

EXHIBIT F-2

June 18, 2026



Fiscal Note for 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission – Land and Water Access

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS
15A NCAC 10D .0202 ANGOLA BAY GAME LAND IN DUPLIN AND PENDER COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0210 BULLARD AND BRANCH HUNTING PRESERVE GAME LANDS IN ROBESON COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0213 CAPE FEAR RIVER WETLANDS GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0214 CARTERET COUNTY GAME LAND IN CARTERET COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0221 CROATAN GAME LAND IN CARTERET, CRAVEN, AND JONES COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0222 CURRITUCK BANKS GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0246 LIGHT GROUND POCOSIN GAME LAND IN PAMLICO COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON, MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0254 NEW LAKE GAME LAND IN HYDE AND TYRRELL COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL, HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL, TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0270 SAMPSON GAME LAND IN SAMPSON COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0279 SUGGS SUTTON LAKE GAME LAND IN NEW HANOVER
AND BRUNSWICK COUNTIES
15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY
15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

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: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

Note: Italicized rule text are previous rule changes adopted by the Commission and approved by the RRC with an effective date of 8/1/2026.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY RULE AND SUBJECT

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (Vegetation Protection)

The proposed amendment prohibits affixing nails, screws, bolts, or applying paint to vegetation on game lands.

Game land users are increasingly attaching items like stand location markers and business marketing signs to vegetation and game lands kiosks. Most of these signs or markers are never retrieved - those that are often leave behind fasteners in the vegetation. This prohibition would not apply to mounting hardware for game cameras, lag screw steps, or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the vegetation.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment may result in staff spending less time removing signs and litter. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on total staff time.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment is anticipated to have little to no impact on most game land users. Those who use signs or other permanently affixed items to mark paths to tree stands will have to use other temporary means, such as flagging tape or GPS. This change may increase the quality and satisfaction of the experience for other users by decreasing confusion and litter caused by random signage. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS (Impairing Substances)

The proposed amendment would change the statutory reference in 15A NCAC 10D .0103(a)(1) from G.S. 20-4.01 (48b) to G.S. 20-4.01 (14a). The rule will continue to prohibit hunting on game lands “while under the influence of an impairing substance,” but referencing the broader definition of “impairing substance” provides greater flexibility in how “under the influence” is interpreted for enforcement purposes.

G.S. 20-4.01(48b) defines “under the Influence of an Impairing Substance” as a state in which a person’s physical or mental faculties are appreciably impaired. G.S. 20-4.01(14a) defines an “impairing substance” more broadly to include alcohol, controlled substances, and other drugs or psychoactive substances capable of impairing a person's physical or mental faculties. By referencing the substance rather than the impairment standard, the amended rule is no longer tied to demonstrating “appreciable impairment.” This change was requested by law enforcement to support more effective application of the rule in the field.

Officers have reported recurring situations in which they observe individuals consuming alcohol or other impairing substances before hunting on WRC managed game lands, but the current standard can make prosecution difficult because it requires proof of appreciable impairment. The proposed amendment is not expected to increase how often charges are brought; rather, it is intended to improve prosecutorial outcomes in the types of cases that are already being identified and pursued.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment is anticipated to help law enforcement successfully prosecute instances of hunting under the influence of an impairing substance. Enforcement activities will continue as part of regular duties, and the change is not expected to increase the frequency of charges. While there may be minor increases in time associated with case preparation or court proceedings in some instances, these impacts are expected to be minimal. Over time, improved clarity in enforcement may contribute to fewer safety incidents involving impaired hunting. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify these effects.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment is not expected to materially increase the number of citations issued but may improve case outcomes for charges in the future. To the extent that successful prosecutions increase, there could be a corresponding, but minimal, increase in local court revenues. Currently, G.S. 7A-304 imposes a fee of \$181 per case for Criminal District Court. Additionally, per G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines issued would go to local schools. Any fiscal effect is expected to be negligible and cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment is anticipated to impact very few game land users; however, it should create an overall safer environment for all game land users. By clarifying the statutory reference, the rule reduces ambiguity in how “under the influence” is applied, which may deter some individuals from consuming alcohol or other impairing substances prior to hunting. The amendments are not expected to increase the number of individuals charged but may increase the

likelihood that violations result in successful prosecution. Upon successful prosecution, individuals may be subject to penalties including a criminal conviction, court costs and fines. In a typical year, very few citations are issued statewide for hunting under the influence of an impairing substance, representing a very small share of licensed game land users. This suggests the proposed amendment would apply to be a limited number of individuals.

