
NC Division of Mitigation Services Watershed Plan Review

2021

The Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) has recently updated the process by which watersheds are targeted across the state. This process was updated largely because we now have access to better data at a finer resolution statewide and this allows DMS to improve our understanding of current conditions. A better understanding of these conditions allows DMS to identify the watersheds most appropriate for compensatory mitigation opportunities, and to target those with greater potential for functional uplift. These statewide targeted watersheds (Targeted Resource Areas, or TRAs) are also taken into consideration as DMS decides where to development focused and higher-level watershed planning documents, such as Local and Regional Watershed Plans.

In addition, DMS understands that watersheds can change overtime, and in order to be successful in implementing compensatory mitigation projects in the most appropriate and beneficial locations watershed planning needs to be an iterative process. As DMS has been developing watershed plans and implementing compensatory mitigation projects for years, it is necessary to evaluate the watershed plans that guide DMS in the implementation process from time to time.

The availability of these updated datasets along with the understanding that in some cases it has been many years since some of DMS's watershed planning documents have been re-evaluated, resulted in a review of all DMS existing watershed plans. The purpose of this review was to determine the level of confidence DMS has in each plan completeness, relevance, accuracy, and momentum in regard to providing guidance for the implementation of compensatory mitigation projects. Figure 1 below describes the metrics utilized in the review process. Table 2 attached includes the recommendations for each watershed plan and the DMS strategy for plan implementation.

Figure 1. DMS Watershed Plan Review Evaluation Criteria

Watershed Plan Age

- Developed 10+yrs Ago =1 Point
- Developed 15+yrs Ago =2 Points

Incomplete Phases

- If Yes, Then 2 Points

Existing DMS Projects

- 1 Project =1 Point
- 0 Projects =2 Points

Within TRA

- 1 TRA =1 Point
- 0 TRAs =2 Points

Greater Than 10% Land Cover Change

- If Yes, Then 1 Point

9-Element Plan Approved

- If No, Then 2 Points

Low Priority Watershed

- If Yes, Then 1 Point

There are three general recommendations for DMS watershed plans that were generated from this process:

- 1) **Keep**: these plans will remain a priority for DMS to implement mitigation projects within
- 2) **Non-Mitigation**: these plans will remain published and available on the DMS website for reference but will not be utilized by DMS in the mitigation implementation process
- 3) **Deprecate**: these plans will no longer be published on the DMS website and are not considered reliable for reference purposes.

DMS reviewed 43 watershed plans during this process and determined the following: 26 plans will be kept, 8 plans are not to be utilized for mitigation any longer but will remain on the website and, 9 plans will be removed from the website.

DMS intends to continue to utilize all 43 watershed plans for implementation of mitigation until January 1, 2022. At that time, DMS will remove the plans that are to be deprecated and will no longer incentivize the plans in the Non-Mitigation category. You can find the list of plans

currently utilized for mitigation and published [here](#). This list updated with the recommendations for implementation starting January 1, 2022 can be found [here](#).

Table 2. DMS Watershed Plan Review Results and Recommendations

LWP Name	Basin	HUC8	Year complete	Recommended Status	LWP Age: 10yrs+ (1) 15yrs+ (2)	Incomplete Phases (2)	1 Existing Project (1) 0 Existing Projects (2)	Within only 1 TRA (1) Within No TRA (2)	Greater Than 10% LC Change (1)	Not a 9-Element Approved Plan (2)	Low Priority Watershed (1)	TOTAL
Catheys Creek LWP	Broad	03050105	2005	Deprecate	1		1			2	1	5
Cove Creek LWP	Broad	03050105	2007	Deprecate	1		1	1		2	1	6
Cranes Creek	Cape Fear	03030004	2005	Non-Mitigation	2				1	2		5
Great Coharie	Cape Fear	03030006	2014	Keep			2			2		4
Middle Cape Fear	Cape Fear	03030004	2006	Keep	2				1	2		5
Morgan and Little	Cape Fear	03030002	2004	Keep	2					2		4
New Hanover	Cape Fear	03030007	2002	Deprecate	2				1	2	1	6
Travis, Tickle and Little Alamance	Cape Fear	03030002	2008	Keep	1							1
Troublesome, Little Troublesome	Cape Fear	03030002	2004	Keep	2					2		4
Upper and Middle Rocky River	Cape Fear	03030003	2005	Keep	2				1			3
Charlotte LWP	Catawba	03050301, 03050103	2003	Deprecate	2					2		4
Hunting Creek LWP	Catawba	03050101	2011	Keep			2	n/a				2

Indian and Howards Creek LWP	Catawba	03050102	2010	Keep			1	n/a				1
Lower Creek LWP	Catawba	03050101	2006	Keep	1		1	n/a				2
Muddy Creek LWP	Catawba	03050101	2003, 2011	Keep				n/a				0
Bald Creek LWP	French Broad	06010108	2006	Deprecate	1		1				1	3
Mud Creek LWP	French Broad	06010105	2003	Non-Mitigation	2							2
South Hominy LWP	French Broad	06010105	2006	Keep	1		1			2		4
Peachtree-Martins Creek LWP	Hiwassee	06020002	2007	Deprecate	1					2	1	4
Franklin to Fontana LWP	Little Tennessee	06010202	2011	Keep								0
Bear Swamp LWP	Lumber	03040203	2006	Keep	2					2		4
Lockwoods Folly	Lumber	03040207	2007	Keep	1				1	2		4
Ellerbe Creek	Neuse	03020201	2010	Keep	1				1			2
Hominy Swamp Creek	Neuse	03020203	2004	Deprecate	2			1	1	2	1	7
Lake Rogers	Neuse	03020201	2008	Deprecate	1		2	1	1	2	1	8

Lick Creek	Neuse	03020201	2009	Keep	1				1			2
Little Lick Creek	Neuse	03020201	2009	Keep	1				1			2
Stoney Creek LWP	Neuse	03020202	2005	Non-Mitigation	2					2		4
Upper Swift Creek	Neuse	03020201	2005	Keep	2							2
Wake- Johnston	Neuse	03020201	Phase I	Non-Mitigation		2			1	2	1	6
Neuse 01 RWP	Neuse	03020201	2015	Keep						2		2
Little River & Brush Creek LWP	New	05050001	2007	Keep	1					2		3
Pasquotank River LWP	Pasquotank	03010205	2003	Keep	2					2	1	5
Eden Area LWP	Roanoke	03010103	2014	Keep			1		1	2		4
Fishing Creek LWP	Tar-Pamlico	03020101	2013	Keep				1	1			2
Middle Tar-Pamlico	Tar-Pamlico	03020103	2005	Deprecate	2		2		1	2		7
White Oak	White Oak	03030001/03020106	2009	Non-Mitigation	1		2		1	2	1	7
Ararat River & Upper Yadkin LWP	Yadkin	03040101	2013	Keep								0

