



Athens
Georgia
December 2007

2007-2008 Guide to the

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

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On April 16, 2007, a tree fell on a power line near Waycross, Georgia, and ignited the largest wildfire in Georgia's recorded history. This Longleaf Pine seedling survived.

Fire stimulates the growth of longleaf pine, helps to prune back branches on mature trees and keeps the undergrowth in check.

Helping People Help the Land

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

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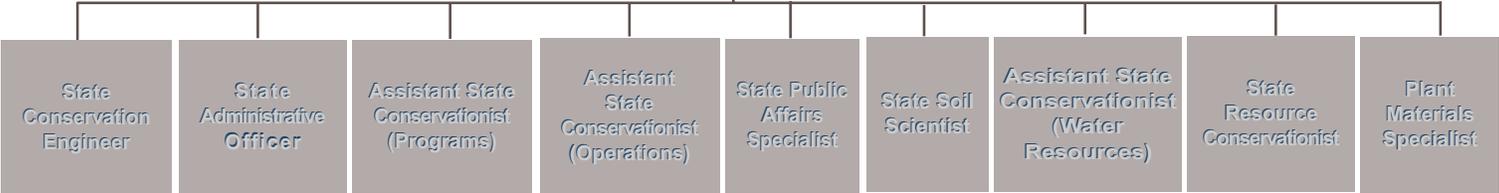
Did you know?

NRCS has provided technical assistance to producers in 2007 to develop 3,078 conservation plans on 347,327 acres throughout the state. See feature stories at www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on news/success stories.

NRCS Organizational Structure



State Conservationist



Key NRCS Staff in Georgia

State Public Affairs Specialist - Mary Ann McQuinn

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State Resource Conservationist - Zona Beatty

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State Administrative Officer -Sharon Gipson

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****Complete directory available online at www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov*

Georgia NRCS Administrative Areas

Area 1 - Griffin

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations - Michael Watson

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Area 2 - Athens

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations - Earl Brantley

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Area 3 - Americus

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations - Charlie Frear

Phone: 229 924-0042 **Fax:** 229 924-0013

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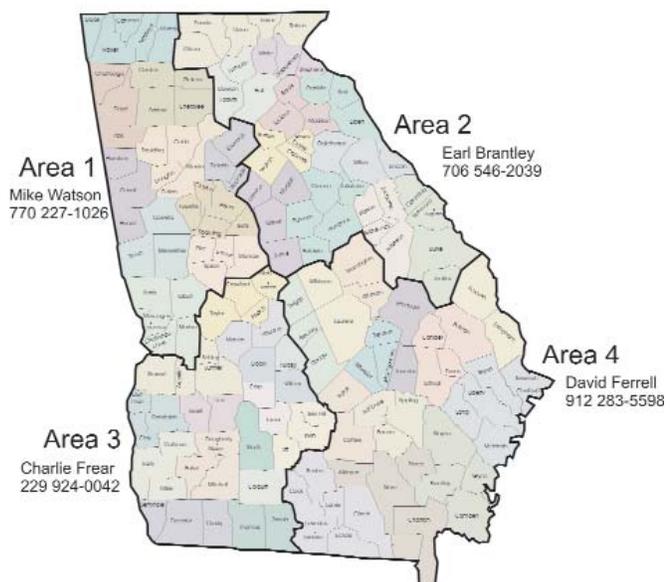
Area 4 - Waycross

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations - David Ferrell

Phone: 912 283-5598 **Fax:** 912 283-8648

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Natural Resources Conservation Service Administrative Areas Georgia



