Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority: 50-1-200, 50-1-220, 50-11-10, 50-11-96, 50-11-105, 50-11-310, 50-11-335, 50-11-350, 50-11-390, 50-11-520, 50-11-530, 50-11-854, 50-11-2200 and 50-11-2210

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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

CHAPTER 123

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 50-1-200, 50-1-220, 50-11-10, 50-11-96, 50-11-105, 50-11-310, 50-11-335, 50-11-350, 50-11-390, 50-11-520, 50-11-530, 50-11-854, 50-11-2200 and 50-11-2210

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations

123-51. Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons

**Synopsis:**

These regulations amend Chapter 123-40 and 123-51 in order to set seasons, bag limits and methods of hunting and taking of wildlife on existing and additional Wildlife Management Areas.

The Notice of Drafting for this regulation was published on July 24, 2009 in the South Carolina State Register Volume 33, Issue No. 7.

**Instructions:**

Amend Regulations 123-40, and 123-51 to establish changes and include additional WMA’s.

**Text:**

HUNTING IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations.

1.1 The following regulations amend South Carolina Department of Natural Resources regulation Numbers 123-40 and 123-51.

1.2. The regulations governing hunting including prescribed schedules and seasons, methods of hunting and taking wildlife, and bag limits for Wildlife Management Areas and special restrictions for use of WMA lands are as follows:

**(B) Game Zone 2**

**John C. Calhoun, Cokesbury, Clarks Hill, Parsons Mountain, Key Bridge, Forks, Ninety-six,**

**Goldmine, Murray, Enoree, Fairforest, Keowee, Fant’s Grove, Carlisle, Broad River, Dutchman, Wateree and Worth Mountain WMA’s.**

**Keowee WMA**

Archery Hunts Oct. 15 - Dec. 22. Total 3 deer, 2 per day,

For Deer (No dogs) either-sex, not to include

more than 1 buck.

**Fants Grove WMA**

Archery Only Oct. 15 - Dec. 7. Total of 3 deer, 2 per day,

(No dogs) either-sex, not to include

more than 1 buck.

**(C) Crackerneck WMA** **and Ecological Reserve**

Deer

Still Gun Hunts 3rd Fri. in Oct. - Jan. 1 5 deer total, 2 per day, buck

(No buckshot) Fri., Sat. and Thanksgiving only except on either-sex days

Day only, except closed Dec. 25. Fri. and Sat. only from the 1st

Fri. of gun hunts before

Thanksgiving and the 1st Fri.

and Sat. after Thanksgiving

weekend. Total not to include

more than 3 bucks.

Raccoon & Opossum 3rd Sat. night in Oct. - Jan. 1, 3 raccoons per party per

Sat. nights only, except closed night. No limit on Opossums.

Dec. 25; 1st Fri. night in Jan. to

to last Fri. or Sat. night in

Feb., Fri. and Sat. nights only.

Hog Hunts 1st Fri. after Jan. 1 - last Fri. in Feb. No limit.

with dogs Fridays only.

(Pistols only)

Small Game (except 3rd Fri. in Oct. – last Fri. or Sat. Game Zone 3 bag limits.

no open season on bobcats, in Feb. Fri., Sat. and

foxes, otters and fox Thanksgiving Day only, except

squirrels) closed Dec. 25.

**(G) Francis Marion National Forest**

During still gun hunts for deer there shall be no hunting or shooting Total of 8 deer for all gun and

from, on or across any road open to vehicle traffic. No buckshot muzzleloader hunts on the

on still gun hunts. During deer hunts when dogs are used buckshot Francis Marion.

only is permitted. On either-sex deer hunts with dogs, all deer must

be checked in by one hour after legal sunset. On all still gun and

muzzleloader either-sex hunts for all units, all does must be tagged

with an individual antlerless deer tag except when harvested on

county-wide either-sex days. Individual antlerless deer tags are valid

on days not designated as either-sex after Sept. 15 for still hunting only.

Tibwin Special Use Area (in Wambaw) is closed to hunting except for

Special hunts. On youth deer hunts, only youths 17 and younger may

carry a gun and must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older.

**Hellhole WMA**

Deer

Archery Aug. 15 - Sept. 30. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Sept. 15 – 30. Hogs - no limit.

Still Gun Hunts Oct. 1 – Jan. 1 except during 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Scheduled dog drive hunts. Hogs no limit.

Dog Hunts

(Shotguns only, no still

gun hunting) 1st Sat. in Dec. 2 deer per day, buck only.

