

STATE OF GEORGIA
TIER 2 TMDL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REVISION _1_
Coheelee Creek
Chattahoochee River Basin

Early County Commissioners, City of Blakely

I. INTRODUCTION

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans are platforms for evaluating and tracking water quality protection and restoration. These plans have been designed to accommodate continual updates and revisions as new conditions and information warrant. In addition, field verification of watershed characteristics and listing data has been built into the preparation of the plans. The overall goal of the plans is to define a set of actions that will help achieve water quality standards in the state of Georgia.

This implementation plan addresses the general characteristics of the watershed, the sources of pollution, stakeholders and public involvement, and education/outreach activities. In addition, the plan describes regulatory and voluntary practices/control actions (*management measures*) to reduce pollutants, milestone schedules to show the development of the management measures (*measurable milestones*), and a monitoring plan to determine the efficiency of the management measures.

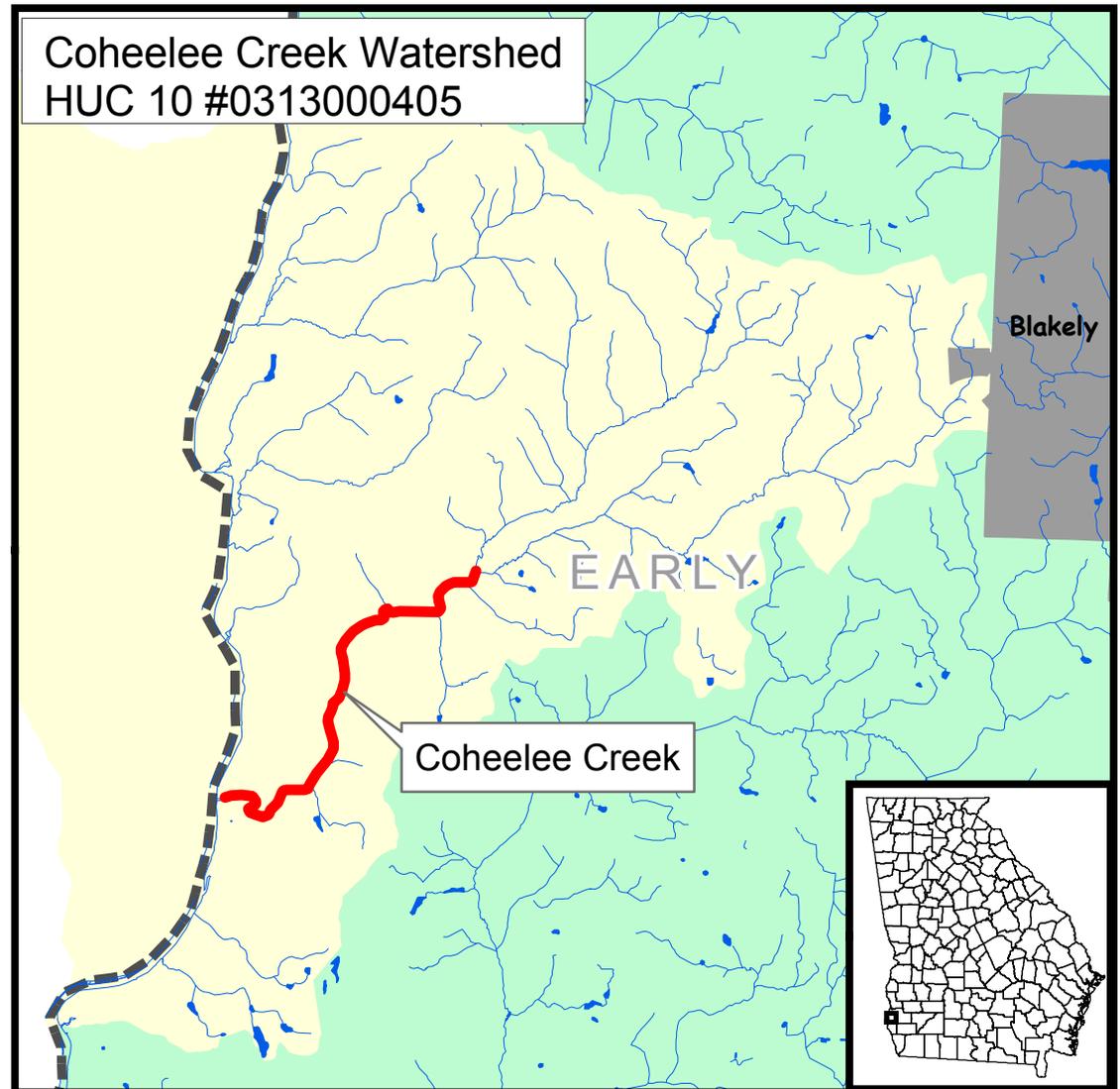


Table 1. IMPAIRMENTS

IMPAIRED STREAM SEGMENT	IMPAIRED SEGMENT LOCATION	IMPAIRMENT
Coheelee Creek	Chancy Mill Creek to Chattahoochee River	Biota (sediment)

II. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WATERSHED

Write a narrative describing the watershed, HUC 10# 0313000405. Include an updated overview of watershed characteristics. Identify new conditions and verify or correct information in the TMDL document using the most current data. Include the size and location of the watershed, political jurisdictions, and physical features which could influence water quality. Describe the source and date of the latest land cover/use for the watershed. Describe and quantify major land uses and activities which could influence water quality. See the instructions for more information on what to include.

