

1 15A NCAC 02B .0305 is amended **with changes** as published in 37:17 NCR 1128-1130 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 02B .0305 WATAUGA RIVER BASIN**

4 (a) Classifications assigned to the waters within the Watauga River Basin are set forth in the Watauga River Basin
5 Classification Schedule, which may be inspected at the following places:

- 6 (1) the Internet at [https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-standards/river-basin-classification)
7 [standards/river-basin-classification](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-standards/river-basin-classification) and
8 (2) the following offices of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality:
9 (A) Asheville Regional Office
10 2090 US Highway 70
11 Swannanoa, **North Carolina; NC 28711-8211;**
12 (B) Winston-Salem Regional Office
13 450 West Hanes Mill **RoadRoad, Suite 300**
14 Winston-Salem, **North Carolina; and NC 27105; and**
15 (C) Division of Water Resources
16 Central Office
17 512 North Salisbury Street
18 Raleigh, **North Carolina; NC 27604.**

19 (b) Unnamed streams entering the State of Tennessee are classified "C."

20 (c) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective:

- 21 (1) August 12, 1979;
22 (2) February 1, 1986;
23 (3) October 1, 1987;
24 (4) August 1, 1989;
25 (5) August 1, 1990;
26 (6) December 1, 1990;
27 (7) April 1, 1992;
28 (8) August 3, 1992;
29 (9) February 1, 1993;
30 (10) April 1, 1994;
31 (11) August 1, 1998;
32 (12) November 1, **2007-2007; and**
33 **(13) September 1, 2023.**

34 (d) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, **19891989,** as follows:

- 35 (1) Dutch Creek (**Index No. 8-11)Index No. 8-11** was reclassified from Class C-trout to Class B-trout.
36 (2) Pond Creek (**Index No. 8-20-2)Index No. 8-20-2** from water supply intake **(**located just above
37 Tamarack Road**)** to Beech Creek and **all** tributary waters were reclassified from Class WS-III to C.

1 (e) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective December 1, ~~1990~~1990, with the
2 reclassification of the Watauga River from the US Highway 321 bridge to the North Carolina/Tennessee state line
3 from Class C to Class B.

4 (f) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, ~~1992~~1992, with the
5 reclassification of Pond Creek from Classes WS-III and C to Classes WS-III Trout and C Trout.

6 ~~(g) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 3, 1992 with the reclassification
7 of all water supply waters (waters with a primary classification of WS I, WS II or WS III). These waters were
8 reclassified to WS I, WS II, WS III, WS IV or WS V as defined in the revised water supply protection rules (15A
9 NCAC 2B .0100, .0200 and .0300), which became effective on August 3, 1992. In some cases, streams with primary
10 classifications other than WS were reclassified to a WS classification due to their proximity and linkage to water
11 supply waters. In other cases, waters were reclassified from a WS classification to an alternate appropriate primary
12 classification after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for water
13 supply purposes.~~

14 (g) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 3, 1992, as follows:

15 (1) Class WS-I, WS-II or WS-III waters were reclassified to WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV or WS-V as
16 defined in the revised water supply protection rules 15A NCAC 02B .0100 through .0300, which
17 became effective on August 3, 1992.

18 (2) Additional waters classified as Class C were reclassified to a WS classification and additional waters
19 classified as Class B were reclassified to a Class WS & B classification due to proximity and linkage
20 to water supply waters.

21 (3) Additional Class WS-I, WS-II, or WS-III waters were reclassified to remove the WS classification
22 after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for
23 water supply purposes.

24 (h) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective February 1, ~~1993~~1993, with the
25 reclassification of Boone Fork ~~(Index No. 8-7)~~Index No. 8-7 and ~~all~~ tributary waters from Classes C Tr HQW and C
26 HQW to Classes C Tr ORW and C ORW.

27 (i) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, ~~1994~~1994, with the
28 reclassification of the Elk River from Peavine Branch to the North Carolina/Tennessee state line ~~Index No. 8-22-~~
29 ~~(3)~~Index No. 8-22-(3) from Class C Tr to Class B Tr.

