UT ALTAMAHAW SITE EEP Project No. 92837

MONITORING YEAR 1 (2012) FINAL SUBMITTAL Construction Completed February 2011

Alamance County, NC State Construction Project No. 09-0762301



Prepared for the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program

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This assessment and report are consistent with NCDENR Ecosystem Enhancement Program Template Version 1.3 (1/15/10) for EEP Monitoring Reports.

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/ PROJECT ABSTRACT

The UT Altamahaw Site is located within HUC 03030002 and sub-basin 03-06-02 of the Cape Fear River Basin in Alamance County, North Carolina (Figure 1). It includes portions of two unnamed tributaries (UTs) to Altamahaw Creek. The enhancement lengths of the main and secondary channels are 1,347 and 130 linear feet, respectively. In addition, 0.026 acres of wetlands were enhanced as part of the overall project. The UT Altamahaw Site is protected for perpetuity under a conservation easement purchased from Mr. Charles Hursey Sr., Charles Hursey II, Christopher Hursey and Carey Hursey in 2008. Project restoration components, activity and reporting history, contacts and attribute data are all provided in Appendix A.

1.1 Goals and Objectives

The Project's goals were to:

- reduce nutrient and sediment water quality stressors,
- provide for uplift in water quality functions,
- improve instream and wetland aquatic habitats, including riparian terrestrial habitats, and
- provide for greater overall instream and wetland habitat complexity and quality.

Stream enhancement, the primary project component, served as the dominant input for achieving this goal.

These goals were consistent with the Travis and Tickle Creek Local Watershed Plan (LWP). The LWP, completed in 2008, identified six goals; two of which are met by the Project. These are (1) to improve water quality through stormwater management and (2) identify and rank parcels for retrofits, stream repair, preservation and/or conservation. The Project improved the emergency spillway associated with the existing pond immediately upstream of the Project Site and the existing stream crossing to further prevent erosion into the main stream channel. It also included the design and installation of a modified level spreader to diffuse surface flows from the nearby pasture through a vegetated buffer. In addition, the Site was also one of the specific areas identified through the stakeholder process associated with the LWP.

The LWP process identified nine key watershed stressors and their corresponding management strategies. These stressors were identified via the local stakeholder groups including EEP, Piedmont Land Conservancy, Haw River Assembly, Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, Alamance and Guilford Counties, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cities of Burlington and Graham, Towns of Elon and Gibsonville, NC Division of Water Quality, NC Wildlife Resources Commission and Resource Conservation & Development. The UT to Altamahaw Stream Enhancement Project combats six of those stressors with the following strategies:

Key Watershed Stressors

Stream bank erosion Lack of adequate buffer Stormwater runoff Livestock access to streams Nutrients Fecal coliform

Management Strategies

Riparian buffers & livestock exclusion Riparian buffers & livestock exclusion Stormwater BMPs Livestock exclusion Agricultural BMPs, riparian buffers & stormwater BMPs Agricultural BMPs & stormwater BMPs

The objectives were to exclude livestock in their entirety from the easement area and install plantings designed to maintain vertical stability, lateral stability and habitat, as well as re-vegetate and supplement

those areas lacking suitable vegetation along the easement area. An alternative water supply was provided and the existing crossing was improved to prevent further erosion. In addition, enhancement of the auxiliary spillway associated with the pond immediately upstream of the Site and construction of a modified level spreader to combat surface flows from the pasture were also completed as part of implementation activities. Ultimately, this supplemental planting will provide increased opportunities for the filtration of pollutants and nutrients prior to entering the stream channel as well as, the stabilization of sediment along the associated stream banks.

1.2 Vegetation Condition and Comparison to Success Criteria

Vegetation success criteria at the Site is consistent with the USACE Wilmington Regulatory District's guidance for wetland mitigation which documents the survival of a minimum of 320 planted woody stems/acre after Monitoring Year 3 (MY3). The mortality rate of 10% will be allowed after MY4 assessments (288 stems/acre) and correspondingly, MY5 assessments (260 stems/acre). Invasive, exotic species were present prior to implementation and criteria will also include the removal of all such species prior to project closeout.

