

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
HATCHERY-SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010 7 a.m. Apr. 3, 2010 – June 30, 2010 –All hatchery-supported waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2009 – Apr. 2, 2010 **No fishing allowed –All hatchery-supported waters not listed below	**	None	**
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 –Nantahala River and tributaries (excluding impoundments) upstream of Nantahala Lake –Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area –Power supply lakes and municipal water supply lakes	None	7	None
WILD TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	7 inches	4	Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait.
DELAYED-HARVEST TROUT WATERS			
Oct. 1, 2009 – June 4, 2010 **No trout may be taken or possessed	**	None	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
July 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2009 June 5, 2010 – June 30, 2010 (Note: youth only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 5, 2010)	None	7	None
CATCH-AND-RELEASE ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 **No trout may be taken or possessed	**	None	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
CATCH-AND-RELEASE ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 **No trout may be taken or possessed	**	None	Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 –Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam	Only one fish may be more than 14 inches long	7	None
UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010 7 a.m. Apr. 3, 2010 – June 30, 2010	None	7	None
March 1, 2010 – Apr. 2, 2010 **Fishing allowed, but no trout may be taken or possessed, except in waters listed below	**	None	None
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 –Power supply lakes and municipal water supply lakes	None	7	None

*See page 22 for a definition of artificial lures and natural bait

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

Brook, brown and rainbow trout require cold, clean water and are therefore generally restricted to mountain streams and lakes. Those mountain waters that support trout and are open to public fishing are designated as “Public Mountain Trout Waters” by the Wildlife Resources Commission and are managed for public trout fishing. A significant amount of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed for public access for fishing. Please respect their property. Your cooperation is needed to protect fishing opportunities for future generations. The Commission conspicuously marks Designated Public Mountain Trout

Waters with regulation signs that indicate locations for public access. When anglers encounter “posted against trespass” signs along these designated sections on private lands, they should respect the property owner’s rights and chose another location along that stream to fish. Maps of trout water and their classifications may be viewed at www.ncwildlife.org under the link for *regulations – fishing – mountain trout*.

Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters are classified for management purposes as either “Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters” or “Wild Trout Waters.” Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters must be stocked periodically with trout to sustain angling. Wild Trout

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.

Waters are high-quality waters that sustain trout populations by natural reproduction. Some Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters are specially regulated to meet specific management objectives. These are further classified as follows:

- “Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only,”
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only,”
- “Wild Trout/Natural Bait,”
- “Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters,”
- or “Special Regulation Trout Waters.”
- Some of these public trout waters are also classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and are identified on page 26.

Fishing in Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters

- Fishing is limited to hook and line only.
- An **artificial lure** is defined as a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated with any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- **Natural bait** is defined as any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- It is unlawful to take fish bait or bait fish from designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to possess natural bait while fishing Wild Trout and Catch-and-Release waters, unless those waters are also specifically classified for use of natural bait.
- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to fish with more than one line per person, except on power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs.
- There is no closed season for fishing on power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs designated as trout waters.
- Non-trout species may be harvested from Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters during the catch-and-release only trout season under applicable size and creel limits.
- It is unlawful to place hatchery-reared fish into a Wild Trout Water or move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization.
- Information and regulations about trout fishing on game lands are listed on pages 26–27.

Trout Fishing in Undesignated Waters Some waters that are not Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters (as identified above) contain mountain trout. When fishing in these undesignated waters, the trout fishing regulations are the same as for Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters except that the trout fishing license is not required to fish undesignated waters, and there is no closed season for fishing. However, trout may not be possessed or retained in the creel when fishing undesignated waters during the closed season for Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters There are approximately 1,100 miles of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters in North Carolina. In hatchery-supported waters there is no size limit or bait restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters are marked with green-and-white signs that are posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

The following waters are classified as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters (**streams that are underlined are stocked with catchable-size trout at frequent intervals during the months of March through August**):

Alleghany County

- Little River (Whitehead to McCann Dam)
- Crab Creek
- Brush Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Big Pine Creek

