

Talking points for letters to DWR, NC WRC, Surry County commissioners.

1-Write I letter how the Mitchell River is important to you, your experiences on the river and how that will change if the river dies.

2- Trout streams have a water quality protection by the state and the Department of water quality has the task of protecting that water quality and issue notices of violations if an operation degrades that quality. The Mitchell River is listed as an outstanding resource water (high quality trout stream).

3- Trout streams have to continue being trout streams, if any operation affects its "Best Usage" as a trout stream then the DWR has to address those conditions that are affecting it and issue notices of violations.

4-Write letters to the NC Wildlife resources asking them to protect the Mitchell River as a trout stream as it is their responsibility to address any water quality issues with DWR and ask them to take action.

5- In the last two years NC had 6-7 trout streams destroyed or impacted due to agricultural operations. The laws have to change.

- The agriculture exemption: exempts agricultural operations from any sediment and erosion controls. That means no buffer zones are required. Thus, the sediment run off into our trout streams that is causing the loss of so many trout streams.

In 2020/ 2021 Alleghany and Surry County lost Ramey creek, Roaring fork, Big Piney brook trout streams.

In 2021 The little Fisher stream (hatchery supported) in Surry County near Mount Airy is filled with sediment and destroyed

in 2022 Wolf creek in Alleghany County is severely impacted with sediment

In 2022 Elkin Hatchery supported stream and the Mitchell River in Surry County are severely impacted by sediment run off.

5- Write to Surry County commissioners about the economic impact of loosing all its trout waters to the tourism industry. Fisherman come from Charlotte, Raleigh, Hickory, Winston Salem and other areas to fish Surry County trout streams.

6- Surry County recognized the importance of the Mitchell River many years ago and put a special ordinance to protect the river by a 75-foot buffer zone. Over the years the county put other ordinances that nullified that buffer zone. As the Mitchell River is surrounded by agricultural fields the county's action is now leading to the demise of the river.

## **§ 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.**

## **§ 154.005 BONA FIDE FARMS EXEMPT.**

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to bona fide farms (defined in § 154.011 of this chapter) or to any other farm owned or leased to or from others by the bona fide

farm operator. This chapter does not impose, nor exercise, any controls over croplands, timberlands, pasturelands, orchards or idle or other farmlands