Ford Truck; cell [REDACTED] wk [REDACTED] **WSD-7418.**

Sat, 11/1/08 - Sara advised she had talked to Deputy Fishel and Wildlife Officer Brantley regarding her confortation with two guys in a **NAVY PICK-UP TRUCK XSC-3407.**

Mon, 11/3/08 –

1:10 p.m. – Called Wildlife Officer Brantley to support Sara's report. Provided him navy truck license as he said he didn't have it. Asked him to call them and get back with me when he did; said he would.

1:15 p.m. - Called Deputy Fishel to support Sara's report. He said he hadn't called the owner of the navy truck yet, but will and call me back.

Note: when I called 11/4 to follow up and advise of 11/4 situation he said he had misplaced navy truck license. Gave him information and said I would be following up with him. He said he was in court today, but would call on truck this afternoon or Thurs, 11/5 and get back with me. 11/11, 10:30 a.m. – Left voice mail requesting status on his contact with driver of navy truck as never called me back.

2:00 p.m. - Talked to James Holmes about getting "no dumping" signs for Bent Rd and possibly getting one for me to post on Benthill. He will call Durham office and call me back.

=====
Tues, 11/4/08, 1:50 p.m. – 2:30- p.m. A white and a blue car parked in middle of cul-de-sac. Went to park in front of them to get out to see what they were doing and blue car took off. Gave chase but unable to catch up. Went back to cul-de-sac. White car still there so called 911; Deputy Hendrix came to investigate. Advised can hunt on game land, but can not shoot within 300 yds (size of football field). Car is not to be parked in middle of road impeding traffic. Provided him Mike and Beth's name and phone numbers as he had to verify private property. He could not have towed as private road so called Joanna and she called tow truck. Blue car came back with 3 boys in car, one of them the owner of the white car. Baileys' tow truck came 2 minutes after.

I approached blue car and told driver I didn't appreciate him driving off when I approached him; that when an adult does that it was rude what he did.

Deputy talked to all three boys. Asked them what they were doing and why they had their cars parked in cul-de-sac. Said they were looking for their friend's hunting dogs (Jason George's dog per Alex's mom on 2/8/09). Deputy asked if they knew anything about the deer carcass and they said no. He responded he didn't believe them and told them and suggested they tell their friend not to leave deer carcasses in cul-de-sac. Also told them they were trespassing and I nor neighbor wanted them on our street (private road) and walking around on our land. Took blue car driver's license and had run license for white car. **Gave them a warning that they were trespassing and next time would be arrested.** Deputy said he would visit and talk to Mr. Bailey (father of the kid of the white car) either this afternoon or tomorrow.

Kid with white car asked me not to have his car towed as he had to be at work soon and go to school tomorrow. Told tow truck driver not to haul car since kid there, but he's to pay for his fee to come out which was \$85. Kid was calling someone (parents?) to get money.

The two kids of the blue car were grinning so I asked them if they thought this was funny. As I took pictures of their car and license, the driver of the blue car made some smart remark and took out his cell phone and took a picture of me taking a picture of them. I responded that one never knows when you may need it for court and left.

Deputy Hendrix made report and advised will be public record when filed. **CASE # 01-08-114600.**

WHITE FORD, CROWN VICTORIA WXC-6542; Alex Bailey [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] (street behind us).

BLUE VW, YPK-3617; Ryan Christopher Stitt, [REDACTED]
 Has 12 charges against him; one serious.

Cars registered to boys. Both 17 and attend Wake Field High School

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Mon, 11/17/08 – Sara sent email advising five more deer found on Bent Rd across from her driveway. Suggested she call Deputy Hendrix.

Tues, 11/18/08 –

9:08 a.m. – Contacted Jason Holmes for sign status; will follow up with Durham office and call me back-.

9:10 a.m. - Spoke with Lt Byrd (Deputy Fishel's boss) to call me as had not heard back from Fishel; provided dates of contact and messages left. Lt Byrd suggested post No Trespassing signs all around property no more than 50 feet apart then they could immediately be charged with trespassing. Also provided him Sara's phone number as I did not have info as to what she told the guy when she found him on her property.

Fishel called me right away. Advised had not called me back as still trying to get up with individual. Said he had left several messages and gone by house and individual has not returned his calls. He provided me name and address (Jason Melnyk) so I could document. I suggested he send letter warning of trespassing and hunting, etc since his calls have not been effective. He said they usually don't send letters, but will call him again and leave a detailed message so documentation could be made he was notified.

Mon 11/24/08, 1:15 p.m. – Left message with Melissa for Jason Holmes regarding sign status. Holmes called me back 11/26/08 morning to advise two "No Dumping" signs will be placed on Bent Rd. – one at the end of the road; the other at the Benthill Ct. Should be done today or early next week.

Wed, 11/26/08 – Dan to meet with game warden as shooting after hours last night. Followed trail to Churchill Dr.

Thurs, 11/27/08, 11:00 a.m. (Thanksgiving Day) – Saw Red Ford Truck, license **WSD-7418**, on trail by Sara's house.

Mon 12/1/08 – **Found 9 dead squirrels laid out in middle of cul-de-sac.** Also found empty beer glass bottle and trash bag full of empty beer cans thrown on left side of road up near Jonna's house.

Tues 12/2/08 – 7:15 a.m.– Bill walking Mocha and saw vehicle driving to cul-de-sac. Walked up and Small red car XWS-5596 with young man in vehicle parked in middle of cul-de-sac facing out and talking on phone. Short white male, with light colored buzz haircut. He speed off as Bill approached car.

7:50 a.m. – I called and talked to Deputy Faatiliga and reported incident after sharing brief history of events. Also shared spin tracks on my property in circle and side of road (empty pack of Newport News cigarette by track) which is concern. Suspect drugs and requested he notify him he is on private property and trespassing. Deputy Faatiliga said he would go by house as near his house and get back with me to confirm contact. Note: Had to call Deputy Faatiliga back on Mon 12/15 as he never called me back.

9:00 a.m. – Noticed Red Ford Truck, **WSD-7418**, on path by Sara's, then saw hunter. Stopped and met Jonathan Lloyd. Discussed the deer carcasses; agreed immoral. **He is a legal hunter and advised he had found about 21 in that area. Said appears to be spotlighting, which is illegal, as all shot in the throat. Also advised he was out here Thanksgiving Day (tracks – see my notes) and saw a young boy, age 12 yrs, sitting in his stand. When he approached, boy aimed his shot gun at him. He asked boy if he had a license, boy ran off. Boy wearing dark pants, black hooded jacket and black steeler's cap.**

9:10 a.m. – Game Warden Michael Willaford drove up. He had talked to Jonathan and Dan, my neighbor, about concerns. Willaford sat out Thanksgiving evening, but didn't see anyone. **I advised him of the dead squirrels and trash bag of empty beer cans on my street so appears late, late Thursday evening** – Sun morning. He provided me his number to call if I hear anymore night shots. Sent Willaford this report to assist in his efforts.

Wed, 12/3/08, 10:00 a.m. – LM with secretary for Deputy Hendrix to update him on Ryan Stitt coming out this way last week in spite of his warning and yesterday's red car issue. Secretary advised all three deputies share area and info passed along.

Wed, 12/10/08 – 11:30 a.m. – Jason Holmes returned my call and advised "No Dumping" signs will be put up as Durham Sign dept did investigation and said no evidence of dumping. I responded not true as my husband and I personally pick up trash on Sunday nights as neighborhood trash day on Mondays. In fact, we took out our gator and went up and down Bent Rd and our street this past Sun, 12/7 in the late afternoon and picked up trash and remains of deer carcass on our street. Told him I would forward this report to him as evidence there still is a problem. Note, the Durham sign dept never contacted me. He said he would forward my email to them.

Thurs, 12/11/08, 9:00 a.m. – I contacted Ron Garrett with D.O.T. regarding his decision not to install signs. We discussed his investigator went out and could not find deer carcasses; said he advised landscaping crew and they saw no evidence. I responded that of course not as already cleaned up, plus landscape crew would not be doing clean up, the neighbors and game wardens would. I suggested he contact the various individuals listed on my report as they would confirm my concerns. Told him this has been going on for couple years now and has to stop as health issue. He could not provide me the date the investigator came out. I cited various dump issues and noted even had picture of dead squirrels to support my concern. Said he had not seen my notes I had forwarded to Jason Holmes requesting it be forwarded to him. He indicated had not yet checked his emails. He took my name, email, and phones numbers and said he would send me email for me to forward my notes to him if he didn't get it from Holmes.

Mon, 12/15/08, 10:12 a.m. – Left voice mail and forwarded email with my notes to Steve Johnson, Ron Garrett's boss, **as never heard back from Ron Garrett.**

10:15 a.m. – I called Deputy Faatiliga as had not heard back from him regarding red Honda car. He said he did go to house and talked to mother. However, son description of brown, long hair did not match Bill's description. Deputy said mother said her son was at college in Durham, but has a girlfriend in this area. Said she would call her son and tell him not to park in our street. I told deputy things did not match up as my husband did not make this up and odd he would be parked in an EMPTY cul-de-sac and wondered if he knew other two boys that had done the same; thought they would follow up on that (they never did).

3:00 p.m. – Jason Holmes called. He had NOT forwarded my email with report to Ron as promised last week, but will do so today. Said he didn't know he was suppose to forward; I mentioned that email recounted our conversation saying he would and for his use to forward to Durham sign dept, etc.

3:15 p.m. – Steve Johnson called; had looked over my report and will pass onto investigator. Mentioned investigator had seen dead squirrels. Will call me direct if any questions. Doesn't look promising as budget cut backs due to economy.

=====
Sun, 2/8/09, 7:38 a.m. – **Reported vandalism of mailbox (mailbox pulled out and thrown on bushes and left plaster deer in driveway.** Deputy Smith came right away. Briefly discussed problems

in past with neighborhood kids and provided him a copy of this report and noted the names of the kids on the front page as possible suspects. Incident may be a landscape larceny if deer stolen from another property.