- Laurel Branch
- Glade Creek
- Bledsoe Creek
- Piney Fork
- Meadow Fork
- Pine Swamp Creek
- Prathers Creek
- Cranberry Creek

Ashe County

- North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
- Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to confluence with North Fork New River)
- Buffalo Creek (headwaters to junction of N.C. 194-88 and S.R. 1131)
- Big Laurel Creek
- Three Top Creek (except game land portion)
- Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
- Nathans Creek
- Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- Roan Creek
- Beaver Creek
- Pine Swamp Creek (all forks)
- Old Fields Creek
- Mill Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Avery County

- North Toe River (headwaters to Mitchell Co. line (except where posted against trespassing)
- Squirrel Creek
- Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
- Boyde Coffey Lake
- Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)
- Milltimber Creek

Buncombe County

- Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
- Stony Creek
- Mineral Creek
- Corner Rock Creek
- Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
- Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
- Lake Powhatan

Burke County

- Henry Fork (lower South Mountains State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
- Carroll Creek (game lands above S.R. 1405)
- Linville River (portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, (LGWA), including tributaries, and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek) (Note there is no closed season within LGWA.)

Caldwell County

- Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)
- Thorps Creek (falls to N.C. 90 bridge)
- Boone Fork Pond

Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joe's Creek to McCloud Branch)
 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)

Cherokee County

Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy. (S.R. 1325) bridge to Tennessee line)
 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
 Valley River (headwaters to U.S. 19 business bridge in Murphy)
 Hyatt Creek
 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)

Clay County

Fires Creek (first bridge above the lower game land line on U.S. Forest Service Road 442 to S.R. 1300)
 Tusquitee Creek (headwaters to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)

Graham County

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
 Yellow Creek
 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to mouth, including portions of tributaries on game lands, excluding Johns Branch and Little Santeetlah Creek)
 West Buffalo Creek
 Mountain Creek (game lands boundary to S.R. 1138 bridge)
 Sawyer Creek
 Big Snowbird Creek (old railroad junction to S.R. 1127 bridge including portions of tributaries on game lands)
 Long Creek (portion not on game lands)
 Tulula Creek (headwaters to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
 Franks Creek
 Cheoah Reservoir
 Stecoah Creek
 Panther Creek

Haywood County

Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
 Cold Springs Creek
 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespass)
 West Fork Pigeon River (the triple-arch bridge on N.C. 215 to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)
 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue (U.S. 276) bridge to U.S. 23-74 bridge)

Henderson County

(Rocky) Broad River (1/2 mile north of Bat Cave to Rutherford Co. line)
 Green River—upper (mouth of Joe Creek to mouth of Bobs Creek)
 Green River—lower (Lake Summit Dam to I-26 bridge)
 (Big) Hungry River
 Little Hungry River
 Cane Creek (S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
 Clear Creek (S.R. 1591 bridge at Jack Mountain Lane to **S.R. 1582**)

Jackson County

Tuckasegee River—upper (confluence with West Fork Tuckasegee River to N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field)
 Tuckasegee River—lower (Dillsboro Dam to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
 Scott Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
 Savannah Creek (headwaters to Bradley's packing house on N.C. 116)
 Green's Creek (Green's Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1730 to Savannah Creek)

Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
 Balsam Lake
 Bear Creek Lake
 Wolf Creek Lake
 Tanasee Creek Lake

Macon County

Nantahala River (Nantahala Dam to Whiteoak Creek and Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain County line)
 Queens Creek Lake
 Burningtown Creek
 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672, excluding the game land portions of Buck Creek and Turtle Pond Creek)
 Ellijay Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 Cliffside Lake
 Cartoogechaye Creek (U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)

Madison County

Shut-in Creek
 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to lower U.S. Forest Service boundary line)
 Little Creek
 Meadow Fork Creek (except Little Creek)
 Roaring Fork
 Max Patch Pond
 Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill watershed boundary to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Road] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
 Spillcorn Creek (entire stream, excluding tributaries)
 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
 Mill Creek (headwaters to confluence with Big Creek)
 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
 Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)
 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)