Coheele Creek from Church Mill Creek to the Chattahoochee River, HUD 10# 0313000405, is located in the southern portion of the Chattahoochee River Basin in Early County, Georgia. The Segment is approximately 5 miles long and the watershed covers some 13,053 acres. Georgia State Highway 62 parallels the stream segment to the south. The stream segment stretches S.W. from Blakely, GA to the Chattahoochee River. Land coverage shows mostly forestry and agricultural uses surrounding the stream segment. Within the watershed there are 13.34 acres devoted to High Intensity Commercial and Industrial Transportation, there are also 12812 acres (approx) devoted to either forestry or various agricultural activities. In addition, to these uses the watershed incorporates 1476 acres of woody and emergent herbaceous wetlands. A limited amount of residential uses are located off Goocher Rd. to the Northeast of Chancey Mill Creek. SWGRDC completed an exhaustive Land Use survey in 2003 for Early County Comprehensive Plan and a map outlining this land use information is included with this plan.

Land uses and coverings have not changed over the last twenty years and are not expected to change over the next twenty year planning cycle.

Coheele Creek is listed for not meeting water quality standards for Biota (sediment). The Georgia Environmental Protection Division will address nonpoint sources through a water shed protection strategy. TMDL monitoring for the Chattahoochee will begin in 2005 by state agencies.

Public outreach and education programs have been initiated to educate the general public about water quality concerns. Brochures, videos and other information for school age children are available through the RDC and Cooperative Extension office in Early County. This implementation plan was developed with help of Early County, City of Blakley and Southwest Georgia RDC. Comments and public input was considered in developing the draft implementation plan.

The purpose of this implementation plan is to reduce sediment through better land management practices.



Coheelee Creek Park looking north, note erosion patterns on path leading downhill towards creek.



Coheelee Creek Park (northside) note again the erosion marks leading toward creek.



One of many recently ploughed fields and dirt roads (Old River Rd) within 1 kilometer of stream bed.

Coheelee Creek

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TABLES FOR AND NARRATIVES ABOUT EACH IMPAIRED STREAM IN THE WATERSHED.

