

DELAYED GRATIFICATION



An angler fishes a section of East Prong Roaring River, one of 17 sites in the Wildlife Commission's delayed harvest program.

JODY DUGGINS

One goal of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's stocked trout waters program is to boost trout fishing opportunities in the state. By delaying harvest of trout stocked in designated sites, the commission's delayed harvest program provides anglers with high quality catch-and-release fishing opportunities from October to June. Anglers may harvest trout during the summer months when stream conditions become less favorable for the survival of stocked trout.

Because of the high expected-catch rate of one to two trout per hour and the 8-month-long catch-and-release season, angler interest in the delayed harvest program has risen dramatically since the program began in 1991. From four original streams, the commission has expanded the program to 17 sites covering more than 55 miles of streams and one lake in 14 counties in western North Carolina. Stockings for the delayed harvest program account for 30 percent of the 700,000 catchable trout stocked annually in North Carolina.

For a complete list of delayed harvest streams, regulations, weekly stocking information and trout fishing maps by county, visit the commission's Web site at www.ncwildlife.org.

New Delayed Harvest Streams

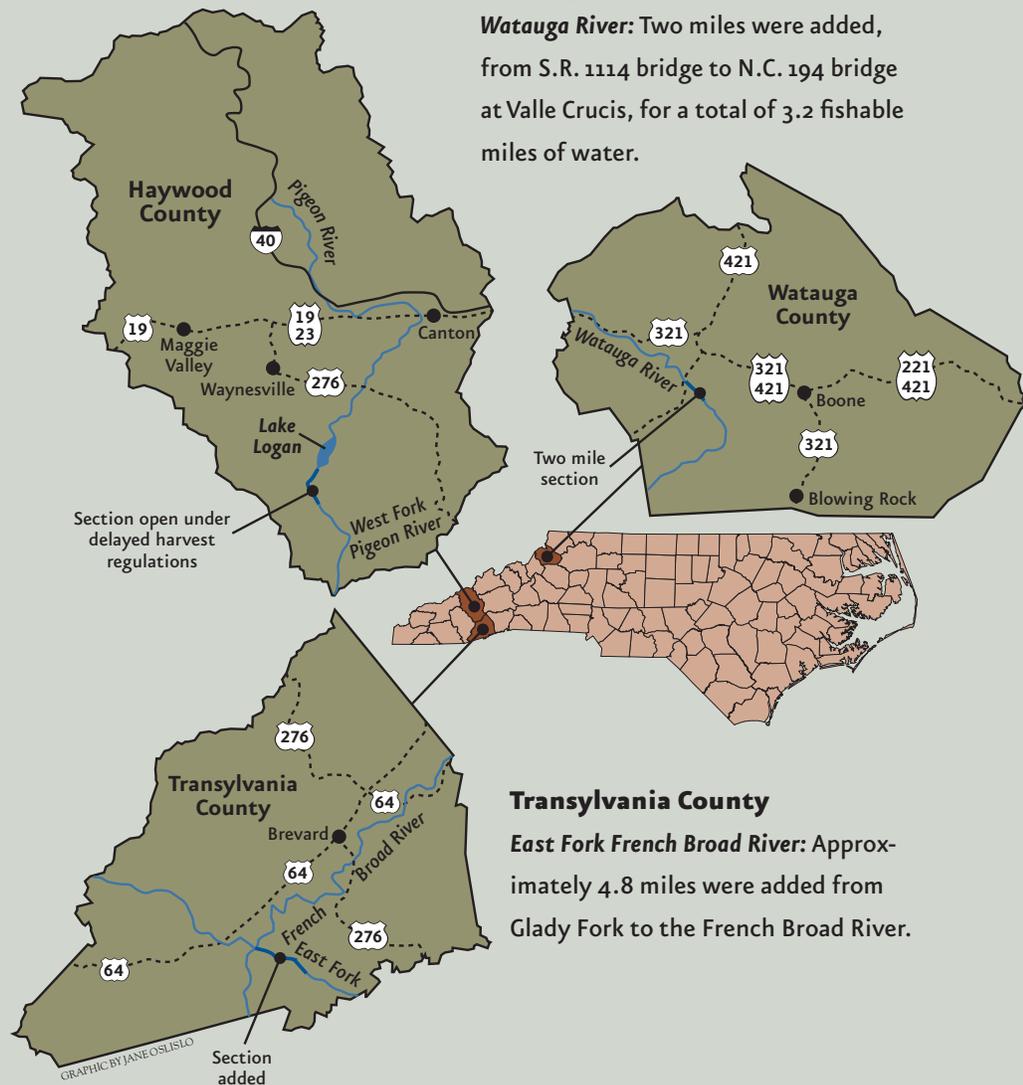
Sections of rivers in these counties were recently added to the delayed harvest program.

Haywood County

West Fork Pigeon River: Two miles located from Queen Creek to the first game-land boundary upstream of Lake Logan are open under delayed harvest regulations.

Watauga County

Watauga River: Two miles were added, from S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis, for a total of 3.2 fishable miles of water.



Transylvania County

East Fork French Broad River: Approximately 4.8 miles were added from Glady Fork to the French Broad River.

GRAPHIC BY JANE OSLESLO