

1 15A NCAC 10B .0114 is readopted as published in 34:19 NCR 1777 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0114 DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS**

4 (a) For purposes of 15A NCAC 10B and 10D, the following definitions apply:

5 (1) "Commission-sanctioned field trial" means a field trial ~~that, pursuant to a written request from the~~  
6 ~~sponsoring organization, that has been authorized in writing and scheduled for occurrence by an~~  
7 ~~authorized representative of by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Commission and for which a~~  
8 Field Trial Permit has been issued.

9 (2) "Active participant" means ~~a person~~ an individual participating in a field trial who handles dogs or  
10 uses a firearm.

11 (3) "Field Trial Permit" means the permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission that authorizes  
12 an individual to hold a commission-sanctioned field trial for dogs. [dogs in accordance with  
13 governing laws and the Rules of the Commission.]

14 (b) Individuals desiring to conduct a commission-sanctioned field trial shall obtain a Field Trial Permit from the  
15 Wildlife Resources Commission at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or at the Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity  
16 Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606.

17 ~~(b) (c) Each person~~ Individuals using wildlife to train or run dogs shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

18 ~~(c) A person serving as judge of a commission sanctioned field trial is exempted~~ (d) An individual who is serving as  
19 a judge of a commission-sanctioned field trial shall be exempt from any license requirements. ~~Judges of non-~~  
20 ~~sanctioned~~ An individual who is serving as a judge of a non-sanctioned field trials trial using wildlife shall possess a  
21 North Carolina hunting license.

22 ~~(d) (e) Except as exempted~~ provided in Paragraph (e) (f) of this Rule, the following applies license requirements shall  
23 apply to active participants in field trials:

24 (1) North Carolina residents participating in any field trial that uses wildlife shall have a N.C. hunting  
25 license;

26 (2) non-residents participating in a commission-sanctioned field trial that uses wildlife shall possess a  
27 N.C. hunting license or a hunting license from his or her state of residence; and

28 (3) non-residents participating in other types of field trials that use wildlife shall possess a N.C. hunting  
29 license

30 ~~(e)-(f) Persons~~ Notwithstanding Paragraph (e) of this Rule, an individual without a license may participate in  
31 commission-sanctioned field trials for beagles conducted without firearms on private field trial areas that ~~are fenced~~  
32 ~~in accordance with~~ meet the fencing requirements specified in G.S. 113-276(k).

33 ~~(f) (g) Except as allowed by rules pertaining to authorized field trials, it is~~ It shall be unlawful to carry axes, saws  
34 saws, or climbing irons while training or running dogs during ~~closed season on game animals.~~ any closed season for  
35 game animals.

36 ~~(g) (h) On a commission sanctioned field trial for retrievers or bird dogs,~~ The following conditions shall apply to  
37 commission-sanctioned field trials for retrievers or bird dogs:

- 1 (1) shotguns containing live ammunition or firearms using only blank ammunition ~~may be used only~~  
2 ~~when the application for and the authorization of the field trial so provide. shall be prohibited unless~~  
3 ~~specifically authorized by a Field Trial Permit.~~
- 4 (2) ~~No~~ no wild waterfowl, ~~quail~~ wild quail, or ~~wild~~ pheasant shall be used in field trials when shotguns  
5 with live ammunition are ~~permitted.~~ permitted;
- 6 (3) ~~All waterfowl, quail and pheasants so used shall be obtained from a licensed game bird propagator.~~  
7 only waterfowl, quail, or pheasants lawfully obtained from a licensed game bird propagator shall be  
8 authorized for use in field ~~trials.~~ trials where shotguns with live ammunition are permitted.
- 9 (4) ~~Each specimen of waterfowl so obtained~~ waterfowl obtained from licensed game bird propagators  
10 for use in field trials when shotguns with live ammunition are authorized shall be marked by one of  
11 the methods ~~provided by 50 C.F.R. 21.13. — specified in 50 C.F.R. [21.13;]~~ 21.13, including  
12 subsequent amendments and editions, found free of charge at <https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/>; and
- 13 (5) ~~Each pheasant or quail so obtained~~ pheasants or quail obtained from licensed game bird propagators  
14 for use in field trials where shotguns with live ammunition are authorized shall be banded by the  
15 propagator prior to delivery with a leg band that is imprinted with the number of his or her  
16 propagation license. The purchaser of the birds shall obtain a copy of the receipt from the propagator  
17 showing the ~~date and date, the number~~ number of birds purchased, propagator license number, and  
18 species of birds purchased. ~~The~~ A copy of the receipt shall be available for inspection by ~~any~~  
19 authorized agent representatives of the Wildlife Resources Commission during the time and at the  
20 place where the trial is being held.