Hogs no limit.

2nd Fri. in Dec. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Hogs no limit.

Youth only deer hunt Sat. following the two-day Wambaw 2 deer per day, either-sex.

with dogs buck only hunt in Nov. Hogs no limit.

Requirements for youth same as statewide youth deer hunt day.

On the either-sex deer hunt with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in a Hellhole

Check Station.

**Waterhorn WMA**

Deer

Archery Sept. 24 – Oct. 15. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Hogs no limit.

Muzzleloader Open last full week in Oct. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

and lasting for 14 days. Hogs no limit.

Still Gun Hunts 3rd Fri. & Sat. in Aug. 2 deer per day, buck only.

1st & 2nd Fri. & Sat. in Sept. Hogs no limit.

2nd Fri. & Sat. in Nov.

1st full week in Dec. 2 deer per day,

Dec. 26 – Jan. 1. either-sex.

Hogs no limit.

Hog Hunts Every other Sat. in Feb. beginning No limit.

with dogs with the 1st Sat. & including the 2nd

Sat. in Mar.

**Wambaw WMA**

Deer

Still Gun Hunts Aug. 15 - Jan. 1 except during 2 deer per day, buck only,

scheduled dog drive hunts. except either-sex Sept. 15 – Jan. 1. Hogs no limit.

Dog Hunts

(Shotguns only) Fri. in Sept. before the last Sat. 2 deer per day, buck only.

Northampton dog hunt & Wed. Hogs no limit.

Thurs. before the 3rd Sat. in Nov.

& 2nd Sat. in Dec. & 2 hunting days

After Dec. 25.

1st Sat. in Nov. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Hogs no limit.

Youth only deer hunt 4th Sat. in Oct. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

with dogs Hogs no limit.

Requirements for youth same as statewide youth deer hunt day.

On either-sex deer hunts with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at Awendaw

check station on Hwy 17 or Honey Hill Lookout Tower.

Still gun hunts only East of Hwy 17. Rifles allowed.

**Northampton WMA**

Deer

Still Gun Hunts Aug. 15 - Jan. 1 2 deer per day, buck only,

except during scheduled dog except either-sex Sept. 15 –

drive hunts. Jan. 1. Hogs no limit.

Dog Hunts

Shotguns only) Last Sat. in Sept. & Wed. & Thur. 2 deer per day, buck only.

before the 2nd Sat. in Oct. & Fri. Hogs no limit.

before the 4th Sat. in Nov. & 3rd

hunting day after Dec. 25.

3rd Sat. Oct. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Hogs no limit.

Youth only deer hunt Sat. of statewide youth deer hunt 2 deer per day, either-sex.

with dogs day in Jan. Hogs no limit.

Requirements for youth same as statewide youth deer hunt day.

On either-sex deer hunts with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at P&C Grocery

or Anglers in Jamestown.

**Santee WMA**

Deer

Still Gun Hunts Aug. 15 - Jan. 1 2 deer per day, buck only,

except during scheduled dog except either-sex Sept. 15 –

drive hunts. Jan. 1. Hogs no limit.

Dog Drive Hunts

Shotguns only) Last Fri. & Sat. in Aug. & 2 deer per day, buck only.

Wed. & Thur. before the 4th Sat. Hogs no limit.

in Oct. & 1st Fri. in Dec.

Sat. prior to Northampton buck only 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Hunt in Sept. Hogs no limit.

Youth only deer hunt 1st Sat. in Oct. 2 deer per day, either-sex.

with dogs Hogs no limit.

Requirements for youth same as statewide youth deer hunt day.

On either-sex deer hunts with dogs (except youth only hunts) all deer must be checked in at Bonneau Ferry Entrance or M & B Alvin Community Mart.

**(H) Moultrie**

Deer Total of 8 deer per season.

There shall be no hunting or shooting within fifty (50) feet of the center of any road during gun hunts for deer except for SCDNR draw youth hunts.

**(J) Webb WMA**

Deer Hunts No open season except hunters 2 deer, either-sex but only

(No dogs) selected by computer drawing. 1 buck with a minimum 4 points

on one side or a 12-inch

minimum antler spread except

1st firearms draw hunt of each

Season is designated as an

antlerless only hunt and no

antlered bucks may be

harvested.

Hog hunters are required to wear hat, coat or vest of solid international orange color while hunting. Hunters must sign register upon entering and leaving the Webb WMA. No hogs may be taken alive from Webb WMA. Hog hunters are permitted to camp at Bluff Lake on Webb WMA on nights prior to scheduled hog hunts only.

