



NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION

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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
C/O Monty R. Crump, Chairman
Wildlife Resources Bldg
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606

5 January, 2023

RE: 2023-2024 Inland Fishing, Hunting, Trapping, and Game Land Regulations

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the National Deer Association (NDA), I am writing to provide our comments in support of several proposed regulation changes recently put forth by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) that impact deer, wildlife habitat and hunting in North Carolina. We are a national non-profit conservation organization with the mission to ensure the future of wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting. We represent 30,000 members nationwide, including hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

We support regulations proposed by the Commission that increase deer hunting opportunities and access to lands open to public hunting. Specifically, we support proposals:

- **H4**, which extends either-sex seasons on private lands in specific counties in the Western and Northwestern Zones and is intended to increase antlerless harvest and help balance buck-to-doe ratios;
- **G5**, which allows hunting on certain holidays when those holidays do not fall on a Sunday and corrects a technical error in a prior regulation;
- **G6**, which defines “either-sex” as antlered or antlerless, better reflecting how harvest is regulated and adding consistency with deer management terminology in the Southeast;
- **G7**, which clarifies the Commission’s ability to establish youth hunt opportunities and in turn increases youth-hunting opportunities; and
- **G9**, which removes the restriction on centerfire rifle hunting in certain counties to better align with Game Lands regulations.

The NDA appreciates the Commission’s thoughtful, science-based proposals that increase deer hunting opportunities and access to lands open to public hunting in North Carolina. We’re encouraged by the Commission’s continued, well-rounded deer and hunter management, and we welcome the proposals to increase opportunity and participation for and by the state’s deer hunters.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

Torin Miller
Senior Director of Policy