21 ~~(h) Applications for authorization of a field trial shall be submitted in writing to a Wildlife Enforcement Officer at~~  
22 ~~least 30 days prior to the scheduled event.~~

23 ~~(i) Pursuant to G.S. 113-291.1(d), hunters may train dogs using shotguns with shot of number 4 size or smaller during~~  
24 ~~the closed season using domestically raised waterfowl and domestically raised game birds.~~

25 ~~(i) The following conditions shall apply [when training dogs] during the closed season for waterfowl and game birds~~  
26 ~~when training dogs with~~ domestically raised waterfowl and domestically raised game birds:

- 27 (1) only shotguns with number 4 size shot or smaller shall be authorized; used;
- 28 (2) ~~Only~~ only nontoxic shot shall be used when training dogs using domestically raised ~~waterfowl.~~  
29 waterfowl;
- 30 (3) ~~All~~ all domestically raised waterfowl shall be individually tagged on one leg with a seamless band  
31 stamped with the ~~number of the~~ propagation license number of ~~for~~ the facility from which the  
32 domestically raised waterfowl ~~originated.~~ originated; and
- 33 (4) ~~All~~ all other domestically raised game birds shall be individually tagged on one leg with a band  
34 indicating the propagation license number ~~for~~ of the facility from which the birds originated.

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36 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-276; 113-291.1; 113-291.5; 50 C.F.R. 21.13;  
37 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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*Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; May 1, 2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1991; May 1, ~~1990~~1990;*  
*Readopted Eff. October 1, 2020.*

1 15A NCAC 10L .0101 is adopted as published in 34:19 NCR 1779 as follows:

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3 **Subchapter 10L – Wildlife Conservation Land Program**

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5 **15A NCAC 10L .0101 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAND**

6 (a) Wildlife Conservation Land is a classification of land that meets the size and ownership requirements specified in  
7 G.S. 105-277.15 and on which one or more of the use requirements in subparagraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this Rule  
8 are met and maintained by the owner under a written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement with the NC Wildlife  
9 Resources Commission that is submitted by the landowner to the county where an application for reduced property  
10 tax assessment is requested.

11 (b) Use Requirements of Wildlife Conservation Land shall include the following:

- 12 (1) Protection of species on the protected animal list;  
13 (2) Conservation of priority wildlife habitats; or  
14 (3) Land managed and actively used as a wildlife reserve.

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16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;*  
17 *Eff. October 1, 2020.*

1 15A NCAC 10L .0102 is adopted as published in 34:19 NCR 1779 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10L .0102 PROTECTION OF SPECIES ON THE PROTECTED ANIMAL LIST**

4 (a) As specified in [~~15A NCAC 10L .0101,~~ G.S. 105-277.15(c) and Rule 10L .0101 of this Section] the protection of  
5 species on the protected animal list shall be a qualifying land use for Wildlife Conservation Land. Eligible species  
6 shall be those designated by the Commission in Section 15A NCAC 10I .0100 as endangered, threatened, or special  
7 concern.

8 (b) The following conditions shall apply to the qualification of land as Wildlife Conservation Land under the protection  
9 of species on the protected animal list use requirement:

- 10 (1) at least one protected wildlife species shall have been identified on the land;  
11 (2) the landowner shall be required to manage the land to protect the species through established  
12 strategies identified in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement; and  
13 (3) the land shall meet the prior use requirements specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(b).

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15 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 105-277.15;  
16 Eff. October 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10L .0103 is adopted as published in 34:19 NCR 1779 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10L .0103 CONSERVATION OF PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITATS**

4 (a) As specified in [15A NCAC 10L .0101, G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3) and Rule .0101 of this Section], the conservation of  
5 priority wildlife habitats shall be a qualifying land use for Wildlife Conservation Land. Priority wildlife habitats shall  
6 mean those habitats specified in G.S.105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(2).

