

EXHIBIT D-2

June 18, 2026



Fiscal Note for 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission – Wildlife Management

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS
15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER
15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM
15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS
15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)
15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE
15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE
15A NCAC 10B .0502 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE
MANAGEMENT AREAS
15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS
15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS

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

Authority: G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-272.4; 113-276.1; 113-291; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.3; 113-291.4; 113-291.4A; 113-291.5; 113-291.7; 113-292; 113-305; 113-306; 50 C.F.R. 21.29

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.

A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below along with accompanying rule text. The proposed changes will update hunting season dates and modify bag limits for a variety of species. These proposed changes are intended to help ensure future hunting opportunities and wildlife conservation while minimizing costs to the regulated community.

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

15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS

The proposed amendments specify that a person may not possess more than 4 individuals of any combination of native reptile species (which would limit them to 4 TOTAL native reptiles in their possession), without a license.

The current Rule may be misinterpreted by some to allow possession of four reptiles *per species*, which was never the intent. The Rule has always been applied as a limit of four native reptiles in total. The amendments remove this ambiguity. The proposed amendments improve clarity and reduce ambiguity regarding the number of reptiles allowed to be possessed without a Wildlife Collection License.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments may have a modest positive impact on state government by reducing instances in which individuals misinterpret the rule. By clarifying that the limit is four reptiles in total, the rule becomes more straightforward to understand and enforce. Although misinterpretations are uncommon, clearer language reduces the likelihood of inadvertent violations, allows law enforcement to resolve encounters more efficiently, and decreases the time spent explaining or defending the intended meaning of the rule.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments improve clarity and reduce ambiguity for the regulated community. While the rule has generally been understood to allow only four reptiles in total, the clearer language further decreases the likelihood of misinterpretation. As a result, the amendments are expected to yield only a small positive impact by reducing the chance of inadvertent violations, potential citations, and the associated burdens on individuals.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

The proposed amendments modify requirements for the Urban Season for deer so municipalities do not have to annually opt into the season. Municipalities will only have to enroll once and they will remain in the program indefinitely, unless they contact us to opt out. Additionally, municipalities would not be required to submit a map.

Currently each year municipalities must re-enroll to be included in the Urban Season. This process is cumbersome and puts an administrative burden on participating municipalities and agency staff without a commensurate benefit.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments reduce the administrative burden on agency staff. Municipalities often forget to reenroll each year, or reenroll at the last minute, which causes issues with the information in the Regulations Digest and burdens staff. Staff often have to follow-up with individual municipalities, who then must quickly send the letter indicating their intent to participate. Some municipalities require this letter to be approved by their Mayor or City Council, adding additional steps and time to the process. Additionally, late submissions cause delays to the annual Regulations Digest update, which includes a list of participating municipalities.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments reduce the administrative burden on the 64 currently enrolled municipalities as well as any municipalities that enroll in the future. Additional hunting opportunities 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 this user group (e.g., food, gas, hunting supplies, etc). This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments make the process easier which may encourage more municipalities to participate in the program and increase hunting opportunities. This could be a benefit to individuals living in those municipalities by reducing nuisance deer impacts and providing additional opportunities for hunters. The Urban Season does not obligate private landowners to allow hunting on their property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. Hunters are legally required to obtain written permission to hunt on posted property. No negative impacts are anticipated.

15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

The proposed amendments remove the daily bag limit for raccoon by means of hunting. Raccoon trapping does not have a daily bag limit and there is no biological reason for a daily bag limit on raccoons when hunting.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Expanding opportunities for raccoon hunting may increase participation and possibly recruit new or lapsed hunters. The Commission has no way to predict how many people might purchase hunting licenses or continue hunting because of the additional opportunities.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact. The proposed amendment lifting the daily bag limit for raccoon may increase hunter participation. More raccoon hunters may result in increased visitation to local businesses which is likely to result in increased revenue for those businesses. However, this anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments increase harvest opportunity and fulfil a rule modification request by the regulated community.

