2018 North Carolina Interagency Report

Litter Cleanup, Education/Prevention and Enforcement

This report provides information for reporting year 2018

February 1, 2019

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Litter Report 2018

This report is prepared pursuant to Session Law 2006-79, Section 15 G.S. 147-12 (b) and provides information describing North Carolina's 2018 litter prevention initiatives.

The state's 2018 litter prevention campaign had three components:

- Litter cleanup
- Education prevention
- Enforcement

Information contained in this report is for calendar year 2018 unless otherwise noted. This interagency report was prepared by NCDOT with multiple agencies providing reporting year information. A list of these agencies and litter report contacts is provided in Appendix A of this report.

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) total state highway system was comprised of approximately 80,000 road miles in 2018.

During 2018 NCDOT spent \$18,170,700 removing litter on state routes. Costs for NCDOT employees, spending on Minimum Custody Road Squads and Adopt-A-Highway costs fell from 2017, while NCDOT Contract Forces costs increased. Funding for Minimum Highway Work Crews and Medium Custody Road Squads was cut off in Fiscal Year 2018.

Per the Appropriations Act of 2017 (SB 257) the Department of Transportation is no longer required to provide funding for DPS Litter Crews and Road Squads.

NCDOT covers much of roadside litter removal through Contract Litter Management. Many contracts are mowing/litter combined.

The Adopt-A-Highway program continued to make a difference as the volunteers reported picking up 950,580 pounds of litter during 2018. There were 304,560 pounds of litter recovered under the Sponsor-A-Highway program and NCDOT Forces picked up 657,255 pounds. Due to a new Litter Management reporting system, effective February, 2018, Other Volunteers had the option to report their cleanings and reported picking up 28,200 pounds in 2018.

Statewide litter prevention continued to be collectively supported by NCDOT, its Litter Management Programs, DPS, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. NCDOT promoted litter prevention by supplying information through North Carolina Welcome Centers, health fairs, local community meetings, the State Fair, as well as providing litter prevention promotional items to numerous local organizations and schools.

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts provides a detailed 2018 recap of statewide littering charges by offense code and by law enforcement agency in this report. There were 3,028 charges and 948 convictions in 2018. As in previous years, the Conference of Chief District Court Judges continued to provide an alternative to first time offenders charged with littering of less than 15 pounds. On execution of written waiver of appearance and trial, and plea of guilty/responsible, an offender may have the court appearance waived. The fine for intentional littering is \$250 plus costs and \$50 plus costs for unintentional littering. This was adopted by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges on October 3, 2018, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-148, and applies to any new offenses on or after December 1, 2018.

1.0 Statewide Roadside Litter Cleanup

1.1 North Carolina Department of Transportation

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is responsible for litter management along State roadways. In 2018, NCDOT maintained its various litter cleanup programs including: Adopt-A-Highway (AAH), Sponsor-A-Highway (SAH), Contract Litter Removal (CLR) contracts, NCDOT Forces litter and bag removal, and bi-annual Litter Sweeps.

Roadside Environmental designated Litter Managers in each of the fourteen (14) divisions to coordinate efforts for litter abatement programs.

In February 2018, a new Litter Management database was launched in order to make reporting litter pickups easier and accessible for all groups.

NCDOT continued to sponsor Litter Sweep (spring and fall), its statewide roadside litter cleanups. Litter Sweep was held the last two weeks of April and September, during which the department provided volunteers with gloves, safety vests, and bags for use in roadside litter removal. The department also provided additional manpower during Litter Sweep for litter cleanup, removal, and immediate disposal of bags filled with trash from NCDOT roadsides.

NCDOT continues to build its relationships with statewide nonprofit organizations to promote litter prevention for safe, environmentally sound, and aesthetic roadways. The nonprofit organizations involved included Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc. (KNCB) and the North Carolina Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association. The department also worked with the volunteers in the AAH program and other citizen volunteers and industries as well as Community Service Work Program (CSWP); State Highway Patrol; and local governments. In addition, the department's private, public, partnership initiative, the SAH Program continued to expand. This program provides a means for businesses, individuals and other organizations to sponsor roadside litter removal.

1.2 NCDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program

NCDOT's Litter Management section (formerly Office of Beautification) continued to administer the Department's AAH program. This statewide program is a mutually beneficial partnership between the department and community volunteers. The volunteers participating in the AAH program include businesses, individuals, schools, civic organizations, and professional, religious, and social groups. Participants agree to support local roadside litter removal by adopting a twomile stretch of roadway and volunteering their time to pick up the litter at least four times a year. The AAH agreement is for a four-year period. In return, the department provides gloves, safety vests, and bags for cleanups and recognizes each group by installing a sign with the group's name at each end of its adopted roadway. Upon reaching 10, 15, 20, 25- and 30-year milestones, recognition awards along with anniversary stars to be placed on their signs, are given to the volunteer groups. In 2018, the AAH Program cost \$456,814.77. Program costs include statewide program administration as well as the costs to the highway divisions for their local AAH program administration, sign installation, bag removal, and provision of safety vests, bags, and gloves. There were 9,781 man-hours charged to this program in 2018, which is down from 10,177 manhours charged in 2017.

The State AAH Coordinator utilized the assistance of Division Litter Managers and various program coordinators and co-coordinators throughout all 14 divisions. The coordinators manage the adoption and signage approval processes and other program administrative responsibilities within their assigned counties.