12:00 p.m. – Called **Alex Bailey's** house for permission to come and talk to his parents. Mother, Terri, answered and Bill and I met with her. Discussed past issues in this report and incident last night. Said she knew about the cul-de-sac as Alex had called her for money when the wrecker came. She said the deputy never contacted her and didn't know if the deputy had contacted her husband. **She stated Alex was out last night with Jason George (neighbor kid) last night and told us where he lived.** Also mentioned there was an Alex Spangenberg, who was Ryan Stitt's cousin, that they hung around. Said Spangenberg went to her church. Told her I didn't know if it was Alex or Jason who was with Ryan and her son that day in the cul-de-sac as sheriff provided me only the two driver's names. Told her I did take pictures and would send to her for ID purposes and send copy of my report for her review. Bill shared that he is out of town on occasions and now concerned with my safety as getting too close to our house. Said she understood and didn't blame us.

12:14 p.m. – Left voice mail at **Jason George's** house for his parents to call me as provided their names and wanted to talk to them regarding last night's incident. **They never returned my call.**

12:18 p.m. – Called and talked to Beth Stitt's, **Ryan Stitt's** mother. She said Ryan was home last night and not with Alex. Unaware of 11/4 cul-de-sac incident. **She advised deputy never contacted them; if they had, she son would have taken his car away from him.** She also mentioned Alex Spangenberg's name as her nephew who Ryan hangs out with. Said I would email her report when I sent Terri Bailey's so we can all have each other's contact info.

12:30 p.m. – Called Terri Bailey back to advise her Ryan was home last night per his mom so appears maybe her son and Jason could have been in mischief last night. Said she would call me later after she talked to her son when he got home at 3:00 p.m. **Terri never called me back.**

1:25 p.m. - Brenda Ray, Bent Rd., advised not her deer as all in her yard accounted for.

2:40 p.m. – Email with my documentation sent to both Terri Bailey and Beth Stitt.

3:16 p.m. – Beth Stitt called me back to ID the other boy in the picture as her nephew, Alex Spangenberg. She was very apologetic and embarrassed and will be sharing this information with her sister-in-law. I thanked her for her attitude and support.

Mon, 2/9/09 – 4:15 p.m. – Trash man did not take deer, so I returned it to the Bailey's driveway.

4:55 p.m. – Ms. Parker at the Sheriff's dept. referred me to the Investigative dept as Deputy Smith not in and he refers it to them. **Bonnie, Investigative Dept, advised Smith's report , Case # 09-15182, indicated he went by the Bailey's house, but no one at home.**

Approx 5:15 p.m. – Terri called me regarding deer in driveway and said I should have called her. Told her no, she said she was going to call me, but never paid me the curiosity to do so. She gave excuse that she was busy yesterday and today as has aunt who is dying from cancer and then she had to get kids ready this morning (?? - has older kids) and then work today. Told her sorry to hear about her aunt as my mom died from breast cancer so understand. Asked her if she asked her husband if deputy contacted him regarding the 11/4 incident and she said no. **Asked her if deputy came by her house yesterday and she said no and she was home as had Geek squad there at 8:00 a.m. that morning (true, as truck there when we got there at noon).** She then got

defense about my notes (so she read the email) accusing her son of Sunday's incident. Stressed again that it was an assumption, as could not prove it was him, but due to the deer, it's a good bet it was since he was involved in the cul-de-sac incident. She said that it could have been any of his friends as the tow truck was a real visible thing and they probably talked to their friends about it (???). Told her that if I had been her, I would have immediately called my son at work – she said she is not able to contact her son at work (??). I told her I would then have told my husband to come down and fix my mailbox. Told her my mailbox is very expensive for it to have been thrown around and my husband had to fix it. She said she asked her son and he said he didn't do it – I said “right, and you believe him?”. Told her based on his reputation, i.e., understood **he was involved in breaking the windows at the rapper's house**, I have to assume it was him, since she told me he was not home Sat night. She immediately said, “Alex was younger then and Greg and Joann's son, Clay, was involved too”. (I don't know what bringing my Clay had to do with her son, but Joanna advised **two of the Bailey boys, one being Alex**, and Clay were involved and Clay no longer gets in trouble, after his dad, Greg, got hold of him). Ended telling her that I wanted her to understand that my road and home are private and I don't want her son near this area as he will be trespassing, and for her to tell the neighbor's boy that too since his parents never called me back. **She told me that she has already told Alex he is not to come anywhere near us.**

2/10/09 – Discussed with Major Holding my concern that parents were not informed as also noted by Beth Stitt since her son was 17 and a minor at the time of the 11/4 incident. He advised they attempt to contact the parents, but not necessary if over 16 years old. Expressed my frustration that lots of reports but not effective if parents are not notified. Plus, I was told parents had been notified and finding out they were not. Forwarded email I sent to parents, along with this report, to Major Holding for his follow-up.

2/16/09 – Sgt Patrick called. Had read email sent to Major Holding and having Deputy Hendrix and Deputy Smith go talk to the parents. Said Hendrix should have visited neighbor as talking to him on the phone was not enough as needed to sign paper. Can not arrest until paper signed. Agreed that if Deputy said he would talk to parents he should. I mentioned that if had been done the first time, the second incident may not have happened. Thanked him for his time and follow up.

10/30/09 (?) Incident at park entrance – walking with Calah and Mariah at park. Two park rangers talking with 2 hunters (both young dark haired, with orange caps & hunting vests). Pulled one ranger aside (John Metz) and briefly told him about out trespassing and dumping issues and I was the lady that had been talking with Game Warden Michael Willaford last year. Saw Park Ranger John Metz about two days after while out walking with girls again; he gave me his card to call if I saw anything odd and/or kids on 4 wheel drive. Said boys charged with littering beer cans.

Sun, 11/15/09, 7:30 a.m. – went to get paper, **broken glass from a Crown Royal liquor bottle all over my driveway.**

Tues, 11/24/09, 1:20 p.m. – As I pulled into Benthill Ct., saw Hedi Shumucker walking down street, then saw Alex Bailey driving a 4- wheeler. Turned car around to follow him. He turned left onto Bent Rd and cut through Kenwood where I lost him. As I pulled up to Bud Morris Rd to exit Kenwood, saw him coming down Bud Morris towards me. I pulled out behind him. He turned right onto Bent Rd., then through Kenwood subdivision, then back onto Bud Morris, and back onto Bent Rd and then onto his street, Churchill Rd., when he realized I was going to continue to follow him. I pulled up in the middle of his gate. He got off his 4 –wheeler and took me to leave, and hand motion shooing me away, as he attempted to close gate. Told him he was trespassing and to go get his parents or I was going to call the sheriff. He said his parents were not home and was smirking. As I was calling 911, he got on the phone laughing and smoking a cigarette while sitting on his

4-wheeler. I backed up to the street as needed to provide address to 911. Within minutes, **a big blue truck, License BP 6769, belonging to his neighbor Jason George**, came down his driveway. Reported this to Hedi, the 911 dispatcher, and stayed on the phone with her due to situation; she said Deputy Sefton in route. They both approached me and told me to back up. Alex said it was his neighbor (Jason George??) and he had to go to work. I told them both that someone needed to go get some parents as not moving till sheriff came. Blue truck went off the side of the driveway and left. Alex then took off towards his house. I checked gate for Hedi and advised although closed, it was not locked. Went home to print report for Deputy Sefton. Sefton came over and pointed out date, 11/4/08, Alex was warned by Deputy Hendrix that if he ever trespassed again, he would be arrested. Sefton asked if any trespassing papers filed, if not, could not arrest. Pointed out on my documentation, Deputy Hendrix had not, but Major Holding was suppose to follow up to ensure done. 3:00 P.M. – Deputy Sefton came back and advised Alex no longer a juvenile as in college and now 18 years old so talked to him as an adult. Alex had attitude and told deputy he wasn't talking to him that he could talk to his daddy. Sefton explained that he and complaint (me) could go to court and could result in him having a record, which may not mean anything to him now, but will in the future for employment or he could sign a Trespass Form and agree not to trespass again. He choose to sign the form. Sefton provided me copy and said that if he should ever trespass again, to present form to investigating sheriff and they will arrest/cite him as will be on file.

Advised Greg Shumucker of results and thanked him and Hedi for being willing to support me. Hedi said she saw him come up the street on his 4-wheeler as she went down her driveway to walk. Said he went down cul-de-sac and came back down the street (that's when I saw him) and she would be willing to provide deputy a statement. Deputy Sefton said he didn't need since Alex Bailey signed Trespass form.

3:53 p.m. – Called Deputy Sefton's boss, Sgt Denning, and complimented Sefton on how he handled the situation and got the form as Hendrix and Holding did not get the trespassing forms as promised and this could have been avoided. Complimented him on his efficiency, communications skills and professionalism.

Mon, 4/19/10, 8:15 a.m. - Taking Mocha to park and saw Silver/Gray Silverado 1500 SUV, **VA License XMM-1366**, parked on left side of Benthill Ct., facing Bent Rd, near rail by Jonna's house. White Tee shirt hanging out window. Called into 911 who transferred me to Highway Patrol. While on phone, white man, mid-late 20's, with brown buzz cut and glasses walking down from Bent Rd. Asked him if his car and he said yes, and coming back as private road. I responded if he knew it was a private road, why did he park here, and he said engine heating up. Asked him where he was walking to and he said getting his dad to help. Asked him if his dad lived near here and he did not answer me. Told him I had just called his car in. He said he though he could start it up (?). I left for the park and car gone when I returned 20 minutes. Called sheriff's office and reported due to past drug and break-in issues. Odd VA license and no business being in neighborhood early in morning as parked closed. Deputy Harris did call back at 9:30 and I shared info with him.

DRUG SUSPICION

Mon, 6/15/09, 7:30 p.m: Bill heard car with loud muffler so went to cul-de-sac to check it out as heard this same car a couple of times before within the last 6 weeks. One time before he went to check it out, but car zoomed past and couldn't catch up to him.