15A NCAC 10D .0202 ANGOLA BAY GAME LAND IN DUPLIN AND PENDER COUNTIES

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15A NCAC 10D .0270 SAMPSON GAME LAND IN SAMPSON COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0279 SUGGS SUTTON LAKE GAME LAND IN NEW HANOVER AND BRUNSWICK COUNTIES

The proposed amendment changes the language “Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday” to “Bear shall not be taken on Sunday” in 14 game land rules.

The current rule language makes enforcement of restrictions on Sunday bear hunting only possible once a hunter has harvested a bear. “Take” is statutorily defined as “All operations during, immediately preparatory, and immediately subsequent to an attempt, whether successful or not, to capture, kill, pursue, hunt, or otherwise harm or reduce to possession any fisheries resource or wildlife resource”. Using “take” will allow for more proactive enforcement in situations where someone is bear hunting but has not yet harvested an animal.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment is anticipated to help law enforcement enforce and prosecute instances of bear poaching on Sundays. By allowing officers to take action prior to a harvest, the amendment is expected to result in a slight increase in citations and associated enforcement activity. This may lead to a slight increase in workload for law enforcement, including time spent in court. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify these impacts.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments may increase the number of citations issued which will increase local court revenue. Currently, G.S. 7A-304 imposes a fee of \$181 per case for Criminal District Court. Additionally, per G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines issued would go to local schools. The extent of any increase in case volume and associated revenues cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated impact on lawful bear hunters or other game land users. However, individuals who engage in prohibited bear hunting activity on Sundays may be more likely to be cited, including in situations where a bear has not yet been harvested. As a result, a small subset of individuals may face increased likelihood of enforcement and associated penalties, including fines, court costs, and potential impacts on hunting privileges.

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

The proposed amendment restricts use of New Light Beach on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Lands to hunting, fishing, and trapping.

The New Light Beach portion of Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land is frequently used by the public for large social gatherings that result in trash, litter, and habitat degradation. These gatherings restrict the ability of hunters, anglers, and trappers to use the property. The proposed amendment may result in positive impacts to habitat and wildlife due to decreased disturbances.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$375 to post this portion of the game land (1.25 miles x \$300/mile).

Wildlife law enforcement will enforce the amendment as part of their regular duties; however, there may be a slight increase in workload for law enforcement immediately after rule adoption as the public adjusts to the rule change. Additionally, the proposed amendment may result in staff spending less time removing trash and litter. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment will restrict a currently lawful use of the New Light Beach area by individuals who use the site for social gatherings. As a result, these users will need to relocate those activities to other areas where such use is allowed, which may result in minor inconvenience or changes in use patterns. Following adoption, individuals who continue to use the area for unauthorized purposes may be subject to enforcement actions (fines, court costs, etc). At the same time, the amendment is expected to have a positive impact on individuals who use the area for hunting, fishing and trapping by minimizing user conflicts and potentially improving user experience. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

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

The proposed amendment prohibits non-hunting recreational use of Johns River Game Land during open hunting seasons.

Johns River Game Land is a permit-only, 6,480-acre property in Burke County. It is located just north of Morganton and experiences significant non-hunting recreational use. During hunting season, these other uses have caused conflicts, safety concerns, and wildlife disturbances. Hunting seasons on Johns River Game Land span multiple months each year, including the fall deer season, waterfowl season, small-game seasons (such as squirrel and rabbit), and the spring wild turkey season. Because these seasons collectively cover a substantial portion of the year, non-hunting recreational users would experience restrictions during much of the fall and portions of winter and spring. Additionally, non-hunting users will have access to the game land on Sundays throughout the year.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Separating hunting and non-hunting uses during active hunting seasons may reduce the number of user-conflict complaints and related law-enforcement interventions, which could modestly

lower the operational workload associated with managing safety concerns and public inquiries. John's River Game Land has 21 parking areas, some of which have information kiosks. We will update kiosk signage, so the public knows which days are open to non-hunters. The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$400 to update kiosk signage on the game land (20 signs x \$20/sign).