**(O) Lewis Ocean Bay WMA**

Deer Total of 5 deer for all hunts

combined.

Still hunting only, no deer dogs, no buckshot, no hunting or shooting from or on any roads open to vehicular traffic. Hunting from horseback is prohibited. All deer hunters must sign in and sign out daily and record harvest at the kiosk.

**(P) Pee Dee Station Site WMA**

All visitors to Pee Dee Station Site WMA are required to sign in upon entry to the WMA and sign out upon exit from the WMA and provide any additional information requested. Sign in sheets are located at the informational kiosk. Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or scheduled hog hunts. No ATVs allowed.

Deer Total of 3 for all hunt periods

combined.

Still hunting only, no deer dogs, no buckshot, no hunting or shooting from or on any roads open to vehicular traffic. The scouting seasons are 2-day periods on Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding hunt periods.

Archery 1st Mon. - Sat. in Oct. 1 deer per day, either sex.

Archery and 3rd. Mon. - Sat. in Oct. 1 deer per day, either sex.

Muzzleloader 1st. Mon. - Sat. in Nov.

Special Hog Still Mar. 1 - 3rd Sat. in Mar. Hogs only, no limit,

Hunt (no dogs) no bay or catch dogs.

Archery, crossbows and

muzzleloading rifles only.

Raccoon Sept. 15 – Mar. 1 (nights only). 3 per party per night.

**(T) Woodbury WMA**

All visitors to Woodbury WMA are required to sign in upon entry to the WMA and sign out upon exit from the WMA and provide any additional information requested. Sign in sheets are located at the informational kiosk. Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or scheduled hog hunts. No ATVs allowed.

Special Hog Mar. 1 – 3rd Sat. in Mar. Hogs no limit.

Still Hunt (No dogs) May 2 – last Sat. in Aug.(Thur. -

Archery, crossbows, centerfire Sat. only).

rifles, muzzleloading rifles,

centerfire handguns and shotguns

with slugs only.

Special Hog Hunt 2nd Mon. in Jan. - Hogs only, no limit. Limit of 4

With dogs 4th Sat. in Jan. bay or catch dogs per party, all

hogs taken must be killed where taken. Handguns only.

Raccoons Sept. 15 – Mar. 1. 3 per party per night.

Fox Fri. after Thanksgiving – Mar. 1 Game Zone bag limits.

Night only.

**(W) Marsh WMA**

All visitors to Marsh WMA are required to sign in upon entry to the WMA and sign out upon exit from the WMA and provide any additional information requested. Sign in sheets are located at the informational kiosk. Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or scheduled hog hunts. No ATVs allowed.

Special Hog Still Hogs only, no limit,

Hunt (no dogs) Mar. 1st – 3rd Sat. in Mar. no bay or catch dogs.

Archery, crossbows, centerfire May 2nd – last Sat. in Aug., Thurs. -

rifles, muzzleloading rifles, Sat. only.

centerfire handguns and shotguns

with slugs only.

Special Hog Hunt 2nd Mon. in Jan. – 4th Sat. in Jan. Hogs only, no limit. Limit of 4

With Dogs bay or catch dogs per party, no

live hogs removed from WMA.

Handguns only.

Raccoon Sept. 15 – Mar. 1, nights only. 3 per party per night.

Small Game Seasons Thanksgiving - Mar. 1 Game Zone 4 bag limits.

Open only for rabbit, Wed. - Sat. only .

squirrel, opossum, quail, Woodcock – Wed. – Sat. only Woodcock – Fed. limits.

and woodcock only during Federal season.

No open season on fox squirrels.

**(BB) Great Pee Dee River WMA**

All visitors to Great Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve WMA are required to sign in upon entry to the WMA and sign out upon exit from the WMA and provide any additional information requested. Sign in sheets are located at the informational kiosk. Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or scheduled hog hunts. No ATVs allowed.

Deer Hunts Total 3 deer for all hunts.

For big game hunting, access is restricted from two hours before sunrise to two hours after official sunset. Still hunting only, no deer dogs, no buckshot, no hunting from motor vehicles or boats, no hog dogs. Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or special hog hunts. Firearms must be unloaded and cased and not readily accessible when not in legal use.

Special Hog Still 1st Mon. in Feb. – last Sat. in Feb. Hogs only, no limit.

Hunt (no dogs)

Archery, crossbows, centerfire

rifles, muzzleloading rifles,

centerfire handguns and

shotguns with slugs only.