15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS

The proposed amendments adjust the opening date of the fall gray and red squirrel season two weeks earlier from the Monday on or nearest October 15th to the Saturday on or nearest October 1st.

The proposed amendments add approximately two weeks to the fall gray and red squirrel season fulfilling constituent requests for an earlier opening of fall Squirrel season. This change brings our season in closer alignment with surrounding states.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

Expanding opportunities for squirrel hunting may increase participation and possibly recruit new or lapsed hunters. The Commission has no way to predict how many people might purchase hunting licenses or continue hunting because of the additional opportunities.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments are expected to increase hunter participation. More squirrel hunters may result in increased visitation to local businesses which is likely to result in increased revenues for those businesses. This anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments increase hunting opportunities. Potential positive downstream impacts include increased participation in small game hunting, recruiting new or lapsed hunters, increased spending at local business, and increases in hunter satisfaction. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)

The proposed amendments clarify that the Commission's daily and season bag limits apply to the firearm fox season established by G.S. 113-291.4A; match fox seasons established in state law (i.e., former G.S. 113-111 as specified by G.S. 113-133.1); and remove language from rule that creates an archery season on foxes east of I-77.

When the rule was readopted in 2022, the language was amended in a way that made the bag limit unclear. The origin of the archery season east of I-77 is unknown, but the Commission does not have the statutory authority to establish such a season. The proposed changes align the rule to the applicable statutes.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments will require some WRC staff time to communicate the changes to the regulated community, particularly the elimination of the archery fox season east of I-77 and the alignment of the fox seasons with statute. These outreach efforts represent a modest state impact. However, once implemented, the clarifying language is expected to provide minor efficiency gains for staff and law enforcement by reducing occasional questions and interpretation issues related to the firearm fox season. Overall, the state impacts are anticipated to be small, reflecting both the limited scope of communications needed and the incremental improvements in rule clarity. The proposed amendments are anticipated to have little to no impact on hunting license sales as few hunters exclusively hunt fox with archery equipment.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact as the elimination of the archery fox season east of I-77 is not expected to generate measurable changes in fox hunting activity or related economic effects at the local level. Using archery equipment to harvest foxes is an incredibly niche form of hunting, practiced by very few within the fox hunting community.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments may result in minor impacts on fox hunters and trappers due to changes in seasons, bag limits, and weapons. We will communicate these changes to the

regulated community the next iteration of the Fox Season Guide (<https://ncwildlife.gov/foxseasons>).

15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE & 15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE

The proposed amendments prohibit the shining of artificial lights in search of coyotes or feral swine from any motorized conveyance while in possession of a weapon.

While G.S. 113-291.1(b)(1) explicitly prohibits taking an animal from within the passenger compartment of a vehicle, the proposed amendments remove a loophole for poachers claiming to hunt coyote or feral swine at night while shining a light from a vehicle on the highway into a field or woods while in possession of a weapon capable of killing a deer. The amendments may reduce instances of deer poaching. The proposed amendments do not impact the ability of disabled individuals to hunt from while occupying the passenger area of a vehicle.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments are anticipated to help law enforcement enforce and prosecute instances of deer poaching. While current law allows officers to charge individuals who shine lights in areas frequented by deer while in possession of a firearm, prosecutions can be difficult when defendants claim they are legally searching for coyotes or feral swine to hunt. By prohibiting the use of artificial lights from within a motorized vehicle while in possession of a weapon, the rule targets a behavior typical of deer poachers but less common among lawful coyote or feral swine hunters. This distinction gives officers clearer evidence when encountering spotlighting from a vehicle.