At the close of 2018, there were 9,144 road miles adopted by 4,572 AAH groups. The volunteer cleanup efforts of the AAH program saved the state's taxpayers millions of dollars. Volunteers reported working 99,891 hours and picked up 950,580 pounds of litter.

1.3 NCDOT Sponsor-A-Highway Program

NCDOT's Sponsor-A-Highway (SAH) Program was initiated in 2011 as a public-private partnership. Beginning as a pilot, it covered 22 counties. In 2015, the program went statewide covering all NC interstate highways. In 2017, the program expanded beyond interstates. The SAH Program provides a means for businesses, individuals and other organizations to participate in beautifying and environmentally enhancing North Carolina Interstate highways while having the advantage of advertising their company name at the same time.

This public private partnership is pursuant to North Carolina Section 3. General Statute 136-28.1 (I). Per the terms of the program, a service provider's responsibilities include marketing, securing sponsors, sign installation and maintenance, and litter removal and disposal using their own crews. The sponsors, who hire the department's approved service providers for highway litter removal, receive a logo acknowledgement panel that's attached to the SAH program sign. The signs are installed at the beginning of each sponsored one-mile segment.

There are two service providers who have contracted with NCDOT. They are Adopt A Highway Maintenance Corporation of Costa Mesa, California, and Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service of America, Inc., of Encinitas, California. Both companies have a long history in the roadside litter removal industry, and use their own staff, cleaning supplies, and vehicles. Their employees are trained to work on interstates and other high traffic volume roadways.

The cost for sponsors participating in the program is negotiated solely between sponsor and service provider. There is no money exchanged between NCDOT and the service providers. At the close of 2018, SAH service providers maintained 363 sponsored one-mile segments, which was an increase from the 281 segments maintained in 2017. Some sponsors have multiple segments. Each segment is cleaned monthly.

1.4 NCDOT Contract Litter Management

In 2018, NCDOT increased the number of on call litter pickup contracts to be more flexible and able to cover more areas. The Department also moved further toward combined litter pickup/mowing contracts. This brought the total contract levels to 29 litter and 56 mowing/litter combined. At the close of 2018 4,387,230 pounds (over 2,193 tons) of litter was collected by these contracts.

Local municipal and county governments increased their awareness of using their own inmates for liter pickup. A few began entering into municipal agreements with the Department for reimbursement. Hopefully the trend will expand in the future.

1.5 NCDPS Road Squads/ Litter Crews

Per the Appropriations Act of 2017 (SB 257) the Department of Transportation was no longer required to provide funding for DPS Litter Crews and Road Squads as of Fiscal Year 2018 (mid 2017). In previous years, NCDOT was mandated to transfer \$9,040,000 to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for costs associated with the Minimum Custody Highway Work Crews and Medium Custody Road Squads. This amount was set in the 2010 Fiscal Year Budget Bill. The Minimum Custody Road Squads are still utilized within DOT crews at the discretion of County Maintenance Engineers; funding to DOC is \$1 per man-day worked.

NCDOT used Minimum Custody Road Squads for a total of 86,343 man-days. The use of these inmates for litter pickup accounted for 1.13% of work performed. The total cost for Minimum Custody Road Squads for 1,024 man-days was \$1,024.00.

1.6 Community Service Work Program – Litter Control Efforts

The Community Service Work Program (CSWP) was established as a grant funded initiative in the early 1980's. During 1983, it was established as a program through the Safe Roads Act. Effective January 2002, CSWP was transferred from the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to the Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections through legislative action.

As of January 1, 2012, CSWP is now a part of the NC Department of Public Safety. CSWP is a separate program from the inmate work crews. Offenders in CSWP are not incarcerated, but are ordered to perform community service work hours, as a condition of either supervised or unsupervised probation, depending upon the criminal offense committed and the offender's history.

Community Corrections judicial services coordinators place offenders at government or non-profit agencies, within the local community, to perform work needed by the agency. During 2018, there were more than 1,900 agencies statewide which participated in the CSWP by contracting as worksites for placement of community service offenders.

Offenders perform a variety of work, including general labor, skilled labor, clerical labor, professional labor and litter removal. The value of the various types of labor is calculated upon the North Carolina Department of Labor categories and relative market value minimum payment rates. Many of these agencies focus on litter control regularly and also participate in the NCDOT Litter Sweeps. Table 1-1 below summarizes CSWP litter pickup results by year.

Year	Pounds Collected	Number of Hours Worked
2018	1,236,516	68,695
2017	1,399,988	77,777
2016	1,534,330	85,241
2015	1,713,949	95,219
2014	1,839,144	102,175

Table 1-1 CSWP Litter Pickup Results by Year

NCDPS prison inmate crews and CSWP litter pickups are performed separately and independently of one another.

1.7 NCDOT Litter Removal Disbursements Summary

Table 1-2 below summarizes NCDOT disbursements for litter removal by year.

NCDOT Disbursement by Year											
Program	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014						
NCDOT Employees	\$3,551,357	\$1,322,487	\$4,065,556	\$5,898,576	\$6,091,996						
ААН	\$456,815	\$504,011	\$405,736	\$305,173	\$251,611						
NCDPS Prison (Medium and Minimum Custody Inmates)	\$1,024	\$4,496,778	\$9,046,871	\$9,045,449	\$9,170,072						
CLR	\$14,161,507	\$12,378,721	\$6,033,687	NA	NA						
Disbursement by year:	\$18,170,703	\$18,701,997	\$19,551,850	\$15,251,032	\$15,513,679						

Table 1-2. NCDOT Disbursements

1.8 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

1.8.1 Division of Parks and Recreation

The Division of Parks and Recreation hosts litter cleanup events and educational programs to demonstrate the importance of litter abatement and recycling. For instance:

• 16 Girl Scouts led a cleanup west of the swim beach along the shoreline of Lake Norman on 10/6/18.

