



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 .0105	Possession and Removal of Animals, Plants, and Materials
15A NCAC 10D .0211	Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0215	R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell 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 .0258	Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0271	Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland Counties
15A NCAC 10D .0269	Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County

Agency Contact: Ashley Pekrul
Regulatory Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
919-707-0011
ashley.pekrul@ncwildlife.org

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

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.

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

A. All-terrain wheelchairs

This amendment allows for the use of all-terrain wheelchairs, including track chairs on game lands by disabled license holders and access program permittees.

The current rule does not allow use of motorized track chairs on game lands. By allowing all-terrain wheelchairs, disabled users will have additional options for greater access and use of game lands.

In 2021, the Commission surveyed disabled individuals and their thoughts and concerns on how the Commission handles disabled access across the state. There was a consensus that the State could do a better job at providing more access to land non-disabled individuals had access to by foot.

Impacts

State Impact

Allowing the use of all-terrain wheelchairs will allow a subset of our disabled sportsman to use game lands in a more effective way than they have been able to previously.

There are 68,773 users with a disabled sportsman license in the state of North Carolina. The Commission has no way of knowing out of those 68,773 people, how many would take advantage of this extended allowance.

While license sales may increase because of this change, the Commission has no way of knowing by how many. This change will maintain trust within the disabled sportsman community in North Carolina and show the Commission is dedicated to addressing their concerns as they arise.

Local Impact

Additional opportunities on game lands may invite a small number of new users to the area. New users could bring increased revenue to the immediate area in the form of spending on lodging and dining, in particular. The Commission has no way of knowing how many disabled sportsmen will take advantage of this extended allowance; as such, the estimated benefits to local government could not be quantified.

Private Impact

This proposal increases hunter opportunity by allowing a subset of disabled hunters to hunt on land that previously was not available to them. There are 68,773 users with a disabled sportsman license in the state of North Carolina. The Commission has no way of knowing out of those 68,773 people, how many would take advantage of this extended allowance.

B. Trapping Season

The proposed amendment would change the start date of the statewide regulated trapping season from November 1 to October 1. This change applies to game lands and is addressed in the land and water access rule.

Adding an additional month to the regulated trapping season would allow more opportunities to trap furbearers and non-game (armadillo, coyote, groundhog) species. These populations are abundant and, based on discussions with licensed fur dealers, fur can be prime in October (e.g., canids), allowing the pelt to be utilized. Conversely, in March, pelts often cannot be utilized, as they are heavily rubbed and damaged from territorial and breeding behavior that occur from late January through March.

The NC Trappers Association (NCTA) supports this proposed rule as do trappers and hunters that requested this change.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

Extending the trapping season gives our licensed trappers a longer time frame to trap. This was requested by the NCTA, and both licensed trappers and hunters. Extending the season may increase trapping participation and possibly recruit new trappers as this not only extends the length of time available to legally trap but it also creates an opportunity to trap in a month that is not currently open. The Commission has no way to predict how many more people might buy

trapping licenses because of this extension.

Local Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Benefit

Extending the trapping season allows for more opportunity to trap furbearers and non-game, specifically coyotes for those licensed trappers. There are 2,758 licensed trappers in North Carolina and this extension would benefit them all. The Commission has no way to know how many of these 2,758 licensed trappers will take advantage of an extended trapping season.

Licensed fox preserve operators will benefit from this change, as it allows an additional month for live coyotes and foxes to be sold to licensed preserves. There are currently, 115 licensed fox and coyote preserve operators in the state. Trappers typically sell live coyotes and foxes to preserves at \$50/fox and \$75/coyote. The Commission has no way of knowing how many additional coyotes or foxes trappers would sell to these preserves but, they have the opportunity to make an addition \$50-75/year.

C. Trial Area Fee Increase

The proposed amendment increases fees for use of the J. Robert Gordon field trial area. These increases will better equip the Commission to deal with increasing costs of maintenance and management of these field trial areas.

