

Note from the Codifier: The OAH website includes notices and the text of proposed temporary rules as required by G.S. 150B-21.1(a1). Prior to the agency adopting the temporary rule, the agency must hold a public hearing no less than five days after the rule and notice have been published and must accept comments for at least 15 business days. For questions, you may contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 984-236-1850 or email oah.postmaster@oah.nc.gov.

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1(a3) that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to amend the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10D .0209, .0243, and .0276.

Codifier of Rules received for publication the following notice and proposed temporary rule(s) on: April 19, 2024.

Public Hearing:

Date: May 14, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Zoom Meeting. Registration Required:

https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_AyTSECQhTumMLCnF7Iyy3Q

Join by phone: Toll Free (833) 568-8864

Webinar ID: 160 867 9428

Reason for Proposed Temporary Action: G.S. 150B-21.1(a)(7)b. Buffalo Cove, South Mountains, and Kings Creek Game Lands all have acreage in both the western and northwestern deer zones. The current deer season framework for these game lands is consistent with the western season. Changes to the deer rule adopted as part of the 2024-2025 Annual Cycle shift the western blackpowder and gun season to allow the blackpowder season to begin two Saturdays before Thanksgiving and run for two weeks, and the gun season to begin the Saturday after Thanksgiving and run until January 1. If the 2024-2025 deer season changes are approved, the proposed amendments for these game lands are needed to reflect the newly adopted framework.

Comment Procedures: Comments from the public shall be directed to: Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.org. The comment period begins April 22, 2024 and ends May 20, 2024.

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10D - GAME LANDS REGULATIONS

SECTION .0200 - USE OF GAME LANDS

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

Buffalo Cove game land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following shall apply:

- (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the ~~Monday before begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. January 1.~~ Monday before begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. January 1. Deer of either sex ~~Antlered or antlerless deer~~ may be taken with archery equipment ~~on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Sunday day 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.~~ on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Sunday day 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.~~ Sunday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Rule. Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms ~~on open days beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week Friday thereafter.~~ on open days beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week Friday thereafter.
- (2) ~~Deer of either sex~~ Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

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

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

Kings Creek game land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the ~~Monday Saturday before after~~ Monday Saturday before after Thanksgiving Day through the ~~third Saturday after Thanksgiving. January 1.~~ third Saturday after Thanksgiving. January 1. Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 ~~to through the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day.~~ to through the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. ~~day immediately preceding the Black powder Firearms Season described in the Rule.~~ day immediately preceding the Black powder Firearms Season described in the Rule. 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 Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the Saturday of the second week Friday thereafter.~~

- (2) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~

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

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

South Mountains game land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- (1) ~~The Deer With Visible Antlers ~~season~~ Season for deer begins on the Saturday after ~~consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before~~ Thanksgiving Day through ~~the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.~~ January 1. ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the Sunday day 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.~~ Rule. Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in this Rule through the Saturday of the second week Friday thereafter.~~
- (2) ~~Deer of either sex Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.~~
- (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
 - (a) January 2 through March 31;
 - (b) May 16 through August 31;
 - (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
 - (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
- (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (5) 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.
- (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period.

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