Designated District Conservationists

Area	Soil and Water Conservation District	NRCS District Conservationist
1	Catoosa County Coosa River Limestone Valley West Georgia Clayton County Cobb County DeKalb County Fulton County Gwinnett County Henry County Lamar County Pine Mountain Rockdale County Roosevelt Towaliga	Cindy P. Askew, LaFayette Sheri E. Teems, Rome Machelle Simmons, Calhoun Sam Sharpe, Carrollton Angie Billups, McDonough Valerie Pickard, Marietta Stephen C. Leslie, Lawrenceville Valerie Pickard, Marietta Stephen C. Leslie, Lawrenceville Angie Billups, McDonough Carmen Westerfield, Barnesville Jack L. Fokes, Jr., Buena Vista Stephen C. Leslie, Lawrenceville Kevin Keel, Newnan Carmen Westerfield, Barnesville
2	Blue Ridge Mountain Hall County Stephens County Upper Chattahoochee River Broad River Lincoln County McDuffie County Oconee River Piedmont Warren County Brier Creek Columbia County Upper Ocmulgee River Walton County	Douglas Towery, Blairsville George Belflower, Gainesville Russell F. Biggers, Toccoa Russell F. Biggers, Toccoa Forrest W. Ferguson, Hartwell Rory Richardson, Washington Craig Bevan, Louisville Carol Boss, Commerce Dennis Brooks, Madison Craig Bevan, Louisville J. Cread Brown, Augusta J. Cread Brown, Augusta Dennis B. Brooks, Madison Jose' V. Pagan, Monroe
3	Ocmulgee River Flint River Lower Chattahoochee River Middle South Georgia	Calvin Essex, Perry Eddie Glover, Albany Lyndon McCavitt, Dawson Mary Leidner, Tifton
4	Alapaha Altamaha Satilla River Coastal Ogeechee River Ohoopsee River Central Georgia	Harold B. Simpson, Jr., Nashville Bo Bannister, Douglas Rita Barrow, Brunswick Vacant, Richmond Hill William G. Thrift, Statesboro Sidney Lanier, Swainsboro Britt S. Parker, Dublin

Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations

Area 1	Griffin	Michael Watson	Area 2	Athens	Earl Brantley
Area 3	Americus	Charlie Frear	Area 4	Waycross	David Ferrell

District Conservationists & RC&D Coordinators

Alphabetical List of District Conservationists and RC&D Coordinators

Last Name	First Name	Telephone	Moore	Stan	912-367-7679
Askew	Cindy	706 638-2207	Napier	Jim	229-776-4488
Bannister	Clemon L. (Bo)	912-384-4811	Nichols	Elizabeth	912-285-5975
Barrow	Rita	912-265-8092	Oliver	Harold E.	912-459-2070
Belflower	George (Buddy)	770-536-6981	Pagan	Jose	770-267-1359
Bevan	Craig	478-625-7771	Palmer	Scotty	706-453-7021
Biggers	Russell	706-886-8223	Parker	Britt S.	478-275-0425
Billups	Angie	770-957-5707	Pickard	Valerie	770-792-0647
Blackburn	Austin V.	912-564-2207	Reese	Karen	229-732-6211
Boss	Carol	706-335-7145	Richardson	Rory	229-263-4909
Brooks	Dennis	706-342-1315	Riley	Joseph	706-894-1591
Brown	Cread	706-554-5183	Wilson	Galen	478-552-6073
Brown	Jerome	770-339-6071	Sharpe	Sam	770-832-8942
Cabe	Doug	706 625-9943	Simmons	Machelle	706-629-2582
Cleland	Steve	229-723-3825	Simpson	Harold B.	229-686-2363
Ferguson	Forrest	706-376-2876	Steen	Bert	229-246-8282
Futch	Joey A.	912-367-4368	Teems	Sheri	706-291-5651
Glover	Eddie	229-430-8509	Thompson	Kimberly C.	912-529-6652
Hall	Graylen	229-268-9106	Thrift	William G.	912-871-2605
Harris,	Jimmie	706-547-4045	Towery	Doug	706 745-2794
Haygood	Cindy	770-749-0444	Westerfield	Carmen	770-358-3223\
Hill	Forrest	706 885-0101	Wilson	Galen	478-552-6073
Jones	Luther D.	706-769-7922	Yancey	Frank	229-723-3841
Jones	Ray	478-956-6490			
Keel	Kevin	770-251-4283			
Lanier	Sidney C.	478-237-8037			
Leidner	Mary	229-382-4776			
Leslie	Steve	770-963-9288			
McCavitt	Lyndon	229-995-5811			
McCranie	Charles V.	478-374-8140			

Conservation Security Program

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Program Highlights

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary program that rewards farmers with a history of good farmland conservation through stewardship and incentive payments. The program is designed to reward the best conservation stewards of the soil, water and other natural resources in targeted watersheds through 5-10 year contracts. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size or type of farm operation.

While there was no new Conservation Security Program 2007 sign up, 206 Georgia producers continued to provide environmental benefits improving Georgia's soil, water and wildlife by implementing their CSP conservation plans.

