

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

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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 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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.

(2) 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 may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery 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 may be used during the Archery Season.

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

(c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:

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

(2) Restrictions

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

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

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

(D) 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 Blackpowder Firearms 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).

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

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

(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

1 under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as instructed on
2 the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting
3 license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with
4 DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those
5 seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report
6 card.

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

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

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 from a
- 14 public road or public road right of way while in possession of a firearm or archery equipment, as
- 15 defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

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

- 17 (1) Coyote hunting on public lands is prohibited, except that coyotes may be taken on State-owned
- 18 game lands by the holder of a permit for a specific special hunt opportunity for coyotes authorized
- 19 by G.S 113-264(d).
- 20 (2) Any special hunt for coyotes pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d) shall only allow hunting from the hours
- 21 of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.
- 22 (3) Contests or competition coyote hunts on public lands are prohibited.
- 23 (4) If, within a calendar year, two or more red wolves are shot by one or more hunters with a valid
- 24 special hunt permit for coyotes on State game lands within the five counties identified in this
- 25 Paragraph, all special hunts for coyotes on State game lands within those five counties shall be
- 26 suspended for one calendar year.
- 27 (5) Coyotes may be taken on private lands by permit only, and any take shall be reported within 24
- 28 hours to the by phone at 919-707-0040 or online at www.ncwildlife.gov. ~~www.newildlife.org.~~
- 29 (6) There is no closed season for taking coyotes on private lands. Coyotes may be taken on private lands
- 30 from hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset only.
- 31 (7) Coyote hunting permits are in addition to hunting licenses. Individuals exempted from license
- 32 requirements under the provisions specified in G.S. 113-276 shall acquire the coyote hunting permits
- 33 to hunt coyotes in the counties specified in this Paragraph. Coyote hunting permits are valid for one
- 34 calendar year and are subject to annual renewal. These permits are non-transferable. Permit holders
- 35 shall submit their harvest reports in order to be eligible for permit renewal.
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37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*

Eff. July 1, 1993;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2011;

Amended Eff. January 1, 2012;

Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect until amendments expire as specified in G.S. 150B-21.1(d) or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina's court order number 2:13-CV-60-BOs signed on May 13, 2014 is rescinded, whichever date is earlier. The court order is available at www.ncwildlife.org;

Amended Eff. July 26, 2013;

Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;

Amended Eff. July 1, 2016;

Readopted Eff. February 1, 2022.

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 from a public road or
19 public road right of way while in possession of 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.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0502 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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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 County and Sampson County
25 the Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands
26 unless 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 may be taken on posted designated bear management areas specified in Paragraph (c) of this Rule ~~during the~~
5 ~~open season~~ by permit only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ~~newwildlife.org,~~
6 ncwildlife.gov, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will
7 be based on achieving population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available
8 bear management area permits to applicants selected at random by computer. Permits ~~are shall be~~ non-transferrable.
9 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 Monday on or nearest October 15~~
6 on designated bear management areas located in and west of the counties and parts of counties described in 15A
7 NCAC 10B .0109 ~~15A NCAC 10B .0109~~. except from the Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9 through the
8 last day of February.

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

11 *Eff. August 1, 2019;*

12 *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023.*

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

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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) through (v). ~~their own birds or any birds~~

1 ~~wearing falconry equipment at any time. Disposition of banded birds, captive bred birds, and birds wearing falconry~~
2 ~~equipment 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).

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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.*
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