

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

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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.*  
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