These producers were rewarded for this effort through \$4.7 million in CSP payments.

Conservation Tillage, cover crops, nutrient and pest management were the primary practices being utilized through the CSP.

E-Government

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Landowners and others wanting to do business with the government can now do it online! NRCS is one of three USDA Service Center agencies that now offer online services.

To learn more, visit the web site at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>

The United States Department of Agriculture has implemented a new process for registering customers who choose to conduct electronic transactions with USDA agencies. This new process was implemented October 21, 2003.

Under the new process, a customer can register for access to eGov applications by visiting:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov>

At this site, the application will take the customer through a simplified registration process.

When registered, the customer will need to visit their local service center and have their identity verified by presenting one of four forms of identification; state driver's license; state issued identification card; U.S. passport or a military identification card.

The service center staff will then be able to activate the account and provide the customer with access to many current and future eGov applications.

Please note that the USDA will only accept eAuthentication accounts from individuals. The USDA does not have the mechanism to issue accounts to businesses.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

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Program Highlights

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) provides local communities with emergency technical and financial assistance to address natural resource concerns resulting from a natural disaster.

An example would be downed trees blocking road crossings at creeks.

These impediments cause blockage to creeks or small drainage ways, threatening damage to roads, bridges and other structures and increased risk to human life.

Georgia received over \$2.79 million dollars of EWP funding in November of 2004. These funds are being used to apply emergency conservation measures in three counties: Gilmer, Rabun, and Towns.



These counties suffered damage as a result of Hurricane Ivan, Jeanne, and other storms that occurred in 2004.

Emergency measures include debris removal, streambank protection, bioengineering, road and culvert headwall protection, and road-slide stabilization.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Program Manager: David Lamm

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Program Highlights

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

- *On private lands with farmers and ranchers,*
- *On a voluntary basis,*
- *Using local, state, tribal and federal partnerships,*
- *Providing flexible technical, educational, and financial assistance,*
- *Assisting Farmers and Ranchers in complying with federal, state and tribal environmental laws, and*
- *Encouraging environmental enhancement.*

In 2007, 1,190 Georgia Farmers benefited from \$15.9 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-share funds. Livestock producers received over 70 percent of the EQIP dollars, with cattle operators utilizing \$6.6 million in financial assistance to improve Georgia water quality. These producers will implement grazing plans that include rotational grazing; alternative watering facilities, fencing and heavy use areas along with improve pasture plantings.

Water conservation continues to be a primary resource concern in South Georgia as producers sign up to retrofit 219 center pivot irrigation systems from high pressure to low pressure systems. This will reduce water usage by over 20 percent on this system. A new practice of sub-surface drip irrigation was also introduced in 2007. This technology combines the water savings benefits of drip irrigation with the use of Global Positioning Guidance systems on a tractor.

The drip tape is buried between the rows and the GPS is used to plant cotton or peanuts precisely on the row avoiding the buried drip tape. These systems can reduce water usage by over 40 percent. Another EQIP highlight was the special effort made to assist landowners in Southeast Georgia that had their lands damaged by the wildfires.

The loss of this critical wildlife habitat adjunct to the Okeefeenokey Swamp has had devastating impact on many threatened and endangered species that call this area home. Through this special effort 24 landowners will restore over 4,000 acres back to the Long Leaf Pine ecosystem that once dominated the region.

Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program

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Program Highlights

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market value for the conservation easement. The program provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

In 2006, two proposals were selected and will provide permanent protection of 300 acres of Georgia farmland in Bartow and Oconee Counties valued at \$1.8 million.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

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Program Highlights

NRCS in cooperation with the Georgia Grazing Lands Conservation Coalition (GGLCC) encourage forage and livestock producers to adopt practices that promote the efficient use of their grazing land resources, while conserving soil and protecting water quality through maintenance of healthy forage systems. Accomplishing the objectives is facilitated through on-farm cost-share demonstration projects, area- and state-wide conferences, development and distribution of grazing management resources, and funding of innovative research and land management projects.

The Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is a nationwide collaborative process of individuals and organizations working to maintain and improve the management, productivity, and health of the Nation's privately owned grazing land.

During 2007, \$213,000 of GLCI funds was committed to support forage and livestock management improvement projects on 26 Georgia farms. In addition, four regional grazing conferences, and a tall fescue field day were sponsored by GLCI.

