



Fiscal Note for Proposed Lands Management Rules and Rule Amendments

Rule Amendments:

15A NCAC 10D .0102	General Hunting Regulations
15A NCAC 10D .0103	Hunting on Game Lands
15A NCAC 10D .0106	Bear Sanctuaries
15A NCAC 10D .0201	Alligator River Game Land in Tyrell County
15A NCAC 10D .0202	Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0203	Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie and Washing ton Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0206	Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
15A NCAC 10D .0208	Buckridge Game Land in Tyrell County
15A NCAC 10D .0209	Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell & Wilkes Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0210	Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County
15A NCAC 10D .0211	Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0213	Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
15A NCAC 10D .0214	Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
15A NCAC 10D .0215	R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
15A NCAC 10D .0216	Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
15A NCAC 10D .0217	Chowan Game Landin Chowan County
15A NCAC 10D .0218	Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0219	Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
15A NCAC 10D .0220	Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County
15A NCAC 10D .0221	Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0222	Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
15A NCAC 10D .0224	Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0226	Dupont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0227	Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
15A NCAC 10D .0228	Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0229	Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0230	Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0232	Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
15A NCAC 10D .0233	Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0237	Hyco Game Land in Person County
15A NCAC 10D .0239	Johns River Game Land in Burke County
15A NCAC 10D .0240	Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties

15A NCAC 10D .0241	Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0243	Kings Creek Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0245	Lee Game Land in Lee County
15A NCAC 10D .0246	Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County
15A NCAC 10D .0247	Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
15A NCAC 10D .0248	Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0249	Mayo Game Land in Person County
15A NCAC 10D .0250	Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
15A NCAC 10D .0251	Nantahala Ga Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0252	Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0254	New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrell Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0255	Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
15A NCAC 10D .0256	North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0257	Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County
15A NCAC 10D .0258	Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0259	Perkins Game Land in Davie County
15A NCAC 10D .0260	Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, And Yancey Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0261	Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
15A NCAC 10D .0267	Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
15A NCAC 10D .0270	Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
15A NCAC 10D .0271	Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0272	Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0275	Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0276	South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, And Rutherford Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0277	Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
15A NCAC 10D .0279	Suggs Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0282	Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
15A NCAC 10D .0283	Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0284	Tillery Game Land in Halifax County
15A NCAC 10D .0285	Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0286	Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0288	Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0292	William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County
15A NCAC 10D .0293	Yadkin River Game Lank in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly Counties
15A NCAC 10E .0104	Use of Areas Regulated

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Impact: State Government: Yes
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: Uncertain, but potential

Authority: G.S. 75A-14; 113 – 134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-291.7; 113-296; 113-305; 113-306

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, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and game land 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 Commission-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

Many of the proposed rule changes are expected to increase hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities, while others are expected to restrict such opportunities.

Majority of the proposed changes are currently a part of 10D .0103 Hunting on Game Lands. Over the next year, the Commission plans to move each game land in this rule into its own individual rule. Collectively, these individual rules will be made into a new section, 10D .0200 Use of Game Lands (.0201-.0293). This will reduce regulatory complexity when changes to specific game lands need to be made.

Included in these rules is the proposal to add Sunday hunting to various game lands. A fiscal note on changes to Sunday Hunting, approved by OSBM on October 9, 2020, can be found [here](#).

Fiscal impacts to the state are approximately \$14,475 non-recurring (updating signage, communication materials, and staff time). Expected benefits include increased hunter recruitment, retention, and expanded hunter opportunity in selected game lands. Sunday hunting may deter non-hunters from visiting game lands or increase user conflicts; the WRC will continue to prohibit Sunday hunting where the potential for user conflict is highest.

A summary of the additional proposed rule amendments with anticipated impacts is shown below. Proposed rule text is included in Appendix A.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

The refuge was established in the early 1990's through a cooperative lease agreement between Burke County, Duke Power (now Duke Energy), Ducks Unlimited and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The refuge encompasses approximately 57 acres located in the upper area of Rhodhiss Reservoir in Burke County North Carolina. Since its establishment, almost 6000 acres directly adjacent to the refuge has been acquired by the Commission and is now part of the Johns River Game Land. The game land has a variety of wetland and aquatic habitat suitable for waterfowl. It is a "Permit Only" game land and provides substantially more resting and feeding habitat for waterfowl than the original 57 acres. Areas outside of the Johns River Waterfowl Refuge on Lake Rhodhiss are subject to waterfowl hunting and is a popular hunting destination for local waterfowl hunters.

This proposal would allow hunting and trapping on Johns River Waterfowl Refuge.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

Clarifies where waterfowl hunting is allowed and simplifies the hunting boundaries that are in place. Allowing hunting on this land may also help manage various species populations.

Costs

No signs will need to be added to clarify this change, however roughly 20-25 signs will need to be removed. This will cost the agency approximately \$168 in staff time (\$21/hr x 8 hrs = \$168).

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

Private Impact

Benefits

This proposal increases hunter opportunity by allowing hunters to hunt on land that previously was not available to them. The Commission is unable to determine how many hunters will take advantage of this additional hunting opportunity since it is a small parcel of land.

15A NCAC 10D .0106 BEAR SANCTUARIES

Black Bear population growth rates in the Coastal Bear Management Unit (CBMU) and the Mountain Bear Management Unit (MBMU) show a declining trend. The population objectives of the MBMU and the CBMU, based on the 2012-2022 Black Bear Management Plan, were to lower the rate of population growth in order to stabilize bear populations and keep them within cultural carrying capacity. In 2016, the population growth in the CBMU had declined to 2% and has likely declined to 0-1% since 2016. While the Commission is meeting population objectives in the CBMU, population growth in the MBMU is still fairly robust at an estimated 5-6%. One challenge to meeting the MBMU bear population objective is the increased barriers to bear hunting opportunities on private lands due to the rapid increase in human populations and development.

Human-bear interactions continue to increase in the MBMU partly due to an increase in the bear population, as well as the substantial increase in the human population.

The US Forest Service has requested that Panthertown – Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary be opened to permit hunt opportunities due to increased human-bear interactions occurring on both forest service property and adjacent private property.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Fiscal impacts are expected to be limited to those bear hunters in the area who take advantage of the additional hunting opportunity. To apply for a bear sanctuary hunting permit is \$8.

Human-bear conflicts in this area will likely also decrease as bear hunting is permitted.

Private businesses will benefit from a likely increased visitation rate to the area resulting in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, etc. A recent study of North Carolina game land users found that hunters spend an average of \$84.19¹ per trip. WRC estimates that 521 permits will be issued for this sanctuary. If each permittee makes at least one trip, then local businesses can expect a minimum of \$43,900 in additional trip-related sales revenues annually.

¹ 1 Casola, William *et. al.* Determining Use, Economic Impacts and Value of Game Lands in North Carolina. October 2020. Appendix B

State Impact

Benefits

This proposed rule amendment has the potential to benefit the state by increasing revenue from permit applications. In the 2020-2021 season, the Commission issued 1,043 bear sanctuary permits between Pisgah's Daniel Boone and Mount Mitchell Bear Sanctuary. Bear hunting is a popular activity, and it is likely that around 521 permits will be issued for this sanctuary based on the average number of permits issued for both Daniel Boone and Mount Mitchell. This can create revenue of \$4,168 for the Commission (521 permits x \$8/permit = \$4,168).

The amendment will also assist in MBMU population objectives, while assuring a sustainable harvest.

Tax Impacts

By increasing local business visitation and sales, the state and local governments will likely also see an increase in their tax revenue from the additional economic activity generated by the bear hunting trips. Applying Jackson County's 7% sales tax rate to the expected minimum trip expenditures of \$43,900 results in an estimated \$3,000 in additional tax revenue annually.

