Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority: 50-1-200, 50-1-220, 50-3-100, 50-9-740, 50-11-10, 50-11-65, 50-11-120, 50-11-310, 50-11-335, 50-11-350, 50-11-390, 50-11-430, 50-11-500, 50-11-510, 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, 50-3-100, 50-9-740, 50-11-10, 50-11-65, 50-11-120, 50-11-310, 50-11-335, 50-11-350, 50-11-390, 50-11-430, 50-11-500, 50-11-510, 50-11-520, 50-11-530, 50-11-854, 50-11-2200 and 50-11-2210

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations

123-42.1. Regulations Concerning the Hunting of Wild Turkeys in Game Zone Nine (9)

123-47. Designation of Certain Areas and Times of the Year for Wild Turkey Hunting

123-51. Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons

123-52. Either-sex Days for Private Lands in Game Zones 1-6

**Synopsis:**

These regulations amend Chapter 123-40 Wildlife Management Area Regulations 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 26, 2013 in the *South Carolina State Register* Volume 37, Issue No. 7.

**Instructions:**

Amend Regulations 123-40, 123-51, and 123-52, add 123-53, and delete 123-42.1 and 123-47 as follows: Included are specific changes, deletions and additions. Unless specifically listed as a change, all other existing regulations remain intact.

123-40

A. Game Zone 1

1. Other WMAs (d)(ii) – change “7” to “5” and change “gun hunts” to “methods combined”.

2. Glassy Mountain (a)(i) – delete “Oct. 16, Oct. 31”.

B. Game Zone 2

1. Other WMAs (c)(ii) – add “2 per day”; (d)(ii) – change “10” to “5” and change “gun hunts” to “methods combined”.

2. Keowee WMA (e)(ii) – delete “except during special designated hog hunts and during the party dog hunts for bear”.

3. Draper WMA – (a) - (c) – new (adds deer season and limts); current (a) - (c) changed to (d) - (f); (g) – new (adds data card requirement for hunter access).

4. Fants Grove WMA – (f)(ii) - delete “except during special designated hog hunts and during the party dog hunts for bear”.

E. Game Zone 5

3. Longleaf Pine HP WMA – (a) – delete “Total 2 deer for all hunts”.

4. Manchester SF WMA – (k) – adds Still Hog Hunts; (l) – adds Hog Hunts with Dogs.

12. Cartwheel Bay HP WMA – (b)(i) and (ii) – change archery deer hunt seasons; (c)(i) add “or bear”.

13. Lewis Ocean Bay HP WMA – (b)(i) – change Archery deer season to “Sept. 1 – Sept. 14”; (ii) – change “either-sex” to “buck only”; (iii)(iv) - new; and (c)(i) – change Archery and Muzzleloader season to “Oct. 16 – 23, Nov. 6 – 9”.

14. Little Pee Dee Complex WMA – (c)(i) – change season to “Sept. 1 – Sept. 14”; (c)(ii) – change season to “Sept. 15 – Oct. 15; (d)(i) – change season to “Oct. 16 – 23”; (d)(ii) – change season to “Nov. 6 – 9”.

15. Waccamaw River HP WMA - (b)(i) - change Archery deer season to “Sept. 1 – Sept. 14”; (ii) - change “either-sex” to “buck only”; (iii) and (iv) – new; (c)(i) – change season to “Oct 16 – 23, Nov. 6 – 9”.

F. Game Zone 6

1. Francis Marion National Forest – (a) – delete 5th sentence beginning with “On all still gun…”  
and delete 6th sentence beginning with “Individual Antlerless Deer Tags …”.

4. Webb WMA – delete (b)(iv); delete (c); change “(d)” to “(c)”; (i) – change “Mar.” to “May”; (ii) – delete; (v) – delete; (vi) – delete; change “(e),(f) and (g)” to “(d),(e) and (f)”.

13. Palachucola WMA – delete (e) Still Hog Hunts; change “(f)” to “(e)”, (i) - change “Mar.” to “May”; (ii) – delete; change “(iii)” to “(ii)” and “(iv)” to “(iii)”, (v) – delete; change “(g) and (h)” to “(f) and (g)”.

