

TOWN SERVICES -EROSION CONTROL

Do Your Part to Stop Sedimentation



If you are a property owner, you are affected by sedimentation. If you are a trout fisherman, you are affected by sedimentation. If you are a business owner, or a farmer, or a developer, you are affected by sedimentation. Sediment is the single largest pollutant in the Upper Broad River watershed. It is also one of the easiest to prevent, provided proper measures are taken. One would be inclined to believe that construction and development are the largest contributors to sediment in our stream. In some cases this is true, but very often the largest contributors are things that have been around awhile, such as logging roads, ATV trails, improperly maintained driveways, and banks. All of these contribute large amounts of sediment, but are so often overlooked. Most large construction sites are heavily scrutinized and regulated, so sedimentation is not usually a big problem, and when it is, fines are usually enough to get contractors back in line.



To be involved, there are several things you can do. (1) Know the laws concerning sedimentation. (2) Report violations. Some people say, "Well, it's none of my business what so

and so does." I disagree. If it violates the law and affects other people, then it's the business of everyone affected. (3) Be a good neighbor. Think about how your land disturbing activities will affect others around you. As close as people live to each other in this area, what you do uphill will be down the hill in your neighbors' yards the next time it rains. (4) Get technical assistance. Planning a construction project can be complicated, particularly here in the mountains. Make sure that you are making the right decisions before you begin work. (5) Get involved with the Upper Broad River Watershed Protection Program. The program can help with improving eroded areas. It can provide financial assistance for improving roads, hydro seeding, culvert installation, and many other practices. (6) Encourage your friends and neighbors to be good stewards. It takes everyone working together to prevent sedimentation problems.