

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COLLECTING

Research Policy Statement

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation's research program is administered by the Resource Management Program and is open to all qualified persons wishing to conduct scientific research on state park lands. The research program is intended to provide managers with simple descriptive data as well as an understanding of more complex, ecosystem-level processes. These data will be used to make sound decisions on the protection and appropriate use of the state parks system's natural and cultural resources.

In recognition of the scientific value of parks as natural laboratories, investigators are encouraged to use the state parks system for studies when such use is consistent with the division's guiding

legislation and resource management policies. Those directives state that the preservation of significant resources will have priority in the management of park resources, and an emphasis is placed on allowing ecosystems to operate with minimal human interference. The division seeks to maintain all of the components and processes of such ecosystems, and only rarely attempts to preserve single species or individual natural processes.

The program emphasizes the use of scientific research to address park-specific management issues that have been identified in planning documents and through consultations with knowledgeable scientists. The program also emphasizes the development of cooperative relationships with academic institutions as well as with local, state, and federal agencies. The division's research needs, which are diverse and range from species-level projects to ecosystem scale research, fall under the following broad categories:

- Systematic inventory information on each park's natural and cultural resources;
- Rare species management;
- Wildlife management and population ecology;
- Ecological disturbance;
- Monitoring programs for natural and cultural resources.

In addition to these categories, the division has identified other, more park-specific research needs. Information on a particular park's research needs may be obtained by contacting the appropriate park or the Division of Parks and Recreation's Resource Management Program.

Activities Requiring a Research and Collecting Permit

In order to prevent conflicts and to insure that park resources are adequately protected, each research project will be coordinated and regulated through the use of a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit. Permit requests for personal or commercial collecting, or permit requests that do not clearly address a park's research needs will be denied. Activities such as personal bird counts, wildflower

photography, or wildlife observation that occur as part of a typical visit to any state park are encouraged and do not require a permit. A research and collecting permit is required for any project that:

- Requires the collection, removal, or disturbance of plants, animals, soils, rocks, air, or waters of any state park unit;
- Requires the excavation, removal, disturbance, or curation of any historic or prehistoric artifact or other cultural feature; or
- Requires the placement of monitoring equipment in any state park unit.

Research activities that disturb resources or visitors, that require the waiver of any park regulation, or that involve the collection of specimens will be allowed only pursuant to the terms and conditions of the permit. Manipulative or destructive research is generally not permitted. However, exceptions may be granted if the impacts will be short-lived and:

- The park is the only area where such research can be conducted;
- The value of the research is deemed greater than the resource impacts;

or,

- The research is essential to provide information for resource management.
- ~~School field~~trips for purposes of observation, such as plant or bird identification, do not require a permit. However, school classes that visit the park to collect specimens or to conduct experiments, such as water or air quality studies, that are not part of a scheduled park educational program, will be required to obtain a research and collecting permit. Trip leaders should contact the park superintendent well in advance of their trip to determine if a permit will be required.

#### Other Permit Requirements

Certain research projects may require compliance with other environmental and administrative regulations. It is the applicant's responsibility to know if additional permits are required and to contact the appropriate agencies. Regulations that require compliance may include but are not limited to:

- The Endangered Species Act;
- The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA);
- The Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA);
- Appropriate permits from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission;
- Appropriate permits from the US Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Appropriate permits from the NC Dept. of Agriculture's Plant Conservation Program.

Researchers should be aware that the review and approval of these permits can take several months. The Division of Parks and Recreation cannot issue a park research permit until all other required permits have been obtained. Therefore, this should be the last permit that is requested.

### How to Apply for a Scientific Research and Collectine Permit

Park researchers must be affiliated with a professional, scientific, governmental, or educational institution and must provide evidence in their application of their ability to conduct field research. Any person or organization interested in conducting scientific research in any single state park should contact the superintendent of the appropriate park. For research projects involving multiple parks within the same district, contact the appropriate district superintendent. (Addresses are included with the permit). For multi-district or system wide research projects, contact the Superintendent of State Parks at: 12700 Bay Leaf Road Raleigh, NC 27614 (919-846-9991).

