



Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited 5335 Robinhood Rd. Ste 156, Winston Salem, NC 27106
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Kinnon Hodges
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
179 Stone Bridge Road
Mount Airy, NC 27030

August 12, 2022

To Kin Hodges

The Blue Ridge chapter of Trout Unlimited in Winston Salem is writing this letter to the NCWRC 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. At this time the Mitchell River habitat is getting impacted. Your agency is responsible for the health of the trout and wildlife in the Mitchell River. We ask you to act quickly before we lose that habitat.

The Mitchell River is a premier trout stream with great water quality. It is the host for the endangered Brook-Floater mussel. The WRC has been working to restore the mussel into the Mitchell River for several years. The Blue Ridge TU chapter has also been working to reduce erosion and sediment into the Mitchell in cooperation with WRC for many years. Thousands of anglers use the river every year fishing 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. 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 has filed a complaint with the DWR asking them to investigate the sediment sources immediately. We will be informing all the TU chapters and members in NC of what is happening in the Mitchell River and ask them to contact DWR and 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
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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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