- 135 Youth from the Tarheel Challenge collected litter at Jones Lake State Park. The Tarheel Challenge is an intervention for 16-18-year-old high school dropouts to help them graduate while providing the life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.
- Haw River State Park recycled 330 pounds of used vegetable oil from their kitchen. This used oil can be used as a biodiesel fuel.

The Division of Parks and Recreation reported 850 participants that collected 12,958 pounds associated with these events in 2018.

1.9 Other Statewide Litter Cleanups

1.9.1 Keep NC Beautiful

Keep NC Beautiful, Inc. (KNCB) was established in 1984 within NCDOT's Office of Beautification. Following reassignment to other state agencies, it became a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1986 and earned certification as a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful in 1990. Visit <u>www.kab.org</u> for additional information regarding KAB.

The purpose of KNCB is to serve as a liaison between KAB and the local affiliates to ensure they are meeting "good standing" requirements necessary to maintain certification. This is accomplished through workshops, meetings and general communications addressing the concerns of executive directors. KNCB's long term goal is to have a KAB presence in all 100 counties. This goal serves to ensure state-wide efforts creating a greater awareness of the need and results of those efforts.

KNCB is currently comprised of a network of certified KAB affiliates located in 35 North Carolina counties benefiting greater than 229 communities. Each affiliate is uniquely operated in accordance with the means of their governing body. While most affiliates are housed in a county or city government department (such as solid waste, planning, parks and recreation, community improvement and public health), others are volunteer organizations that may or may not have a paid executive director, but they do maintain an affiliate in good standing status as required by KAB.

Some counties have more than one affiliate within their boundaries, such as Gaston County with three, Guilford County with two and Mecklenburg County with two. The preferred scenario is affiliation at the county level as it encompasses the entire boundaries whereas a city affiliation may be restricted to their jurisdiction.

Adhering to the national KAB proven model of success, KNCB supports the four core focus areas of:

- 1. Litter prevention and cleanups;
- 2. Beautification and community gardens and greening projects;

- 3. Waste reduction, recycling, and reuse; and
- 4. Education.

The strength of KNCB is its ability to organize "boots-on-the-ground" volunteers that provide valuable services that ultimately improve community aesthetics, create safer environments, and positively impacts economic development without relying on tax dollars. This is accomplished by the KAB behavioral change system:

- 1. Get the facts,
- 2. Prioritize the behaviors,
- 3. Develop and implement action plan,
- 4. Evaluate impacts, and
- 5. Provide feedback.

The system is comprised of four behaviors strategies:

- 1. Written expectations (ordinances/policies),
- 2. Infrastructure,
- 3. Persuasion, and
- 4. Rewards and penalties.

1.9.2 KAB Programs Utilized by KNCB Affiliates

The KAB menu of programs is extensive and allows affiliates the opportunity to pick and choose as appropriate for their staffing and funding allocations. Although there are many programs available, their signature programs are:

The Great American Cleanup[™] (*GAC*): 2018 marked the 20th year anniversary of the nation's largest community improvement program, engaging millions of volunteers and participants every year to create positive change and lasting impact in local communities by creating cleaner parks, streetscapes and public spaces through litter removal and elimination. KNCB affiliates 2018 GAC results are listed in Table 1-3.

I Want to be Recycled: a national advertising campaign promoting recycling from the voice of a recyclable item such as a plastic bottle that wants to become a park bench. Affiliates can customize the advertisement to include their logo.

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program: created by KAB in 2002, is the nation's largest program aimed at eliminating cigarette litter.

America Recycles Day: it is the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Each year, on and in the weeks leading into November 15, thousands of communities across the country participate by promoting environmental citizenship and taking action to increase and improve recycling in America.

1.9.3 Other Programs

Other KAB programs include:

Gameday Challenge: a friendly competition for colleges and universities to promote waste reduction at home football games.

National Planting Day: a fall initiative for affiliates and other partners to create beautiful spaces in public places and at home by planting pollinator gardens and native species.

Recycle Mania: a friendly two-month competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs that promotes waste reduction activities with their campus communities.

Education and Behavior Change: the cornerstones of KAB striving to educate and empower generations of community and environmental stewards with curricula and real-world experiences that teach the essentials of proactive community citizenship, including the preservation of our natural resources.

Recycling at Work: a voluntary national effort to increase recycling in the workplace. The program offers businesses a 10-step action plan, discounts on recycling bins, and other valuable tools to start and expand a workplace recycling program.

Recycle-Bowl: a four-week contest held in the fall for in-school recycling competition for K-12 students, teachers, school administrators, school facility managers, parent teacher associations/ organizations and other parent groups, and local recycling advocates.

All KAB programs have been developed, tested, and made available to affiliates in a turnkey format that allows them to customize and market in their local areas. The initial certification and annual maintenance fees (based upon affiliate population) entitles use of these programs.

<u>KNCB Community Improvement Grants</u>: When funds are available via sponsorship, cash grants are awarded in three focus areas: 1) Litter Prevention & Roadside Cleanup; 2) Beautification & Community Greening; and 3) Recycling & Waste Reduction. \$500 Grant categories include KAB Affiliates, School/Youth or Civic Group, Non-profit Organization/government and \$250 for the Individual category.