Local Impact

Reducing recreation opportunities for non-hunters during the hunting season may decrease the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, etc.). This anticipated impact cannot be quantified. However, the restriction may also increase satisfaction among hunters which could lead to an uptick in hunter use of the area during the hunting season. Any increase in hunter visits may partially or fully offset the reduction in visits by non-hunters, although the net effect on local economic activity is uncertain due to the lack of available data on relative participation levels and spending patterns for each group.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment is expected to negatively impact visitors who use the property for recreational purposes other than hunting (e.g., biking, running) during the hunting season. It is expected that these visitors will switch to recreating on this particular game land on Sundays only, when non-hunting use is still allowed, or seek alternative recreation areas. While nearby public lands exist within the region, the extent to which they provide comparable experiences varies based on user preference, distance, and trail characteristics. The degree to which displaced non-hunter recreational users can fully replace their current experience is uncertain. At the same time, the reduction in recreational use is expected to have a positive impact on individual permit holders by minimizing user conflicts and potentially improving their hunting experience.

15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON, MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES

The proposed amendment removes the antlerless deer season on Nantahala Game Land.

Historically, Nantahala Game Land has not had an antlerless deer season; however, changes to the western deer seasons approximately 2 years ago and lack of specificity in the Nantahala Game Land rule have inadvertently created a one-day antlerless season necessitating that we specify in rule that Nantahala Game Land does not have an antlerless deer season.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated state government impact and will not require more or less staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment will eliminate antlerless deer hunting on Nantahala Game Land. However, historically the game land did not have an antlerless deer season thus this change is not anticipated to have an impact on the regulated community.

15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY (Target Shooting)

The proposed amendment will prohibit target shooting on the Northwest River Marsh Game Land.

This proposal originated from constituent concerns about safety, littering, trash accumulation, and disturbance of wildlife due to the number of target shooters using this game land. The proposed amendment may result in positive impacts to wildlife due to reduced habitat degradation, trash, and lead accumulation, and fewer disturbances.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

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

Local Impact

Reducing target shooting opportunities may decrease the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, etc.). The WRC does not have data on the number of target shooters using this site, and no data are available to quantify the level of use or associated local economic impact. Because the area is not a managed shooting range, any effect on nearby businesses is expected to be minimal.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment is expected to negatively impact visitors who use this game land for target shooting. Those wishing to target shoot will either have to pay for use of a private range, or travel approximately 85 miles east of the game land to the WRC owned Odom Shooting Range which is free to the public. However, the reduction in target shooting is expected to have a positive impact on individuals who use the area for hunting, fishing and trapping by minimizing user conflicts, reducing wildlife disturbances, and potentially improving user experience. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

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

The proposed amendment prohibits horseback riding and target shooting on the Roaring Creek and Lutz tracts of Pisgah Game Land.

Currently there is little to no horseback riding on these tracts; however, neither tract has suitable purpose-built trails or infrastructure for horseback riding. The soil on this game land is highly erodible and horseback riding would result in habitat degradation. Additionally, target shooting has a negative impact on game lands, including but not limited to trash and spent shells being left behind, damage to trees, disturbances to wildlife, and introduction of lead to the environment.

The proposed amendment will make the regulations on all state-owned tracts of Pisgah Game Land consistent.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

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

Local Impact

Reducing horseback riding and target shooting opportunities may decrease the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, etc.). The WRC does not have data on the number of target shooters using this site, and no data are available to quantify the level of use or associated local economic impact. Because the area is not a managed shooting range and little to no horseback riding is occurring, any effect on nearby businesses is expected to be minimal.

Private Impact

The proposed amendment is anticipated to negatively impact the few visitors who use these tracts for target shooting and horseback riding. It is expected that these visitors will switch to recreating on other nearby public lands that allow such activities. For example, the US Forest Service has dedicated horseback riding facilities nearby in the Big Ivy area and around Brevard (Wolf Ford Horse Camp and Wash Creek Horse Camp). Target shooters may alternatively use the WRC owned shooting range at nearby Cold Mountain Game Land or the WRC/McDowell County partnership range in Marion. The reduction in these uses is expected to have a positive impact on individuals who use the area for hunting, fishing and trapping by minimizing user conflicts and potentially improving user experience.

