

1 15A NCAC 10B .0203 is amended as published in 39:14 NCR 914-916 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

4 (a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:

5 (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished
6 from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken during the following seasons,
7 including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

8 (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick,
9 Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones,
10 Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson,
11 Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake
12 Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

13 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan,
14 Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin,
15 Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and
16 Wilson counties.

17 (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe,
18 Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes,
19 Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

20 (D) Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell,
21 Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell,
22 Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

23 (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson,
24 Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg,
25 Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union
26 counties.

27 (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and
28 Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts
29 of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife
30 Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife
31 Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife
32 Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National
33 Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National
34 Wildlife Refuge.

35 (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during
36 the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through (G) of this
37 Subparagraph. ~~Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the fourth Saturday in September in all~~

1 ~~counties and on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following in those counties listed in Parts~~
2 ~~(a)(1)(D) of this Rule by persons under the age of 18.~~

3 (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
4 Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of
5 Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife
6 Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes
7 National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee
8 Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck
9 National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

10 (B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at
11 the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15
12 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military
13 Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine
14 Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base,
15 on Fort Liberty Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

16 (C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph
17 (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania
18 counties.

19 (D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph
20 (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison,
21 and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts (a)(2)(G)(i) and (ii) of
22 this Rule.

23 (E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph
24 (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell,
25 Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

26 (F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph
27 (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and
28 Rutherford counties.

29 (G) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1)
30 of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and
31 Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties:

32 (i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and
33 Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and

34 (ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.

35 (b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

36 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag
37 limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from

1 Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of
2 the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game
3 lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

4 (2) Restrictions

5 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
6 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except
7 a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with
8 G.S. 113-291.1(k).

9 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
10 may be used during the Archery Season.

11 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part (b)(1)(A)
12 of this Rule.

13 (c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:

14 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
15 taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the
16 first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D),
17 (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless
18 otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

19 (2) Restrictions

20 (A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county
21 or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), (E), (F), or (G) of this Rule that has one or more
22 open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.

23 (B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the
24 Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part
25 set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.

26 (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder
27 Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this
28 Rule.

29 (D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
30 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms
31 Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in
32 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

33 (3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a
34 matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899,
35 that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed
36 or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-
37 loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is

1 designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the
2 muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

3 (d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

4 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag
5 limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery
6 equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday
7 following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands
8 within a city boundary.

9 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to that effect
10 no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to the Executive Director or
11 his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map
12 of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

13 (3) Restrictions:

14 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in
15 G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a
16 single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with
17 G.S. 113-291.1(k).

18 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
19 shall be used during the Urban Season.

20 (e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals
21 under 16 years of age during the following days:

22 (1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

23 (2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of
24 this Rule.

25 ~~(e)~~ (f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that
26 may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished
27 from spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards
28 from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional
29 antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the
30 boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported
31 on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

32 ~~(f)~~ (g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule do not apply
33 to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-
34 291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP
35 license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer
36 harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as
37 instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided

1 with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and
2 not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the
3 restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus
4 antlerless harvest report card.

5
6 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
7 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
8 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
9 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
11 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
15 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
16 *2003);*
17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
18 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*
19 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
20 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*
21 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*
22

1 15A NCAC 10C .0316 is amended as published in 39:14 NCR 916-917 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit
5 for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated
6 in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

7 (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven
8 inches. There is no closed season.

9 (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters. Trout shall not
10 be possessed while fishing these waters.

11 (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for
12 these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until
13 12 p.m. that same day. During this season individuals under ~~the~~ 16 years of age ~~of 18~~ may fish. From 12:00 p.m. on
14 the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for anglers. From
15 October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout shall not be harvested or
16 possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to fishing from one-half hour after
17 sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

18 (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

19 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum
20 size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

21 (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the
22 daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

23 (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these
24 fish.

25 (g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the
26 impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the
27 public for fishing.

28 (1) Bear Creek Lake;

29 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

30 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;

31 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

32 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;

33 (6) Cliffside Lake;

34 (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

35 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and

36 (9) Wolf Lake.

37 (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing

1 season.

2 (i) Trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

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4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

5 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*

7 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

8 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

9

1 15A NCAC 10D .0102 is amended as published in 39:14 NCR 917-920 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

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

- 5 (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means a structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from
6 manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of the day's hunt.
7 (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or
8 self-defense.
9 (3) "Youth" means individuals under ~~18~~ 16 years of age.