### Permit Review and Approval

The primary review and approval of any research permit involving a single park will be the park superintendent. For permits involving multiple parks within the same district, the primary review and approval will come from the district superintendent. For multi-district or system wide permits, the primary review and approval will come from the superintendent of state parks. Primary reviewers may, at their discretion, request review assistance from appropriate division staff or may delegate the review to other staff as needed.

Applications will be evaluated for their ability to address a park's research needs. Proposals that address a park's management goals or that will aid in the development of educational programs are strongly encouraged. Proposals that have minor or short-term impacts, such as inventory work or the collection of common species, may be approved by the park superintendent. The review and approval of such projects generally occur within 7-10 days. Researchers should be aware that complex proposals may be referred to other staff and may require more lengthy review. In order to avoid delays, permit applications should be submitted at least 30 calendar days in advance of the project's anticipated starting date. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

On approval, a permit number will be assigned, and a copy of the permit will be returned to the principal investigator prior to the project's start date. A project coordinator will also be assigned; all future communication should be through the coordinator. Researchers must notify park staff in advance of any research activities, and a copy of the approved permit must be carried at all times during fieldwork. Researchers should be aware that proposals may be amended with conditions specified by park staff. The division reserves the right to limit the time period of any permit, and permits may be revoked if the principal investigator or any research associate fails to comply with its terms or park rules and regulations.

### Reports and Publications

Principal investigators will be responsible for providing the division with two copies of a research report within 60 days of the project's conclusion. An annual report, due on December 31, is required for any project exceeding one year. Reports are to include a statement of the project's goals, methodology, results, and conclusions. Progress reports may also be specified as a condition of the permit. Researchers will also furnish the division with two reprints of any publication resulting from studies conducted on state park property. The reporting requirement may be waived for school or university classes that use a park as an outdoor classroom.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE REVIEW OF  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COLLECTING PERMITS

Park Superintendent

- Reviews all permit applications submitted to the park.
- . If necessary, refers questions to the Resource Management Program prior to approval.
- If necessary, modifies permit to address park regulations or special circumstances.
- . On approval, assigns permit number and staff coordinator.
- . Sends a copy of the approved permit to the Resource Management Program.
- Sends a copy of the approved permit to the principal investigator and maintains permanent records of research conducted in the park.
- Insures that the permit's conditions and reporting requirements are met by the researcher.
- . Coordinates implementation of research results into the park's management plan and, when appropriate, into the park's I&E programs.

District Superintendent

- Reviews all permit applications affecting multiple parks in the district.
- If necessary, refers questions to the Resource Management Program prior to approval.
- . If necessary, modifies permit to address park regulations or special circumstances.
- . On approval, assigns permit number and staff coordinators at the park level.
- Sends a copy of the approved permit to the Resource Management Program.
- Sends a copy of the permit to the principal investigator and park superintendents.

Superintendent of State Parks

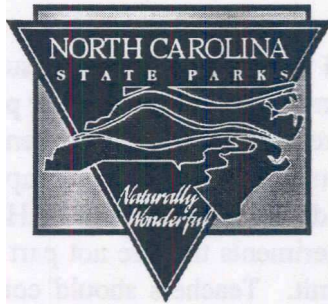
- . Reviews all system wide and multi-district permit applications.
- If necessary, refers questions to the Resource Management Program prior to approval.
- . If necessary, modifies permit to address division regulations or special circumstances.
- On approval, assigns permit number and staff coordinators at the park or district levels.
- Sends a copy of the approved permit to the Resource Management Program.
- . Sends a copy of the permit to the principal investigator and park superintendents.

Resource Management Program

- Provides technical review and advice to all other division reviewers.
- . If necessary, refers questions to the Natural Heritage Program or other appropriate reviewers prior to approval.
- If necessary, modifies permit to address park regulations or special circumstances.
- Reviews results and works with park staff to insure implementation of research results into the park's management plan and, when appropriate, into the park's I&E programs. . Maintains the permanent records for the Division's scientific research program and produces an annual report on scientific research in the state parks system.