Vegetation is currently being assessed using plot layouts consistent with the EEP/Carolina Vegetation Survey (CVS) Level II Vegetation Protocol. Stem count data is ascertained from five permanently placed 10-meter² vegetation plots (Figure 2). Assessments included counts of both planted and natural stems. Based on this year's monitoring effort, only one of the five vegetation plots met the minimum success criteria. Stem counts ranged from approximately 100 to 350 planted stems per acre and approximately 350 to 1,350 total stems per acre across the site. Prior to baseline assessments, it was discovered that cattle had accessed the easement area between the completion of implementation activities and baseline assessments. Damages were unrealized at the time; however, based on recent vegetation counts, it appears that overall seedling mortality can be attributed to this occurrence in addition to common mortality rationales such as drought, inferior specimens, etc.

Appendices B and C depict more detailed information regarding the vegetation condition, including annual photograph comparisons.

1.3 Stream Stability/Condition and Comparison to Success Criteria

No in-channel enhancement activities were conducted as part of this project. Assessments include only annual photograph comparisons and monitoring of hydrology associated with the channel. A minimum of two bankfull events must be documented within the standard five-year monitoring period. In order for the hydrology-based monitoring to be considered complete, the two events must occur in separate monitoring years.

During November 2011, at least one bankfull event occurred. This was prior to installation of the crest gage though construction was complete. No bankfull events were reported during 2012. Annual photograph comparisons of the stream channels are depicted in Appendix B and hydrologic data associated with this year's monitoring assessment is provided in Appendix D.

1.4 Other Information

Summary information/data related to the occurrence of items such as beaver or encroachment and statistics related to performance of various project and monitoring elements can be found in the tables and figures in the report appendices. Narrative background and supporting information formerly found in these reports can be found in the Baseline Monitoring Report (formerly Mitigation Plan) and in the Mitigation Plan (formerly the

Restoration Plan) documents available on EEP's website. All raw data supporting the tables and figures in the appendices is available from EEP upon request.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

This monitoring report follows methodology consistent with EEP's Procedural Guidance and Content Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports (Version 1.3, dated 1/15/10), available at EEP's website (<u>http://www.nceep.net</u>).

Vegetation assessments were conducted using the CVS-EEP protocol (Version 4.2). As part of this protocol, vegetation is assessed using 100-meter² plots, or modules. The scientific method requires that measurements be as unbiased as possible, and that they be repeatable. Plots are designed to achieve both of these objectives; in particular, different people should be able to inventory the same plot and produce similar data (Lee et. al., 2006).

According to Lee et. al. (2006), there are many different goals in recording vegetation, and both time and resources for collecting plot data are extremely variable. To provide appropriate flexibility in project design, the CVS-EEP protocol supports five distinct types of vegetation plot records, which are referred to as levels in recognition of the increasing level of detail and complexity across the sequence. The lower levels require less detail and fewer types of information about both vegetation and environment, and thus are generally sampled with less time and effort (Lee et. al., 2006). Level 1 (Planted Stem Inventory Plots) and Level 2 (Total Woody Stem Inventory Plots) inventories were completed on all five of the vegetation plots at the Project Site.

Level 1 plots are applicable only for restoration areas with planted woody stems. The primary purpose is to determine the pattern of installation of plant material with respect to species, spacing, and density, and to monitor the survival and growth of those installed plants. Level 1 plots are one module in size (Lee et. al., 2006).

Level 2 plots also are designed specifically for restoration areas and represent a superset of information collected for Level 1 plots. In these plots planted woody stems are recorded exactly as for Level 1, but in addition all woody stems resulting from natural regeneration are recorded by size class using separate datasheets. These plots allow an accurate and rapid assessment of the overall trajectory of woody-plant restoration and regeneration on a site. Level 2 plots are one module in size (Lee et. al., 2006).