There were 2 cars in cul-de-sac - one blue car and one old white SUV type, front to front on back end of curve. Three white males standing outside cars, approximate ages 18-19. One white girl, approximate age 18 in front seat of blue car, with 2 white girls in back seat which appeared to be much younger. The male who owned the

blue car was slight built, 5'8"-5'9", with brown hair. The two males in who had the old white SUV, were both heavy set, one had black unruly hair, the other dark brown unruly hair.

Bill pulled up to the cars and asked what they were doing. The guy who owed the blue car replied "Just Talking". Bill told them to talk somewhere else as this is a private road and we don't want you down here. The guy who owned the blue car responded "Yes sir; no problem, we're leaving". As Bill was pulling behind the white car he took note of the license number. As the males were returning to each of their cars, Bill looked out his rearview mirror and saw the slight built guy hold out his hand backward with palm facing up to which one of the heavy set guys placed a small white envelope in his palm. The blue car pulled out, and Bill followed him so he could take his license plate number. The old white car, then pulled up behind Bill. All cars went to the end of the street, where the blue car turned right, Bill turned left, and the white car turned right.

WHITE 1982 CHEVY SUV - YPK-2732 NC
BLUE 2001 MERCURY SABLE - YVC-8168

Tues, 6/16/09, 4:00 p.m. – Returning from cabin, I checked cul-de-sac and saw empty 12 pack beer box thrown in the grass. Bill does not believe it was them as there was nothing in their hands. However, it does appear that others are visiting this spot. I frequently check it due to prior problems; when trash appears, it's usually on the weekend.

Wed 6/17/09, 12:00 p.m. – Left message with Drug & Vice dept to call me regarding suspected drug incident; Detective Matthews returned my call, but the number he gave me was incorrect. 8:00 p.m. - Called main number and left another message.

Thurs 6/18/09, 8:00 a.m. – Called Detective Matthews (via cell phone received calls) and emailed report to him. He will be forwarding info to another detective who handles the north side of town. 3:05 p.m. – Sgt McCormack called and will be assigning to Detective Wright. 5:00 p.m. – Detective Wright called. Two vehicles they have been working on and one lives within 2 miles from her. Will begin staking out Wed and increase patrol around this area. Told him we are gone during the weekend and he's welcome to use our house if needed. He will keep me posted.

Sun, 6/28/09, 1:30 p.m. – Bill working in yard and heard white car in cul-de-sac tearing down street. Bill mentioned heard same last week too.

Mon 6/29/09, 10:35 a.m. – left message on general phone to call me as white car still in this area. Sent email as well to Detective Mitchell.

8/13/09, 1:38 p.m. – Detective Wright called. Closing case for now as patrolled area and nothing. Will continue to ride through this area when out this way. I will call if anything .

Thurs. 10/27/11, 7:00 a.m. – Bill took pups to cul-de-sac and found very young deer gutted thrown on Beth's property near grass cut line, with fresh bloody cover over it. Also roll of linoleum to side of it (so maybe flooring guy). I left message of incident on Mike Willaford, Game Warden, voice mail. Never called back. Discussed with sheriff deputy but not much they could do; he said he would request increase patrol. Deputy did mention he could not reveal name, but person dealing in drugs is now in prison so confirms why we haven't had the traffic problems in two years. Beth made arrangements to have carcass removed.

MISC

Monday, 9/21/09, late afternoon – Young dark hair male in medium size **gray car, license YY1-2151 or YYY-2151**, came into cul-de-sac. Bill and I were in gator. No reason for him to be there.

Thurs, 1/21/09, approx 2:30 p.m. – In back yard taking Mocha out and saw white truck in cul-de-sac stopped. Believe he saw me and took off. On 1/22/09, **saw White Ford F-150 truck (4dr cab), license XVP-7621**, that looked like the one yesterday. Oakley and NC State decals on back window and green camouflage seat covers; thinking hunters. Note: “No Trespassing” signs were up at beginning of street and in cul-de-sac.

Elaine Owens

To:
Subject:

David McCollum
RE: Recommendation

Lives in Kenwood Reserve

NCWRC

FEB 02 2026

From: David McCollum [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 21, 2025 6:02 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Recommendation

Elaine,

This petition is long overdue and absolutely necessary. As an avid hunter, I would go further and strongly advocate for **bow-only hunting in the game lands surrounding Falls Lake**. Many of these areas are directly bordered by public park property where families, children, hikers, and people walking their pets are present every day. With Wake County's population growth and heavy recreational use of these parks, continuing to allow gun hunting in such close proximity is irresponsible and creates an unacceptable public-safety risk. Bow-only hunting is the only reasonable and defensible option under current conditions. I will sign the petition.

Respectfully,

David McCollum
[REDACTED]

*Miscellaneous
Support
Documents*

10/22/16 Smoking fire & Beer bottles and 10/25/16 - Deer insides in parking lot + trail
Elaine Owens

From: Elaine Owens [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 11:54 AM
To: 'Ward, Neal E'
Cc: 'Bill'
Subject: ANOTHER INCIDENT TODAY --- RE: More pics of beer bottles -- RE: 10-22-16 Hunter Incident at BW Wells Park

Just called the [REDACTED] number and talked to Ranger Eavs (?) to report finding deer insides (stomach and intestines - all intact) on the trail to the right before you go into the park. Same area where we found fire pit and beer bottles. Deer parts are on the left side for the walking path, just before the fork in the trail. They are marked with a white tissue with blood, as I had to wipe out my dog's mouth as thought she picked up a piece of wood and it was deer part. Scared me as thought something had happened to her since had blood in her mouth.

* We assume the hunters in the White Bronco (if true what the guy in the red pick-up truck said, per email below) we out there again spotlighting as appears this happen last night/early morning today as parts still fresh. Not only is this illegal, but disrespectful as dumping parts on a public walking path and not in the woods were they hunt.

Just for the record, you will see there was a flash light (probably used for spotlighting) by the fire pit, in the Sat. pictures I sent you. When we came back, it was missing. I assume the guy in the red truck got it.

Might want to drop by in early morning hours or set up cameras. Good luck!
Elaine
[REDACTED]

From: Ward, Neal E [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2016 12:51 PM
To: Elaine Owens [REDACTED]
Cc: Bill [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: More pics of beer bottles -- RE: 10-22-16 Hunter Incident at BW Wells Park

Great, thank you!

I have forwarded this to all of our rangers and to our county Game Wardens, so we will be on the lookout from this point forward!

Neal Ward

Neal Ward, Park Ranger II
Falls Lake State Recreation Area
[REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
www.ncparks.gov

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed

to third parties unless the content is exempt by statute or other regulation.

From: Elaine Owens [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2016 11:22:01 AM
To: Ward, Neal E
Cc: Bill
Subject: More pics of beer bottles -- RE: 10-22-16 Hunter Incident at BW Wells Park

Just returned from our walk. Discovered more beer bottles on other side of tree where the empty six pack and one bottle was. Didn't pick up as didn't know if you all take finger prints. Wanted "evidence" for your files should you need it at a future date. Happy to pick up next time we're on the trail; just let me know.

Thanks,
Elaine

From: Elaine Owens [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2016 3:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Bill [REDACTED]
Subject: 10-22-16 Hunter Incident at BW Wells Park

Hi Mr. Ward,

Per our conversation this morning, my husband and I walked our dogs on the right trail before you get to the park where the memorial is for the boy that was shot, around 9:45 a.m. this morning. As we pulled up to the chained entrance, we saw a red Ford pick-up truck parked on the right side, a fire still smoking (a concern since a little breezy this morning), and litter (an empty beer pack and beer bottle) thrown into the woods near the fire pit area. I have attached pictures of the truck, fire, and litter to confirm situation.

On our return from the walk, a man was standing by the red truck so I approached him and asked him if he did the fire and litter. He said no, and asked if we had water to throw on the fire as both concerned it was still smoking. He stated that a WHITE BRONCO was pulling out from there when he pulled up at 5:30 a.m. this morning. I asked him if he was a hunter and he said yes. I commented that my husband and I had seen those guys before and it appeared that they had camped out and my understanding was it was illegal to hunt at night. He confirmed it was illegal. I asked him his name and he said it was David Farrenze/Farance (?? on last name spelling). I told him I had taken pictures of his truck, license, and site and was going to forward them to the rangers. Just wanted to give him a heads up should he get a call from the park rangers; then he can confirm what I have just shared with you.

Should we see these hunters again, I will take pictures and/or send you their license plate info. It is unfortunate that they have no respect for our parks and safety of others. Please do not hesitate to call me, should you have any questions.

Best Regards,
Elaine Owens

[REDACTED]
Cell [REDACTED]

Picture Descriptions

Deer Carcass shot/dumped in cul-de-sac on 12/9/24.

Smoking fire and spotlight for hunting deer in trail parking lot on 10/22/16.

Supporting email report in Miscellaneous documents.

Beer Bottles in woods by parking lot on 10/22/16. Supporting email report in Miscellaneous documents.

Pictures #1-4 - Two (2) of the three (3) hunter trucks with dogs in the Bent Place subdivision cul-de-sac on 11/24/25. Note, the same red truck was in the Kenwood Reserve subdivision on 1/1/26, per the 1/1/26 email in the miscellaneous support documents.

Pictures #5-6 - Sadie, the abused, malnourished, and flea-infested pup at neighbor's house, 11/24/25. Dog flinched and cowered down when hunter in red truck came to get her. It was obvious she was scared of him.

Picture #7 – Trail picture showing Hunter's Blind distance from Kenwood homes. Note, blind was only 100 yards right of trail.

Picture #8 – Bent Road approaching Memorial and trail on right used by residents and public where hunter blind was located.

Pictures #9-10 – Memorial at corner of Bent Road and trail for 12-year old shot and killed on 12/28/12.

Pictures #11 – 16: Parking lot entrance to trail showing close proximity of Kenwood Reserve subdivision homes.

