FINAL ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT UT TO HAW (GWYNN) SITE ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA (EEP Project No. 92753, Contract No. 004543)

Monitoring Year 4 of 5 (2013)



Submitted to: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program Raleigh, North Carolina



September 2013

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> Design Firm: Axiom Environmental, Inc. 218 Snow Avenue Raleigh, North Carolina 27603





September 2013

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP) has completed enhancement and preservation of streams and wetlands at the UT to Haw (Gwynn) Site (hereafter referred to as the "Site") to assist in fulfilling stream and wetland mitigation goals in the area. The Site is located approximately 9 miles north of Burlington, in Alamance County within United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit 03030002030010 (North Carolina Division of Water Quality Subbasin 03-06-02) of the Cape Fear River Basin and will service USGS 8-digit Cataloging Unit (CU) 03030002 (Figure 1, Appendix A). The Site is located within a NCEEP Targeted Local Watershed; in addition, this Site was identified for preservation and enhancement as Site 26 (Travis & Tickle 15.4) in the 2008 NCEEP *Little Alamance, Travis, and Tickle Creek Local Watershed Plan* (PTCG 2008).

The removal of invasive species and subsequent planting with native riparian vegetation at the Site resulted in 2428 linear feet of stream enhancement, 2.0 acres of riparian riverine wetland enhancement, and 0.3 acres of riparian riverine wetland preservation. Site activities provided 971 Stream Mitigation Units and 1.1 riparian riverine Wetland Mitigation Units. Tables summarizing project objectives and activities are included in Appendix A. This report (compiled based on EEP's *Procedural Guidance and Content Requirements for EEP Monitoring Reports* Version 1.3 dated 1/15/10) summarizes data for year 4 (2013) monitoring.

Prior to construction the Site was characterized by pasture land utilized for livestock grazing, a drained pond, and disturbed forest. Land use practices including the maintenance and removal of riparian vegetation and hoof shear from livestock had resulted in degraded water quality, unstable channel characteristics (stream entrenchment, erosion, and bank collapse), and reduced storage capacity and floodwater attenuation. In addition, hydric soils were disturbed due to regular plowing, vegetation maintenance, and hoof shear from livestock.

The goals and objectives of this project focused on improving local water quality, enhancing flood attenuation, and restoring aquatic and riparian habitat. These goals were accomplished by the following.

- Reducing nonpoint sources of pollution by 1) fencing livestock from stream channels, buffers, and wetlands; 2) ceasing the application of agricultural herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers; and 3) providing a vegetative buffer adjacent to streams and wetlands to treat surface runoff prior to entering Site streams and ultimately the Haw River.
- 2. Reducing sedimentation/siltation within on-Site and downstream receiving waters by a) eliminating bank erosion associated with livestock hoof shear on Site streams, b) filtering surface runoff and reducing particulate matter deposition into tributaries, and c) providing a forested vegetative buffer adjacent to Site streams and wetlands.
- 3. Promoting floodwater attenuation and improving stream stability by revegetating Site floodplains to reduce floodwater velocities through increased frictional resistance on floodwaters crossing Site floodplains.
- 4. Providing increased habitat for aquatic wildlife by 1) increasing organic matter, carbon export, and woody debris in the stream corridor and 2) restoring shade to Site open waters.
- 5. Providing wildlife habitat including a forested riparian corridor within a region of the state increasingly dissected by residential/agricultural land use.
- 6. Protecting a Site identified in the 2008 Piedmont Triad Council of Government's *Little Alamance, Travis, and Tickle Creek Watersheds Restoration Plan* (PTCG 2008) for preservation due to its location within a remote, rural area along the heavily used Boone Road (SR 1602) resulting in increasing development pressure and appeal to developers.

Success criteria for stream enhancement will include 1) success of riparian vegetation and 2) documentation of two bankfull channel events. One bankfull event was documented to date during year 4 monitoring (2013) for a total of seven documented bankfull events with at least one event documented to occur in each monitoring year.

