

October 9, 2020

Mr. David Hoyle, Jr.
Chairman
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
1701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Chairman Hoyle,

We, the undersigned organizations, would like to express our gratitude for your leadership implementing the public lands Sunday hunting provision of the Outdoor Heritage Enhanced Act of 2017. We also wish to convey our enthusiastic support for allowing Sunday hunting on the 57 Game Lands identified in the September 2, 2020 Sunday Hunting on Game Lands Stakeholder Update.

We appreciate the comprehensive approach you took gauging public input and applying professional resource knowledge to evaluate and recommend specific Game Lands for seven-day hunting. We believe that the Game Lands recommended for Sunday hunting accurately reflect the priorities of the diverse array of Game Lands users identified through the public input process, and we encourage the Commission to vote in favor of taking the proposal to allow Sunday hunting on the 57 Game Lands to public comment this December.

Further, we applaud the Commission's holistic approach to Sunday hunting on these properties and thank you for recommending a general Sunday hunting allowance rather than permitting partial allowances based on species, methods of take, zones, or other partitions that would be confusing for hunters and nontraditional users alike. We are also thankful that Game Lands from the mountains to the coast are recommended for Sunday hunting so that youth and families across the state have nearby hunting opportunities on both days of the weekend. Additionally, we are grateful that Game Lands on U.S. Forest Service lands are recommended for seven-day hunting as National Forests are particularly important for access because of their acreage and longstanding use by sportsmen and women.

Permitting Sunday hunting on Game Lands will afford hunters that do not have access to private property a place to hunt and provide access parity with other user-groups as hunters are currently the only constituency barred from using Game Lands on Sundays. Opening Sunday hunting on Game Lands will also benefit North Carolina's economy, support conservation funding for the Wildlife Resources Commission, and further hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation efforts.

In addition to being state taxpayers, hunters contribute financially to the acquisition and management costs of Game Lands through the "user-pays, public-benefits" American System of

Conservation Funding by purchasing North Carolina hunting licenses and by paying excise taxes on hunting-related equipment through the Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson Act).

Thank you for considering our comments. If there is an opportunity to speak to the Commission during the October 2020 meeting, we would be more than happy to share our perspective and answer any questions from Commissioners or other meeting participants.

We are excited about the prospect of seven-day hunting on Game Lands in 2021 and look forward to participating in the rulemaking process as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

American Woodcock Society
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Delta Waterfowl
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Council
National Deer Alliance
National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
North Carolina Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
Quality Deer Management Association
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Sportsmen's Alliance