Pictures #17 – 23: Start of trail showing close proximity of hunter's blind to trail. Only 100 yards from trail used daily by residents and public.

10-22-16

Smoking fire in TRAIL
packing lot

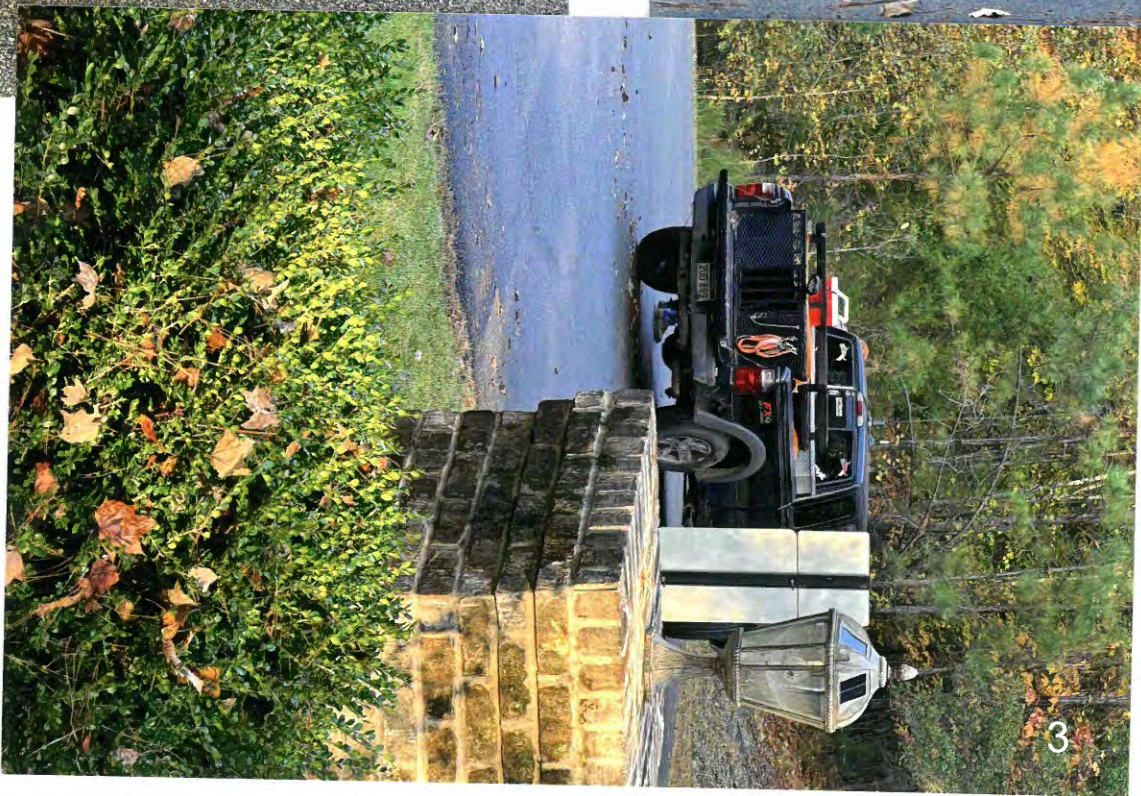


Used Spotlight to
Hunt Deer

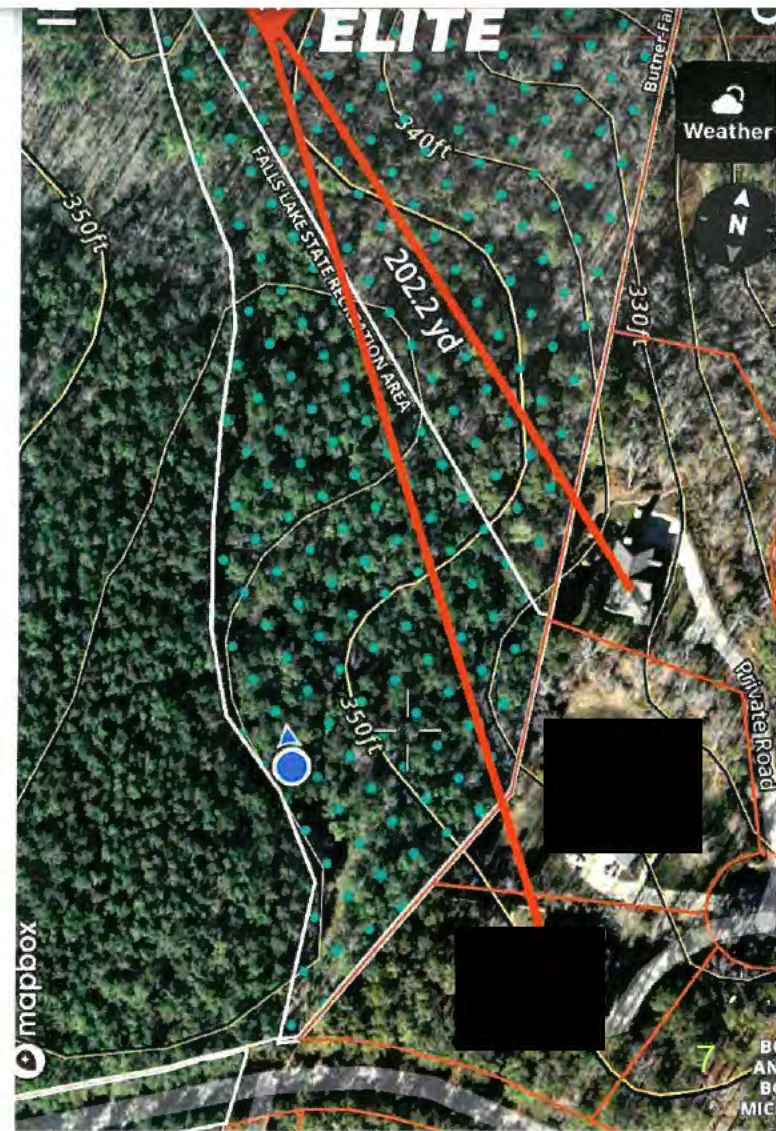
12-9-24 Cut-de-See
Dump &
Killed Here

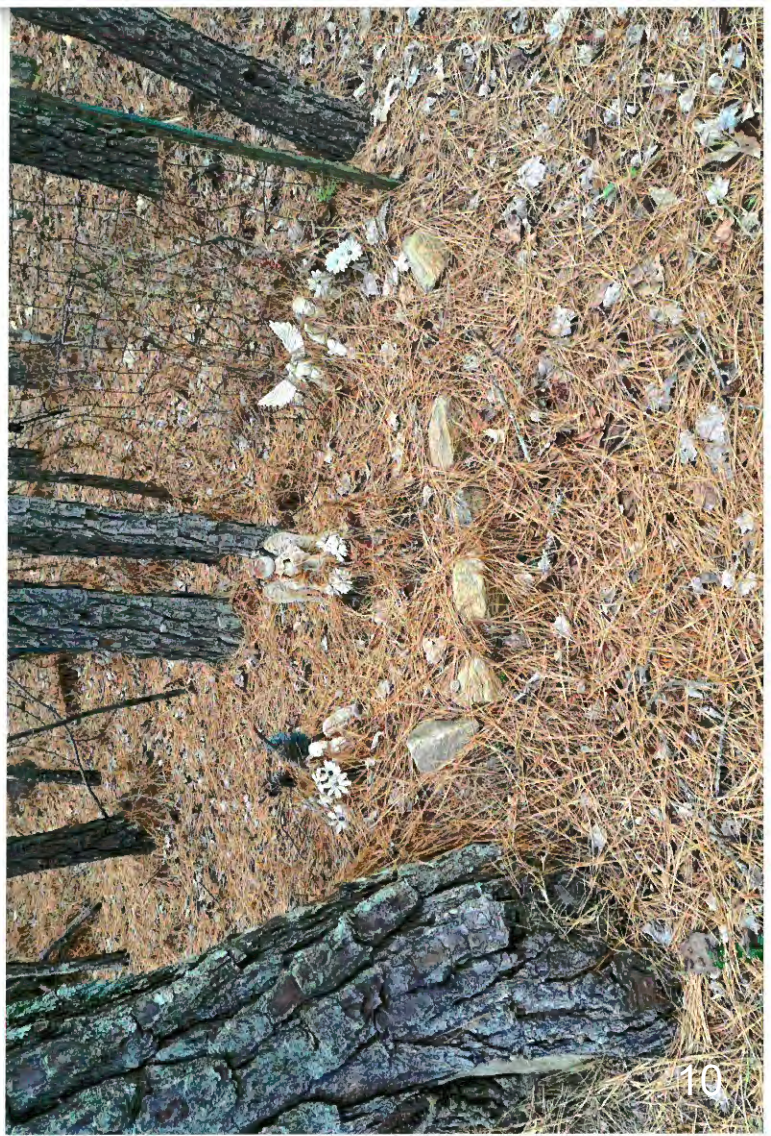


10/22/16 - Beer bottles









10



11



12

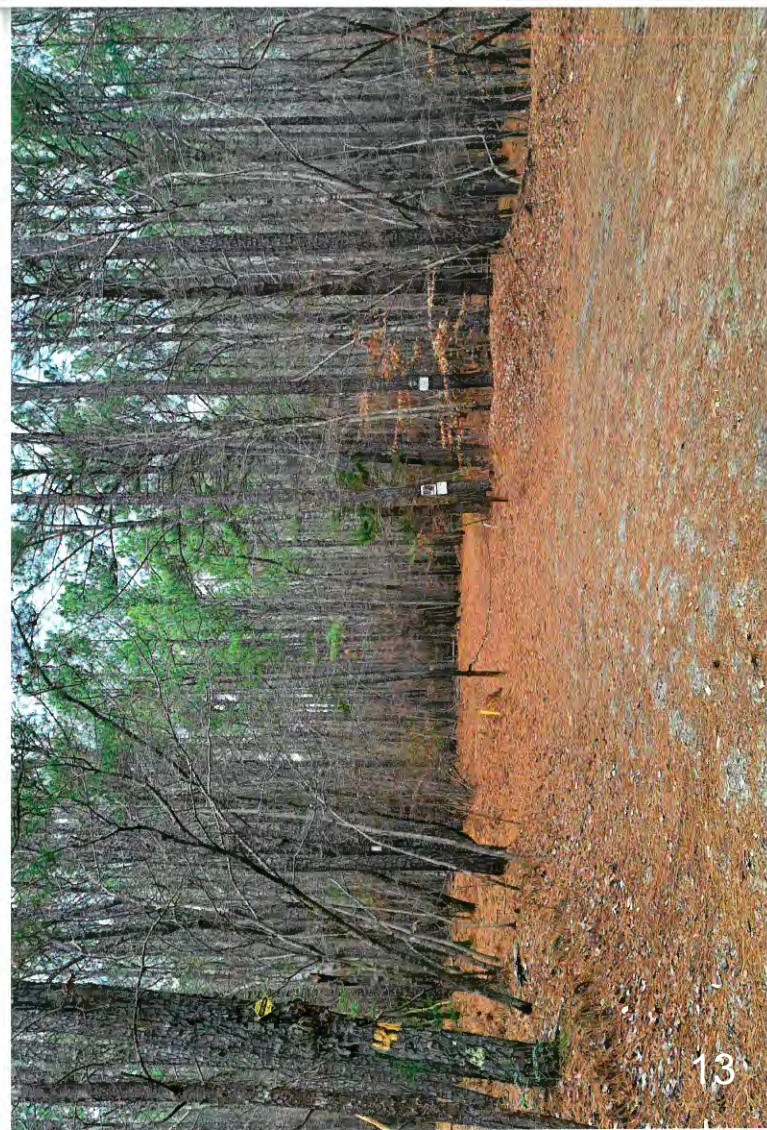








EXHIBIT N

April 16, 2026



Proposed Temporary Amendments to CWD Management Areas Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing

The proposed amendments will remove Sampson County from the white-tailed deer rule and add it to the CWD management areas rule. This is part of the agencies' ongoing efforts to manage the spread of CWD.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

15A NCAC 10B .0502 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREAS

1 15A NCAC 10B .0203 is proposed for amendment under temporary procedures as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

4 (a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:

5 (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished
6 from knobs or buttons covered by ~~skin or velvet~~, skin, may be taken during the following seasons,
7 including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

8 (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick,
9 Carteret, Columbus, ~~Cumberland~~, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones,
10 Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, ~~Sampson~~,
11 Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake
12 Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

13 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan,
14 Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin,
15 Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and
16 Wilson counties.

17 (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe,
18 Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, ~~Forsyth~~, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, ~~Stokes~~,
19 ~~Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin~~ and Watauga counties.

20 (D) Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell,
21 Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell,
22 Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

23 (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson,
24 Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg,
25 Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union
26 counties.

27 (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and
28 Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts
29 of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife
30 Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife
31 Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife
32 Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National
33 Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National
34 Wildlife Refuge.

35 (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during
36 the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through ~~(G)~~ (E) of
37 this Subparagraph.

1 (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of
3 Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife
4 Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes
5 National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee
6 Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck
7 National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

8 (B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at
9 the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15
10 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military
11 Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine
12 Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base,
13 on Fort ~~Liberty~~ Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

14 (C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph
15 (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
16 counties.

17 (D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph
18 (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, ~~Madison~~,
19 and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts ~~(a)(2)(G)(i)~~ (a)(2)(E)(i)
20 and (ii) of this Rule.

21 ~~(E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph~~
22 ~~(a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell,~~
23 ~~Mitchell, and Yancey counties.~~

24 ~~(F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph~~
25 ~~(a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and~~
26 ~~Rutherford counties.~~

27 ~~(G)(E)~~ Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1)
28 of this Rule in and east of ~~Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and~~
29 ~~Gaston~~ Avery, Burke, Rutherford, and Polk counties and in Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey
30 counties, and the following parts of counties:

31 (i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and
32 Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and

33 (ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.

34 (b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

35 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag
36 limits set out in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from Saturday
37 on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the

1 Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game
2 lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

3 (2) Restrictions

4 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
5 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except
6 a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with
7 G.S. 113-291.1(k).

8 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
9 may be used during the Archery Season.

10 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part ~~(b)(1)(A)~~
11 (b)(1) of this Rule.

12 (c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:

13 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
14 taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the
15 first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D),
16 (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless
17 otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

18 (2) Restrictions

19 (A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county
20 or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), ~~(E), (F), or (G)~~ (E) of this Rule that has one or
21 more open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.

22 (B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the
23 Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part
24 set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.

25 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder
26 Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this
27 Rule.

28 (D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
29 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms
30 Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in
31 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

32 (3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a
33 matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899,
34 that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed
35 or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-
36 loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is

1 designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the
2 muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

3 (d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

4 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag
5 limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery
6 equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday
7 following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands
8 within a city boundary.

9 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to that effect
10 no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to the Executive Director or
11 his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map
12 of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

13 (3) Restrictions:

14 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
15 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a
