

SECTION 6

NEXT STEPS

The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC) is committed to implementing as many of the recommended actions as possible. Although some will require additional funding (like structural repair work at Carringer/Mitchell and Campbell), most can be accomplished using existing resources, staff, and volunteers.

HRWC conducts visual monitoring of all of its restoration projects annually and will continue to do so for a minimum of 30 years, which is the life of most of the protective landowner agreements. During visual assessments, HRWC personnel will make it a priority to check the identified “hot spots” of high near-bank shear stress and watch for signs that repair is needed. Starting in 2008, pebble counts at selected sites will be incorporated into the annual project inventory. HRWC also intends to continue a limited amount of storm event Total Suspended Solids monitoring throughout the watershed.

A regular schedule of volunteer workdays will be established beginning in 2008, in cooperation with project landowners, to install more live stakes in stream banks, particularly at the Carringer/Mitchell, Campbell, and Sheppard sites, and remove invasive species at all locations. HRWC contingency funds will be utilized to again apply herbicides to new patches of bamboo at the Greasy Creek site that are threatening native species in the riparian buffer.

It is apparent that the W. Carringer/Taney reach of Little Brasstown Creek between the Sheppard and J. Carringer/Mitchell projects is still a problem, contributing large sediment inputs into the creek and jeopardizing the restoration work previously conducted downstream. A restoration project was designed using funding from the CWMTF in 2005; however, there was not enough funding at that time for construction. HRWC intends to seek funding for construction of this project and repair of the uppermost cross vane structure on the J. Carringer/Mitchell project during the 2009 cycle of CWMTF applications.

As for the Campbell project, HRWC will meet with officials at the John C. Campbell Folk School (property owners) to see what is feasible in terms of further structural repair. As was previously mentioned, all the other recommendations (live staking, removal of invasive vegetation, routine visual assessment, etc.) will be implemented immediately for all sites, including Campbell.

Finally, the data demonstrate that erosion and sedimentation problems are still rampant in the Georgia portion of the Brasstown Creek watershed. HRWC will continue to pursue funding for comprehensive watershed restoration in the upper half of the drainage area.