15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY

The proposed amendment will make quail and woodcock hunting at Tillery Game Land by permit only.

As identified in the [2025 NC Wildlife Action Plan](#), Bobwhite Quail are a species of greatest conservation need and American Woodcock are a priority species with a knowledge gap. Habitat management work at Tillery has led to more early successional habitat, and a positive quail response. Staff have observed a significant increase in hunting pressure on this 7 days a week game land, leading to some concern for these species.

A point of sale permit (no restriction on the number issued) will allow staff to collect useful information from hunters to assist in making data-driven management decisions on quail and woodcock hunting at the game land.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment will generate revenue through point of sale permits. Permits cost \$8 plus a transaction fee (transaction fees vary from \$0 to \$4 depending on the sales channel). The agency cannot predict how many permits will be sold. A major motivation behind this proposed amendment is to develop a better understanding of how many hunters are hunting these species at this game land.

Permit processing is part of routine operations conducted by the Land and Water Access Division and will not require additional staff resources.

Local Impact

The proposed amendment is anticipated to have minimal impact on local government. Requiring permits may lower hunter participation or interest, which may result in decreased visitation and revenue to the surrounding counties. Given that the permit fee is small, it is unlikely to deter a significant number of users. As such, any resulting reduction in participation and impacts on spending in local communities is expected to be minimal.

Private Impact

Requiring a permit allows the WRC to better understand hunters, estimate hunting pressure, and determine the need for changes to species management. The number of permits would not be limited but requiring them means hunters incur a cost of \$8 to \$12 dollars. Along with the minor inconvenience of purchasing a permit, these may be a deterrent to quail or woodcock hunting on Tillery Game Land. Those who fail to acquire a permit prior to hunting quail or woodcock may face penalties including fines (\$25; class 3 misdemeanor for first offense), and court costs (\$181).

15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

The proposed amendment makes all hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment at White Oak River Game Land permit only.

Confusion exists because the posted impoundment requires a permit for nearly all waterfowl hunting dates except the four days of the early teal season, leaving some hunters uncertain about when a permit is required. By making the requirement consistent across the full season, the amendment eliminates this source of confusion. This change will make language consistent on the Huggins and Morton tracts of this game land.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendment will generate revenue through point of sale permits. Permits cost \$8 plus a transaction fee (transaction fees vary from \$0 to \$4 depending on the sales channel). The agency cannot predict how many permits will be sold, but since the new fee applies to the small number of teal hunters who use this impoundment during those four early season days, any increase in revenue will likely be small.

Permit processing is part of routine operations conducted by the Land and Water Access Division and will not require additional staff resources.

Local Impact

Requiring a permit may reduce hunting opportunities for waterfowl hunters and may subsequently decrease the number of people visiting local businesses. This may result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group (e.g., food, gas, etc.). This anticipated impact cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed change is expected to alleviate confusion among waterfowl hunters; however, it will also decrease hunting opportunities by introducing a permit system where only permitted hunters will be allowed on an impoundment previously open to anyone. The number of permits would not be limited but requiring them means hunters incur a cost of \$8 to \$12 dollars. Along with the minor inconvenience of purchasing a permit, these may be a deterrent to waterfowl hunting on White Oak River Game Land. Additionally, this change may increase the quality and satisfaction of the hunts available. Those who fail to acquire a permit prior to hunting on the waterfowl impoundment may face penalties including fines (\$25; class 3 misdemeanor for first offense), and court costs (\$181).

15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

The proposed rule establishes the Big Swamp tract of land as a game land.

The Big Swamp tract is a new 2,519-acre acquisition that is ready to be designated as a game land. This will be a Three days per week area with no deer or bear hunting with dogs allowed. The property includes over 2,000 acres of wetlands and nearly 20 miles of streams that support diverse wildlife including a multitude of game species and numerous bird species such as warblers, gnatcatchers, flycatchers, wood storks, and many more.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$45,000 to establish the new game land. The agency will hire a contractor to mark the 18-mile boundary of the game land for a cost of approximately \$40,000 (~\$0.30/linear foot plus signage and paint costs), plus ~\$5,000 for one new parking area and gate. Because District 4 law enforcement already covers nearby areas, staff do not anticipate a meaningful shift in officer workload or the need to reassign personnel.