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION

APPLICATION FOR A SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH AND COLLECTING PERMIT



For additional information, contact:

NC Division of Parks and Recreation  
Resource Management Program PO  
Box 27687 Raleigh, NC 27611 919-  
733-4181

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Revised: October 1997

### Information for Applicants

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation's research program is intended to provide managers with simple descriptive data, such as species inventories, as well as an understanding of more complex, ecosystem-level processes, such as the role of natural disturbance. These data are used to make scientifically sound decisions on the protection and appropriate use of the state parks system's natural and cultural resources. Researchers must be affiliated with a professional, scientific, governmental, or educational institution.

### Activities Requiring a Research and Collecting Permit

A permit is required for any project involving the collection, removal, or disturbance of any natural or cultural resource of any state park unit or that requires the placement of monitoring equipment in any state park unit.

Activities that occur as part of a typical visit to any state park, such as wildflower photography or wildlife observation, do not require a permit. Permit requests for personal or commercial collecting, or projects that do not address a park's research needs will be denied. Manipulative or destructive research is generally not permitted but may be allowed if a compelling case can be made. School trips for purposes of simple observation do not require a permit. However, classes that visit the park to collect specimens or to conduct experiments that are not part of a scheduled park educational program are required to obtain a permit. Teachers should contact the park superintendent to determine if a permit is needed.

If approved, the permit may be amended with conditions specified by park staff. All questions and notifications regarding the project should be directed to the staff coordinator assigned to your project.

### Other Permit Requirements

Certain research projects may require compliance with other environmental and administrative regulations. The Division of Parks and Recreation will not issue a park research permit until all other required permits have been obtained. Regulations that require compliance may include but are not limited to: the Endangered Species Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). Other agencies that may require permits include

the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NC Dept. of Agriculture's Plant Conservation Program. It is the applicant's responsibility to know if additional permits are required and to contact the appropriate agencies.

### How to Apply for a Scientific Research and Collecting Permit

For projects involving a single state park, contact the superintendent of the appropriate park. For projects involving multiple parks within the same district, contact the appropriate district superintendent. (Addresses are included with the permit). For system wide projects or projects involving parks in multiple districts, contact the Superintendent of State Parks at: 12700 Bay Leaf Road Raleigh, NC 27614 (919-846-9991).

PERMIT NUMBER

DATE ISSUED

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND COLLECTING PERMIT

Please print or type legibly. Incomplete or illegible applications will be returned.

1. Principal Investigator

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Address:

Phone:

e-mail:

2. Project Director or Major Advisor - If

Applicable  
Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Address:

Phone:

e-mail:

3. Park unit(s) where research is to be performed:

4. Research Schedule:

Field work:	Start Date	Ending Date
Total	Start Date	Ending Date
project:		

5. Attach a Detailed Project Description. Include:

1. Resume/vita of the Principal Investigator and Project Director. If not apparent from your resume,  
briefly state your experience and qualifications in the area of proposed research.
2. A project synopsis, including purpose (graduate thesis, independent study, etc.), specific objectives,  
and complete methodology. If applicable, include a species list and the name and address of the proposed curatorial facility. If your project involves ground disturbance, estimate the amount, location, and duration.
3. Clearly marked USGS topographic maps (1:24,000) or park brochure maps showing proposed study areas. USGS maps must show the quad name. For information on USGS maps, contact the NC Geological Survey Sales Office at 919-715-9718.
4. A list of other required permits and proof of possession.

NOTE TO THE APPLICANT:

- The permit holder must notify the park superintendent prior to initiating any research activities. This permit may be used only by the person( s) to whom it is issued.
- Principal investigators will provide the division with two copies of a research report within 60 days of the project's conclusion and two reprints of any publication resulting from studies conducted on state park property. An annual report, due on December 31, is required for any project exceeding one year. Reports are to address the project's goals, methodology, results, and conclusions. Progress reports may also be specified as a condition of the permit. The reporting requirement may be waived for classes that use a park as an outdoor classroom.
- This permit is issued subject to the conditions specified below. The permittee shall and hereby does waive and release any and all claim against the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or its employees, or the State of North Carolina for any and all damages, loss, or cost to person or property arising either directly or indirectly from the use of said premises and/or from the exercise of the privileges granted by this permit.