15. Waccamaw River HP WMA – delete Waccamaw River WMA from Game Zone 6. It was moved to Game Zone 5 by statute.

Re-number 16, 17 and 18 to “15, 16, and 17”

18. Hamilton Ridge WMA – re-number to “17”; (d) delete still hog hunts; change “(e)” to “(d)”, (i) - change “Mar.” to “May”; (ii) – delete; change “(iii)” to “(ii)” and “(iv)” to “(iii)”; change “(f) to (e)”; change “(g) to (f)”, add “(iv)”.

Re-number 19, 20 and 21 to “18, 19 and 20”.

3.1 – delete “or” and add “or arrows with exploding tips”

3.3 – add second sentence “Shotguns with only buckshot or slugs are allowed.”

4.2 – (b) add “the last”, delete “beginning 23 days after Thanksgiving day”, “the last day of the open season”, add “Jan. 1”; (c) – add “Game Zone limits apply”; (d) – change “2” to “1”.

10.11 – delete “Hunters may not enter the area prior to 3:00 a.m. on hunt days.”

10.12 – delete “Hunters may not enter Hatchery WMA prior to 3 AM and”, add “On Hatchery WMA, hunters”, delete “ On Hatchery WMA”, add “except on the last Saturday of waterfowl season when hunters may hunt until sunset.”

10.20 – add “Hunters may not enter the areas prior to 5:00 am on hunt days.”

123-42.1 – delete entire section. This regulation was only applicable to Game Zone 9 which no longer exists.

123-47 – delete entire section. This regulation was only applicable to the 1980 turkey season.

123-51

F. Game Zone 6

10. Waccamaw River HP WMA – delete Waccamaw River HP WMA from Game Zone 6 and re-number 11, 12, and 13. Statute moved this property to Game Zone 5.

2.(a) – change “bearded” to “male”; (e) – add new.

123-52

2. – change Game Zone 2 – 6 either-sex days; 3. – change “2” to “1”; 4. – change “2” to “1”;

5. – change “2” to “1” and add sentence beginning “Antlerless deer must …”; add 6. – new.

123-53 – add 123-53(new) the Coastal black bear hunting season.

**Text:**

ARTICLE 3

WILDLIFE AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES DIVISION—HUNTING REGULATIONS

SUBARTICLE 1

HUNTING IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations.

1.1 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:

**A. Game Zone 1**

**1. Other WMAs**

(d) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs).

(ii) Total of 5 deer for all methods combined. 2 deer per day, buck only except either-sex on days specified in Reg. 4.2. Archers allowed to take either-sex during entire period.

**2. Glassy Mountain Archery Only Area – Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve**

(a) Archery Only Hunts for Deer (no dogs).

(i) Oct. 1 – Jan. 1

**B. Game Zone 2**

**1. Other WMAs**

(c) Primitive Weapons for Deer (no dogs).

(ii) Total of 2 deer, 2 per day, for primitive weapons hunt.

(d) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs).

(ii) Total of 5 deer for all methods combined. 2 deer per day, buck only except either-sex on days specified in Reg. 4.2. Archers allowed to take either-sex during entire period.

**2. Keowee WMA**

(e) Hogs and Coyotes

(ii) No hog hunting with dogs.

**3. Draper WMA**

(a) Archery Only Hunts for Deer (no dogs)

(i) Sept. 15 – Sept. 30, Mon. after Thanksgiving – 3rd Sat. after Thanksgiving.

(ii) Total 3 deer for all archery only hunts, 2 per day, either-sex.

(b) Archery and Muzzleloader (no dogs)

(i) Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

(ii) Total of 2 deer

(iii) Muzzleloaders, buck only, except either-sex on days specified in Reg. 4.2. Archery either-sex.

(c) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs)

(i) Oct. 11 – Sat. after Thanksgiving, 3rd Mon. after Thanksgiving – Jan. 1.