The J. Robert Gordon Field Trial area is owned and maintained by the Commission on the Sandhills Game Land in Richmond County. The field trial area is used by private groups to conduct field trial competitions for hunting dogs. The field trial area consists of the following facilities:

1. 9000 acres with 36 miles of mown field trial course
2. 56-stall horse barns
3. Corrals
4. Dog kennels for over 100 animals
5. Clubhouse

The North Carolina Field Trial Association (NCFTA) uses the facilities most and is a paid membership organization. The NCFTA pays the Commission to hold their field trial events and competitions. Other smaller groups also use this field trial area, including the fox trial association, who typically uses it for 6 days each year, and a wagon horse trail group that uses it for one weekend.

The clubhouse is mainly used by local governments to host public or private meetings and by

boy and girl scout groups to host day-long retreats.

The Commission currently charges \$200 per day to use the facilities or \$75 per day to use the clubhouse only. The fees have been in place since 2013 and the revenue generated from rental is not sufficient to cover the annual costs of upkeep.

The Commission proposes to increase fees to \$300 per day to use all facilities and \$100 per day for use of the clubhouse only.

The fee increases are intended to better reflect costs associated with planting, mowing, grading, and other management activities specific to J. Robert Gordon field trial area. These fee increases are proposed to occur at the same time as a proposed increase in field running days from a maximum of 81 days to 101 days. The addition of these days is due to an increase in the number of dogs entering field trial competitions and being unable to run in the current allotted time frame.

Expenses for operating the field trial facilities include planting, mowing, and fertilization of the land, electric and gas bills, daily upkeep and maintenance to dog kennels, horse barns, and the clubhouse, and any necessary renovations to structures or appliances. These expenditures do not include planting and mowing time spent on dove fields within the field trial course, nor does it include the time and cost associated with road maintenance.

Expenditures are as follows for the last 3 years:

2021-2022 FY: Total Expenditures \$102,692.03

2020-2021 FY: Total Expenditures \$68,306.17
(Some expenditures limited due to COVID)

2019-2020 FY: Total Expenditures \$40,445.55
(Most expenditures were affected by COVID)

The average expenditures over the past three years, even with the reduction in maintenance costs due to decreased usage, gas and electric bills, and upkeep were approximately \$70,481.25 The Commission predicts expenditures over the next three years to be at least \$100,000 per year due to the increasing cost of diesel fuel, seed, and fertilizer needed for management of the field trial grounds, stable maintenance and upgrades, and upkeep of water well systems throughout the area. In addition, there will be an increase for the cost of electricity, gas and propane, waste removal, hardware supplies which are needed for maintenance and operations of the clubhouse, and regular upkeep of the field trail barn, horse corrals, and dog kennels.

The rate of increase was determined to help cover a portion of the cost without placing too much of a hardship on the groups that rent the field trial facility. The Commission had discussions

with rental groups about what they would be willing to pay before they would look at alternative places to hold their events.

The NCFTA, the most frequent user of the facility, supports the proposed fee increase and expansion of running days to provide additional field trial opportunities.

Impacts

State Impact:

Benefit

There were 81 running days in 2021, for a total of \$16,200 in revenue generated. ($\$200/\text{day} \times 81 \text{ days} = \$16,200$).

Under the proposed 110 running days with the new fee for facility use, the maximum revenue generated would be \$33,000. ($\$300/\text{day} \times 110 \text{ days} = \$33,000$).

This creates a potential increase in revenue of \$16,800/year. ($\$33,000/\text{year} - \$16,200/\text{year} = \$16,800$).

State hunting license sales dollars, timber sale receipt monies, or endowment fund dollars cover the gap between projected revenue and expenditures.

Cost

This amendment is not anticipated to have any cost to the State.

Local Impact

In past years, local governments have occasionally rented the clubhouse for a day for meetings. Local governments do not consistently rent the clubhouse every year, however, so the Commission has no way of predicting if/how many will do so in the future. If they were to rent the clubhouse, they would pay an additional \$25 per day under the proposed fee increase.

Private Impact:

Cost

Individuals or organizations that hold field trials will incur an additional cost of \$100 or \$25 per event day.

The NCFTA will likely pay at least an additional \$8,000 per year in facility use fees but are supportive of this change. [$(\$300 \text{ new fee} \times 80 \text{ average days}) - (\$200 \text{ old fee} \times 80 \text{ average days}) = \$8,000$].