McDowell County

Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler lower line downstream to Greenlee upper line)
 Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

Mitchell County

Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
 East Fork Grassy Creek
 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)

Polk County

North Pacolet River (Pacolet Falls to N.C. 108 bridge)
 Fork Creek (Fork Creek Church on S.R. 1100 to North Pacolet River)
 Big Fall Creek—upper (portion above water supply reservoir)
 Big Fall Creek—lower (portion below water supply reservoir)
 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to **the natural gas pipeline crossing**)

Rutherford County

(Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

Stokes County

Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)

Surry County

Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
 Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to Interstate 77 bridge)
 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)

Swain County

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
 Cheoah Reservoir
 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
 Connelly Creek
 Alarka Creek (game lands boundary to mouth)
 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)

Transylvania County

French Broad River (junction of west and north forks to U.S. 276 bridge)
Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower U.S. Forest Service boundary line)
 Middle Fork French Broad River
 West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 and S.R. 1309 intersection to junction of west and north forks)

Watauga County

North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
 Meat Camp Creek
 Norris Fork Creek
 Howard Creek (downstream from lower falls)
 Middle Fork New River (Lake Chetola dam to South Fork New River)
 Stony Fork (headwaters to Wilkes Co. line)
 Elk Creek (headwaters to gravel pit on S.R. 1508, except where posted against trespassing)
 Beech Creek
 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
 Coffee Lake
 Laurel Creek
 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1233 bridge at Amantha)
 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)

Wilkes County

East Prong Roaring River (lower state park boundary to Brewer's Mill on S.R. 1943)
 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
 Pike Creek Pond
 Bell Branch Pond
 Boundary Line Pond
 Pike Creek
 Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)

Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
 South Fork Reddies River (headwaters to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)
 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)
 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)
 South Prong Lewis Fork (headwaters to Lewis Fork Baptist Church)
 Fall Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Yancey County

Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. recreation park, except where posted against trespassing)

Wild Trout Waters In all Wild Trout Waters, the minimum length limit is seven inches and the creel limit is four trout per day. Only artificial lures with one single hook may be used. All designated trout waters located on game lands are Wild Trout Waters unless classified and posted otherwise. The following streams are also classified as Wild Trout Waters and are marked with blue-and-gold signs, which are posted conspicuously along the watercourses:

Alleghany County

Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
 Stone Mountain Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Avery County

Birchfield Creek
 Cow Camp Creek
 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
 Gragg Prong
 Horse Creek
 Jones Creek
 Kentucky Creek
 North Harper Creek
 Plumtree Creek
 Roaring Creek
 Rockhouse Creek
 South Harper Creek
 Webb Prong

Burke County

All waters located on South Mountains State Park except the main stream of Jacob Fork between the mouth of Shinnery Creek and the lower park boundary and Henry Fork and its tributaries.
 Nettle Branch (game land portion)

Caldwell County

Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including tributaries on game lands)
 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
 Rockhouse Creek

Graham County

Little Buffalo Creek
 South Fork Squally Creek
 Squally Creek

Henderson County

Green River (I-26 bridge to Henderson/Polk Co. line)

Jackson County

Gage Creek
 North Fork Scott Creek

- Tanasee Creek
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake)

Mitchell County

- Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
- Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

Polk County

- Green River (Henderson/Polk Co. line to Fishtop Falls Access Area)

Transylvania County

- All waters located on Gorges State Park
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)

Watauga County

- Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
- Howards Creek (headwaters to lower falls)
- Watauga River (Avery Co. line to steel bridge at Riverside Farm Road)

Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)

Wilkes County

- Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Yancey County

- Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Road to N.C. 197 bridge)
- Lickskillet Creek
- Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

OTHER REGULATED TROUT WATERS

Certain Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters are managed under very restrictive regulations to meet specific management objectives. These waters are marked with signs that are posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lures Only Waters The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures having one single hook, and all fish must be released. No fish may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with purple-and-gold signs.