Priority is given to applications that highlight programs or projects in conjunction with the annual Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup (March 1 - May 31) and America Recycles Day, celebrated in November. Also, of importance are public educational initiatives focusing on enhancing roadside cleanups and beautification efforts and increasing waste reduction and recycling behaviors.

<u>KNCB Unusual Litter Contest</u>: When funds are available via sponsorship, cash prizes for the most unusual litter found along the North Carolina roadsides during the annual NCDOT's Fall

and Spring Litter Sweeps. Cash value is awarded \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place. The contest is completive and rewards groups or individuals for documented cleanups efforts.

1.9.4 Affiliate Growth and Support

KNCB actively pursues all leads for potential candidates for KAB affiliation. A majority of the candidates are housed in city or county government and have exhausted their resources for handling litter on an ongoing basis and will contact KNCB for information on how to develop a comprehensive litter prevention program. Others are grass-roots driven and are successful in getting local community support to achieve affiliation. Often leads are found by disgruntled citizens who want to see something done to eradicate the problem.

During the certification process, KNCB provides direct support to ensure that the candidates meet milestones in order to reach the completion of the requirements by the certification target date. KNCB reaches out to assist affiliate members that are in danger of being de-certified from failure to meet KAB requirements to remain in good standing. KNCB serves as a liaison between KAB and the local affiliates to provide information or guidance on program implementation or reporting requirements.

KAB State Leaders Council

The council is comprised of executive directors of state KAB affiliates. The council meets semiannually and participates in monthly conference calls. The purpose is to provide information and introduce changes in new or established programs that will have an impact on local affiliates. This prepares the executive directors in developing strategies to facilitate and help implement those changes in local communities.

The council also provides a forum for bringing forth issues local affiliates experience in program implementation and allows for reasonable modifications to ensure desired results. This "buffer" stream-lines the process of identifying common shared problems requiring attention.

Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) KAB Council

KNCB is a founding member of the CRA KAB Council and is comprised of both North and South Carolina affiliates and is open to the CRA membership. The council hosts a workshop at the CRA's annual conference to provide training of which six hours is required to be in good standing by KAB. This is an invaluable benefit as some affiliates lack the funds to attend the national KAB conference.

The workshop is allocated two hours and offers topics relevant to current trends and issues effecting affiliate growth and ability to move programs forward. This includes legislative and enforcement updates pertaining to litter related issues.

1.9.5 KNCB Tarp Awareness Program

The Tarp Awareness Program began in 2009, when NCDOT's Office of Beautification had an innovative idea to educating drivers of small pickup trucks and trailers of the danger associated with litter being blown from uncovered or unsecured vehicles.

KNCB entered into a partnership whereas local KAB affiliates received and distributed tarps to individuals using recycling drop-off centers or landfills. Included with the tarps was an educational brochure outlining the importance of properly covering or securing loads which included language addressing litter laws and associated penalties as defined by G.S. 14-399.

Funding for the tarps was provided through NCDOT's Litter Prevention Fund, which helps support statewide anti-litter efforts. The revenue source for this fund was generated by a portion of the sale of "Litter Prevention" specialty license plates. Upon depletion of those funds, KNCB received grants from UPS, the Wal-Mart Foundation, The Duke Foundation and PepsiCo to administer campaigns.

The program is now grant and/or sponsorship dependent. NCDOT remains a valuable partner for the tarp program by providing use of their tarp contract to ensure lowest price per unit and offers shipping to designated affiliates in conjunction with scheduled deliveries to local NCDOT maintenance yards. This allows for the greatest number of tarps per campaign.

1.9.6 KNCB Community Clean-up Efforts

KNCB affiliate members and their volunteers worked in partnership with local businesses, nonprofit and civic groups, government agencies, schools, colleges, and members of the faith communities and others to accomplish a variety of tasks during the 2018 KAB GAC[™], resulting in thousands of saved tax dollars in improved community environments. *Note: The following data reflects only figures addressing work from March 1-May 31, 2018 and does not include efforts performed by other groups or government agencies.*

Of equal importance, the 2018 cleanup efforts were greatly hampered by severe weather conditions that resulted in major flooding and excessive debris that required heavy equipment and professional services for removal prior to community volunteer efforts.

Events/Volunteers/Communities:	
Cleanup, beautification, waste reduction and recycling events	377
Number of volunteers	17,844
Number of participants	2,322
Number of volunteer hours	98,838
Clean-Up:	
Pounds of litter and debris removed	131,416
Number public spaces cleaned and improved	993
Acres parks, playgrounds and trails cleaned and improved	1,942
Miles of rivers, lakes, shores, wetlands and underwater cleanups	184
Miles of streets, roads, and highways cleaned and beautified	385
Beautification and Greening:	
Number new or maintained gardens, greenspaces and gateways	88
Number of trees planted	200
Number of plants, shrubs, flowers and bulbs planted	32,641
Number of graffiti site removed/abated	1
Waste Reduction and Recycling:	
Pounds of litter and debris recycled	11,055
Pounds of singe steam comingled recycled collected	11,635
Pounds of beverage containers collected and recycled	1,204
Pounds of paper and newspapers collected and recycled	37,836
Pounds of electronics collected and recycled	12,010
Pounds of recyclables collected	721
Education:	
Number of educator workshops held	1
Number in attendance	50
Number community workshops held	10
Number attendees at community workshops	10
Number of public and private schools reached	58
Number youth reached and educated via distribution of materials	20,000
In-Kind Donations *	
Donations in support of pre-post events	\$13,798
Private/non-government cash contributions:	\$5,169
Media coverage value	\$15,900
Private foundation grants, state/federal special project grants:	\$3,500

Table 1-3. KNCB Community Clean-up Efforts

*Donated items include: Trash bags, gloves, litter grabbers, shovels, rakes, mulch, gaylord containers, trash bins, canoes, kayaks, pontoon boats, beverages, food and t-shirts.