(ii) Total of 10 deer for all gun hunts. 2 deer per day, buck only except either-sex on days specified in Reg. 4.2. Archery either-sex during entire period.

(d) Quail Hunts

(i) 1st and 2nd Sat. in Dec., 3rd and 4th Wed. in Dec., 1st and 2nd Wed. and Sat. in Jan.

(ii) 10 quail per day.

(iii) Sunrise until 4:00 PM.

(e) Rabbit Hunts

(i) 1st Wed. after Thanksgiving, Wed. in Dec. prior to the 2nd Sat. in Dec., Wed. and Sat. in Jan. following the last scheduled quail hunt until Mar. 1.

(ii) 3 per day.

(f) Other Small Game

(i) No hunting before Sept. 1 or after Mar.; otherwise Game Zone 2 seasons apply.

(ii) Game Zone 2 bag limit.

(iii) No open season on fox squirrels.

(g) Data cards required for hunter access, except draw dove hunts. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving.

**4. Fants Grove WMA**

(f) Hogs and Coyotes

(ii) No hog hunting with dogs .

**E. Game Zone 5**

**3. Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve WMA**

(a) Still hunting only, no deer dogs, no buckshot, no hunting from motor vehicles. Individual Antlerless Deer Tags valid on days not designated as either-sex after Sept. 15.

**4. Manchester State Forest WMA**

(k) Still Hog Hunts (no dogs)

(i) Archery, crossbows, centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns and shotguns with slugs only.

(ii) 1st two full weeks in Mar.

(iii) No limit.

(l) Hog Hunts with Dogs

(i) Handguns only.

(ii) Last two full weeks in Mar.

(iii) No more than 4 bay or catch dogs per party.

(iv) No live hogs removed from WMA.

(v) No limit.

**12. Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve WMA**

(b) Archery Deer Hunts.

(i) Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

(ii) Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

(c) Small Game (no open season on fox squirrels).

(i) No small game hunting during scheduled deer or bear hunting periods.

**13. Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve WMA**

(b) Archery Deer Hunts

(i) Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

(ii) 1 deer per day, buck only.

(iii) Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

(iv) 1 deer per day, either-sex

(c) Archery and Muzzleloader Deer Hunts

(i) Oct. 16 – 23, Nov. 6 - 9

**14. Little Pee Dee Complex WMA**

(c) Archery Deer Hunts

(i) Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

(ii) Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, Mon. after Dec. 15 – Jan. 1.

(d) Archery and Muzzleloader Deer Hunts

(i) Oct. 16 - 23

(1) 1 deer per day, buck only

(ii) Nov. 6 - 9

(1) 1 deer per day, either-sex

**15. Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve WMA**

(b) Archery Deer Hunts

(i) Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

(ii) 1 deer per day, buck only.

(iii) Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

(iv) 1 deer per day, either-sex

(c) Archery and Muzzleloader Deer Hunts

(i) Oct. 16 – 23, Nov. 6 - 9

**F. Game Zone 6**

**1. Francis Marion National Forest**

(a) During still gun hunts for deer, there shall be no hunting or shooting from, on or across any road open to vehicle traffic. No buckshot on still gun hunts. During deer hunts when dogs are used, buckshot only is permitted. On either-sex hunts with dogs, all deer must be checked in by one hour after legal sunset. 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. Hogs may be harvested during any scheduled hunt. No fox or coyote hunting with dogs on the Francis Marion.

**4. Webb WMA**

(b) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs)

(c) Hog Hunts with Dogs

(i) 1st Thurs. – Sat. in Mar., 2nd Thurs. – Sat. in May, 2nd Thurs. – Sat. in Sept.

(d) Quail Hunts

(e) Other Small Game (no fox squirrels)

(f) Dove Hunting

**13. Palachucola WMA**

(e) Hog Hunts with Dogs

(i) 1st Thurs. – Sat. in Mar., 2nd Thurs. – Sat. in May, 2nd Thurs. – Sat. in Sept.

(ii) No live hogs removed from WMA.

(iii) Handguns only.