The fox trial organization that historically has used the facility for six days each year would incur an additional cost of \$600 a year [(\$300/day x 6 days = \$1,800) – (\$200/day x 6 days = \$1,200) = \$600]. There are various other horseback riding clubs that use the field trial area for two days at a time. These groups would incur an additional cost of \$200.

In addition, there are other groups that rent the clubhouse and stables outside of the field trial season that will incur an additional \$25/day fee. A few groups that have used this area in the past are scout groups. These groups do not consistently rent each year, so the Commission has no way of knowing how many groups this fee increase will affect.

D. Camping on Game Lands

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

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

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

This proposal restricts the number of consecutive night stays in posted camping areas where WRC is the primary custodian to 14 in a 30-day period year-round. Also proposes to require a game lands use license for all campers 16 years of age and older.

All Wildlife Resources Commission designated camping areas are primitive, relatively small, and can only accommodate a small number of campers at a time. These camping areas are designed for short term use by hunters. They are not meant for long term use or use as a residence. The 14-day limit and the restricted time frame detailed in the individual game lands would alleviate potential misuse or overuse of these camping areas. The specific game land rules listed above are proposed for clarification to align with this 10D .0102 change.

Impacts

State Impact

Benefits

Restricting the amount of time in which an individual can stay on campgrounds consecutively would allow the Commission to have more control over keeping the camping areas open and

available to more hunters wanting to access the game land. The agency has no way to quantify this benefit.

The state may also see an increase in license sales with the newly proposed license requirements for those 16 years of age and older to camp on the game lands. A game lands use license is included in any hunting, fishing, or trapping license. These licenses range in cost from \$9 (10-day Inland Fishing license) to \$539 (Adult Lifetime Sportsman License). The commission has no way of knowing which license an individual will choose to purchase. The Commission also has no way to know how many do not have a game lands use license that are currently using the campgrounds and thus, cannot be quantified.

Costs

Conservation Technician I will change signage as part of their regular duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated staff time cost to the agency of approximately \$261.76 ($\$32.72/\text{hr}^1 \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \261.76).

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

Private Impact

Individuals will no longer be able to stay at a campground for more than 14 days straight. This will impact individuals who normally spend more than 14-days at any campground. However, the Commission has no way to know how many people stay at the campground longer than the proposed restriction.

This proposal will also require individuals who camped without a game lands use license to purchase one. A game lands use license is included in any hunting, fishing, or trapping license. These licenses range in cost from \$9 (10-day Inland Fishing license) to \$539 (Adult Lifetime Sportsman License). The commission has no way of knowing which license an individual will choose to purchase.

E. Running Days

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

This rule amendment to 10D .0102 expands the number of running dates on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area from 16 days to 20 days per month. It also expands the maximum consecutive running days from four to five if the total running days for the month does not exceed 20.

10D .0271 aligns these running date changes proposed in 15A NCAC 10D .0102 with the hunting restriction and horseback riding dates on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area.

¹ Hourly staff time cost includes salary and benefits per NC OSHR Total Compensation Calculator.

The number of running dates on the Field Trial grounds were limited by the North Carolina Field Trial Association (NCFTA) many years ago to reduce pressure on wild quail. Since the NCFTA uses exclusively pen raised quail, they are requesting additional available running dates with no anticipated increase in bird pressure.

Impacts

State Impact

Benefit

This change is expected to have minimal state impacts as this will not change management or enforcement of the field trial area.

Private Impact

Benefit

This proposed change allows for increased hunter opportunity at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial area by increasing the number of running days. This change will also clear up any confusion over the start dates for running and horseback riding in this area. The Commission has no way to know how many hunters will take advantage of the additional running days.

Cost

The increase in running days may interfere with individuals that only visit Sandhills Game Land when no running is taking place. However, the Commission has no way of knowing how many people purposefully avoid the game land during the current 16 day period and cannot estimate how many people this change may impact from attending the game land at the 20 day time frame.