Local Impact

Creating a new game land may increase the number of people visiting local businesses, which may result in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of the recreational user groups (e.g., food, gas, camping supplies, etc.). Increased spending at business

may result in additional tax revenue for State and local governments¹. The Big Swamp Game Land is relatively small, so the total amount of tax-based revenue generated due to its establishment is likely to be small, especially relative to larger game lands. The Commission is unable to give an exact estimate as tax-based revenue varies depending on the activities allowed on the game land, its proximity to local amenities, and its size.

This game land may increase nearby home values, increasing property tax revenue, although the amount is highly uncertain².

Private Impact

This new game land will provide additional opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation. Game land users will have increased opportunities for wildlife-based recreation, and 2,519 acres of undeveloped land will be conserved with public access. There is currently very little public land in Robeson County and wildlife and outdoor recreationists from surrounding municipalities can take advantage of this public land for hunting, hiking, and wildlife watching. There are relatively few residential homes immediately adjacent to the property therefore noise impacts on nearby residents are anticipated to be minimal. The proposed rule will prohibit target shooting and hunting with dogs. Given the game land's relatively small size and hydrology, allowing target shooting could damage wetland ecosystems, raise safety concerns, and lead to excessive litter. The three-day per week designation will provide balance between the expected hunting pressure and game species management.

Game lands provide significant economic contributions to local economies through the market impact of visitors participating in outdoor recreational activities. In 2018, North Carolina game lands received over 2.2 million visits. An evaluation conducted by NC State University researchers estimates that these visits generated over \$180 million in game land related expenditures (gross), contributing a net added value of \$140 million to the state's economic activity².

Adding an additional game land will bolster state revenue and recreational visits. The value of game land access to recreators can be assumed to be at least as much as they spend per trip, although there are additional use and non-use benefits that are not captured in trip expenditures. This same study found that non-licensed activity users (e.g., hikers, bikers) spent an average of \$119.83 per trip while hunters and anglers spent on average \$84.19 per trip².

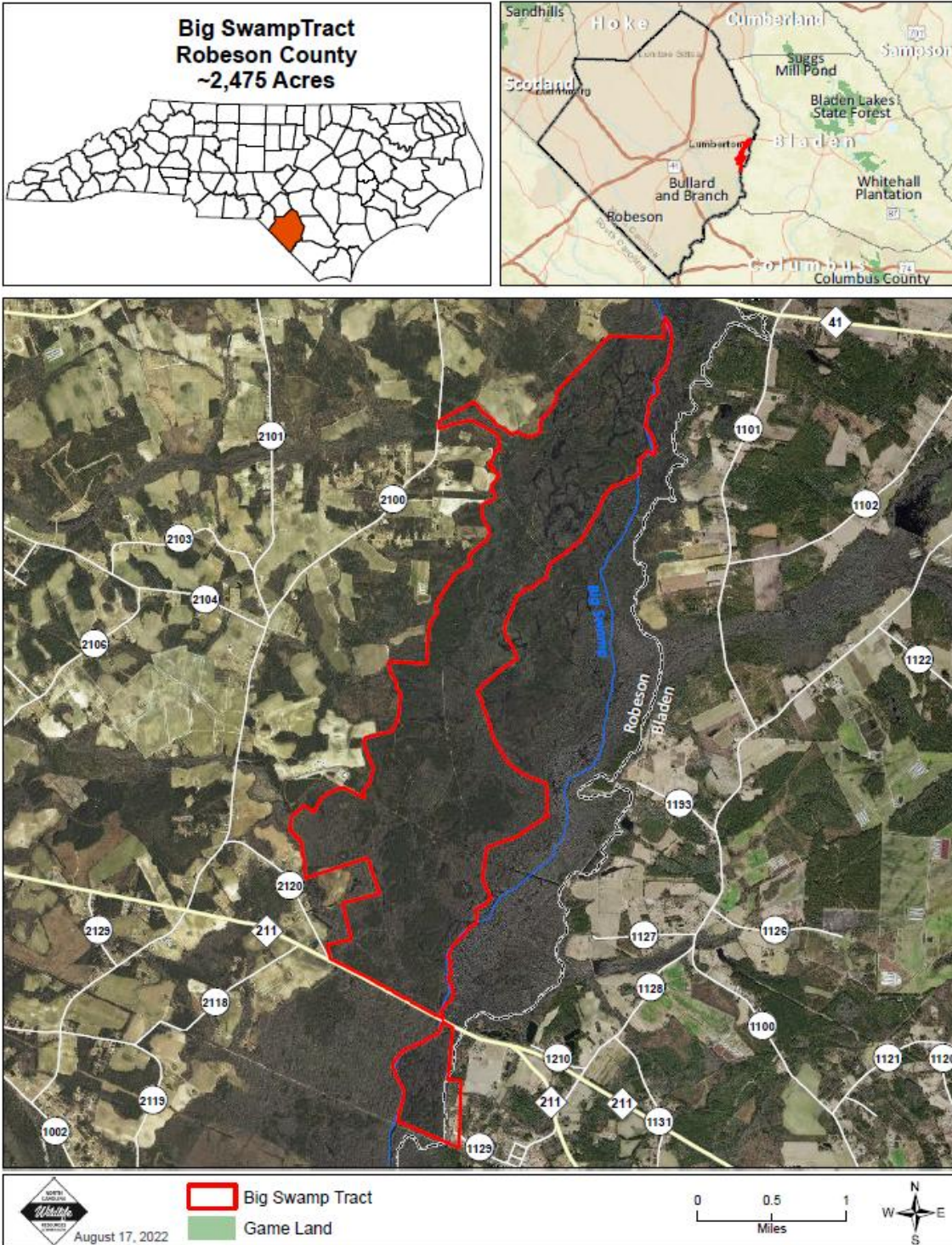
¹ Casola, W.R., Peterson, M.N., Sills, E.O., Pacifici, K., Moorman, C.E., 2022. Economic contributions of wildlife management areas in North Carolina. *Forest Policy and Economics*. 140, 102747. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2022.102747>.