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 for Criminal District Court. Additionally, per G.S. 115C-452, any clear proceeds from penalties and fines issued would go to local schools.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments require those coyote or feral swine hunting at night to exit their vehicle before shining a light when in possession of a weapon. Spotlighting these species from within a vehicle is not a common practice, so the requirement to exit their vehicle before shining a light is expected to have minimal impact on lawful hunters. Negative impacts are not anticipated for lawful hunters, but a violation of this rule carries a fine of \$25 (class 3 misdemeanor for first offense) plus cost of court (\$181).

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

Chronic wasting disease is managed through both rule and proclamation. When a cervid tests positive for CWD, the WRC is authorized to issue proclamations in accordance with G.S. 113-291.2(a2), to establish and modify Primary Surveillance Area(s) and Secondary Surveillance Area(s) and mandatory sampling requirements for cervids taken in those areas. These actions are augmented with CWD rules which are designed to reduce movement and transmission of the disease.

The proposed amendments add Sampson County to the CWD Management Area Rule (10B .0502) and remove it from the White-Railed Deer rule (10B .0203). Sampson County was a CWD surveillance area but now has confirmed positive cases of the disease. Moving the county into the CWD management rule advances the agency's efforts to slow the spread of the disease.

As a CWD management area, hunters in Sampson County will be able to participate in the Special Early Season (allowing antlered deer harvest on two days in August).

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments have no direct state government impact; however, by slowing the spread of the disease the agency may eventually spend less on CWD testing. In the near term, it is unlikely that providing access to the Special Early Season will result in measurable reductions in sampling costs, given that testing levels are expected to remain high in CWD-positive areas. Given that testing currently costs approximately \$23 per sample,¹ and the State processes a large number of samples each year, any short-term savings would be relatively minimal. Measures to limit CWD transmission also helps preserve the quality and viability of deer hunting in North Carolina, which remains an important economic driver for many communities across the state.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments increase deer hunting opportunities, which may result in increased visitation to Sampson County. This may result in increased visitation to local businesses which is likely to result in increased revenues for those businesses. However, this anticipated benefit cannot be quantified.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments will benefit hunters by providing additional deer hunting opportunities (i.e., by having access to the Special Early Season). However, this benefit may not

¹ Between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, the agency processed approximately 23,000 samples. Laboratory fees and shipping costs to process these samples totaled approximately \$542,000.

be fully realized if deer hunters choose not to participate because the county is CWD positive. If the increased opportunities do lead to greater hunting activity, there may be longer-term, indirect benefits as well. Slowing the spread of the disease can help reduce venison consumption concerns and preserve high quality hunting opportunities elsewhere in the state. Consumption concerns are a significant factor within the deer hunting community. In 2025 the Commission's Social Research Unit conducted a study on the Motivations and Social Norms of Chronic Wasting Disease Testing in North Carolina, which indicated about 50% of deer hunters would test their deer for CWD even if it wasn't required, with 65% of these hunters reporting one of the motivations being "to make sure I was not eating meat from a CWD infected deer." Additionally, this research indicated that 47% of all hunters reported they would wait for test results before consuming deer meat. The WRC does not have a mechanism to quantify the specific impacts of the proposed change on private entities.

15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS

The proposed amendments change the dates restricting dogs from running unleashed on Designated Bear Management Areas, changing the end date from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9. This change will ensure permitted bear hunters can legally hunt with dogs in these areas beginning on the season start date for the Mountain Bear Management Unit (i.e., Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9th; applies to game lands and private land).

The proposed amendments correct an oversight in the rule that prohibits the running of dogs off leash on Designated Bear Management Areas at the start of the hunting season in the Mountain Bear Management Unit. Current restrictions were applicable to the previous opening day but did not get adjusted when the Mountain Bear Management Unit season opening day was moved earlier.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated state government impact as the change is part of routine wildlife management duties and will not require more or less staff time or resources for implementation or enforcement.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments improve clarity and correct the aforementioned oversight. Opening the area to hunting with dogs could reduce the quality of the hunt for still or stand hunters for a brief period. The latest bear hunter survey conducted by the agency's Social Research Unit suggests most bear hunters in the Mountain Bear Management Unit are still or stand hunting (58-88% depending on county).

