



**Fiscal Note for Proposed Inland Fisheries Division Rule Amendments  
for the Wildlife Resources Commission**

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters  
15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass

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

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134

**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)). 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, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and other regulations to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives; ensuring the safety of the boating public; 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, with the full text included in Appendix A.

Many of the proposed amendments change what anglers may harvest in specific waters, where anglers may harvest certain species, and how they may harvest. Several of the proposed amendments seek to increase angling opportunity while others may prove to be more restrictive. All the proposed changes are intended to expand future angling opportunity. In the end, despite the changes, no impact to overall angling participation is expected.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

The WRC manages approximately 5,300 miles and 2,100 acres of the State's coldwater resources within its Public Mountain Trout Waters program (PMTW), and in 2014, an estimated 148,991 anglers fished for trout in PMTW and contributed approximately \$383 million to the State's economy.<sup>1</sup> As noted within the WRC's Trout Management Plan, the purpose of PMTW is to use science-based decision making and biologically sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of trout populations for continued and varied angling opportunities. By designating waters as PMTW, the WRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensures the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendment will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported, Wild Trout, or Wild Trout Natural Bait. To reflect changes in partnerships with landowners and angler access, approximately 0.9 miles Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will be removed from PMTW. Approximately 42 miles of Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters will be reclassified to Wild Trout Waters. Changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with landowners, angler access, and overall trout management.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

These proposed rule amendments will not change current on-the-ground management. Conservation biologists and technicians will change signage as part of their regular duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated cost to the agency of approximately \$248 (\$31/hr x 8 hrs = \$248).

Signage that requires changing will cost at most, the agency \$45 (\$0.90/sign x 50 signs). At most, signs cost \$0.90 each and no more than 50 are expected to be required for purchase.

The total cost to the agency is estimated to be around \$293 (\$248 + \$45).

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<sup>1</sup> Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy, 2015.

### *Local Impact*

This rule amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

Changes to PMTW boundaries will result in a net loss of approximately .09 miles of PMTW from public access. While this loss is a loss of angling opportunity to the public in specific areas, it represents less than 0.02% of PMTW. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals. This amendment changes angler ability to use natural bait. In general, fewer people use natural bait compared to artificial in these specific streams. Reclassifying the waters simplifies the different types of classifications and by not allowing natural bait, the catch and release mortality decreases leaving more fish in the water to be caught.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS**

The proposed amendment to the rule will increase the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and hybrids from 16 inches to 20 inches in Lake Norman. The daily creel limit will remain four fish in combination. Due to early fast growth and high harvest rates of Hybrid Striped Bass, anglers have requested that the minimum size limit be increased to allow fish to stay in the lake for at least one more year. Biological data indicate that the fishery can sustain this increase in the minimum size limit. It may also allow fish to gain a larger individual size and the overall population size to increase.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

Biological data indicates that the fishery can sustain this increase in the minimum size limit and may also allow fish to gain a larger individual size and the overall population size to increase. As a result, this amended size limit is intended to improve the quality of Striped Bass recreational fishing experiences in the long term, a benefit to anglers overall. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

## APPENDIX A

### 15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

(a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104.
- (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (3) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (4) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (5) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (6) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (7) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (8) "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions.

(c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.

(d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

- (1) Alleghany
  - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])
  - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
Big Pine Creek  
Bledsoe Creek

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- 1 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against  
2 trespassing)  
3 Cranberry Creek  
4 (Big) Glade Creek  
5 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129  
6 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)  
7 Meadow Fork  
8 Pine Swamp Creek  
9 Piney Fork  
10 Prathers Creek  
11 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park  
13 (2) Ashe County  
14 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
15 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)  
16 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
17 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)  
18 Helton Creek (~~SR~~ 900 yards upstream of SR 1372 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank]  
19 to North Fork New River)  
20 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)  
21 Trout Lake  
22 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
23 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)  
24 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)  
25 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)  
26 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)  
27 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)  
28 Nathans Creek  
29 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)  
30 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)  
31 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)  
32 Roan Creek  
33 Three Top Creek  
34 (3) Avery County  
35 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
36 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)  
37 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)  
38 Wilson Creek (game land portion)  
39 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
40 Boyde Coffey Lake  
41 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state  
42 line)  
43 Linville River (~~Land Harbor line [below dam]~~ (S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway  
44 boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)  
45 Milltimber Creek  
46 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family  
47 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)  
48 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against  
49 trespassing)  
50 Squirrel Creek

