



Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited 5335 Robinhood Rd. Ste 156, Winston Salem, NC 27106
Blueridgetuws@gmail.com www.blueridgetu.org

Loni Snyder
N.C. DEQ Water Resources
450 W. Hanes Mill Rd, Suite 30
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

August 11, 2022

Dear Mr. Snyder

The Blue Ridge chapter of Trout Unlimited in Winston Salem is writing this letter to the DWR to ask for immediate investigation and action into sediment flowing into the upper Mitchell River in Surry County. This sediment is coming from different sources around the Devotion area from Tobacco fields down to a large cabbage field just above the delayed harvest section on the Mitchell River. Your office was informed of this several weeks ago. At this time the Mitchell River habitat is getting impacted.

The Mitchell River is a premier trout stream and is the host for the endangered Brook-Floater mussel. The NCWRC has been attempting to restore the mussel into the Mitchell River for several years. The Blue Ridge TU chapter has been working to reduce erosion and sediment into the Mitchell in cooperation with NCWRC for many years. Thousands of anglers use the river every year to fish its delayed harvest section. That provides a big economic boost to the county and to NCWRC from the sale of fishing licenses. Surry county has established a 75-foot buffer zone for the Mitchell River trout waters from Kapp's Mill Rd up to preserve this great water.

In the last two years, NC lost five trout streams because of sediment from agriculture operations. Ramey, Big Piney, Roaring Fork, Little Fisher and recently Wolf creek is being impacted in Alleghany County. Don't let another trout stream be destroyed. We understand DWR is understaffed and its budget has been cut. We are willing to provide volunteers to help with testing the water, taking photos and videos of sediment going into the river. Just let us know how we can help. I am attaching a photo showing sediment release into the Mitchell River from the cabbage field just above the Delayed harvest section on August 9th, 2022.

The Blue Ridge Chapter will also file a complaint with the NCWRC asking them to investigate the sediment sources immediately. We will ask them to protect the trout, the habitat and the Brook-Floater mussel. We will also let all the TU chapters and members in NC know what is happening in the Mitchell River and ask them to contact you and the NCWRC to voice their concern. We will be informing the river keepers as well as the many organizations who care about the Mitchell River and wildlife of the impact from the sediment to the habitat of the river.

We ask you again to take immediate action to stop sediment run off into the upper Mitchell River.

Thank You

Robby Abou-Rizk
Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited president
336 9723949

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§ 154.240 PURPOSE OF BUFFERS.

Buffers, or screens, are required to protect one class of use from adverse impacts caused by a use in another class by helping the principle use to blend into the neighborhood, screen its purely functional aspects from the street and neighboring properties, and absorb and/or deflect any excessive noise. This regulation benefits both the developer and the adjoining property owners because it allows the developer several options from which to choose in developing the property, while insuring each neighbor adequate protection regardless of the developer's choice, thereby protecting the property values of all properties involved. **Buffers are also used to protect waterways and streams from excess pollution due to unfiltered runoff.**

§ 154.241 BUFFERS REQUIRED

B) **A 50-foot, undisturbed natural buffer, from each shoreline, is required along all perennial streams in Surry County, except for the Mitchell River from Kapp's Mill upstream to the county line, where a 75-foot buffer is required from each shoreline.**

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