STREAM SEGMENT NAME	LOCATION	MILES/AREA	DESIGNATED USE	PS/NS
Coheelee Creek	Chancy Mill Creek to Chatthoochee River (Early County)	5 miles	Fishing	PS

III. SOURCES AND CAUSES OF STREAM SEGMENT IMPAIRMENT LISTED IN TMDLs

After reviewing the TMDLs written for this stream, complete the following tables with **the information found in the TMDLs**. List each parameter for which the stream segment is impaired and the water quality standard violated. See the instructions for the water quality standards. Describe the sources and causes of each violation identified in the TMDLs.

Table 2. SOURCES OF IMPAIRMENT AS INDICATED IN TMDLs

PARAMETER 1	WQ STANDARD	SOURCES OF IMPAIRMENT	NEEDED REDUCTION FROM TMDL
Biota (sediment)	Water should be free from material related to municipal, industrial or other discharges which produce turbidity, color, odor or other objectionable conditions which interfere with legitimate water uses.	Nonpoint Agriculture Run Off Silviculture Run Off Roads (Hwy 67) Run Off	20%

IV. IDENTIFICATION AND RANKING OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OR CAUSES OF IMPAIRMENT

INVESTIGATE AND EVALUATE the sources of impairment for each parameter listed in Table 2. Write a narrative describing efforts made or procedures used to verify the significance and extent of the sources or causes of each impairment listed in the TMDLs. Include:

- Involvement of stakeholder group
- Field surveys
- Review of land cover data
- Evaluation of sources

A meeting was held August 19, 2004 in Camilla, Georgia to review the TMDL segment and discuss potential “sources” of pollution. Stakeholders were asked for their input on potential causes of pollution.

Better land management practices and enforcement of the Environmental requirements in Part V of the Georgia Planning Act could help reduce sediment in impacted area, alongside with a call for more testing were the primary thrust of comments from stakeholders familiar with area.

RDC Planning staff conducted a visual field survey along various parts of the stream segment. Photographs were taken and will be submitted with this plan. Visual surveys indicated that the area is predominately agricultural and runoff from farming, forestry or naturally occurring activities are the primary potential sources of sediment.

Existing Best Management Practices alongside the regulations found in Part V of the Georgia Planning Act, when carefully enforced, can solve sediment problems over time. Also, additional testing should be carried out.

To the extent possible, identify sources and quantify the extent of pollution in the stream segment for each of the parameters listed in Table 2 and evaluate the likely impact on the parameter load to the stream. This should follow research performed and described in preceding narrative and should correct or add information to the TMDLs. **The SOURCES SHOULD BE RANKED** from those having the most impact to those having the least impact. The estimated extent of contribution can be expressed as the area of the watershed effected, the stream miles effected, or the number of activities contributing to the problem. The magnitude of contribution should be estimated to be large, moderate, small, or negligible.

Table 3. CONCLUSIONS MADE OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF STREAM SEGMENT IMPAIRMENT

PARAMETER 1	POTENTIAL SOURCES	ESTIMATED EXTENT OF CONTRIBUTION	ESTIMATED MAGNITUDE OF CONTRIBUTION	COMMENTS
Biota (sediment)	Agriculture (Row Crops & Grazing)	Large. Inevitable introduction of sediment even where BMPs are practiced due to soil disturbance.	80 % (approx)	43 % of watershed land consists of row crops and grazing land, the run off from which overshadows that from other uses
Biota	Silviculture	Moderate. Possible introduction of sediment from normal practices and stream crossings when BMPs are not followed.	2-15%	53 % of watershed land is covered in forests, however, clear cutting without runoff controls can cause spikes in levels of sediment
	Road & Residential	Moderate	10 %	Although the amount of land in the watershed devoted to either of these categories is very limited, the implicit impermeability and relative closeness of road to creek probably raises its effect.

V. STAKEHOLDERS

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF STAKEHOLDERS is essential to the process of preparing TMDL implementation plans and improving water quality. Stakeholders can provide valuable information and data regarding their community, impaired water bodies, potential causes of impairments, and management practices and activities which may be employed to reduce the impacts of the causes of impairment.