2.0 Anti-Litter Education/Prevention

2.1 North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

2.1.1 Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

The Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS) conducts three separate campaigns to reinforce recycling behavior and to encourage North Carolinians to properly manage their discarded materials at home, work, school, and on-the-go. These programs are described briefly below:

Recycle Guys

The Recycle Guys campaign is intended to reach elementary and middle school children with videos, activity books, stickers, pencils, temporary tattoos and other promotional materials to encourage recycling behavior. Of the most commonly used Recycle Guys videos, one specifically addressing litter (developed through a partnership with NCDOT) is consistently among the highest accessed links on the www.recycleguys.org website.

RE3.org

The RE3.org campaign is aimed at a young adult audience, from high school through late 20s, also using videos but more focused on use of social media. The campaign makes use of commercials or short films submitted by students and amateur film producers and a number of these video pieces include anti-littering themes.

Recycle More NC



Recycle More NC is a campaign designed to engage the 30-55 demographic on recycling issues. The intent is to encourage broader participation in existing recycling programs but also to create a recycling ethic everywhere people go by fostering the development and promotion of "Away From Home" recycling.

The following provides a general description of the activities of DEACS three outreach programs in 2018:

- Continued usage of social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr for the campaigns.
- Coordination with Department of Environmental Quality communications team to promote messaging about proper recycling and litter reduction on NCDEQ Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Promotion around national events such as Earth Day and America Recycles Day (ARD).

- Production of promotion materials distributed directly to the public or through local government recycling programs. DEACS also distributes NCDOT anti-litter stickers and posters.
- Training of recycling and solid waste staff, teachers, and environmental educators on recycling and outreach methods.
- Encouragement of Away-From-Home recycling best practices that include proper trash and recycling bin selection and siting to reduce contamination and litter issues.

Specific Focus on Recycling Education in 2018

During 2018 the NC DEACS Recycling Office provided graphic support and technical assistance to promote proper recycling with a specific focus on materials that do not belong in the recycling bin. This was accomplished through the following efforts:

- DEACS continued to work with the N.C. Coastal WRAP Campaign. In an effort to help make plastic bags and film a more commonly recycled material in coastal communities, the Coastal WRAP Campaign was launched in July 2017. This campaign focused on preventing plastic bags from the being improperly directed into the curbside and public drop-off recycling stream and returning them to retail for recycling. A second objective of this effort aimed to prevent plastic bags and film from being released into the environment.
- DEACS provides graphic design support for Local Governments seeking to educate their citizens about proper management of plastic bags, which incorporate the "no plastic bags in recycling" and "return to retail" message.
- DEACS developed outreach materials about other items that are considered contaminants in the recycling process and should not be placed in recycling bins. Outreach focuses on plastic bags and 5 other common problematic materials: scrap metal; textiles; cords, hoses and strings that could tangle equipment; food waste; and hazardous or medical waste. Messaging includes instruction on proper disposal methods to discourage releases into the environment. DEACS offers posters, signs and a social media toolkit which are all available for any North Carolina government, agency, business or resident to use.

Other Participation from DEACS on Littering Issues in 2018:

- DEACS collaborates with the NC Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association (NC SWEOA) to encourage proper materials management and expand recycling programs and community efforts to reduce illegal dumping.
- DEACS functions as the Department of Environmental Quality's customer service center and handled numerous inquiries in 2018 on littering and illegal dumping issues.

 DEACS also oversees the state of North Carolina's recycling efforts, which includes technical assistance to local government recycling programs across the state. Through regular communication in email newsletters, workshops, conference sessions, and other settings, DEACS staff provided information to communities about littering issues, opportunities for anti-litter initiatives (such as the tarp program) and the management of illegal dumping.

2.2 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The Division of Engineering/Lands Management and Water Access Section combined efforts in litter cleanup. Approximately 425 man-hours were spent performing litter removal for the past year. With 41 boating access areas, 196 public fishing access areas and over 500,000 acres of game land areas; NCWRC has installed signage for these areas that deal with littering and how it impacts the environment. NCWRC continues to have kiosks at game lands entrances with littering signs attached.

2.3 NCDOT – Litter Management Programs

In 2018, NCDOT's Litter Management Programs promoted litter prevention awareness through its website. Each year, Keep Gastonia Beautiful Inc., of Gastonia provides access to their Beautification and Environmental Education Programs. Their entire curriculum is posted on a website which allows an easy download for classroom usage. The link is carried on NCDOT's Litter Management website.

Other items available through NCDOT's Litter Management website include previous Litter Reports, the litter law, Swat-A-Litterbug, and AAH and SAH Program information, Litter Sweep and its forms including cleanup safety videos, printable activity pages - *Litter Activity Book* with litter prevention lessons and activities for students through third grade. There are also a variety of links to sites supporting litter prevention.