(f) Quail Hunts

(g) Other Small Game (no fox squirrels)

**15. Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve WMA**

(a) Archery Deer Hunts

(i) 14 hunting days beginning the last Fri. in Oct.

(ii) 2 deer, either-sex

(b) Archery and Muzzleloader Hunts for Deer

(i) 8 hunting days beginning the 2nd Fri. in Dec.

(ii) 2 deer, buck only except either-sex on Fri. and Sat.

(c) Small Game (no fox squirrels)

(i) No hunting before Sept. 1 or after Mar. 1; otherwise Game Zone 6 seasons apply.

(ii) Game Zone 6 bag limits.

(iii) No small game hunting during scheduled deer hunt periods.

**16. Victoria Bluff Heritage Preserve WMA**

(a) Archery Deer Hunts (no dogs)

(i) Three hunting day periods beginning the 1st Thurs. in Oct., 2nd Thurs. in Oct., the 3rd Thurs. in Oct., the 4th Thurs. in Oct., eight hunting days beginning the 1st Fri. in Nov. and eight hunting days beginning the 2nd Fri. after Thanksgiving.

(ii) 3 deer per hunt period, either-sex

(b) Small Game

(i) No hunting before Oct. 15 or after Feb. 1, otherwise Game Zone 6 seasons.

(ii) Game Zone 6 bag limits.

(iii) No small game hunting during scheduled deer hunt periods.

(iv) Shotguns only, shot no larger than no. 2.

**17. Hamilton Ridge WMA**

(a) Quality Deer Management Area – Antlered deer must have at least 4 points on 1 side or a minimum 12-inch antler spread. A point must be at least 1 inch long measured from the nearest edge of main beam to the top of the point. No more than 3 bucks total may be taken during all seasons combined regardless of method. Firearms must be unloaded and cased when not hunting. Scouting and stand placement allowed 1 day prior to hunts. No buckshot. Hogs may be taken only during deer hunts or scheduled hog hunts. All hogs must be killed where taken. Horseback riding by permit only. No ATVs allowed. Data cards are required for hunter access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA.

(b) Archery Deer Hunts (no dogs)

(i) 3rd Mon. – Sat. in Sept., 4th Mon. – Sat. in Oct., 1st week in Nov., 2nd Mon. – Sat. in Nov., 2nd Thur. – Sat. in Dec.

(ii) 2 deer per hunt period, either-sex, only 1 buck. Hogs no limit.

(c) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs)

(i) No open season except hunters selected by computer drawing.

(ii) 3 deer, either-sex but only 1 buck.

(d) Hog Hunts with Dogs

(i) 1st Thurs. – Sat. in Mar., 2nd Thurs. – Sat. in May, 2nd Thurs. – Sat. in Sept.

(ii) No live hogs removed from WMA.

(iii) Handguns only.(e) Quail Hunts

(i) 2nd and 4th Wed. in Jan., 2nd and 4th Sat. in Jan., 1st and 3rd Sat. in Feb., 1st and 3rd Wed. in Feb.

(ii) Bag limit 8 per day.

(iii) Shooting hours end 30 minutes prior to official sunset.

(f) Other Small Game (no fox squirrels)

(i) No hunting before Dec. 26 or after Mar. 1; otherwise Game Zone 6 seasons apply.

(ii) Game Zone 6 bag limits.

(iii) No hog hunting during small game hunts.

(iv) Dove Hunting on designated public dove field only

**18. Old Island Heritage Preserve WMA**

(a) Archery Deer Hunts (no dogs)

(i) Sept. 15 – Jan. 1.

(ii) Total 2 deer per season, 1 deer per day, either-sex.

**19. Botany Bay Plantation WMA**

(a) 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 ½ 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.

(b) Archery Deer Hunts

(i) 1st Mon. after Sept. 15 until the 1st Sat. in Oct., Mon. – Sat. during the week of Thanksgiving, Mon. – Sat. during the week of Christmas.

(ii) Total of 3 deer, either-sex but only 1 buck with a minimum 4 points on one side or a 12” antler spread.

