Naked Creek Stream Final Mitigation Report

Wilkes County, North Carolina

USGS HUC: 03040101010100 Project ID No. 040619201



Prepared for:



NCDENR-Ecosystem Enhancement Program 1652 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1652

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Executive Summary

The Naked Creek Stream Restoration project falls within the Eller and Day Properties in Wilkes County, North Carolina approximately 10.6 miles west of Wilkesboro, North Carolina and 18.4 miles east of Boone, North Carolina. The site stream lies within USGS hydrologic unit **03040101**010100 in the Yadkin River Basin.

Prior to restoration, the site consisted of one reach (UtNkd), an approximately 2,800 linear foot portion of an unnamed tributary to Naked Creek (Drainage area 0.5 mi²). UtNkd drained a watershed consisting of predominantly forest land and agricultural land. Pasture land surrounded the project reach and the stream banks lacked strong rooted vegetation (e.g. woody or deep rooted herbaceous vegetation). Due to the lack of bank protection and denuded watershed, the stream channel incised (bank height ratios of 1.7) and entrenched (entrenchment ratios of 1.5). In this condition and with regular impacts due to cattle traffic, bank erosion had accelerated and the variety of bed features diminished.

For most of the riparian buffer, pasture grasses dominated with isolated specimens of hardwoods. Riparian zone woody vegetation included red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sycamore (*Plantus occidentalis*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).

The altered conditions of the stream and the riparian buffer reduced water quality and impaired habitat. Pasture derived nutrients flowing untreated through the riparian zone and fine silts sloughing from the incised banks raised biological and chemical oxygen demand. This with the lack of sufficient reoxygenating riffle features reduced dissolved oxygen within the water column. Water quality has also diminished due to raised turbidity from bank erosion and elevated water temperatures caused by the lack of tree shading. Habitat potential had been reduced by the diminished water quality and loss of physical habitat such as bed features, undercut banks, and a well developed vegetative community.

The reach was restored within the existing floodplain using a Priority II approach. The riparian buffer was replanted with native woody species to restore ecological function to the buffer.

Site restoration work will result in the restoration of approximately 2,562 linear feet of stream and the restoration of 2.92 acres of riparian buffer. With the restoration, water quality should be improved due to a decrease in nutrients, turbidity, and moderation in water temperature. Biological and chemical oxygen demand should be reduced through filtering in the riparian buffer and riverine wetlands. Potential habitats have been added through the creation of bed features, stable undercut stream banks, and reestablishment of riparian vegetative community.

The monitoring will assess the site's stream and riparian areas to determine restoration success. The monitoring plan has been set up based on guidance provided by The Stream Mitigation Guidelines disseminated by the United States Corps of Engineers – Wilmington District (McLendon, Scott, Fox, Becky et al. 2003) and the most current

version of the EEP documents entitled "Content, Format, and Data Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports".

Stream restoration will be considered successful through achievement of stable channel geometry, appropriate channel materials, and lack of significant erosion. The Riparian buffer will be investigated for survivability of planted vegetation and exclusion of nuisance species.

The site will be maintained during the monitoring period to ensure accordance with success criteria. Repairs will be completed as necessary to reestablish channel stability and the site will be replanted if vegetation shows signs of significant failure.

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Narrative

The Naked Creek Stream Restoration project falls within the Eller and Day Properties in Wilkes County, North Carolina approximately 10.6 miles west of Wilkesboro, North Carolina and 18.4 miles east of Boone, North Carolina. The stream lies within headwaters of the USGS hydrologic unit **03040101**010100 in the Yadkin River Basin. The site as defined by the protective conservation easement surrounding the stream and riparian buffers covers approximately 2.92 acres.

Prior to construction, the site consisted of one reach (UtNkd), an approximately 2,800 linear foot portion of an unnamed tributary to Naked Creek (Drainage area 0.5 mi²). UtNkd drained a watershed consisting of predominantly forest land and agricultural land.