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

- 13 (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to archery
14 equipment and falconry. During the open deer seasons for these areas, antlered and antlerless deer
15 may be taken.
16 (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person
17 shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on a
18 game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
19 (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use
20 of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
21 (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public,
22 and entry on these areas is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources
23 Commission. The Commission may authorize entry when the primary purpose for the Restricted
24 Zone shall not be compromised and the persons requesting entry demonstrate a valid need, or official
25 business of the Commission is being conducted by a contractor or agent of the Commission. Valid
26 needs may include access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to
27 conduct activities in the public interest.
28 (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are
29 closed to use by the public, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife
30 Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone
31 when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public.
32 (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge
33 of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.
34 (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting
35 Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S.
36 113-264(d).

1 (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the
2 public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

3 (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to
4 use by the public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry is prohibited without written
5 approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a
6 permit.

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

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

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

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

17 (2) a weapon within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-
18 Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and

19 (3) a firearm within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan
20 Game Lands.

21 No person shall hunt with or have in possession a shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on a posted
22 waterfowl impoundment on a game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer
23 hunting. Individuals carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even
24 if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott,
25 and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other
26 weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is
27 incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document may be accessed at
28 www.ecfr.gov at no cost. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyc0, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee
29 River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of
30 U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days
31 for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

32 (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length
33 and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;

34 (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;

35 (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or

36 (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

37 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

1 (1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, a person entering a game land to hunt,
2 trap, run dogs, or train dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a valid North Carolina
3 hunting or trapping license.

4 (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114, in
5 a field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license, except non-residents may
6 substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.

7 (3) For other field trials using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall
8 possess a North Carolina hunting license.

9 (4) Exceptions:

10 (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal
11 guardian;

12 (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103 (j)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is
13 required for hunting doves; other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

14 (f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial
15 area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three
16 hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from
17 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
18 day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building
19 or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting,
20 educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or
21 other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox
22 Trial facility without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry
23 or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities
24 shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than
25 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no
26 more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be
27 scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that
28 the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial
29 Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October
30 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31
31 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. The
32 use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills
33 Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1.
34 Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on game lands located west
35 of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be
36 trained or permitted to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on game lands located east of I-95, except when
37 participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located

1 west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs
2 may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts.
3 A field trial shall be authorized when the field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the game land or
4 field trial facilities, and the applying organization demonstrates their experience and expertise in conducting genuine
5 field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted
6 when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not
7 conflict with the mission of the agency.

8 (g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0300, trapping of furbearing animals,
9 armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the open trapping seasons for those areas,
10 established by rule. Foxes may be trapped on game lands from October 1 through the end of February in a county with
11 an open fox trapping season that falls between October 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping
12 on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during a fox trapping season that occurs outside the
13 dates of October 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham,
14 Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the
15 fourth Saturday in January. Trapping is prohibited:

- 16 (1) on the J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of Sandhills Game Land;
- 17 (2) in posted "safety zones" located on a game land;
- 18 (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south,
19 US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- 20 (4) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands; and
- 21 (5) from April 1 through September 31.

22 At a trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed
23 food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), is less than 3 cubic inches and is covered to prevent it from being seen
24 from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and
25 bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

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

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

33 (i) Camping.

- 34 (1) No person shall camp on a game land except on an area posted by the landowner for camping.
- 35 (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources
36 Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at a
37 designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period, unless otherwise specified in rules of

1 this Subchapter. After 14 consecutive days of camping, personal belongings shall be removed from
2 the game land.

- 3 (3) A hunting, fishing, trapping or Game Lands License is required for individuals age 16 or older to
4 camp on game lands in areas posted for camping except when camping within 100 yards of the
5 Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land, within 100
6 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land west of NC-43, and in posted areas along
7 the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.

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

14 (k) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use
15 on game lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (l) of this
16 Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from this restriction but shall
17 comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with
18 Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other all-terrain wheelchairs on areas where foot travel is
19 allowed. Off road vehicles including ATVs, UTVs, and ebikes are not permitted.

