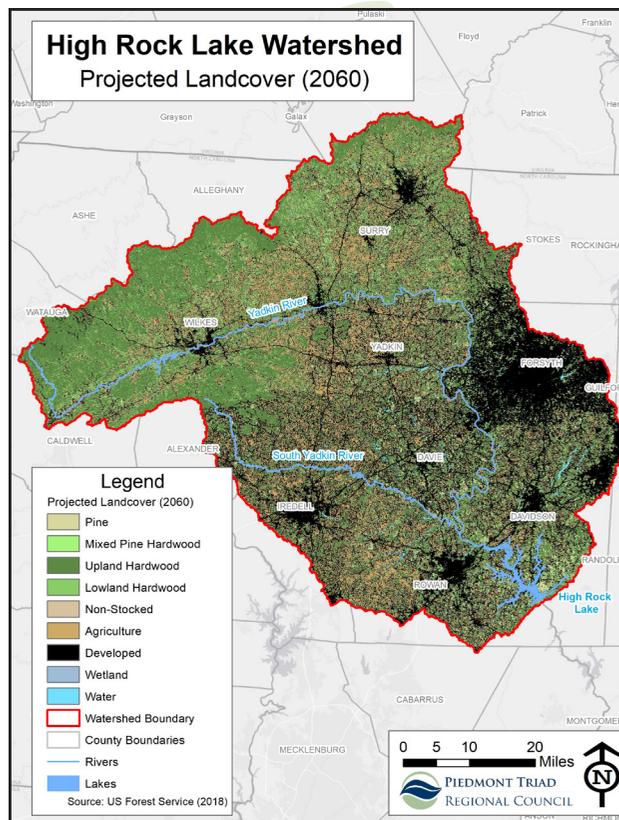
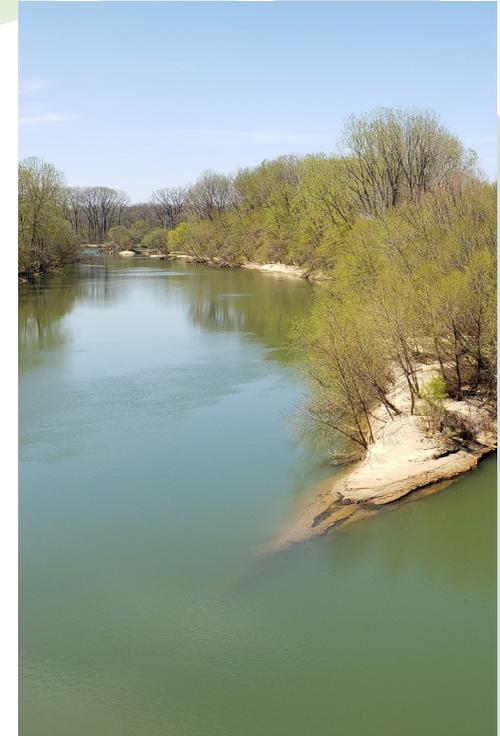


## Our Recommended Actions

1. Continue Watershed Protection Task Force to build partnerships and facilitate collaborative projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution
2. Identify lessons learned from similar eutrophic watersheds
3. Assess current actions being taken to address nonpoint source pollution at federal, state and local level
4. Identify possible short, medium, and long-range goals and actions to support:
  - High Rock Lake nutrient management strategy and monitoring plan
  - Harmful Algal Bloom reduction
  - Increased transparency on transport and application of dry litter
  - Increased funding for agricultural cost share programs, technical assistance, and farmland preservation
  - Local watershed plans
  - TMDL enforcement
5. Target key rivers and tributaries for conservation and restoration, including:
  - Roaring River
  - South Yadkin River
  - Ararat River
  - Abbotts Creek
  - Swearing Creek
  - Grants Creek
  - Big Elkin Creek
6. Develop collaborative grant proposals and partnerships to target and reduce nonpoint source pollution through:
  - Watershed Protection
  - Stormwater Management
  - Agricultural BMPs
  - Conservation
  - Increase Public Awareness



The Yadkin River has a long history of human activity, but extensive changes in land use, development, and population growth over the years have resulted in large sediment and nutrient loads making their way to the river and High Rock Lake. We continue to see the impacts of that legacy in the heavy sedimentation of High Rock Lake and the Yadkin, and the unfortunate nickname, "The Mighty Muddy Yadkin," each time it rains and the increasing number of algal blooms during the summer. According to research by the U.S. Forest Service, developed land within the watershed is projected to more than double from 13% to 32% by the year 2060, which will only further strain the region's water resources. While we can't undo the past, we are working to improve future water quality through protecting vulnerable areas and keeping our soil where it is needed: on the land!



## ROADMAP TO A CLEANER YADKIN

Protecting our Waters by Protecting our Land

Water pollution usually starts on land. The Roadmap to a Cleaner Yadkin is a plan to focus on vulnerable areas of our watershed, those prone to high runoff of sediments and nutrients, to stop the problem before it starts.