15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS

The proposed amendments change the dates that nestling raptors may be taken from the wild from May 1 - June 30 to January 1 - July 31 and allow American Kestrels and Great Horned Owls nestlings to be taken.

Different species of raptors used in falconry have varied nesting times and desired development stages prior to their removal from the wild. Because of this variation, the current rule, which allows take of raptors from the wild from May 1 – June 30 excludes take of some species. Modifying the dates will expand species available for falconry to include Great Horned Owls and American Kestrels.

The number of additional birds taken from the wild is expected to be negligible.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated state government impact as the change is part of routine wildlife management duties and will not require more or less staff time or resources for implementation or enforcement. Any increase in license interest or sales, if it occurs, is expected to be minimal.

Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

Private Impact

In FY2025 there were about 160 licensed falconers in NC. The changes may modestly increase interest among some falconers by expanding the seasonal window for taking nestlings and adding species options. However, any resulting increase in participation or demand is expected to be small, and the number of additional birds taken from the wild is anticipated to be negligible. We anticipate support from the regulated community.

1 15A NCAC 10B .0119 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS**

4 (a) ~~A Wildlife Collection License~~ License may be issued to ~~a qualified individuals~~ individual to take any species of
5 wildlife resources for the following purposes:

- 6 (1) scientific collection;
7 (2) educational collection; or
8 (3) snapping turtle collection.

9 (b) The following definitions shall apply to this Rule:

- 10 (1) "Scientific Collection" shall mean collection for the purpose of conducting scientific research or
11 survey.
12 (2) "Educational Collection" means collection for the purpose of providing instruction, training, or
13 information to the public.
14 (3) "Snapping Turtle Collection" means collection of snapping turtles from the family Chelydridae for
15 sale pursuant to 15A NCAC 10H .1301.
16 (4) "Personal Use" means collection and holding, using as bait, or personal consumption of reptiles or
17 amphibians.

18 (c) The Commission shall consider the following qualifications when issuing a license:

- 19 (1) prior research or educational experience in the same or similar field;
20 (2) work with or for an educational institution;
21 (3) type of study requested of license (permanent or catch and release);
22 (4) current state and quantity of species requested;
23 (5) collection methodology proposed; and
24 (6) disposition of collection.

25 (d) Individuals collecting and holding reptiles or amphibians for personal use shall not be required to obtain a Wildlife
26 Collection License so long as the following conditions are met:

- 27 (1) no more than 4 individuals of any combination of native reptile species or 24 individuals of any
28 combination of amphibian species per person;
29 (2) collected reptiles and amphibians shall not be bought or sold; and
30 (3) no endangered, threatened, or special concern species shall be collected and retained.

31 (e) Endangered, threatened, and special concern species ~~may~~ shall not be taken or collected except under an
32 endangered species permit unless there is an open season for the species. If an open season exists for the species, then
33 the appropriate hunting, fishing, or trapping license serves as the authorization for take.

34 (f) ~~Wildlife Collection licenses may be issued to any individual,~~ Take under a Wildlife Collection License may be
35 authorized so long as the take is not deemed harmful to the efficient conservation of the species to be collected or to
36 other wildlife species that may be dependent thereon.

(g) Individuals ~~interested in obtaining a Wildlife Collection License~~ shall apply for a Wildlife Collection License by sending an application to 1701 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by completing and submitting an application online at ncwildlife.gov. ~~www.ncwildlife.org~~. The application shall include:

- (1) name, address, date of birth, email, and driver's license number; and
- (2) species information.
- (3) Additional information required for scientific and educational collection shall include:
 - (A) organizational affiliation, if any; and
 - (B) full documentation of research or educational proposal(s) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval, if applicable.

