

# Chapter 7 - French Broad River Subbasin 04-03-07 Includes Cane River and its tributaries

## 7.1 Water Quality Overview

### *Subbasin 04-03-07 at a Glance*

#### Land and Water Area (sq. mi.)

Total area:	153
Land area:	153
Water area:	0

#### Population Statistics

1990 Est. Pop.:	5,434 people
Pop. Density:	36 persons/mi <sup>2</sup>

#### Land Cover (%)

Forest/Wetland:	87%
Surface Water:	<1%
Urban:	<1%
Cultivated Crop:	<1%
Pasture/ Managed Herbaceous:	12%

#### Use Support Ratings

##### *Freshwater Streams:*

Fully Supporting:	179.3 miles
Partially Supporting:	0.0 miles
Not Supporting:	0.0 miles
Not Rated:	40.9 miles

The southern section of this subbasin lies within the Pisgah National Forest, and the only area of concentrated development is around the Town of Burnsville. A map of this subbasin, including water quality sampling locations, is presented in Figure B-10. Overall biological ratings are presented in Table B-7.

Benthic macroinvertebrate samples have been collected from two locations (Cane River and Bald Mountain Creek) in this subbasin since 1992. Water quality in Cane River has steadily improved from Good-Fair (1983-85) to Excellent (1992-97). Even though there are biological data that indicate improving water quality at this site, the chemistry data do not indicate any significant changes at this site.

Fish community data were collected at Price Creek and Bald Mountain Creek in this subbasin in 1997. Price Creek and Bald Mountain Creek are supplementally classified as Trout Waters. The entire length of Bald Mountain Creek is also designated as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters (NCWRC, 1997).

If petitioned, the Excellent rating given to the Cane River site could make this river eligible for reclassification to High Quality Waters (HQW) or Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW).

There are two minor dischargers (<0.5 MGD) in this subbasin. Burnsville WWTP is the only facility in this subbasin that currently monitors effluent toxicity under its NPDES permit. There are no toxicity problems with this facility.

For more detailed information on water quality in this subbasin, refer to the *Basinwide Assessment Report – French Broad River Basin – November 1998*, available from the DWQ Environmental Sciences Branch at (919) 733-9960.

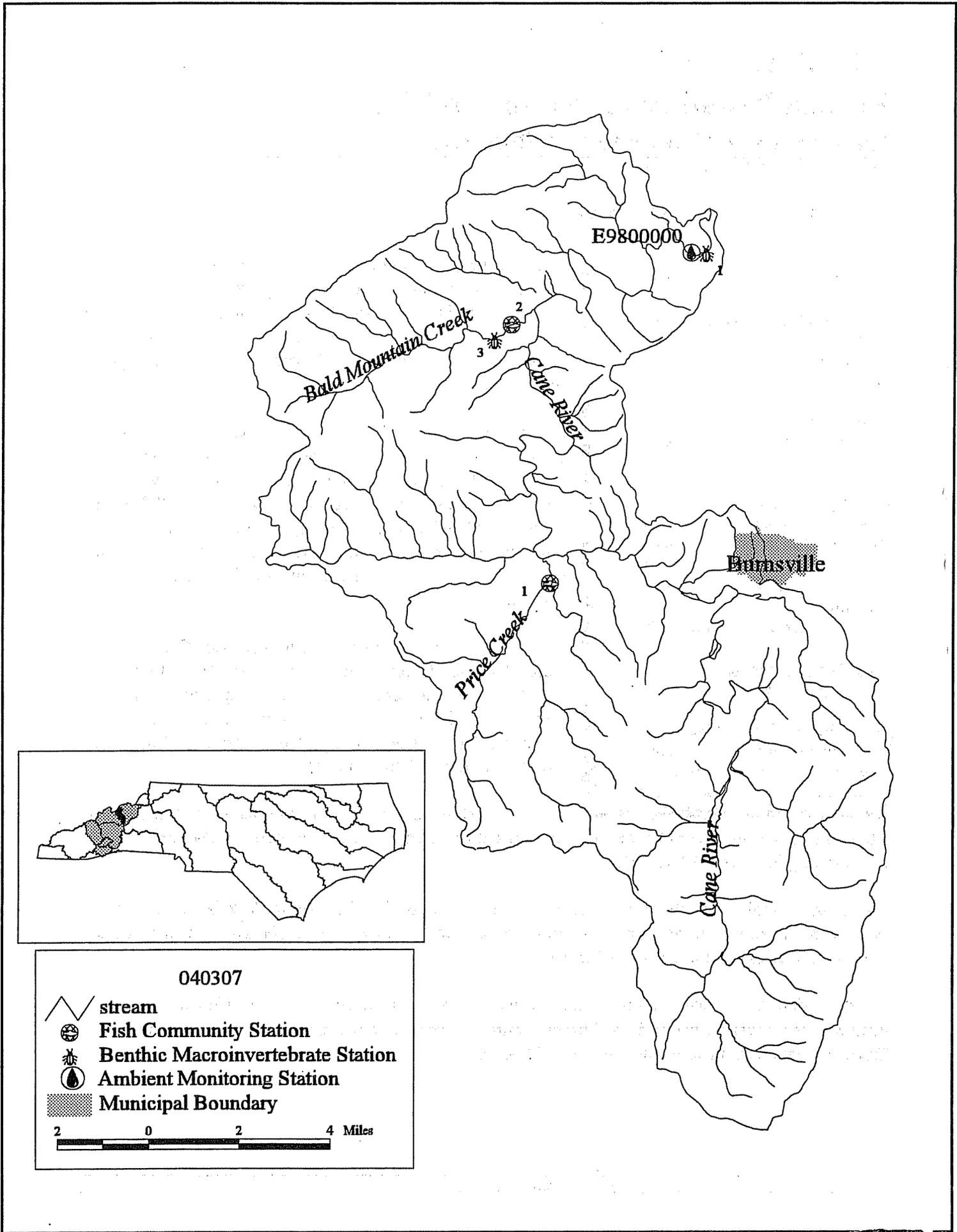


Figure B-10 Sampling Locations within Subbasin 04-03-07

Table B-7 Basinwide Biological Sites in French Broad River Subbasin 04-03-07 (1997)<sup>o</sup>

Site #	Stream	County	Road	Rating
<i>Benthic Macroinvertebrates</i>				
B-1	Cane River	Yancey	NC 19W	Excellent
B-3	Bald Mountain Creek	Yancey	SR 1408	Good
<i>Fish Community</i>				
F-1	Price Creek	Yancey	SR 1126	Not Rated*
F-2	Bald Mountain Creek	Yancey	SR 1408	Not Rated*

\* Refer to Section A, Chapter 3 for more information on fish community ratings

<sup>o</sup> Locations of ambient monitoring stations can be found in Section A, Table A-25

## 7.2 Prior Basinwide Plan Recommendations (1995) and Achievements

### 7.2.1 Impaired Waters

There were no streams identified as impaired in this subbasin in the 1995 French Broad River Basinwide Plan.

## 7.3 Current Priority Issues and Recommendations

### 7.3.1 Monitored Impaired Waters

There are currently no waters listed as impaired in this subbasin based on the most recent DWQ monitoring data.

### 7.3.2 303(d) Listed Waters

Only Little Creek is on the state's year 2000 (not yet EPA approved) 303(d) list for this subbasin. Refer to Appendix IV for more information on the state's 303(d) methodology and listing requirements. Little Creek was previously rated based on evaluated information. Use support methodology has been improved, and only monitored data are now used in use support determinations (see Appendix III). However, this stream is required to remain on the 303(d) list until sampling is conducted to assess current water quality conditions.