16 single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with
17 G.S. 113-291.1(k).

18 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
19 shall be used during the Urban Season.

20 (e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals
21 under 16 years of age during the following days:

22 (1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

23 (2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of
24 this Rule.

25 (f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may
26 be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin ~~or velvet~~ as distinguished from
27 antlers or spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report
28 Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional
29 antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the
30 boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported
31 on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

32 (g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph (f) of this Rule do not apply to deer
33 harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e)
34 for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license.
35 Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested
36 under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as instructed on
37 the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting

1 license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with
2 DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those
3 seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report
4 card.

5 (h) Seasons for counties identified as Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas shall be as specified in Rule .0502
6 of this Subchapter.

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9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
10 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
11 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
12 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
18 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
19 *2003);*
20 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
21 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*
22 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
23 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*
24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*
25
26

1 15A NCAC 10B .0502 is proposed for amendment under temporary procedures as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0502 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AREAS DEFINED MANAGEMENT**
4 **AREAS**

5 *(a) The following counties are Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Areas:*

6 *(1) Cumberland:*

7 *(2) Forsyth:*

8 *(3) Sampson*

9 *~~(3)~~(4) Stokes:*

10 *~~(4)~~(5) Surry:*

11 *~~(5)~~(6) Wilkes; and*

12 *~~(6)~~(7) Yadkin.*

13 *(b) Prohibitions specified in Rule .0503 of this Subchapter apply to the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this*
14 *Rule.*

15 *(c) Open seasons for hunting deer are as follows:*

16 *(1) Special Early Season. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished*
17 *from knobs or buttons covered by skin, may be taken on the fourth Saturday in August and the*
18 *Sunday immediately following with a lawful weapon, including on game lands unless otherwise*
19 *specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.*

20 *(2) All Lawful Weapons.*

21 *(A) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin*
22 *counties two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1, including on game*
23 *lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.*

24 *(B) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Cumberland and Sampson County the*
25 *Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands unless*
26 *otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.*

27 *(3) Archery Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized*
28 *in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 on the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately*
29 *preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph*
30 *(c)(4) of this Rule.*

31 *(4) Blackpowder Firearms Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment*
32 *as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, and blackpowder firearms as defined in 15A NCAC 10B*
33 *.0203(c)(3), from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the All Lawful Weapons Season*
34 *described in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter, including on*
35 *game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.*

36 *(d) Seasons, bag limits, and programs specified in paragraphs (d) through (g) of Rule 10B .0203 of this Subchapter*
37 *shall apply in the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.*

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History Note:

Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;

Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;

Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;

Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, ~~2024.~~ 2024;

Eff. August 1, 2026.

EXHIBIT O

April 16, 2026



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 - 2026

Nominee	Seat	Nominated By / Staff Recommendation
David G. Cooper	Expert	Self-Nomination - Re-appointment
Todd Ewing	Expert	Self-Nomination - Re-appointment
Seth Gibbons	Expert	Self-Nomination
Ethan Marburger	Expert	Self-Nomination
Sarah McRae	Government	Self-Nomination - Re-appointment
Judith Ratcliffe	Government	Self-Nomination - Re-appointment
John Ann Shearer	Affiliate	R. Wilson Laney - Appointment
Miranda Tagliamonte	Affiliate	Jean Tagliamonte
Dr. Samuel Young	Expert	Melissa Bahleda

Governmental Affiliate

1. Sarah McRae, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2020

Current Position: Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Expertise: Fluvial Ecosystems, Conservation Biology, Ecology and Economics of River Restoration, Riparian Issues, Conservation and Management of Aquatic Ecosystems, Freshwater Mussel Propagation for Restoration, Fish Identification, Habitat Conservation Planning for Endangered Species, Endangered Species Recovery Planning

2. Judith Ratcliff – NC Natural Heritage Program (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2015

Current Position: Environmental Senior Specialist

Expertise: Freshwater Mollusks, Stream Restoration, Stream Ecology, Fish Ecology, Freshwater Biology, Bird Identification

Expert Affiliate

3. David G. Cooper – Three Oaks Engineering, Inc. (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2023

Current Position: Senior Environmental Scientist, VHB, Inc.

Expertise: Protected species assessments and inventories, habitat assessments, and associated environmental documentation; served as President of the NC Herpetological Society from 2011 – 2014, chairs the steering committee of the NC Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, and serves as a member of the NC State Wildlife Action Plan's Herp Taxa Team

4. Todd Ewing, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (*Recommended for Re-appointment*)

Length of NWAC membership: since 2023

Current Position: Program Coordinator, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)/ Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Expertise: Serves on Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee, Coordinates Landscape-Scale Conservation for Aquatic Habitats and Aquatic Species across the Southeast (15 States and Two Territories); retired Assistant Chief, Aquatic Wildlife Diversity – NCWRC, oversaw conservation actions for aquatic nongame fish, mussels, crayfish, and aquatic snails, including federally listed species, in North Carolina

5. Dr. Seth Gibbons, North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island

Nominee: Self-Nomination

Current Position: Education Curator (Museum Curator Supervisor I)

Expertise: B.S and M.S. degrees in Biology (focus on fisheries); works on native wildlife species, and integrates wildlife and fisheries biology with conservation social science; in current role he is responsible for developing programs, overseeing educational staff and volunteers, and developing new initiatives with the goal of educating thousands of new visitors; Ph.D. is in Parks and Recreation and Tourism Management.