15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL & WILKES COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0226 DUPONT STATE FOREST GAME LANDS IN HENDERSON AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0230 GREEN RIVER GAME LAND IN HENDERSON AND POLK COUNTIES

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

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

15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

Target shooting is typically prohibited on game lands within 45 miles of a shooting range and the above listed game lands are within that radius of the new McDowell County range (projected completion within the next year) and the Foothills Shooting Complex in Cleveland County. Non-traditional usage on game lands has substantially increased over the past year and the proposal to prohibit target shooting on these game lands will provide a safer game land experience for all user groups.

In past site experience, there has been compliance when target shooting was prohibited, and it is expected that the public will adhere to these new prohibitions.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

Prohibiting target shooting may improve safety for both target shooters and other users of the game lands. Currently, popular shooting areas on these game lands contain no back-stop berms and are often located near boundaries with private property, occupied dwellings, and roads. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

Cost

This proposed amendment could affect private individuals who want to target shoot, as they will now need to travel to a shooting range. Depending on where the individual is traveling from, this could impose an additional financial burden by requiring more money spent on gas and supplies. There is no way to quantify this impact.

State Impact

Benefit

Agency staff are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the game lands. Individuals using these areas for target shooting regularly leave broken glass, plastic bottles, paper, and steel cans, on the property, which then must be cleaned up by staff. Game lands staff typically clean frequented target shooting areas three times per year at each game land. Prohibiting target shooting on these six game lands is projected to save the agency approximately \$3,024/year in staff time ($\$21/\text{hr} \times 8\text{hrs}/\text{clean up} \times 3 \text{ clean-ups}/\text{year} = \$504 \times 6 \text{ game lands} = \$3,024$). Additionally, targets are often placed on trees in the area, many of which have been damaged to the point that mortality has already occurred or is imminent. This proposed amendment may help to eliminate the damage caused to live trees that are currently being used as targets. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

Cost

Conservation biologists and technicians will put up signage on kiosks as part of their regular duties. New signage will cost the agency, at most, \$5.40 ($\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 6 \text{ signs}$).

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL & WILKES COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

A rule change was adopted by the Commission in 2021 allowing Sunday hunting on Buffalo Cove and South Mountains game lands. However, current language does not include Sundays between season transitions as an allowable day to hunt.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

Expands hunter opportunity on Sundays between season transitions. This clarification also reduces any confusion for users on which Sundays they are allowed hunt.

State Impact

Benefit

This proposed change creates consistency in Sunday hunting rules amongst game lands.

Because of this oversight, Commission staff will need to educate hunters on these game lands that Sunday hunting is not allowed between blackpowder firearms season during the 2021-2022 season. However, the proposed change will alleviate inconsistency and targeted education/outreach will no longer be required.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

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

Dog deer hunting at Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land has been a source of conflict between dog deer hunters, adjacent private landowners, game land and private land still hunters, and other users of game lands and private properties surrounding Falls Lake in northern portions of Wake County.

In Wake County dog hunting is prohibited almost entirely except for the northern portion of the county, north of NC Highway 98. The terrestrial acreage of the area in Wake County where dog deer hunting is currently allowed on game lands within US Army Corps of Engineers boundaries is roughly 3,415 acres. The residential interface that surrounds the game land is comprised of predominately small parcel properties with high housing densities. County parcel data indicates only two large private land tracts remaining in the current dog hunting area in northern Wake County. The Falls Lake State Recreation Area shares boundaries with many of the most popular blocks currently dog hunted. Hounds often run off game lands to adjacent State Parks and private property. There is a long history of complaints from landowners in this area.

This proposed regulation change would make the portions of Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Wake County consistent in prohibiting the hunting or chasing of deer with dogs.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

There will be an increased opportunity for still hunters due to a lack of competition with dog hunters. While not a quantifiable benefit, individuals who own property adjacent to the game land will no longer have conflicts with deer dog hunters.

Cost

Individuals and groups that have traditionally pursued deer with dogs on this game land will no longer have that opportunity. Additionally, no new hunters will have the opportunity to hunt in this location with dogs. Due to lack of data, this impact cannot be quantified.

State Impact

Benefit

This proposed change creates a consistent prohibition on dog deer hunting in Wake County, reducing enforcement complexity. This change will also likely decrease the number of complaints that law enforcement officers have to respond to in this area about dog deer hunters. The Commission does not have record of how much time is spent addressing this issue and thus cannot quantify the benefits of the proposed change.

Local Impact

Benefit

Prohibiting deer dog hunting in this area is anticipated to lessen the complaints received by local authorities from homeowners disrupted by hunters and their dogs. This could lead to a savings of time and money for local law enforcement. The Commission has no way to know exactly how much time local law enforcement spend on these complaints and thus cannot quantify this benefit.

Cost

Decreasing the opportunity for hunters to take deer with dogs on this portion of the game land will likely decrease the number of these hunters visiting local businesses, which will result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, hunting supplies, etc. The local government could potentially see a reduction in tax-based revenue. However, while dog deer hunter visitation may decrease, still hunter visitation may increase. Unfortunately, because the agency does not record game land usage, there is no way to project these potential impacts.

15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0258 PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND STANLY COUNTIES

These proposals clarify when equestrian riding will be permitted and not on the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell, Jordan, and Pee Dee River Game Lands. Proposed amendments will also allow equestrian riding on gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use at the Pee Dee River Game Land and clarify that a Game Land License is not needed to ride horses on the American Tobacco Trail at Jordan Game Land.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

The decreased complexity of the rules and potential for additional opportunities at Pee Dee River Game Land, may cause new horseback riders to these areas

State Impact

Cost

The state could see a minor reduction in the sale of game land license (\$16 per license per year) sold if those individuals only riding on the American Tobacco Trail purchased a game land license in the past when they did not need to. The data do not exist to quantify this reduction.

Local Impact

Benefit

Rule clarity and additional opportunities on the Pee Dee River Game Land may invite a small number of new users.

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

A. Spring Creek Scouting-Only Zone

With the current 60-day waterfowl seasons, hunting pressure has a significant impact on waterfowl usage on coastal waterfowl impoundments. This proposed change would add Spring Creek Impoundment to those with posted "Scouting-only Zone." Currently, hunters

on the impoundment are having difficulty taking waterfowl because of non-hunter disturbance and this change would improve the hunt.

It is generally accepted that migratory and wintering waterfowl attempt to minimize time spent in flight, allowing them to maximize the time devoted to feeding. A publication by Korschgen and Dahlgren (US Forest Wildlife Service) noted disturbance of waterfowl associated with human activities significantly reduced feeding time periods or resulted in abandonment of important feeding areas. A literature review by Borgmann (Audubon) quantifying impact of human disturbance on waterfowl identified that 86% of reviewed studies reported that human-caused disturbances impacted the study species with 57% causing the birds to take flight.

This addition will decrease disturbance by non-hunters on Spring Creek Impoundment and would make existing signage enforceable. Non-hunters are allowed on scouting only zones and not on impoundments which hunters use to take waterfowl.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

Hunters have a greater chance of taking waterfowl if they are undisturbed and unlikely to fly away. How many waterfowl are on this game land at any time is unknown and the increased chance of take for hunters cannot be quantified.

Cost

Bird watchers and other non-hunter users will now need to stay at a further distance from waterfowl than they are used to. This may decrease opportunity to see this resource up close. This is not expected to change non-hunting recreational experience because the impoundment area is small.

State Impact

Benefit

Waterfowl can stay on the landscape longer when non-hunters are not allowed to approach them. This allows more waterfowl to be on the landscape for hunters to take. The Commission does not know how many individuals hunt on this game land.

The proposed amendment would allow law enforcement to enforce the “Scouting-only zone” signage on the game land that already exists.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

B. Pursuing or Chasing Deer and Bear

This regulation will prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Beaufort County portion of Goose Creek Game Land north of NC 33. Hunter conflicts with adjacent landowners, surrounding hunter interests and other user groups necessitates a change in hunting methods on the game land tracts.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Cost

Individuals and groups that have traditionally pursued deer and bear with dogs on this game land will no longer have that opportunity. It will also deny that opportunity to potential first-time users. However, the number of individuals and groups that pursue deer and bear with dogs on this game land is unknown.