Success criteria dictate that an average density of 320 stems per acre of Characteristic Tree Species must be surviving in the first three monitoring years. Subsequently, 260 Characteristic Tree Species per acre must be surviving in year 5. Based on the number of stems counted, average densities were measured at 1068 planted stems per acre (excluding livestakes) surviving in year 4 (2013). Stem counts decreased slightly as the result of competition from herbaceous species such as soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) in wetter portions of the Site. The dominant planted stems identified at the Site were swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). All individual plots met success criteria when counting planted stems alone.

There are some minor areas of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) scattered throughout the site. Invasive species are minimal and pose no threat to planted stems at this time.

Growth rates and vigor of planted stems had slightly decreased within the wetland enhancement area during the year 4 (2013) monitoring season. This can be attributed to flooding from a beaver dam observed on August 8, 2013. Even so, all individual plots met success criteria and there is an abundant seed source adjacent to the Site. Plants within the wetland enhancement area will continue to be monitored closely throughout the remainder of the monitoring period. Beaver activity continues within the Site; APHIS continues to manage and trap beaver. Areas of beaver activity are depicted on Figure 2 (Appendix A).

In summary, the Site achieved success criteria for vegetation and stream attributes in the Fourth Monitoring Year (2013). Summary information and 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 tables and figures within this report's appendices. Narrative background and supporting information formerly found in these reports can be found in the mitigation and restoration plan documents available on EEPs website. All raw data supporting the tables and figures in the appendices is available from EEP upon request.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Stream Assessment

Annual stream monitoring will include vegetation survival (Section 2.2 Vegetation Assessment) and a photographic record of preconstruction and postconstruction conditions. Photographs of the enhancement (level II) reach will be taken for each year of the monitoring period (Appendix D). In addition, visual assessments of the stream will be conducted by walking the length of stream and bankfull flow events will be documented (Appendix E).

2.2 Vegetation Assessment

After planting was completed, an initial evaluation was performed to verify that planting methods were successful and to determine initial species composition and density. Five vegetation plots were established and marked after construction with four foot metal U-bar post demarking the corners with a ten foot, threequarter inch PVC at the origin. The plots are 10 meters square and are located randomly within the Site. These plots were surveyed in July 2013 for the year 4 (2013) monitoring season using the *CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation, Version 4.2* (Lee et al. 2008) (http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm); results are included in Appendix C. The taxonomic standard for vegetation used for this document was *Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, and Surrounding Areas* (Weakley 2008).

3.0 REFERENCES

- Lee, M.T., R.K. Peet, S.D. Roberts, and T.R. Wentworth. 2008. CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation. Version 4.2. North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ecosystem Enhancement Program. Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Piedmont Triad Council of Government (PTCG). 2008. Little Alamance, Travis, & Tickle Creek Watersheds Restoration Plan. Available: http://www.ptcog.org/eep/LATTPhaseIII.pdf [November 2008]. Piedmont Triad Council of Government, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- Schafale, M.P. and A.S. Weakley. 1990. Classification of the Natural Communities of North Carolina: Third Approximation. North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Division of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. Raleigh, North Carolina.
- United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Environmental Protection Agency, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina Division of Water Quality (USACE et al.). 2003. Stream Mitigation Guidelines.

