

The Delayed Harvest Streams of North Carolina by Alen Baker

Stream	County	Local To	NCWR Catalog #	Native Ecology	Fishability	Miles	Width	Flow	Food/Cover	Pressure	2012 Plan	Elevation	Directions	Notes
Ararat River (NC 103 bridge to T. Harrington School Park)	Surry	Mount Airy	YAD 1-45 DH	Brown Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:26/528	2.0	32	15	Fair Caddis .34 May .4 Midge .4	Moderate	3240 Brook 3240 Rainbow 1620 Brown	2100 feet 2250 feet	From I-77, East on NC 89. Access is from NC 104.	Delayed Harvest effective 10/2011. General waters prior to 1991. TROUT,NC:3/94,4/94, NCWLDLIFE:4/97, Class C. DELORME:p16,A1&B1.
Big Horse Creek (from SR 1324 bridge in Lansing to North Fork New River)	Ashe	Jefferson	NEW 1-8-6 DH	Rainbow	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:31/6	2.5	24	25	Fair Caddis .54 May .32 Midge .13 Stone .1	Moderate	1340 Brook 1340 Rainbow 0670 Brown	2700 feet 2600 feet	Access is by SR 1362 which parallels the stream.	Delayed Harvest effective 10/2012. High Quality Waters (C HWH) in 1980. Class C. 1960s: 0.74 Fish/Hr 9 contacts. TROUT,NC:4/95, DELORME:p13,A7.
Big Laurel Creek (NC 208 bridge to the US 25-70 bridge)	Madison	Mars Hill	FBR 1-16 DH	Brown Smallmouth	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:33/873	1.2	43	60	Good	Moderate	2670 Brook 2200 Rainbow 1100	2100 feet 2250 feet	Access is by SR 1318 at US 23. NC 208 and SR 1318 parallel much of the stream. Access at 1328 and SR 1336 bridges.	Nongame land from Mars Hill Watershed boundary to Rices Mill Dam. Class C. DELORME:p31,B4.
Cane Creek (NC 226 bridge to SR 1189 bridge)	Mitchell	Bakersville	WYK 1-9-13 DH MH	Brown Rainbow Brook	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:32/864	3.3	23	25	Good .73 May .15 Midge .12 Caddis	Moderate	1870 Brook 1870 Rainbow 0935	2320 feet 2600 feet	Access is by NC 226, SR 1111, SR 1205, SR 1211 and SR 1108. Delayed Harvest from NC 226 bridge to NC 80 bridge.	Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. History of pollution problems from the Bakersville area, but still manages to produce an occasional large brown trout. Class C. DELORME:p32,A2.
Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)	McDowell	Marion	CAT 7 DH	Rainbow Brown	Easy, Open, Scenic Rating:30/0	0.6	20		Fair 870 Brook 870 Rainbow 430 Brown			1600 feet 1550 feet		Delayed Harvest effective 10/2012. Class C. DELORME:p32,D3.
Coffey Lake	Watauga	Boone	WGA 1-2 DH	Brook	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:34/550	2A			Good	Moderate	1040 Brook 1040 Rainbow 0520 Brown	2750 feet	Access is by SR 1125 and SR 1126.	Delayed Harvest effective 10/2011. Class C. DELORME:p13,D5.
Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream to the US Forest Service boundary at Deep Branch)	McDowell	Marion	CAT 7-27 DH	Rainbow Brown	Easy, Open, Pastoral Rating:47/1988	1.7	22	15	Fair May .42 Midge .38 .11 Stone .9 Caddis	Heavy	3300 Brook 3300 Rainbow 1650 Brown	2000 feet 2200 feet	I-40 at Old Fort, go North on Curtis Creek Rd. across NC 70. Access is by trails off SR 1227 which parallels the stream.	Good fishing for browns. 1/2-wild browns stocked in the early 80s. Class B. 1978-96 YOY. TROUT,NC:10/94, DELORME:p32,D2.
East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River)	Transylvania	Brevard	FBR 1-107 DH	Rainbow Brown Brook	Easy, Open, Pastoral Rating:35/436	4.8	37	50	Good 38 May 38 Midge .18 Caddis .6 Stone	Moderate	7095 Brook 7095 Rainbow 3545 Brown	2200 feet 2600 feet	Access is from SR 1107 which parallels much of this stream.	Nongame land. Stocked with both yearling and fingerling trout. 17 inch brown taken in the sample. Class B. 1978:14 YOY. DELORME:p63,D4,p71,D4.