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- 1 Wildcat Lake
- 2 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Birchfield Creek
- 4 Cow Camp Creek
- 5 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
- 6 Gragg Prong
- 7 Horse Creek
- 8 Kentucky Creek
- 9 North Harper Creek
- 10 Plumtree Creek
- 11 Roaring Creek
- 12 Rockhouse Creek
- 13 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
- 14 South Harper Creek
- 15 Webb Prong
- 16 (4) Buncombe County
- 17 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 19 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
- 21 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
- 22 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
- 23 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
- 24 Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 25 Lake Powhatan
- 26 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
- 27 trespassing)
- 28 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
- 29 Stony Creek
- 30 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of
- 31 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 32 (5) Burke County
- 33 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 35 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 37 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
- 39 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
- 40 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake
- 41 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 42 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 43 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 44 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 45 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
- 46 A and B of this Subparagraph
- 47 (6) Caldwell County
- 48 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 49 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 50 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

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- 1 Boone Fork Pond  
2 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)  
3 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)  
4 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted  
5 against trespassing)  
6 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)  
7 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)  
9 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)  
10 Rockhouse Creek  
11 (7) Cherokee County  
12 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)  
14 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)  
15 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)  
16 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)  
17 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)  
18 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Apalachia Reservoir  
20 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
21 Bald Creek (game land portion)  
22 Dockery Creek (game land portion)  
23 ~~North Shoal Creek (game land portion)~~  
24 (8) Clay County  
25 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Fires Creek (Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)  
27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)  
29 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)  
30 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)  
31 (9) Graham County  
32 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)  
34 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
35 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)  
36 Cheoah Reservoir  
37 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)  
38 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)  
39 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)  
40 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)  
41 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)  
42 West Buffalo Creek  
43 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)  
44 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
45 Little Buffalo Creek  
46 South Fork Squally Creek  
47 Squally Creek  
48 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
49 ~~Deep Creek~~  
50 Long Creek (game land portion)

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- 1 (10) Haywood County
- 2 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 4 Logan)
- 5 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 6 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 7 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 8 trespassing)
- 9 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 10 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 11 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 12 except Middle Prong)
- 13 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 14 Hurricane Creek
- 15 (11) Henderson County
- 16 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 18 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 19 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
- 20 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
- 21 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
- 22 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
- 23 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 24 (12) Jackson County
- 25 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 Flat Creek
- 27 (East Fork) Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)(game lands portion
- 28 upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including Duke Energy powerline corridor)
- 29 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
- 31 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 32 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33 Balsam Lake
- 34 Bear Creek Lake
- 35 Cedar Cliff Lake
- 36 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
- 37 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
- 38 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
- 39 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
- 40 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
- 41 trespassing)
- 42 Tanasee Creek Lake
- 43 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
- 44 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
- 45 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
- 46 Wolf Creek Lake
- 47 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 48 Gage Creek
- 49 North Fork Scott Creek
- 50 Tanasee Creek