A crest gage was installed near the downstream end of the Site along the main UT. This gage will verify the onsite occurrences of bankfull events. In addition to the crest gage, observations of wrack and deposition will also serve to validate gage observations, as necessary. Documentation of the highest stage during the monitoring interval will be assessed during each Site visit and the gage will be reset. The data related to bankfull verification will be summarized in each year's report. Based on the elevation of the crest gage, any readings observed higher than 12 inches on the gage will reflect a bankfull or above bankfull event.

3.0 **REFERENCES**

Lee, Michael T., R.K. Peet, S.D. Roberts and T.R. Wentworth, 2006. CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation, Version 4.0 (<u>http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm</u>).

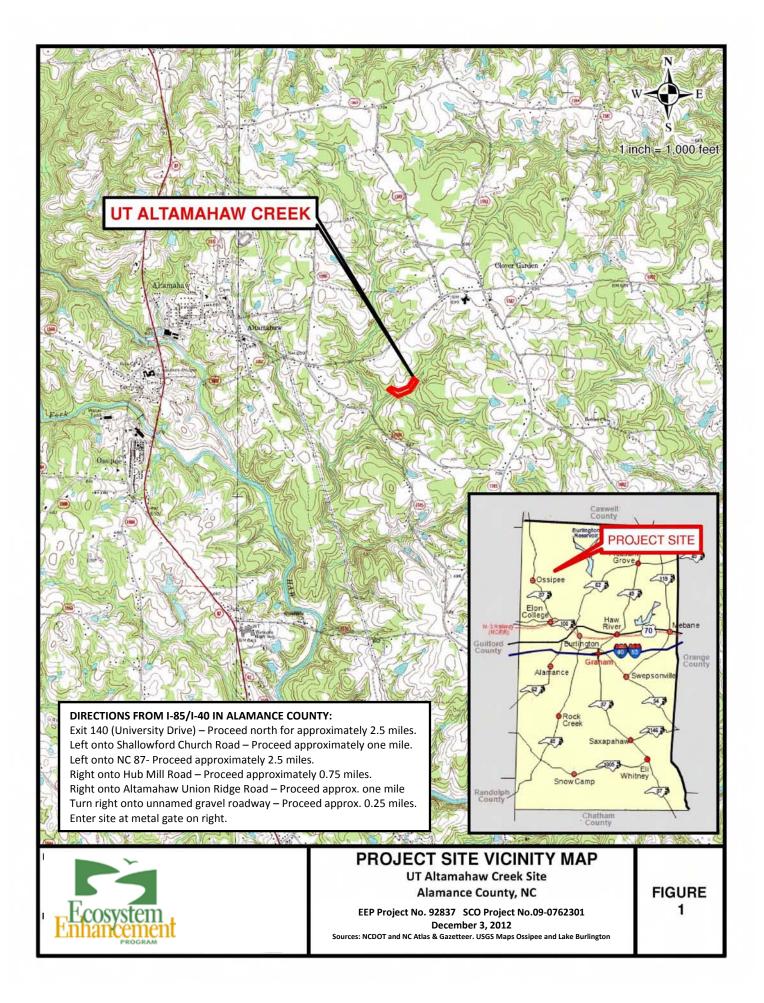
NCDENR Ecosystem Enhancement Program, 2012. UT Altamahaw Creek Baseline Monitoring Document and As-built Baseline Report. Prepared by Ecological Engineering, LLP.

NC State Climate Office, 2012. Daily Precipitation Data from Burlington/Alamance Airport (KBUY), Alamance County (<u>www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu</u>).

US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, NC Wildlife Resources Commission and NC Department of Environment Division of Water Quality, 2003. Stream Mitigation Guidelines.

APPENDIX A.

