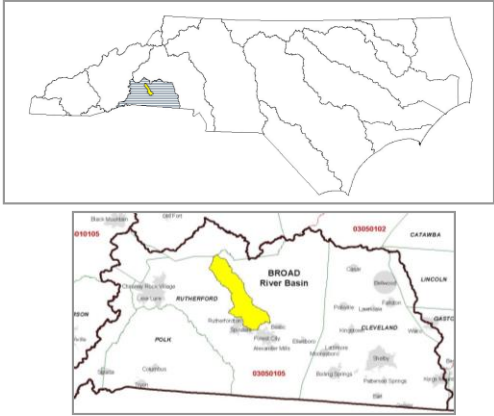


## CATHEYS CREEK LOCAL WATERSHED PLAN FACT SHEET

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Location</b><br/><b>River Basin:</b><br/><b>Cataloging Unit:</b><br/><b>Hydrologic Unit:</b><br/><b>County:</b></p> | <p>Near Rutherfordton, NC<br/>Broad<br/>03050105<br/>03050105070020<br/>Rutherford</p> |  |
| <p><b>Watershed Area:</b></p>   | <p>45 square miles</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Watershed Assessment Consultant:</b></p>  | <p>Earth Tech, Inc.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Stakeholder Involvement:</b></p>  | <p>Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials (WECO)</p>                  |  |

### **Project Overview**

The Catheys Creek watershed is located in Rutherford County and includes rural areas and much of the town of Spindale. Both Catheys Creek and a major tributary, Hollands Creek, are on North Carolina 303(d) List of Impaired Waters due to biological impairment. In 2003, Earth Tech was hired to develop a watershed characterization and restoration strategy for the Catheys Creek watershed. Earth Tech and the NC Division of Water Quality monitored biological communities, water and sediment chemistry, and stream and riparian stability and habitats in streams throughout the watershed. NC State's Watershed Education for Communities and Local Officials pulled together an advisory committee of local officials and stakeholders with interest and experience in natural resources, land use planning, and cultural resources. This advisory committee identified key concerns for the watershed and oversaw plan development through a number of watershed meetings.

Although only Catheys Creek and Hollands Creek are on the 303(d) list, moderately degraded conditions were found throughout the watershed. Many rural and urban streams were incised and eroding, and excessive sedimentation was common. In addition to excessive sedimentation, key stressors for urban streams included stormwater impacts from the urbanized area of Spindale and widespread fecal coliform bacteria contamination at both base and stormflows. Livestock access to streams, dumping of solid waste in urban streams, and dye inputs to Case Branch and Reynolds Creek were also noted. Moderately high levels of heavy metals (mercury, chromium, and copper) were found in stream sediments below old gold mining operations and the town of Spindale; it is unknown if these metal levels impact stream organisms.

A plan to address watershed stressors was finalized in August 2005. This plan identified projects throughout the watershed, including stream and wetland restoration and enhancement, buffer planting, livestock best management practices, and stormwater best management practices. Four subwatersheds, including Mill Creek, William Creek, and two upper subwatersheds in the Hollands Creek drainage were identified as priority implementation areas. Other strategies, including public education on pollution prevention and stormwater management, improved forestry practices, and better building practices for roads on steep slopes were described.

### **Planning Documents**

[Final Watershed Management Plan](#)

[Critical Areas Report](#)

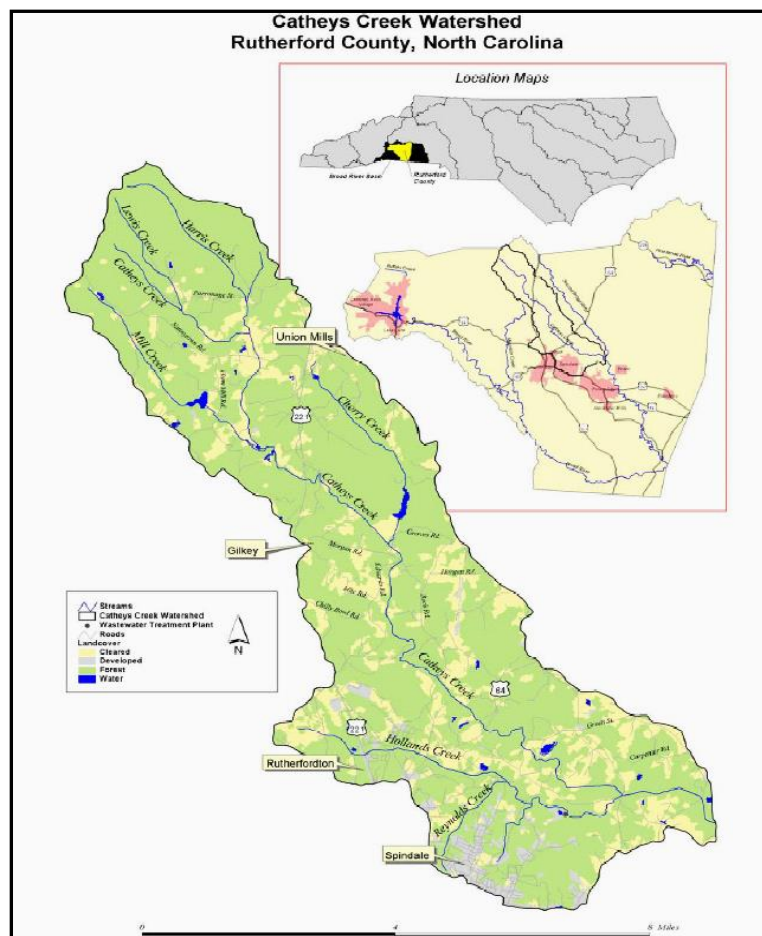
[Full Report](#)

[Summary](#)

[Initial Watershed Characterization Report](#)

[Summary of Findings and Recommendations](#)

[Project Atlas](#)



 Nothing Compares<sup>SM</sup>