Pasture land surrounded the project reach and the stream banks lacked strong rooted vegetation (e.g. woody or deep rooted herbaceous vegetation). For most of the riparian buffer, pasture grasses dominated with isolated specimens of hardwoods. Riparian zone woody vegetation included red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sycamore (*Plantus occidentalis*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Due to the lack of bank protection, and denuded watershed, the stream channel incised (bank height ratios of 1.7) and become entrenched (entrenchment ratios of 1.5). Entrainment calculations predicted that the channel would continue to degrade. The BEHI scores for the reach ranged from High to Very High. In this condition and with regular impacts due to cattle traffic, bank erosion accelerated and the variety of bed features diminished. With active cattle grazing in the area, the channel would have continued to receive impacts. The reach stream type was an incised B4c and without restoration would have likely continued to downcut and widen, resulting in high sediment loads and impaired habitat.

The goal of the restoration project is to improve the water quality and biological habitat of the site's streams, wetlands, and riparian buffers through the following:

- Restore (pattern, dimension, and profile) unstable streams using natural channel design techniques
- Re-establish riparian buffers

A Priority II restoration approach was used for this project. The Priority II approach was used to re-establish an active floodplain and stabilize the stream banks (Rosgen, David L. 1997). This method should decrease stream bank erosion, establish an active floodplain, reduce channel stress during floods, improve aquatic habitat, and reduce fine sediments.

The riparian buffer was planted as three zones. Zone 1 was the stream bank zone consisting of tree and shrub species and native herbaceous seeding typically found along stream banks in the region. Zone 2 was a forested riparian area consisting of selected tree and shrub species, with a range of tolerances of inundation and saturation. Zone 3 was an upland zone that was planted with tree and shrub species less tolerant to inundation and saturation. Zone 1 was planted with live stakes and Zones 1 and 2 were planted with bare root seedlings and containerized plants. Planting spacing was determined according to planting type. The entire easement was planted.

Inspection of the vegetation plots during the baseline monitoring phase showed that the planting density did not match the density prescribed in the planting plan. EEP will request that the contractor provide supplemental plantings during the spring of 2008 to bring the planting density to design specifications. At this time, the Vegetation Baseline Data does not include species names because the young seedlings were difficult to identify. Vegetation Baseline Data will be updated after the supplemental planting.

	Table 1:	Mitigation	Summary	Table
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Feature	Pre Construction Length/Area		Propose Length/A		Mitigation Type	Mitigation Credit Ratio	Mitigat Credi	
UtNkd	2,800*	ft	2,562	ft	Restoration	1 : 1	2,562	ft
			Tota	al Str	eam Credits	(SMU)	2,562	ft
-		:		Tota	Buffer Cred	its	2.92	ac

* Pre-construction channel contained numerous unstable tight meanders that the restoration work removed and replaced with more stable meanders.



Monitoring Plan

The monitoring plan to evaluate the success of the stream restoration project is based on guidance provided by The Stream Mitigation Guidelines (McLendon, Scott, Fox, Becky et al. 2003) disseminated by the United States Corps of Engineers – Wilmington District and recommendations from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program. The collection and summarization of monitoring data will be conducted in accordance with the most current version of the EEP documents entitled "Content, Format, and Data Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports"

The monitoring will occur annually for five years. The monitoring period should include two separate years with bankfull events. Bankfull events will be verified using an installed crest gauge that will be inspected during each monitoring visit. If a bankfull event has not been documented by the end of the second year of monitoring, a mandatory quarterly check will be required. If there are not two bankfull events, the monitoring period may be extended at the discretion of the Corps of Engineers, Raleigh Regulatory Field Office Project Manager and the 401-Wetlands Unit. Monitoring reports will be submitted during years 1-5.

Monitoring work will include reference photographs, materials sampling, site survey, and visual assessment and mapping of significant features. The success criteria and assessment methods for the sites streams and riparian buffer are provided below.