A significant portion of GLCI funds were used to help support NRCS personnel throughout the state as they provided local planning and technical assistance on grazing lands.

George and Lynn Burke requested funds to build a metal kidding barn for their 130 animal goat farm. The existing buildings were too far from the pens to take a doe once she began kidding and there was no place in the paddocks to shelter her and her new kid until they were ready to return to the herd.

The Grazing Lands Program allowed them to erect a metal building that can house up to 16 does so they are protected from the elements while they kid, and are easy to check on so kidding problems can be quickly identified and treated.

The building itself is a 25 X 50, 22 gauge steel building with 13' centers, 7' side walls and 8 X 8 openings on each end. The pad consists of 6" of packed sandy clay



**Ben Hill County GGLCC Project:
Kidding Barn for G & L Quality Boer**

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Continued...

and 6” of crusher run gravel on top that extends 1’ beyond the building. Sand, sawdust or wood chips are added for the comfort of the animals.

Lynn adds: “Where do I start, on the goat barn at kidding season? The convenience of having a safe haven for the new mom's and their kids was priceless.”

“The new mom's were able to bond with their kids for five-days without having to fight for food or keep up with two to three kids going different directions and getting into harms way.”

“We were also able to bring our milking dairies in to milk them in a dry warm area and provide extra nutrition to keep them producing high volumes of milk.”

“While not in kidding season, we store feed, hay, etc in the barn and it is utilized for sick pens in case of emergency. After calculating the kid loss last year versus this year we lost less than one percent of the kid crop versus 10 percent the previous year.”

National Resources Inventory

Program Manager: Edward Ealy

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Program Highlights

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is a statistically based survey that has been designed and implemented to assess the trends of soil, water, and related resource conditions and land use on nonfederal lands in the United States.

NRI is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) tool to provide Congress natural resources information. Section 302 of the 1972 Rural Development Act and legislation in 1977 and 1985, requires a USDA report to Congress on natural resource conditions.

Since the early 1970s, resource data has been gathered on a random sample of 160-acre land tracts called Primary Sample Units (PSUs).

Resource information available in NRI includes:

Land Use Resource Condition, such as erosion rates, conservation practices used and conservation treatments as needed for Cropland, Forestland, Pastureland, Urban Land, Transportation, Federal, Wetlands, Water Erosion, and Developed Land.

The entire 1997 NRI database is available to the public on CD. The national release of 2003 data (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/>) shows Georgia losing prime farmland to development at the third fastest rate in the nation. In good news, the nation showed its first 'net-gain' of agricultural wetlands since the NRI began in 1982.

Plant Materials Program

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Program Highlights

The Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. It is one of 27 plant materials centers located throughout the United States. The Center is located on the Northwest corner of Americus, Georgia, in Southwestern Georgia and is approximately 40 miles North of Albany. Areas served include Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and parts of Tennessee and Florida.

The PMC's mission is to develop plant materials and state-of-the-art plant science technology to solve natural resource problems and meet the objectives of environmental programs. The emphasis of the PMC is using native plants, developing test and release and providing superior adapted plants to commercial growers along with production and management technology.

The Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) has eight active studies involving plants native to the Southeastern U.S.

Emphasis is technology development on seeding rates, establishment, growth, management and culture of native warm season grasses.

A new publication to help identify plants that are part of the Long Leaf Pine natural regeneration effort through the Conservation Reserve Program CP-36 was released. This tool was used as the PMC staff provided training to NRCS employees on its use in certifying the whether the existing cover was adequate to carry a fire in the newly planted Long Leaf Pines.

The PMC also entered into agreement with the Wildlife Federation to look at seedling techniques of Native Warm Season Grasses into existing pastures. The goal is to find ways to improve wildlife habitat in grazing systems through the use of native plants.

Resource Conservation & Development

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Introduction

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. The program also establishes or improves coordination of activities in rural areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life through natural resources conservation and community development leading to sustainable communities and sound management and conservation of natural resources.

The RC&D Council Program in Georgia consists of 11 Council areas comprising 127 counties of Georgia's 159 counties.

RC&D programs provide assistance to people in their Council areas by helping them plan and implement projects in their communities that will make them better places to live and work.

Councils are governed by local volunteers. The Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical and administrative support through its personnel, including a full-time coordinator.