Ashe County

- Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
- Unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek (game land portion)

Avery County

- Wilson Creek (game land portion)

Buncombe County

- Carter Creek (game land portion)

Burke County

- Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

Jackson County

- Tuckasegee River (above the Clark property)
- Flat Creek

McDowell County

- Newberry Creek (game land portion)

Watauga County

- Dugger Creek (portions on Laurelmore development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at Laurelmore security office

- on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)
- Laurel Creek (portions on Laurelmore development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at Laurelmore security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)

Wilkes County

- Dugger Creek (portions on Laurelmore development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at Laurelmore security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)
- Harris Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Yancey County

- Upper Creek
- Lower Creek

Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Waters The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies having one single hook. No fish may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-and-gold signs.

Avery County

- Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
- Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)

Transylvania County

- Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

Yancey County

- South Toe River (portion from the concrete bridge above Black Mountain Campground downstream to game land boundary, excluding Camp Creek and Big Lost Cove Creek)

Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters The following trout waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures with one single hook. No natural bait may be possessed, and no trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters between Oct. 1, 2009 and 30 minutes after sunset on June 4, 2010. These waters are closed to fishing between 30 minutes after sunset on June 4 and 6 a.m. on June 5. At 6 a.m. on June 5, 2010, these waters open to fishing for youths under 16 years old under Hatchery-Supported regulations—no bait restriction, no minimum length limit and seven-trout-per-day creel limit. At 12 p.m. on June 5, 2010, these waters open for all anglers under Hatchery-Supported regulations. These waters are marked with black-and-white signs.

Ashe County

- Trout Lake
- Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)

Burke County

- Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

Caldwell County

Wilson Creek (Lost Cove Creek to Phillips Branch)

Haywood County

- West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

Henderson County

- North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)

Jackson County

- Tuckasegee River (N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field to the Dillsboro dam)

Macon County

- Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

Madison County

Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)

McDowell County

Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the U.S. Forest Service boundary at Deep Branch)
Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)

Mitchell County

Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to N.C. 80 bridge)
North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)

Polk County

Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)

Surry County

Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)

Transylvania County

East Fork French Broad River (Gladly Fork to French Broad River)
Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

Watauga County

Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)

Wilkes County

East Prong Roaring River (mouth of Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park boundary line)
Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)

Wild Trout: Natural Bait Waters The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished with artificial lures or natural bait, except live fish. Lures and natural baits are restricted to one single hook. The minimum length limit is seven inches, and the daily creel limit is four trout. These streams are marked with brown-and-gold signs.

Cherokee County

Tellico River (Fain Ford to Tennessee state line, excluding tributaries)
Bald Creek (game land portions)
Dockery Creek (game land portions)

Graham County

Deep Creek
Long Creek (game land portion)

Haywood County

Hemphill Creek
Hurricane Creek (including portions of tributaries on game lands)

Jackson County

Buff Creek (uppermost crossing on S.R. 1457 to Scott Creek)
Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
Shoal Creek (Glenville Reservoir pipeline to mouth)
West Fork Tuckasegee River (Shoal Creek to existing water level of Little Glenville Lake)

Macon County

Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
Kimsey Creek
Overflow Creek (game land portion)
Park Creek

Tellico Creek (game land portion)
Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)

Madison County

Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)

Transylvania County

North Fork French Broad River (game land portions downstream of S.R. 1326)
Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)

Special Regulation Trout Waters The following portions of Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, are subject to the following special regulations. These streams are marked with white-and-red signs.

Burke County

Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam). The creel limit is seven trout per day; only one of which may be greater than 14 inches. No bait restrictions. No closed season.

Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Some Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters running through or adjacent to certain cities or towns may be further classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. In lieu of special trout fishing license requirements, resident or non-resident anglers may fish in these waters with a valid Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Three-day license. This license is \$5 for both residents and non-residents and can be purchased online at www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-888-248-6834, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The following waters are classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and listed by county, Mountain Heritage City name and regulation type. The boundaries for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are marked with signs posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

Avery County

Newland
North Toe River (Watauga St. bridge to Roby Shomaker Wetlands and Family Recreation Park) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

Haywood County

Maggie Valley
Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to S.R. 1389 bridge) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]
Waynesville
Richland Creek (Russ Avenue bridge to U.S. 23-74 bridge) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

Mitchell County

Bakersville
Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to Baker Lane bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]
Spruce Pine
North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]

Fishing on Game Lands

- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
 - Restocked ponds when posted against fishing.
 - Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
 - Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
 - Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.
- In all game lands ponds, forked-tail catfish may be taken only

by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is six catfish for all species combined.

- The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots, is prohibited in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow (except crossbows) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally from designated waterfowl impoundments on game lands with hand-held lines with single baits and a collapsible crab trap with a maximum opening of 18 inches. The limit is 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

Trout Fishing on Game Lands

- Fishing hours in any trout waters located on game lands or in any Wild Trout Waters are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except in the Nantahala River downstream from the Swain County line and in the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Land from the mouth of Cove Creek downstream to **the natural gas pipeline crossing**, where night fishing is allowed.

All waters on the game lands listed below are designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:

- Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
- Nantahala National Forest Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake.
- Pisgah National Forest Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, and Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line.
- Dupont State Forest Game Land in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from **100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls** downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake.
- Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
- Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.
- South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
- Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co., except West Fork Pigeon River below Lake Logan.
- **Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural pipeline crossing.**

Blue Ridge Parkway The National Park Service establishes fishing regulations for parkway waters. Several ponds and streams on the Blue Ridge Parkway offer trout, smallmouth bass or bream fishing opportunities. Trout fishing regulations on parkway waters are displayed on signs located near fishing access points. Questions regarding fishing on parkway waters should be directed to the Blue Ridge Parkway using the contact information below.

A valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license is required for all persons age 16 or older fishing on parkway waters. Either state's license is valid on all parkway waters. Special trout licenses are not required.

For specific fishing information in Blue Ridge Parkway waters, contact: Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Telephone: (828) 271-4779, Ext. 245.

DuPont State Forest Night fishing is prohibited from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise in all waters on the DuPont State Forest Game Land.

North Carolina State Parks South Mountains State Park in Burke County, Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes and Alleghany counties and Gorges State Park in Transylvania County offer many miles of trout fishing waters. As established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for other trout streams, a valid trout license and a valid North Carolina inland fishing license are requirements in state park inland streams. A game lands license is not required. A special catch-and-release stream is located in Stone Mountain State Park with additional regulations. The possession of any type of firearms, explosives, bows and arrows, or alcoholic beverages within state parks is unlawful. Park entrance gates are opened and closed daily according to the following schedule:

November, December, January, February	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
March, October	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
April, May, September	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
June, July, August	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the following park offices:

- South Mountains State Park** (828) 433-4772
- Stone Mountain State Park** (336) 957-8185
- Gorges State Park** (828) 966-9099

NONGAME FISH

Any fish not classified as a game fish is considered a nongame fish when found in inland fishing waters and includes shellfish and crustaceans.

Sale of Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish caught on hook and line or by grabbling may be sold without restriction, except as follows:
- When nongame fish are taken for the purpose of sale by means other than hook and line or by grabbling, a special fishing device license is required (see “Special Fishing Devices,” page 29).
- Bowfin taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold.
- Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold, except for those fish less than six inches in length that are taken from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties).

Manner of Taking Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish may be taken by hook and line or by grabbling; no fish may be taken by snagging. Special devices may be used to take nongame fish with proper licenses (see “Collecting Nongame Fish for Bait,” page 28 and “Special Fishing Devices,” page 29).
- Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow in waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with bow and arrow under any license that authorizes basic hunting or inland fishing privileges subject to “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” (see page 32).
- It is unlawful to fish with a crossbow, except for disabled persons possessing a valid crossbow hunting permit.
- For special rules governing trotlines, see “Using Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks” (page 17).