

August 31, 2009

David K. Baker
Asheville Regulatory Field Office
US Army Corps of Engineers
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

Dear Mr. Patton:

I am writing to ask the Corps of Engineers to deny the request from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to build a four-lane highway in Graham County under the designation TIPA9, Sections B and C. My wife and I are owners of property along Stecoah Creek, a trout stream in the watershed between the proposed site of construction and the Little Tennessee River at Fontana Lake. Therefore I am very concerned with the pollution and other damage that would result from this project.

I understand that the DOT is required to consider alternative routes and designs that would avoid the environmental damage inherent in the current proposal. I do not believe that DOT has adequately fulfilled its obligations. In particular, the existing road from Stecoah to Robbinsville could be improved with measures such as passing lanes to provide increased capacity for traffic in the future. Currently, this road serves quite adequately.

Again, I urge you to protect the natural resources of this area by denying the request from the DOT.

Sincerely,

Isaac Lassiter
P.O. Box 793
Hot Springs, NC 28743