

# Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District

FANNIN, RABUN, TOWNS AND UNION COUNTIES  
1282 SR 53 Spur SW • Suite 300  
Calhoun, GA 30701



## **FY2025 Plan of Work**

### **BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

On October 19, 1951 the Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District was organized and is a legal subdivision of the Georgia State Government. The SWCD meetings are held on the third Friday of each month in Union County unless publicized otherwise.

#### **DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:**

##### **FANNIN COUNTY**

Charlotte Ann Stanley  
157 Taccoa Valley Drive  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

Damon Davenport  
10623 Old Hwy 76  
Morganton, GA 30560

##### **RABUN COUNTY**

William A Enloe  
98 Enloe Lane  
Dillard, GA 30513

Wayne Swanson  
793 York House Road  
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

##### **TOWNS COUNTY**

Virginia Dyer Palmer  
1340 Palmer Place 76E  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
(Secretary/Treasurer)

Frank Riley, Jr.  
6303 Highway 17 South,  
Hiawassee, GA 30546

##### **UNION COUNTY**

Vacant

Mickey Cummings  
290 Wellborn Branch Dr.  
Blairsville, GA, 30512

# **Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Plan of Work Fiscal Year (FY) 2025**

This Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Blue Ridge Mountain soil and Water Conservation District during the FY 2025. It emphasizes conservation of natural resources within the District.

## **Major Objectives**

1. **Natural Resources Conservation** – Promote the conservation of soil, water, forestry, wildlife, and other natural resources.
2. **Conservation Education** – Promote conservation education through youth and adult education programs and objectives.
3. **Public Relations & Information** – To create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives.
4. **Erosion & Sedimentation Program** – Provide the technical assistance related to erosion control and sedimentation prevention to citizens and local units of government.
5. **Watershed Flood Control Program** – Uphold the duties as sponsor of watershed flood control structures in the District and assist other watershed control structure sponsors with technical assistance.

## **Natural Resource Conservation**

### **Action Item**

1. Promote natural resources conservation through the District responsibility for implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, and other Farm Bill programs.
2. Provide assistance to landowners to plan and apply conservation practices.
3. Host an annual Local Work Group Meeting with agency partners and local farmers to prioritize resources and practices for Farm Bill Program Funding.
4. Promote minimum and no-till conservation farming through the use of no-till drills through the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.
5. Work with the Mountain True to promote water quality projects through the Lake Chatuge Watershed Action and Implementation Plan.
6. Work with CCRCOD in the implementation of the Climate Smart Commodities Program.

## **Conservation Education**

### **Action Item**

1. Sponsor high school students to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop (NRCW) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton to introduce them at an early age to the concepts of soil and water conservation. Tuition for each student will be paid from District funds or from outside sources.
2. Work with a local school system to provide a bus to send students to the NRCW.
3. Purchase and distribute stewardship materials from NACD to inform students and the public of the need to manage and protect natural resources.
4. Sponsor and provide funding, when available, for students to represent the District in the Envirothon program, Soils Judging teams, and other natural resource and environmental competitions.
5. Participate in natural resources field days for students in the District.
6. Partner with the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D and the UGA Georgia Mountains Research and Education (GMRE) Center on materials and equipment to improve the field days for students in the District.
7. The SWCD will pay a per diem at a rate not to exceed the annual rates approved by the GSWCC to supervisors who attend conservation meetings and continuing education opportunities.
8. The SWCD will hold an annual fundraiser to help continue the \$1000 Olin Hughes Memorial Scholarship to a college junior or senior in the field of agriculture or natural resources. Applications for this scholarship are due by September 8<sup>th</sup>.
9. Conservation Education events for producers.
10. In the future, Local Issuing Authorities (LIA) educational opportunities.

## **Public Relations and Information**

### **Action Item**

1. Develop and distribute annual report on the District's accomplishments in the form of an educational wall calendar.
2. Provide for oversight of District funds by the annual review of expenditures and income, and provide a detailed financial report to the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the end of each fiscal year.
3. Work closely with the other agencies (FSA, RD, Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, GSWCC, NRCS, RC&D and DNR) to coordinate conservation program activities in the District. Encourage each agency representative to attend board meetings and keep District supervisors informed on the various agency programs in the District.
4. Prepare news articles on District's program and activities.
5. Appoint a SWCD Liaison to serve on the Limestone Valley and Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council Boards.
6. Hold an election of SWCD officers every 4 years. The next election will be held at the regular June meeting in 2026.

7. Invite locally and state elected officials and other partners to the annual conservation tour in July.
8. Create or procure an educational display explaining the roles of the Blue Ridge Mountain SWCD, NRCS, GACD, RC&D, GSWCC and others.

### **Erosion and Sedimentation Program**

#### **Action Item**

1. Review erosion and sediment control plans for land disturbance projects within the limits of each Local Issuing Authority (LIA) that falls under the requirements of the erosion and sediment control ordinance of the LIA where there is not a Memorandum of Agreement with the District.
2. Provide technical assistance to evaluate soil and water resources for proposed development projects.
3. Promote soil and water conservation by hosting one GSWCC Erosion and Sedimentation Recertification course in the district.
4. Provide LIA's with technical assistance for their erosion and sedimentations control program and assist with interpretation of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act.

### **Watershed Flood Control Program**

#### **Action Item**

1. Conduct regular inspections of the District sponsored Watershed Flood Control Structures.
2. Request funding to clear trees and repair damage on District sponsored Watershed Flood Control Structures.
3. Raise awareness of the Watershed Flood Control Structures with the public and locally elected officials to solicit assistance with maintenance and to show their importance to the watershed.
4. Work with the NRCS to implement the Dam Watch program to inform local emergency management agencies of potential high water behind the flood control structures during rain events.

The district will seek, manage, and expend funds made available through private, local, state and federal sources in such a way as to promote soil and water conservation and conservation education.

### **General District Budget for 2025**

	<u><b>District Funds</b></u>	<u><b>State Allotment</b></u>
Youth Projects	\$1,000.00	\$1,509.80
NACD, GACD, RC&D Dues	\$0.00	\$850.00
NRCW		
Scholarships		\$1,100.00
Bus Driver	\$500.00	\$700.00
Soil Stewardship Material	\$0.00	\$100.00
Postage	\$0.00	\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$50.00
Annual Report/Calendars	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supervisor Expenses for Non-Local		\$1,155.00
Meetings		
Annual Beef Day	\$0.00	\$1,391.20
	\$1,500.00	\$6,956.00