During 2007, RC&D Councils in Georgia created or retained 36 businesses across the state of Georgia. Five watersheds were planned benefiting 48,885 acres of land and water.

It is also estimated that RC&D Councils implemented 260 projects totaling

over \$14 million in assistance during the year.



**No Till Assistance
Statewide Project**

Resource Conservation & Development Continued...

Central Savannah River
501 N. Main St., Wrens,
Georgia 30833
(706) 706 547-4045
Fax: (706) 547-7606

Chestatee-Chattahoochee
170 Scoggins Drive, Demorest,
Georgia 30535
(706) 894-1591
Fax: (706) 894-1597

Coastal Georgia
185 Richard Davis Dr., Ste 204
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
(912) 459-2070
Fax: (912) 459-2071

Golden Triangle
712-R County Street
Blakely, Georgia 31723
(229) 723-3841
Fax: (229) 723-3842
www.enhancinggeorgia.org

Limestone Valley
125 Red Bud Road, Suite 7
Calhoun, Georgia 30701
(706) 625-7044
Fax: (706) 625-9943

Oconee River
P.O. Box 247
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677
(706) 769-7922
Fax: (706) 769-3184

Pine Country
105 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Soperton, Georgia 30457
(912) 529-6652
Fax: (912) 529-6000

Rolling Hills
512 Mainstreet
Cedartown, Georgia 30125
(678) 333-6346
ringhills@netscape.net

Seven Rivers
400 East Park Avenue, Suite 5
Baxley, Georgia 31513
(912) 367-7679
Fax: (912) 367-1184

Two Rivers
900 Dallis Street
LaGrange, Georgia 30240
(706) 885-0101
Fax: (706) 885-0103
www.tworiversrcd.org

Upper Ocmulgee River
750 S. Perry Street, Suite 212
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045
(770) 339-6071
(678) 442-1329



Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Program Manager: Jimmy Bramblett

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Program Highlights

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566), August 4, 1954, as amended, authorized NRCS to cooperate with States and local agencies to carry out works of improvement for soil conservation and for other purposes including flood prevention; conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water; and conservation and proper utilization of land. NRCS implements the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act through three programs: Watershed Surveys and Planning; Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations; Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 1953, 357 NRCS Assisted Project Dams have been constructed.

Currently, 189 of these are “High Hazard,” indicating a potential loss of life if the dam were to fail. Since 2002, NRCS-Georgia has secured \$9.5 million to upgrade six watershed dams.

Additionally, 32 dams have been, or are being, analyzed to determine the extent of downstream hazards. Emergency Action Plans will be developed on all of these dams to help protect Georgia residents living below these structures.

With Georgia's recent drought, NRCS has received a number of new requests to provide technical and financial assistance for water supply. One current project gaining attention and support from local stakeholders, as well as other federal and state agencies, is the Russel Creek Reservoir in Dawson County.



NRCS is providing technical assistance to the Etowah Water and Sewer Authority with watershed planning for water supply. Through this process, NRCS Watershed Structure Etowah No. 13 will be transformed from a 12-acre flood control dam to a 137-acre water supply reservoir.