Project Vicinity Map and Background Tables



				Π	Vitigation Credi	ts			
	Stre	am	Riparian	Wetland	Non-riparia	n wetland	Buffer	Nitrogen Nutrient Offset	Phosphorus Nutrient Offset
Туре	R	RE	R	RE	R	RE			
Totals	738.5			0.013					
				Pr	oject Compone	nts			
Project	Component	Stationing	/Location		g Footage/ reage	Approach	Restoration or Restoration Equivalent	Restoration Footage or Acreage	Mitigation Ratio
Rip. No	on-riverine	Northwest	boundary	0.02	6 a cres	E	0.013	0.013 acres	2 to 1
-	tamahaw Creek	Center of P	roject Area	1,347 linear feet		EII	673.5	673.5 l f	2 to 1
-	to UT haw Creek	Southwest	t boundary	130 lir	near feet	EII	65	65 l f	2 to 1
				Con	nponent Summa	ation			
Restoration Level		Stream (linear feet)		Riparian Wetland (acres)		Non-riparian Wetland (acres)		Buffer (square feet)	Upland (acres)
				Riverine	Non-riverine				
Rest	toration								
Enha	ncement				0.026 a cres				
Enhar	ncement I								
Enhan	icement II	1,477 lin	ear feet						
Cre	eation								
Pres	ervation								
HQ Pres	servation								
					BMP Elements	;			
El	ement	Loca	ition	Purpos	e/Function		No	tes	
	ements								

Table 2. Project Activity and Reporting History UT Altamahaw/ 92837

Elapsed Time Since Grading Complete: 1 year 9 months

Elapsed Time Since Planting Complete: 1 year 9 months

Number of Reporting Years: 1

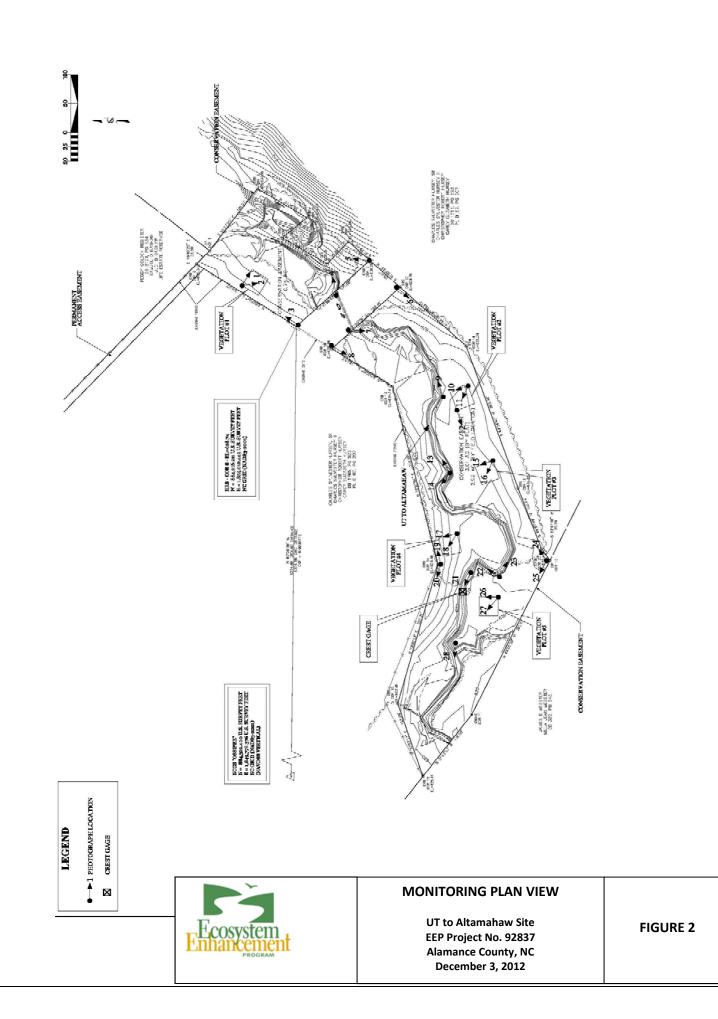
Activity or Report	Data Collection Complete	Completion or Delivery
Mitigation Plan	May-10	May-10
Final Design - Construction Plans	June-10	June-10
Construction		February-11
Temporary S&E Mix Applied to Entire Project Area		February-11
Permanent Seed Mix Applied to Entire Project Area		February-11
Bare Root, Live Stake and Tubling Plantings Applied		February-11
Baseline Monitoring Document	January-12	February-12
Year 1 Monitoring	August-12	December-12
Year 2 Monitoring		
Year 3 Monitoring		
Year 4 Monitoring		
Year 5 Monitoring		