(h) Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be used in lieu of ~~any other~~ a hunting or trapping license required by law and shall authorize possession and transportation of ~~the~~ wildlife incidental to the authorized taking. It shall not authorize the taking, possession, or transportation of any species of wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, or any other federal act to prohibit or restrict the possession and transportation of wildlife resources.

(i) Wildlife Collection Licenses for snapping turtle collection shall only be available to North Carolina residents. The following conditions shall apply:

- (1) no more than 10 snapping turtles per person per day;
- (2) no more than 100 snapping turtles per person per calendar year;
- (3) turtles shall have a minimum curved carapace length of 13 inches; and
- (4) no more than 15 trapping devices per license. Devices shall be:
 - (A) labeled with a waterproof tag that shows the licensee's name, WRC Customer Number, or Wildlife Collection License number;
 - (B) hoop traps or other trap style that allows for the unharmed release of any nontarget species or snapping turtles less than 13 inches; and
 - (C) checked daily per 15A NCAC 10B .0110.

(j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the license, Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

(k) Licensed individuals shall submit the following information to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 15 days of license expiration depending on the species taken:

- (1) the numbers of each species taken under the license and the use or disposition thereof;
- (2) dates and location of the taking; and
- (3) sex, size, weight, condition, or approximate age of each specimen taken as specified on the license.

(l) ~~A Wildlife Collections~~ Collection License shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a facility.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272.4;

Eff. January 1, 1981;

1 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; January 1, 2013; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; April 1, 2001; February*
2 *1, 1994; November 1, 1990; September 1, 1989;*
3 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*
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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
37 Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of

Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

1 (2) Restrictions

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

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

8 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part ~~(b)(1)(4)~~
9 (b)(1) of this Rule.

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

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

16 (2) Restrictions

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

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

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

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

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

37 (d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands within a city boundary.
- (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to ~~that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to~~ the Executive Director or their ~~his~~ designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. ~~27699-1700. 27699-1700, no later than April 1 of the year prior to initial participation. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply. Cities may withdraw from participation in the Urban Season by sending written notice to the Commission.~~
- (3) Restrictions:
- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the Urban Season.
- (e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals under 16 years of age during the following days:
- (1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and
- (2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.
- (f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin ~~or velvet~~ as distinguished from antlers or spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.
- (g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph (f) of this Rule do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with

1 DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those
2 seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report
3 card.

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

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8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
9 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
10 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
11 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
13 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
15 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
16 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
17 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
18 *2003);*
19 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
20 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*
21 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
22 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*
23 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0205 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM**

4 (a) The open season for taking raccoon and opossum is from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the
5 last day of February.

6 (b) Bag Limits:

7 (1) There is no bag limit for raccoon. ~~The daily bag limit for raccoon is three and there are no season~~
8 ~~and no possession limits.~~

9 (2) There is no ~~restriction on bag limit limits~~ for opossum.

10 (c) Axes or saws shall not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.

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12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

13 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

16 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; July 1, 2000;*

17 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0206 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS**

4 (a) The open season for gray and red squirrels is the ~~Saturday~~ Monday on or ~~nearest~~ closest to October ~~1~~ 15 through
5 the last day of February. Gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the Monday following the closing of the open
6 season for wild turkey in 15A NCAC 10B .0209(a) through the second Monday thereafter.

7 (b) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.

8 (c) The open season for fox squirrels is the Monday on or nearest October 15 through January 31.

9 (d) The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.

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11 *History Note Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

12 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
14 *2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

15 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0212 is proposed for amendment as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)**

4 (a) Unless otherwise specified in a local act of the General Assembly, foxes may be taken year-round using firearms
5 and archery equipment in the following counties:

6 (1) Ashe

7 (2) Catawba

8 (3) Haywood

9 (4) Perquimans

10 (5) Wilkes

11 (6) Yadkin

12 ~~(a)(b) Foxes may be taken with weapons~~ The open season for taking foxes using firearms, archery equipment, and or
13 traps is the first Saturday in January through the fourth Saturday in January in the following counties:

14 ~~(1)~~ Caswell;

15 ~~(2)~~(1) Clay;

16 ~~(3)~~(2) Graham;

17 ~~(4)~~(3) Henderson;

18 ~~(5)~~(4) Macon; and

19 ~~(6)~~(5) Tyrell.