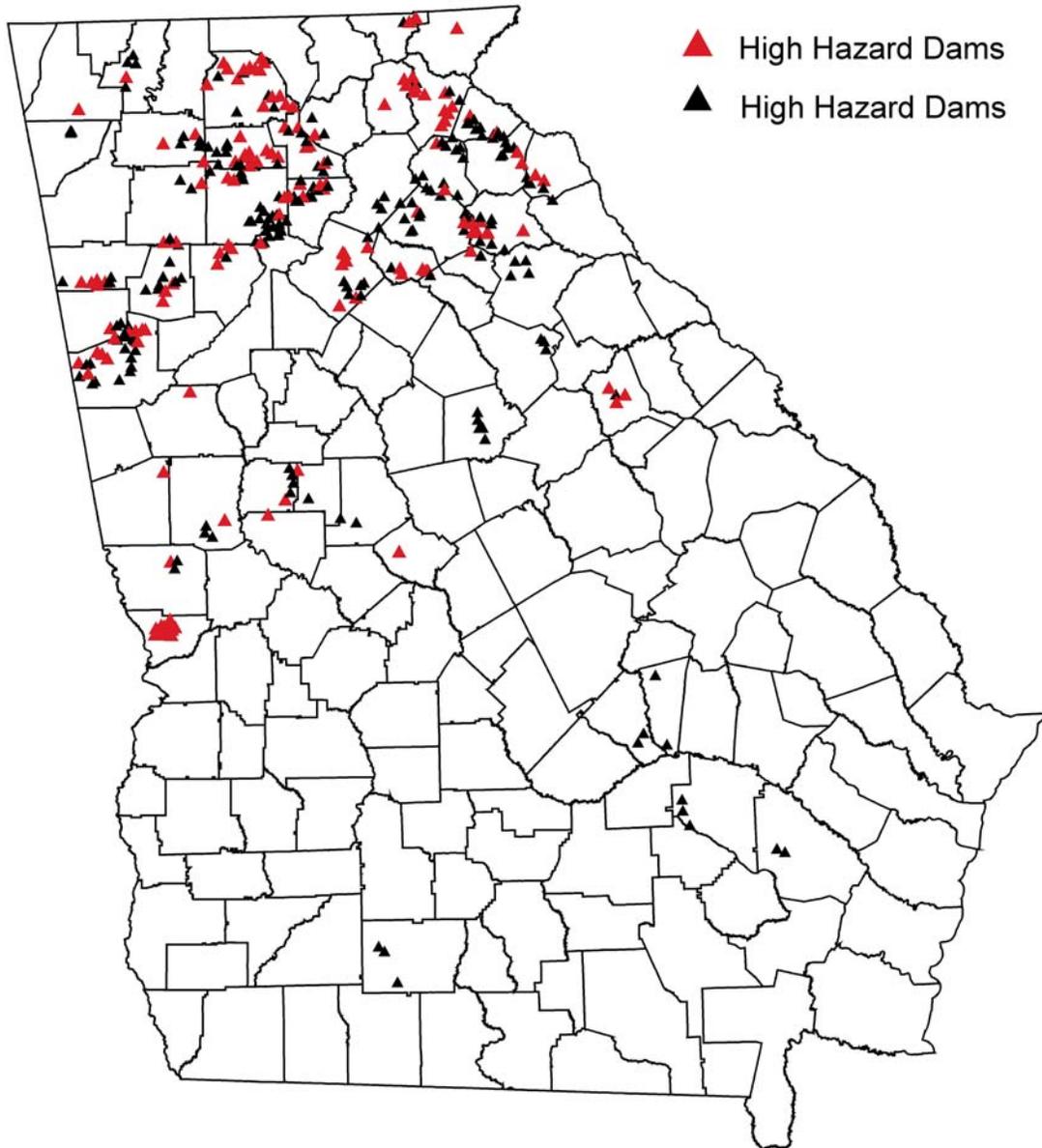
Georgia's population projections, combined with the recent drought, are likely to provide several future technical assistance opportunities for NRCS

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Continued...

NRCS Assisted Dams



Hazard Classification



November 2006



Soil Survey

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Program Highlights

The soil survey program of the United States is a cooperative effort conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other Federal agencies in collaboration with states and other entities.

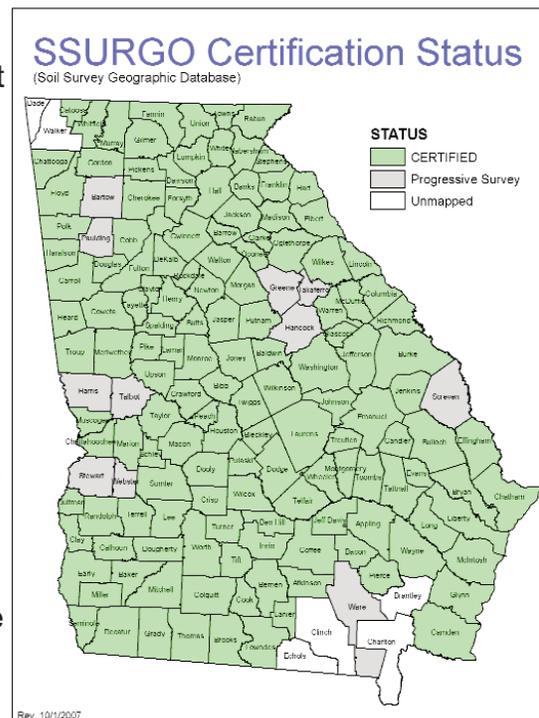
Leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey is delegated to the Chief of Natural Resources Conservation Service by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (7 CFR2.61)

The authorities define the mission of the Soil Survey Program. Taken together, the authorities direct the Secretary of Agriculture to:

1. Make an inventory of the soil resources of the United States
2. Keep the soil survey relevant to ever-changing needs
3. Interpret the information and make it available in a useful form; and
4. Promote the soil survey and provide technical assistance in its use for a wide range of community planning and resource development issues related to non-farm and farm uses.