² Casola, William R., Peterson, M.N., Wu, Y., Sills, E.O., Pease, B.S., Pacifici, K., 2021b. Measuring the value of public hunting land using a hedonic approach. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10871209.2021.1953196>.

The concept of willingness to pay (WTP) can provide a more comprehensive estimate of how much users value game lands, including those aesthetic, environmental, and inter-generational benefits that cannot be measured directly in the market through expenditures or home values. However, WTP values come with a greater degree of uncertainty; the estimates are sensitive to the research methods used to elicit the values including the design and delivery of the contingent valuation exercise. An associated study assessed users' willingness to pay (one time) to conserve 20% of North Carolina's game lands. Values varied by user type. Non-licensed users valued the proposed conservation at \$130 compared to licensed users at \$120. Dual users that pursue both licensed and non-licensed activities valued game lands most highly at \$160. More detailed studies would be needed to determine willingness to pay on an annual or per-acre basis, and to determine these values for both users and non-users³.

This game land may increase home values in the area as well. Studies in NC have demonstrated that proximity to game lands provide moderate positive value to nearby properties in some locations, even within rural settings and when controlling for access to other sources of public land. This is especially true for areas where there are no other nearby high-value natural amenities such as beaches and national parks¹.

³ Casola, W.R., Peterson, M.N., Sills, E.O., Pacifici, K., Moorman, C.E., 2023. Conservation motivations and willingness to pay for wildlife management areas among recreational user groups. *Land Use Policy*. 132, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2023.106801>



1 15A NCAC 10D .0103 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS**

4 (a) The following shall be prohibited on game lands:

- 5 (1) hunting on a designated game land while under the influence of an impairing substance, as defined
6 by G.S. 20-4.01(14a); ~~20-4.01(48b)~~;
- 7 (2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the
8 Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;
- 9 (3) parking a vehicle on game lands in a manner that blocks traffic or gates, or prevents vehicles from
10 using a roadway; and
- 11 (4) affixing nails, screws, bolts, or applying paint to vegetation. This prohibition does not apply to
12 mounting hardware for game cameras, lag screw steps, or portable stands that are removed after use
13 with no metal remaining in or attached to the vegetation.
- 14 (5) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform whose construction violates Subparagraph (4) of this
15 Rule.
- 16 ~~(4) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or to a tree on a game~~
17 ~~land to hunt. This prohibition does not apply to lag screw steps or portable stands that are removed~~
18 ~~after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.~~

19 (b) Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall be during the open season for game animals and game
20 birds.

