



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

**Enforcement Action:  
Mr. Melvin E. “Val” Valentine  
Roanoke River, Martin County  
(Regulatory Permitting)**

**Regulatory Office: Washington**

**Project Manager: Kyle Barnes (Kyle.W.Barnes@usace.army.mil)**

**Field Office Chief: James Lastinger (James.C.Lastinger@usace.army.mil)**

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1

DATE: 10 MARCH 2023

1. **PROJECT:**

Unauthorized construction of roads, wildlife impoundments and other activities within wetlands resulting in the restriction of flows and circulation patterns of waters of the United States. Impacted areas are dispersed over 1,100 acres of riverine swamp forest and bottomland hardwood wetlands adjacent to Devil’s Gut and the Roanoke River near Jamesville, North Carolina.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

The property owner, Valentine, purchased multiple adjoining properties comprising of over 1,100 acres in 2016. Those properties had been timbered prior to being purchased by Valentine. Three access roads existed on the property which were utilized during the harvesting of the timber by the previous owners. Valentine indicated that the property was solely purchased for the cultivation of forest products. Valentine installed an additional network of roads throughout the property significantly restricting or altering the natural flow and circulation of Waters of the U.S., (WOTUS).

Site reviews were conducted in 2017-2018 by the Corps, EPA, NC Forestry, and NC Division of Water Resources. Agencies concluded that the new road network was not consistent with road installation guidelines utilized in exempt forestry practices.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

The property owner has continued to install roads and clear areas identified for production of trees after receiving a Cease and Desist Notice from the Corps in 2018. Impoundments for waterfowl hunting and cultivated food plots for deer/bear/turkey hunting have been constructed to facilitate a private hunting club.

4. **NEXT STEPS:**

- Action has been referred to the US Department of Justice (DOJ).
- Continue to work with DOJ on remedial action to bring the property into compliance with current regulations.