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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is a comment regarding the Bobby Setzer Fish Hatchery Redesign #59657. I am a recreational whitewater boater. I recently paddled the Davidson River in February of 2022. I took out above the low head dam that is associated with the Bobby Setzer Fish Hatchery. I learned that the hatchery was damaged by a flood in the recent past and is under consideration for reconstruction and repair in the near future.

I understand the need for a hatchery on this section of river and fully support its purpose. I also understand and believe that the dam structure associated with the hatchery is in need of reconsideration and a redesign.

At the time that this hatchery was installed in the late 1950's, per the NC Wildlife Resources Commission website, there were probably no recreational whitewater boating activities occurring on the Davidson River.

My request to the commission and the US Forest Service is that they consider removing the dam and replacing it with a new structure that will still allow for diversion of water for the purposes of the fish hatchery, and allow for recreational whitewater boating opportunities. This can be a "win-win" for everyone involved.

As has been determined for some time now, low head dams are man-made hazards that can cause death and injury due to the mechanical and hydrological nature of their design. Where they are not needed, they should be removed. This is one of those such cases.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity comment on this matter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Joel Welsh

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