

# Section B - Chapter 5

## Lumber River Subbasin 03-07-54

### Ashpole Swamp



## 5.1 Subbasin Overview

### ***Subbasin 03-07-54 at a Glance***

#### **Land and Water Area**

Total area:	226 mi <sup>2</sup>
Land area:	220 mi <sup>2</sup>
Water area:	6 mi <sup>2</sup>

#### **Population Statistics**

2000 Est. Pop.: 28,523 people

#### **Land Cover (percent)**

Forest/Wetland:	46
Surface Water:	1
Urban:	<1
Agriculture:	52

#### **Counties**

Robeson

#### **Municipalities**

Fairmont, Marietta, McDonald, Proctorville and Raynham

Streams in this subbasin are very wide, with tannin-colored water and little visible current under summer low flow conditions, typical of coastal plain streams.

Land use is a mixture of agriculture and forest, with small amounts of urban development near Fairmont.

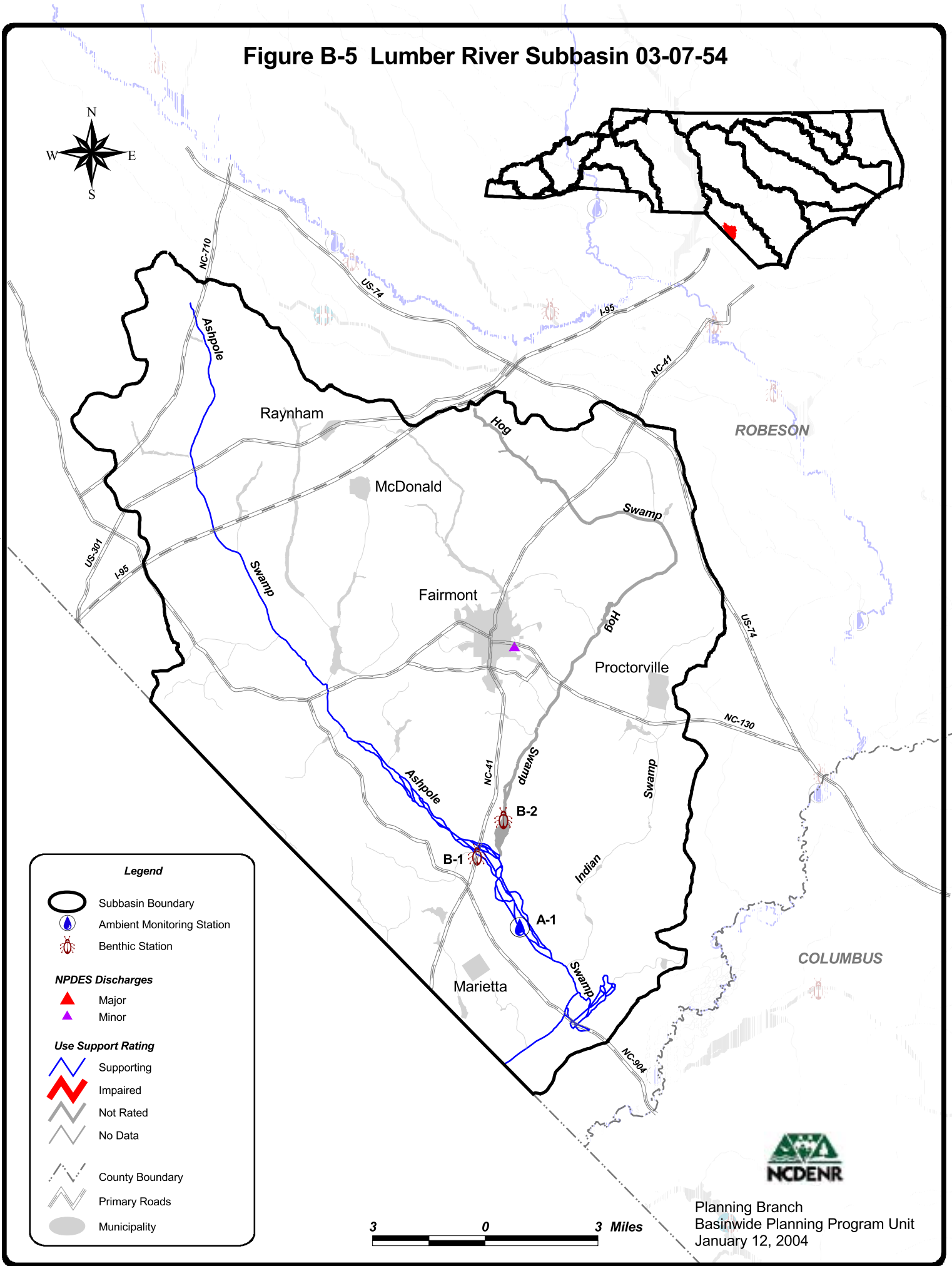
A total of 15 registered swine operations are located in this subbasin. There used to be only one NPDES wastewater discharge permit, Fairmont WWTP, in the subbasin. However, this WWTP has since constructed a new regional plant and is now discharging into the Lumber River, subbasin 03-07-51.