20 ~~(b)(c) The open season for taking foxes with firearms, archery equipment and traps in counties listed in G.S. 113-~~
21 291.4B(c) are as specified in Rule 10B .0303(a) of this Subchapter.

22 ~~(c)(d) The open~~ season for pursuing or taking foxes with dogs on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land is August 2
23 through February 14.

24 ~~(e) (c) Foxes may be taken the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1~~ The open season for taking foxes
25 using firearms archery equipment is the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all areas of the State
26 east of Interstate Highway 77, unless otherwise specified in local act of the General Assembly. 77 and in Mitchell
27 County.

28 ~~(d) (f) For areas of open season~~ seasons detailed in Paragraphs (a) through (e) (b), (d), and (e) of this Rule, and areas
29 detailed in G.S. 113-291.4A(a), excluding the counties listed in 113-291.4B(c), Rule, the daily bag limit is two; two
30 and the season limit is 10.

32 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-131.1; 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.4; 113-291.4A; 113-291.4B*

33 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

34 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1987; December 1, 1985;*

35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1989;*

36 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; May 1, 1990;*

37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

1 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2000;*
2 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0219 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE**

4 (a) When taking coyotes, the following shall apply:

- 5 (1) There is no closed season for taking coyotes.
- 6 (2) There is no bag limit.
- 7 (2) Coyotes may be taken on private lands anytime during the day or night.
- 8 (3) Coyotes may be taken on public lands without a permit from the hours of one-half hour before
- 9 sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.
- 10 (4) Coyotes may be taken on public lands with a permit from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour
- 11 before sunrise.
- 12 (5) Hunters may use electronic calls. ~~calls and artificial lights to take coyotes.~~
- 13 (6) Hunters may shine artificial lights to take coyotes, except from a motorized conveyance while in
- 14 possession of a firearm or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

15 (b) In the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrell, and Washington, the following shall apply:

- 16 (1) Coyote hunting on public lands is prohibited, except that coyotes may be taken on State-owned
- 17 game lands by the holder of a permit for a specific special hunt opportunity for coyotes authorized
- 18 by G.S 113-264(d).
- 19 (2) Any special hunt for coyotes pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d) shall only allow hunting from the hours
- 20 of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.
- 21 (3) Contests or competition coyote hunts on public lands are prohibited.
- 22 (4) If, within a calendar year, two or more red wolves are shot by one or more hunters with a valid
- 23 special hunt permit for coyotes on State game lands within the five counties identified in this
- 24 Paragraph, all special hunts for coyotes on State game lands within those five counties shall be
- 25 suspended for one calendar year.
- 26 (5) Coyotes may be taken on private lands by permit only, and any take shall be reported within 24
- 27 hours to the by phone at 919-707-0040 or online at www.ncwildlife.org.
- 28 (6) There is no closed season for taking coyotes on private lands. Coyotes may be taken on private lands
- 29 from hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset only.
- 30 (7) Coyote hunting permits are in addition to hunting licenses. Individuals exempted from license
- 31 requirements under the provisions specified in G.S. 113-276 shall acquire the coyote hunting permits
- 32 to hunt coyotes in the counties specified in this Paragraph. Coyote hunting permits are valid for one
- 33 calendar year and are subject to annual renewal. These permits are non-transferable. Permit holders
- 34 shall submit their harvest reports in order to be eligible for permit renewal.

