



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Rocky River Watershed, Mecklenburg County, NC (Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration) CAP Section 206

- **Sponsor: Mecklenburg County, NC**
- **Stream restoration project**
- **Awaiting Federal interest determination approval**



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 9, 12

DATE: 23 February 2015

**1. AUTHORIZATION:** Section 206, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996, as amended. WRDA 2007, Section 1006, paragraph (a)(32).

**2. STUDY AREA:** The proposed project streams are located near the town of Davidson, North Carolina, in Mecklenburg County, approximately 20 miles north of Charlotte, NC. The proposed aquatic ecosystem restoration project is located in the headwaters of the Rocky River watershed.

**3. IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED:** The rapid urbanization in the upper portions of the Rocky River watershed in recent decades has resulted in the degradation of habitat along streams throughout the lower watershed. Major problems identified include: (1) stream incision, which has disconnected aquatic habitats from previously adjoining riparian habitats, (2) streambank erosion, which has destabilized vegetation and contributes sediments to the streams, and (3) accretion of sediments in other portions of the system due to erosion from instream and upland sediment sources. These physical processes have damaged the instream ecosystem by homogenizing the habitat. Biodiversity of aquatic species in all target stream reaches is low, and trophic balance is inadequate due to the low abundance of certain species. Damage to these habitats is expected to accelerate in the future, with headcutting advancing into the upper reaches of the watershed. The proposed aquatic ecosystem restoration project would involve the use of natural channel design to restore streams in the watershed. Many miles of streams in the watershed have been

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adversely impacted and are in need of restoration; however, this project proposes to focus on areas that have the highest probability of success.

**4. COST ESTIMATE:** \$500,000 (Feasibility phase, \$300,000/Federal, \$200,000 non-Federal). First \$100,000 in costs are fully Federal.

**5. FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2014:** \$93,000.

**6. FY 2015 FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$0. Carry-in funds are being used to continue the feasibility study.

**7. FY 2016 OPTIMUM AMOUNT:** \$207,000. These funds could be used to execute a feasibility cost sharing agreement with Mecklenburg County and complete the feasibility study.

**8. COMPLETION DATES:** March 2015 - Tentative completion date for Federal interest determination.

**9. STATUS:** The study initiation report was completed in April 2011. An initial site visit was completed on 3 November 2010 to evaluate the areas of concern with Mecklenburg County officials. A follow-up site visit was conducted in April 2014. The Federal interest determination was submitted to Corps higher headquarters on December 2014. The Wilmington District is currently addressing review comments on this document and anticipates approval in March 2015.