Two benthic macroinvertebrate community sites were sampled in 2001 as part of basinwide monitoring. Both sites were Not Rated, as biocriteria were being developed (page 57) to assess these swampy streams. Data were also collected from one ambient station. See Figure B-5 and Table B-9 for locations and summaries of these monitoring sites. Refer to the *2002 Lumber River Basinwide Assessment Report* at













<http://www.esb.enr.state.nc.us/bar.html> and Section A, Chapter 3 for more information on monitoring.

Use support ratings are summarized in Part 5.2 below. Recommendations, current status and future recommendations for waters that were Impaired in 1999 and newly Impaired waters are discussed in Part 5.3 below. Supporting waters with noted water quality impacts are discussed in Part 5.4 below. Refer to Appendix III for use support methods and more information on all monitored waters.

Figure B-5 Lumber River Subbasin 03-07-54



**Legend**

-  Subbasin Boundary
-  Ambient Monitoring Station
-  Benthic Station
- NPDES Discharges**
-  Major
-  Minor
- Use Support Rating**
-  Supporting
-  Impaired
-  Not Rated
-  No Data
-  County Boundary
-  Primary Roads
-  Municipality

3 0 3 Miles



Planning Branch  
Basinwide Planning Program Unit  
January 12, 2004

Table B-9 DWQ Monitoring Locations, Bioclassifications and Notable Chemical Parameters (1996-2001) for Subbasin 03-07-54

<b>Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community Monitoring Sites</b>					
<b>Site<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>
B-1	Ashpole Swamp <sup>2</sup>	Robeson	NC 41	Not Rated	Not Rated
B-2	Hog Swamp <sup>2</sup>	Robeson	SR 2262	Not Rated	Not Rated
<b>Ambient Monitoring Sites</b>					
<b>Site<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Station #</b>	<b>Noted Parameters<sup>3</sup></b>
A-1	Ashpole Swamp	Robeson	SR 2258	I6290000	None

<sup>1</sup> B = benthic macroinvertebrates; A = ambient monitoring station

<sup>2</sup> Historical data available at this site. Refer to Appendix II.

<sup>3</sup> Parameters are noted if in excess of state standards in greater than 10 percent of all samples.

## 5.2 Use Support Summary

Use support ratings (page 47) in subbasin 03-07-54 were assigned for aquatic life, recreation and fish consumption categories. All waters in the subbasin are considered Impaired on an evaluated basis because of a fish consumption advice (page 59). Refer to Table B-10 for a summary of use support ratings by use support category for waters in the subbasin.

Table B-10 Summary of Use Support Ratings by Use Support Category in Subbasin 03-07-54

<b>Use Support Rating</b>	<b>Basis</b>	<b>Aquatic Life</b>	<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Fish Consumption</b>
Supporting	Monitored	25.7 mi	6.9 mi	0
	All Waters	25.7 mi	6.9 mi	0
Impaired	Monitored	0	0	0
	All Waters	0	0	91.1 mi 11.8 ac
Not Rated	Monitored	4.9 mi	0	0
No Data	N/A	60.9 mi 11.8 ac	84.2 mi 11.8 ac	0
Total	Monitored	30.6 mi	6.9 mi	0
	All Waters	91.1 mi 11.8 ac	91.1 mi 11.8 ac	329.1 mi 11.8 ac
	Percent Monitored	33.6% mi	7.6% mi	0%

Note: All waters include monitored, evaluated and waters that were not assessed.

### **5.3 Status and Recommendations of Previously and Newly Impaired Waters**

There were no Impaired streams identified in the 1999 Lumber River Basinwide Plan in this subbasin. All waters in the subbasin are considered Impaired on an evaluated basis because of a fish consumption advice (page 59). There are no other newly Impaired waters in subbasin 03-07-54. Refer to Part 5.4 below for information on waters with noted water quality impacts.

### **5.4 Status and Recommendations for Waters with Noted Impacts**

The surface waters discussed in this section are not Impaired. However, notable water quality problems and concerns have been documented for some waters based on this assessment. Attention and resources should be focused on these waters to prevent additional degradation or facilitate water quality improvement.

Waters in the following section are identified by assessment unit number (AU#). This number is used to track defined segments in the water quality assessment database and the 303(d) Impaired waters list. The assessment unit number is a subset of the DWQ index number (classification identification number). A letter attached to the end of the AU# indicates that the assessment is smaller than the DWQ index segment. No letter indicates that the assessment unit and the DWQ index segment are the same.

#### **5.4.1 Pittman Mill Branch [AU# 14-30-7-4-3]**

##### *Current Status and 2003 Recommendations*

The former Fairmont WWTP, which currently does not discharge, did experience noncompliance issues with total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand in this assessment period. The town received \$1,000,000 from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to construct a new Fairmont Regional WWTP. This new regional plant which now discharges to the Lumber River is functioning and in compliance.

#### **5.4.2 Ashpole Swamp [AU# 14-30a&b]**

##### *Current Status and 2003 Recommendations*

Ashpole Swamp is currently Not Impaired in North Carolina. However, it is Impaired in South Carolina for dissolved oxygen. Consequently, in the future, North Carolina would be subject to an interstate TMDL. DWQ will work cooperatively with South Carolina as they develop a TMDL for Ashpole Swamp.