(c) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs, no buckshot)

(i) No open season except for hunters selected by computer drawing.

(ii) Total 3 deer, either-sex but only 1 buck with a minimum 4 points on one side or a 12” minimum antler spread.

(iii) Draw hunts are for two and one-half days (afternoon on the first day and 2 full days). Hunt periods begin in Sept. and continue into Dec. Hunters are required to have permit in possession and must sign in and sign out (Name, permit # and deer killed each day) at the designated check station. All harvested deer must be checked in at the designated check station.

(d) Raccoon and Opossum

(i) Jan. 2 – Mar. 15 (Wed. – Fri. only)

(ii) Game Zone 6 bag limits

(e) Small Game (no open season for fox squirrels or foxes).

(i) Jan. 2 – Mar. 1 (Wed. and Sat. only)

(ii) Game Zone 6 bag limits except quail 8 per day.

(iii) Dogs allowed during gun seasons only.

**20. Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve WMA**

(a) Still Gun Hunts for Deer (no dogs, no buckshot)

(i) No open season except for hunters selected by drawing.

(ii) Total 2 deer per day, either-sex

(b) Hogs and Coyotes

(i) Feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during any scheduled hunts only with weapons allowed for current open season. No hog hunting with dogs except during special designated hog hunts with dogs. No limit on hogs or coyotes.

WEAPONS

3.1 On WMA lands hunters may use any shotgun, rifle, bow and arrow, crossbow or hand gun except that specific weapons may be prohibited on certain hunts. Small game hunters may possess or use shotguns with shot no larger than No. 2 or .22 rimfire or smaller rifles/handguns or primitive muzzle‑loading rifles of .40 caliber or smaller. Small game hunters may not possess or use buckshot, slugs or shot larger than No. 2. Blow guns, dart guns, drugged arrows, or arrows with exploding tips are not permitted. Small game hunters using archery equipment must use small game tips on the arrows (judo points, bludgeon points, etc.).

3.3 On WMA lands big game hunters are not allowed to use military or hard-jacketed bullets or .22 or smaller rimfire. Shotguns with only buckshot or slugs are allowed. Buckshot is prohibited during still hunts for deer or hogs on the Santee Coastal Reserve, Bucksport, Pee Dee Station Site, Lewis Ocean Bay, Great Pee Dee, Crackerneck, Webb Center, Marsh Furniture, Manchester State Forest, Palachucola, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve, Donnelley, Francis Marion, Moultrie, McBee, Edisto and Bonneau Ferry WMAs.

DEER

4.2 Deer either-sex days for gun hunts are as follows:

(a) Game Zone 1: The first three Sat. in Nov.

(b) Game Zones 2 – 6: Every Sat. from Oct. 1 to the Sat. after Thanksgiving day inclusive; the last Sat. in Dec. and Jan. 1.

(c) In Game Zones 1 and 2 hunters using archery equipment may take either-sex during any open season for deer. Game Zone limits apply.

(d) On special mobility impaired and youth deer hunts sanctioned by the department and during the statewide youth deer hunt day, participants may take antlerless deer, 1 per day.

WATERFOWL & DOVE REGULATIONS

10.11 Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area is closed to hunting access and fishing during the period one week prior to and two weeks after the Federal waterfowl season except for scheduled waterfowl hunts. All hunters must enter and leave the Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area through the designated public landing on secondary road 260 and complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise to legal sunset (including the special youth hunt). No airboats are allowed for hunting or fishing and no hunting from secondary road 260.

10.12 On Hatchery WMA, hunters must leave the area by 1 PM except on the last Saturday of waterfowl season when hunters may hunt until sunset. Each hunter is limited to twenty-five nontoxic shot shells (steel, bismuth/tin, bismuth, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-iron) per hunt and no buckshot allowed. Hunters must enter and leave Hatchery WMA through the Hatchery Landing and accurately complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. No airboats are allowed in the Hatchery WMA for hunting or fishing during the period 15 Nov.-31. Jan. No fishing allowed during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

10.20 On Enoree River, Dunaway, Duncan Creek, Russell Creek and Tyger River Waterfowl Areas data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving each of these areas. Hunters may not enter the areas prior to 5:00 am on hunt days.

