



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Dan Triman and Justin Altice Date: 09-22-17
Starting Location and Time: Reas Ford Rd (2:30 PM)
Ending Location and Time: South Fork Reservoir Dam (5:00 PM)
Weather: Clear Skies Recent Precipitation: Very Dry – No Rain
USGS Gauges: Earlysville 1.15 ft (13 cfs), Palmyra 2.43 ft (83 cfs)
Water Color: Mostly Clear Water Odor: None Air Temp: 80° F
DO: 5 ppm PH: 8 Turbidity: 20 JTU Water Temp: 27° C
Water Testing Location: Above Dam River Right (38°06.2'N 78°28.1'W)

Land Use:

Residential mainly along the banks of the Reservoir, with some private commercial properties as well, such as Panorama Farms.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Turtles, 10 Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Fish, Ducks, Geese, Deer, Osprey, other Small Birds. Some fall colors starting to show on leaves.

People Interactions:

We saw a couple of people at the parking lot just above the Dam, a couple of people at the Reas Ford put in, and several crew teams out paddling on the Reservoir today.

Litter and Pollution:

Not much in the way of trash found on the River. Most trash was at Reas Ford put in as usual, and then saw a couple of tires on one of the banks.

Overall Summary:

Despite the extremely low water levels, we ventured out on a paddle today to see how things looked. There were many parts of the South Fork that almost completely dried out (due to a lack of water) to the point it looked like land and not a river. The algae on the Reservoir seems to have dissipated for the most part, but a little of it was still there near the Earlysville Rd bridge. Saw numerous birds today, especially Blue Heron.

Actions Needed – level of priority (1 highest/5 lowest):

3 – Determine a way to address the trash issue near Reas Ford Rd



Figure 1: Reas Ford Rd put in – water is usually up to the edge of the vegetation



Figure 2: Blue Heron and Deer spotted along the bank



Figure 3: Looking down river – typically no sediment visible



Figure 4: What the bottom of the Rivanna looks like



Figure 5: Turtles on a log



Figure 6: The birds were loving the exposed soil = more bugs!



Figure 7: Geese enjoying the newly exposed soil and vegetation – typically this is all under water.



Figure 8: UVA Crew buoy showing degree of low water levels



Figure 9: One of the many Blue Herons seen today



Figure 10: Crew teams out paddling on the Reservoir



Figure 11: Some algae on the water surface in the distance



Figure 12: View of the Dam at the end of the Reservoir