



**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**

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

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 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/sign x 300 signs = \$900) and \$1,072 in labor costs (\$33.50/hr x 32 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)

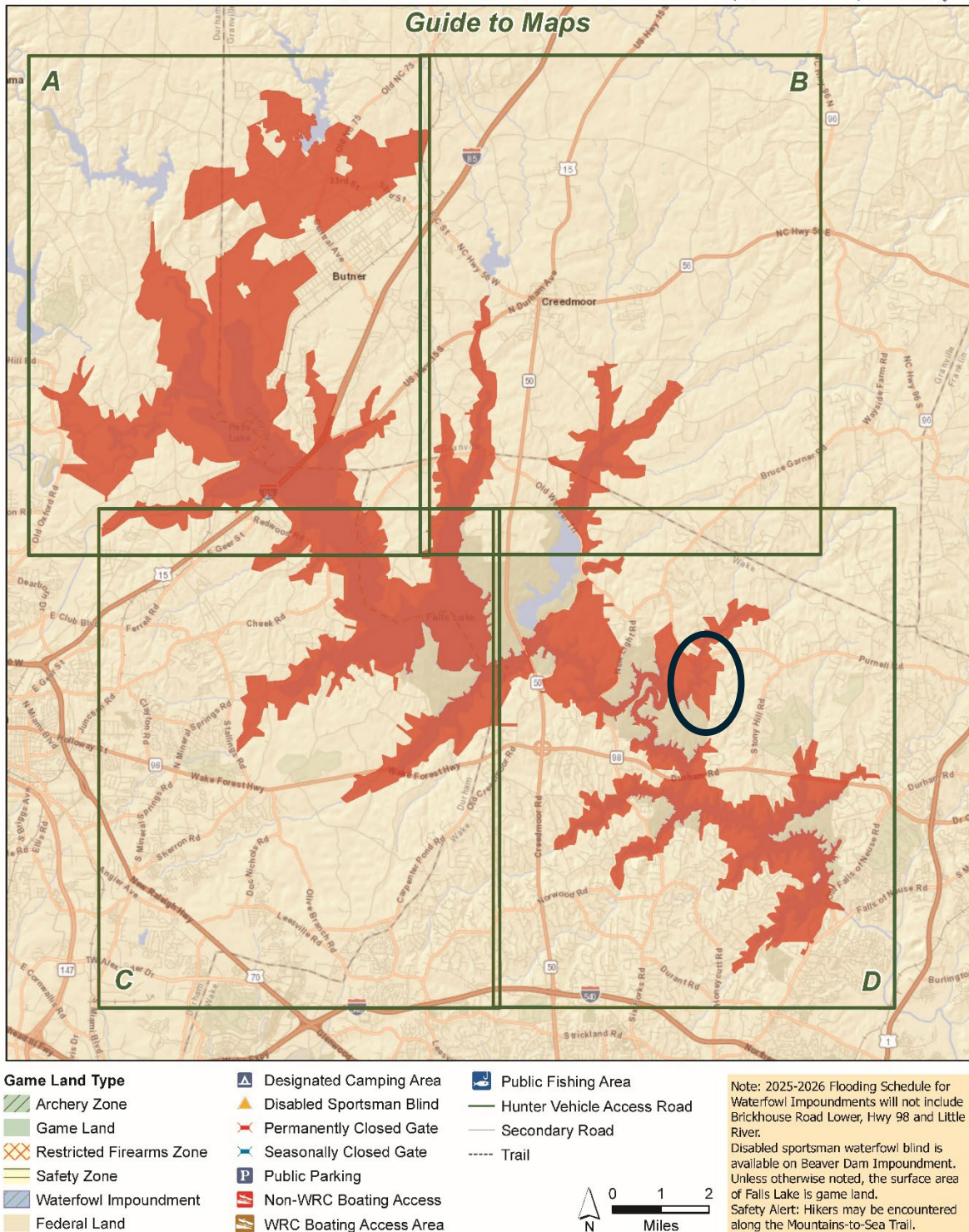


Figure 1. Map of Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land (approximately 37,500 acres)