Gray Squirrels Mon. following the last Sat. of Deer Game Zone 5 Bag

Season – last Sat. in Jan. limits.

No open season on fox squirrels.

Raccoon Sept. 15 – Mar. 1, nights only. 3 per party per night.

**(EE) St. Helena Sound Heritage Preserve WMA**

Deer: Hunting by permit only obtained at McKenzie Field Station. Camping by special permit only and on Otter Island only.

**(GG) McBee WMA**

Other Small Game No hunting before Mon. Game Zone 4 limits.

No small game hunting following the 2nd Sat. in

during scheduled deer Jan. or after Mar. 1;

hunting periods. No otherwise Game Zone 4 seasons.

open season for fox

squirrels.

**(JJ) Longleaf Pine WMA**

Deer Total 2 deer for all hunts

combined.

Still hunting only, no deer dogs, no buckshot, no hunting from vehicles or from or on any roads open to vehicular traffic. Individual antlerless deer tags valid on days not designated as either-sex after Sept. 15.

Archery Sept. 1 – 14. 2 deer per day,

buck only.

Archery and Gun Hunts Sept. 15 – the day before 2 deer per day, either-sex.

Thanksgiving Day.

**(UU) Wee Tee WMA**

Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or scheduled hog hunts.

Deer Total 8 deer per season

Archery Sept. 15 - 1 deer per day, either-sex.

1st Sat. in Oct. Hogs no limit.

Archery and Mon. following 1st Sat. in Oct. - 1 deer per day, either-sex.

Muzzle Loader 3rd Sat. in Oct. Hogs no limit.

Still Gun Hunts

No dogs. No buckshot. Mon. following 3rd Sat. in Oct. - 1 deer per day, bucks only

Jan. 1. except either-sex on county-

wide either-sex days.

Hogs no limit.

Still Hog Hunts (no dogs) Mar. 1 – 3rd Sat. in Mar.(Mon.-Sat.) No limit.

Archery, crossbows, May 2 – last Sat. in Aug.

centerfire rifles, muzzleloading Thurs. – Sat. only.

rifles, centerfire handguns and

shotguns with slugs only.

Hog Hunts with Dogs 2nd Mon. in Jan. – 4th Sat. in Jan. No limit.

(Handguns only) Limit of 4 bay or catch dogs

per party, all hogs taken must

must be killed where taken.

Small Game No hunting before Sept. 1 or Game Zone 5 bag limits.

No open season after Mar. 1.

for fox hunting. Dogs allowed during small game

No open season for gun season only.

fox squirrels.

Gray Squirrels only Jan. 2 – last Sat. in Feb.

**(VV) Bonneau Ferry WMA**

Deer Limit 2 deer per day, total 8

deer per season for all hunts, no more

than 2 antlered deer total. Hogs

no limit.

Side B

Archery Sept. 1 – Sept. 14. Buck only.

Sept. 15 – Sept. 20. Either-sex.

2nd Mon. in Nov. until Nov. 30. Either-sex.

Hog hunters are required to wear hat, coat or vest of solid international orange color while hunting. Hunters must sign in and sign out and record harvested hogs at the kiosk at the main entrance. Hunts from legal sunrise to legal sunset. Both Sides (A & B) are open to hog hunting with no youth restrictions.

Special Hog Hunt March 5, 6, 20. Hogs only, no limit. Limit of 4

With dogs May 7, 8. bay or catch dogs per party,

One shotgun per party hogs may not be transported alive.

(buckshot only) and

centerfire handguns

**(YY) Botany Bay Plantation WMA**

All hunters, fishermen, and visitors must obtain and complete a day use pass upon entering the area and follow all instructions on the pass. Botany Bay Plantation WMA is open to public access during daylight hours (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset) except during special hunts and events regulated by DNR. Area is closed to general public access during special scheduled hunts. Hunting in designated areas only. Hunting access by boat is prohibited. Fishing in the Jason’s Lake complex and all other ponds is adult/youth catch and release only on designated days. For adult/youth fishing, youth must be accompanied by no more than two adults 18 years old or older. Adult may also fish.

Deer

Archery 1st Mon. after Sept. 15 until Total 3 deer, either-sex but only

the 1st Sat. in Oct.. 1 buck with a minimum 4 points

Mon. – Sat. during the week of on one side or a 12” minimum

Thanksgiving; Mon. – Sat. during antler spread.

the week of Christmas.