Local Impact

Expanding running days will likely increase a small number of these hunters visiting local businesses, which can result in a minor increase in local tax revenue. New users could bring increased revenue to the immediate area in the form of spending on lodging and dining, in particular. The Commission has no way of knowing how many hunters will take advantage of this extended allowance; as such, the estimated benefits to local government could not be quantified.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

A. Falconry

This rule proposal clarifies that falconry is allowed on Sundays on six-day a week game lands.

A technical omission was made when seven-day per week and four-day per week game lands

were added during previous rulemaking

Impacts

State Impact

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no impact as the change is part of routine management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement as the intention has been to allow falconry on Sundays in six-day a week game lands.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

Private Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have private impacts because the regulated public has been allowed to practice falconry on these days already and this rule simply clarifies the omission.

B. Hunting on Holidays

This rule proposal allows hunting on Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas, New Years, and Martin Luther King Day on four days per week game lands and on three days per week game lands when these holidays do not fall on a Sunday. It also clarifies NCAC text to state when Christmas Day and New Year's Day falls on Sunday, hunting is not allowed.

The omission of these holidays on closed days on three and four days per week game lands was a technical error when these definitions were added in previous rulemaking.

Impacts

State Impact

Cost

The agency may have to spend additional enforcement time on these game lands during these holidays. However, enforcement would be working these days regardless of the expansion, so there would not be a net increase in enforcement spending. There is likely to be a reallocation of resources in that enforcement may be spending more time at these game lands on those days now as opposed to other patrol activities.

Local Impact

Additional opportunities on game lands may invite a small number of new users to the game lands. New users could bring increased revenue to the immediate area in the form of spending on lodging and dining, in particular. The Commission has no way of knowing how many hunters will take advantage of this extended allowance; as such, the estimated benefits to local government could not be quantified.

Private Impact

This rule expands hunter opportunity across all four day a week and three day a week game lands when holidays do not fall on a Sunday. The Commission is unable to predict how many hunters will take advantage of these additional hunt days, however since most individuals have these days off work, it is possible that there would be a greater number of hunters taking advantage of this additional opportunity.

C. Either-Sex Definition

This rule proposal adds the definition of “either-sex” to mean antlered or antlerless.

The Commission does not regulate harvest based on sex or gender. Regulations are based on whether a deer is antlered or not. Current language in the NCAC using either-sex is antiquated and inconsistent with deer management terminology in the southeast. Changing the definition would make our rules consistent with the terminology used on the Big Game Harvest Report Card and the regulations digest produced for the Commission’s regulated public each year.

Adding this definition will clarify that the Commission means antlered or antlerless where either-sex already exists in rule. As rules are proposed over time for amendment where “either-sex” is written, they will be modified to state antlered or antlerless.

Impacts

State Impact

Benefits

Creates consistency amongst the Commission’s management terminology with the rest of the southeast.

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

Private Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have private impacts. It may lessen confusion for users reading NCAC text who are comparing it to the regulations digest.

D. Youth Permit Hunt

This rule proposal adds “youth” to special permit hunt opportunities allowed by the Commission.

Currently the NCWRC permits three specific youth hunts during the archery season which allow the use of firearms. This amendment will clarify the Commission’s ability to create hunt opportunities during closed days, or closed season on specific game lands and in turn allows more opportunity for youth hunters.

State Impact

Allowing more youth permit hunt opportunities may increase the interest in hunting for youth and thus over time drive up license sales. It is known that the earlier an individual is introduced to hunting and with the proper guidance, the longer they are likely to return to the sport. While lifetime sportsman license sales may increase because of this change, the Commission has no way of knowing by how many.

Local Impact

Additional opportunities on game lands may invite a small number of new users to the area. New users could bring increased revenue to the immediate area in the form of spending on lodging and dining, in particular. The Commission has no way of knowing how many youth hunters will take advantage of this extended allowance; as such, the estimated benefits to local government could not be quantified.

Private Impact

This proposal increases youth hunter opportunity by allowing youth to participate in special permit hunts that were otherwise only available to disabled sportsman. This change has the opportunity to introduce hunting to youth at an earlier age, but the Commission has no way to quantify how many youth aged individuals would take advantage of this.

