

# The Land

Land-disturbing activities for construction are primary causes of accelerated erosion in North Carolina. The rate of erosion can vary from almost nothing on lands where good conservation practices are used to over 100 tons of soil per acre per year on some poorly managed areas.

Many contractors and developers have found that erosion control is a good investment. If erosion is allowed to occur after site work is completed, it is very expensive to regrade the site and remove the sediment from damaged areas.

# The Water

Sediment is the number one pollutant, by volume, in North Carolina. Sediment can quickly fill rivers, lakes and reservoirs, reducing fish populations and storage capacities of municipal water supplies.

Treating drinking water that is high in sediment increases the cost of treatment, which ultimately is passed on to you-the consumer. Erosion and sedimentation can be significantly reduced when erosion and sedimentation control practices are used on construction sites.

# The Law

Uncontrolled soil erosion is a major concern in North Carolina because of its effect on the environment. In 1973 the General Assembly passed the North Carolina Sedimentation Pollution Control Act requiring anyone involved in land-disturbing activities to take special precautions to reduce soil erosion and prevent sedimentation damage to waterways and property.

The law includes four mandatory standards:

- prior plan approval
- slope stabilization
- establishment of a groundcover
- stream buffer zones

An erosion control plan for disturbances larger than one acre must be filed with the state at least 30 days prior to beginning the land disturbing activity and must be approved before the land-disturbing activity can begin. Failure to file an erosion control plan or to follow an approved plan can result in fines up to \$5000 per day. Willful noncompliance is considered a Class 2 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$5000. An injunction or stopwork order may also be issued.

## The Facts:

- ✓ Sedimentation destroys wildlife habitat.
- ✓ Sediment fills lakes and streams used for power generation, increasing the cost of electric power.
- ✓ Sediment covers the food source for fish and other aquatic wildlife.
- ✓ Sediment reduces property values.
- ✓ Sediment can carry harmful chemicals and pollutants.
- ✓ Soil erosion removes the most valuable soils needed to grow plants and food.
- ✓ Soil erosion removes soil that cannot be replaced for generations.



**The Land Quality Section  
Regional Offices**

The Division of Land Resources - Land Quality Section maintains a staff of engineers, geologists and technicians across the state to assist you in complying with erosion and sedimentation control requirements.

Asheville:  
2090 US Highway 70  
Swannanoa, NC 28778  
(828) 296-4500

Winston-Salem:  
585 Waughtown St.  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107  
(336) 771-4600

Fayetteville:  
225 Green St. Suite 714  
Fayetteville, NC 28301  
(910) 486-1541

Wilmington:  
127 Cardinal St. Ext.  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
(910) 796-7215

Mooresville:  
610 Center Ave.  
Mooresville, NC 28115  
(704) 633-1699

Raleigh:  
3800 Barrett Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 571-4700

Washington:  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889  
(252) 946-6481

Raleigh Central:  
1612 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1612  
(919) 733-4574

The following manuals, publications and other resources are available through the Land Quality Section Administrative office in Raleigh:

*The North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual*

*The North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual*

*The North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector's Guide*

*The North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Practices: Video Modules*

**Other educational programs within the Land Quality Section:**

*The Erosion Patrol 3rd Grade Curriculum Supplement*

*The Muddy Water Essay Contest for High School Students*

College Intern Program

Erosion and Sedimentation Control Seminars

Visit our Web Site at: [www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us](http://www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us)