One hundred and thirty-nine Georgia counties have published soil surveys; seven counties have completed surveys that are being published; seven are presently being surveyed; and three counties have been updated. There are now 85 survey areas (142 counties) with a Soil Survey Geographic database that include digitized soils and associated properties.

All digitized soil surveys are available to the public through the web soil survey, an interactive, web-based delivery system. Soil survey reports and soil data downloads are available at <http://www.soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>. More information can be found at <http://www.soils.usda.gov/>.



Technical Service Providers

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Program Highlights

The Technical Service Provider program was outlined in the 2002 Farm Bill. The TSP program requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow producers to receive technical assistance by individuals and entities other than NRCS. This provision is designed to ensure NRCS has the capacity to address the significant workload associated with implementing Farm Bill programs. TSP assistance is another tool for NRCS to use in the implementation of conservation programs.

Seventy-four individuals and organizations are certified through the Technical Service Provider (TSP) program to provide technical services in Georgia.

Twenty-eight Georgia producers were funded to receive technical assistance on EQIP contracts on Residue Management and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans this year.

Watershed Program

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Program Highlights

The Watershed Program helps sponsoring organizations in the development of a plan on watersheds of 250,000 acres or less. During planning, problems such as water quality, flooding, water and land management, and sedimentation are evaluated and works of improvement are proposed to alleviate problems. The resulting watershed plans estimates benefits, costs and cost-sharing rates. The plans arrange operation and maintenance necessary to justify Federal assistance to install works of improvement.

Watershed Operations Program

Since 1952, a total of 77 small watershed projects have been approved for operations in Georgia. Some \$189 million of water quality improvements, soil erosion reduction, flood protection, recreation, and wildlife habitat establishment have been planned on 5.2 million acres.

NRCS has received over \$7 million to help local landowners install conservation practices for water quality improvement in the 77 projects. Through 2006, over \$4 million of financial assistance has been provided.

Watershed Planning and Surveys Program

In 2007, NRCS in Georgia provided \$65,000 in technical assistance to three communities. A water supply reservoir, to service 30,000 people, is being planned for Dawson County with the Etowah Water and Sewer Authority.

Additionally, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has provided \$200,000 to NRCS for conducting watershed planning in the Upper Alapaha River Watershed and the Upper Withlacoochee River Watershed.

Wetland Reserve Program

Program Highlights

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides landowners the technical and financial support to make restoration possible. The NRCS goal is to restore the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife habitat protection.

Carolina Bays are a unique wetland landform found only in the southeast United States. In order to protect those few remaining Carolina Bays in Georgia a special effort was made with the 2007 WRP.

Using the WRP Reverse Auction concept that was piloted in Georgia in 2006, landowners in Jenkins and Screven Counties were given the opportunity to enroll the Carolina Bays on their farms into the WRP.

A reverse auction uses several appraisals to establish a bid cap for the target acres. Participants then completed a self-ranking form that required them to answer specific questions about the acreage they are trying to restore.

Of the 14 bids, seven landowners agreed to complete easements on their farms for a total of 1,000 acres being protected.

WRP will play a roll in restoring damaged fire damaged acres surrounding the "Roundabout Swamp" in Atkinson County. The fires burned approximately 6,000 acres in the area including the entire 2,700 acre WRP site.

Restoration funds to replant 1,800 acres of cypress trees were provided along with funds to due and additional 1,400 acres of wetland acres on the surrounding farms. Ten producers were the benefactors of this additional \$500,000.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

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Program Highlights

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) develops or improves wildlife habitat on privately owned land. Through WHIP, NRCS provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land.

Georgia received \$326,000 in Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) funds this year. Forty-Five contracts were approved in 29 counties.

Tree and Shrub plantings, prescribed burning and early successional habitat management continue to be the primary practices being used to improve Georgia's wildlife on private lands.