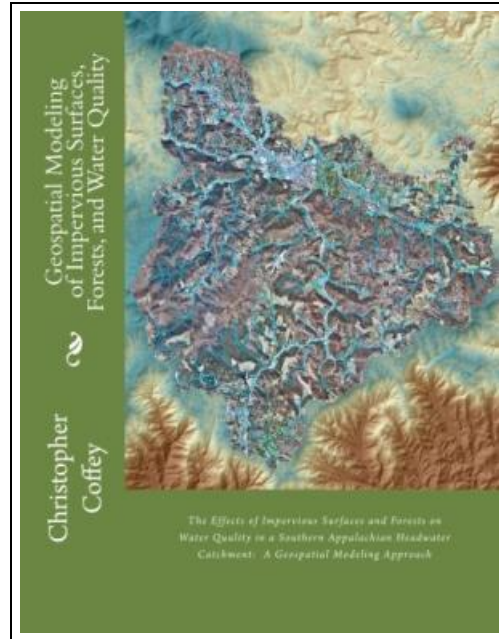


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Water quality of stream and river systems is affected by the land cover compositions that are present within their watersheds and riparian corridors. Research in recent decades has demonstrated that impervious surfaces such as roads, rooftops, and parking lots can exert significant stress on the health of riverine systems. Impervious surfaces prevent groundwater infiltration, reduce aquifer recharge, increase surface runoff and contaminant transport, deprive surrounding vegetation of aeration, and increase the temperature of stormwater runoff. Forests serve to enhance water quality and to ameliorate the negative effects of human altered land covers through mechanisms such as absorption of stormwater runoff, filtration of pollutants and sediments, increasing groundwater infiltration and aquifer recharge, stabilization of streambanks, providing cooling effects through shading of stream ecotones, and promotion of healthy riparian habitats for flora and fauna. This thesis research was undertaken with the goal of examining the effects that impervious surfaces and forests exert on stream system water quality. The research was conducted in the headwaters of the New River in Watauga County, North Carolina in order to provide a study area of origin streams within a nested watershed assemblage which provided a variety of sub-watersheds with varying land cover proportions for comparison. Water quality variables, collected through an ambient water quality monitoring program, of specific conductivity, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate were examined over an eight month study period. The results of this research demonstrated that the effects of impervious surfaces and forests on stream water quality are clearly identifiable. Correlation analysis and linear regression testing provided robust evidence to support the central hypothesis of the research, there is a statistically significant relationship between land cover and water quality in the headwater stream...

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