

2024 Target Resource Areas Message

Subject: Updated TRAs now available

NCDEQ's Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) has finalized the Targeted Resource Areas (TRA) for all seventeen river basins in the state. The TRAs have been identified as exhibiting a need for restoration and protection of wetlands, streams and riparian buffers. TRAs receive priority for DMS planning and restoration project funds. The updated TRAs can be viewed on the interactive web map, available at: [Division of Mitigation Services Targeted Resource Areas](#)

DMS develops River Basin Restoration Priorities (RBRPs) for each of the 17 river basins in North Carolina by conducting a detailed screening for each service area within a river basin. This screening results in the identification of TRAs. This new prioritization methodology is a data-driven, flexible method that utilizes updated and additional datasets and assesses watersheds at the catchment scale, which have an average size of 0.5 square miles. The TRAs are hot spots or clusters of catchments that are identified in the modeling process as having impacts to water quality, hydrology or habitat. Additional information about how TRAs are identified can be found with this [2024 Targeted Resource Areas](#) document.

The process of updating and finalizing the TRAs has resulted in significant changes in some service areas, including new TRAs. It has also resulted in the removal of some previously identified TRAs, making them no longer a priority for DMS implementation. The TRAs that were removed from previously published versions can also be found as a layer in the map linked above. Additional information about why these TRAs are no longer prioritized is available in the map under the Alterations to Previously Published TRAs link.

To accommodate a period of transition for implementing these new priorities, DMS will allow for TRAs that were removed from previously published versions to receive the relevant TRA Planning Identified Stressor points during the RFP technical review process until June 30, 2025.