Decreasing the opportunities to partake in hunting deer and bear with dogs on this game land may decrease the number of these hunters visiting local businesses, which can result in a decrease in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, hunting supplies, etc. However, the agency has no way to project these potential reductions and it is expected to be minimal.

State Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have state government impacts.

Tax Impact

The local government could potentially see a reduction in tax-based revenue. However, the agency has no way to project these potential reductions and it is expected to be minimal.

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

This proposal will remove language regarding entry into posted waterfowl impoundments and clarify the use and construction of permanent hunting blinds.

Construction of a waterfowl impoundment was investigated when Johns River Game Land was acquired, and plans were moving forward. Having additional waterfowl hunting opportunities seemed promising and in anticipation of constructing a future impoundment, two rule changes were adopted. Due to permeability issues, the project was abandoned, so Johns River game land does not currently have any waterfowl impoundments. This rule would further clarify that the addition of new permanent hunting blinds is not allowed. It would not change how current permanent hunting blinds are used.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have any fiscal impacts but will clarify the construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.

State Impact

Benefit

This proposed amendment is not anticipated to have state government impacts.

Local Impact

This proposed amendment is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

Currently, camping is prohibited on the Jordan Game Land. There are no designated hunter camping areas elsewhere on game lands in the local vicinity; with the nearest one being about 20 miles (40 minutes) away on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Granville County.

This amendment would create a Designated Camping Area on the Jordan Game Land to allow hunter camping during open hunting seasons. Camping will be restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 – May 14. This will be a small primitive campground, primarily for tents and pop-ups, with no amenities.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

This proposal increases opportunity for hunters that were unable to use this game land due to proximity and the lack of options for overnighting. It also may increase the number of days hunters use the game land. Unfortunately, it is unknown exactly how many hunters will take advantage of this opportunity and thus cannot be quantified.

A small number of private businesses may benefit from a small increased visitation rate to the area resulting in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to the needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, etc. However, the agency has no way to project this potential revenue.

State Impact

Cost

Land has already been cleared for the site and no further construction or staff time will be needed to transform the area into a primitive campground.

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 \$168 ($\$21/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \168). New signage will cost a maximum of \$9.00 ($\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 10 \text{ signs}$).

This will be a primitive campground and maintenance will be performed once per year. The cost of annual maintenance, including labor ($\$21/\text{hr} \times 16 \text{ hrs} = \336) is estimated at \$336 per year.

There is a onetime cost to the Commission of \$513 ($\$177 + \336) and an annual cost of \$336.

Tax Impact

Allowing camping will likely increase a small number of these hunters visiting local businesses, which can result in a minor increase in local tax revenue.

15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES

North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the Commission have entered into an agreement to enroll 2,340 acres of state-owned property in Wilkes and Caldwell counties into the Northern Mountain Region game land program.

Additionally, these proposals will establish rules related to deer season, horseback riding, and bear hunting with the use of dogs. Rules prohibiting horseback riding and hunting bear with dogs are at the request of the landowner and are a prerequisite for establishing this area as a game land.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

This amendment allows for an increase in hunter opportunity and non-hunting activities. Game land users will have increased opportunities for wildlife-based recreation and 2,340 acres of undeveloped land will be conserved. There is currently not a game land in this area of the state and wildlife and outdoor recreationists from surrounding municipalities can take advantage of this public land for hunting, hiking, and nature watching.

Game lands have been shown to have generated game land related expenditures. In 2018, North

Carolina game lands received approximately 2.2 million visits. A recent evaluation conducted by NC State University researchers estimates that these visits generated \$180 million in game land related expenditures (gross), contributing a net added value of \$140 million to the state's economic activity.²

Adding an additional game land will bolster state revenue and recreational visits. The value of game land access to recreators can be assumed to be at least as much as they spend per trip, although there are additional use and non-use benefits that are not captured in trip expenditures. This same study found that non-licensed activity users spent an average of \$119.83 per trip while hunters and anglers spent on average \$84.19 per trip.³

This game land is likely to increase home values in the area as well. It has been shown that homes in proximity to game lands can either raise home values or decrease them. Researchers found that homes in the mountain and piedmont region have the most increase in home values while homes at the coast had the most decrease.

The concept of willingness to pay (WTP) can provide a more comprehensive estimate of how much users value game lands, including those aesthetic, environmental, and inter-generational benefits that cannot be measured directly in the market through expenditures or home values. However, WTP values come with a greater degree of uncertainty; the estimates are sensitive to the research methods used to elicit the values including the design and delivery of the contingent valuation exercise.

The study assessed users' willingness to pay (one time) to conserve 20% of North Carolina's game lands. Values varied by user type. Non-licensed users valued the proposed conservation at \$130 compared to licensed users at \$120. Dual users that pursue both licensed and non-licensed activities valued game lands most highly at \$160. More detailed studies would be needed to determine willingness to pay on an annual or per-acre basis, and to determine these values for both users and non-users.

State Impact

Costs

The agency anticipates a one-time cost of approximately \$102,500-127,500 for establishing the new game land. This will include placement and maintenance of boundary markings to facilitate identification of the property (\$100,000-\$125,000), and purchase and maintenance of a gate to control vehicle access (\$2,500).

Tax Impact

Creating a new game land may increase the number of people visiting local businesses, which will result in an increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, camping supplies, etc. Based upon data collected on similar sized game

² Casola, William *et. al.* Determining Use, Economic Impacts and Value of Game Lands in North Carolina. October 2020. Appendix B

³ *Ibid.*

lands in North Carolina, the state and local governments could potentially see an increase in tax-based revenue at a minimum of \$25,000⁴. This amount may vary, as each game land's tax-based revenue is specific to its location and size. The Commission is unable to give an exact estimate as tax-based revenue varies depending on activities allowed on the game lands, its proximity to local amenities, and its size.

This game land is likely to increase home values in the area as well, increasing property tax revenue. It has been shown that homes in proximity to game lands can either raise home values or decrease them. Homes in the mountain and piedmont region have the most increase in home values while homes at the coast had the most decrease.

15A NCAC 10D .0259 PERKINS GAME LAND IN DAVIE COUNTY

This proposal would change Perkins Game Land from an Introductory Either-Sex Gun Season to a Conservative Either-Sex Gun Season. If approved, it would add 5 days to legally harvest does on Perkins Game Land during the general firearms season.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

One additional day of either-sex deer hunting on the Perkins Game Land will enhance opportunities for deer hunters to enjoy the game land.

State Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have state government impacts.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

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

The Wilson Creek corridor is one of the most heavily used portions of Pisgah Game Lands. The Commission owns a small portion of the game land and river corridor (approx. 2 miles of river and 700 acres of land) in the area, with the remainder of the greater Pisgah Game Land being owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Currently fires and alcohol are prohibited on the USFS portion of the game land within the Wilson Creek corridor.

⁴ Casola, William *et. al.* Determining Use, Economic Impacts and Value of Game Lands in North Carolina. October 2020. Appendix B

This proposal will prohibit alcohol and fires on the Lutz Tract and Wilson Creek portions of Pisgah Game Lands.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

This amendment should alleviate confusion about where alcohol and fires are allowed. While this proposed change could limit opportunities for individuals engaging in these activities, the benefits of this prohibition are anticipated to outweigh the impacts.

State Impact

Benefit

This amendment would make regulations on alcohol and fires consistent across this portion of the game land. Prohibiting alcohol and fires will reduce enforcement effort in these locations. Prohibiting fires will also help to prevent potential environmental/habitat destruction.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES

Clarify the times when equestrian riding will be permitted and not on Sandhills Game Land and restrict riders to open roads or those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

The decreased complexity of the rules could cause an increase in the number of users. However, current and new users may decide to travel to a different area to horseback ride if being restricted to gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use is unappealing.

State Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have state government impacts.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

South Mountains Game Land currently has three designated camping areas. The amount of unintended use at these areas has increased substantially over the years, both during and outside the hunting seasons. Enforcement staff routinely encounter violations including, but not limited to, illegal drugs, littering, indecent exposure, and extended camping. Commission staff spend many hours cleaning up trash, clearing the camping areas from wood debris, and removing large items such as mattresses that are dropped off. Currently, language doesn't exist in rule that limits camping on South Mountains Game Land outside of the hunting seasons.

This proposal will restrict camping at designated camping areas on South Mountains Game Land to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 and limit the maximum number of consecutive days stayed at a designated campsite to 14 days to reduce homesteading.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Cost

This amendment will have minimal effects on users as camping is available at the adjoining South Mountains State Parks. However, campers who are accustomed to staying at this game land may need to travel further to camp at those adjoining state parks.

State Impact

Benefit

Restricting camping to only dates within the hunting seasons is anticipated to eliminate a large portion of the illegal activity occurring on the game land that takes up officer time and resources, decrease the amount of maintenance required at these areas, and make South Mountains Game Land restrictions consistent with other game lands. The Commission does not have data on how much time is spent by staff on this game land so cost savings cannot be calculated.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

15A NCAC 10E .0104 USE OF AREAS REGULATED

A. Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas

This proposal would require that individuals or organizations planning activities or events at Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas (BAAs) will require a permit.

Currently, there is no way for the Commission to know how many activities and events are taking place in these areas.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Cost

Individuals and organizations who have been holding events or activities not associated with launching or retrieving of vessels in these areas have always been required to obtain a permit. This change further clarifies that even organized events associated with launching or retrieving of vessels requires a permit. While the permit is free, individuals and organizations may experience a minor inconvenience, as they will need to take the time to go online on the Commission website to fill out an application for permit and wait until the permit is issued before holding the event.

Failure to obtain a permit can lead to a warning or ticket from law enforcement.

State Impact

Benefit

Requiring individuals and organizations to obtain a permit to use Commission-owned or managed BAAs will allow the Commission to track the number and types of events happening in these areas. This will give the Commission a greater understanding of how BAAs are used, whether that be for fishing competitions or recreation. This will also allow the Commission to restrict use to intended activities.

Cost

The agency will have to spend additional staff time on issuing these permits. However, it is unclear how many individuals or organizations will be requesting a permit and thus, an accurate agency cost cannot be calculated.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

B. Public Fishing Areas

Currently, public fishing areas (PFA) have signs that state both approved and prohibited activities at the PFA. It is difficult for users to know if the activity they are engaging in is allowed if it is not posted as an approved use but is not explicitly stated as prohibited either.

This amendment would make it clear that fishing is the only allowable use of a public fishing area, unless posted otherwise.

Impacts & Benefits

Private Impact

Benefit

This proposed amendment is anticipated to have minimal private impacts. The public will have a clearer understanding of what activities are and are not allowed on PFAs.

State Impact

Benefit

Enforcement officer effort is likely to decrease as fishing will be the only areas allowable activity on PFAs unless otherwise posted. The Commission does not currently track enforcement time at PFAs and thus cannot quantify this benefit.

Cost

Replacement of signage at 222 PFAs is anticipated to cost the agency approximately \$536. Commission staff will need to remove old signs and post new ones. This is expected to take 2 days of staff time ($\$21 \times 16 \text{ hours} = \336). Signage will cost approximately \$200 ($\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 222$).

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

SUMMARY

Quantifiable Impacts

State

The following quantifiable costs are anticipated:

- Johns River Waterfowl Refuge amendment
 - One time staff cost to remove signs = \$168
- Camping on Jordan Game Land
 - One time staff cost & signage change = \$177
 - Yearly maintenance = \$513
- Creation of Kings Creek Game Land
 - One time cost of boundary markers and gate = \$102,000 - \$127,500
- Public Fishing Area Restriction
 - One time staff cost and signage change = \$536
- Sunday Hunting
 - One time fee for signage, communication, materials, and staff time = \$14,475

The following quantifiable benefits are anticipated:

- Prohibition on target shooting on Buffalo Cove, Dupont State Forest, Green River, Johns River, Pisgah, and South Mountains Game Lands:
 - Maintenance savings = \$630/annually/game land
- Creation of Kings Creek Game Land
 - Non-traditional user = \$119/trip to game land
 - Traditional user = \$84/trip to game land

The total quantifiable cost to the state is estimated to be approximately: \$128,894 in year one and \$513 annually.

Quantifiable Impacts

Private Benefit

- Allowing bear hunting on additional bear sanctuary
 - Additional trip-related sales revenue = \$43,900 per year

Unquantifiable Impacts

State

The following unquantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Increased hunter recruitment, retention, and expanded hunter opportunity in selected game lands for Sunday hunting.

- Clarifies for law enforcement where waterfowl hunting is allowed and simplifies the hunting boundaries that were in place.
- Removing Brunswick County Game Land reduces land management costs.
- Allowing bear hunting on additional bear sanctuaries increases hunter licenses and bear sanctuary hunt permits.
- Clarifying Sunday hunting in between seasons creates consistency among Sunday hunting regulations.
- Prohibiting dog hunting on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in the Wake County section & on the Beaufort County portion of Goose Creek Game Land north of NC 33 will decrease time law enforcement officers are called out for complaints.
- Adding Spring Creek Impoundment to those with posted “Scouting-only Zone” will allow waterfowl to stay on the landscape longer.
- Allowing hunting on Jordan Game Land may bring more hunters onto the land
- Prohibiting alcohol and fires on Lutz Tract and Wilson Creek portions of Pisgah Game Land will reduce chance of habitat destruction from loitering and potential fire damage.
- Restricting camping to hunting season dates in South Mountains Game Land will eliminate large portions of illegal activity occurring taking law enforcement time and resources, decreases maintenance and clean-up costs, and decreases homesteading.
- Requiring permits for Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas will help the Commission track events occurring in those places and gives the Commission opportunity to deny an activity from occurring if it deems it unfit or harmful to the resource.

The following unquantifiable costs were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Clarifying Sunday hunting in between seasons will require law enforcement to spend time educating the public this year on the regulations and the proposed change.
- Requiring permits for Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas will cost staff time in issuing permits

Local

The following unquantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Increase in the purchase of goods and services as they relate to needs of this user group – e.g., food, gas, camping supplies, etc. The local government could potentially see an increase in tax-based revenue by:
 - Allowing hunting on various bear sanctuaries
 - Allowing camping on Jordan Game Land
 - Creation of Kings Creek Game Land
 - Changing Perkins Game Land from introductory either-sex gun season to conservative

The following unquantifiable costs were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Reduction in local tax revenue from:
 - Removal of Brunswick County Game Land
 - Prohibition of target shooting
 -

Private

The following unquantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Clarifying waterfowl hunting on Johns River Waterfowl Refuge will increase hunter opportunity
- Allowing hunting on bear sanctuaries will increase hunter opportunity.
- Prohibiting target shooting on various game lands increases user safety.
- Clarifying Sunday hunting in between seasons increases hunter opportunity.
- Prohibiting dog hunting on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in the Wake County section & on the Beaufort County portion of Goose Creek Game Land north of NC 33 section will decrease the number of complaints homeowners make about trespassing.
- Adding Spring Creek Impoundment to those with posted “Scouting-only Zone” will allow waterfowl to stay on the landscape longer, increasing hunter opportunity.
- Allowing hunting on Jordan Game Land increases hunter opportunity.
- Creation of Kings Creek Game Land increases hunter opportunity.