20 (l) Disabled Access Program. Disabled individuals who meet the requirements of G.S. 113-296 may obtain a Disabled
21 Access Permit and Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification online at ncwildlife.org. The Disabled Access Permit allows
22 individuals to operate electric wheel chairs, all-terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-
23 maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads
24 otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands
25 whose owners have agreed to that use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated
26 online, at www.ncwildlife.org. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or
27 trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified
28 disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is constantly in
29 visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in lawful activities while assisting
30 a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. A vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to
31 game lands under this provision shall have the Disabled Access Permit available for inspection by wildlife
32 enforcement officers upon request. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions
33 may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on
34 a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land. It is unlawful for
35 anyone other than disabled persons holding a Disabled Access Permit, during waterfowl season, to hunt within 100
36 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

1 The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification allows individuals to apply for available Disabled sportsman permit
2 hunting opportunities as prescribed in G.S. 113-296.

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

7 (n) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting
8 ranges for purposes other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for
9 other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. Other uses, including camping, building fires, operating
10 concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, unless
11 written authorization is obtained from the Commission. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit
12 debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the
13 range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot items made of glass on the
14 grounds of the range. No person may leave a vehicle or other obstruction in a location or position that it will prevent,
15 impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave a vehicle or other
16 object parked in a place on the shooting range other than the place or zone that is designated and posted or marked as
17 an authorized parking zone. No person shall handle firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting range in a careless or
18 reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure
19 while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause rifled or smoothbore
20 projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the
21 range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to a person. Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety
22 rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard shall leave the shooting range
23 if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission employees. No person shall handle firearms on
24 a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic
25 beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours of operation shall be designated on signs and at
26 least one sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using a shooting range, shall do
27 an act that is prohibited or neglect to do an act that is required by signs or markings placed on the area under authority
28 of this Rule for regulating the use of the area.

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

32 (p) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of a bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part
33 thereof, or possess a bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

34 (q) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on a game
35 land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written
36 authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific

1 objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take wild birds or wild animals attracted to
2 these foods.

3
4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*
5 *143-318.10;*
6 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
7 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*
9 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
11 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*
14 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
15 *2003);*
16 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*
17 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*
18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*
19 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017;*
20 *August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
21 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;*
22 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; November 1, 2023.*
23

1 15A NCAC 10F .0347 is amended with changes as published in 39:14 NCR 921-922 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY**

4 ~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply applies to the following waters in Craven County:~~

- 5 (1) ~~the portion of Northwest Creek from the entrance buoys at Northwest Creek Marina north of a line~~
6 ~~from a point on the east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06343~~
7 ~~N, 76.97106 W, to south of a line from a point on the east shore of Northwest Creek at 35.06903 N,~~
8 ~~76.97030 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06779 N, 76.97225 W, northeast to include all waters,~~
9 ~~shore to shore, of the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour otherwise known as Spring Creek;~~
10 (2) ~~Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River west of a point at~~
11 ~~35.08098 N, 77.05833 W;~~
12 (3) ~~the triangular area in the waters at the end of the Matthews Point Marina main pier located at the~~
13 ~~confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of the Neuse River, between a point 300 feet east~~
14 ~~of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W, and a point 300 feet west of the pier at 34.90610 N, 76.76262~~
15 ~~W, and a point 150 feet south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W;~~
16 (4) ~~the waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht Club on the Trent River in~~
17 ~~Trent Woods; and~~
18 (5) ~~the portion of Southwest Prong Slocum Creek in the City of Havelock, shore to shore east of a line~~
19 ~~from a point on the north shore at 34.89122 N, 76.92302 W to a point on the south shore at 34.89102~~
20 ~~N, 76.92304 W and extending northeast, shore to shore to a line from a point on the north shore at~~
21 ~~34.89370 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089 W.~~

22 (a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters in Craven County:

23 (1) New Bern:

- 24 (A) the portion of Northwest Creek from the entrance buoys at Northwest Creek Marina, north
25 of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west
26 shore at 35.06343 N, 76.97106 W, to south of a line from a point on the east shore of
27 Northwest Creek at 35.06903 N, 76.97030 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06779 N,
28 76.97225 W, northeast to include all waters, shore to shore, of the bulkheaded area of
29 Fairfield Harbour otherwise known as Spring Creek;
30 (B) Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River west of a point
31 at 35.08098 N, 77.05833 W;
32 (C) within 50 yards of the Spring Garden Boating Access Area on Neuse River, 585 NW
33 Craven Middle School Road, New Bern;
34 (D) within 50 yards of Cool Springs Boating Access Area on Swift Creek, 1065 Cool Springs
35 Road, New Bern;
36 (E) within 50 yards of Brices Creek Boating Access Area on Brice Creek, 953 Perrytown Road,
37 New Bern; and

1 (F) the portion of Brice Creek beginning 50 yards north of the Brices Creek Bridge shore to
2 shore, south-southwest around Merchant's Grocery, docking facilities, fuel dock, and a
3 public boat ramp, then southeastward, south of the peninsula and sharp curve on the east
4 side of Brice Creek to a line from a point on the west shore at 35.06587 N, 77.07078 W to
5 a point on the east shore at 35.06638 N, 77.06893 W.