15A NCAC 10D .0105 POSSESSION AND REMOVAL OF ANIMALS, PLANTS, AND MATERIALS

This proposal clarifies what materials can be removed from game lands and when written permission is needed for removal. This change also includes a definition of archeological resources and requires written permission from the Commission and a permit from the Department of Cultural Resources to collect and possess any archeological resource.

The current rule does not define archeological resources and when they can be collected. The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has regulations in place and the Commission rule

needs to reflect that. This clearly lays out for law enforcement when they can charge someone for taking archaeological resources from game lands.

Impacts

State Impact

Benefits

This change provides law enforcement with more clarification on what to look for when they see individuals trying to take anything considered an archeological resource from our game lands.

There is also a benefit in keeping artifacts on our game lands where they were found. Individuals may go to specific game lands to see these archeological artifacts like arrow heads they may not be able to see elsewhere.

This change allows for our regulations to align with the Department of Cultural Resources. In doing so, the Commission's stance on archeological resources is less ambiguous.

It is unknown to the Commission how often people are taking artifacts from game lands.

Local Impact

There is the potential for individuals who were going to game lands for the sole purpose of collecting archeological resources for hobby or profit will no longer visit those game lands. The Commission has no way to measure how many people would no longer visit specific game lands for this reason alone.

Private Impact

Costs

Individuals were collecting archeological resources from our game lands without authorization will no longer be able to. This could impact those individuals who were collecting for fun as well as those who have been collecting to repurpose and sell for profit. The Commission has no way to measure how many and how often individuals are removing archeological resources from game lands.

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

This amendment would remove the restriction on centerfire rifle hunting in a portion of Anson and Richmond counties North of US-74.

This change aligns with the remaining portion of the Pee Dee River game land where there is not a restriction on centerfire rifles.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefit

This proposed change creates consistency in centerfire rifle hunting in the Pee Dee River game land. The proposed change will alleviate inconsistency along the game land. This will allow for easier enforcement and education by law enforcement.

Private Impact

Benefit

Removing the restriction expands hunter opportunity for deer hunters wishing to use a centerfire rifle in that area. The Commission has no way of knowing how many hunters will take advantage of this increased opportunity.

Local Impact

This rule may bring more centerfire rifle hunters to the area, however the Commission has no way of knowing how many additional hunters this would bring. New users could bring increased revenue to the immediate area in the form of spending on lodging and dining, in particular. The Commission has no way of knowing how many hunters will take advantage of this extended allowance; as such, the estimated benefits to local government could not be quantified.

15A NCAC 10D .0269 ROCKY RUN GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

This change would prohibit target shooting on Rocky Run game land.

Opportunities currently exist for target shooting at alternative sites appropriately constructed and monitored to provide a safe environment for participants. Rocky Run Game Land is within 31 miles of the Holly Shelter shooting range. Additionally, there are two private ranges within 20 miles and the Camp Lejeune recreational shooting facility is within 20 miles. This change is consistent with other game lands where target shooting is prohibited within an acceptable radius of shooting ranges.

The game land has one access road and one parking area. Target shooting at this site routinely occurs at or near this parking area, which increases potential conflict between permitted hunters and target shooters.

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

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 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 this game land is projected to save the agency approximately \$785.28/year in staff time ($\$32.72/\text{hr} \times 8\text{hrs}/\text{clean up} \times 3 \text{ clean-ups}/\text{year} = \785.28). 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 technicians will put up signage on kiosks as part of their regular duties. New signage will cost the agency, at most, \$0.90 ($\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 1 \text{ sign}$).

Local Impact

This rule is not anticipated to have local government impacts.

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 this game land contain no back-stop berms and are 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.