Through cooperation with Office of Communications and the Litter Management section new Litter League characters were created. Ava and Oliver encourage actions to create a healthy, clean environment. Our new Litter Bug, Lenny, replaced the previous SWAT-A-Litterbug character. These characters are displayed on Bookmarks and activity/color sheets. New wooden rulers are now available with the message "Measure Up! Don't Litter" or "Clean Water Rules" along with the Stormwater logo.

NCDOT's Litter Management Programs also distributed thousands of car litter bags and other litter prevention handouts, fliers and brochures through visitor and welcome centers, the State Fair, Earth Day events and upon request to numerous groups. The car litter bag's graphics promote the message that littering is illegal.

Adopt-A-Highway Program: The AAH program began its 30th year of operation in 2018. Each year the AAH groups are recognized for their consecutive years of service beginning with

10-years and at years 15, 20, 25 and 30. In 2018, more than 350 AAH groups received awards for their years of volunteer service to the program.

State Fair Booth: In 2018, NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit's State Fair booth offered teacher materials. This was its 15th year that a teacher materials window was available for teachers to request litter prevention items to assist within their classroom curriculum. Items offered included the litter prevention activity pages, stormwater activity pages, stormwater fact sheets, Swat-A-Litterbug cards, stickers, pencils and temporary tattoos, litter law fliers, car litter bags, and Do Not Litter bumper stickers. The car litter bags had "Stop the Littering" printed on one side along with the message "it could cost you...up to a \$2,000 fine, community service work and a point on one's driver license". There were enough materials provided to supply more than 6,000 students in grades K-12. During the past 15 years, more than 149,500 students have received these materials.

Other Litter Prevention Initiatives, Meetings, and Presentations: The Litter Management Office continued to promote the NCDOT trash bags. The bags are orange on the outside and reversible to blue on the inside for items to be recycled. The bag also has a draw string for safe and easy closure. The bags display the NCDOT logo and a Do Not Litter message. These bags are available at NCDOT maintenance yards for Litter Sweep volunteers and are available for division AAH coordinators to order as needed.

Litter Management Programs participated in various community and civic organization presentations that encouraged the audience to adopt a highway. The FlashCam agreement with the Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association continued in 2018. The FlashCam camera worked successfully in keeping illegal dumping from occurring in the selected surveillance locations in various counties.

Swat-A-Litterbug Program: This program is administered by the Litter Management office in conjunction with the State Highway Patrol and is intended to educate motorists that littering is illegal. Motorists observed littering can be reported through the mail, by calling the NCDOT Customer Service Office at 1-877-DOT-4YOU or using the Litter Management website within the Swat-A-Litterbug link. Reports include information regarding the offender's vehicle license plate number, time of observance, date, street, city, county and a description of the littering offense observed. There were more than 15,000 Swat-A-Litterbug report cards printed for distribution in 2018. These cards included the new SWAT-A-Litterbug logo which was created in 2018.

When reports are received, a letter, signed by the Colonel of the State Highway Patrol, is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle reported. The recipient is informed of the littering offense observed, that littering is illegal and that it's a fineable offense upon conviction. There are no citations or warnings issued from these reports. The program is totally anonymous, and no record is kept regarding who submits a report or receives a letter. The materials used in the mailings cost approximately \$4,000 in 2018. There were 8,610 Swat-A-Litterbug letters mailed in 2018.

Litter License Plate: The NC General Assembly approved the "Litter Prevention" specialty license plate in 2001. Ten dollars of each plate renewed is diverted to the "Litter Prevention Fund" on a quarterly basis. The money is used to help support statewide anti-litter efforts.

2.4 NCDOT – Litter Related Signage

NCDOT has "Keep NC Clean & Green" litter prevention signs posted along state roadways and at various Rest Areas and Welcome Centers. In addition to the "Keep NC Clean & Green" signs, there are "Littering Is Illegal" signs posted across the state.

3.0 Litter Law Enforcement

3.1 North Carolina Department of Public Safety

In 2018, the State Highway Patrol issued 662 citations for littering [G.S. 14-399 and local ordinances) and 611 citations for failing to properly secure a load (G.S. 20-116(g)), for a total of 1,273 citations. The State Highway Patrol also partnered with NCDOT by participating in the NCDOT Spring and Fall Litter Sweeps and focused on citing motorists that either littered or failed to properly secure and/or cover their loads. Troopers issued 41 litter and 80 load securement citations during the Spring and Fall 2018 Litter Sweeps. State Highway Patrol citations for past years are shown in the tables below.

Year	Number of Litter Charges
2018	662
2017	541
2016	740
2015	790
2014	831

 Table 3-1. State Highway Patrol Recap of Litter Charges

Year	Number of Charges
2018	611
2017	673
2016	735
2015	710
2014	538

3.2 NCDEQ, Division of Parks and Recreation

NCDEQ, Division of Parks and Recreation sponsored educational programs and community events that serve as a proactive approach to litter prevention and law enforcement. In addition to these educational measures, state park rangers issued 23 littering citations in 2018.

3.3 NCDEQ, Division of Marine Fisheries – Marine Patrol

NCDEQ, Division of Marine Fisheries, North Carolina Marine Patrol concentrates its litter enforcement on the coastal waters. In 2018, Marine Patrol officers issued 3 citations and zero warnings for littering violations. Marine Patrol officers attributed 240 hours to this effort. In 2017, Marine Patrol officers issued seven citations and six warnings for a total of thirteen littering cases, expending 176 hours.