Table 3. Project Contact Table				
UT Altam	ahaw/ 92837			
Designer	Firm Information/ Address			
Ecological Engineering, LLP	1151 SE Cary Parkway, Suite 101, Cary, NC 27518			
Jenny S. Fleming, PE	(919) 557-0929			
Construction Contractor	Firm Information/ Address			
Riverworks, Inc.	8000 Regency Parkway, Suite 800, Cary, NC 27518			
Bill Wright	(919) 459-9001			
Planting Contractor	Firm Information/ Address			
Riverworks, Inc.	8000 Regency Parkway, Suite 800, Cary, NC 27518			
George Morris	(919) 459-9001			
Seeding Contractor	Firm Information/ Address			
Riverworks, Inc.	8000 Regency Parkway, Suite 800, Cary, NC 27518			
George Morris	(919) 459-9001			
Seed Mix Sources	Green Resource (336) 855-6363			
Nursery Stock Suppliers	ArborGen (843) 851-4129			
	Cure Nursery (919) 542-6186			
	Foggy Mountain Nursery (336) 384-5323			
	Mellow Marsh Farm (919) 742-1200			
	Superior Tree (850) 971-5159			
Monitoring Performer	Firm Information/ Address			
Ecological Engineering, LLP	1151 SE Cary Parkway, Suite 101, Cary, NC 27518			
G. Lane Sauls Jr. (stream, vegetation & wetland)	(919) 557-0929			

Table 4. Project Baseline Information and Attributes UT Altamahaw/ 92837								
	Project Information							
Project Name	UT Alta	mahaw						
County	Alan	nance						
Project Area	3.6 a	acres						
Project Coordinates (latitude and longitude)	36°10'43.56'' North	/ 79°28'37.91" West						
Projec	Watershed Summary Information							
Physiographic Province	Pied	mont						
River Basin	Саре	Fear						
USGS Hydrologic Unit 8-digit 30300	USGS Hydrologic Unit 14-digit	3030002030010						
DWQ Subbasin	03.0	06.02						
Project Drainage Area	0.51 sq. mi	. (334 acres)						
Project Drainage Area Percentage of Impervior	Area Less t	han 1%						
CGIA Land Use Classification	Agricult	ural Land						
Reach Summary Information								
Parameters	Reach 1	Reach 2						
Length of Reach	1,347 linear feet	130 linear feet						
Valley Classification	Valley Type VIII	Valley Type VIII						
Drainage Area	0.51 sq. mi. (334 acres)	0.39 sq. mi. (251 acres)						
NCDWQ Stream ID Score	46.75	39.25						
NCDWQ Water Quality Classification	C NSW	C NSW						
Morphological Description (stream type)	C/E 5	C/E 5						
Evolutionary Trend	E-C-G-F-E-C	E-C-G-F-E-C						
Underlying Mapped Soils	Worsham sandy loam	Worsham sandy loam						
Drainage Classification	Poorly drained Poorly drained							
Soil Hydric Status	Hydric A	Hydric A						
Slope	0 to 3%	0 to 3%						
FEMA Classification	Zone AE - lower end	Zone AE - lower end						
Native Vegetation Community	Piedmont Alluvial Forest	Piedmont Alluvial Forest						
Percent Composition of Exotic Invasive Specie	Less than 5%	Less than 5%						
v	etland Summary Information							
Size of Wetland	0.026	a cre s						
Wetland Type	See	page						
Mapped Soil Series	Worsham	sandyloam						
Drainage Classification		drained						
Soil Hydric Status	Hyd	ric A						
Source of Hydrology	Groun	dwater						
Hydrologic Impairment		one						
Native Vegetation Community		luvial Forest						
Percent Composition of Exotic Invasive Specie	Less t	han 5%						
	Regulatory Considerations							
Waters of the United States - Section 404	Res	olved						
Waters of the United States - Section 401	Res	olved						
Endangered Species Act		olved						
Historic Preservation Act	Res	olved						
Coastal Zone/Area Management Acts (CZMA/C		olicable						
FEMA Floodplain Compliance		olved						
Essential Fisheries Habitat	Not Ap							

APPENDIX B.