The following unquantifiable costs were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Allowing Sunday hunting may deter non-hunters from visiting game lands or increase user conflicts; the WRC will continue to prohibit Sunday hunting where the potential for user conflict is highest.
- Removing Brunswick County Game Land Lost will force users to find new game lands to visit.
- Prohibiting target shooting will increase travel costs for individuals wanting to target shoot.
- Prohibiting dog hunting on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in the Wake County section & on the Beaufort County portion of Goose Creek Game Land north of NC 33 section will decrease hunter opportunity to deer dog hunt that have been in the past.
- Adding Spring Creek Impoundment to those with posted “Scouting-only Zone” may decrease the number of times non-traditional users will see waterfowl.
- Prohibiting alcohol and fires on Lutz Tract and Wilson Creek portions of Pisgah Game Land will be a decrease in opportunity for users who have been doing those activities in the past.
- Restricting camping to hunting season dates in South Mountains Game Land will force those who usually camp during that proposed restricted period to camp elsewhere and potentially cost more.

- Requiring permits for Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas will require individuals or organizations to spend time applying for a permit.

While most of the impacts are unquantifiable, the Commission believes that benefits to both the state and local government, and private entities outweigh the costs.

APPENDIX A

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

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

- (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or self-defense.
- (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional restrictions on entry or usage:

- (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to bow and arrow hunting and falconry only. On these areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of any applicable deer season.
- (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on any game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
- (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Entry shall be authorized only when such entry will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Restricted Zone and the person or persons requesting entry are able to demonstrate a valid need or such person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
- (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public due to topographical features or activities occurring on the area.
- (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.
- (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S. 113-264(d).
- (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the general public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.
- (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to all use by the general public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first obtaining written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a permit.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted ~~restricted~~ deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

(c) Littering. No person shall deposit any litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse at any place on any game land except in receptacles provided for disposal of such refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary landfills shall be established on any game land by any person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as permitted by the landowner.

(d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

- (1) any weapon within 150 yards of any game land building or designated game land camping area, except where posted otherwise;

- (2) any weapon within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and
- (3) any firearm within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan Game Lands.

No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at:

http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

- (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

(e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- (1) Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, running dogs, or training dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- (3) For any other field trial using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- (4) Exceptions:
 - (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;
 - (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103(e)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required only for hunting doves; all other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. Any individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility, shall file with the Commission an application to use the area and facility accompanied by the facility use fee computed at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which for any reason trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or any other entity shall enter or use in any manner any of the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no such entry or use of any such facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 16 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during any calendar month, and no more than four days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field trial requiring more than four days may be scheduled during one week upon reduction of the maximum number of

days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 16 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between October 22 and November 18 and between December 3 and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of such use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for its consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities at any time by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on any game land located west of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when such field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the Game Land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization can demonstrate their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing animals is permitted on game lands during the applicable open seasons, except that trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the field trial course of the Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west; and
- ~~(4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke County; and~~
- (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

On those areas of State-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed under a permit system.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on any game land except on those roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel, unless such person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (m).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.
- (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

(j) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

(k) Disabled Sportsman Program. In order to qualify for permit hunts for disabled sportsmen offered by the Commission and use of designated blinds during those hunts, an individual shall possess a Disabled Veteran Sportsman license, a Totally Disabled Sportsman license, or a disabled sportsman hunt certification issued by the Commission. In order to qualify for the certification, the applicant shall provide medical certification of one or more of the following disabilities:

- (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;
- (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or
- (5) deafness.

On game lands where the privileges described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule apply, participants in the program may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, or other passenger vehicles:

- (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and
- (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel.

Each program participant may be accompanied by one companion provided such companion has in his possession the companion card issued by the Commission. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land.

(l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian use on any area where foot travel is allowed.

(n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules and map book. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all times in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission in the passenger area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle. It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a Disabled Access Permit to hunt, during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

(o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water. For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while in a public place.

(p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted, provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent, impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting

range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use of the area.

(q) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. only. These roads shall be posted with the opening and closing times.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306; 143-318.10;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.

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

(a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

(b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates, or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

(c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

(d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons. ~~On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:~~

~~(1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;~~

~~(2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;~~

~~(3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;~~

~~(4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and~~

~~(5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.~~

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(A) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;

(B) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;

(C) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;

(D) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and

(E) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

(2) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

(A) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;

(B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

(C) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof, and

(D) hunting migratory game birds.

On designated youth waterfowl days, youths may hunt on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans and military waterfowl days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions ~~(1), (1)(A), (1)(C), (3), and (5) (1)(E)~~ in this Paragraph shall apply. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." ~~No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods.~~

(e) Definitions:

(1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.

(2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed under

each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

- (3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays.
- (4) For purposes of this Section, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- (5) For purposes of this Section, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.

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

(g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

- (1) ~~Aleoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.~~
 - (C) ~~On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.~~
- (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County
 - (A) Six Day per Week Area
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.~~
- (3) ~~Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, and Washington counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
 - (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
 - (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
 - (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
 - (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

- (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through August 1.
- (7) ~~Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited.~~
 - (D) ~~Target Shooting is prohibited.~~
- (8) ~~Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County~~
 - (A) ~~Hunting is by permit only.~~
 - (B) ~~The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
- (9)(8) ~~Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County~~
 - (A) ~~Hunting is by permit only.~~
 - (B) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited.~~
- (10) ~~Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.~~
 - (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days of the second week of the December Bear Season. If any of these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those days.~~
 - (D) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (11)(10) ~~Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (D) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
- (12) ~~Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County~~
 - (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (13)(12) ~~Butner Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Waterfowl shall be taken only on:~~
 - (i) ~~the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~
 - (ii) ~~Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~
 - (iii) ~~Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~

~~On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.~~

- ~~(D)~~ Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - ~~(E)~~ Target shooting is prohibited.
 - ~~(F)~~ Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
 - ~~(G)~~ The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.
 - ~~(H)~~ The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14.
 - ~~(I)~~ Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
 - ~~(J)~~ Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains to Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.
- ~~(14)~~(11) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(15)~~ Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
- ~~(A)~~ Six Days per Week Area
 - ~~(B)~~ Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - ~~(C)~~ Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
 - ~~(D)~~ The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
 - ~~(E)~~ Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(16)~~ Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- ~~(17)~~ R. Wayne Bailey Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
 - (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit only for all quail and woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
 - (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after November 1.
 - (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

- (G) ~~Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey Caswell Shooting Range.~~
- (18) ~~Chatham Game Land in Chatham County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.~~
 - (D) ~~Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.~~
 - (E) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (19) ~~Chowan Game Land in Chowan County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (20) ~~Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Bear hunting is restricted to the first three hunting days during the November bear season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December bear season except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.~~
 - (D) ~~Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.~~
 - (E) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.~~
 - (F) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (21) ~~Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
 - (C) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (22) ~~Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.~~
 - (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.~~
- (23) ~~Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:~~
 - (i) ~~the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~
 - (ii) ~~Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~
 - (iii) ~~Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~
 - (D) ~~Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.~~

- (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas. During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- (24) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
 - (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do not use a firearm.
 - (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
 - (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their hunt.
 - (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
 - (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (25)(22) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County
 - (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
 - (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
 - (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (26) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
 - (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
 - (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- (27)(24) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (28)(27) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
 - (A) Hunting is by permit only.
 - (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders during scheduled permit hunts.
- (29) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (30) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (31) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

- (ii) ~~Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~
- (iii) ~~Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~

- (D) ~~Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobueken.~~
- (E) ~~On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through March 15.~~
- (F) ~~Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.~~
- (G) ~~Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.~~
- (H) ~~Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of NC 33 except for that portion east of Smith Creek and south of Campbell Creek.~~
- (I) ~~Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.~~

~~(32) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties~~

- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
- (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited.~~

~~(33)~~(27) ~~Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County~~

- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
- (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (C) ~~On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.~~
- (D) ~~Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.~~

~~(34) Gull Roek Game Land in Hyde County~~

- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
- (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (C) ~~Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:~~

- (i) ~~the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and~~
- (ii) ~~Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~
- (iii) ~~Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.~~

- (D) ~~Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.~~
- (E) ~~Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season, except for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.~~

~~(35) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties~~

- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~

- ~~(B)~~ Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- ~~(C)~~ Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
 - (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- ~~(D)~~ The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
- ~~(E)~~ Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- ~~(F)~~ Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(G)~~ Horseback riding is prohibited.
- ~~(36)~~(30) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season
- ~~(37)~~(31) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- ~~(38)~~(32) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are permit only.
 - (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
 - (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
 - (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
 - (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
 - (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
 - (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
 - (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- ~~(39)~~ ~~Hyeo Game land in Person County~~
 - ~~(A)~~ Six Days per Week Area
 - ~~(B)~~ Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - ~~(C)~~ Target shooting is prohibited.

