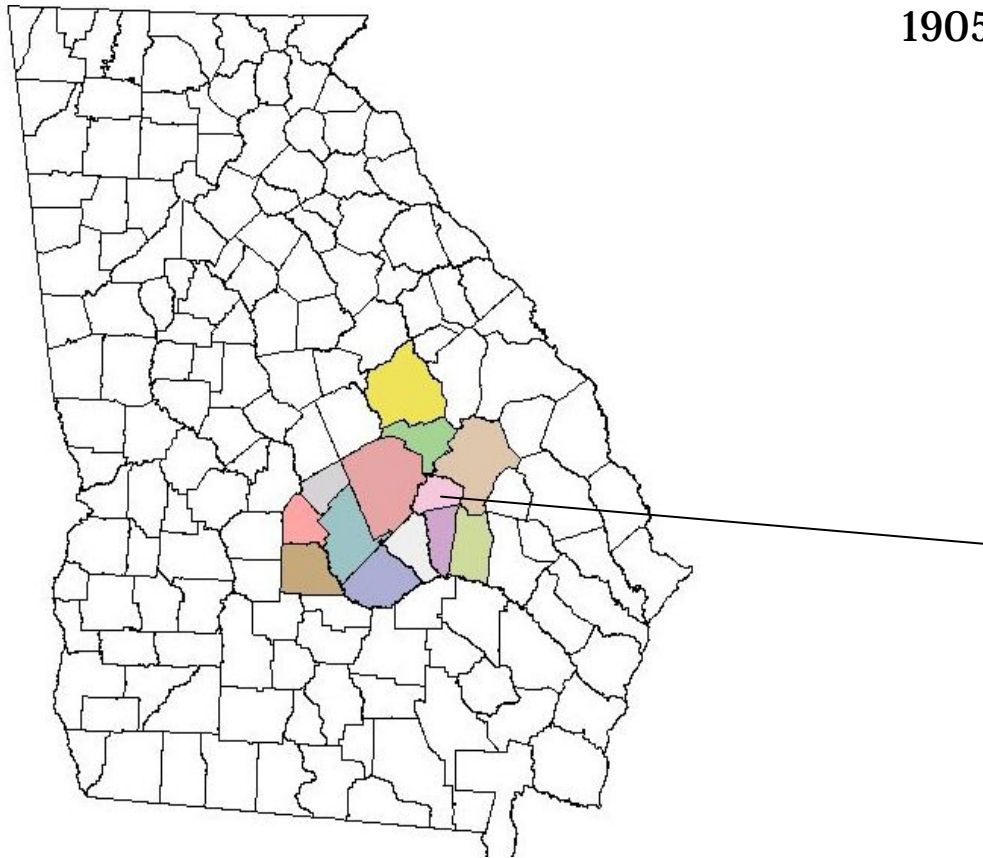


Pine Country

Resource Conservation
and Development Council, Inc.
1905 Martin Luther King Drive, Suite C
Soperton, Georgia 30457

AREA PLAN 2008- 2013



- Bleckley County
- Dodge County
- Emanuel County
- Johnson County
- Laurens County
- Montgomery County
- Pulaski County
- Telfair County
- Toombs County
- Treutlen County
- Washington County
- Wheeler County
- Wilcox County

Table of Contents

Section 1: INTRODUCTION..... (p5)

Section 2: ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW..... (p6)

- INTRODUCTION
- MISSION AND VISION
- BACKGROUND AND STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL
- OVERVIEW OF THE AREA
- DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMICS
- ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 3: RESOURCE NEEDS and OPPORTUNITIES..... (p10)

- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES
- SUMMARY OF AREA NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES
 - LAND CONSERVATION ELEMENT
 - WATER MANAGEMENT ELEMENT
 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT
 - LAND MANAGEMENT ELEMENT

Section 4: GOALS, OBJECTIVES and STRATEGIES..... (P14)

