

15A NCAC 02B .0303 LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER BASIN AND SAVANNAH RIVER DRAINAGE AREA

(a) Classifications assigned to the waters within the Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area are set forth in the Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule, which may be inspected at the following places:

- (1) the Internet at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-standards/river-basin-classification>; and
- (2) the following offices of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality:
 - (A) Asheville Regional Office
2090 US Highway 70
Swannanoa, North Carolina; and
 - (B) Division of Water Resources
Central Office
512 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina.

(b) Unnamed streams entering Georgia or Tennessee shall be classified "C Tr." Such streams in the Savannah River drainage area entering South Carolina shall be classified "B Tr."

(c) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective:

- (1) February 16, 1977;
- (2) March 1, 1977;
- (3) July 13, 1980;
- (4) February 1, 1986;
- (5) October 1, 1987;
- (6) March 1, 1989;
- (7) January 1, 1990;
- (8) July 1, 1990;
- (9) August 1, 1990;
- (10) March 1, 1991;
- (11) August 3, 1992;
- (12) February 1, 1993;
- (13) August 1, 1994;
- (14) September 1, 1996;
- (15) August 1, 1998;
- (16) August 1, 2000;
- (17) April 1, 2003;
- (18) January 1, 2007;
- (19) November 1, 2007;
- (20) July 1, 2009.

(d) The Little Tennessee Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective March 1, 1989 as follows:

- (1) Nantahala River (Index No. 2-57) from source to the backwaters of Nantahala Lake and all tributary waters were reclassified from Class B-trout, Class C-trout and Class C to Class B-trout ORW, Class C-trout ORW and Class C ORW.
- (2) Chattooga River (Index No. 3) including Scotsman Creek, Overflow Creek, Big Creek, Talley Mill Creek and all tributary waters were reclassified from Class B-trout, Class C-trout and Class C to Class B-trout ORW, Class C-trout ORW and Class C ORW and Clear Creek and all tributary waters were reclassified from Class C-trout and Class C to Class B-trout and Class B.

(e) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective January 1, 1990 as follows:

- (1) North Fork Coweeta Creek (Index No. 2-10-4) and Falls Branch (Index No. 2-10-4-1) were reclassified from Class C to Class B.
- (2) Burningtown Creek (Index No. 2-38) was reclassified from C-trout to B-trout.

(f) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 1990 by the reclassification of Alarka Creek (Index No. 2-69) from source to Upper Long Creek (Index No. 2-69-2) including all tributaries from Classes C and C Tr to Classes C HQW and C Tr HQW.

(g) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective March 1, 1991 as follows:

- (1) Cartoogechaye Creek [Index Nos. 2-19-(1) and 2-19-(16)] from Gibson Cove Branch to bridge at U.S. Hwy. 23 and 441 and from the bridge at U.S. Hwy. 23 and 441 to the Little Tennessee River was reclassified from Classes WS-III Tr and C Tr to Classes WS-III and B Tr and B Tr respectively.
- (2) Coweeta Creek (Index Nos. 2-10) from its source to the Little Tennessee River including all tributaries except Dryman Fork (Index No. 2-10-3) and North Fork Coweeta Creek (Index No. 2-10-4) was reclassified from Classes C and C Tr to Classes B and B Tr.

(h) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective August 3, 1992 with the reclassification of all water supply waters (waters with a primary classification of WS-I, WS-II or WS-III). These waters were reclassified to WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV or WS-V as defined in the revised water supply protection rules (15A NCAC 02B .0100, .0200 and .0300), which became effective on August 3, 1992. In some cases, streams with primary classifications other than WS were reclassified to a WS classification due to their proximity and linkage to water supply waters. In other cases, waters were reclassified from a WS classification to an alternate appropriate primary classification after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for water supply purposes.