SUMMARY

Quantifiable Impacts

State

The following quantifiable costs to the State are anticipated:

- Camping Restriction
 - One time staff cost & signage change = \$261.76
- Target Shooting Prohibition on Rocky Run Game Land
 - One time signage change = \$0.90

The following quantifiable benefits to the State are anticipated:

- Camping Restriction
 - Increase in license sales = \$9 - \$539/person
- Target Shooting Prohibition on Rocky Run Game Land
 - Clean-up savings = \$785.28/year
- Field Trial Fee
 - Maximum additional yearly revenue = \$16,800/year

Private entities

The following quantifiable costs to private entities are anticipated:

- Camping Restriction
 - Cost in license sales = \$9 - \$539/person
- Field Trial Fee increase
 - Day fee = \$100 increase/day, up to \$16,800 increase in fees/year
 - Clubhouse Rental = \$25 increase/day

Unquantifiable Impacts

State

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

- Allowing all-terrain wheelchairs on game lands has the potential for increased license sales among the disabled sportsman community.
- Adding the definition of “either-sex” creates consistency across agency management and marketing.
- Allowing more youth permit hunts increases the interest of hunting by youth and can lead to increased license sales over time.
- Requiring written permission to remove archeological artifacts from our game lands keeps artifacts on our game lands and aligns our regulations with those of the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources.
- Restricting the number of consecutive days one can camp will allow the Commission to have more control over camp site users and control misuse of these camp sites. .
- Removing the restriction on the use of centerfire rifles will create consistency in centerfire rifle hunting in the Pee Dee River game land and allow for easier enforcement.
- Prohibiting target shooting on Rocky Run game land may help to eliminate damage caused to live trees being used as targets.

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

- Allowing hunting on specific holidays on six-day a week game lands may have law enforcement spend additional time on these game lands on those days to enforce hunting rules.
- Requiring permits for Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas will cost staff time in issuing permits

Local

The following unquantifiable benefits to Local Governments 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 holidays
 - Allowing youth permit hunts
 - Increasing running dates on J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area

Private

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

- Allowing all-terrain wheelchairs on game lands increases hunting opportunity for disabled sportsman Allowing hunting on bear sanctuaries will increase hunter opportunity.

- Allowing hunting on six-day a week game lands on holidays increases hunter opportunity.
- Adding the definition of “either-sex” lessens confusion for hunters when looking at our rules vs publications.
- Allowing youth permit hunts expands hunter opportunity for our younger generation and may help younger individuals be interested in hunting.
- Removing the restriction on the use of centerfire rifles will create consistency in centerfire rifle hunting in the Pee Dee River game land and lessen confusion and in addition increase hunter opportunity.
- Expanding the number of running days on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area will increase hunter opportunity.
- Prohibiting target shooting on Rocky Run game land will improve safety for users of the game land.

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

- Requiring written permission to remove archeological artifacts from our game lands will now prohibit users from going there to collect items for resale or personal use.
- Restricting the number of consecutive days one can camp will reduce the number of days an individual may hunt who stayed longer than the new limit in the past.
- Expanding the number of running days on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area may reduce the amount of time an individual can visit the game lands if they don’t want to be there while running is taking place.
- Prohibiting target shooting on Rocky Run game land may increase the distance target shooters will have to travel to target shoot at nearby ranges.

While some of the impacts are unquantifiable, the Commission believes that benefits to both the state and local government, and private entities will likely 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 may be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public.
- (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 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)~~(i) License: Hunting and Trapping

- (1) **Requirement.** Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering 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. license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.~~
- (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as ~~(as defined in 15A NCAC 10B 0114)~~ .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. 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(c)(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 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)~~ three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for 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)~~ one hundred dollars (\$100.00) 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 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~~ 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during any calendar month, and no more than ~~four~~ five days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field trial requiring more than ~~four~~ five 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~~ 20 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 the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 ~~October 22~~ and ~~November 18~~ the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between ~~December 3~~ the first Monday following Thanksgiving 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~~, and .0306 trapping of furbearing animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the applicable open trapping seasons established by rule. Foxes can be trapped on game lands from ~~November 1~~ October 1 through the end of February in any county with an open fox trapping season that falls between ~~November 1~~ October 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during any fox trapping season that occurs outside the dates of ~~November 1~~ October 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. Trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of 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;
- (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in Burke County;
- (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands; and
- (6) from April 1 through ~~October~~ September 31.

