

# It's Not Just Dirt!



Haywood County has some of the purest, most scenic waterways found anywhere.

**Haywood County is a special place to live.**

**Our land and water are precious resources that contribute to the wonderful quality of life we enjoy.**

**We are responsible for their protection.**

**Our actions will directly impact these resources, our economic future, and our quality of life.**



## **Our Watershed**

**Because of its mountains, Haywood County is a unique watershed.** All water flowing through Haywood County, and all our drinking water originate here. We are entirely responsible for the quality of our water and the water we send downstream to our neighbors.

## **It's Not Just Dirt**

When the vegetation is removed from land and the soil is disturbed, soil erosion caused by wind and rain is sure to follow. The soil that is washed away or blown away does not just disappear. It usually ends up in nearby streams and lakes as sediment. This sediment can devastate the fish, wildlife and aquatic insects living in the affected waterway. Your eroded soil may even end up in your favorite swimming or fishing hole.

Plain old dirt is the greatest single pollutant affecting our streams, lakes and ponds in Haywood County. It pollutes by clouding waters and settling on the stream bottom. Suspended

clay particles block light and prevent the growth of aquatic plants. Sediment on the stream bottom smothers insect larvae, mussels and fish eggs, and destroys the spawning areas of fish and shellfish. In severe cases, it can even kill fish.

**In addition to its effects on aquatic plants and animals, sediment fills local lakes and ponds, obstructs waterways and clogs storm sewers and ditches.** The cost to remove sediment is enormous. We all pay through increased water and utility rates, increased agriculture costs, business' costs to remove sediment, and state, federal and local taxes for programs to deal with the problem.

**Soil erosion washes away the most valuable portion of your land—your topsoil. Don't let this happen to you.**



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