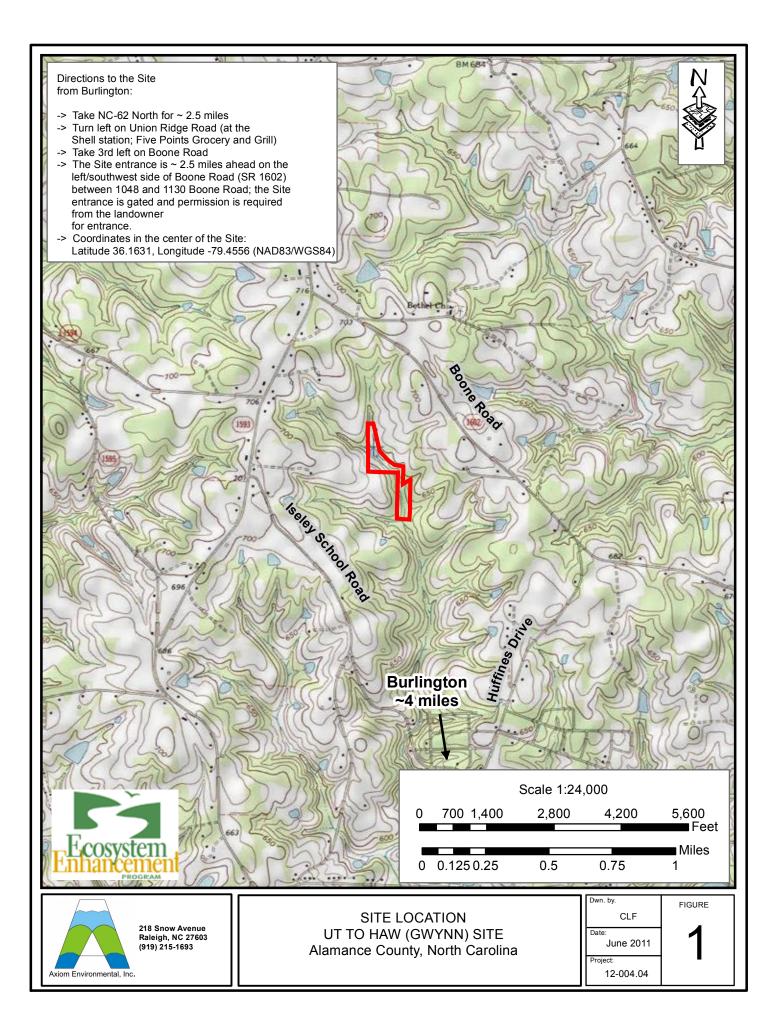
United States Geological Survey (USGS). 1974. Hydrologic Unit Map - 1974. State of North Carolina.

APPENDIX A

PROJECT VICINITY MAP AND BACKGROUND TABLES

Figure 1. Vicinity Map

- Table 1. Project Components and Mitigation Credits
- Table 2. Project Activity and Reporting History
- Table 3. Project Contacts Table
- Table 4. Project Baseline Information and Attributes



Mitigation Credits										
	Stream		ım	Ri	parian Wetland	Non-Riparian Wetland	Buffer	Nitrogen Offset	Phosphorus Nutrient Offset	
Туре	R		RE	R	RE					
Totals		97	1 SMUs	1	1.1 WMUs					
Restoration Segment/ Reach ID	Statio Rang		Mit	igati	ion Type	Priority Approach	Linear Footage/ Acreage	C	Comment	
Main Channel			Enhan	ceme	nt (Level II)		1987			
UT1					nt (Level II)		93	Invasive	species removal,	
UT2			Enhan	ceme	nt (Level II)		96		with native forest	
UT3					nt (Level II)		98		, and exclusion of	
UT4					nt (Level II)		121	1	ivestock.	
UT5			Enhan	ceme	nt (Level II)		33			
Wetland 1			E	nhan	cement		1.8	planting vegetation	Invasive species removal, planting with native forest vegetation, and exclusion of livestock.	
Wetland 2			Р	reser	vation		0.2	Evoluci	on of livestock.	
Wetland 3			Р	reser	vation		0.1			
Wetland 4	Enhancement		cement		0.2	planting vegetation	species removal, with native forest and exclusion of ivestock.			
					Component	t Summation				
Restoration Level		S	Stream (li	n (linear footage)		Riverine Ripa (acre			l Riparian Area (acreage)	
Enhancement (Le	evel II)		4	2428		_	-			
Enhancemer						2.				
Preservation	n					0.	.3			
Totals			2	2428		2.			8.3	
Mitigation Units			971	SM	Us	1.1 W	/MUs			