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36 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*
37 *Eff. July 1, 1993;*

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2011;*
2 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2012;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect until amendments expire as*
4 *specified in G.S. 150B-21.1(d) or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North*
5 *Carolina's court order number 2:13-CV-60-BOs signed on May 13, 2014 is rescinded, whichever*
6 *date is earlier. The court order is available at www.ncwildlife.org;*
7 *Amended Eff. July 26, 2013;*
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;*
9 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2016;*
10 *Readopted Eff. February 1, 2022.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0223 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE**

4 (a) There is no closed season for taking feral swine on private lands anytime during the day or night.

5 (b) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after
6 sunset during an open season for game animals or game birds using the legal manners of take allowed during those
7 season, except that dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine on game lands that do not allow the use of dogs for
8 hunting white-tailed deer or black bear. Where lawful, the hunting of feral swine with dogs is allowed during the
9 applicable deer or bear season unless otherwise specified in the Rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

10 (c) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise by permit
11 only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ncwildlife.gov, ~~newildlife.org~~, by phone, or in
12 person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will be based on achieving
13 population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available feral swine permits to
14 applicants selected at random by computer. Permits shall be non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding
15 the taking of feral swine shall apply.

16 (d) There are no bag limits on feral swine.

17 (e) Hunters may use electronic calls to take feral swine, ~~artificial lights and electronic calls~~.

18 (f) Hunters may shine artificial lights to take feral swine, except from a motorized conveyance while in possession of
19 a firearm or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

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21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-291; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*

22 *Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2011;*

23 *Eff. February 1, 2012;*

24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2012;*

25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; March 21, 2013;*

26 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;*

27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0502 is proposed for amendment 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.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0106 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS**

4 (a) Bear ~~hunting may be taken~~ on posted designated bear management areas specified in Paragraph (c) of this Rule
5 ~~during the open season~~ shall be by permit only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at
6 ~~ncwildlife.org,~~ ncwildlife.gov, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits
7 issued annually will be based on achieving population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission
8 shall issue available bear management area permits to applicants selected at random by computer. Permits ~~are~~ shall be
9 non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding the taking of bear shall apply.

10 (b) The following shall be posted designated bear management areas:

11 Bachelor Bay designated bear management area – Bertie and Washington counties
12 Columbus County designated bear management area – Brunswick and Columbus counties
13 Croatan designated bear management area – Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
14 Daniel Boone designated bear management area – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
15 Dare designated bear management area – Dare and Hyde counties
16 Fires Creek designated bear management area – Clay County
17 Flat Top designated bear management area – Mitchell and Yancey counties
18 Green Swamp designated bear management area – Brunswick County
19 Gull Rock designated bear management area – Hyde County
20 Harmon Den designated bear management area – Haywood County
21 Juniper Creek designated bear management area – Brunswick and Columbus counties
22 Mt. Mitchell designated bear management area – McDowell and Yancey counties
23 North River designated bear management area – Camden and Currituck counties
24 Panthertown – Bonas Defeat designated bear management area – Jackson County
25 Pisgah designated bear management area – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
26 Pungo River designated bear management area – Hyde County
27 Rich Mountain designated bear management area – Madison County
28 Sherwood designated bear management area – Haywood County
29 Suggs Mill Pond designated bear management area – Bladen and Cumberland counties
30 Standing Indian designated bear management area – Macon County
31 Thurmond Chatham designated bear management area – Allegheny and Wilkes counties
32 Wayah designated bear management area – Macon County

33 (c) It shall be lawful to take bear on the following designated management areas when authorized by permit issued
34 by the Commission in accordance with G.S. 113-264(d):

35 Daniel Boone designated bear management area – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
36 Dare designated bear management area – Dare and Hyde counties
37 Mt. Mitchell designated bear management area – McDowell and Yancey counties

1 Panthertown – Bonas Defeat designated bear management area – Jackson County

2 Pisgah designated bear management area – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania

3 Standing Indian designated bear management area – Macon County

4 (d) Feral Swine shall not be taken with the use of dogs on designated bear management areas.