Describe outreach activities to advise and engage stakeholders in the TMDL implementation plan preparation process. Describe the stakeholder group employed or formed to address the impaired segments in the watershed. Summarize the results of the number of attendees and meetings and describe major findings, recommendations, and approvals.

Stakeholders for the implementation plan are listed in the following tables. RDC staff worked with existing state, county and local citizens and property owners. Additional meetings were held with the RDC Environmental Committee.

The RDC Environmental Committee members provided information concerning the impacted stream segment and helped in getting the word out to local citizens and property owners in the effected area.

Methods used by the RDC to inform the general public included sending out notices to local newspapers, distributing press releases, emails and individual invitations to local groups (large landowners, elected officials, NRCS, business, etc.)

Area Newspapers who carried Public Meeting Notification:

**Albany Herald
Athens Herald
Valdosta Times Local
Columbus Ledger
Moultrie Observer
Cairo Messenger
Camilla Enterprise
Pelham Journal
Sylvester Local
Bainbridge Post Searchlight
Dawson News
Donalsonville News
Thomasville Times
Lee County Ledger
Early County News**

Miller County Liberal

Advertising Copy Text ran:

Meeting Concerning Clean Water, August 19, 2004

(TMDL Regional Advisory Group)

The TMDL Regional Advisory Group (on Clean Water) will meet on Thursday, August 19th 2004 at the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center in Camilla. The meeting will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. Both new and established members are encouraged to attend. The group is intended to provide technical support for implementation plans for polluted stream segments in addition to modifying the Regional TMDL Implementation Plan. Therefore, it is important that the various stakeholder groups in this region have proper representation. It is hoped that these meetings will help stakeholders form relationships and make connections with others in the region.

There were seven people in attendance on August 19, 2004 to discuss these issues. Unfortunately representatives from Early County and Blakely were unable to attend this meeting.

List the watershed or advisory committee members of the stakeholder group for this segment in the following table.

Table 4. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NAME/ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
David Burke	Oil Dri Corp				229-574-4271	davidburke@oildri.com
David Dixon	Miller Brewing Company				229-420-5096	David.Dixon@mbco.com
Ron Dudley	Stevenson & Palmer Engineering				229-883-0332	
Greg Findley	Georgia Forestry Commission				229-533-380	gfindley@gfc.state.ga.us
John Fisher	Spring Creek Water Safety Task Force				229-246-9739	
Tynik (Nikki) Fox	Dougherty Co. Environmental Health Dept.				229-438-3942	tlfox@gdph.state.ga.us
David Hamilton	City of Albany				229-438-3942	Davidhamilton31707@yahoo.com
Alan Isler	Georgia Forestry Commission				229-533-3580	aisler@gfc.state.ga.us
Mel Jones, Jr.	Public Health Division, District Health				229-430-4129	mfjones@gdph.state.ga.us
Roger King	City of Moultrie				229-890-5432	
Nancy O'Quinn	UGA/REDP				229-386-7376	noquinn@arches.uga.edu
Susan Reyher	Dougherty Co. Environmental Health Dept.				229-438-3943	smreyher@gdph.state.ga.us
Burt A Spence	Mitchell Co. Environmental Health Dept.				229-336-2055	BA.Spence@gdph.state.ga.us
Roger Thighpen	Georgia Pacific Corp.				229-327-5029	rgthigpe@gapac.com
Russell Toning	Georgia Soil & Water					rtonning@gaswcc.org

	Conservation Commission					
Rob Weller	GAWRD				229-886-1451	Rob.Weller@mail.dnr.state.ga.us
Rebecca Winn	International Paper					Rebecca.Winn@ipaper.com
RDC Staff						
Paul Forgey	Planning Director SW GA RDC				229-522-3552	pforgey@swgrdc.org

In Appendix A, list the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for local governments, agricultural or commercial forestry organizations, significant landholders, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups and individuals with a major interest in this watershed.