Table 1. Project Components and Mitigation Credits

Table 2. Project Activity and Reporting History

	Data Collection	Completion
Activity or Report	Complete	or Delivery
Restoration Plan		June 2009
Invasive Species Control		February 2010
Soil Amendments		February 2010
Site Planting		January 2010
Mitigation Plan	February 2010	February 2010
Monitoring Year 1 (2010)	October 2010	November 2010
Monitoring Year 2 (2011)	June 2011	June 2011
Monitoring Year 3 (2012)	June 2012	August 2012
Monitoring Year 4 (2013)	July 2013	September 2013
Monitoring Year 5 (2014)		

Table 3. Project Contacts Table

Designer and Monitoring Performer	Axiom Environmental, Inc.
	218 Snow Avenue
	Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
	Grant Lewis (919) 215-1693
Planting, Soil Amendment, and	Carolina Silvics
Invasive Species Removal Contractor	908 Indian Trail Road
	Edenton, North Carolina 27932
	Dwight McKinney (252) 482-8491

Table 4. Project Baseline Information and Attributes Table

Project Information												
Project name			UT to Haw Gwynn									
County			Alamance									
Project Area			12.5 acres									
Project Coordinates			36.1631°N, -79.4556°	W								
	Project Wa	atershed S	ummary Information									
Physiographic Province			Southern Outer Piedmo	ont								
River Basin			Cape Fear									
USGS Hydrologic Unit 8-digit 03030002			USGS Hydrologic Uni	t 14-digit	03030002	2030010						
DWQ Sub-Basin			03-06-02									
Project Drainage Area			250 acres									
Project Drainage Area Percentage Impervious Surfa	ice		<5									
CGIA Land Use Classification			Managed Herbaceous	Cover, Hardwood	Swamps							
	Read	ch Summa	ry Information	-	-							
Parameters	Main Channel	UT 1	UT 2	UT 3		UT 4	UT 5					
Length of reach (linear feet)	2299	93	95	197		234	84					
Valley classification	VIII	VIII	VIII	VIII		VIII	VIII					
Drainage area (acres)	250	80	<5	20		20	20					
NCDWQ stream identification score	28.5	20.75	19	32.5		30.5	36.5					
NCDWQ Water Quality Classification	C-NSW											
Morphological Description (stream type)	-		-			-	-					
Evolutionary trend	-		-			-	-					
Underlying mapped soils		Appling, Enon, Cecil, Local Alluvial Land										
Drainage class		V	Well-drained, Somewhat	poorly drained, P	oorly drain	ed						
Soil Hydric status			Nonhydi	ric and Hydric								
FEMA classification												
Percent composition of exotic invasive vegetation				<1								
	Wetla	and Summ	ary Information									
Parameters	Wetland 1		Wetland 2	Wetland 3	;	We	etland 4					
Size of Wetland (acres)	1.8 acres		0.2 acres	0.1 acres		0.2	2 acres					
Wetland Type				Liparian								
Drainage class			Poor	ly Drained								
Soil Hydric Status]	Hydric								
Source of Hydrology	N : 1 N -			nd over-land flow								
Native Vegetation Community	Piedmont/Mou Swamp For		Bottomland Hardwood Forest	Bottomland Ha Forest			and Hardwood Forest					
Percent composition of exotic invasive vegetation				<1			Percent composition of exotic invasive vegetation <1					

Table 4. Project Baseline Information and Attributes Table (continued)
--

Regulatory Considerations						
Regulation	Applicable	Resolved?	Supporting Document			
Waters of the United States - Section 404	No					
Waters of the United States - Section 401	No					
Endangered Species Act	No					
Historic Preservation Act	No					
Coastal Management Zone Act (CZMA)/ Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA)	No					
FEMA Floodplain Compliance	No					
Essential Fisheries Habitat	No					