5 (e) Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed between March 1 and the Saturday on or immediately prior
6 to October 9 ~~Monday on or nearest October 15~~ on designated bear management areas located in and west of the
7 counties and parts of counties described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;*

10 *Eff. August 1, 2019;*

11 *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023.*

1 15A NCAC 10H .0810 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS**

4 (a) No raptor shall be taken from the wild in this State except by an individual holding a current falconry license as
5 defined in Rule .0801 of this Section, or a falconry permit or license from the individual's state of residence if the
6 individual is a non-resident of North Carolina. Falconers may only take species of raptors from the wild that are
7 authorized under their level of permit or license. If a falconer captures an unauthorized species of raptor or other bird,
8 he or she must release that bird immediately upon capture.

9 (b) All levels of licensees may take up to two raptors from the wild annually, subject to the conditions and restrictions
10 set forth in 50 CFR 21.82(e)(2). Apprentices may keep ~~only~~ one bird at a time.

11 (c) Apprentices may take ~~any species of raptor~~ raptors from the wild except for those species specified in 50 CFR
12 21.82(c)(2)(i)(E).

13 (d) ~~Any~~ A raptor native to this State may be taken from the wild subject to the restrictions on species and license level
14 as follows:

15 (1) ~~Only persons~~ An individual holding General or Master level falconry licenses may take nestlings.
16 Nestlings may ~~only~~ be taken from January 1 ~~May 1~~ through July 31, ~~June 30~~. No more than two
17 nestlings may be taken by the same licensee. At least one nestling shall be left in the nest or aerie.

18 (2) First year (passage) birds may be taken from August 1 through the last day of February, except that
19 marked raptors may be retrapped at any time.

20 ~~(3) American kestrels (Falco sparverius) and great horned owls (Bubo Virginianus) may only be taken~~
21 ~~when over one year old. Only General and Master falconers may take this age class in accordance~~
22 ~~with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(i). The time period for taking is from August 1 through the last day of~~
23 ~~February.~~

24 ~~(4)(3)~~ Only General and Master falconers may take a federally threatened species and the falconer shall
25 follow the restrictions in 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(ix).

26 ~~(5)(4)~~ A falconer shall obtain a North Carolina endangered species permit before taking ~~any~~ raptors listed
27 in 15A NCAC 10I .0103, 15A NCAC 10I .0104, or 15A NCAC 10I .0105. Furthermore, a falconer
28 shall possess a special hunt permit to take a passage peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius).

29 (e) Traps shall be designed to prevent injury to the raptor. ~~All traps~~ Traps, except box-type ~~traps~~ traps, shall be
30 attended and visible to the trapper ~~at all times~~ when in use. Box-type traps ~~must~~ shall be checked every 24 hours.
31 Traps ~~must~~ shall be ~~of~~ one of the following types:

32 (1) Leg noose snare traps, the nooses of which shall be tied to prevent the noose from locking when
33 under pressure. The trapper shall use a drag weight based on the species being trapped.

34 (2) Nets that collapse on and enclose around the raptor.

35 (3) Box-type traps with automatic closing entry doors or funnels.

36 (f) Licensees may recapture their own birds, banded birds, captive-bred birds or birds wearing falconry equipment.
37 Disposition of these birds shall be in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(iv)-(v). ~~their own birds or any birds wearing~~

1 ~~falconry equipment at any time. Disposition of banded birds, captive-bred birds, and birds wearing falconry equipment~~
2 ~~is as allowed in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(iv)-(v).~~

3 (g) Licensees shall keep their license on their person when trapping raptors.

4 (h) Raptors injured due to falconry trapping ~~efforts~~ shall be treated humanely and in accordance with 50 50 CFR
5 21.82(e)(5).

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3(b)(4); 50 C.F.R. 21.29;*

8 *Eff. September 1, 1979;*

9 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2012; July 1, 1998;*

10 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
11 *6, 2016;*

12 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2022; February 1, 2018.*