**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

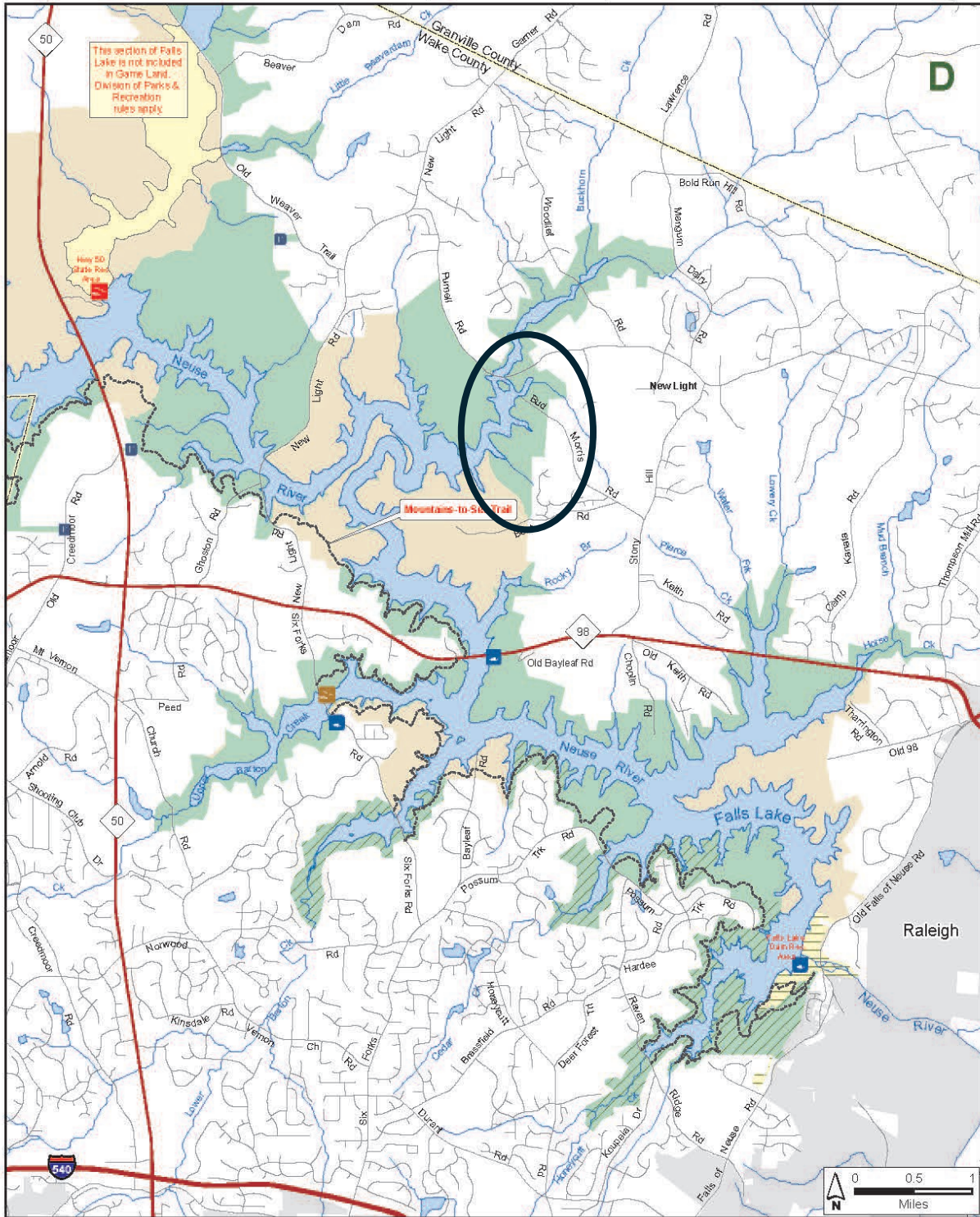
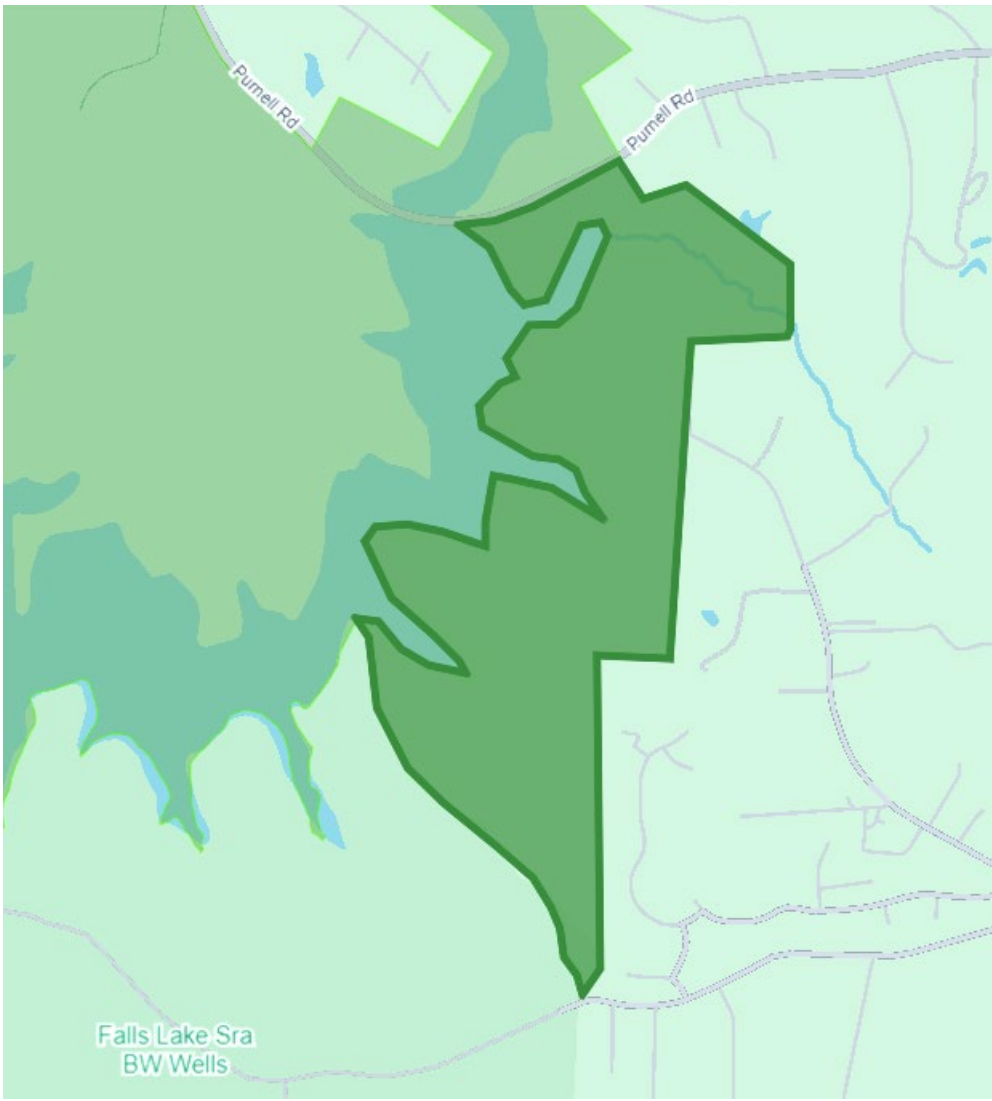


Figure 2. Regional view of the affected area within the Butner-Falls Game Land.



*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.*

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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.*