21 (c) Individual game lands or parts of game lands may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this
22 Subchapter.

23 (d) Persons shall hunt with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.

24 (e) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 25 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 26 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- 27 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- 28 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. daily; and
- 29 (5) not operate a vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

30 (f) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

- 31 (1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;
- 32 (2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
- 33 (3) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-
34 54.1(b), or an accessory structure thereof; and
- 35 (4) hunting migratory game birds.

36 (g) On designated Youth Waterfowl Days, the following shall apply:

- 37 (1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset;

- (2) Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and
- (3) youth may hunt on a game land and on an impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply.
- (i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."
- (j) Definitions:
- (1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
 - (2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to antlerless deer hunting seasons listed for each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.
 - (3) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.
 - (4) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
 - (5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.
 - (6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit" means a written authorization from the Commission required for take or other activities listed on the permit during open seasons, if applicable, in a specified area and subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter,

or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available permits online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. The laws and rules regarding the species or activity shall apply.

(7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.

(k) Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(l) On permit hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or by phone.

(m) The following game lands and refuges are closed to hunting except to individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

(1) Bertie, Halifax, and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;

(2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;

(3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;

(4) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);

(5) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and

(6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

(n) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge shall not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

(o) The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on the permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on the permit.

(p) As used in the rules of this Subchapter, horseback riding includes all equine species.

(q) When waterfowl hunting is authorized on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September

1, 1994; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May
1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October
1, 2004;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2022; October 1, 2022; August 23, 2022;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0202 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0202 ANGOLA BAY GAME LAND IN DUPLIN AND PENDER COUNTIES**

4 Angola Bay Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
8 (3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
11 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
12
13

1 15A NCAC 10D .0210 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0210 BULLARD AND BRANCH HUNTING PRESERVE GAME LANDS IN ROBESON**
4 **COUNTY**

5 Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following
6 applies:

- 7 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
8 Season.
9 (2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
13
14

1 15A NCAC 10D .0211 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND**
4 **WAKE COUNTIES**

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

- 6 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for
7 Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
9 (a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;
10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
11 (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
12 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
13 hunting after November 1.
- 14 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 16 (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 17 (6) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on ~~that~~ the portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls
18 Lake.
- 19 (7) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to
20 hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game
21 animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May ~~15~~ 16 through
22 August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.
- 23 (8) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
24 ~~14~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 25 (9) Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall
26 not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping
27 area.
- 28 (10) Entry on the New Light Beach Tract (Wake County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, and
29 trapping is prohibited.

30
31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
32 *Eff. November 1, 2022;*
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2023.*
34
35

1 15A NCAC 10D .0213 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0213 CAPE FEAR RIVER WETLANDS GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY**

4 Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on ~~that portion known as~~ the Roan Island Tract.
8 (3) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion ~~of the game land that is~~ west of the
9 Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC
10 210 to the Black River.
11 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
12 (5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
15 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
16
17

1 15A NCAC 10D .0214 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0214 CARTERET COUNTY GAME LAND IN CARTERET COUNTY**

4 Carteret County Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
7 (2) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
8 (3) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
9 (4) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
13
14

1 15A NCAC 10D .0221 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0221 CROATAN GAME LAND IN CARTERET, CRAVEN, AND JONES COUNTIES**

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

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
8 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
9 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
10 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 11 (3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons,
12 waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake Waterfowl
13 Impoundment is by permit only.
- 14 (4) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas. During
15 the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 16 (5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
19 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
20
21

1 15A NCAC 10D .0222 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0222 CURRITUCK BANKS GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY**

4 Currituck Banks Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only
6 from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
- 7 (2) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do
8 not use a firearm.
- 9 (3) The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- 10 (4) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their
11 hunt.
- 12 (5) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to
13 a tree.
- 14 (6) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- 15 (7) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

16
17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
18 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
19
20

1 15A NCAC 10D .0229 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES**

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

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

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
31 *Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2022;*
32 *Eff. March 15, 2023;*
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025.*
34
35

1 15A NCAC 10D .0239 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

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

5 (1) During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.