East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek to park boundary)	Wilkes	Elkin	YAD 1-58-1 DH	Rainbow Brown	Easy, Typical, Scenic Rating:42/975	4.0	26	40	Good .76 May .12 Caddis .6 Midge .5 Stone	Heavy	4950 Brook 4950 Rainbow 2475 Brown	1280 feet 1390 feet	Access is by SR 1739 which parallels much of the stream.	1/2-wild browns stocked in the early 80s. General waters prior to 1991. Class B. TROUT,NC:2/94,3/94,4/94, NCWLDLIFE:4/97,DELORME:p14,B4.
Eik Creek (Upper) (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of Blue Ridge Mountain Club)	Wilkes	Wilkesboro	YAD 1-71 DH U	Brown Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:30/70	1.5	32	15	Fair Midge .85 .10 May .3 Stone .1 Caddis	Moderate	872 Brook 872 Rainbow 436 Brown	1200 feet 1400 feet	Access is by SR 1508.	Delayed Harvest effective 10/2012. Class C. DELORME:p34,A1.
Eik Creek (Lower) (portion on Leatherwood Mountains Development)	Wilkes	Wilkesboro	YAD 1-71 DH L	Brown Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:30/70	1.0	32	15	Fair Midge .85 .10 May .3 Stone .1 Caddis	Moderate	1620 Brook 1620 Rainbow 810 Brown	1200 feet 1400 feet	Access is by SR 1508. Access at campground.	Delayed Harvest effective 10/2010. Class C. DELORME:p34,A1.
Green River (Fistop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)	Polk	Tryon	BRD 6-17 DH	Brown Rainbow Largemouth	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:35/774	3.3	40	40	Good 55 May .33 Caddis .11 Midge .1 Stone	Moderate	4990 Brook 4990 Rainbow 2495 Brown	1500 feet 1750 feet	Access is by SR 1836 in Henderson County and SR 1151 in Polk County. Waters between Lake Adger and Lake Summit are part of Green River Game Lands, requiring a game stamp.	Bradley Falls at 1450 feet on Cove Creek tributary. Stream discharges over this reach fluctuate widely with power-generation at Summit Reservoir, bank fishing only during high water. Class B. 1978:4 YOY. DELORME:p54,C1.
Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)	Ashe	Jefferson	NEW 1-8-1 DH	Rainbow Brown Brook Rock Bass	Easy, Typical, Pastoral Rating:27/675	8.0	23	25	Good .45 May .43 Caddis .7 Midge .5 Stone	Moderate	8240 Brook 8240 Rainbow 4120 Brown	2640 feet 3050 feet	Access is by NC 194, SR 1370, SR 1372, SR 1527 all which parallel and SR 1536.	Reputedly supports fair brook trout fishing. From New River to Virginia State line. Produces some large brown trout annually. 1978:45 YOY. TROUT,NC:5/95, DELORME:p13,A7,p14,A1.
Jacobs Fork (Shiny Creek to lower South Mountain State Park boundary)	Burke	Morganton	CAT 7-1-5-14 DH	Rainbow Brown Smallmouth	Easy, Typical, Scenic Rating:50/1171	3.5	22	25	Excellent .55 May .27 Caddis .18 Stone	Moderate	4000 Brook 4000 Rainbow 2000 Brown	1320 feet 1450 feet	From Lincolnton, take NC 27 West, then NC 18 North. Access is by State Park road off of SR 1904. Entire stream is within South Mountain State Park.	Outstanding Resource Waters (WS-III Tr ORW) in 1989. General water prior to 1991. Class B. 1978:256 YOY, 1.25 Fish/Hr. TROUT,NC:3/94,4/94, NCWLDLIFE:4/97, DELORME:p55,A7.
Little River (from Whitehead to 275 feet downstream of the intersection of SR 1128 and SR 1129)	Alleghany	Sparta	NEW 1-1 DH	Rainbow Brown Brook	Rough, Open, Pastoral Rating:26/0	2.5	53	45	Fair Caddis .71 May .4 Midge .2 Stone .2	Moderate	1200 Brook 1200 Rainbow 0600 Brown	2650 feet 2550 feet	Access is by US 21, SR 1128, SR 1127 and SR 1121.	DELORME:p14,B4.
Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)	Transylvania	Brevard	FBR 1-78 DH	Brown Rainbow Brook Largemouth	Easy, Open, Scenic Rating:36/717	1.8	25	35	Good	Moderate	1575 Brook 1575 Rainbow 0775 Brown	2350 feet 2550 feet	Access at SR 1536 and SR 1560 bridges. US 276 parallel the middle portion. Stream is within DuPont State Forest.	Hooker Falls at 2340 feet, Triple Falls at 2380 feet, High Falls at 2420 feet and Bridal Veil Falls above Cascade Lake. Shout Creek Falls at 2350 feet, a tributary. DELORME:p53,D6.