- ~~(40)~~(34) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- ~~(41)~~ Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- (A) ~~Hunting is by permit only.~~
 - (B) ~~During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.~~
 - (C) ~~Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31, except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the permits.~~
 - (D) ~~The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.~~
 - (E) ~~Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~
- ~~(42)~~ Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties
- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Waterfowl may be taken only on:~~
 - (i) ~~Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~
 - (ii) ~~Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and~~
 - (iii) ~~the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~
 - (D) ~~Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except allowed only on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 15. the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older must shall obtain who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license. license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area other than the American Tobacco Trail.~~
 - (E) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
 - (F) ~~Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.~~
 - (G) ~~The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.~~
- ~~(43)~~ Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties
- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.~~
- ~~(44)~~(36) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County
- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.~~
 - (C) ~~Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.~~
 - (D) ~~Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.~~
 - (E) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.~~
 - (F) ~~Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.~~
 - (G) ~~The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.~~
- ~~(45)~~(37) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties
- (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~

- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.
- (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.
- (46) ~~Lee Game Land in Lee County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (47) ~~Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (48) ~~Linwood Game Land in Davidson County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (49) ~~Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited.~~
 - (D) ~~The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
 - (E) ~~Target Shooting is prohibited.~~
- (50) ~~Mayo Game Land in Person County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Waterfowl shall be taken only on:~~
 - (i) ~~Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;~~
 - (ii) ~~Christmas and New Year's Days; and~~
 - (iii) ~~the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~
 - (D) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (51) ~~Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County~~
 - (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
- (52) ~~Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.~~
- (53) ~~Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
 - (C) ~~On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.~~
- (54)(46) ~~Neuse River Game Land in Craven County~~

- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land that lies west of NC-43.
- (55) ~~New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (56) ~~Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County~~
 - (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Friday before Thanksgiving Day.~~
 - (C) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday thereafter.~~
 - (D) ~~The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.~~
 - (E) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (F) ~~The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
 - (G) ~~Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.~~
 - (H) ~~On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:~~
 - (i) ~~Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and~~
 - (ii) ~~Swimming.~~
 - (I) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (57) ~~North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.~~
 - (D) ~~Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.~~
- (58) ~~Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.~~
- (59) ~~Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North of US 74.~~
 - (D) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
 - (E) ~~Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and only during the following times:~~
 - (i) ~~during June, July, and August; and~~
 - (ii) ~~on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey seasons are closed.~~

- (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be prohibited on that portion south of US 74.
- (60) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (61) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- (A) Six Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- (62) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.
- (63)(54) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (64)(55) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- (65)(56) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- (66)(57) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business or by permit holders.
- (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however, that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the game land.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (67)(58) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- (68) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (69)(60) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area

- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
 - (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter.
 - (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
 - (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
 - (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(70)~~(61) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- (71) ~~Sampson Game Land in Sampson County~~
- (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (72) ~~Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties~~
- (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22 through March 31 except as follows:~~
- (i) ~~deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;~~
 - (ii) ~~dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third Saturday thereafter;~~
 - (iii) ~~squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;~~
 - (iv) ~~rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;~~
 - (v) ~~waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;~~
 - (vi) ~~wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit Hunt; and~~
 - (vii) ~~raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the last day of February.~~
- (C) ~~The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.~~
 - (D) ~~The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.~~

- (E) ~~Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.~~
- (F) ~~Either sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.~~
- (G) ~~In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~
- (H) ~~Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.~~
- (I) ~~Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials.~~
- (J) ~~Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~
- (K) ~~Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.~~
- (73) ~~Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited.~~
 - (D) ~~The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
 - (E) ~~Target Shooting is prohibited.~~
- (74)(65) ~~Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.~~
 - (A) ~~Three Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible Antlers season.~~
 - (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.~~
 - (D) ~~Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).~~
 - (E) ~~Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove season.~~
 - (F) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (75)(66) ~~Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.~~
- (76) ~~Shoeco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited.~~
 - (D) ~~Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.~~
 - (E) ~~Target Shooting is prohibited.~~
- (77) ~~South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.~~

- (C) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (D) ~~Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:~~
 - (i) ~~January 2 through March 31;~~
 - (ii) ~~May 16 through August 31;~~
 - (iii) ~~Sundays only—April 1 through May 15; and~~
 - (iv) ~~Sundays only—September 1 through January 1.~~
- (78) ~~Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
 - (C) ~~The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.~~
 - (D) ~~Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.~~
 - (E) ~~Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments may be taken only on the following days:~~
 - (i) ~~the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~
 - (ii) ~~Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~
 - (iii) ~~Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~
 - (F) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
 - (G) ~~Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.~~
- (79)(69) ~~Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties~~
 - (A) ~~Hunting and trapping is by permit only.~~
 - (B) ~~Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.~~
 - (C) ~~Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:~~
 - (i) ~~hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and~~
 - (ii) ~~persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.~~
 - (D) ~~During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).~~
 - (E) ~~During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).~~
- (80) ~~Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~
 - (B) ~~Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.~~
 - (C) ~~Target shooting is prohibited.~~
- (81)(71) ~~Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County~~
 - (A) ~~Hunting is by permit only~~
 - (B) ~~Target Shooting is prohibited~~
- (82)(72) ~~Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.~~
- (83) ~~Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County~~
 - (A) ~~Six Days per Week Area~~

- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (84) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
 - (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- (85) Tillery game Land in Halifax County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (86) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- (87) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- (88)(78) Vance Game Land in Vance County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- (89) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- (90)(80) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
 - (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.

- (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(91)~~(81) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
 - (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
 - (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
 - (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);
 - (ii) hunting is by permit only; and
 - (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(92)~~(82) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties
 - (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.
- ~~(93)~~ William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County
 - ~~(A) Six Days per Week Area~~
 - ~~(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or by phone.
- (i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:
 - (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
 - (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
 - (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
 - ~~(4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;~~
 - (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
 - (6) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and
 - (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.
- (j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

(k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.

(l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

(m) Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

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

(o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

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

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September 1, 1994; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October 1, 2004;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020.

15A NCAC 10D .0106 BEAR SANCTUARIES

(a) It shall be unlawful to take bear on posted bear sanctuaries as set forth in Paragraph (b) of this rule, except when authorized by permit issued by the Commission on sanctuaries specified in Paragraph (c) of this Rule.