VI. MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

Describe any management measures or activities that have been put into place or will be put into place including regulatory or voluntary actions or other controls by governments or individuals that specifically apply to the pollutant that will help achieve water quality standards. Include who will be responsible for the measure, how it will be funded, the status, the date it will be or was initiated, and a short description of how effective the measure is or will be.

Table 5. MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

GENERAL MEASURES APPLICABLE TO ALL PARAMETERS

MEASURE	RESPONSIBILITY	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE OF FUNDING	STATUS	ENACTED/ IMPLEMENTED	EFFECTIVENESS (Very, Moderate, Weak)
Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 (Ag and Forestry)	EPA (although forestry issues are usually referred to GFC to monitor compliance)	Requires normal ongoing agricultural and silvicultural practice to adhere to BMPs and 15 baseline provisions for road construction and maintenance in and across waters of the US including lakes, rivers, perennial and intermittent streams, wetlands, sloughs in order to qualify for the exemption from the permitting process.	General Fund	Ongoing	June 6, 1988	Moderate EPA recognizes that planted fields contribute almost 89 % of watershed sediment.
GA Growth Planning Act (OCGA 12-2-8)	GA DNR, Department of Community Affairs and Local units of government.	Authorized GA DNR to develop minimum planning standards and procedures that local jurisdictions could adopt and enforce pertaining to the protection of river corridors, mountain tops, water supply watersheds/reservoirs, groundwater recharge areas and wetlands. Silvicultural			1991	

		activities may be exempted from permitting requirements provided the activity complies with BMPs.				
Georgia Forestry Commission Monthly BMP Assurance Examination	Georgia Forestry Commission (matters involving the enforcement are generally referred to GA EPD)	In an effort to document 'reasonable assurance' that water quality will be proactively protected during regular ongoing silvicultural operations, the GCF will offer a monthly BMP assurance examination of active sites. All active or ongoing sites will be identified through monthly air patrol flights, courthouse records, riding the roads, notification or by landlords. Sites located withing watersheds of specific biota (sediment) impaired streams will be given a higher priority to identify and conduct examinations		Current	1/1/03	EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution source of nonpoint pollution.
Georgia Water Quality Control Act (OCGA 12-5-20)	GA DNR EPD	Makes it unlawful to discharge excessive pollutants (Sediments, nutrients, pesticides, animal waste etc.) into waters of the State in amounts harmful to public health, safety or welfare, or to birds, or aquatic life or the physical destruction of stream habitats.		Current	1964	Weak
Georgia's Best Management Practices	Georgia Forestry Commission	Inform landowners, foresters, timber buyers, loggers, site preparation and reforestation contractors and others		Current	1989,1997	EPA identifies silviculture as the lowest contribution

		involved with silvicultural operations about commonsense, economical, effective practices to minimize nonpoint source and thermal pollution.				source of nonpoint pollution.
--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------------------------

VII. MONITORING PLAN

The purposes of monitoring are to obtain more data, to determine the sources of pollution, to describe baseline conditions, and to evaluate the effects of management and activities on water quality. Describe any sampling activities or other surveys - active, planned or proposed - and their intended purpose. Reference the development and submission of a Sample Quality and Assurance Plan (SQAP) if monitoring for delisting purposes.

Table 6. MONITORING PLAN

PARAMETER(S) TO BE MONITORED	ORGANIZATION	STATUS (CURRENT, PROPOSED, PLANNED)	TIME FRAME		PURPOSE (If for delisting, date of SQAP submission)
			START	END	
Biota (sediment)	GA EPD	Planned	2005	2006	TMDL Evaluation & Monitoring

VIII. PLANNED OUTREACH FOR IMPLEMENTATION

List and describe outreach activities which will be conducted to support this plan and the implementation of it.