6. Ethan Marburger, *no information provided*

Nominee: Self-Nomination

Current Position: *no information provided*

Expertise: M.S. in Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology from North Carolina State University; nongame species work from graduate school and ecological research projects involving Neuse River Waterdogs, Eastern Diamondback Terrapin, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers; outside of North Carolina, has worked on federally endangered Grizzly Bear recovery project, and the Mojave Desert tortoise monitoring program.

7. Dr. Samuel Young, Lees-McRae College

Nominee: Melissa Bahleda

Current Position: Senior Veterinarian, May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center; Assistant Professor, May School of Natural and Health Sciences; Program Coordinator, Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Expertise: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine that provides care to more than 1,500 native wildlife species annually, developed and implemented preventative health, nutrition, and welfare plan for entire collection for mammals, herps, invertebrates, fish, and over 1,600 birds.

Affiliate or At-large Affiliate

8. John Ann Shearer, North Carolina Wildlife Federation (*Recommended for Appointment*)

Nominee: R. Wilson Laney

Current Position: Conservation Lands Manager

Expertise: Habitats for species of greatest conservation need, supporting staff in using science to make habitat management decisions and longleaf pine ecosystem restoration; conducted Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon hacking with NCWRC staff earlier in her career; mentored conservation professionals nationwide; developed strategic plans for North Carolina's priority habitats and species; has overseen three National Wildlife Refuges (81,000 acres), managed 2,700 acres of waterfowl impoundments, estuarine and wetland habitats, and water level management at Lake Mattamuskeet.

9. Miranda Tagliamonte

Nominee: Jean Tagliamonte

Current Position: College Student

Expertise: As an Animal Care and Education Intern, cared for over 30 diverse species, including mammals, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, reptiles, and birds, experience habitat mapping, bird and herptile surveys, trapping small mammals.

YELLOW LAMPMUSSEL
(*Lampsilis cariosa*)

YELLOW LAMPMUSSEL

Conservation Plan for North Carolina

NOVEMBER 2025



HABITAT AND SURVEY IMAGES



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PREPARED BY:

Michael Fisk, Eastern Region Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Coordinator

COVER PHOTO:

Female (top) and male (bottom) Yellow Lampmussel, credit Michael Fisk, NCWRC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Jacob Hill, Eastern Region Aquatic Wildlife Diversity Technician

RECOMMENDED CITATION:

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. 2025. Conservation Plan for the Yellow Lampmussel, Lampsilis cariosa, in North Carolina, Raleigh, NC.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission developed this conservation plan to direct management activities for the Yellow Lampmussel, *Lampsilis cariosa*, known in North Carolina from the Chowan, Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, Yadkin-Pee Dee, and Lumber River basins. The species requires high-quality waterways containing cool, well oxygenated and unpolluted water. Waterways must contain adequate suitable habitat, including a variety of substrates like sand, silt, gravel, and cobble. Direct threats to these species include pollution (chemical and thermal), altered flow conditions, sedimentation, unstable or fragmented habitat, invasive species, and diseases.

The Yellow Lampmussel is listed as state endangered. The conservation goal is to prevent the extinction of this species and ensure population viability within North Carolina for the next 100 years. The plan focuses on identifying and reducing threats, promoting population viability, habitat protection, population monitoring, research, and partnerships. Establishing and maintaining partnerships between North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission staff and other state agencies, federal agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, industry, local governments, and the public are essential to the implementation of this conservation plan. The management of this species will require collaborative stakeholder efforts to protect sensitive habitats and maintain high-quality water resources throughout North Carolina.



BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Description and Taxonomic Information

The Yellow Lampmussel, *Lampsilis cariosa*, is a freshwater mussel that is a member of the family Unionidae.

Taxonomic Hierarchy (Integrated Taxonomic Information System, 2020)

Phylum: Mollusca

Class: Bivalvia

Order: Unionoida

Family: Unionidae

Genus: *Lampsilis*

Species: *Lampsilis cariosa* (Say 1817)

Synonyms: *Unio crocatus* (Lea 1841),
Lampsilis pallida (Rafinesque 1820),
Unio oratus (Conrad 1849)



The Yellow Lampmussel is a medium sized mussel reaching up to 130 mm in length (Johnson, 1970; Bogan and Alderman 2008). The shell shape is obovate. Shell thickness is thin in juveniles becoming thicker with age and is moderately inflated. The anterior margin is rounded with the ventral margin slightly curved, and posterior margin bluntly rounded. The Yellow Lampmussel exhibits sexual dimorphism: male shells are elliptical and somewhat elongate in outline with the ventral margin evenly convex, whereas female shells are subovate to obovate in outline with the ventral margin expanded near the posterior margin, sloping up to a very bluntly rounded posterior margin (Bogan and Alderman 2008). The umbo extends beyond the hinge line (Kendig 2014).

The periostracum is waxy yellow and sometimes thinly rayed with linear dark green rays primarily restricted to the posterior slope and dorsal side. The periostracum also contains significant growth rests (Kendig 2014). The rays are variable in width, but usually thin, sharp, and dark green to black, contrasting with the yellow of the background. Older specimens become stained brown and lose much of the luster. Nacre color is bluish white, often tinged with cream or salmon (Bogan and Alderman 2008).

The left valve is composed of two compressed pseudocardinal teeth, the posterior tooth is low and immediately under the umbo with two delicate lateral teeth. The right valve has a single compressed pseudocardinal tooth, and a single lamellar lateral tooth. The pseudocardinal teeth tend to become stumpy and more ragged with age. The interdentum is narrow but obvious compared with Tidewater Mucket, *Atlanticoncha ochracea* (Bogan and Alderman 2008).

Yellow Lampmussel may resemble Tidewater Mucket when young, but the mucket exhibits rays all over the shell when young as opposed to having rays primarily confined to the posterior area as in Yellow Lampmussel. The Yellow Lampmussel also has a mantle flap used as a display mechanism (Kendig 2014). The mantle flap is used as a lure and resembles a small fish to attract host fish. The Tidewater Mucket does not have a modified mantle flap.

Life History and Habitat

The Yellow Lampmussel is a long-term (bradyctytic) brooder. Fertilization occurs in the late summer and early fall, with glochidia then overwintering within the female before being released in the spring of the next year (Johnson 1970; Bogan and Alderman 2008).

Like most unionids, the Yellow Lampmussel has a complex life cycle that requires an intermediate host. To infest host fish, the Yellow Lampmussel uses a lure that extends along the ventral margin of the mussel and resembles a small fish. When a fish attacks the lure, the mantle tissue is ruptured and a cloud of glochidia is released. The glochidia then latch on the gills and external tissues of the fish, which they parasitize for 2 – 4 weeks before dropping off and beginning the more sedentary phase of their life. Host fish species for the Yellow Lampmussel include the Yellow Perch, *Perca flavescens*, and the White Perch, *Morone americana* (Kneeland and Rhymer 2008). In laboratory settings, Largemouth Bass, *Micropterus nigricans*, have been successful hosts (Eads et al. 2007). Other studies have found White Bass, Striped Bass, *Morone saxatilis*, Black Crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*, and Smallmouth Bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, to serve as hosts in laboratory trials (Eads et al. 2015). Females start displaying when temperatures reach ~12 C (reviewed in Kurth 2007). Females displaying have been observed in May, July, August, and September in North Carolina when water temperatures were > 20 C up to 31.5 C, respectively (NCWRC unpublished data). Considering the temperature that females start to display, this could start as early as March and extend into September. Observations of displaying females in Virginia have occurred in April into June and one observation in October (B. Watson, VDWR personal communication).

There is little information pertaining to the age structure of Yellow Lampmussel throughout its range. Individuals have been aged up to 17 years old in Canada with a mean age of 8 years (White 2003). Age distributions of Yellow Lampmussel are unknown in North Carolina’s populations but likely live 10 – 15 years.

Yellow Lampmussel are typically found in medium to large rivers in a variety of substrates including sand, silt, gravel, and cobble (Bogan and Alderman 2008). The species inhabits lakes and ponds, especially in the northern part of its range. In North Carolina, Yellow Lampmussel are found more often in medium to large rivers (Kendig 2014). The species prefers clean water with ample flow to receive appropriate oxygenation and access to food (Martell 2020). Like other mussels, Yellow Lampmussel populations are patchy and tend to clump together in aggregates (Wick and Huryn 2003; Sabine et al. 2004; Bogan and Alderman 2008).

Distribution and Population Status

Yellow Lampmussel inhabit the Atlantic slope from the Ogeechee River system, Georgia, north to the Sydney River in Nova Scotia (Johnson 1970). In North Carolina, Yellow Lampmussel occurs in the Chowan, Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, Cape Fear, Lumber (Waccamaw sub-basin), Yadkin-Pee Dee, and Roanoke River basins, most commonly near the fall line (Kendig 2014, NCWRC unpublished data). The oldest known record in North Carolina comes from a collection in the late 1800s from the Neuse River, near Raleigh. Historically, the Yellow Lampmussel has been found in 50 HUC10s across 7 river basins. These include the Tar (16 HUC10s), Cape Fear (12 HUC10s), Yadkin-Pee Dee (7 HUC10s), Neuse (8 HUC10s), Roanoke (3 HUC10s), Chowan (2 HUC10s), and Lumber (2 HUC10s) river basins. In the last 20 years, the Yellow Lampmussel has been detected in 37 HUC10s across all 7 river basins. The species has not been detected in over 20 years in 13 HUC10s, a 26% overall decline. Of these, the species has not been detected in over 40 years in just one HUC10 in the Neuse River basin. The largest declines are in the Tar and Cape Fear River basins where 31% (Tar) and 42% (Cape Fear) of occupied HUC10s have not detected Yellow Lampmussel in 21 – 40 years (Figure 1). More recent collections in other basins include: 3 HUC10s in the Yadkin-Pee Dee, 4 HUC10s in the Neuse, 3 HUC10s in the Roanoke, and 2 HUC10s in the Chowan and Lumber River basins (unpublished data, NCWRC).