SUBARTICLE 3

OTHER BIG GAME

123-51. Turkey Hunting Rules and Seasons.

1. Total limit of 5 turkey statewide per person, 2 per day, gobblers only, unless otherwise specified. Total statewide and county bag limits include turkeys harvested on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). Small unnamed WMAs in counties indicated are open for turkey hunting. Turkey seasons and limits are as follows:

**F. Game Zone 6**

10. Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve WMA

(a) Apr. 1 - May 1

(b) Bag Limit 2

(c) Fri. and Sat. only

11. Victoria Bluff Heritage Preserve WMA

(a) Apr. 1 - May 1

(b) Bag Limit 1

(c) Fri. and Sat. only

12. Botany Bay Plantation WMA

(a) Apr. 1 - May 1

(b) Bag Limit 1

(c) Youth hunting by draw only.

2. The following regulations apply statewide. No turkey hunting permitted on Turkey Restoration Sites which have not been formally opened by the Department.

(a) During the spring turkey hunting season, no game animal may be taken except turkey gobblers ( male birds). During the fall turkey season both gobblers and hens may be taken.

(e) Tags must be placed around the bird’s leg before leaving the point of kill and the tag must be validated as prescribed by the SCDNR.

123-52. Either-sex Days and Antlerless Deer Limits for Private Lands in Game Zones 1-6.

1. Game Zone 1: The first three Sat. in Nov.

2. Game Zones 2 – 6: Every Sat. from Oct. 1 to the Sat. after Thanksgiving Day inclusive; the last Sat. in Dec. ; and Jan. 1.

3. The daily bag limit on either-sex days is 1 antlerless deer.

4. On special mobility impaired and youth deer hunts sanctioned by the Department and during the statewide youth deer hunt day, participants may take antlerless deer, 1 per day.

5. Individual Deer Tags: Individual Antlerless Deer Tags are not valid in Game Zone 1. Tags are valid in Game Zones 3 – 6 beginning Sept. 15 and in Game Zone 2 beginning Oct. 1. Individual tags are not valid on properties enrolled in the Antlerless Deer Quota Program. Tags do not alter the daily ( 1 per day) or seasonal limit or change the type of weapons that can be used during special weapons seasons.

Antlerless deer must be tagged immediately after harvest and before it is moved from the point of kill and the tag must be validated as prescribed by SCDNR.

6. Antlerless Deer Limits: Game Zone 1 – Archery and Muzzleloader period 1 per day, 2 Total (muzzleloader is buck only); Gun Hunt Period – 1 per day, Total 5 all methods combined (firearms is buck only except on either-sex days). Game Zone 2 – Archery Only Period 1 per day, Total 2; Archery and Muzzleloader Period 1 per day, Total 2 (muzzleloader is buck only except on either-sex day); Gun Hunt Period 1 per day, 5 Total all methods combined (Firearms is buck only except on either-sex days or with Individual Tags). Game Zones 3 – 6, 1 per day on either-sex days or with individual tags.

123-53. Bear Hunting Rules and Seasons

1. The open season for taking bear by special draw hunt in Georgetown County, Horry County and Williamsburg County on private and WMA land is October 24 – November 5.

2. Legal weapons include archery equipment, muzzleloaders (.36 caliber or greater), centerfire rifles, centerfire handguns and shotguns with slugs or buckshot.

3. The orange permit must be displayed in a visible location on the dash of the vehicle while the person is actively bear hunting.

4. Harvested bear must be reported to SCDNR by telephone within 12 hours of the kill.

5. All persons drawn for the hunt must submit a harvest report, regardless if a bear was harvested or not, no later than 7 days after the close of the season and return the unused tag.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

The amendment of Regulations 123-40, 123-51, 123-52 and addition of Regulation 123-53 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. The deletion of obsolete regulations 123-42.1 and 123-47 will have no impact.

**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 provide 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.