The NC Marine Patrol concentrated its litter enforcement on the coastal waters and had a decrease in littering violations again this past year. The Marine Patrol's efforts have been concentrated on the gill net fishery and protecting endangered sea turtles.

Year	Littering Citations	Littering Warnings	Time Spent
2018	3	0	240 hours
2017	7	6	176 hours
2016	11	3	208.5 hours
2015	6	3	192 hours

Table 3-3. Marine Patrol Citation Recap

3.4 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

3.4.1 2018 Littering Report for NC Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Officers are always on the lookout for littering violations and often set up special details to target littering violations in problem areas along waterways, boating access areas and game lands. In 2018, Wildlife Enforcement Officers issued the following number of littering citations:

Littering under G.S. 14-399: 32 citations issued for a total of \$7,025.00 dollars in fines and \$5,598.00 in court costs.

<u>Littering Waters of This State under G.S. 75A-10</u>: 0 citations issued for a total of \$0 in fines and \$0 in court costs.

<u>Littering on Boating Access Areas under 15A NCAC 10E .0104</u>: 1 citation issued for a total of \$100.00 in fines and \$180.00 in court costs.

Littering on Game Lands under 15A NCAC 10D .0102(b): 1 citation issued for a total of \$100.00 in fines and \$180.00 in court costs.

Engineering Services/Lands Management and Water Access Section combined efforts in litter cleanup. Approximately 425 man-hours were spent performing litter removal in 2018. Maintaining approximately 41 boating access areas, 196 public fishing access areas and over 500,000 acres of game land areas, the NCWRC has installed signage for these areas that deal with littering and how it impacts the environment. The NCWRC continues to have kiosks at game lands entrances with littering signs attached.

3.5 North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) provides a 2018 recap of statewide littering charges by offense code and by law enforcement agency. There were 3,328 charges and 948 convictions in 2018. Littering charges and convictions are also shown by offense code and by each county in a detailed table at the end of this section.

As in previous years, the Conference of Chief District Court Judges continued to provide an alternative to first time offenders charged with littering of less than 15 pounds. On execution of written waiver of appearance and trial, and plea of guilty/responsible, an offender may have the court appearance waived. The fine for intentional littering is \$250 plus costs and \$50 plus costs for unintentional littering. This was adopted by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges on October 3, 2018, pursuant to NC G.S. 7A-148, and applies to any new offenses on or after December 1, 2018.

Calendar year 2018 data on charges and convictions, including the number of charges disposed and the manner of disposition are tracked for the eleven offenses listed in Table 3-4. Table 3-5

shows the following data provided from the NCAOC's Automated Criminal/Infraction System for 2018. The number of charges, convictions, and dispositions represents totals from district and superior court. Some of the defendants have other charges in addition to a littering offense. It is possible for a defendant to be charged in one calendar year and convicted in the next. Thus, for any given calendar year, the defendants convicted are not necessarily the same defendants charged in that year.

Offense Code	Description	Reference
4425	Improper Loading/Covering of Vehicle	§ 20-116(g)
5370	Commercial Littering	§ 14-399(e)
5371	Littering Hazardous Waste	§ 14-399(e)
5372	Littering not more than 15 pounds	§ 14-399(c)
5373	Littering more than 15 but less than 500 pounds	§ 14-399(d)
5374	Littering more than 500 pounds	§ 14-399(e)
5375	Unintentional Littering not more than 15 Pounds	§ 14-399(c1)
5376	Unintentional Littering more than 15 but less than 500 Pounds	§ 14-399(d1)
5377	Unintentional Littering more than 500 Pounds	§ 14-399(e1)
5378	Second or subsequent offense of littering not more than 15 lbs	§ 14-399(c)
5379	Second or subsequent offense of unintentional littering not more than 15 pounds	§ 14-399(c1)
6248	Litter Gameland/Access Area	§ 113-264(a)
8514	Littering Beer/Wine Container	local ordinance

Table 3-4. List of Offenses

Table 3-5. Statewide Littering Charges and Convictions

Calendar Year 2018

The following data are from the NCAOC's Automated Criminal/Infraction System for calendar year 2018. The number of charges, convictions, and dispositions represents totals from district and superior court. Some of the defendants have other charges in addition to a littering offense. It is possible for a defendant to be charged in one calendar year and convicted in the next. Thus, for any given calendar year, the defendants convicted are not necessarily the same defendants charged in that year.

		CHARGES BY CHARGING AGENCY								Ν	METHOD OF DISPOSITION					
Offense Code	Charges	Convictions	ABC	ALE	DMV	Police	Sheriff	SHP	WRC	Other	Charges Disposed	Guilty Plea	Trial: Guilty	Trial: Not Guilty	Dismiss	Other
4425	978	327	0	0	1	246	25	704	0	2	1035	47	0	1	678	309
5370	15	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	1	15	2	0	0	13	0
5371	6	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	1
5372	1654	480	20	25	0	639	201	450	225	94	1838	255	12	8	1279	284
5373	96	25	0	0	0	46	23	5	8	14	104	19	3	3	75	4
5374	26	1	0	0	0	16	6	0	1	3	34	3	0	0	27	4
5375	104	67	1	0	0	28	12	50	6	7	130	11	0	0	74	45
5376	7	1	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	2	0
5377	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
5378	15	0	0	0	0	7	0	4	2	2	6	0	0	0	5	1
5379	7	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
6248	39	32	0	0	0	0	1	0	37	1	48	16	0	0	15	17
8514	80	13	0	0	0	49	2	28	0	1	88	13	0	0	75	0
TOTAL	3028	948	21	25	1	1043	286	1247	279	126	3308	369	15	12	2247	665

	Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2018													
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	5378	5379	6248	8514
Statewide	3028 948	978 327	15 0	6 1	1654 480	96 25	26 1	104 67	7	1 0	15 0	7	39 32	80 13
Alamance	36 12	12 3	0	0	21 7	0	2 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alexander	7	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0
Alleghany	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anson	13 2	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 0	0
Ashe	6	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avery	3	0	0	0	1 2	0	0	2 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beaufort		5	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bertie	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bladen	22 10	1	0	0	16 5	2 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 3	0
Brunswick	42 13	20 6	0	0	17 6	4	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buncombe	79 26	30 14	0	0	41 9	1 0	0	2	1 0	0	0	0	1	3 0
Burke	55 15	15 5	0	0	35 5	1 0	2	1	0	0	1 0	0	0	0
Cabarrus	48	7	0	0	39 13	1 0	0	1	0	0	0	0	 0 0	0
Caldwell	40	3 0	0	0	33 11	1 0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1 0	0
Camden	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carteret	 39 14	12 4	0	0	13 6	1 0	1 0	53	2 1	0	1 0	1	0	3 0
Caswell	6 0	1	0	0	5 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catawba	18 12	5	0	0	8	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	1 0
Chatham	37 12	7	0	0	28 11	2 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherokee	11 1	4	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chowan	4	2 1	0	0	2 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay	4 1 0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	28	0	0	0	0 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	11	5	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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		Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2018												
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	5378	5379	6248	8514
Hyde	3 4	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iredell	50 24	22 11	0	0	24 10	2 0	0	1 3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Jackson	11 3	4	0	0	6 2	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnston	51 15	21 7	0	0	26 7	1 0	0	2 0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jones	8	2	0	0	5 3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lee	8	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lenoir	25 7	6 0	0	0	16 7	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	2 0
Lincoln	31 15	15 5	0	0	13 7	0	0	23	0	0	0	1 0	0	0
Macon	31 6	6 5	0	0	24 1	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	7 6	1 2	0	0	3	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Martin	16 5	4	0	0	7	2	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	2	0
McDowell	20 13	2 0	0	0	16 10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mecklenburg	182 36	85 27	0	0	79 2	3 0	0	8 7	1	0	1	0	0	5 0
Mitchell	3	2 0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	14 10	3	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Moore	22 5	7	0	0	10 2	0	1 0	0	0	0	1 0	1	1	1 0
Nash	34 6	11 4	0	0	20 2	0	2 0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Hanover	116 25	51 15	0	0	51 9	1 0	2 0	6 1	1 0	0	2 0	0	0	2
Northampton	1 0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Onslow	49 12	21 4	1	0	22 7	2 0	1 0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Orange	43 4	10 1	0	0	27 3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pamlico	3	1	0	2 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pasquotank	 12 1	1 0	0	0	9 1	1 0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pender	28 12	10 2	1 0	0	11 5	1 2	1 0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

	-	Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2018												
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	5378	5379	6248	8514
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Perquimans	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Person	13	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
1 013011	5	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pitt	38	11	0	0	23	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	13	5	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polk	14	1	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Randolph	33	10	0	0	20	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	7	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richmond	23	6	0	0	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	9	3	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robeson	73	13	0	0	47	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
	21	4	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockingham	26	11	0	0	11	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rowan	56 23	7	0	0	39	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	0
	23	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Rutherford	14 7	4	0	0	10 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sampson	35 12	12 5	0	0	16 4	3	0	3 0	0	0	0	0	0	1 0
Scotland	13 0	2	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 0
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Stanly	16 4	6 3	0	0	7	1 0	0	0	1 0	0	0	0	0	1
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Stokes	21 7	5 0	1	0	12 5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curre (24	6	0	0	14	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Surry	10	6 0	0	0	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swain	6	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Owan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transylvania	21	6	0	0	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	13	3	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tyrrell	6	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
·	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	52	15	0	0	32	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	18	4	0	0	12	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vance	26	2	0	0	22	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wake	278	102	1	0	134	8	3	5	1	0	1	1	2	20
	89	44	0	0	33	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	4
Warren	12	2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	5	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watauga	16	4	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

		Number of Littering Charges and Convictions by Offense Code: CY 2018												
	Total	4425	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	5378	5379	6248	8514
Wayne	58	16	1	0	29	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
	23	6	0	0	13	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wilkes	20	5	0	1	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	15	2	0	0	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson	23	8	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	14	5	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yadkin	10	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
radkin	4	3	0	0	6 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yancey	6	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix A: Contacts

Department	Contact	Email	Phone
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NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Assistance & Customer Service (DEACS)	Wendy Worley, Recycling & Materials Management Section Chief	wendy.worley@ncdenr.gov	919-707-8136
Division of Parks and Recreation	Adrian O'Neal, Chief of Operations	adrian.oneal@ncparks.gov	919-707-9339
NC Department of Public Safety, NC State Highway Patrol	Terry E. Robinson, Captain	terry.robinson@ncdps.gov	919-436-3046
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NC Administrative Office of the Courts, Research & Planning Division	Kurt D. Stephenson, Research & Policy Associate	kurt.d.stephenson@nccourts.org	919-890-1278
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Law Enforcement Division	Mickey Little, Captain/Training Director	mitchell.little@ncwildlife.org	919-707-0035
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Additional Interagency Report Con	tributors	·	
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