Signature of Principal Investigator

Date

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

Date Received

Approved by

Staff Coordinator \_

Comments/Conditions



EAST DISTRICT PARKS	SOUTH DISTRICT PARKS
East District Office 345-B Park Entrance Road Seven Springs, NC 28578 919-778-9488	South District Office 12700 Bay Leaf Road Raleigh, NC 27614 919-846-9991
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park 345-A Park Entrance Road Seven Springs, NC 28578 919-778-6234	Carolina Beach State Park and Fort Fisher State Recreation Area PO Box 475 Carolina Beach, NC 28428      910-458-8206
Fort Macon State Park and Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area PO Box 127 Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 919-726-3775	Jones Lake State Park and Bushy Lake State Natural Area 113 Jones Lake Road Elizabethtown, NC 28337 910-588-4550
Goose Creek State Park 2190 Camp Leach Road Washington, NC 27889      919-923-2191	Jordan Lake State Recreation Area 280 State Park Road Apex, NC 27502      919-362-0586
Hammocks Beach State Park 1572 Hammocks Beach Road Swansboro, NC 28584 910-326-4881	Lake Waccamaw State Park 1866 State Park Drive Lake Waccamaw, NC 28540 910-646-4748
Jockey's Ridge State Park and Run Hill State Natural Area PO Box 592 Nags Head, NC 27959      919-441-7132	Lumber River State Park PO Box 10 Orrum, NC 28369 910-628-9844
Merchant's Millpond State Park and Dismal Swamp State Natural Area Route 1, Box 141A Gatesville, NC 27938 919-357-1191	Morrow Mountain State Park and Boone's Cave State Park 49104 Morrow Mountain Road Albemarle, NC 28001 704-982-4402
Pettigrew State Park 2252 Lake Shore Drive Creswell, NC 27928 919-797-4475	Raven Rock State Park Route 3, Box 1005 Lillington, NC 27546 910-893-4888
Waynesborough State Park 801 Highway 117S Goldsboro, NC 27530 919-731-5680	Singletary Lake Group Camp 6707 NC 53 Hwy. E Kelly, NC 28448 910-669-2928
	Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve 400 N. Fort Bragg Road Southern Pines, NC 28387 910-692-2167

NORTH DISTRICT PARKS	WEST DISTRICT PARKS
<p>North District Office 12700 Bay Leaf Road Raleigh, NC 27614 919-846-9991</p>	<p>West District Office c/o Duke Power State Park 159 Inland Sea Lane Troutman, NC 28166 704-528-6514</p>
<p>Eno River State Park 6101 Cole Mill Road Durham, NC 27705 919-383-1686</p>	<p>Crowders Mountain State Park 522 Park Office Lane Kings Mountain, NC 28086 704-853-5375</p>
<p>Falls Lake State Recreation Area 13304 Creedmoor Road Wake Forest, NC 27587 919-676-1027</p>	<p>Duke Power State Park 159 Inland Sea Lane Troutman, NC 28166 704-528-6350</p>
<p>Hanging Rock State Park PO Box 278 Danbury, NC 27016 910-593-8480</p>	<p>Lake James State Park PO Box 340 Nebo, NC 28761 704-652-5047</p>
<p>Kerr Reservoir State Recreation Area 269 Glass House Road Henderson, NC 27536 919-438-7791</p>	<p>New River State Park and Mount Jefferson State Natural Area PO Box 48 Jefferson, NC 28640 910-982-2587</p>
<p>Medoc Mountain State Park PO Box 400 Hollister, NC 27844 919-445-2280</p>	<p>Mount Mitchell State Park Route 5, Box 700 Bumsville, NC 28714 704-675-4611</p>
<p>Pilot Mountain State Park Route 3, Box 21 Pinnacle, NC 27043 910-325-2355</p>	<p>South Mountains State Park 3001 South Mountains State Park Avenue Connelly Springs, NC 28612 704-433-4772</p>
<p>William B. Umstead State Park Route 8, Box 130 Raleigh, NC 27612 919-787-3033</p>	<p>Stone Mountain State Park Star Route 1, Box 17 Roaring Gap, NC 28668 910-957-8185</p>