

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources will prohibit all non-hunting recreational uses on Hill Forest in Durham County, North Carolina during two periods – gun season for deer and gun season for turkey. Gun season for deer runs from 4 November 2006 until 1 January 2007. Gun season for turkey runs from 14 April 2007 until 12 May 2007. During these time periods, non-hunting recreational use of the Forest will be allowed only on Sundays. Non-hunting recreational uses include horseback riding, hiking, and bicycle riding. Motor vehicle or motorcycle access to the Hill Forest is not allowed.

The Department will institute a permit system for all people that use the Forest for recreation. Permits will be required for access to the Forest. Permit applications may be obtained from the College Forest Manager, 515-7576. Fox hunting, on horseback or on foot, is considered hunting small game and fox hunters must purchase a small game hunting permit.

The reasons for these actions are as follows:

1. Safety: prohibiting non-hunter entry to the Forest will eliminate any possibility of a hunting accident.
2. The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources manages the Hill Forest as a education, demonstration, and research facility. The University has no legal obligation to provide recreational activities on Hill Forest.
3. The Department uses this facility to train future wildlife and forestry professionals. We strive to manage this property in an exemplary fashion. In fact we have certified this property to two environmental standards through independent third party audits. We make every effort to manage the property in a sustainable manner, and until this point, there have been no controls on recreational uses of the Forest. We undertake these controls to ensure that all recreational uses are carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner.
4. Lastly, we must manage these properties in an economically sustainable manner. Recreational users must cover the cost of restoration, enforcement, and educational activities deemed necessary to meet ecologically sustainable standards.

The Hill Forest provides a wide array of benefits to society, including: clean air, clean water, timber, wildlife, and a continuing supply of trained environmental professionals. These professionals will help us all meet the future demands that society places on the lands for both recreational and natural resources. Please help us to meet that mission by respecting our decision to properly manage the Hill Forest.

Barry Goldfarb
Department Head

Joe Cox
College Forest Manager