



RIVANNA RIVER STEWARD REPORT

River Stewards: Justin Altice Date: 06-18-17

Starting Location and Time: Advanced Mills Bridge–North Fork (1:00 PM)

Ending Location and Time: 29N Bridge – North Fork (2:30 PM)

Weather: Sunny but becoming cloudy **Recent Precipitation:** Evening downpours in days leading up

USGS Gauges: Earlysville 2.4 ft (120 cfs), Palmyra 3.7 ft (1000 cfs)

Water Color: Murky **Water Odor:** Musky just before small dam

Air Temp: 91° F

DO: 5 ppm **PH:** 7 Turbidity: 50 JTU **Water Temp:** 63° F

Water Testing Location: Just after small dam

Land Use:

The paddle consisted of paddling through a mainly rural section of Albemarle County with two subdivisions, North Pines and Briarwood, backing up to the east bank of the river along the way. Albemarle County's Chris Green Lake Park is passed by on the west bank. The paddle ends at the Camelot subdivision where the 29N bridge crosses over the Rivanna near a RWSA pumping station.

Wildlife Sightings and Plant Life:

Geese, hawk, ducks, crows, spiders, mimosa trees.

People Interactions:

I saw one man fishing at Advanced Mills Bridge, three groups of families were observed on the stretch down in the river enjoying Father's Day leisure through an access on their land on a friend's land (one group was three generations of Dads). I was surprised to see so many folks enjoying the River on this stretch.

Litter and Pollution:

Hardly any trash seen on this stretch.

Overall Summary:

The North Fork is usually difficult to paddle as the Summer approaches with mostly low water levels to contend with; all the recent evening downpours increased levels to a perfect condition for this paddle. I only had to

get out of my boat twice which was due to strainers blocking the way and the small dam along this stretch not water levels.

The most notable aspect of this stretch was the severely eroded banks I encountered along the way. Large mounds of the bank were in piles in several places, actively causing large amounts of sedimentation to occur. The bridge along Dickerson Road that is passed under along this route was closed due to construction, with one side being completely removed. Also observed was a River Gauge on that bridge.

A small dam/portage is encountered near the end of the paddle. It is necessary to get out on east bank before the dam and walk down river. The dam itself has a serious undertow effect at the bottom of the 4 ft. drop that is dangerous. A few signs are placed on the banks nearby but are overgrown with foliage.

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

2 – Work on ways to stabilize some of the banks causing the worst sedimentation through erosion.

2 – Work to make signage more clear about dangers of dam.



Figure 1: Advanced Mills bridge.



Figure 2: Large metal container near starting point.



Figure 3: Severely eroded bank.



Figure 4: Sedimentation occurring from bank erosion.



Figure 5: Dickerson Road Bridge Closure.



Figure 6: River Gauge on Dickerson Road Bridge.



Figure 7: Manmade rock riprap near dam.



Figure 8: Tree blocking River passage.



Figure 9: Small Dam where portage is required.



Figure 10: Finished RWSA pipe project in river near 29N pumping station.