Mussel survey techniques and methods vary throughout the state considerably so overall trend comparisons can be difficult. For the Yellow Lampmussel, surveys where search effort and number of live mussels collected were recorded, Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE, mussels collected/person hour) was calculated to examine general trends. Detections of Yellow Lampmussel are from both non-targeted and targeted surveys but are combined here to compare between river basins. The Lumber River Basin has the highest mean CPUE of 12.1 mussels/hr. This is due to the population of Yellow Lampmussel in Lake Waccamaw. In the Roanoke Basin, specifically, the Dan River has a mean CPUE = 2.0 mussels/hr, followed by the Chowan (1.9 mussels/hr), Cape Fear (1.2 mussels/hr), and Tar River basins (1.1 mussels/hr). The Neuse and Pee Dee River basins have the lowest mean CPUE at 0.5 and 0.3 mussels/hr, respectively (NCWRC, unpublished data). Collections of Yellow Lampmussel are typically low although up to 138 individuals have been observed at Lake Waccamaw in one survey in 2018. Other large collections have occurred in the Eno River in 2007 and the South Flat River in 2001 where more than 20 individuals were collected. Additionally, detections have exceeded 10 individuals in the Dan River several times and 24 were observed in 2019.

In North Carolina, the Yellow Lampmussel is listed as state endangered and is ranked as S3 in the NC Natural Heritage Program’s Rare Species list (Ratcliffe et al. 2024). Federally, the Yellow Lampmussel is considered a species of concern (USFWS 1994). The Yellow Lampmussel is similarly considered under threat by prominent non-governmental organizations. NatureServe lists the species as vulnerable (G3) both throughout its whole range and in North Carolina (Cordeiro 2011). The International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s most recent assessment categorizes the Yellow Lampmussel as vulnerable as well, citing significant losses of mature individuals across its range (Bogan and Woolnough 2017).

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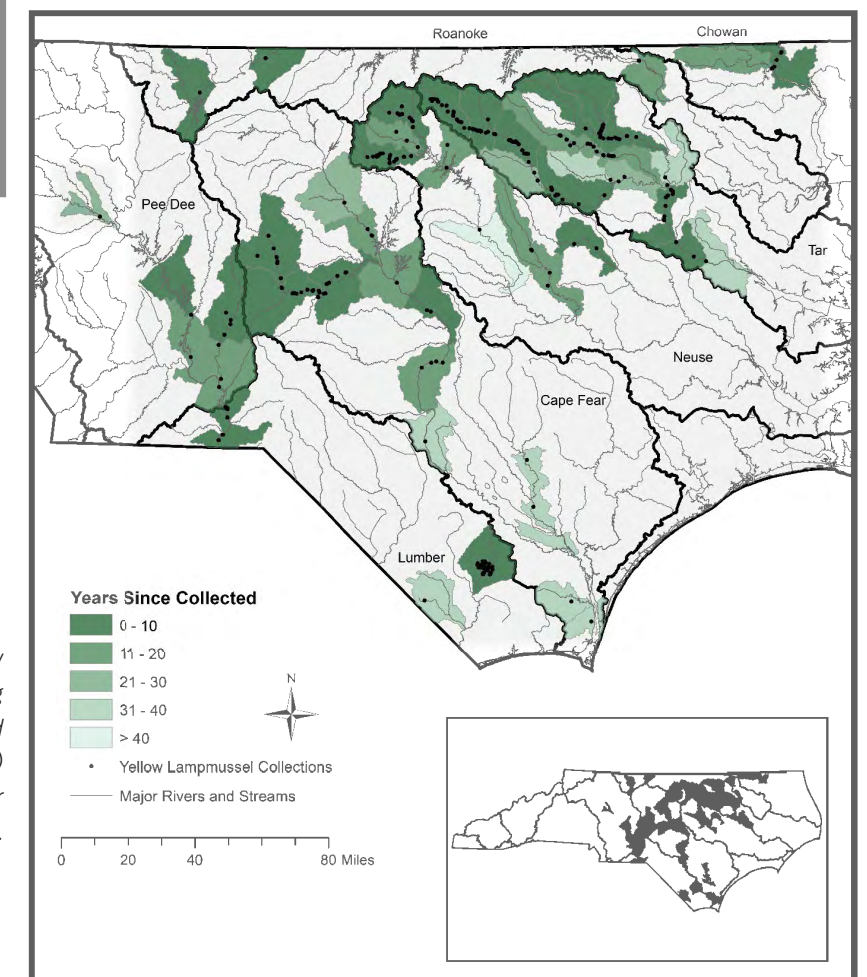


Figure 1: Distribution map of the Yellow Lampmussel in North Carolina depicting 10-digit hydrological units (colored and categorized by year of most recent record) and collection locations (black dots). River basins are labeled and outlined in black.

Historic Conservation Efforts

The Commission has conducted general surveys for the Yellow Lampmussel throughout its range in North Carolina, although most collections of this species are from community-based mussel surveys. Host fish have been identified in laboratory trials (Eads et al. 2015) and confirmed in field trials utilizing genetic techniques (Kneeland and Rhymer 2008). Glochidia have also been successfully transformed using *in-vitro* methodologies using a sterile media solution with equine serum (Walter 2020). The microbiomes of *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* transformed mussels were compared and it was found that *in-vitro* Yellow Lampmussel had significantly fewer bacterial families than *in-vivo* transformation at day 0. However, with time, the bacterial composition converged and by day 15 were similar (Walter 2020). As a result of conservation efforts associated with the 2014 coal ash spill in the Dan River, propagated individuals of Yellow Lampmussel were successfully released into authorized areas in the Dan River by NCWRC staff. Yellow Lampmussel genetic diversity has not been assessed throughout the state. A study describing the genetic diversity of two populations of Yellow Lampmussel in Virginia as well as the South Flat River in the upper Neuse River basin in NC described these populations as small, isolated, and subject to random genetic drift and inbreeding (Olivera-Hyde and Hallerman 2018).

al. 1993, Gangloff et al. 2009, NCWRC 2015). Impervious surfaces in urbanized watersheds exacerbate high water levels, even during short rainfall events, which can result in flash flooding. These high or flashy flow events contribute to increased sediment loads and erosion, turbidity throughout the water column, and stream bed movements that stress mussel populations (Gangloff et al. 2009, NCWRC 2015). Climate change and development will continue to bring additional stressors that need to be evaluated for mussels. Furthermore, specific pollutants that may be introduced into the aquatic environment, the interactions of pollutants and temperature (from climate change), salinity (related to sea level rise), and lower dilution (from altered flows) will need to be considered (NCWRC 2015). In addition, invasive species such as Basket Clam, *Corbicula fluminea*, Flathead Catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris*, and Hydrilla, *Hydrilla verticillata*, can create competitive pressures on food resources and habitat availability. In addition, these factors can decrease oxygen availability, cause ammonia spikes, alter benthic substrates, impact host fish communities, reduce stream flow, and increase sediment buildup (Belanger et al. 1991, Scheller 1997, NCANSMP 2015, NCWRC 2015).

THREAT ASSESSMENT

Reason for Listing

No population or density estimates are available for North Carolina populations of Yellow Lampmussel but based on NCWRC survey data, the species' current range is more restricted and fragmented when compared to where it historically occurred. The species was evaluated for listing in 2016 using the North Carolina Species Assessment Tool (Harris et al. 2016). Evaluations indicated the Yellow Lampmussel has experienced a 47.5–50.9% decline in Area of Occupancy.

Present and Anticipated Threats

As with all aquatic species, there are many natural and anthropogenic factors that threaten the long-term viability of Yellow Lampmussel. Extinction and decline of North American unionid bivalves can be linked to impoundment and inundation of riffle habitat from dams throughout the United States. The loss of obligate hosts, coupled with increased siltation, and various types of industrial and domestic pollution have resulted in the rapid decline of the unionid bivalve fauna in North America (Bogan 1993, NCWRC 2015). Dams, both manmade and natural (e.g., beavers: Hoch 2012; Kemp et al. 2012), are a barrier to dispersal of host fish and attached glochidia. Beaver dams not only inundate and alter riffle/run mussel habitat upstream of the dam but also affect mussel populations downstream of the dam by increasing fluctuations in flow regime, decreasing dissolved oxygen levels, and increasing the variability of food quality and quantity (Hoch 2012, Kemp et al. 2012). Wastewater that contains monochloramine and unionized ammonia compounds are acutely toxic and pose a significant threat to all aquatic species, especially mussels. Point source discharges from municipalities may be responsible for glochidia mortality that results in local extirpation of mussels (Goudreau et