30 (j) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, ~~1998~~1998, with the
31 reclassification of East Fork Pond Creek from its source to the backwater of Santis Lake, ~~Index No. 8-20-2-1.5~~Index
32 No. 8-20-2-1.5 from Class WS-II Tr to Class WS-III Tr; the reclassification of West Fork Pond Creek (Santis Lake)
33 ~~Index No. 8-20-2-1-(2)~~Index No. 8-20-2-1-(2) from the backwaters of Santis Lake to Pond Creek from WS-II Tr CA
34 to WS-III Tr CA; and the reclassification of the connecting stream of Lake Coffey ~~Index No. 8-20-2-2~~Index No. 8-
35 ~~20-2-2~~ from the dam at Lake Coffey to Pond Creek from WS-II Tr CA to C Tr.

1 (k) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective November 1, 20072007, with the
2 reclassification of the Beech Creek Bog near Beech Creek ~~Index No. 8-20~~Index No. 8-20 to Class WL UWL. The
3 North Carolina Division of Water Resources maintains a Geographic Information Systems data layer of the UWL.

4 (l) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective September 1, 2023, with the
5 reclassification of the following waterbodies:

- 6 (1) Green Ridge Branch ~~Index No. 8-3~~ Index No. 8-3 and tributary waters from the source to
7 Watauga River from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 8 (2) Harrison Branch ~~Index No. 8-10-1~~ Index No. 8-10-1 and tributary waters from the source to
9 Laurel Fork from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 10 (3) The portion of Upper Laurel Fork ~~Index No. 8-10-3~~ Index No. 8-10-3 and tributary waters from
11 source to SR103 from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 12 (4) The portion of Dutch Creek ~~Index No. 8-12-(0.5)~~ Index No. 8-12-(0.5) and tributary waters from
13 source to Pigeonroost Creek from Class B Tr to Class B Tr ORW;
- 14 (5) Craborchard Creek ~~Index No. 8-12-3~~ Index No. 8-12-3 and tributary waters from source to Dutch
15 Creek from Class C Tr to Class C Tr HQW;
- 16 (6) The portion of South Fork Ellison Branch ~~Index No. 8-15-1-2~~ Index No. 8-15-1-2 and tributary
17 waters from source to U.S. 421 from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 18 (7) Laurel Creek ~~Index No. 8-17~~ Index No. 8-17 and tributary waters from source to Watauga River
19 from Class C Tr to Class C Tr ORW, including Worley Creek ~~Index No. 8-17-1~~Index No. 8-17-
20 1 from source to Laurel Creek from Class C Tr to Class Tr ORW and Spice Branch (Creek) ~~Index~~
21 No. 8-17-2 Index No. 8-17-2 from source to Laurel Creek from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 22 (8) The portion of Little Beaverdam Creek ~~Index No. 8-19-2~~Index No. 8-19-2 and tributary waters
23 from source to Fork Branch from Class C Tr to Class C Tr HQW, including Jones Branch ~~Index~~
24 No. 8-19-2-1 Index No. 8-19-2-1 from source to Little Beaverdam Creek from Class C to Class C
25 HQW;
- 26 (9) West Fork Rube Creek ~~Index No. 8-19-3-2~~Index No. 8-19-3-2 and tributary waters from source
27 to Rube Creek from Class C to Class C HQW;
- 28 (10) The portion of Stone Mountain Branch ~~Index No. 8-2~~Index No. 8-2 and tributary waters from
29 source to unnamed tributary located approximately 350 feet southwest of the intersection of SR
30 1206 and SR 1201 from Class C to Class C HQW; and
- 31 (11) Shawnehaw Creek ~~Index No. 8-22-7~~ Index No. 8-22-7 and tributary waters from source to Mill
32 Pond, Elk River from Class C Tr to Class C Tr ORW.

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35 *History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1);*
36 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

1 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2007; August 1, 1998; April 1, 1994; February 1, 1993; August 3, 1992;*
2 *April 1, 1992;*
3 *Readopted Eff. November 1, 2019;*
4 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2023.*