(b) The following shall be posted bear sanctuaries:

- Bachelor Bay bear sanctuary – Bertie and Washington counties
- Columbus County bear sanctuary – Brunswick and Columbus counties
- Croatan bear sanctuary – Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
- Daniel Boone bear sanctuary – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
- Dare bear sanctuary – Dare and Hyde counties,
- Fires Creek bear sanctuary – Clay County
- Flat Top bear sanctuary – Mitchell and Yancey counties
- Green Swamp bear sanctuary – Brunswick County
- Gull Rock bear sanctuary – Hyde County
- Harmon Den bear sanctuary – Haywood County
- Juniper Creek bear sanctuary – Brunswick and Columbus counties
- Mt. Mitchell bear sanctuary – McDowell and Yancey counties
- North River bear sanctuary – Camden and Currituck counties
- Pantherstown – Bonas Defeat bear sanctuary – Jackson County
- Pisgah Bear Sanctuary – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
- Pungo River bear sanctuary – Hyde County
- Rich Mountain bear sanctuary – Madison County
- Sherwood bear sanctuary – Haywood County
- Suggs Mill Pond bear sanctuary – Bladen and Cumberland counties
- Standing Indian bear sanctuary – Macon County
- Thurmond Chatham bear sanctuary – Allegheny and Wilkes counties
- Wayah bear sanctuary – Macon County

(c) It shall be lawful to take bear on the following sanctuaries when authorized by permit issued by the Commission:

- Daniel Boone bear sanctuary – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
- Dare bear sanctuary – Dare and Hyde counties
- Mt. Mitchell bear sanctuary – McDowell and Yancey counties
- Pantherstown – Bonas Defeat bear sanctuary – Jackson County
- Pisgah Bear Sanctuary – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
- Standing Indian bear sanctuary – Macon County

(d) Feral Swine shall not be taken with the use of dogs on bear sanctuaries.

(e) Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15 on bear sanctuaries located in and west of the counties and parts of counties described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;
Eff. August 1, 2019.
Amended Eff. August 1, 2022.*

15A NCAC 10D .0201 ALLIGATOR RIVER GAME LAND IN TYRELL COUNTY

(a) Seven Day per Week Area

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

(c) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.

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

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

(a) Seven Day per Week Area

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

(c) Target shooting is prohibited.

(d) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0203 BACHELOR BAY GAME LAND IN BERTIE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

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

15A NCAC 10D .0206 BRINKLEYVILLE GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(d) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0208 BUCKRIDGE GAME LAND IN TYRELL COUNTY

(a) Three Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.

(d) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0209 BUFFALO COVE GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Sunday immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday the Sunday immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.

(c) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(d) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

(e) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0210 BULLARD AND BRACNH HUNTING PRESERVE GAME LANDS IN ROBESON COUNTY

(a) Four Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

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

(a) Six Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

(1) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

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

(3) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November

(d) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(e) Target shooting is prohibited.

(f) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

(g) Pursuing or chasing deer with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on all game land portions in Wake County.

(h) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14.

(i) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

(j) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (c) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
- (d) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
- (e) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (f) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (c) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (d) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- (e) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY

- (a) Three Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (c) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- (d) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- (e) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after November 1.
- (f) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (g) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0216 CHATHAM GAME LAND IN CHATHAM COUNTY

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (c) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15.
- (d) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0217 CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0218 CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD COUNTIES

(a) Six Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November bear season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December bear season except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.

(d) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(e) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

(f) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0219 COLD MOUNTAIN GAME LAND IN HAYWOOD COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

(c) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0220 COLUMBUS COUNTY GAME LAND IN COLUMBUS COUNTY

(a) Four Days per Week Area

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

(c) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
- (c) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do not use a firearm.
- (d) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- (e) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their hunt.
- (f) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- (g) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (h) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0224 DARE GAME LAND IN DATE AND HYDE COUNTIES

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (c) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
- (d) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0226 DUPONT STATE FOREST GAME LANDS IN HENDERSON AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES

- (a) Hunting is by permit only.
- (b) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders during scheduled permit hunts.
- (c) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0227 ELK KNB GAME ALND IN WATAUGA COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0228 EMBRO GAME LAND IN HALIFAX AND WARREN COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(d) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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

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

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

(c) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:

(1) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

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

(3) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(d) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.

(e) On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through March 15.

(f) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(g) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.

(h) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of NC 33 except for that portion east of Smith Creek and south of Campbell Creek.

(i) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0230 GREEN RIVER GAME LAND IN HENDERSON AND POLK COUNTIES

(a) Six Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(d) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

(c) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:

(1) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and

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

(3) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.

(d) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.

(e) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0233 HARRIS GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, HARNETT, AND WAKE COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:

(1) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and

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

(3) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.

(d) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.

(e) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

(f) Target shooting is prohibited.

(g) Horseback riding is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0237 HYCO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

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

(a) Hunting is by permit only.

(b) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.

(c) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.

(d) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

(e) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

(a) Six Days per Week Area

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

(c) Waterfowl may be taken only on:

(1) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

(2) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and

(3) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(d) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed only on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older shall obtain license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area other than the American Tobacco Trail.

(e) Target shooting is prohibited.

(f) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.

(g) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.

(h) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

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

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

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

(c) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(d) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0243 KINGS CREEK GAME LAND IN CALDWELL AND WILKES COUNTIES

(a) Six Days per Week Area

(b) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.

(c) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(d) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(e) Pursuing or chasing bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0245 LEE GAME LAND IN LEE COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

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

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0247 LINWOOD GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

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

15A NCAC 10D .0248 LOWER FISHING CREEK GAME LAND IN EDGEcombe AND HALIFAX COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(d) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(e) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

(1) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;

(2) Christmas and New Year's Days; and

(3) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(d) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0250 MITCHELL RIVER GAME LAND IN SURRY COUNTY

(a) Four Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Tuesday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

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

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

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0252 NEEDMORE GAME LAND IN MACON AND SWAIN COUNTIES.

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

(c) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.

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

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

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0255 NICHOLSON CREEK GAME LAND IN HOKE COUNTY

(a) Three Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.

(c) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter.

(d) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.

(e) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(f) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(g) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

(h) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:

- (1) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
- (2) Swimming.
- (3) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (c) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- (d) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
- (e) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (c) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- (d) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0258 PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND STANLY COUNTIES

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (c) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North of US-74.
- (d) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (e) Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- (f) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be prohibited on that portion south of US-74.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0259 PERKINS GAME LAND IN DAVIE COUNTY

- (a) Four Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Tuesday thereafter.
- (c) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- (d) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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

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

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).

(d) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.

(e) Alcohol and fires are prohibited in the Wilson Creek portion of Pisgah Game Land (Caldwell County)

(f) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).

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

15A NCAC 10D .0261 POND MOUNTAIN GAME LAND IN ASHE COUNTY

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0267 ROBESON GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

(a) Four Days per Week Area

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

(c) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday

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

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

(a) Four Days per Week Area

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

(c) Target shooting is prohibited.

(d) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES

(a) Three Days per Week Area

(b) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22 through March 31 except as follows:

- (1) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- (2) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third Saturday thereafter;
- (3) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- (4) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
- (5) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
- (6) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit Hunt; and
- (7) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the last day of February.

(c) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.

(d) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.

(e) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.

(f) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.

(g) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(h) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

(i) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.

(j) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

(k) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0272 SANDY CREEK GAME LAND IN NASH AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(d) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(e) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND WARREN COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(d) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(e) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Sunday immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule and the Sunday immediately following the closing of Blackpowder Firearms Season described in this rule through the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.

(c) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(d) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:

- (1) January 2 through March 31;
- (2) May 16 through August 31;
- (3) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
- (4) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.

(e) Target shooting is prohibited.

(f) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(g) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0277 STONES CREEK GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

- (a) Six Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (c) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- (d) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
- (e) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - (1) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (2) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (3) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (f) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (g) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (c) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (d) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0282 THREE TOP MOUNTAIN GAME LAND IN ASHE COUNTY

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (c) Horseback riding is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES COUNTIES

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (c) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- (d) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.

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

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

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (c) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (d) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (e) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (f) Target Shooting is prohibited.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0285 TOXAWAY GAME LAND IN JACKSON AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (c) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0286 UWHARRIE GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, MONTGOMERY, AND RANDOLPH COUNTIES

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (c) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - (1) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (2) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (3) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (d) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0288 VAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (c) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0292 WILLIAM H. SILVER GAME LAND IN HAYWOOD COUNTY

- (a) Seven Days per Week Area
- (b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0293 YADKIN RIVER GAME LAND IN DAVIDSON, DAVIE, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY COUNTIES

(a) Seven Days per Week Area

(b) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.