Stream Monitoring

Success Criteria

The stream geometry will be considered successful if the cross-section geometry, profile, and sinuosity are stable or reach a dynamic equilibrium. It is expected that there will be minimal changes in the designed cross sections, profile, and/or substrate composition. Changes that may occur during the monitoring period will be evaluated to determine if they represent a movement toward a more unstable condition (e.g. down cutting, erosion, mid-channel bars, etc.) or are minor changes that represent an increase in stability (e.g. settling, vegetative changes, coarsening of bed material, etc.).

An initial, though not exclusive, indicator of success will be adherence to design or reference ratios of stream geometry found in the Baseline Morphology and Hydraulic Summary table or in comparable and stable reference systems.

Deviation from the design ratios will not necessarily denote failure as it is possible to maintain stability and not stay within the design geometry. Additionally, determination of true bankfull will be difficult until the stream has had adequate flooding events to create strong bankfull indicators. The following key indicators of stability provide a more complete picture of stream stability:

- Stream Type: Maintenance of the design stream type or progression or conversion to stable stream type such as B, C, or E will indicate stability
- Bank Height Ratio: Bank height ratio between 1.0 and 1.1 will indicate flood flows have access to the active floodplain and that higher flows do not apply excessive stresses to stream banks

Assessment Methods

The survey of channel dimension consists of 6 permanent cross sections placed at unique stream segments throughout the project extent. The cross sections represent 4 riffles and 2 pools. Annual photographs showing both banks and upstream and downstream views will be taken for each cross section.

The survey of the longitudinal profile covers the entire extent of the project reaches. Newly-constructed meanders will be surveyed to provide pattern measurements.

Channel material measurements will be collected at each cross section.

Fifteen permanent photo stations have been set up to visually monitor stream conditions. These photo stations are mapped on the As-Built drawings.

The entire restored length of stream will be investigated for channel stability and instream structure functionality. Any evidence of channel instability will be identified, mapped, and photographed. All structures will be inventoried for functionality and photographed.

Riparian Buffer

Success Criteria

The success of riparian and wetland vegetation planting will be gauged by stem counts of planted species. Stem counts of over 320 trees per acres after 3 years, 288 trees per acre after 4 years, and 260 trees per acre after 5 year will be considered successful. Photos taken at established photo points should indicate maturation of riparian vegetation community.

Assessment Methods

The success of vegetation plantings will be measured through stem counts. Five (5) permanent quadrants will be used to sample the riparian buffer and restoration wetlands. Each quadrant covers 100 square meters. During the counts, the health of the vegetation will be noted. The vegetation survey will occur during the growing season. Permanent photo points have been set up for each quadrant.

References

- McLendon, Scott, Becky Fox, et al. (2003). Stream Mitigation Guidelines. United States Army Corps of Engineers - Wilmington District, United States Environmental Protection Agency, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and North Carolina Department of Natrual Resources - Division of Water Quality.
- Rosgen, David L. (1997). <u>A Geomorphic Approach to Restoration of Incised Rivers</u>. Management of Landscapes Disturbed by Channel Incision.
- Tuttle, John W. (1997). Soil Survey of Wilkes County, North Carolina. Natural Resouces Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture.
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (1987). Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Waterways Experiment Station, Environmental Laboratory.

Attachment 1

As-Built Drawings

AS-BUILT DRAWINGS FOR NAKED CREEK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT

WILKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA STATE PROJECT NO.: 040619201A

NC-EEP CONTACT: JULIE VANN (919) 715-1950

LATITUDE: 36.14267 LONGITUDE: -81.35841

WILKES COUNTY-







INDEX OF SHEETS



LEGEND	1			2
E NAME (S	OURCE)			
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		FENCE (BAK)		/
		PRECONSTRUCTION FENCE (CA	N	/
1		EDGE OF PAVEMENT (CAV)	ć	1
-		TELEPHONE LINE (CAV)		6
		OVERHEAD POWER LINE (CAV)		$\langle \cdot \rangle$
		GUY LINE (CAV)		
-		design stream top of bani		1
		PRE-CONSTRUCTION STREAM		1
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-		AS-BUILT TOP OF BANK (BAN	0	
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21	XSEC1-1	878837.8342	1303569.1512
22	XSEC1-2	878836.1209	1303635.3200
23	XSEC2-1	878772.1609	1303581.8941
24	XSEC2-2	878795.0420	1303649.6580
25	XSEC3-1	878478.1767	1303663.0478
26	XSEC3-2	878489.2874	1303728.1311
27	XSEC4-1	877807.0008	1303729.1342
28	XSEC4-2	877802.1601	1303799.3876
29	XSEC5-1	877042.6050	1303784.2700
30	XSEC5-2	877096.5104	1303818.4546
31	XSEC6-1	876969.1105	1303858.1676
32	XSEC6-2	876985.7281	1303919.8874