6 (2) Havelock:

7 (A) the triangular area in the waters at the end of the Bishops Marina main pier located at the
8 confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of Neuse River, between a point 300 feet
9 east of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W, and a point 300 feet west of the pier at 34.90610
10 N, 76.76262 W, and a point 150 feet south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W;

11 (B) the portion of Southwest Prong Slocum Creek, shore to shore east of a line from a point on
12 the north shore at 34.89122 N 76.92302 W to a point on the south shore at 34.89102 N,
13 76.92304 W and extending northeast, shore to shore to a line from a point on the north
14 shore at 34.89370 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089
15 W;

16 (C) within 50 yards of the Slocum Creek Boating Access Area on Slocum Creek, 99 U.S.
17 Highway 70 W, Havelock; and

18 (D) within 50 yards of the Hancock Creek Boating Access Area on Hancock Creek, 1100
19 Cahoogue Creek Road, Havelock.

20 (3) Trent Woods. The waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht Club on Trent
21 River at 4005 Trent Pines Drive, Trent Woods.

22 (4) Bridgeton. The waters within 50 yards of the Bridgeton Boating Access Area on Neuse River, 880
23 Wildlife Road, Bridgeton.

24 (5) Grifton. The waters within 50 yards of the Maple Cypress Boating Access Area on Neuse River,
25 360 Maple Cypress Road, Grifton.

26 (6) Vanceboro. The waters within 50 yards of the Cow Pen Landing Boating Access Area on Neuse
27 River, 1199 Cow Pen Landing Road, Vanceboro.

28 (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described
29 in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

30 ~~(c) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any~~
31 ~~swimming area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

32 ~~(d) (c) Placement of Markers. Subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army~~
33 ~~Corps of Engineers, the following agencies shall be the designated agencies for placement of markers implementing~~
34 ~~this Rule: [The following agencies shall place or place and maintain are designated for placement or placement and~~
35 ~~maintenance of markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the~~
36 ~~United States Army Corps of Engineers:]~~

- 1 (1) the Board of Commissioners of Craven County shall be the designated agency for placement in
2 regulated areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(1),(2), (3), and (4) of this Rule; Parts [(A)(1)(A),]
3 (a)(1)(A), (B), and (F), and Part (a)(2)(A); and Subparagraph (a)(3);
4 (2) the City of Havelock shall be the designated agency for placement in the regulated area indicated in
5 Subparagraph (a)(5) Part (a)(2)(B) of this Rule. Rule; and
6 (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency for placement
7 and maintenance of markers in the regulated areas in Parts (a)(1)(C), (D), and (E), [(2)(C)] Parts
8 (a)(2)(C) and [(D);] (D), and Subparagraphs (a)(4) [;-(5), and] through (6) of this Rule.
9

10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*
11 *Eff. August 1, 1984;*
12 *Amended Eff. December 1, 1990; October 1, 1989; June 1, 1989;*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1998;*
14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2016; July 1, 1998;*
15 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
16 *6, 2016;*
17 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; October 1, 2018.*

1 15A NCAC 10F .0363 is amended with changes as published in 39:14 NCR 922 as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10F .0363 CASWELL AND PERSON COUNTIES**

4 (a) Regulated Areas. This Rule ~~shall apply~~ applies to the waters of Hyco Lake in Caswell and Person counties.

5 (b) Speed Limit Near Bridges. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any
6 a bridge that crosses the waters of Hyco Lake.

7 (c) Speed Limit in Canals. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any canals on Hyco
8 Lake.

9 (d) ~~Placement of Markers.~~ Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board Boards of Commissioners of Caswell
10 and Person Counties ~~shall be~~ are the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing
11 this Rule.

12

13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

14 *Eff. November 1, 1990;*

15 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
16 *6, 2016;*

17 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; October 1, 2018.*

18