

**15A NCAC 10A .1502 REPLACEMENT COSTS OF WILDLIFE**

(a) For the purpose of this Rule, "replacement cost" means the monetary amount to replace a specimen of wildlife that has been taken, injured, removed, harmfully altered, damaged, or destroyed. As specified in G.S. 113-267, this term shall be broadly construed to include indirect costs of replacement if direct stocking or replacement is not feasible, including the costs of habitat improvement or restoration, the establishment of sanctuaries, and any other recognized conservation technique.

(b) The following factors shall be considered when determining replacement costs:

- (1) whether the species has a season for take;
- (2) whether the species is classified as endangered, threatened, or special concern;
- (3) the relative frequency of species occurrence in the State;
- (4) the extent of existing suitable habitat for the species within the State;
- (5) the unique habitat requirements of the species;
- (6) the cost of acquiring, by purchase or long-term lease, lands and waters for habitat development;
- (7) the cost of improving and maintaining suitable habitat for the species on lands and waters owned or acquired by the Commission;
- (8) the cost of live-trapping the species in areas of adequate populations and transplanting them to areas of suitable habitat with low populations;
- (9) the availability of replacement specimens and the cost of acquisition for restocking species in the wild;
- (10) the cost of propagating and rearing the species in captivity or a hatchery and the cost of transporting them to an area with suitable habitat;
- (11) the ratio between the natural life expectancy of the species and the period of its probable survival in the wild when having been reared in captivity;
- (12) the consumer price index; and
- (13) any other factor that gives value to the species.

(c) Based on the factors in Paragraph (b) of this Rule, the following scheduled amounts shall represent the estimated replacement cost of an individual wildlife specimen. Replacement costs are per individual for wildlife species and per inch for fish species unless otherwise noted:

Species	Replacement Cost
Birds	
Crow	4.00
Dove	13.00
Duck	
American black duck	125.00
Canvasback	125.00
Gadwall	125.00
Long-tailed duck	125.00
White-winged scoter	125.00
All other ducks	41.00
Goose (includes Brant and Snow)	125.00
Grouse	125.00
Pheasant	37.00
Quail	125.00
Rail	
Clapper, king, and Virginia	125.00
Coot, Gallinule, Moorhen, and Sora	37.00
Snipe	26.00
Swan, tundra	1078.00
Woodcock	125.00
Big Game	
Bear, black	2232.00
Deer	602.00
Turkey, wild	525.00

Small Game	
Beaver	104.00
Bobcat	647.00
Fox	88.00
Mink	75.00
Muskrat	19.00
Opossum	6.00
Otter	647.00
Rabbit	13.00
Raccoon	58.00
Skunk	19.00
Squirrel, fox	54.00
Squirrel, gray and red	17.00
Weasel	11.00
Reptiles	
Kingsnake, scarlet	100.00
Milksnake, coastal plain	200.00
Milksnake, eastern	100.00
Snake, eastern hognose	100.00
Turtle, eastern box	150.00
Turtle, spotted	150.00
Elk	2500.00
Any other species with no open season	54.00
Endangered Species	4960.00
Threatened Species	4313.00
Special Concern Species	3000.00
Fish Species	
Bass	
Alabama Bass	0.80
Hybrid (Bodie) Bass	1.27
Largemouth Bass	0.80
Redeye Bass	0.80
Smallmouth Bass	2.34
Spotted Bass	0.80
Striped Bass	1.27
White	0.25
Bullhead	
Black Bullhead	1.72/fish
Brown Bullhead	1.72/fish
Flat Bullhead	1.72/fish
Snail Bullhead	1.72/fish
Yellow Bullhead	1.72/fish
Catfish	
Blue Catfish	0.61
Channel Catfish	0.61
Flathead Catfish	0.61
White Catfish	0.61
Crappie	0.48
Kokanee Salmon	0.71
Muskellunge	9.99
Pickereel	
Chain Pickerel	0.99

	Redfin Pickerel	0.99
Sauger		0.92
Shad		
	American Shad	1.40/fish
	Hickory Shad	1.40/fish
Sunfish		
	Bluegill Sunfish	2.65/fish
	Flier Sunfish	2.65/fish
	Green Sunfish	2.65/fish
	Pumpkinseed Sunfish	2.65/fish
	Redbreast (Robin)	2.65/fish
	Redear (Shellracer)	2.65/fish
	Roanoke Bass	2.65/fish
	Rock Bass Sunfish	2.65/fish
	Warmouth Sunfish	2.65/fish
Trout		
	Brook Trout	0.71
	Brown Trout	0.71
	Rainbow Trout	0.71
Walleye		0.92
White Perch		0.25
Yellow Perch		0.92
	All other game fish	0.76/fish
	All other nongame fish	1.87/fish
Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern		
	Mussels	50.54/mussel
	Crayfish	50.00/crayfish
	Finfish	157.54/fish

(d) The following factors shall be considered when determining the costs of an investigation conducted pursuant to G.S. 143-215.3(a)(7) or by court order for the purpose of determining the cost of replacement of wildlife:

- (1) the time expended by the employee conducting or involved in the investigation, including travel time between the place of usual employment and the site of the investigation, and the time required in formulating and rendering the report;
- (2) the total compensation cost of service to the state for each employee involved, including annual salary, total insurance, and the state's contribution to social security taxes and to the applicable retirement system;
- (3) subsistence costs for the investigating personnel, including meals, reasonable gratuities, and lodging, when required;
- (4) the cost of all necessary transportation;
- (5) the use or rental equipment or vehicles, when required;
- (6) the cost of cleaning, repairing, or replacing any clothing damaged, soiled, or contaminated by conducting the investigation; and
- (7) any other expense directly related to and necessitated by the investigation.

(e) In assessing the cost of time expended in completing the investigation, the time expended by each person required to take part in the investigation shall be recorded in hours, the value of which shall be computed according to the ratio between the annual costs of service of the employee and his or her total annual working hours 2087 hours reduced by holidays, annual leave entitlement, and earned sick leave. Other costs shall be assessed as follows:

- (1) the actual cost of meals, reasonable gratuities, and lodging away from home, not to exceed the current maximum per diem for state employees at the time of the investigation;
- (2) total mileage by motor vehicle multiplied by:
  - (A) the then current rate per mile for travel by state-owned vehicle; or
  - (B) the then current rate per mile for travel by privately owned vehicle, if applicable;
- (3) ten dollars (\$10.00) per hour for boat and motor use;
- (4) uniform and clothing cleaning and repair cost; and

(5) any other expense directly related to and necessitated by the investigation.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-267; 143-215.3;  
Eff. December 22, 2022.