

## Water Quality Assessment Map Legend

1	Impervious surfaces – sub-basins predominantly covered with medium and high intensity development. Impervious surfaces of these areas are 50% or greater.
2	<b>Moderately developed lands</b> – sub-basins dominated by low intensity development and developed open spaces. Impervious surfaces of these areas range from 1 – 49%, and include areas like large- lot single-family homes, parks, and golf courses.
3	<b>Developed and mixed use</b> – sub-basins where more than 50% of the land base is developed (using the four categories above), with other uses making up the remaining land cover.
4	<b>Crop and mixed use land</b> – sub-basins where more than the 50% of the land base is cropland OR 50% cropland and 50% developed, OR an approximate equal mix (1/3) of crop land, developed land, and forested land .
5	<b>Forest and mixed use land</b> – sub-basins where more than 50% of the land base is forested, with the remaining areas developed or in crops.
6	<b>Forested lands</b> - sub-basins greater than 50% forested. Sub-basins are predominantly in private ownership (and not protected), though protected lands found in highly developed areas are also included here.
7	<b>Presence of moderate to high quality streams<sup>1</sup></b> in sub-basins that are forested or have mixed uses, and are in private ownership (and not protected).
8	<b>High elevation (&gt; 3,000 feet), forested sub-basins with moderate to high quality streams present</b> OR protected sub-basins that lack a moderate to highly rated stream, but are primarily forested and undeveloped*.
9	<b>Presence of high quality streams<sup>2</sup> in partially forested sub-basins with mixed uses present</b> (regardless of elevation).
10	<b>High elevation (&gt; 3,000 feet), densely forested sub-basins with high quality streams present.</b> There are a few sub-basins where lower elevation instances do occur, but the quality of the sub-basin was such that it retained the higher ranking.

**NOTE:** In cases where a sub-basin was 75-100% surrounded by higher ranking sub-basins, the value of the higher ranking sub-basin was applied. Often these were sub-basins that lacked a stream or had not been sampled like the surrounding basins. This only occurred in sub-basins ranking between 6 and 10.

---

<sup>1</sup> **Moderate to high quality streams** include streams protected for Class C uses by NC Department of Water Quality (WS III-V) OR rated “Good” through benthos (aquatic bugs) sampling. Class C waters are protected for uses such as secondary recreation, fishing, wildlife, fish consumption, aquatic life including propagation, survival and maintenance of biological integrity, and agriculture. Secondary recreation includes wading, boating and other uses involving human body contact with water.

<sup>2</sup> **High quality streams** include streams designated as HQW (High Quality Waters) or ORW (Outstanding Resource Waters) by NC Department of Water Quality; and streams with known naturally and reproducing strains of brook trout, and/or ratings of “Excellent” through Benthos (aquatic bugs) sampling.

\* There are a few cases where sub-basins with elevations of less than 3,000 feet were included here due to the high value of surrounding sub-basins.

*See the Water Quality Assessment Data Definitions sheet for more detailed definitions of datasets included in this analysis.*