

Appendix V

Savannah River Basin Summary of Public Comment

Public Comment Summary	DWQ Comments	Location in Plan
Development, especially in terms of quantity of stormwater and the impacts on stream channels. Particular concern about Cashiers area.	No local governments are currently required to obtain a permit for stormwater in the basin, however general recommendations are provided and local planning for development is encouraged.	Section A, Part 4.3 Section B, Part 1.5.1
Lack of general education about water quality issues.	DWQ workshops are intended to provide some level of general education about water quality issues. In addition, a document called <i>A Citizen's Guide to Water Quality Management in North Carolina</i> is available from DWQ. The Planning Branch is also developing a guide targeted towards homeowners aimed at reducing quantity and improving the quality of stormwater. Unfortunately, DWQ does not currently have resources to do more face-to-face education than what is currently be done through the Basinwide Planning Program.	Section A, Part 1.6 Section A, Chapter 4
Excess sediment in streams from streambank erosion, runoff from construction sites and from fighting fires.	The plan provides details about erosion/sedimentation laws and enforcement, as well as requirements, recommendations and contact information for agencies, developers and local programs.	Section A, Part 4.2 Appendix VI
Thermal modifications (heating) of coldwater fisheries due to a lack of riparian vegetation.	Loss of riparian vegetation can have a significant impact on temperature and fish in mountain streams are sensitive to this parameter. Small ponds and lakes in streams also contribute to heating of waters. DWQ encourages protection and restoration of woody vegetation along streams and lakes.	Section A, Part 4.2
Wilderness hiking and camping causing compaction and streambank erosion along the Horsepasture River.	DWQ has not identified hiking and camping along the Horsepasture as problem parameters, but compaction of the streambanks leading to loss of riparian vegetation and causing erosion are serious issues that should be addressed.	Section A, Part 4.2 Section B, Part 2.5.1
Sedimentation and development pressure along Bearwallow Creek.	In addition, to previous comments regarding sedimentation and development, the plan discusses special requirements for development with HQW and ORW watersheds.	Section A, Part 3.2 Section A, Part 4.2
Areas around new Gorges State Park: increased visitation putting pressure on existing roads/campgrounds; construction of new roads, commercial businesses and campgrounds.	Basinwide Planning staff has already met with staff of Gorges State Park to discuss water quality issues. DWQ will attempt to sample streams within the state park and develop recommendations to protect/improve them over the next cycle.	Section A, Part 2.6 Section B, Part 2.5.2

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Potential impairment of the Chattooga River due to the Cashiers WWTP proposed expansion.	DWQ sampled the Chattooga River in November 2001 to determine impacts of Cashiers WWTP.	Section B, Part 1.5.1
Fecal coliform concentrations in the Chattooga River.	DWQ will likely sample the Chattooga River for fecal coliform during the next swimming season.	Section A, Part 3.3.4 Section B, Part 1.5.1
ORW status of the Chattooga River watershed including Green and Norton Mill Creeks.	Clarification of waters classified ORW and to which a management strategy applies is provided in the plan	Section B, Part 1.6.2
Development in the upper Norton Mill Creek watershed and concerns about Camelot Lake.	DWQ decided not to rate the upper portion of Norton Mill Creek and will sample the stream during the next round of biological monitoring in the basin.	Section B, Part 1.2.1 Section A, Part 3.3.5
Lack of equal or appropriate enforcement of current regulations as they relate to sediment control (i.e. level of enforcement is based on the number of complaints)	Comments with regard to state or local sediment/erosion control programs have been passed on to the appropriate governing program. DWQ is working to provide these programs with better information about how turbidity standards can be met.	Section A, Part 4.2.1 Section C, Part 1.5.1 Appendix VI
Wanted DWQ to be more site-specific with management strategies; buffers do not solve all problems for all streams.	Throughout this plan, DWQ makes stream-specific recommendations for all waters where problem parameters have been identified.	Section B and throughout plan
Gravel roads and eroding road grades	Recommendations are made for the NC DOT as well as developers and local governments regarding construction and maintenance of mountain roads. Gravel roads, in particular, need BMPs to ensure minimal impact to nearby streams.	Section A, Part 4.2
Concerns about well-drilling activities and sedimentation/turbidity in the Hogback Creek watershed	DWQ has worked with well drilling operations in the past to prevent direct discharge of “pump-out” water. Discharge of this type of water directly to streams is not permitted.	Section B, Part 2.5.1
Wanted DWQ to highlight water quality improvement and lack of degradation where development has occurred.	Throughout this plan, DWQ highlights excellent water quality for the majority of streams within the basin. Horsepasture River is a good example.	Section B, Part 1.1 & Part 2.1 Section B, Part 2.5.1