At each trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), is less than three cubic inches and is covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

(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~~ posted 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. ~~period from May 1 through August 31~~. After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.
- (3) A hunting, fishing, trapping or Game Lands License is required for individuals age 16 or older to camp on game lands in areas posted for camping except when camping within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land, within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land west of NC-43, and in posted areas along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Butner-Falls of Neuse 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 all-terrain wheel chairs ~~mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian use~~ on any area where foot travel is allowed. Off road vehicles including ATVs , UTVs, and ebikes are not permitted.

(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 online, at www.ncwildlife.org. 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.

(r) 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.

(s) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take any wild birds or wild animals attracted to such foods.

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, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

~~(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.~~

~~(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.~~

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

- (1) hunting on any designated game land while under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug;
- (2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;
- (3) parking a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates, or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway; and
- (4) erecting or occupying any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or wire for the purpose of hunting to a tree on any game land. 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)(b) 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. Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall only be during the open season for game animals and game birds. 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.~~

- ~~(1) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:
 - ~~(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.~~~~

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

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

(e) 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.

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

- (1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;
- (2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
- (3) 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
- (4) 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)(A), (1)(C), and (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."~~

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

- (1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset;
- (2) restrictions (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and
- (3) youth may hunt on any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply; and

(i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."

~~(e)~~(j) Definitions:

- (1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- (2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to 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 Subchapter, "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 Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- (5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, ~~and Sundays.~~ Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.
- (6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit Only" means areas on which species take or activities listed shall be during the applicable season(s) by permit only subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter, or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available opportunity permits online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding the species or activity shall apply.
- (7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.

~~(f)(k) 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.

~~(h)(l)~~ On ~~permitted type~~ permit 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)~~(m) 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) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- (5) Dare County—Roanoke Marshes Game Lands; and
- (6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

~~(j)~~(n) 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)~~(o) 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)~~(p) ~~Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen.~~ The Commission may designate special hunts for youth and 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)~~(q) As used in the rules of this subchapter horseback riding includes all equine species.

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

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;*

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September
1, 1994; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May
1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October
1, 2004;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021.

15A NCAC 10D .0105 POSSESSION AND REMOVAL OF ANIMALS, PLANTS AND MATERIALS

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

- (1) "Other materials" includes: all metals, minerals, rocks, soil, organic debris, buildings, fences, ~~historic artifacts, archeological resources as defined in G.S. 70-12,~~ and water.
- (2) "Commission lands" includes all State-owned game lands, hatcheries, depots, refuges, boating access areas and public fishing access areas, or parts thereof, allocated to the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (3) "Written permission" includes permits, sales agreements, agricultural agreements, and letters written by authorized Commission personnel. Written permissions shall specify the type of activity allowed, the Commission land(s) where the activity may ~~occur~~ occur, and the persons ~~authorized~~ authorized to partake in the activity. Written permission must be carried on their person at all times. This requirement extends to any individual operating in conjunction with another's written permission.

(b) On Commission lands:

- (1) No wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, nests, animal parts, plants, plant materials, or other materials shall be possessed on or removed from Commission lands except:
 - (A) as allowed in this Rule;
 - (B) bullfrogs, as specified in 15A NCAC 10B .0226; or
 - (C) if written permission has been granted by the Wildlife Resources Commission.This restriction applies to both dead and living wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, animal parts, ~~plants~~ plants, and plant materials.
- (2) All game, fur-bearing animals, wildlife resources, fisheries resources, and nongame animals or birds, ~~for which the Commission has established an open season~~, legally taken under a valid hunting, trapping, fishing, falconry, or other collection license that entitles the licensee to access and use Wildlife Resources Commission Property may be possessed on and removed from Commission lands.
- (3) Berries, fruit, nuts, mushrooms, ramps and other plants or plant ~~products~~ materials suitable for human consumption may be possessed on and removed from Commission lands without written permission for personal consumption only, except any fungi, plant or part thereof on a State or federal protected list shall not be possessed on or removed from Commission lands without written permission. All other fungi, plants and plant ~~products~~ materials which are not suitable for human consumption may not be possessed on or removed from Commission lands except with written permission. Crops or products thereof planted for the benefit of wildlife may not be removed without written permission.
- (4) Insects, worms, or other invertebrates collected as fish bait may be possessed on and removed from Commission lands without written permission for personal use only, except any species on a State

or federal protected list may not be collected and may not be removed from Commission lands. Sale of these resources is prohibited.