Still Gun Hunts No open season except for hunters Total 3 deer, either-sex but only

(No dogs, no buckshot) selected by computer drawing. 1 buck with a minimum 4 points

on one side or a 12” minimum

antler spread.

Raccoons and Opossum Jan. 2 – Mar. 1 (Wed. & Fri. only). Game Zone 6 bag limits.

**(AAA) Belfast WMA**

All terrain vehicles are prohibited except those permitted by SCDNR for special management activities. Fishing is not allowed except through permitted special events. All hunters must sign in and sign out daily upon leaving Belfast WMA. All harvested deer and turkeys must be checked in at the Belfast Check Station. Belfast WMA is open to public access during daylight hours (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset) except during special hunts and events regulated by DNR. Hunters may not enter the WMA prior to 5:00 AM on designated hunts. Public visitation is not allowed during scheduled deer or turkey hunts. Data cards required for hunter access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving Belfast WMA. Hunters are required to have a data card in possession while on the property during scheduled hunts.

Deer Total 3 deer per hunt period, 2

per day, not to include more

than 1 buck with a minimum of

4 points on one side or a

minimum 12-inch antler

spread.

Archery 1st Mon. – Sat. after Sept. 15. 2 per day, either-sex. No more

than 1 buck with a minimum 4

points on one side or a 12”

minimum antler spread.

Archery & Muzzleloader 1st Sat. in Oct. 2 per day, either-sex. No more

than 1 buck with a minimum 4

points on one side or a 12”

minimum antler spread.

Still Gun Hunts No open season except for hunters 2 per day, either-sex. No more

(No dogs, no buckshot) selected by computer drawing. than 1 buck with a minimum 4

points on one side or a 12”

minimum antler spread.

Small Game Dec. 10 – Mar. 1 Game Zone 2 bag limits.

(No open season for except no small game hunting

fox squirrels, fox or bobcats) during special deer hunts.

10.10 Impoundments on Bear Island, Donnelly, Samworth, Santee Coastal Reserve and Santee Delta WMAs are closed to all public access during the period Nov. 1 - Feb. 8 except during special hunts designated by the Department. All public access during the period Feb. 1 - Oct. 14 is limited to designated areas. On Bear Island WMA, Mathews’ Canal is closed to all hunting from Nov. 1 - Feb. 15 beyond a point 0.8 mile from the confluence of Mathews’ Canal with the South Edisto River.

10.16 Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas include Biedler Impoundment, Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Little Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Lake Cunningham, Russell Creek, Monticello Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, Duncan Creek, Dunaway, Dungannon, Enoree River, Moultrie, Hatchery, Hickory Top, Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir, Lancaster Reservoir, Turtle Island, Little Pee Dee River Complex (including Ervin Dargan, Horace Tilghman), Great Pee Dee River, Potato Creek Hatchery, Sampson Island Unit (Bear Island), Tyger River, Marsh, Wee Tee, Woodbury, Ditch Pond, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve and 40 Acre Rock Waterfowl Management Areas. Hunting on Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas is in accordance with scheduled dates and times.

DESIGNATED WATERFOWL AREAS

Area Open dates inclusiveBag Limits

Dungannon Wed. AM only during Federal Limits

regular season. No hunting

from the boardwalk.

123-51. Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons.

AREA DATES LIMIT Other Restrictions

Belfast WMA April 1 - May 1. 1 Hunting by public draw

only.

Great Pee Dee River WMA April 1 - May 1 . 1 Wed. & Sat. only.

All hunters must sign in

and sign out at kiosk.

Santee Coastal Reserve April 1 - May 1 . 1/hunter Special draw hunts for

youth or mobility

impaired hunters.

Marsh Furniture WMA April 1 - May 1 . 2 Wed. & Sat. only.

All hunters must sign in

and sign out at kiosk.

Woodbury WMA April 1 - May 1 2. Wed. - Sat. only.

All hunters must sign in

and sign out at kiosk.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

This amendment of Regulations 123-40 and 123-51 will result in increased public hunting opportunities which should generate additional State revenue through license sales. In addition, the local economy should benefit from sales of hunting supplies, food and overnight accommodations. Sales taxes on these items will also directly benefit government.

**Statement of Rationale:**

Rationale for the formulation of these regulations is based on over 60 years of experience by SCDNR in establishing public hunting areas. New areas are evaluated on location, size, current wildlife presence, access and recreation use potential. Contractual agreements with the landowners provides guidelines for the use and management of the property. Wildlife Management Area agreements are on file with the Wildlife Management Section of the Department of Natural Resources, Room 267, Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia.