BEAMON'S RUN BUFFER AND WETLAND RESTORATION SITE (BARNHILL FARM) MONITORING REPORT (2009)

Greene County, North Carolina EEP Project No. 24



Prepared for: North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program 1652 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1652



Status of Plan: Final Submission Date: December 2009



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Monitoring Firm:



Stantec Consulting Services Inc 801 Jones Franklin Road, Suite 300 Raleigh, NC 27606

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project site is located on the grounds of the Barnhill farm southeast of Wilson, NC. The site was identified for its potential as a buffer site because of its proximity to several bordering streams, including Beaman's Run and Contentnea Creek. The site was brought to the attention of the NC Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) because it had been cited for violations by the NC Division of the Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) due to the stockpiling of old tires which had been found in the nearby streams.

The conservation easement is made up of two tracts: Tract A encompasses 47.53 acres along the right bank of Beamon's Run (including a 2.11 acre open pit area); Tract B encompasses 32.38 acres along the left bank of Contentnea Creek. Site investigation and design services were provided by PBS&J, Inc. The records available at this time indicated that construction and the bulk of the planting at the site occurred over the winter of 2000. Using the 2000 as-built plan, areas that did not appear to contain any of the planted species, were outside the 200' buffer limit, or exhibited a much older mature plant community were excluded from the monitoring effort. Based on the revised areas, the project consists of 16.89 acres of Neuse River riparian buffer restoration, 195 feet of streambank stabilization, and 0.34 acres of wetland restoration.

No monitoring plan was originally prepared for this site and no monitoring program began at this site when construction was completed. NCSU staff from the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and the Water Resources Research Institute made an initial monitoring visit on October 14, 2003. They compiled the first monitoring report submitted in March of 2004. In 2009, Stantec was contracted to implement a revised monitoring procedure and report developed based on the document "Content, Format, and Data Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports" provided by the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program in 11/16/06.

Monitoring revealed that 6 of the 12 plots (50%) met the vegetative success criteria of 320 planted stems or greater per acre. It is difficult to discern the exact reasons for poor planted species survival in the vegetation plots and elsewhere on the site since it has been 9 years since vegetation installation. Seedlings may have been shaded out, eaten by wildlife, affected by recent droughts, or in some cases affected by mowing.

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1.0 Project Background

1.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of riparian wetland and buffer restoration is to improve water quality by providing a more ecologically effective and efficient riparian buffer. The establishment and protection of a vegetated buffer along the floodplain of any stream provides a number of benefits, which include streambank stability from mature root systems, in-stream shade from the overhanging leaf canopy, organic detritus that fuels food chains, habitat and travel corridors for native wildlife species, and filtering of sediments and other potential pollutants from surface and subsurface flow (NCSRI, 2003). The natural riparian buffer along the project's section of Beamon's Run had been disturbed by past agricultural practices and portions of it had been used as a tire dump. The tires and associated debris were removed and the buffer was planted with native wetland species to restore functionality to the buffer. The primary objective of the project was to protect and improve water quality by removing and transforming pollutants with buffers and wetlands.

The goals as listed in the WRP Project Summary were to:

- 1. Restore agricultural land to riparian buffer to increase removal of nutrients
- 2. Improve wildlife habitat

1.2 PROJECT STRUCTURE

The land was acquired in a settlement of a suit brought by the state against Frank Barnhill to recover costs of cleaning up the tires he had been dumping on his land. According to the final settlement agreement, the conservation easement was conveyed to the state in lieu of money spent from the NC Scrap Tire Disposal Account "for the abatement of a nuisance tire collection site." The conservation easement is made up of two tracts: Tract A encompasses 47.53 acres along the right bank of Beamon's Run (including a 2.11 acre open pit area); Tract B encompasses 32.38 acres along the left bank of Contentnea Creek. The Wetland Restoration Program (now NCEEP) hired PBS&J to provide investigation and design services for stream enhancement, wetland restoration and Neuse River riparian buffer restoration. The as-built planset shows 24.45 acres of planting. The records available at this time indicated that construction and the bulk of the planting at the site occurred over the winter of 2000.

Using the 2000 as-built plan, areas that did not appear to contain any of the planted species, were outside the 200' buffer limit, or exhibited a much older mature plant community were excluded from the monitoring effort. The 200' buffer was taken from the normal edge of the surface water. These areas are shown on the maps in Appendix D. As per NCEEP, only the wetland area within the 200' buffer was monitored for vegetative success. The stream stabilization areas were not formally assessed; however, erosion was not observed onsite in those areas. Based on the revised areas, the project consists of 16.89 acres of Neuse River riparian buffer restoration, 195 feet of streambank stabilization, and 0.34 acres of wetland restoration.

Exhibit Table I. Project Restoration Components Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site/EEP Project No. 24						
Reach ID	Existing Feet/Acres	Type	Approach	Footage or Acreage	Stationing	Comment
Riverine Wetland			Prepare and plant		:	Cypress community near
Restoration (ac)	0.34	R	wetland areas	0.34		Contentnea Creek
Neuse Riparian						Within 200' buffer along both
Buffer Restoration			Prepare and plant			Beamon's Run and Contentnea
(lf)	16.89	R	buffers	16.89		Creek
			Construction and installation of brush mattresses			In three areas along both
Streambank			for bank			Beamon's Run and Contentnea
Stabilization (lf)	195	S	stabilization	195		Creek

R = Restoration

1.3 LOCATION AND SETTING

The restoration site is located approximately 7.3 miles southeast of Stantonsburg, in Greene County, North Carolina. The site is located in a rural area, adjacent to Beamon's Run Creek, which is a major tributary of Contentnea Creek, located in the Neuse River Basin.

Site directions: From Raleigh follow US 264 East toward Wilson. Take exit 49 and turn right onto NC 58 South toward Wilson/Kinston. Travel approximately 5.2 miles on NC 58. This will take you into Stantonsburg. Continue through Stantonsburg, and after traveling 4 miles past Stantonsburg, turn left at Speight's Bridge Road (NC 1225). Travel approximately 3.5 miles down NC 1225, and turn right on a farm path before you approach Beamon's Farm Rd. The farm path is behind a brick ranch style house close to NC 1225.

S = Stabilization

P=Preservation

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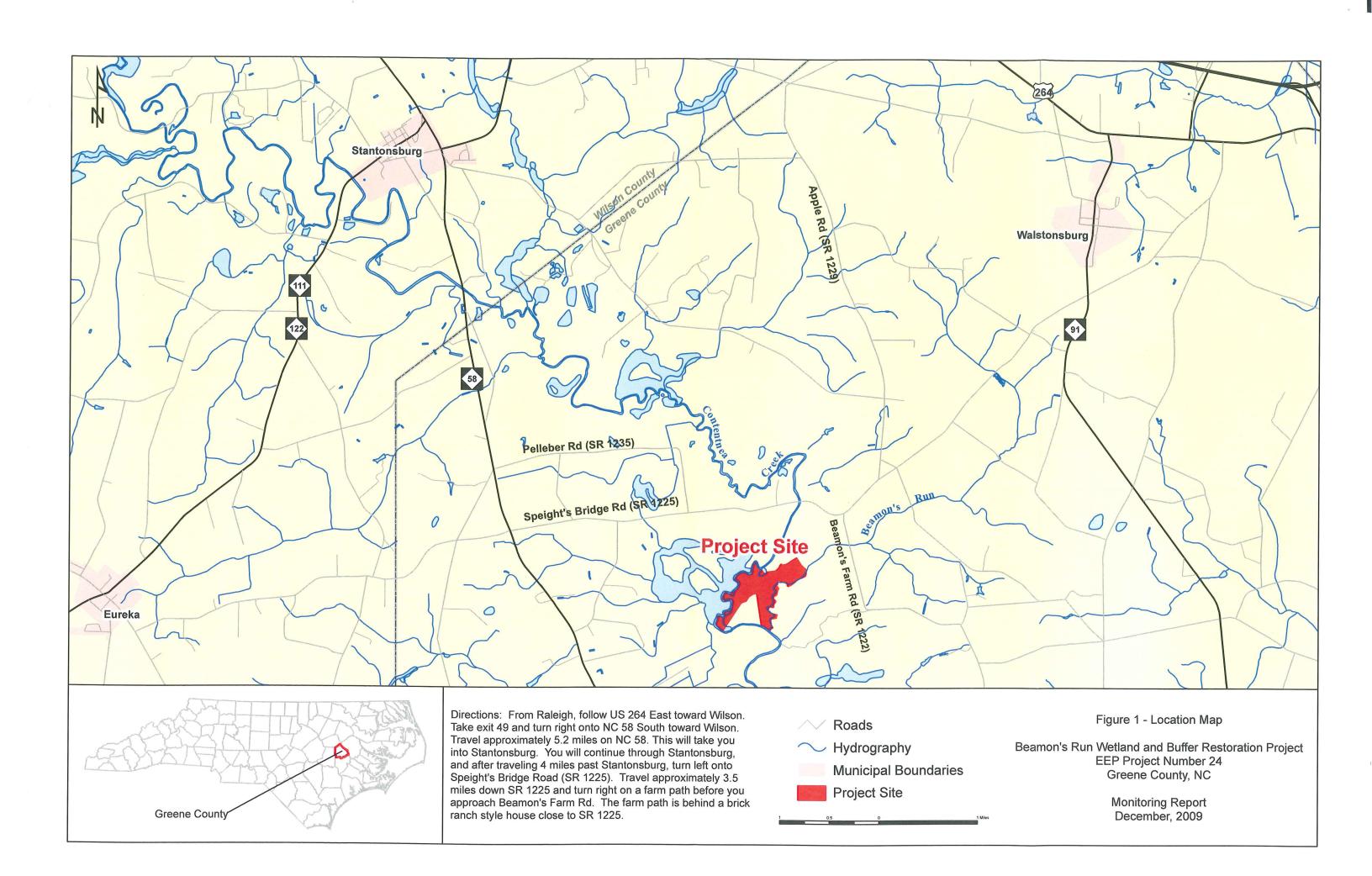
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1.4 PROJECT HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

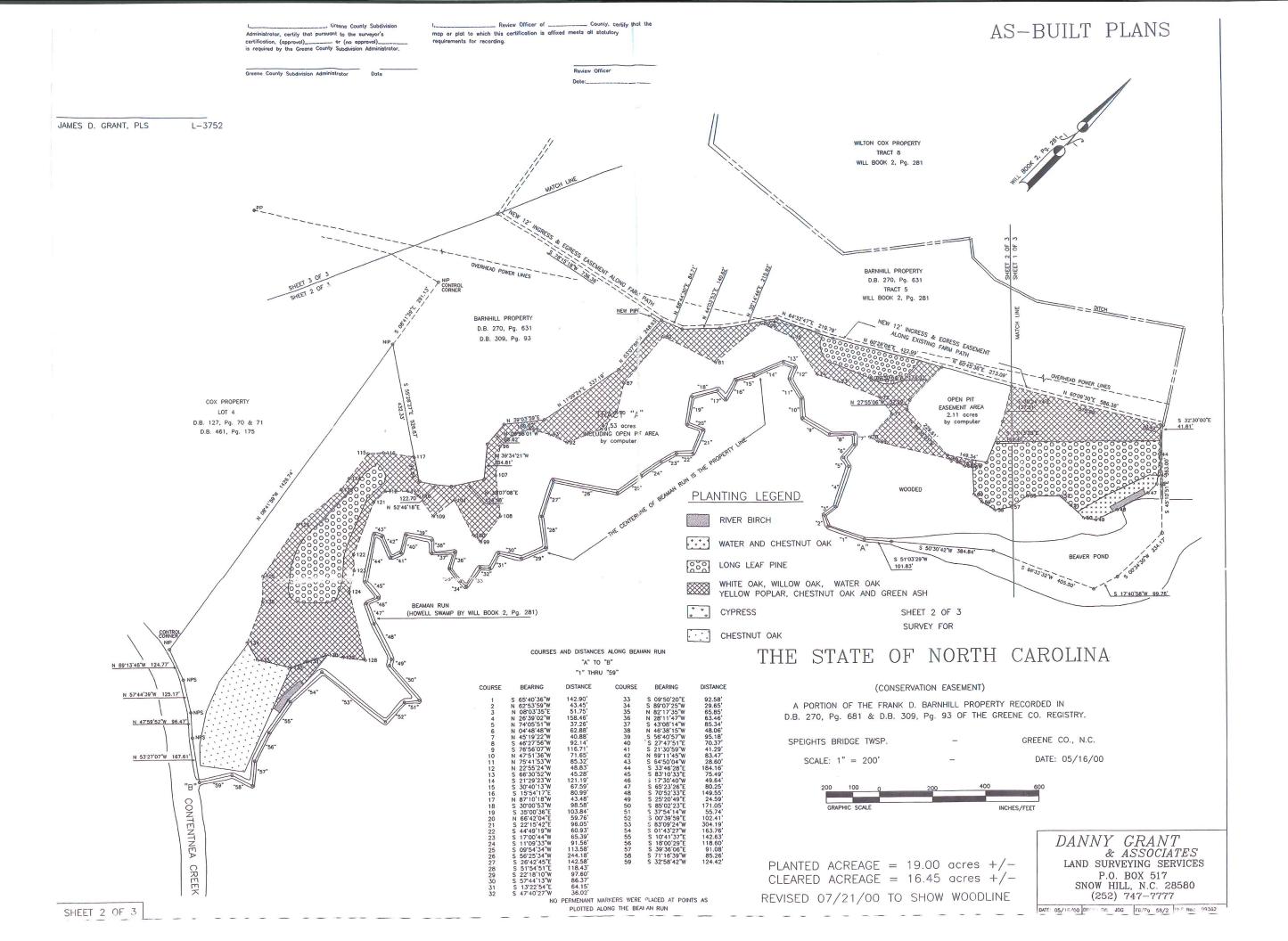
Exhibit Table II. Project Activity and Reporting History Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site/EEP Project No. 24							
Activity or Report	Scheduled Completion	Data Collection Complete	Actual Completion or Delivery				
Restoration Plan	unknown	unknown	unknown				
Final Design - 90%	unknown	unknown	unknown				
Construction	2000	2000	2000				
Temporary S&E mix applied to entire project area	2000	2000	2000				
Permanent seed mix applied to entire project area	2000	2000	2000				
Bare Root Seedling Installation	2000	2000	2000				
Mitigation Plan / As-built (Year 0 Monitoring - baseline)	May, 2000	May, 2000	May, 2000				
Final Report	unknown	unknown	unknown				
Monitoring Report (NCSU)	Mar, 2004	Mar, 2004	Mar, 2004				
Monitoring Report (Stantec)	Dec, 2009	Dec, 2009	Dec, 2009				

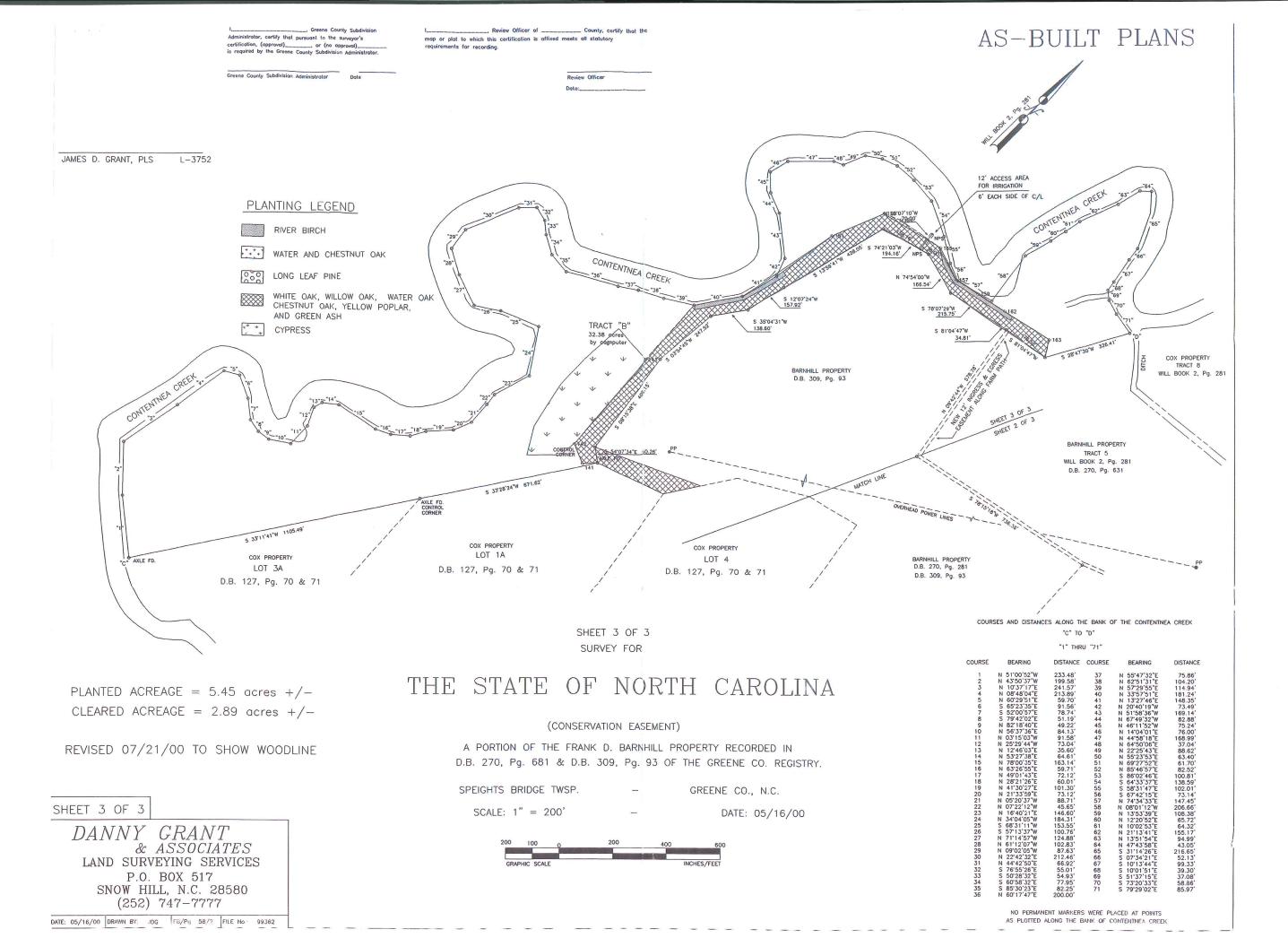
Exhibit Table III. Contacts									
Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site/EEP Project No. 24									
Designer	Designer PBS&J 1616 East Millbrook Road								
	1616 East Millbrook Road								
	Suite 310								
	Raleigh, NC 27609								
Construction Contractor	unknown								
Planting Contractor	unknown								
Seeding Contractor	unknown								
Securing Contractor	unknown								
Seed Mix Sources	unknown								
Nursery Stock Suppliers	Denton's Nursury (longleaf)								
	3535 NC 42 West								
	Wilson, NC 27893								
	NC Division of Forest Resources (bare roots)								
	762 Claridge Nursery Road								
	Goldsboro, NC 27530								
Monitoring Performers (2003)	NCSU BAE Dept & Water Quality Group								
	Campus Box 7637								
	Raleigh NC 27695								
	(919) 515-8240								
Monitoring Performers (2009)	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.								
	801 Jones Franklin Road, Ste 300								
	Raleigh, NC 27606								
Vegetation Monitoring POC	Larry Hobbs (919)851-6866								
	Amber Coleman (919)851-6866								

Exhibit Table IV. Project Background Table Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site/EEP Project No. 24					
Beamon's Run Butter and Wetland Rest	oration Site/EEP Project No. 24				
Project County	Greene				
Drainage Area	8.5 sqmi				
Drainage impervious cover estimate (%)	< 1 percent				
Stream Order	3rd order				
Physiographic Region	Coastal Plain				
Ecoregion	Southeastern Floodplains and Low Terraces				
Rosgen Classification of As-built	N/A				
Cowardin Classification	PFO1A - Palustrine, Forested, Broad-leaved deciduous, temp. flooded (dominant classification)				
Dominant soil types					
Riverine Wetland Restoration	Kenansville fine sand				
Riverine Buffer Restoration					
Reference site ID	N/A				
USGS HUC for Project	03020203050010				
USGS HUC for Reference	N/A				
NCDWQ Subbasin for Project	03-04-07				
NCDWQ Subbasin for Reference	N/A				
NCDWQ Classification for Project	C SW NSW				
NCDWQ Classification for Reference	N/A				
Any portion of any project segment 303d listed?	No				
Any portion of any project segment upstream of a 303d listed					
segment?	No				
Reasons for 303d listing or stressor	N/A				
Percent of project easement fenced	N/A				

1.5 MONITORING PLAN VIEW

The monitoring plan view map is integrated within the current condition plan view map in Appendix D. The original as-built maps have been included here.





2.1 VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

Vegetation onsite was first visually assessed to determine the general areas of viable planted vegetation. Using the 2000 as-built plan, areas that did not appear to contain any of the planted species, were outside the 200' buffer limit, or exhibited a much older mature plant community were excluded from the monitoring effort. These areas are shown on the maps in Appendix D. The 200' buffer was taken from the normal edge of the surface water.

Twelve vegetative sample plots within the project easement were quantitatively monitored during the 2009 growing season on October 6th and 7th, 2009. The plots were randomly chosen using GIS. Species composition, density, and survival were observed during the site visit. The Carolina Vegetation Survey (CVS, 2006) methodology was utilized for vegetative monitoring. Level 2 (planted and natural stems) methodology was completed on all monitored plots. It must be noted that due to the age of the planted species, in some plots, it was difficult to distinguish planted species from volunteers. However, best professional judgment along with knowledge of project planting zones by species enabled vegetation data to be collected. The planted vegetation zones included oak mix, longleaf pine, river birch, and cypress.

The vegetative success criteria are based on the North Carolina rule 15A NCAC 2B 0242 Neuse River Basin: Nutrient Sensitive Waters Management Strategy: Mitigation Program for Protection and Maintenance of Existing Riparian Buffers (2000). The final vegetative success criteria will be the survival of 320 5-year old planted woody stems per acre at the end of the monitoring period. As per NCEEP, the Cypress wetland area was only monitored for vegetation within the 200' riparian buffer, and not wetland hydrology.

The 2009 stem counts within each of the twelve vegetative monitoring plots are included in Exhibit Tables A1 through A5 in Appendix A1. Photos of the vegetative monitoring plots are included in Appendix A3. Stems per acre for each of the twelve plots are reported in Table A5-A of Appendix A1.

2.1.1 Vegetation Problem Areas

Monitoring revealed that 6 of the 12 plots (50%) met the vegetative success criteria of 320 planted stems or greater per acre. The remaining 6 plots failed to meet the success criteria (plots 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11A). There are a number of issues causing the failure of these plots. Vegetation Plots 4 and 9 (VP-4, VP-9) exhibited poor survival of planted longleaf likely resulting from high densities of volunteer loblolly recruitment. This may be an issue related to a lack of forest management for longleaf pines after planting. VP-7 was located in an area that appeared to have poor soil due to residual debris from the site's history of being a tire dump. It could have been attributed to early mortality of oak species after planting. It is difficult to discern the exact reasons for poor planted species survival in the vegetation plots and elsewhere on the site since it has been 9 years since vegetation installation. Seedlings may have been shaded out, eaten by wildlife, affected by recent droughts, or in some cases affected by mowing.

	Exhibit Table V - Vegetative Success Criteria Attainment Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site / EEP Project No. 24				
Vegetation Plot ID					
VP-1B	Y (688)				
VP-2	Y (405)				
VP-3	N (202)	50%			
VP-4	N (40)				
VP-5	Y (486)				
VP-6	Y (567)				
VP-7	N (81)				
VP-8A	Y (567)				
VP-9	N (121)	(344 stems/acre)			
VP-10	N (162)	•			
VP-11A	N (81)				
VP-12A	Y (729)				

2.1.2 Vegetation Current Condition Plan View

Vegetative problem areas are shown on the Current Condition Plan View in Appendix D.

2.2 STREAM ASSESSMENT

As per EEP, no stream monitoring took place at the Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site.

2.3 WETLAND ASSESSMENT

2.3.1 Current Condition Plan View

As per EEP, no wetland monitoring took place at the Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site.

2.3.2 Wetland Criteria Attainment

No groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the site.

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* (http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm)

NCEEP. 2006. Content, Format and Data Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Raleigh, NC. Version 1.2 November 16, 2006

NC Administrative Code: 15A NCAC 2B 0242, Neuse River Basin: Nutrient Sensitive Waters Management Strategy: Mitigation Program for Protection and Maintenance of Existing Riparian Buffers, Raleigh, NC. 2000.

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Appendix A. Vegetation Raw Data

A.1 VEGETATION DATA TABLES

Report Prepared By	Richard Andrews
Date Prepared	10/21/2009 13:48
Date i Tepareu	10/21/2000 10:10
database name	cvs-eep-entrytool-v2.2.7.mdb
database location	V:\1713\resource\Library\Streams & Wetlands\Monitoring\cvs
computer name	ANDREWSR
file size	35663872
1110 3120	
DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHEETS	N THIS DOCUMENT
	Description of database file, the report worksheets, and a summary
Metadata	of project(s) and project data.
	Each project is listed with its PLANTED stems per acre, for each
Proj, planted	year. This excludes live stakes.
	Each project is listed with its TOTAL stems per acre, for each year.
	This includes live stakes, all planted stems, and all
Proj, total stems	natural/volunteer stems.
	List of plots surveyed with location and summary data (live stems,
Plots	dead 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
Damage	and percent 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
Planted Stems by Plot and Spp	each plot; dead and missing stems are excluded.
	A matrix of the count of total living stems of each species (planted
	and natural volunteers combined) for each plot; dead and missing
ALL Stems by Plot and spp	stems are excluded.
PROJECT SUMMARY	
Project Code	24
project Name	Beamon's Run
	Barnhill Farm off of HWY 58 b/w Snow Hill and Wilson in Greene
Description	County
River Basin	Neuse
length(ft)	16,350
stream-to-edge width (ft)	200
area (sq m)	68,350
Required Plots (calculated)	
Sampled Plots	12

	Exhibit Table A2 - Vegetation Vigor By Species											
	Species	CommonName	4	3	2	1	0	Missing	Unknown			
	Betula nigra	river birch	17									
	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	3	5	2	1						
	Pinus palustris	longleaf pine	4									
	Quercus alba	white oak	13	6	1							
	Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	1	2	3							
	Quercus nigra	water oak	6	6	11	1						
	Quercus phellos	willow oak	18	2								
TOT:	7	7	62	21	17	2						

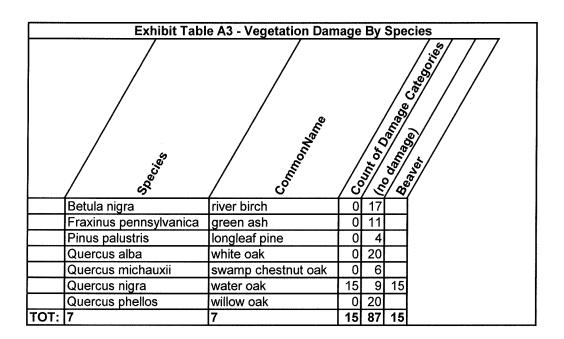


	Exhibit Table A4 -	Ved	etat	ion	Damage By Plot					
Exhibit Table A4 - Vegetation Damage By Plot										
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					<i>₫</i> ///					
1				/8						
				10/	/_//					
			15	3/ 3	8/ /					
			(0)		5/					
	/ *	/	\$/	8/	2/					
	10/10	/ હ	1/3	10	5/					
	024-AC/RA-0002	0	10							
	024-AC/RA-0003	0	5							
	024-AC/RA-0004	0	1							
	024-AC/RA-0005	0	12							
	024-AC/RA-0006	0	14							
	024-AC/RA-0007	0	2							
	024-AC/RA-0009	0	3							
	024-AC/RA-0010	0	4							
	024-AC/RA-01B	0	17							
	024-AC/RA-08A	0	14							
	024-AC/RA-11A	0	2							
	024-AC/RA-12A	15	3	15						
TOT:	12	15	87	15						

	Exhibit Table A5-A - Planted Stems By Plot and Species																		
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1		//	/			20/	/	/.	5/	2/	9/	5/	9/	9/	2/	5/	9/	9/	2/2/
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1	10	\`id=\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Compounding	/,8	/3	Short Stems	Plos Stems	Plos CR	1/3	DO. 424 CD	DIO: 124-4C/P	1/3	900 - A - A - O - O - O - O - O - O - O - O	100 P. 10	010, W. AC. R. A. O.	DIO. 24.4C.P.	1/5	00 4 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
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		Betula nigra	river birch	17	1	17									17				
		Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	11	4	2.75	2			1	1					7			
		Pinus palustris	longleaf pine	4	2	2			1				3						
		Quercus alba	white oak	20	7	2.86		2		8	4	2		1			2	1	
		Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	6	1	6					6								
	Г	Quercus nigra	water oak	24	3	8								2		6		16	
		Quercus phellos	willow oak	20	7	2.86	8	3		3	3			1		1		1	
TOT:	0	7	7	102	7		10	5	1	12	14	2	3	4	17	14	2	18	
STEN	IS P	ER ACRE			STEMS PER ACRE					486	567	81	121	162	688	567	81	729	

		Exhi	Exhibit Table	ble A	A5-B - /	All Ste	Stems B	By Plot	t and	Species	es								
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		400	Tota	Pld #	86 ₁₆	. P50	054	. P20	054	050	DZ0	050	DZ0	D20	050	P20		Yes.	
	Acer negundo	boxelder	_	_	-	Г												_	
	Acer rubrum	red maple	178	8	22.25	_		29	20				3	86	13	16		10	
	Baccharis halimifolia	eastern baccharis	22	က	7.33		H	Г		_				L				1	
	Betula nigra	river birch	52	7	26			Ī		9				46				_	
	Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	10	2	2	T							_			L		To.	
	Crataegus	hawthorn	2	2	2.5	4	-	Γ								L	L	ol -	
	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	13	4	3.25	က	H	Г	2	_					_			_	
1	Ilex decidua	possumhaw	18	4	4.5		-	7	12									m	
	llex opaca	American holly	6	9	1.5		\vdash	က	_	_				2		_		T-	
	Ligustrum sinense	Chinese privet	3	က	-	-								_				-T-	
	Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	111	10	11.1		H	_	17	_	4	3	29	15	28	4	L	Tec	
	Liriodendron tulipifera	tuliptree	2	2	2.5									4	L			1	
+	Morella cerifera	wax myrtle	2	2	_		\vdash							1		_		_	
	Nyssa	tupelo	_	_	_		-											_	
	Pinus palustris	longleaf pine	4	2	2			~				3							
+	Pinus taeda	loblolly pine	49	ω	6.12	7	7	21	5	13			2			က		Ī~	
1	Prunus serotina	black cherry	1	_	_		\vdash		_								L	_	
	Quercus alba	white oak	89	တ	7.56	Ŋ	7		47	4	2		က		2	2		T-	
1	Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	7	2	3.5	Г	\vdash			9	L	-						T	
1	Quercus nigra	water oak	31	2	6.2	_	H	Г				1	2		10		-	1	
1	Quercus phellos	willow oak	38	ω	4.75	17	က		∞	က			_	က				N	
+	Quercus rubra	northern red oak	47	3	2.67	Г		_		36							19	To	
+	Salix nigra	black willow	2	2	1				Г				_	_				_	
	- 1	eastern poison ivy	_	7	150		\exists					50					250	Ю	
10T: 0	24	24	977	24		34	၈	64	113	72	9	58	42	167	62	42	308	00	
STEMS	STEMS PER ACRE					1377	364 2	2591	4575	2915	243	2348	1700	6761	2510	1700	12470	Ю	

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	EXHIBIT TABLE A6. VEGETATION PROBLEM AREAS									
Feature/Issue	Station # / Range	Probable Cause	Photo #							
Weak numbers of planted species	VP-3, VP-7, VP-10, VP-11A	Competition from volunteers, poor soil, early morality	2							
Weak numbers of planted Longleaf Pine	VP-4, VP-9	No management for Longleaf / competition from Loblolly Pine	1							

A.2 VEGETATION PROBLEM AREA PHOTOS



Photo 1 – Dense loblolly pine recruitment in vicinity of Veg Plot 4 (10/7/09)



Photo 2 – Low planted species survival in vicinity of Veg Plot 7A (10/7/09)

A.3 VEGETATION MONITORING PLOT PHOTOS



Photo Station 1 - Vegetation Plot 1B (10/7/09)



Photo Station 2 - Vegetation Plot 2 (10/6/09)



Photo Station 3 - Vegetation Plot 3 (10/6/09)



Photo Station 4 - Vegetation Plot 4 (10/6/09)



Photo Station 5 - Vegetation Plot 5 (10/6/09)



Photo Station 6 - Vegetation Plot 6 (10/6/09)



Photo Station 7 - Vegetation Plot 7 (10/7/09)



Photo Station 8 - Vegetation Plot 8A (10/7/09)



Photo Station 9 - Vegetation Plot 9 (10/7/09)



Photo Station 10 – Vegetation Plot 10 (10/7/09)



Photo Station 11 – Vegetation Plot 11A (10/7/09)



Photo Station 12 - Vegetation Plot 12A (10/6/09)

Appendix B. Geomorphologic Raw Data

No stream assessment took place at the Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site

Appendix C. Hydrology Data

No hydrologic monitoring took place at the Beamon's Run Buffer and Wetland Restoration Site.

Appendix D. Current Condition Plan View