Table 7. PLANNED OUTREACH

RESPONSIBILITY	DESCRIPTION	AUDIENCE	DATE
Southwest GA- RDC	Brochures and schedule meetings with stakeholders	All	Ongoing
Early Co.	Educational Activities/Regulatory Controls	Property Owners, Business	Ongoing
Early Co. Health Dept.	Educational Activities	General Public	Ongoing
Early Co. Extension Office	Educational Activities	General Public	Ongoing

IX. MILESTONES/ MEASURES OF PROGRESS OF BMPs AND OUTREACH

This table will be used to **track and report progress of management measures including BMPs and outreach**. Record milestone dates for:

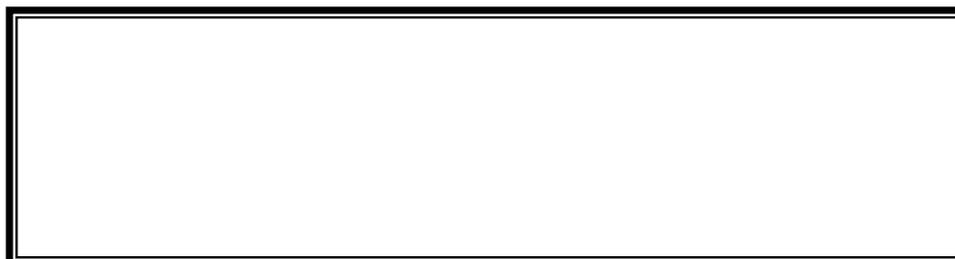
- accomplishment of management practices or activities
- outreach activities
- installation of BMPs

to attain water quality standards. Comment on the effectiveness of the management measure, how much support the measure was given by the community, what was learned, how the measure might be improved in the future, and any other observations made. This table can be "pulled out" of this template and used to report and track progress.

Table 8. MILESTONES

MANAGEMENT MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS	STATUS PROPOSED INSTALLED		COMMENT
Review soil erosion and Control Ordinances	County/GA EPD		1990's	Continued reviews of ordinances and practices to insure compliance and relevance.

Prepared By:	Greg Weathersby		
Agency:	Southwest Georgia RDC		
Address:	30 W. Broad St.		
City:	Camilla		
	ST:	GA	ZIP: 31730
E-mail:	gweathersby@swgrdc.org		
Date Submitted to EPD:	Nov. 2004		Revision:12-07-04 C. Maycock



APPENDIX A.

STAKEHOLDERS

List the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for local governments, agricultural or commercial forestry organizations, significant landholders, businesses and industries, and local organizations including environmental groups and individuals with a major interest in this watershed.

NAME/ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Early County	17 McDonald St.	Blakely	GA	39823	229-723-4304	
Early County						
Environmental Health Department	618 Flowers Dr.	Blakely	GA	39823	229-723-3707	
Wynn Bush/ City of Blakely	82 Court St.	Blakely	GA	39823	229-723-3677	
Southwest GA RDC	30 West Broad St.	Camilla	GA	31730	229-522-3552	
GA Forestry Commission	3561 Hwy. 7112	Camilla	GA	31730	229-522-3580	
GA Soil & Water Conservation Commission	2700 Palmyra Rd.	Albany	GA	31707	430-4408	rtonning@gaswcc.org

