

## **2013 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**

Richard A. Stanley  
157 Toccoa Valley Drive  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

Damon Davenport  
10623 Old Hwy 76  
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##### **RABUN COUNTY**

James Roy Lovell  
PO Box 201  
Tiger, GA 30576

James Les Neely  
P.O. Box 218  
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##### **TOWNS COUNTY**

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

John W. Kay  
P.O. Box 125  
Young Harris, GA 30582  
(Chairman)

##### **UNION COUNTY**

Jeffrey W. Payne  
488 Jones Creek Lane  
Blairsville, GA 30512

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**Blue Ridge Mountain  
Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Annual Plan of Work  
Fiscal Year (FY) 2013**

This Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District during FY 2013. 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.
- 3. Public Relations & Information** - To create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives.
- 4. Erosion and Sedimentation Program** - Provide 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 Limestone Valley RC&D.
5. Assist land users to apply best management practices that will reduce annual soil loss.

6. Implement program activities with the Natural Resources Conservation Service that adequately protects agricultural land in the District.
7. Provide soils information to the public to promote proper land use planning.
8. Provide wildlife management recommendations to landowners.
9. Promote forestry management practices that benefit natural resources conservation and inform landowners of the assistance available through the Georgia Forestry Commission related to forestry management.
10. Sponsor and conduct demonstrations, tours and field days to acquaint farmers and land users with methods for protecting soil and water resources and promote greater participation.
11. Inform landowners about the Cogongrass Eradication Program.
12. Promote Ag water conservation technical assistance through the GSWCC Ag Water Conservation Program.
13. Make Ag water use data available from the GSWCC Ag Water Metering Program.
14. Work with the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition to promote water quality projects in the Hiwassee River Watershed.

### **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 the public of the need to manage and protect natural resources.
4. Be available for presentations with specific information on soil and water conservation for presentations to schools, civic clubs, churches and others.
5. Assist 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters with land-judging/training.
6. 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.
7. Participate in natural resources field days for students in the District.
8. The SWCD will pay a per diem to supervisors who attend conservation meetings and continuing education 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 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 the District's program and activities.
5. Invite public government officials to all District functions to make them aware of District goals.
6. Keep locally elected officials fully informed about conservation issues and of on-going conservation programs and District accomplishments.
7. Appoint a SWCD Liaison to serve on the Limestone Valley and Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council boards.
8. Promote participation of partners with the District through the Affiliate Member Program.
9. Work to promote conservation activities by hosting a booth at the GA Mountain Fair in Hiawassee.

### **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 Union County.
4. Provide LIA's with technical assistance for their erosion and sedimentation 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.  
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 2013**

	<b><u>District Funds</u></b>	<b><u>GSWCC Funds</u></b>
Youth Projects	1000.00	200.00
NACD, GACDS, RC&D Dues	850.00	0
Soil Stewardship Material	0	100.00
Postage	0	100.00
Stationery	0	50.00
Annual Reports	0	300.00
Supervisor Expenses for Non-Local Meetings	500.00	0
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	\$2,350.00	\$ 750.00