(i) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective February 1, 1993 as follows:

- (1) Bearwallow Creek from its source to 2.3 miles upstream of the Toxaway River [Index No. 4-7-(1)] was revised to indicate the application of an additional management strategy (Rule .0201(d) of this Subchapter) to protect downstream waters; and
- (2) the Tuckasegee River from its source to Tennessee Creek [Index No. 2-79-(0.5)] including all tributaries was reclassified from Classes WS-III&B Tr HQW, WS-III HQW and WS-III to Classes WS-III Tr ORW and WS-III ORW.

(j) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, 1994 with the reclassification of Deep Creek [Index Nos. 2-79-63-(1) and 2-79-63-(16)] from its source to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park Boundary including tributaries from Classes C Tr, B Tr and C Tr HQW to Classes WS-II Tr and WS-II Tr CA.

(k) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective September 1, 1996 as follows:

- (1) Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary to the Tuckasegee River [Index no. 2-79-63-(21)] was reclassified from Class C Tr to Class B Tr; and
- (2) the Tuckasegee River from the West Fork Tuckasegee River to Savannah Creek and from Macks Town Branch to Cochran Branch [Index Nos. 2-79-(24), 2-79(29.5) and 2-79-(38)] was reclassified from Classes WS-III Tr, WS-III Tr CA and C to Classes WS-III&B Tr, WS-III&B Tr CA and B.

(l) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, 1998 with the reclassifications of Thorpe Reservoir (Lake Glenville), Hurricane Creek, and Laurel Branch [Index Nos. 2-79-23-(1), 2 -79-23-2, and 2-79-23-2-1 respectively] from classes WS-III&B, WS-III Tr and WS-III to classes WS-III&B HQW, WS-III Tr HQW, and WS-III HQW.

(m) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended August 1, 2000 with the reclassification of Wesser Creek [Index No. 2-79-52-5-1] from its source to Williams Branch from Class C to Class C Tr.

(n) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended April 1, 2003 with the reclassification of a portion of the Little Tennessee River [Index No. 2-(1)] from a point 0.4 mile upstream of N.C. Highway 28 to Nantahala River Arm of Fontana Lake from Class C to Class B.

(o) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended January 1, 2007 with the reclassification of the entire watersheds of all creeks that drain to the north shore of Fontana Lake between Eagle and Forney Creeks, including Eagle and Forney Creeks, [Index Nos. 2-96 through 2-164 (excluding all waterbodies that drain to the south shore of Fontana Lake)] from Class B, C Tr, WS-IV Tr CA, WS-IV Tr, and WS-IV & B CA to Class B ORW, C Tr ORW, WS-IV Tr ORW CA, WS-IV Tr ORW, and WS-IV & B ORW CA, respectively. Additional site-specific management strategies are outlined in Rule .0225(e)(12) of this Subchapter.

(p) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended effective November 1, 2007 with the reclassification of Richland Balsam Seep near Beechflat Creek [Index No. 2-

79-28-3-2] to Class WL UWL. The Division of Water Resources maintains a Geographic Information Systems data layer of the UWL.

(q) The Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area Classification Schedule was amended July 1, 2009 with the reclassification of the watershed of the lower portion of the Horsepasture River [portion of Index Number 4-13-(12.5)] from a point approximately 0.60 miles downstream of N.C. 281 (Bohaynee Road) to the NC-SC state line from Class B Tr to Class B Tr ORW, and the watershed of the upper portion of the Horsepasture River [Index Number 4-13-(0.5) and a portion of Index Number 4-13-(12.5)] from source to a point approximately 0.60 miles downstream of N.C. 281 (Bohaynee Road) to include only the ORW management strategy as represented by "+". The "+" symbol means that all undesignated waterbodies that are located within the watershed of the upper portion of Horsepasture River shall comply with Rule .0225(c) of this Subchapter in order to protect the designated waters as per Rule .0203 of this Subchapter and to protect outstanding resource values found throughout the entire Horsepasture River watershed. Site-specific management strategies are outlined in Rule .0225(e)(13) of this Subchapter.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1); S.L. 2005-97;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2009; November 1, 2007; January 1, 2007; April 1, 2003; August 1, 2000;
August 1, 1998; September 1, 1996; August 1, 1994; February 1, 1993; August 3, 1992; March 1,
1991;
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2019.