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- 1 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)  
2 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)  
3 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
4 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)  
5 ~~Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)~~  
6 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)  
7 (13) Macon County  
8 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)  
10 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
11 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)  
12 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)  
13 Cliffside Lake  
14 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)  
15 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)  
16 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)  
17 Queens Creek Lake  
18 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
19 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)  
20 ~~Jarrett Creek (game land portion)~~  
21 Kimsey Creek  
22 ~~Overflow Creek (game land portion)~~  
23 Park Creek  
24 Tellico Creek (game land portion)  
25 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)  
26 (14) Madison County  
27 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)  
29 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)  
30 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews  
31 Ave.)  
32 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of  
34 Bearpen Branch)  
35 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)  
36 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence  
37 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)  
38 Max Patch Pond  
39 Meadow Fork (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)  
40 Puncheon Fork (Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)  
41 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)  
42 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)  
43 Shut-in Creek  
44 Spillcorn Creek  
45 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to ~~USFS Rd. 223~~ the confluence with  
46 Meadow Fork)  
47 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-  
48 in Creek)  
49 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
50 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)

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- 1 (15) McDowell County  
2 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
3 Newberry Creek (game land portion)  
4 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
5 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)  
6 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)  
7 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)  
8 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)  
10 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)  
11 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)  
12 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 13 (16) Mitchell County  
14 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
15 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)  
16 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)  
17 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)  
19 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)  
20 East Fork Grassy Creek  
21 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)  
22 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against  
23 trespassing)  
24 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)  
25 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)  
27 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where  
28 posted against trespassing)  
29 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 30 (17) Polk County  
31 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
32 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)  
33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
34 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)  
35 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 36 (18) Rutherford County  
37 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
38 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted  
39 against trespassing)
- 40 (19) Stokes County  
41 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
42 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 43 (20) Surry County  
44 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
45 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)  
46 Mitchell River (0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R.  
47 1330)  
48 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
49 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)

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- 1 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards  
2 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])  
3 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)  
4 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)  
5 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)  
6 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 7 (21) Swain County
- 8 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
- 10 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
11 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)  
12 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)  
13 Cheoah Reservoir  
14 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)  
15 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)  
16 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 17 (22) Transylvania County
- 18 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek  
20 and Grogan Creek)
- 21 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
22 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107  
23 bridge)  
24 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
- 25 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)  
27 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork)  
28 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area  
29 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)  
30 West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad  
31 River)
- 32 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 All waters located on Gorges State Park  
34 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- 35 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
36 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)  
37 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against  
38 trespassing)
- 39 (23) Watauga County
- 40 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
41 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding  
42 tributaries)  
43 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffey  
44 Lake)
- 45 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
46 Lake Coffey  
47 Watauga River – upper (S.R.1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower  
48 boundary)  
49 Watauga River – lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)
- 50 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

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- 1 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an  
2 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)  
3 Beech Creek  
4 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)  
5 Buckeye Creek Reservoir  
6 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)  
7 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)  
8 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against  
9 trespassing)  
10 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)  
11 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)  
12 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork  
13 New River)  
14 Norris Fork Creek  
15 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower  
16 boundary of Brookshire Park)  
17 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)  
18 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)  
20 Howard Creek  
21 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)  
22 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)  
23 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)  
24 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)  
25 (24) Wilkes County  
26 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
27 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park  
28 lower boundary)  
29 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain  
30 Club)  
31 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)  
32 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin  
33 River)  
34 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong  
35 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)  
36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
37 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)  
38 Bell Branch Pond  
39 Boundary Line Pond  
40 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)  
41 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence  
42 with North Fork Reddies River)  
43 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)  
44 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where  
45 posted against trespassing)  
46 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)  
47 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1736)  
48 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.  
49 1559)  
50 Pike Creek

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- 1 Pike Creek Pond  
2 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies  
3 River)  
4 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 intersection)  
5 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
6 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from  
7 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where  
8 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at  
9 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek  
10 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply  
11 (25) Yancey County  
12 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)  
14 Upper Creek  
15 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
16 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)  
17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)  
19 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)  
20 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)  
21 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,  
22 except where posted against trespassing)  
23 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
24 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)  
25 Licksillet Creek  
26 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)  
27  
28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*  
29 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
30 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*  
31 *October 1, 1992;*  
32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
33 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
34 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*  
36 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
38 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
39 *2003);*  
40 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
41 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
42 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
43 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
44 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*  
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