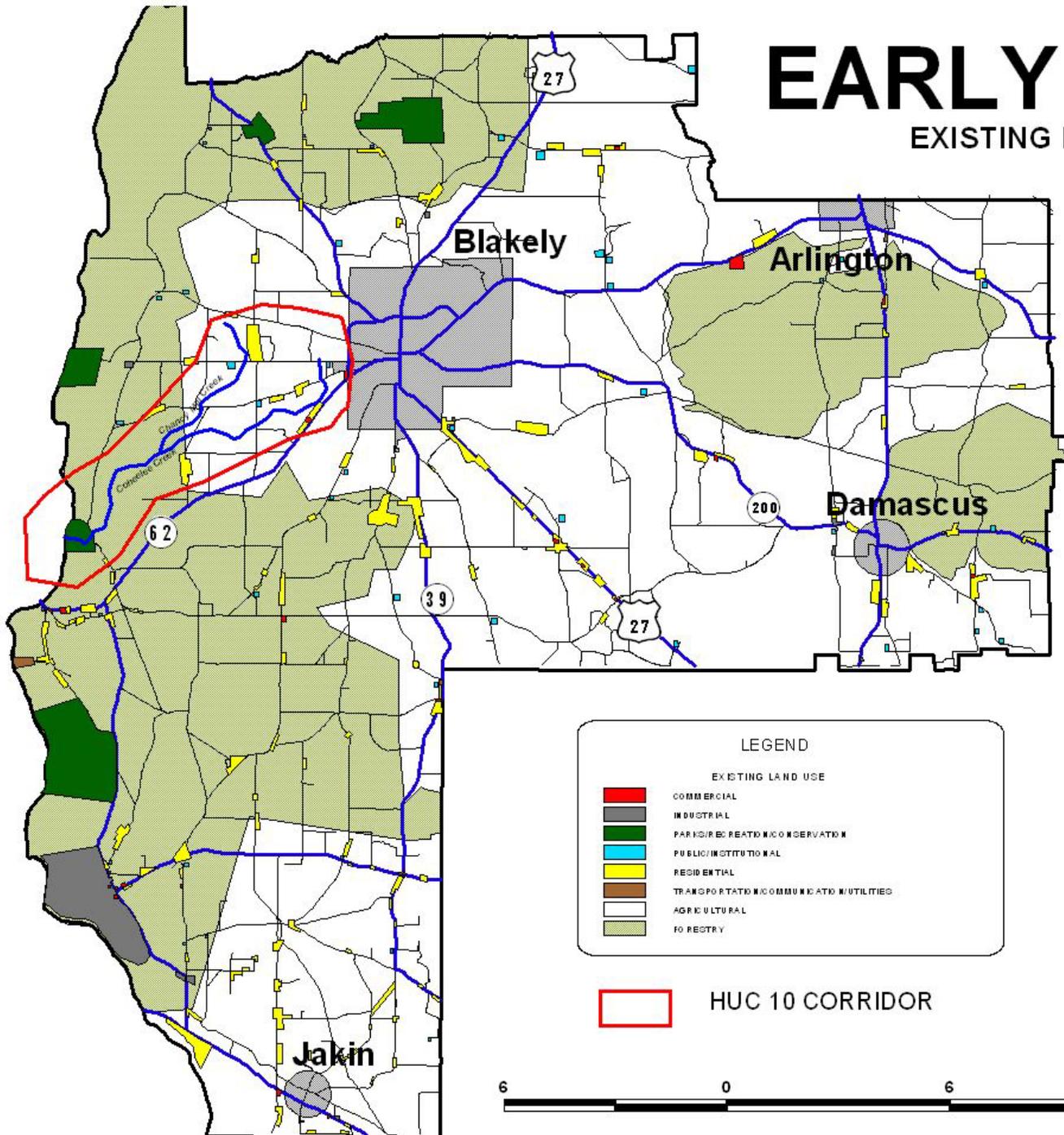
APPENDIX B.

UPDATES TO THIS PLAN

Describe any updates made to this plan. Include the date, section or table updated, and a summary of what was changed and why.

EARLY COUNTY

EXISTING LAND USE MAP



LEGEND

EXISTING LAND USE

	COMMERCIAL
	INDUSTRIAL
	PARK/RECREATION/CONSERVATION
	PUBLIC/INSTITUTIONAL
	RESIDENTIAL
	TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION/UTILITIES
	AGRICULTURAL
	FORESTRY

HUC 10 CORRIDOR