Mill Creek (US 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)	McDowell	Old Fort	CAT 7-29 DH MH	Rainbow Brown Largemouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:23/690	0.7	36	40	Fair May .55 Caddis .45	Moderate	0850 Brook 0850 Rainbow 0425 Brown	1200 feet 1500 feet	Access is by SR 1400. SR 1407 parallels most of the stream.	Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Was called Big Rock Creek before 1993. Class C. 1978:4 YOY. DELORME:p32,D2.
Mitchell River (0.6 miles upstream of the end of SR 1333 to the SR 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)	Surry	Elkin	YAD 1-51 DH	Brown Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:32/1168	3.0	30	45	Fair	Heavy	5130 Brook 5130 Rainbow 2565 Brown	1100 feet 1250 feet	I-77, Exit 93, West on Zephyr Road, West on Devotion Road. Access is by SR 1330, Devotion Road, which generally parallels.	Outstanding Resource Water (ORW). Often turbid. General waters prior to 1991. DELORME:p15,B6.
Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)	Macon	Andrews	LTN 1-5 DH	Rainbow Brook	Easy, Open, Scenic Rating:41/902	3.0	42	30	Good .65 Caddis 19 May Stone .1 Midge .1	Heavy	7400 Brook 7400 Rainbow 3700 Brown	2350 feet 2750 feet	SR 1310 parallels the stream. Most of the stream is in the USFS boundary. Most of the flow is from the tributaries above the powerhouse. Very cold, wide fluctuating flows.	Outstanding Resource Water (ORW). Class C. 1960s:18 YOY, 0.51 Fish/Hr 119 contacts. TROUT,NC:3/94,4/94,11/94, NCWLDLIFE:4/97, DELORME:p51,A4.
North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)	Henderson	Hendersonville	FBR 1-66-2 DH	Rainbow Brown	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:38/751	4.0	25	20	Good .50 May Caddis .29 Midge .7 Stone .7	Heavy	4400 Brook 4400 Rainbow 2200 Brown	2000 feet 2200 feet	North on NC 276 from Brevard, access is by the lower and upper North Mills River roads (USFS) off NC 191 and SR 1345. Game Land portions below the Hendersonville watershed dam are open to public access.	Recruitment to the wild trout population is adversely affected by the Hendersonville watershed dam (blocking spawning grounds). Class B. NCWLDLIFE:4/97, DELORME:p53,B5.
North Toe River (US 19E bridge to NC 226 bridge)	Mitchell	Spruce Pine	WYK 1-9 DH MH	Rainbow Brown Brook	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:31/1354	2.3	28	50	Fair	Heavy	7600 Brook 7600 Rainbow 3800 Brown	2800 feet 3200 feet	Access is by SR 1157 and US 19E.	Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Flows into Mitchell Stream. Class C. 1978:6 YOY. DELORME:p32,B3.
Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)	Wilkes	North Wilkesboro	YAD 1-63 DH	Brown Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:26/896	1.0	48	52	Fair Caddis .53 .20 Midge .14 May .14 Stone	Moderate	2100 Brook 2100 Rainbow 1050 Brown	960 feet 1010 feet	Take US 421 Business route to west side of North Wilkesboro near the hospital. Stream parallels the greenway and flows into the Yadkin River.	More distant from populated areas of North Carolina. Although quite a few smallmouth bass are found in this lower portion of the stream, better trout are taken from time to time also. Class C. 1960s: 0.77 Fish/Hr, 22 contacts. DELORME:p31,B5.
Shelton-Laurel Creek (NC 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)	Madison	Mars Hill	FBR 1-16-5 DH	Brown Rainbow Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Typical, Rural Rating:32/905	2.4	41	30	Good .43 May .37 Caddis 14 Stone .8 Midge	Moderate	4350 Brook 4350 Rainbow 2175 Brown	1800 feet 1950 feet	Access is by NC 212, SR 1309 and NC 208 bridge. NC 212 parallels this stream.	More distant from populated areas of North Carolina. Although quite a few smallmouth bass are found in this lower portion of the stream, better trout are taken from time to time also. Class C. 1960s: 0.77 Fish/Hr, 22 contacts. DELORME:p31,B5.
Spring Creek (Highway 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to old iron bridge)	Madison	Hot Springs	FBR 1-10 DH	Brown Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Urban Rating:36/74	1.7	30	15	Fair May .53 .27 Caddis .13 Midge .7 Stone	Moderate	2000 Brook 2000 Rainbow 1000 Brown	1600 feet 1800 feet	Access is by NC 209 which parallels the stream.	Class C. DELORME:p30,B4.
Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)	Wilkes	Elkin	YAD 1-56-1-6 DH	Rainbow Brown	Easy, Tight, Scenic Rating:19/1147	1.0	12	7	Fair	Light	0670 Brook 0670 Rainbow 0335 Brown	1390 feet 1650 feet	Stone Mountain State Park. Stream flows into East Prong Roaring River (see above for directions). Access is by SR 1739 beyond Bullhead Creek and SR 1100 which parallels much of the stream and crosses the stream many times.	Headwaters begin in Alleghany County. Class B. 1960s:0.13 Fish/Hr. TROUT,NC:3/94,4/94, NCWLDLIFE:4/97, DELORME:p15,B4.
Trout Lake	Ashe	Jefferson	NEW 1-9-4 I DH	Brook	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:36/3500	1A			Excellent	Moderate	1400 Brook 1400 Rainbow 0700 Brown	2920 feet	Take NC 88, then go downstream on Peak Creek.	Not a stream, but regulated as Delayed Harvest. DELORME:p14,B2.
Tuckasegee River (Tailrace) (NC 107 bridge at Love Field to US 23-441 bridge)	Jackson	Sylva	TUK 1 DH	Rainbow Brook Rock Bass	Easy, Open, Pastoral Rating:35/487	5.5	95	150	Good	Heavy	19600 Brook 19600 Rainbow 08800 Brown	2120 feet 2200 feet	Access is from several secondary roads and NC 107. Many easy trails and access points along the road. Powerhouse 704 293-5137.	Class C. TROUT,NC:6/96, NCWLDLIFE:4/97, DELORME:p52,C1.
Watauga River (Upper) (adjacent to intersection of SR 1557 and SR 1558 to NC 105 bridge)	Watauga	Boone	WGA 1 DH U	Brown Brook Rainbow Smallmouth Bluegill	Easy, Open, Pastoral Rating:47/1262	2.0	32	60	Fair 45 May Caddis .43 Midge .5 Stone .5	Heavy	2464 Brook 2464 Rainbow 1232 Brown	2880 feet 3000 feet	From Boone, take US 321 north, then take NC 194 west. Water temperatures appear limiting but trout apparently survive well anyway.	Many easy trails and access points along the road. Road bank is rugged in some places. DELORME:p13,D5&D6.
Watauga River (Lower) (SR 1114 bridge to NC 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)	Watauga	Boone	WGA 1 DH L	Brown Brook Rainbow Smallmouth Bluegill	Easy, Typical, Rural Rating:43/1900	1.2	45	90	Fair 45 May Caddis .43 Midge .5 Stone .5	Heavy	1840 Brook 1840 Rainbow 0920 Brown	2730 feet 2600 feet	From Boone, west on NC 105. Access is by SR 1580, SR 1557 and NC 105, which parallels the entire stream. Road bank is rugged in many places.	General waters prior to 1991. Hatchery Supported waters during 1991-92. Class B. 1960s:69 YOY, 0.55 Fish/Hr. TROUT,NC:7/96, NCWLDLIFE:4/97, DELORME:p13,D5&D6.
West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)	Haywood	Waynesville	PGN 1-42-14 DH	Brown Brook Rainbow	Easy, Open, Rural Rating:30/1277	2.0	34	50	Fair May .71 Stone .19 .10 Caddis	Heavy	4235 Brook 4235 Rainbow 2120 Brown	3120 feet 2900 feet	Access is by NC 215 and SR 1111 parallels the stream.	Standing crop underestimated due to sampling difficulty. Scouring is a limiting factor for this stream. Class C. 1978:9 YOY. DELORME:p52,B3.
Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove downstream to Phillips Branch)	Caldwell	Lenoir	CAT 7-6-12-3 DH	Brown Rainbow Smallmouth Redbreast	Easy, Open, Scenic Rating:38/1345	3.5	52	75	Excellent 43 May Caddis .33 Midge .9 Stone .9	Heavy	10340 Brook 10340 Rainbow 05170 Brown	1396 feet 1500 feet	From Linville, NC 221 south on Edgemont Road. From Lenoir, NC 90 to Collettsville, west on Adsko Road. From Morganton, NC 181 east on Brown Mountain Road. Access is roadside past Visitor Center.	Many easy access points. Road bank is rugged in many places. Long pools and numerous runs allow for a large number of anglers to focus on "hot spots". Outstanding Resource Waters (B Tr ORW) in 1989. Class B. DELORME:p33,B5.