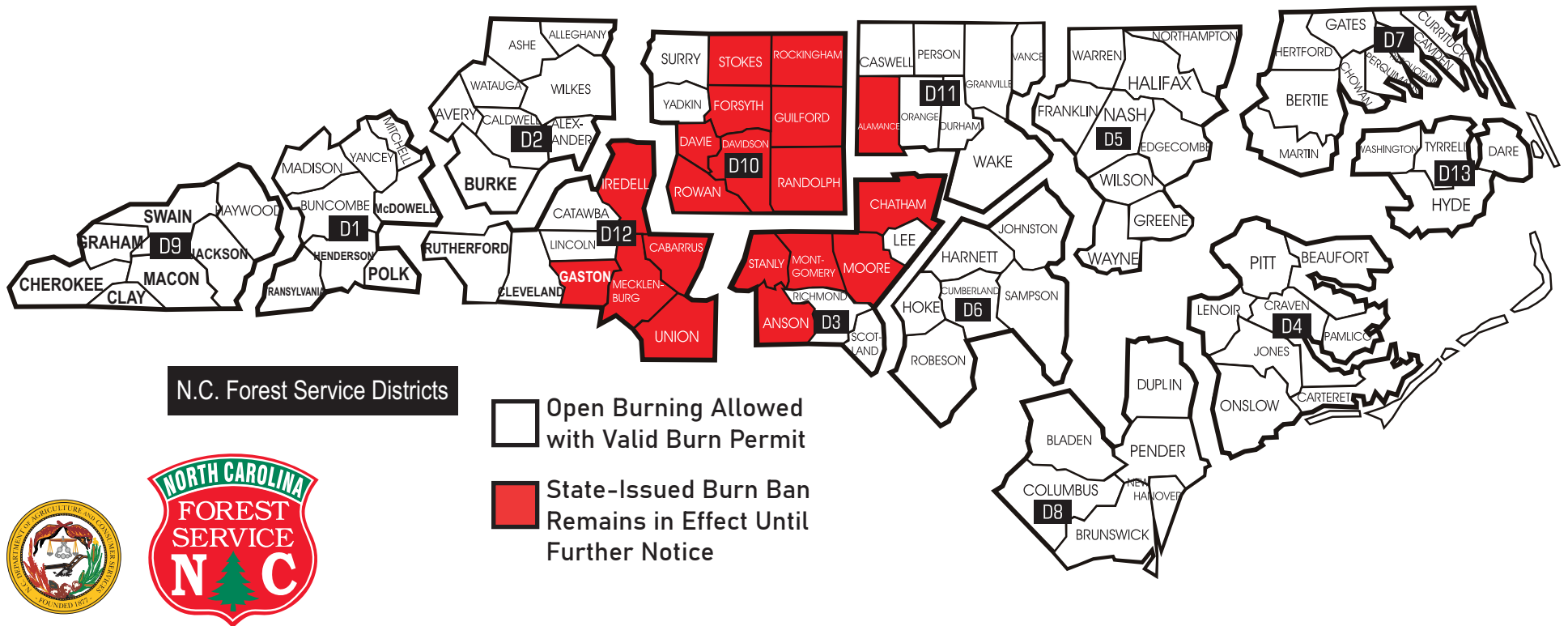


# OPEN BURNING BAN LIFTED FOR 81 COUNTIES

EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 AT 8 A.M.





**North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**  
*N.C. Forest Service*



**Steven W. Troxler**  
Commissioner

**Gregory M. Hicks**  
Assistant Commissioner  
State Forester

May 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All North Carolina Forest Service Districts  
From: Greg Hicks – Assistant Commissioner / State Forester  
RE: Removal of Burning Restrictions for 81 Counties

Due to recent precipitation, greening up of forest vegetation and improved humidity levels, I have rescinded the restriction on open burning for the following 81 North Carolina counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Catawba, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Graham, Granville, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jackson, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Martin, McDowell, Mitchell, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Polk, Richmond, Robeson, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin and Yancey. This becomes effective at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 3, 2026.

The state-issued ban on open burning will remain in place for Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes and Union counties until further notice.

By Direction Of:

Steve Troxler, Commissioner  
N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Cc:  
NCDA&CS Public Affairs Director  
USFS Asheville Dispatch  
USFS Public Affairs  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
SC Forestry Commission  
Georgia Forestry Commission  
Virginia Department of Forestry  
Tennessee Division of Forestry

NC Division of Emergency Management  
NC Division of Air Quality  
NC Office of State Fire Marshal  
NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
NC State Parks  
The Nature Conservancy  
NCFS Operations Rooms  
NCFS Division Director