

**MUDDY CREEK RESTORATION PARTNERS**  
**Profile and Accomplishments; August 2008**

**Biographical History**

- Partnership is 10 Years old. Formed in 1998.
  
- Members include: McDowell County Soil and Water Conservation District, McDowell County, City of Marion, Burke County, NC Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Trout Unlimited, Duke Energy Corporation, Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, and Carolina Land and Lakes RC&D Council, and Citizens of Muddy Creek Watershed. Technical consulting services provided by Equinox Environmental of Asheville, NC.
  
- Award Winning Project
  1. NC Wildlife Federation Governor's Conservation Achievement Award for Water Conservationist of the Year (2000)
  2. NC Chapter of American Fisheries Society Award for Fisheries Conservationist of the Year (2002).
  
- Guiding Philosophies
  1. Partnership is results driven. Assessment and planning important but conservation on-the-ground is the goal.
  2. Partners achieve conservation successes only through voluntary and collaborative involvement by landowners.

**Goals**

- A self sustaining, viable trout fishery on the Catawba River tailrace below Lake James.
  
- A fully supporting rating for all streams in the Muddy Creek watershed.

**Success Stories**

- Over 20 miles of stream restoration or enhancement on the ground, under construction, or in planning or design. Most of these projects were identified as priorities in the Partners (2003) Feasibility Report and Restoration Plan.
  
- Restoration and enhancement projects involve over 30 different private landowners.
  
- Reduction in sediment inputs of approximately 6,000 tons/year (equivalent to 375 16-ton dump trucks).
  
- Economic impact of roughly \$15 million counting value of stream improvements, grant funding, and in-kind services.
  
- Widespread community, local government, and agency support and appreciation.
  
- Financial support from 17 different public and private sources.

**3 - 5 Year Plan Objectives (Activities are Underway in Pursuit of All of these Objectives)**

- Achieve State impairment listing for Muddy Creek based on fecal coliform monitoring.
  
- Produce local economic benefits from investments in environmental improvements.
  
- Preserve important high quality stream and riparian areas.
  
- Produce stormwater action plan for impaired Youngs Fork that drains City of Marion.
  
- Transfer initiatives to local stakeholders.
  
- Build and maintain credible monitoring program establishing site specific and cumulative impacts of stream restoration and enhancement investments.