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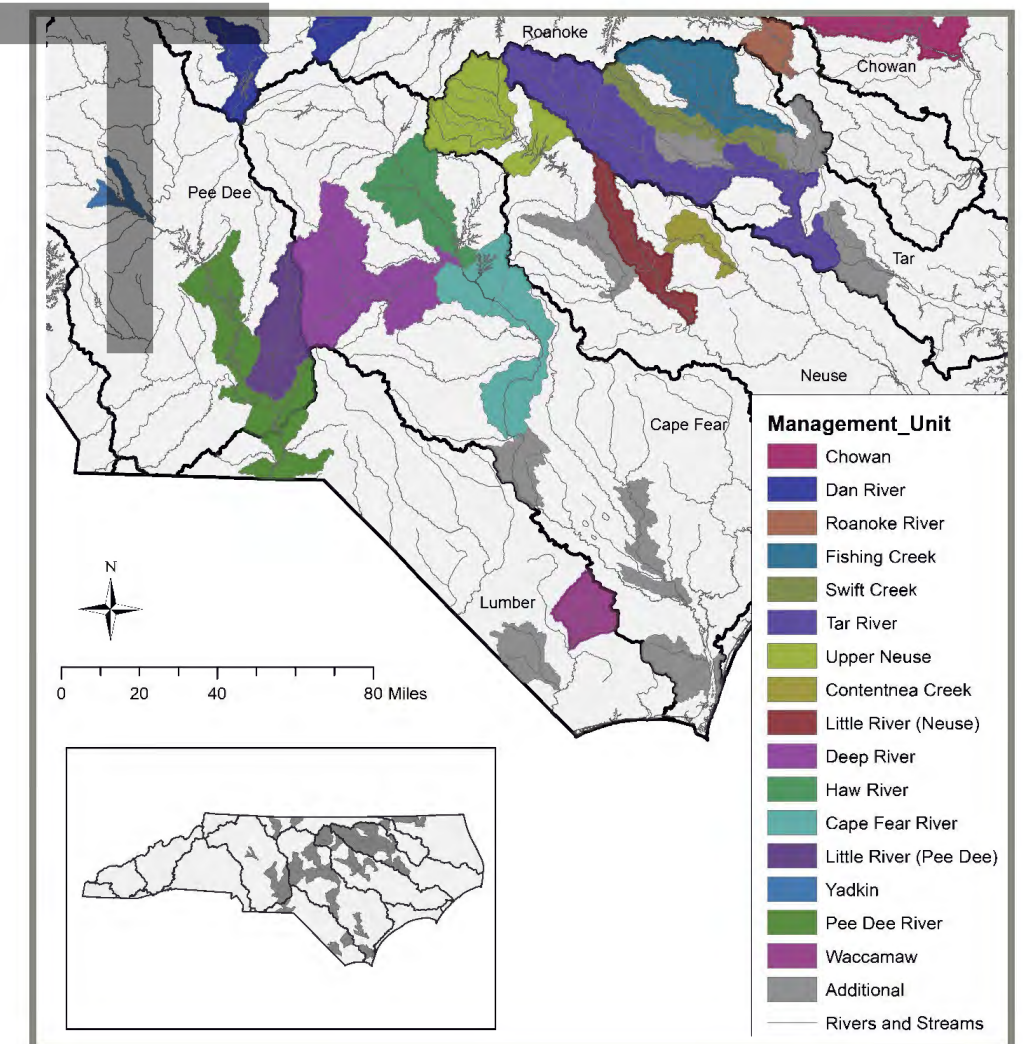


Figure 2: Management Units (MUs) in the Chowan, Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, Yadkin-Pee Dee, and Lumber basins depicting 10-digit hydrologic units. Primary MUs are in color, additional augmentation/reintroduction MUs are in grey. River basins are outlined in black. Descriptions of MUs are in Table 1.

CONSERVATION GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Conservation Goal

To prevent the extinction of Yellow Lampmussel and promote population viability (i.e., multiple age classes and wild recruitment) within North Carolina for the next 100 years.

Conservation Objectives

1. Promote habitat protection and maintain populations of Yellow Lampmussel within Management Units (MUs). Management Units will be defined based on hydrologic units (i.e., HUC10s; Table 1; Figure 2).
2. When appropriate, utilize captive propagation and/or translocations to augment or establish populations of Yellow Lampmussel where suitable habitat exists.
3. Establish connectivity and gene flow between existing and established populations by either translocating individuals or removing barriers.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Habitat Protection and Habitat Management

Protecting habitat integrity, including hydrology, is crucial for species survival. Comments on permit reviews should stress minimizing inputs that include chemical pollutants such as herbicides, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and industrial compounds, as well as thermal plumes, sediment and nutrients carried by storm water. Find ways to reduce or prevent pharmaceuticals, personal care products, PFAS from entering surface waters from wastewater treatment plants. Staff will recommend that all permits issued within basins where Yellow Lampmussel occur follow the recommendations of the NCWRC’s mitigation document entitled “Guidance Memorandum to Address and Mitigate Secondary and Cumulative Impacts to Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife Resources and Water Quality” (NCWRC 2002). Forestry activities should incorporate forest practice guidelines (FPGs), or best management practices (BMPs) outlined in the North Carolina Forestry Best Management Practices Manual to Protect Water Quality (NCFS 2021) and as required by certifying organizations such as those of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative/Forest Stewardship Council/American Tree Farm System certification standards. Where applicable, the Yellow Lampmussel will be incorporated into NCWRC game land management plans to prioritize and protect suitable habitat. This includes maintaining proper riparian buffers and managing and restoring aquatic habitats through barrier removal and beaver management. Game lands may also be used for future augmentations. Restoration of habitat should be prioritized for primary HUCs and should focus on the protection of riparian habitat and associated uplands (Table 1, Figure 2).

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Population Management

Yellow Lampmussel populations may be enhanced by augmenting existing populations with propagated individuals. Propagated mussels may also be reintroduced into areas that were historically occupied where suitable habitat exists. To minimize any real or perceived regulatory burden, a Conservation Benefit Agreement (CBA) could potentially be used to facilitate releases in locations with private land ownership (USFWS 2024), especially when the species is under consideration for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. A property owner management agreement will be established prior to reintroduction into an unoccupied area under a CBA, if warranted.

Augmentations and Reintroductions will be prioritized as follows:

1. All primary river basin MUs (Table 1, Figure 2).
2. Additional augmentation areas within the known range of Yellow Lampmussel (Table 1; Figure 2), if propagation efforts exceed primary MU needs.
3. Reintroduction of Yellow Lampmussel into areas within the presumed historical range, if propagation efforts exceed MU needs. Ideally located in areas with reduced likelihood of anthropogenic threats.

If areas are identified in (2) or (3) that would provide greater conservation benefit to the Yellow Lampmussel, then these will be prioritized over (1).

Incentives

The NCWRC will encourage private landowners within Yellow Lampmussel watersheds to participate in the Wildlife Conservation Lands program. This program allows qualifying landowners whose property is in proximity to streams with state-listed species to get tax incentives for implementing conservation actions.

Monitoring and Research

Monitoring and research activities are needed to evaluate trends in abundance and distribution as well as fill knowledge gaps in species life history and habitat requirements. These actions are necessary to meet management goals. The NCWRC will conduct and engage with partners to conduct the following activities:

1. Conduct targeted surveys for Yellow Lampmussel to determine contemporary distribution.
2. Monitor known Yellow Lampmussel populations every 5–10 years within each MU to assess survival, abundance, population structure, recruitment, and genetic diversity.
3. Determine the genetic diversity and number of genetically distinct populations of Yellow Lampmussel throughout its range in North Carolina.
4. Develop captive propagation techniques to maximize yield, genetic diversity, and post release survival.

5. Determine locations for establishing Yellow Lampmussel populations and monitor the success of population establishment.
6. Conduct surveys for host fish abundance, population structure, and recruitment within each MU.
7. Investigate techniques to reduce the abundance of Basket Clam.
8. Determine the known historical range of Yellow Lampmussel by verifying the identification of specimens held in museum collections.
9. Determine the impact of Flathead Catfish and other invasive species on Yellow Lampmussel host fish populations.
10. Determine if other lakes or reservoirs are suitable for Yellow Lampmussel introductions.

Education and Outreach

Staff will continue to develop publications and reports as well as highlight conservation efforts through channels such as the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society. Results of research and monitoring projects will be presented at professional and non-technical meetings. Aquatic Wildlife Diversity staff will coordinate with Wildlife Education staff to promote education and awareness of the Yellow Lampmussel. Highlighting efforts to conserve the species and its habitat will be important for public awareness.

Regulations

Take or possession of this species without a valid permit is currently prohibited under NC law and administrative code (15A NCAC 10I .0102) and is considered a Class 1 misdemeanor (§ 113 337b). Harvest of state listed mussels is prohibited. Currently, individuals with a valid fishing license can harvest up to 200 non-listed mussels per day, but only within specified impounded waters (NCWRC 2025). An exception to this is there is no daily creel limit on the introduced Basket Clam (listed as Asian Clam in NC regulations digest) in impounded waters. Harvest of any mussels is prohibited in Lake Waccamaw, which has a unique mussel assemblage including the Yellow Lampmussel. In other impounded waters, the chance that a Yellow Lampmussel will be misidentified and harvested is minimal.

Basin	Management Unit	HUC10s		Category
Chowan	Chowan River	301020409	301020302	Primary
Roanoke	Dan River	301010303	301010309	Primary
	Roanoke River	301010701		Primary
Tar	Fishing Creek	302010205	302010202	Primary
		302010203		Primary
		302010206		Additional
	Swift Creek	302010108	302010107	Primary
	Tar River	302010102	302010106	Primary
		302010109	302010103	Primary
		302010304	302010104	Primary
		302010302	302010101	Primary
		302010306		Additional
	Stoney Creek	302010105		Additional
Neuse	Contentnea Creek	302020304		Primary
		302020115	302020116	Primary
	Upper Neuse	302020105	302020102	Primary
		302020101	302020103	Primary
	Neuse River	302020111		Additional
Cape Fear	Cape Fear River	303000407	303000401	Primary
		303000405		Primary
	Deep River	303000302	303000304	Primary
		303000306	303000207	Primary
		303000205		Primary
	Black River	303000608		Additional
	Lower Cape Fear	303000507	303000501	Additional
		303000506		Additional
Pee Dee	Little River	304010403	304010404	Primary
	Pee Dee River	304010405	304010402	Primary
		304010306	304020103	Primary
	South Yadkin River	304010206		Primary
Lumber	Waccamaw	304020603		Primary
	Grissett Swamp	304020605		Additional

Table 1. Prioritized management units (10-digit hydrologic units) for augmentation and conservation efforts. Categories are defined as: Primary) MUs within known range, Additional) MUs within known historical range to be used if Primary MU targets are exceeded. If Primary and Additional targets are exceeded, then reintroductions will focus within the presumed historical range of the species (not listed below) if suitable habitat exists.

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