

NC SPORTING DOG ASSOCIATION, INC.

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January 22, 2010

Mr. Gordon Myers
Executive Director
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1701

RE: Opposition of the 2010-2011 Proposed Rules H9 and H11

Dear Mr. Myers:

I am writing on behalf of the NC Sporting Dog Association, Inc. We strongly oppose the proposed H 9 and H11 which would forbid the hunting of deer with dogs on the Embro Gamelands and Brinkleyville Gamelands in Wildlife District #3.

I wish request that these written comments to be added to the oral comments I have made at each of the nine district meetings this month.

The members of the NC Sporting Dog Association cannot and will not accept a ban on hunting deer with dogs on these publicly owned gamelands.

As citizens and taxpayers of North Carolina, our members oppose any rule that will stifle the right to hunt with dogs, particularly on public lands.

Your agency can control dog hunting only on gamelands. We see this attempt to ban deer hunting with dogs as a troubling move, as it shows the ease with which you would be willing to sacrifice dog hunters.

Dog hunters are deeply concerned at the hostility toward dog hunting that is exposed in the documentation we have read, supplied by your department in response to our Freedom of Information Act request. There was little documentation to support the justifications you have published. There are few citations, and even fewer that have anything to do with hunting deer with dogs on the gamelands.

At the end of the day, my impression is that certain law enforcement officers would like to ban dog hunting because it is more trouble than it is worth to them. Our response is that dog hunting is priceless to us.

District #3 is “dog hunting country”. A ban on hunting deer with dogs on these two gamelands would produce many negative effects, including but not limited to the following:

1. Because of the configuration of the gamelands and their proximity to vast lands leased by dog hunters, a ban on hunting with dogs on the gamelands would cripple dog hunting in a much greater area. The vast majority of lands surrounding these gamelands are leased by dog hunting clubs.
2. As you heard from dog hunters and club representatives, there are many hunters who travel to Warren and Hertford counties to hunt with dogs. The ruination of dog hunting in these counties would result in economic loss for these counties.
3. As you heard from many fathers and grandfathers who spoke at the Rocky Mount District #3 Public Meeting on 1/21/10, young people love their dogs and love to go hunting with dogs. These families are passing on a cherished tradition, teaching discipline and wholesome values to their children, and providing the next generation of hunters.
4. A small, elitist group of “still” hunters seeks to disenfranchise the much larger group of dog hunters. Trophy hunters want to rid themselves of the “meat” hunters. Many dog hunters provide food for their families and other people through deer hunting.

Most dog hunters are excellent neighbors. Several landowners testified in Rocky Mount on 1/21/10 that they are neighbors to these gamelands, and have experienced no trouble with dog hunters on the gamelands.

Representatives of the District #3 dog clubs repeatedly spoke about their willingness to solve problems together and to work with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

We respectfully request that the Commission withdraw proposed Rules H9 and H11 and work with the NC Sporting Dog Association and District #3 dog clubs and other hunters to solve any user conflicts.

Thank you for the excellent work you do and all the efforts of the Commission to solicit public comments.

We hope you will respond to the huge opposition to H9 and H11, withdraw these two proposed rules, and find other ways to address any problems in the future.

Best personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,

S. Henri McClees

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Attorney at Law

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