



FACT SHEET

Guidelines for Carrying Firearms in the National Forests of North Carolina

Hunters and gun enthusiasts who visit the Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie, and Croatan National Forests should know and abide by all laws related to the possession of firearms such as handguns, rifles and shotguns.

All gun laws in the State of North Carolina apply to the four national forests in North Carolina. State gun laws are detailed in a document posted online at: <http://www.ncdoj.com/Files/About-DOJ/Law-Enforcement-Liaison/2007-NC-Firearms-gun-Laws.aspx>

Persons may lawfully carry any firearm openly that they are otherwise lawfully entitled to possess, and may also carry a concealed handgun if they possess a current and valid concealed handgun permit issued to them. However, persons may not hunt with any firearm being carried unless such firearm is authorized as a lawful method of take for that open season.

No person shall possess a loaded firearm on any public fishing or boating access area, with the exception of those who carry a concealed handgun with a valid concealed handgun permit, unless otherwise prohibited by the landowner and posted as such. This ruling also applies to wildlife conservation areas.

Concealed Weapons

To possess a concealed handgun in North Carolina, you must:

- Carry your permit and a valid form of identification with you at all times.
- Disclose the fact that you have a valid concealed handgun permit when you are approached or addressed by any law enforcement officer in North Carolina (including any National Forest Service law enforcement officer).

Places Off Limits Even with a Permit/License

- Any federal office building.
- Any school or activity sponsored by a school.
- Assemblies and establishments where admission was charged.
- Assemblies and establishments where alcohol is both sold and consumed.
- Law enforcement or correctional facilities.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Regulations/FireArmsandConcealedCarry.aspx>

Hunting Weapons

Hunters must follow all North Carolina firearms and hunting laws and regulations when hunting in the Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie, and Croatan National Forests.

Any firearm that is legal for a specific hunting season may be carried openly within that season, provided the hunter has the proper license and/or permits required by state law.

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property as follows:

- In or within 150 yards of a residence, dwelling, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area, or;
- Across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge;
- Into or within any cave, mine or open shaft.

A hunter may use a .22 caliber rimfire pistol or a handgun otherwise legal for that hunting season to dispatch a wounded big game animal, including during the archery and muzzleloader seasons. For more information on North Carolina's hunting laws and safety, visit:

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/Hunting/LawsSafety.aspx>

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