APPENDIX B

VISUAL ASSESSMENT DATA

Figure 2. Current Conditions Plan View Table 5. Vegetation Condition Assessment Table Vegetation Monitoring Plot Photos

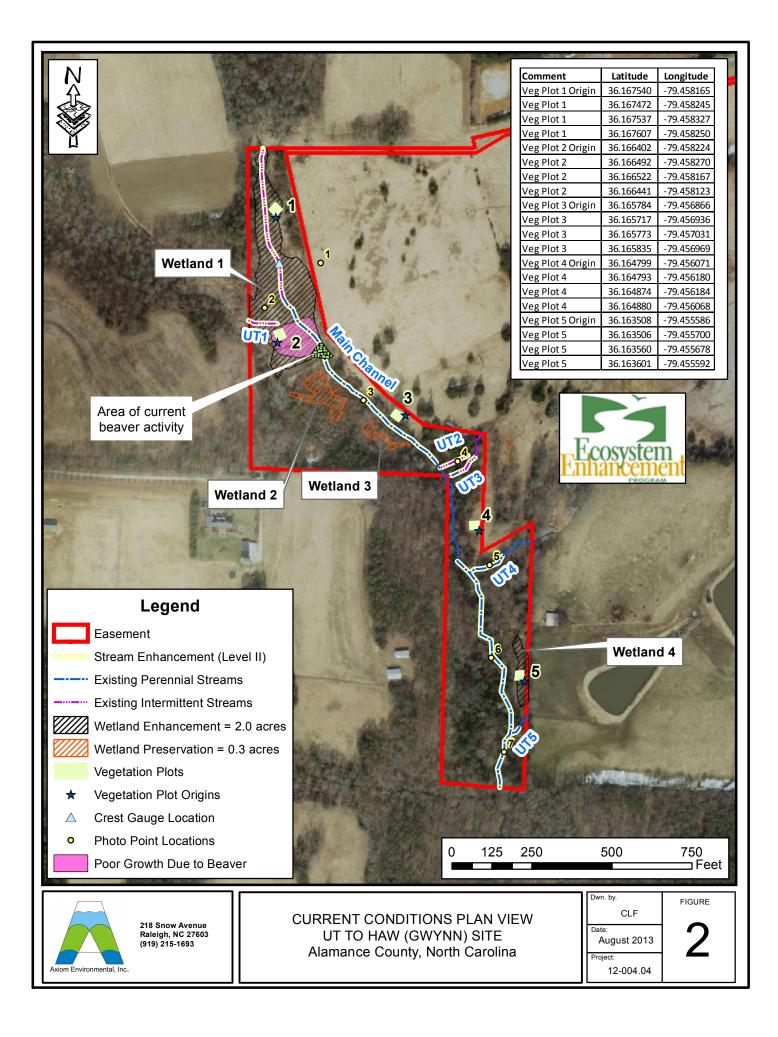


Table 5 Vegetation Condition Assessment

UT Haw Gwynn/EEP Project Number 92753

Planted Acreage ¹	8.3					
Vegetation Category	Definitions	Mapping Threshold	CCPV Depiction	Number of Polygons	Combined Acreage	% of Planted Acreage
1. Bare Areas	ΝΑ	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2. Low Stem Density Areas	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
			Total	0	0.00	0.0%
3 Areas of Poor Growth Rates or Vidor	Poor growth rates and vigor in the wetland enhancement area due to flooding from past and current beaver activity.	NA	Solid Purple	1	0.34	4.1%
Cumulative To						4.1%

