

Howard P. Taylor
1505 Windmill Drive
Sanford, North Carolina 27330

September 11, 2007

Mr. Rich Gannon
N.C. Division of Water Quality
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regard to the proposed Jordan Lake buffer rules. I own a tract of timberland in Chatham County which would be affected by the rules. I also own land in Nash County which is under similar rules in the Tar-Pamlico basin. After several timber sales in Nash County, I have realized that most timber buyers simply flag off a 50 foot wide strip on each side of a creek and do no cutting at all in that area. Several loggers I have talked to say they will not cut in these buffers even if timber is marked because they will take no chance of getting in trouble over these rules.

If a landowner has a creek passing through his property, he in effect has lost a 100 foot wide strip of land. This strip is about three acres for each one-quarter mile of creek. There is no compensation for this loss of use. This is unfair and irritating.

On a larger scale, this type of buffer rule is irritating because it will do nothing or little to address the water quality problem. Timberland management and logging contribute little to the problem. The best way to have high quality water is to have forested land.

The problem is caused by housing and commercial construction and runoff both during construction (sediment), and after (nutrients and pollutants). Chatham County has ten or eleven thousand homes approved as of a few months ago. Why do I have to have buffer rules imposed on my timberland? All the buffer rules in the world will do little to offset the resulting runoff from the impervious areas created by eleven thousand homes and the roofs, driveways, streets and commercial areas which are created by this level of construction. Of course, other counties have also approved thousands of homes. All this construction is the problem, not what we timberland owners do.

In addition, municipalities want to suck Jordan Lake dry and put the sewage back in downstream, where they won't have to deal with the impact.

Here are my suggestions:

Make all developments have at least 250 foot buffers, with retention ponds for all storm runoff.

Do not approve any more sprayfield sewage treatment systems.

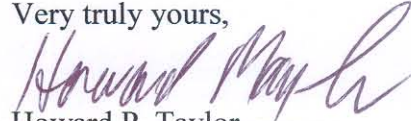
Make all sewage treatment plants discharge upstream of that city's water intake, as the City of Sanford does.

Leave the timberland owners alone-we provide the nice views, clean water, oxygen, carbon dioxide removal, and wildlife habitat.

Do not let local governments pass rules which are more stringent.

Thank you for your time. I will watch with interest to see what rules, if any, are imposed.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Howard P. Taylor", written in a cursive style.

Howard P. Taylor

919-708-3379