- (5) Minimal amounts of animal parts, plant parts not removed from live plants, and other materials may be collected by hand and removed from Commission lands without written permission, except in violation of rules, general ~~statutes~~ statutes, or federal law. Collection of animal parts, and plant parts not removed from live plants ~~plants, and other materials~~ for commercial use or sale is prohibited. For purposes of this Subparagraph, "minimal amounts," are quantities that fit within a cubic foot of space, except for firewood to be used at ~~designated posted game land campgrounds, camping areas.~~ Minimal amounts of firewood are quantities sufficient to build and maintain a fire for the duration of the game land user's stay at the campground.
- (6) Litter and road kill animals may be removed without written permission, except in violation of 15A NCAC 10B .0106.
- (7) A collection license as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0119 does not qualify as written permission to collect or remove any wildlife resources from Commission lands. Written permission must be specific to the Commission land.

(c) On all other lands enrolled in the game land ~~program; program:~~

- (1) All game, fur-bearing animals, fisheries resources, and nongame animals or birds ~~for which the Commission has established an open season,~~ legally taken under a valid hunting, trapping, fishing, ~~or falconry~~ falconry, or collection license may be possessed on and removed from game lands.
- (2) Possession and removal of all other wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, nests, animals parts, plants, and plant materials ~~materials, or other materials~~ is subject to the rules of the Commission and is at the discretion of the landowner, except where the landowner has ceded authority to the Commission. When the landowner has ceded authority to the Commission, the permissions and restrictions in Paragraph (b) of this Rule apply.

~~(d) Any individual who has written permission, or a hunting, trapping, fishing or falconry license required in order to possess or remove wildlife resources, fungi, invertebrates, eggs, nests, animals parts, plants, plant materials, or other materials from Commission lands and all other lands enrolled in the game land program shall have that written permission or license on his person. This requirement extends to any individual operating in conjunction with another's written permission.~~

(e) Except as referenced in (b)(5) of this rule, other materials may be possessed or removed from Commission lands and all other lands enrolled in the game land program with written permission from the Commission, except for archeological resources. To possess or remove archeological resources from Commission land or other lands enrolled in the game land program, an individual shall obtain and have on his or her person, written permission from the Commission and a permit issued by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as specified in G.S 70-12.

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

(a) Six Days per Week Area

(b) ~~Antlered or antlerless deer~~ ~~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) 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~~ is restricted 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 .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY

(a) Three Days per Week Area

(b) ~~Antlered or antlerless deer~~ ~~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~~ is restricted 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;

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

Johns River game land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- (1) During permitted deer hunts, ~~antlered or antlerless deer of either sex~~ antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.
- (2) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- (3) ~~Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is limited is~~ restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (4) 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

Jordan game land is a Six Days per Week Area. The following shall apply:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer ~~Deer of either sex~~ may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (2) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
 - (A) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (B) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
 - (C) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (3) 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 a game land license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area other than the American Tobacco Trail.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- (6) 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.
- (7) ~~Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated and posted Hunter Camping Areas are limited~~ is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14. The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted 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; Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022.

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

(a) Pee Dee River game land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following applies:

- (1) ~~Antlered or antlerless deer~~ ~~Deer of either sex~~ may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- ~~(2)~~ Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North of US-74.
- ~~(3)~~ (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(4)~~ (3) 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.
- ~~(5)~~ (4) 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

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~~ the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 through March 31 except as follows:

- (1) Antlered or antlerless deer ~~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. Antlered or antlerless deer ~~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. Antlered or antlerless deer ~~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) Antler or antlerless ~~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~~ the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 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~~ is restricted 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.
- (l) Swimming is prohibited in lakes.

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

15A NCAC 10D .0269 ROCKY RUN GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

- (a) Hunting is by permit only.
- (b) Target shooting shall is prohibited.

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