Visual Assessment Data



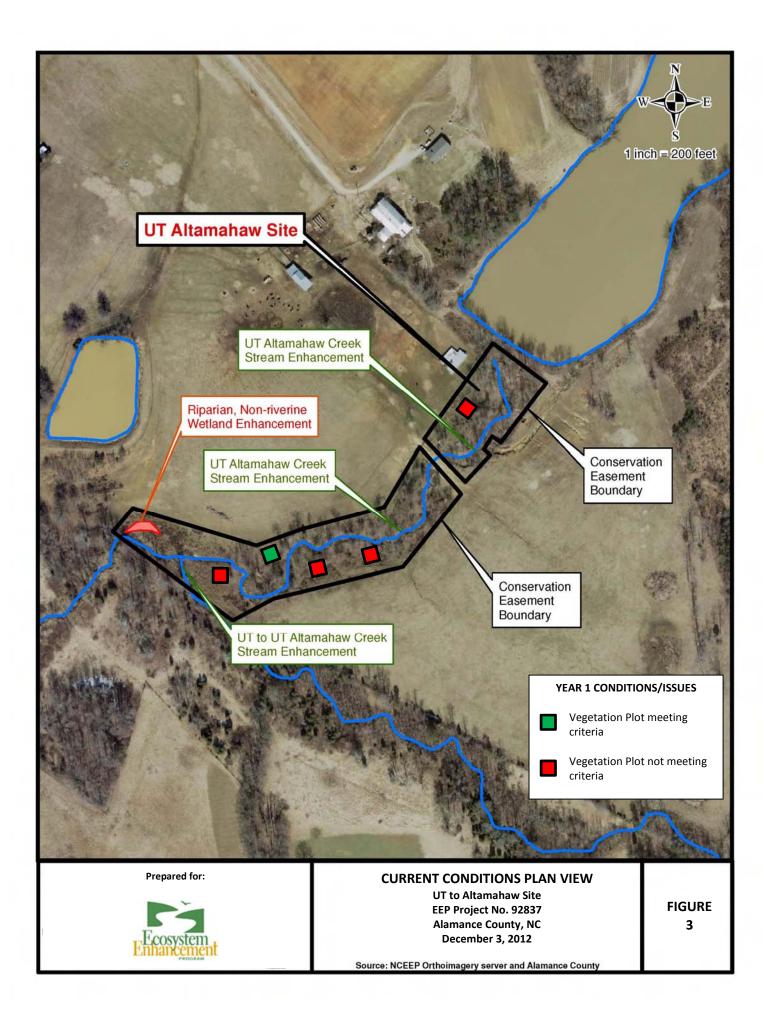


Table 6.Vegetation Condition Assessment

UT Altamahaw/ 92837

Planted Acreage 4.6

Vegetation Category	Definitions	Mapping Threshold	CCPV Depiction	Number of Polygons	Combined Acreage	% Planted Acreage
1. Bare Areas	Very limited cover of both woody and herbaceous material	0.1 ac	n/a	0	0	0
2. Low Stem Density Areas	Woody stem densities clearly below target levels based on MY 3, 4, or 5 stem count criteria	0.1 ac	n/a	4	3.7	80
	•		Total	4	3.7	0
3. Areas of Poor Growth Rates or Vigor	Areas with woody stems of a size class that area obviously small given the monitoring year	0.25 ac	n/a	0	0	0
		Cumu	lative Total	0	0	0

Easement Acreage 4.6

Vegetation Category	Definitions	Mapping Threshold	CCPV Depiction	Number of Polygons	Combined Acreage	% Planted Acreage
4. Invasive Areas	Areas or points (if too small to render as polygons at map scale)	none	n/a	0	0	0
5. Easement Encroachment Areas	Areas or points (if too small to render as polygons at map scale)	none	n/a	0	0	0

Photostation Comparison

UT Altamahaw Site - Monitoring Year 1 (2012)

Photo # and Location **Baseline Condition 2012** MY 1 2012 Photostation 1. Facing south east along y-axis of Vegetation Plot 1. Photostation 2. Facing south across Vegetation Plot 1. Photostation 3. Facing northeast towards Vegetation Plot 1. Photostation 4. Facing east (upstream) along UT Altamahaw Creek. Photostation 5. Facing north from east corner of existing crossing.

