

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

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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~~1992, with the  
7 reclassification of all water supply waters (waters with a primary classification of WS-I, WS-II or WS-III). These  
8 waters were reclassified to WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV or WS-V as defined in the revised water supply protection  
9 rules (15A NCAC 2B .0100, .0200 and .0300), which became effective on August 3, 1992. In some cases, streams  
10 with primary classifications other than WS were reclassified to a WS classification due to their proximity and linkage  
11 to water supply waters. In other cases, waters were reclassified from a WS classification to an alternate appropriate  
12 primary classification after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for  
13 water supply purposes.
- 14 (h) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective February 1, ~~1993~~1993, with the  
15 reclassification of Boone Fork (~~Index No. 8-7~~)Index No. 8-7 and all tributary waters from Classes C Tr HQW and C  
16 HQW to Classes C Tr ORW and C ORW.
- 17 (i) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, ~~1994~~1994, with the  
18 reclassification of the Elk River from Peavine Branch to the North Carolina/Tennessee state line ~~Index No. 8-22-~~  
19 ~~(3)~~Index No. 8-22-(3) from Class C Tr to Class B Tr.
- 20 (j) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, ~~1998~~1998, with the  
21 reclassification of East Fork Pond Creek from its source to the backwater of Santis Lake, ~~Index No. 8-20-2-1.5~~Index  
22 ~~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)  
23 ~~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  
24 to WS-III Tr CA; and the reclassification of the connecting stream of Lake Coffey ~~Index No. 8-20-2-2~~Index No. 8-  
25 ~~20-2-2~~ from the dam at Lake Coffey to Pond Creek from WS-II Tr CA to C Tr.
- 26 (k) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective November 1, ~~2007~~2007, with the  
27 reclassification of the Beech Creek Bog near Beech Creek ~~Index No. 8-20~~Index No. 8-20 to Class WL UWL. The  
28 North Carolina Division of Water Resources maintains a Geographic Information Systems data layer of the UWL.
- 29 (l) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective September 1, 2023, with the  
30 reclassification of the following waterbodies:
- 31 (1) Green Ridge Branch [~~Index No. 8-3~~] Index No. 8-3 and tributary waters from the source to  
32 Watauga River from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 33 (2) Harrison Branch [~~Index No. 8-10-1~~] Index No. 8-10-1 and tributary waters from the source to  
34 Laurel Fork from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 35 (3) The portion of Upper Laurel Fork [~~Index No. 8-10-3~~] Index No. 8-10-3 and tributary waters from  
36 source to SR103 from Class C to Class C ORW;
- 37 (4) The portion of Dutch Creek [~~Index No. 8-12-(0.5)~~] Index No. 8-12-(0.5) and tributary waters from

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

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23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1);*

24 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

25 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2007; August 1, 1998; April 1, 1994; February 1, 1993; August 3, 1992;*

26 *April 1, 1992;*

27 *Readopted Eff. November 1, 2019;*

28 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2023.*