(c) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.

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

Eff. August 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10E .0104 USE OF AREAS REGULATED

(a) No person shall leave any vehicle, boat trailer or other obstruction on any public fishing or boating access area in such a location, position or condition that prevents or impedes the use by other persons of any ramp or other facility constructed for the purpose of launching or landing boats or fishing.

(b) No person shall park a vehicle, boat, boat trailer, or other object at a public fishing or boating access area unless parking in a designated parking zone. Public fishing or boating access areas and facilities remain available for use when designated parking zones are at capacity. When designated parking zones are at capacity, any person may enter and use the areas or facilities, provided other arrangements for parking are made that do not violate this Rule or the regulations of this Subchapter, if applicable. No person shall operate a vehicle at a public fishing or boating access area in a manner that endangers life, limb, or property.

(c) No person shall possess a loaded firearm on any public fishing or boating access area, except that a handgun may be carried by an individual with a valid concealed handgun permit. The individual carrying a handgun must adhere to the requirements set forth in North Carolina G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. The permission to carry a handgun does not apply to access areas on the following game lands:

- (1) Bladen Lakes State Forest
- (2) Buckhorn
- (3) Butner-Falls of Neuse
- (4) Chatham
- (5) DuPont State Forest
- (6) Harris
- (7) Hyco
- (8) Jordan
- (9) Kerr Scott
- (10) Lee
- (11) Mayo
- (12) Pee Dee River north of U.S 74
- (13) Sutton Lake
- (14) Vance
- (15) the portion of R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119

(d) No person, when using any public fishing or boating access area, shall deposit debris or refuse anywhere on the grounds of the area. No person, when using any public fishing or boating access area, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use of the area.

(e) No person shall operate a motorboat in the public waters of North Carolina within 50 yards of a Commission-owned or managed boat launching ramp at greater than "no wake" speed. For the purpose of this Rule, "no wake" speed means idling speed or a slow speed creating no appreciable wake.

(f) Except where facilities are ~~provided~~, provided or permits are issued, it is unlawful to use any boating access area for purposes other than the launching and retrieving of vessels boats and parking vehicles ~~and boat with vessel~~ trailers. All other uses, including swimming, skiing, camping, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly involved with launching and retrieving of vessels boats are prohibited, except those activities activities, including fish weigh-ins, for which the Commission has issued a permit permit, has been issued may be conducted, provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the time the activity is taking place. All organized activities and events require a permit from the Commission and can be applied for at www.ncwildlife.org. Permits shall be available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the time the activity is taking place.

(g) ~~Unless otherwise Except where facilities are provided and approved uses are posted~~, it is unlawful to use any public fishing area for purposes other than fishing. ~~All prohibited uses and activities shall be posted including possession of loaded firearms (except as allowed in Paragraph (b) of this Rule), swimming, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions, or other activities not directly associated with fishing.~~

(h) It is unlawful to feed or release animals or birds, domesticated animals and feral animals on public fishing or boating access areas without prior written authorization of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Written authorization will only be granted to persons acting on behalf of the Commission, to persons conducting scientific investigations or surveys, and for release of rehabilitated wildlife. Written authorization will not be granted for any feeding or release that is inimical to the conservation of native wildlife resources. For the purpose of enforcing this Paragraph,

"domesticated animals" does not include pets under the control of the owner and raptors or hunting dogs where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes.

(i) The use of gasoline powered motors on Ethridge Pond Public Fishing Area and Newbold Pond Public Fishing Area in Edgecombe County is prohibited.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-14; 113-134; 113-264;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2019; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 1995; February 1, 1994; September 1, 1992; July 1, 1991.

APPENDIX B

**Determining Use, Economic Impacts and Value of Game Lands in
North Carolina**

**PROJECT REPORT
October 2020**

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Executive Summary

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) manages over two million acres of public and private land for public hunting, trapping and inland fishing. These lands are of tremendous conservation value because they help the WRC meet their mission of conserving North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats, however these lands also benefit North Carolina and North Carolinians in other ways. The purpose of this project is to assess game land use by diverse user groups, determine the economic contributions of game land related recreation and to determine the non-market value of game lands to game land users and nearby residents.

In 2018, North Carolina's game lands received approximately 2.2 million visits. These visits resulted in \$180 million in game land related expenditures within the NC economy.

Visitation and expenditures were highest among users participating in non-licensed activities (hiking, biking, kayaking, etc.). These users took approximately 1.33 million trips in 2018, spending on average \$119.83 per trip, while hunters and anglers took approximately 853,000 trips, spending on average \$84.19 per trip. The combined economic contribution of both user groups resulted in approximately 2,200 jobs and over \$84 million in annual labor income in NC. Game land related recreation also resulted in a value added total of more than \$140 million to the state's GDP. Our results suggest game land related expenditures have low leakage rates and large SAM multipliers, meaning local economies are capturing much of the spending attributed to game lands. WRC shooting ranges also contribute to NC's economy. Game land users who visited the five WRC managed shooting ranges, contributed to an additional 28 jobs, over \$929,000 in labor income, and an additional \$1.45 million to NC's GDP.

Total willingness-to-pay among game land users to preserve 100% of game land acreage across NC is estimated to approach \$100 million. Dual-users, those who participate in both licensed and non-licensed activities, had the largest mean WTP (\$164.69), compared to users who exclusively participated in non-licensed (\$132.57) or licensed activities (\$122.50). Total WTP among all users to prevent the sale of 20% of all game land acreage was approximately

\$21.5 million, translating to a total conservation value of approximately \$100 million. Willingness-to-pay increased with the number of visits to game lands per year and with the number of activities a user participated in. WTP also increased with college education and with income. Understanding WTP is important for land managers who must routinely balance the costs and benefits of various land management and land acquisition projects. Non-market values are often overlooked in cost-benefit analyses and estimates of WTP allows for a more comprehensive accounting of the non-market impacts. Estimates of WTP also allow managers to identify where consumer surpluses exist in and among different user groups, possibly highlighting instances where additional conservation funding may be generated.

Game lands also provide economic benefits to nearby residents. In some locations, proximity to game land had a positive effect on the sale price of nearby homes, while adjacency had negative effects. For example, a one-kilometer increase in proximity to Butner-Falls Game Land results in an increase in value of about \$1,053 for the average-priced home. These relationships were however, dependent on the socio-cultural context of the game land, including proximity to other forms of public land, and may result in negative effects in locations where extremely high value natural amenities, such as beaches and national parks, exist within the same market. These results suggest that at some game lands, expansion may have a net positive impact (the difference between the increased value of proximity and the decreased value of adjacency) for nearby resident and county governments who may experience increases in property value and increases in tax revenue respectively.

Daily visitation at each individual game land changes as a factor of daily precipitation, average daily temperature, day of the week, and hunting season. However, these effects are not consistent among all game lands. For example, coastal game lands with few amenities may experience low daily visitation during the summer non-hunting months, whereas a mountain game land with many amenities may experience high daily visitation during the same time

period. Visitation between individual game lands varied based on game land acreage, county population density, regional demand index, and the number of amenities available at each location. Model predictions suggest all 94 game lands receive approximately 2,189,291 visits annually.

In combination, these results suggest NC game lands are a valuable economic resource for recreational users, nearby residents, and local and state governments. Game lands provide a high return on investment for the state government agencies funding public land maintenance and management, and these returns seem likely to grow as participation in nature-based recreation increases. Further, spending attributed to game lands is readily captured and retained within rural communities at a time where rural decline is a global social challenge. The information within this report should prepare the WRC for a future of rapid development, where the maintenance, expansion and establishment of public land must be justified by scientific data establishing the economic impacts involved.