Easement Acreage ²	10					
Vegetation Category	Definitions	Mapping Threshold	CCPV Depiction	Number of Polygons	Combined Acreage	% of Easement Acreage
4. Invasive Areas of Concern ⁴	There are some minor areas of multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora) and Chinese privet (Ligustrum sinense) scattered throughout the site. Invasive species are minimal and pose no threat to planted stems at this time. These areas are too small and scattered to depict on Figure 2.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
			ſ			
5. Easement Encroachment Areas ³	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

UT to Haw (Gwynn) Restoration Site Year 4 (2013) Annual Monitoring Vegetation Plot Photos (taken July 2013)











APPENDIX C VEGETATION PLOT DATA

 Table 6.
 Vegetation Plot Criteria Attainment

Table 7. CVS Vegetation Plot Metadata

Table 8. Total Planted and Natural Recruit Stems by Plot and Species

Vegetation Plot ID	Vegetation Survival Threshold Met?	Tract Mean
1	Yes	
2	Yes	
3	Yes	100%
4	Yes	
5	Yes	

Table 6. Vegetation Plot Criteria Attainment

Table 7. CVS vegetation Pl	
Report Prepared By	Corri Faquin
Date Prepared	8/27/2013 17:04
database name	Axiom-EEP-2013-A-v2.3.1.mdb
database location	\\AE-SBS\RedirectedFolders\KJernigan\Desktop
computer name	KEENAN-PC
file size	50487296
DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHE	ETS IN THIS DOCUMENT
Metadata	Description of database file, the report worksheets, and a summary of project(s) and project data.
Proj, planted	Each project is listed with its PLANTED stems per acre, for each 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,
Proj, total stems	and all natural/volunteer stems.
Plots	List of plots surveyed with location and summary data (live stems, 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.
Damage	List of most frequent damage classes with number of occurrences 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.
ALL Stems by Plot and	A matrix of the count of PLANTED living stems of each species for each plot; dead and missing stems are
spp	excluded.
PROJECT SUMMARY	
Project Code	92753
project Name	UT to Haw (Gwynn)
Description	Stream/wetland enhancement site
River Basin	Cape Fear
length(ft)	
stream-to-edge width	
area (sq m)	
Required Plots	
Sampled Plots	5