7 (b) The following conditions shall apply to the qualification of land as Wildlife Conservation Land under the  
8 conservation of priority wildlife habitat land use requirement:

9 (1) at least one of the priority wildlife habitats specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(2) shall have been  
10 identified on the land or planned for establishment;

11 (2) the management strategies identified for the continued existence of the priority wildlife habitat shall  
12 be in place or planned for as specified in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement; and

13 (3) the land shall meet the prior use requirements specified in G.S. 105-277.15(c)(3)(b).

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15 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 105-277.15;

16 Eff. October 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10L .0104 is adopted as published in 34:19 NCR 1779 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10L .0104 WILDLIFE RESERVE**

4 (a) As specified in ~~[15A NCAC 10L.0104]~~, G.S. 105-277.15(c) and Rule .0101 of this Section, land that is managed  
5 and actively used as a wildlife reserve shall be a qualifying land use for Wildlife Conservation Land. Wildlife reserve  
6 shall mean a type of wildlife conservation land that meets the requirements set forth in G.S. 105-277.15(c)3.a. ~~[is~~  
7 ~~created to be actively and regularly used as a reserve for hunting, fishing, shooting, wildlife observation, or wildlife~~  
8 ~~activities, and upon which wildlife management activities are conducted to ensure the propagation of a sustaining~~  
9 ~~breeding, migrating or wintering population of indigenous wild animals.]~~ Land managed and maintained primarily for  
10 human uses such as large lawns, golf courses, horse pastures, production agricultural fields, monoculture hayfields,  
11 solar energy, and commercial timber stands shall not qualify as wildlife reserve land.

12 (b) As specified in G.S. ~~[105-277.15(c)(3)(a)(3)]~~, 105-277.15(c)(3)a.3., to qualify as Wildlife Conservation Land  
13 under the wildlife reserve land use requirement, at least three of the following activities shall be maintained on the  
14 land as agreed upon in the written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement:

- 15 (1) "supplemental food" shall mean annual or perennial noninvasive plantings that provide a direct or  
16 indirect source of food or nutrition for wildlife resources.
- 17 (2) "supplemental water" shall mean artificial water features or sources that are created or installed for  
18 the benefit of wildlife resources.
- 19 (3) "supplemental shelter" shall mean natural or artificial structures that are created or installed to  
20 provide shelter from the weather, nesting sites, or escape cover from predators. Supplemental shelter  
21 may include the addition of natural or artificial structures into aquatic habitats.
- 22 (4) "habitat control" shall mean the implementation of practices to establish, restore, enhance, or  
23 maintain upland, wetland, riparian, or aquatic vegetation or physical aquatic habitat.
- 24 (5) "erosion control" shall mean the implementation of practices to prevent, reduce, or minimize soil  
25 erosion. Practices may include streambank and in-stream channel stabilization. Practices established  
26 for erosion control shall not be known to harm wildlife or include invasive plant species.
- 27 (6) "predator control" shall mean a practice implemented to reduce the abundance of a species or suite  
28 of species that preys on any life stage of wildlife species for which the land is managed. Predator  
29 control includes removal of invasive animal species to manage or protect wildlife or wildlife  
30 habitats.
- 31 (7) "census of animal population on the land" shall mean conducting or participating in periodic surveys  
32 and inventories to determine the presence, number, composition, biological condition, or human use  
33 of wildlife.

34 (c) Qualifying land shall be inspected at least once every five years following the date that the conservation agreement  
35 is signed to ensure that at least three of the seven activities specified in Subparagraphs (b)(1) through (b)(7) of this  
36 Rule are maintained. The following conditions shall apply to the required inspection:

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- (1) a wildlife biologist employed by a state or federal agency, a Certified Wildlife Biologist® credentialed by the Wildlife Society, or a Certified Fisheries Professional credentialed by the American Fisheries Society shall perform the inspection of qualifying land; and
- (2) inspections shall be recorded by the wildlife biologist on a form provided by the Commission. The landowner shall submit the completed form to the county tax assessor’s office during the open enrollment period for the year that the inspection is due.

History Note: Authority G.S. 105-277.15;  
Eff. October 1, 2020.