



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Water Quality
Coleen H. Sullins
Director

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Dee Freeman
Secretary

February 23, 2010

MEMO

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Cyndi Karoly
RE: Public Notice and request for comments

1. Proposed Neuse Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset Umbrella Bank

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of Wildlands, Inc.'s (Wildlands) proposal to develop a nutrient offset banking parcel under their Wildlands Neuse River Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset Mitigation Bank. The Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument was signed by the Director on October 2, 2009. The umbrella bank currently has one parcel approved for development (Little River Farm Parcel) to provide riparian buffer and nutrient offset credit for impacts in Neuse 02.

Wildlands has also submitted a Bank Parcel Development Package for the Deer Water Farm Parcel, which is located approximately six miles southeast of Goldsboro, off NC Highway 111, in Wayne County. This bank parcel will be used to generate nitrogen offset credit through the planting of approximately 20.5 acres of vegetated buffers along former field ditches which drain directly to the Neuse River. Nutrient offset credits generated at this site can be used to satisfy mitigation requirements for projects located within Neuse HUC 03020202.

The Wildlands' Deer Water Farm Bank Parcel Development Plan can be found at the following links: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/publicnotices> and <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/certsandpermits/mitigation/memos>. Questions regarding this proposed bank can be directed to Lia Gilleski at 919-733-9502 or in writing to Lia.M.Gilleski@ncdenr.gov or 2321 Crabtree Blvd., Suite 250, Raleigh, NC 27606 by close of business (5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2010) Comments received will be taken into consideration during preparation and approval of the final Mitigation Banking instrument.

All comments are to be forwarded in legible written form via regular mail or email to Cyndi Karoly, 2321 Crabtree Blvd, Suite 250, Raleigh, NC, 27604, or Cyndi.Karoly@ncdenr.gov. Faxes (919-733-6893) are acceptable but not recommended due to unreliable transmittal quality. DWQ appreciates your active involvement in this review and revision process.

2. Check Processing

DWQ cannot process application fee checks that are dated over 90 days prior to submittal. Please insure that the date of your application fee check is current.

3. Public Comment Period 2. Proposed changes for NCDWQ Intermittent and Perennial Stream Identification Manual Version 4.0.

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of additional proposed revisions to the NCDWQ Stream Identification Manual. Changes to the indicators in the methodology were carefully considered based on their relative importance in identifying streams and do not affect the total scores for stream evaluations or the stream determination made by professionals using the methodology. Testing of the modified form is currently underway to assure scoring consistency.

Proposed manual changes are described below. The Intermittent and Perennial Stream Identification Manual Version 4.0 can be found on our website at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/publicnotices> Click

on DWQ event calendar for more information. If you need a hard copy (black and white) mailed to you, please contact Periann Russell as noted below. Comments related to the proposed manual revisions should be sent to

NC Division of Water Quality, Program and Policy Development Unit
Parkview Building
2321 Crabtree Blvd. Suite 250
Raleigh, NC 27604-2260
Attn: Periann Russell
919-715-6835

Or emailed to Periann.Russell@ncdenr.gov, please identify Stream ID v. 4.0 in the subject line.

Comments must be submitted in writing or via email within 45 days of the date of this notice.

Description of Changes

Description of absent, weak, moderate and strong were previously explained only in geomorphology and part of hydrology sections.

Additional explanations were made throughout the document for the purpose of clarification.

Citations were added throughout document

Hydric soils indicator and description was changed based on numerous comments and suggestions from the soil science community. The changes are intended to more accurately reflect the intent of the indicator; the language of the indicator is now "Evidence of a seasonal high water table." The "Water in Channel and > than 48 hours" indicator was deleted based on its similarity to "Groundwater flow or discharge" indicator and too much overlap between the two indicators. Hence, the "Groundwater flow of discharge" indicator was changed to "Presence of Baseflow." See additional changes below.

DWQ encourages comments and suggestions regarding the changes to the soils indicator in order to further clarify and explain the indicator.

1. Title changed to "Methodology for Identification of Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Their Origins."
2. "Streambed Sorting and Soil Texture" was changed to "Particle size of stream substrate".
3. "Braided Stream" was deleted.
4. "Natural Levees" was deleted.
5. "Groundwater flow or discharge" was changed to "Presence of Baseflow"
6. "Water in Channel and < 48 Hours or Dry Season" was deleted.
7. "Hydric Soils" indicator label was changed to "Evidence of seasonal high water table."
8. "Iron Oxidizing Bacteria/Fungus" was moved to hydrology section and score changed from 0-1.5 to 0-3.
9. Macrobenthos indicator score changed from 0-1.5 to 0-3.
10. Order of indicators in biology section changed to reflect primary and secondary status.
11. Algae and periphyton score was changed from 0-3 to 0-1.5.

Cc: DWQ Regional Wetland Contacts
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Coleen Sullins