

SECTION 8

FUNDING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Financial Needs for Implementation

During the first five years of Action Plan implementation (Phase I), several million dollars will be spent by the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority to upgrade (and expand) the Hiwassee wastewater treatment plant. Implementation of other management strategies planned for Phase I is estimated to cost \$600,000. Costs include: \$267,000 for pastureland improvements and agricultural BMPs, \$168,000 for retrofit stormwater BMPs for commercial and residential areas, \$25,000 for re-vegetation of critically eroding areas and riparian buffer plantings, \$10,000 for an education program, and \$50,000 for monitoring and evaluation. The estimated cost also includes \$100,000 over the 5-year period (\$20,000/year) for project management to help support a Lake Chatuge Watershed Restoration Coordinator; HRWC will also provide support for this position.

Phases II and III are projected to cost \$865,000 and \$650,000, respectively. During Years 6-10 (Phase II), activity will focus more heavily on residential and commercial post-construction stormwater BMPs and less so on agricultural activities. Less will be spent on education in the second and third phases, but the level and intensity of monitoring and evaluation will not change. A detailed, long-term budget is presented as Appendix III.

The total cost of restoring Lake Chatuge to “Good” ecological health - the primary goal of this Action Plan - is estimated at \$3.8 million. Approximately \$2.1 million is yet to be secured.

8.2 Sources of Funding

The Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition (HRWC), with assistance from its agency advisory team, will take the lead in identifying and helping to secure funding implementation of the Action Plan. Sources of funding will likely include: Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources (NCDENR), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), TVA, Resource and Development Councils (RC&Ds), Soil & Water Conservation Districts, local governments, HRWC, private Foundations, local businesses, and individuals. Additionally, TVA, HRWC, local governments, individuals, and others are likely to make significant in-kind contributions of time and materials toward plan implementation.

8.3 Technical Assistance for Implementation

Project leadership, including acquisition of funds, identification of sites for best management practices, installation oversight, monitoring, and evaluation will be provided by the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition in cooperation with TVA, local officials, and community leaders. Technical assistance is also available through numerous agencies with active programs in the Hiwassee River watershed. These include, but are not limited to:

- GA Department of Community Affairs
- GA Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NC Agricultural Cost Share Program
- NC Cooperative Extension Service
- NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources
- NC Wildlife Resources Agency
- NCSU Water Quality Group
- UGA Cooperative Extension
- US Forest Service