Attachment 2:

Baseline Monitoring

Site Photos

Monitoring and Vegetation Photos July 2007

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040619201

8/29/07



Title	Naked Creel	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos				
Prepared For	Project	Naked Creek Stream Restoration	Prepared By			
	TTOJECI	Wilkes, North Carolina				
Fcosystem		Date	SCO Number	Kimley-Horn		
Prinarkgingert	8/29/07		040619201	end Associates, Inc.		

Photo Page 3



Photo 6: Looking upstream from hillside on right bank.

Title	Naked Cree	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos				
Prepared For	Project	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Wilkes, North Carolina		Prepared By		
Ecosystem		Date	SCO Number	Kimley-Hom		
markement		8/29/07	040619201	and Associates, Inc.		



SCO Number

040619201

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Date

8/29/07

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Photo 9: Looking upstream at channel from lower crossing.



Photo 10: Looking downstream at channel from lower crossing.

Title	Naked Cre	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos					
Prepared For	Project		Naked Creek Stream Restoration				
		Wilkes, North Carolina	1				
L'cosystem .		Date	SCO Number	Kimley-Horn			
I neacceneral		8/29/07	040619201	and Associates, Inc.			

Title

Prepared For



	Wilkes, North Carolina		
Ecosystem	Date	SCO Number	Kimley-Horn
Enharkeinen	8/29/07	040619201	and Associates, Inc.

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Photo 14: Looking downstream from right bank at channel and riparian area.

Title	Naked Creek	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos				
Prepared For	Decisat	Naked Creek Stream Restoration	Prepared By			
	Project	Wilkes, North Carolina				
Frankenst		Date	SCO Number	Kimley-Horn		
		8/29/07	040619201	and Associates, Inc.		





Title	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos			
Prepared For	Project	Naked Creek Stream Restoration	Prepared By	
Exosystem		Wilkes, North Carolina		
		Date	SCO Number	Kimley-Horn
	8/29/07		040619201	and Associates, Inc.

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Photo VP 3: Looking northeast of vegetation plot VP3



Photo VP 4: Looking northwest at vegetation plot VP4

Title	Naked Creek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos				
Prepared For	Project	Naked Creek Stream Restoration	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.		
Fcosystem	Troject	Wilkes, North Carolina			
	Date 8/29/07			SCO Number	
				040619201	

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VP 5: Looking southeast at vegetation plot VP5

Title	Naked Cre	eek Stream Restoration Baseline Monitoring Photos			
Prepared For	Berland	Naked Creek Stream Restoration	Prepared By		
Ecosystem	Project	Wilkes, North Carolina			
	Date 8/29/07		SCO Number 040619201	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc	

Naked Creek Baseline Monitoring Report (Year 0) T:\pn\011795018 Naked Creek\As Built Mitigation Report\Naked Creek Baseline Photos.doc **Baseline Profile**

July 2007



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Baseline Cross Sections

July 2007

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Looking at Left and Right Banks



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Looking at Left and Right Banks



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Looking at Left and Right Banks



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Baseline Vegetation

July 2007

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Baseline Vegetation Counts						
Veg Plot	Count - Thriving	Count - Weak	Total	Per Acre		
VP1	5	1	6	243		
VP2	2	3	5	202		
VP3	2	2	4	162		
VP4	8	0	8	324		
VP5	5	0	5	202		

Veg Plot Size =100 square meters

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Supplemental planting planned for Late Winter / Early Spring 2008

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