To read the full report go to:  
[www.yadkinriverkeeper.org](http://www.yadkinriverkeeper.org)

# THE YADKIN RIVER BASIN



**7,200 square miles**



**5,862 miles of streams**



**22,988 acres of lakes**

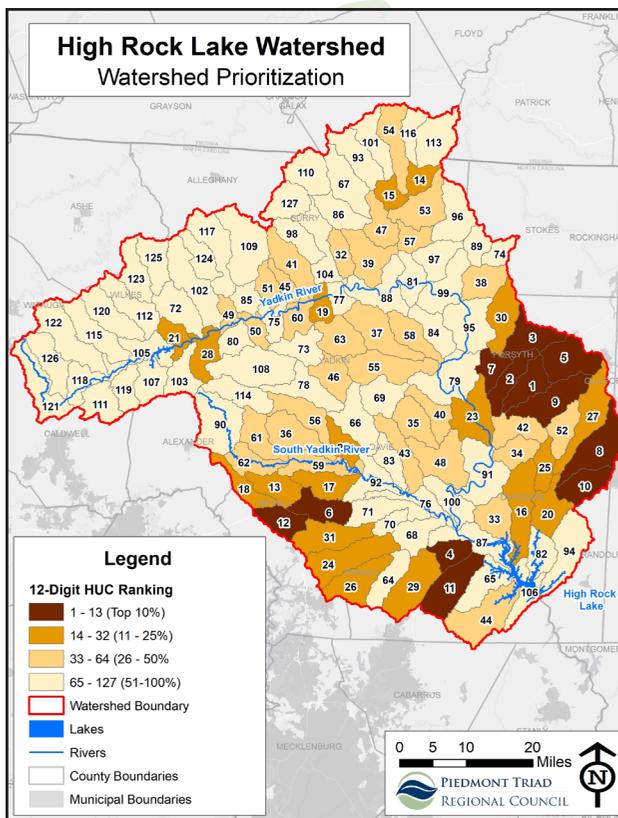


**1.6 million people live in the basin**

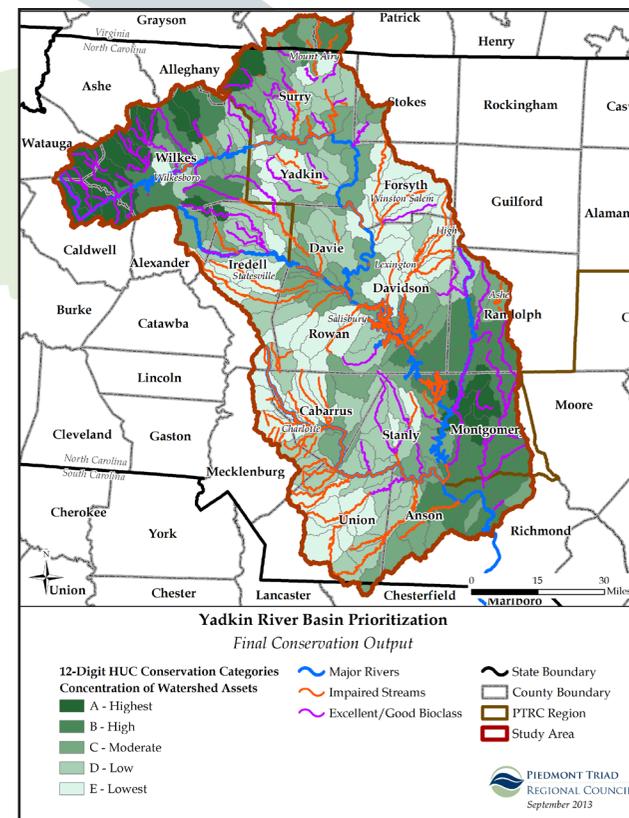


**Provides drinking water to nearly 1 million people**

High Rock Lake is the first reservoir after the Yadkin leaves W. Kerr Scott in the Foothills, and represents the sum of all water quality issues above it, as well as the issues faced by communities below it.



In order to determine where best to target and prioritize restoration efforts, the project team developed a watershed prioritization tool using GIS modeling technology. This tool compares demographic, land use, and environmental characteristics across the High Rock Lake watershed in order to predict where water resources are under the greatest stress from pollutant sources (primarily those that contribute to sediment and nutrient loads). Watersheds with higher concentrations of pollutant sources received a higher score and rank, while those in relatively pristine condition received lower scores and priority. The watershed prioritization tool is intended to help stakeholders make better informed decisions and investments in the watershed to achieve meaningful water quality benefits.



Land conservation helps protect water quality by capturing stormwater, filtering pollutants, preventing erosion and flooding, and recharging groundwater. It also protects critical wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and provides opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism. By strategically conserving undeveloped land local stakeholders can help protect High Rock Lake and its tributaries from further impacts associated with development.

The map above shows the watersheds within the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin that have the highest concentration of ecologically significant land. Conservation efforts should target parcels within these watersheds to most effectively improve water quality and protect natural resources.