Table 7. CVS Vegetation Plot Metadata

Table 8. Total Planted and Natural Recruits Stems by Plot and Species

UT to Haw (Gwynn)								Cur	rent Plo	t Data	(MY4 2	013)												Ann	ual Me	eans					
		E927	'53-AXE	-0001	E92753-AXE-0002			E92753-AXE-0003			E92753-AXE-0004		E92753-AXE-0005			MY4 (2013)			MY3 (2012)			MY2 (2011)			MY1 (2010)			MY0 (2009)			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Species Type	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all T
Acer rubrum	red maple	Tree			5															5			12			10			6		
Betula nigra	river birch	Tree																								1			2		
Carpinus caroliniana	American hornbeam	Tree																						1	1	1					
Carya	hickory	Tree																					1								
Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush	Shrub	3	3	5													3	3	5	3	3	6			1			2		
Cercis canadensis	eastern redbud	Tree																					1								
Cornus amomum	silky dogwood	Shrub	2	2	2	9	9	9										11	11	11	13	13	14	17	17	17	13	13	13	31	31
Diospyros virginiana	common persimmon	Tree	1	. 1	1				22	22	29							23	23	30	23	23	41	18	18	35	18	18	18	35	35
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	Tree	10	10	10				3	3	9	1	1	8			10	14	14	37	15	15	68	14	14	23	18	18	26	13	13
Gleditsia triacanthos	honeylocust	Tree																					3						1		
Juglans nigra	black walnut	Tree												1						1											
Juniperus virginiana	eastern redcedar	Tree									2			2						4			5			1					
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	Tree									7			83						90			154			110			47		
Liriodendron tulipifera	tuliptree	Tree												8						8			14			5			4		
Platanus occidentalis	American sycamore	Tree															2			2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Populus deltoides	eastern cottonwood	Tree																											1		
Prunus serotina	black cherry	Tree										2	2	2				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	10	10
Quercus	oak	Tree							1	1	1							1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	10	10	11	62	62
Quercus alba	white oak	Tree										3	3	3	5	5	5	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	4	4	4	5	5
Quercus lyrata	overcup oak	Tree				2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1				4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	1	1	1	8	8
Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	Tree							11	11	11	18	18	18	16	16	16	45	45	45	47	47	47	46	46	46	44	44	44	15	15
Quercus pagoda	cherrybark oak	Tree							3	3	3				12	12	12	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	24	24	24	8	8
Quercus phellos	willow oak	Tree							2	2	2	1	1	1				3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Quercus rubra	northern red oak	Tree																									1	1	1	4	4
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	Tree									1									1											
Salix nigra	black willow	Tree			1															1											
Sambucus canadensis	Common Elderberry	Shrub																					1								
Ulmus	elm	Tree																					10			16			1		
Ulmus alata	winged elm	Tree							3	3	4							3	3	4	3	3	34						4		
Ulmus americana	American elm	Tree																						1	1	1					
Unknown		Shrub or Tree																									2	2	2	1	1
		Stem count	16	16	24	11	11	11	46	46	70	26	26	127	33	33	45	132	132	277	142	142	451	135	135	305	145	145	222	199	199 2
size (ares)		size (ares)		1			1			1			1			1			5			5			5		· · ·	5			5
size (ACRES)				0.02		0.02		0.02			0.02		0.02		0.12		0.12			0.12		0.12				0.12					
		Species count	4	. 4	6	2	2	2	8	8	11	6	6	10	3	3	5	12	12	20	13	13	22	13	13	20	13		22	13	13
		Stems per ACRE		647.5	971.2	445.2	445.2	445.2	1862	1862	2833	1052	1052	5140	1335	1335	1821		1068	-	1149	-			1093	-	1174	-		1611	1611 23

Color for Density

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%

APPENDIX D STREAM DATA Fixed-Station Photos

UT to Haw (Gwynn) Site Fixed Station Photo Points Taken August 8, 2013













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Photo Point 5
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UT to Haw (Gwynn) (FINAL) EEP Project Number 92753 Alamance County, North Carolina Axiom Environmental, Inc.

Monitoring Year 4 of 5 (2013) September 2013 Appendices APPENDIX E HYDROLOGY DATA Table 9. Verification of Bankfull Events

Table 9.	Verification of Bankfull Events	
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Date of Data Collection	Date of Occurrence	Method	Photo (if available)
February 17, 2010	February 5, 2010	Visual observations of overbank event including wrack lines and sediment deposition resulting from a 1.36 inch* rainfall event on February 5, 2010 that occurred after numerous rainfall events, within the 3 weeks prior, that totaled 3.52 inches.	1
June 16, 2010	May 17, 2010	Visual observations of overbank event including wrack lines and sediment deposition resulting from a 4.1 inch* rainfall event on May 16-17, 2010.	
October 5, 2010	September 30, 2010	A 4.43-inch* rainfall event occurring between September 26-October 2, 2010.	
September 30, 2011	June 28, 2011	Total of 2.83 inches* of rain reported to fall over 2 days (June 27-28, 2011)	
September 30, 2011	September 24, 2011	Total of 3.61 inches* of rain reported to fall over 4 days (September 21-24, 2011) with an additional 0.85 inches* of rain the following 3 days (Sept 25-27, 2011)	
July 18, 2012	July 11, 2012	Total of 4.84 inches* of rain reported to fall over 3 days (July 9-11, 2012)	
July 26, 2013	June 31, 2013	Visual observations of overbank event including wrack lines and sediment deposition resulting from 14 days (June 25- July 8) of heavy rainfall totaling 6.27 inches.	2

* Reported at KBUY Weather Station in Burlington.



Bankfull Event Photos 1 and 2 showing wrack lines resulting from overbank events