Baseline Condition 2012

MY 1 2012

Photostation 6. Facing southwest from south corner of existing crossing.

Photostation 7. Facing south along UT Altamhaw Creek from existing crossing.

Photostation 8. Facing southwest from corner at existing west corner of crossing.

Photostation 9. Facing upstream along UT Altamahaw Creek north of Vegetation Plot 2.

Photostation 10. Facing north along x-axis of Vegetation Plot 2.



Baseline Condition 2012

MY 1 2012



Photostation 11. Facing northwest across Vegetation Plot 2.

Photostation 12. Facing west at riparian area from Vegetation Plot 2.

Photostation 13. Facing upstream along UT Altamahaw Creek.

Photostation 14. Facing downstream along UT Altamahaw Creek.

Photostation 15. Facing north along x-axis of Vegetation Plot 3.

Baseline Condition 2012

MY 1 2012



Photostation 16. Facing northwest across Vegetation Plot 3.

Photostation 17. Facing north along x-axis of Vegetation Plot 4.

Photostation 18. Facing northwest across Vegetation Plot 4.

Photostation 19. Facing northwest along easement boundary.

Photostation 20. Facing northeast along easement boundary.

Baseline Condition 2012

MY 1 2012

Photostation 21. Facing downstream along UT Altamahaw Creek at the crest gage.

Photostation 22. Facing downstream along UT Altamahaw Creek.

Photostation 23. Facing upstream along UT Altamahaw Creek.

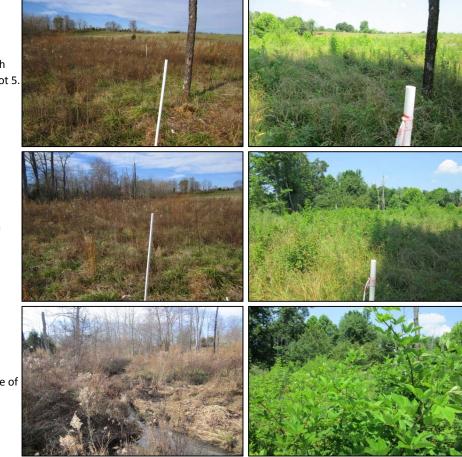
Photostation 24. Facing northwest along southern easement boundary.

Photostation 25. Facing northwest along southern easement boundary.



Baseline Condition 2012

MY 1 2012



Photostation 26. Facing north along x-axis of Vegetation Plot 5.

Photostation 27. Facing northwest across Vegetation Plot 5.

Photostation 28. Facing downstream from confluence of two unnamed tributaries.

APPENDIX C.

Vegetation Plot Data

Tak	ole 7. Vegetation Plot Criteria Attai UT Altamahaw/ 92837	nment
Vegetation Plot ID	Vegetation Survival Threshold Met?	Tract Mean
1	No	100%
2	No	100%
3	No	100%
4	Yes	100%
5	No	100%

	Table 8. CVS Vegetation Metadata Table
	UT Altamahaw Creek (EEP Project No. 92837)
Report Prepared By	Lane Sauls
Date Prepared	10/30/2012 10:43
database name	EcologicalEngineering-2012-UTAltamahawYear1-A.mdb
	S:\Projects\50000 State\EEP 50512\50512-001 EEP Altamahaw
database location	Creek\MONITORING\Year 1 2012
computer name	LANE
file size	36397056
DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHEETS	IN THIS DOCUMENT
	Description of database file, the report worksheets, and a summary of
Metadata	project(s) and project data.
	Each project is listed with its PLANTED stems per acre, for each year. This
Proj, planted	excludes live stakes.
	Each project is listed with its TOTAL stems per acre, for each year. This
Proj, total stems	includes live stakes, all planted stems, and all natural/volunteer stems.
	List of plots surveyed with location and summary data (live stems, dead
Plots	stems, missing, etc.).
Vigor	Frequency distribution of vigor classes for stems for all plots.
Vigor by Spp	Frequency distribution of vigor classes listed by species.
	List of most frequent damage classes with number of occurrences and percent
Damage	of total stems impacted by each.
Damage by Spp	Damage values tallied by type for each species.
Damage by Plot	Damage values tallied by type for each plot.
	A matrix of the count of PLANTED living stems of each species for each plot;
Planted Stems by Plot and Spp	dead and missing stems are excluded.
	A matrix of the count of total living stems of each species (planted and natural
ALL Stems by Plot and spp	volunteers combined) for each plot; dead and missing stems are excluded.
PROJECT SUMMARY	
Project Code	92837
project Name	UT ALTAMAHAW
Description	Stream enhancement
River Basin	Cape Fear
length(ft)	1347
stream-to-edge width (ft)	50
area (sq m)	12512.77
Required Plots (calculated)	5
Sampled Plots	0

h Annual Means)	
able 9. Planted and Total Stem Counts (Species by Plot with Annual Means	UT Altamahaw Site (EEP Project No. 92837)
Table 9. Plar	UT Altamah

						CURR	CURRENT DATA (MY 1 2012)	(MY 1 20	12)					ANNUAL MEANS	MEANS	
SCIENTIELC NAME	COMPACE NAME	TVDE	PLC	PLOT 1	PLOT	т 2	PLOT 3	3	PLOT 4	r 4	PLOT 5	Т 5	CURRENT MEAN	T MEAN	AS BUILT	JILT
3 CIENTIFIC INAIVIE		1175	Ρ	Т	Р	т	٩	т	Ρ	Т	Р	Т	Р	Т	٩	т
Acer negundo	boxelder	Tree		1										1		
Acer rubrum	red maple	Tree				2						1		3		
Betula nigra	river birch	Tree		2		1		3	1	1	1	12	2	19	1	1
Cornus florida	flowering dogwood	Tree								1				1	2	2
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	Tree	2	2			1	1	З	ю	1	1	7	7	7	7
Ligustrum sinense	Chinese privet	Tree		1										1		
Li qui da mbar styra ci fl ua	sweetgum	Tree										8		8		
Liriodendron tulipifera	tuliptree	Tree										1		1		
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood	Tree													1	1
Platanus occidentalis	American sycamore	Tree			2	2					1	1	ю	ю	ю	ю
Quercus sp.	Oak species	Tree													1	1
Que rcus michauxii	s wa mp chestnut oak	Tree			1	1	2	2					3	ю	4	4
Quercus pagoda	che rrybark oak	Tree			2	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	8	8	11	11
Rhus sp.	sumac	Shrub								1		1		2		
Salix nigra	black willow	Shrub		1										1		2
Ulmus americana	American elm	Tree						1						1	2	2
Unknown		Tree			1	1					1	1	2	2	3	3
	PLOT A	PLOT AREA (ACRES)	0.	0.02	0.02	02	0.02		0.02	2	0.02	12	0.1	1	0.1	
	SPE	SPECIES COUNT	2	7	6	6	5	6	7	6	5	27	25	61	35	37
	S	STEM COUNT	1	5	4	6	3	5	3	5	5	6	6	15	10	11
	STEN	STEMS PER ACRE	100	350	300	450	250	450	350	450	250	1350	250	610	350	370

Color for Density (Based on Year 3 Success Criteria) Exceeds requirements by 10% Exceeds requirements but by less than 10% Fails to meet requirements by less than 10% Fails to meet requirements by more than 10%

Other Colors Indicates that volunteer species exist within plot

APPENDIX D.

Hydrology Data

	Table 12. Verificatio	n of Bankfull Events	
	UT Altama	haw/ 92837	
Date of Data Collection	Date of Occurrence	Method	Photo # (if available)
n/a*	November 3 & 4, 2012	NC State Climate Office	None

* Based on daily rainfall data prior to installation of Crest Gage. Approximately 2.4 inches of rain was recorded over a span of two days.

