

SECTION 6

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR LAKE IMPROVEMENT

Recommended actions are only listed in this section. Please visit the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition's website for a more detailed discussion of each recommendation: <http://www.hrwc.net> or contact the HRWC office if you prefer to be mailed a hard copy.

6.1 Recommendations for Federal and NC/GA State Government Agencies

- 6.1.1 Enforce applicable water quality rules and regulations and sediment/erosion control laws
- 6.1.2 Provide increased monitoring of streams and the lake
- 6.1.3 Provide basin-wide insight into watershed health on a regular basis
- 6.1.4 Provide funding for management measures outlined in this plan
- 6.1.5 Provide assistance to local governments who are trying to manage growth (technology, training & funding)
- 6.1.6 Provide an awareness of relevant tools as they become available
- 6.1.7 Avoid implementation of "blanket" rules and regulations
- 6.1.8 Improve the TMDL program and implementation plans to make them meaningful

6.2 Recommendations for Local Governments

- 6.2.1 Establish a local sediment/erosion control program
- 6.2.2 Evaluate your own properties for potential BMPs to retain/treat stormwater
- 6.2.3 Provide funding for management measures outlined in this plan
- 6.2.4 Review and potentially revise subdivision ordinances based on North GA Growth Readiness Consensus Recommendations
- 6.2.5 Consider adopting a stormwater ordinance
- 6.2.6 Plan for wastewater treatment for new development/increased population
- 6.2.7 Consider conducting a regional planning initiative

Additional Recommendation for Towns County

- Continue working to regain status as a Qualified Local Government in order to implement recommendation 6.2.1 above and to acquire funds in support of Action Plan implementation

Additional Recommendations for City of Hiawassee

- Install and maintain best available technology at the existing wastewater treatment facility to significantly reduce nutrient loading to Lake Chatuge
- Design and implement a proactive program for handling reports of wastewater leaks and spills

Additional Recommendation for Clay County

- Consider passing a “Mountain Protection” ordinance similar to that of Towns County

6.3 Recommendations for Residents

- 6.3.1 Educate yourself & others about the issues
- 6.3.2 Report erosion control problems to the appropriate authorities
- 6.3.3 Restore and/or maintain a woody riparian buffer along streams and the lake
- 6.3.4 Evaluate your home site for ways to retain or treat stormwater
- 6.3.5 Evaluate your practices at home to find ways to minimize water usage and runoff
- 6.3.6 If you have a septic tank, ensure that it is being maintained properly
- 6.3.7 Encourage businesses that you patronize to implement stormwater BMPs
- 6.3.8 Support your local governments in their efforts to implement water quality protection measures
- 6.3.9 Support HRWC

6.4 Recommendations for Developers/Builders/Grading-Clearing Contractors

- 6.4.1 Educate yourself and co-workers/staff about erosion control and stormwater issues
- 6.4.2 Design roads to follow natural contours of the land and such that no slopes are greater than 15 percent grade
- 6.4.3 Place home sites in locations that minimize earthwork
- 6.4.4 Design developments and home sites with stormwater and water quality in mind (minimize impervious surfaces & protect sensitive areas)
- 6.5.5 Avoid creating cut/fill slopes that are greater than 1.5H:1V
- 6.4.6 Restore/maintain woody riparian buffers along all waters
- 6.4.7 Install and maintain appropriate BMPs during and after construction
- 6.4.8 Limit underbrushing and clearing, particularly prior to sale of a property
- 6.4.9 If you have the opportunity, educate new residents about these matters

6.5 Recommendations for Realtors

- 6.5.1 Educate yourself about the value of riparian buffers and conservation-based developments
- 6.5.2 Seek to sell responsibly developed properties first
- 6.5.3 Limit clearing, underbrushing and grading of property
- 6.5.4 Educate buyers/new residents about how to be sensitive to our mountain environment

6.6 Recommendations for Commercial Business/Property Owners

- 6.6.1 Educate yourself about impervious surfaces and impacts to water quality
- 6.6.2 Restore/maintain a woody riparian buffer (if your property borders water)
- 6.6.3 Evaluate your property and/or business practices for the potential to retain/treat stormwater runoff
- 6.6.4 Implement stormwater BMPs
- 6.6.5 Support HRWC

6.7 Recommendations for Farmers & the Agricultural Community

- 6.7.1 Rotate livestock and implement BMPs for winter feeding as needed to prevent loss of vegetation and overgrazing
- 6.7.2 Restrict livestock access to waters by installing fencing, stream crossings, and alternative watering sources
- 6.7.3 Restore/maintain a woody riparian buffer (if your property borders water)
- 6.7.4 Practice good nutrient management by following an NRCS-approved nutrient management plan or recommendations of bi-annual soil analysis
- 6.7.5 Reduce soil requirements for nitrogen amendments by sowing nitrogen-fixing legumes (e.g. clover) with grasses
- 6.7.6 Practice no-till or minimal-till techniques when seeding or planting crops
- 6.7.7 Consider converting steeply sloping pasture or cropland to orchard/horticulture or harvestable timber
- 6.7.8 Consider restoring prior-converted wetlands

6.8 Recommendations for TVA

- 6.8.1 Continue to conduct lake monitoring annually
- 6.8.2 Provide an easy to read and readily available report for the public of reservoir ecological health ratings
- 6.8.3 Continue to provide support (and consider increasing the level of support) for annual HRWC operating expenses
- 6.8.4 Provide funding for, and technical assistance with, BMP implementation
- 6.8.5 Assist with education (see HRWC)

6.9 Recommendations for HRWC

- Provide residents, developers, builders, grading-clearing contractors, realtors and commercial businesses with educational opportunities and materials
- Seek funding to assist willing landowners with evaluation of properties and BMP implementation
- Assist local governments in drafting, adopting, and implementing ordinances and in planning
- Serve as a “clearinghouse” for information from state and federal agencies
- Assist with distribution of publications and create public awareness about available programs, funding, educational materials, and other tools available to watershed stakeholders