6 (2) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.

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

9 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

10 (5) During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, entry is restricted to permit
11 holders. ~~the use of bicycles is restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.~~

12
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

14 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

15 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025; August 1, 2023.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0241 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES**

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

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

6 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
7 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and~~ posted ~~as for~~ camping ~~areas~~. as specified in Rule .0102
8 of this Subchapter.

9 (3) Bear shall not be ~~taken~~ harvested on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0246 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0246 LIGHT GROUND POCOSIN GAME LAND IN PAMLICO COUNTY**

4 Light Ground Pocosin Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
10 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
11
12

1 15A NCAC 10D .0251 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON,**
4 **MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES ~~SWAIN, AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES~~**

5 ~~(a)~~ Nantahala Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies: ~~Area.~~

6 ~~(b)(1)~~ Antlerless deer shall not be taken during the All Lawful Weapons Season. ~~In this game land Deer~~
7 ~~of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season~~
8 ~~in that portion located in Transylvania County.~~

9 ~~(c)(2)~~ Dogs may be used to hunt feral swine during the open bear season established in 15A NCAC 10B
10 .0202 and from January 1 through January 31.

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

13 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*
15
16
17

1 15A NCAC 10D .0254 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0254 NEW LAKE GAME LAND IN HYDE AND TYRRELL COUNTIES**

4 New Lake Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
10 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
11
12

1 15A NCAC 10D .0256 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES**

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

- 5 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
6 Antlers Season.
7 (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
8 (3) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only. ~~permit~~.
9 (4) All activities on the North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments except waterfowl hunting
10 and trapping during the trapping season are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone from
11 November 1 through March 15.
12 (5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
15 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*
17
18

1 15A NCAC 10D .0257 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY**

4 Northwest River Marsh Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
8 (3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.
9 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
13
14

1 15A NCAC 10D .0260 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,**
4 **HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,**
5 **TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES**

6 Pisgah Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 7 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
8 Season.
- 9 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke
10 County), Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties), Lutz Tract (Caldwell
11 County), and Roaring Creek Tract (Avery County). ~~(and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell,~~
12 ~~and Mitchell counties).~~
- 13 (3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke
14 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of
15 an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- 16 (4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County).
- 17 (5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County),
18 Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties), Lutz Tract (Caldwell County),
19 and Roaring Creek Tract (Avery County). ~~(and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and~~
20 ~~Mitchell counties).~~
- 21 (6) Entry on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and
22 posted use of trails and parking areas is prohibited.

23
24 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
25 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 7, 2025;*
27 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*
28
29

1 15A NCAC 10D .0270 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0270 SAMPSON GAME LAND IN SAMPSON COUNTY**

4 Sampson ~~Game Land~~ ~~game land~~ is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
8 (3) Bear shall not be ~~taken~~ ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
11 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
12
13

1 15A NCAC 10D .0279 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0279 SUGGS SUTTON LAKE GAME LAND IN NEW HANOVER AND BRUNSWICK**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Suggs Sutton Lake Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
7 Season through the first Friday thereafter.
8 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
9 (3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. October 1, 2022.*
13
14

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY**

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

- 3 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
4 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 5 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 6 (3) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- 7 (4) ~~Wild turkey~~ Quail, wild turkey, and woodcock hunting is by permit only.
- 8 (5) Target Shooting is prohibited.

9

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

12

13

1 15A NCAC 10D .0290 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY**

4 White Oak River ~~Game Land~~ ~~game land~~ is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.

7 (2) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

8 ~~(2) Except as provided in Item (3) of this Rule, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be~~
9 ~~taken only on the following days:~~

10 ~~(a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~

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

12 ~~(c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~

13 ~~(3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl~~
14 ~~seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.~~

15 (4)(3) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:

16 (a) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity
17 Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);

18 (b) hunting is by permit only; and

19 (c) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

20 ~~(5)(4)~~ Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

21 ~~(6)(5)~~ Target ~~Shooting~~ shooting is prohibited.

22
23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
24 *Eff. November 1, 2022.*
25
26

1 15A NCAC 10D .0296 is proposed for adoption as follows:
2

3 **15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY**

4 Big Swamp Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) The use of dogs for hunting deer or bear is prohibited.

6 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
7

8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
9