- **GOAL A: ASSIST COUNTIES IN THE PINE COUNTRY AREA REDUCE SOIL EROSION ON 15,000 Acres by 2013.**
- **GOAL B: IMPOROVE, CONSERVE OR PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN FOUR WATERSHEDS B Y 2013.**
- **GOAL C: ASSIST 13 COUNTIES BUILD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITEIS BY PROVIDING ECONOMIC, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE ASSISTANCE THROUGH 2013.**
- **GOAL D: PROMOTE LAND USE PLANNING AND PRACTICES THAT PROVIDE MARKETABLE PRODUCTS WHILE MAINATAINING LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY BY 2013.**
- **GOAL E: PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND ENERGY CONSEVATION OPPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE AREA BY 2013.**

Section 5: PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS..... (P19)

Section 6: LINKAGES TO NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN..... (P21)

SECTION 7: COMPLAINCE STATEMENTS..... (P22)

SECTION 8: SIGNATURES..... (P22)

SECTION 9: DOCUMENTED PUBLIC INPUT..... (P24)

Pine Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Introduction

This document is the long-range plan for the Pine Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. It was developed by soliciting public input through a survey of partners, members, and citizens in the thirteen (13) county area served by the Pine Country RC&D Council. In addition to the survey results, phone interviews were conducted and local Council members were provided guidance on the development of this plan. The counties served by the Area Plan include the following: Bleckley, Dodge, Emanuel, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Washington, Wheeler, and Wilcox.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a strategic direction for this organization. The organization is stronger than ever before, yet more efforts are needed to ensure a strong sustainable organization that served the communities in our area.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized the Resource Conservation and Development areas. The purpose of the act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments, and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas. This included assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D areas. Currently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between the NRCS and the Pine Country RC&D Council, Inc.

The Plan contains the primary goals and objectives that the Council wishes to pursue in the next five to seven years, and will serve as the guiding tool for the development of the Annual Plan of operations and implementation of projects.

The Pine Country RC&D Area includes thirteen counties and four (4) Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Counties:	Soil and Water Districts	
Bleckley	Dodge	Ohoopie River
Emanuel	Johnson	Central Georgia
Laurens	Montgomery	Ocmulgee
Pulask	Telfair	Altamaha
Toombs	Treutlen	
Washington	Wheeler	
Wilcox		

Organization Overview

Our Mission:

Our mission is to lift the economy and improve the living conditions of the area.

Our Vision:

Our Vision is local people working together to develop, enhance, and protect their human and natural resources for the betterment of the economy and environment.

Background and Structure of the Council

Local leaders, concerned with population loss, low family income, and lack of job opportunities, a decrease in reforestation, and a decline in natural resource conservation applied to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1963 for assistance in developing a plan for a Resource Conservation and Development Area. The application was revised and approved for planning in 1967. The original application included the three counties of Treutlen, Wheeler, and Montgomery. A steering committee, with the assistance of technical agencies, prepared a comprehensive project plan. The project was authorized for operations on July 22, 1968.

The primary aim of the project was to develop and use the natural resources of the area to benefit of local residents. Implementation of the plan would expand the productive capacity of the area's resources, create new jobs, and contribute to the growth of the economy. The following lists major growth milestones:

- 1989 Obtained 501©3 Status from IRS,
- 1990 Expanded area to include Emanuel and Toombs Counties,
- 1991 Expanded area to include Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Telfair, Pulaski, and Wilcox Counties,
- 1991 Changed council name to "Pine Country ",
- 1997 Expanded area to include Johnson and Washington Counties for a total of thirteen counties.

Overview of the Area

The Pine Country RC&D Area is situated in east central Georgia. The majority of the area lies in the Southern Coastal Plains Major Land Resource Area. The upland soils are generally well drained and have a sandy or loamy surface layer and a loamy or clayey subsoil. Cultural resources are abundant, and are very important to the local residents. Water, wildlife, and timber resources dominate this remote, primarily rural area.

In 1999, the area had a per capita income of \$18,904. This figure is well below the state average of \$27,324 and the national average of \$28,546. The per capita is only 69 % of the state average and only 66% of the national average. According to the 2000 Census data, the Council's Area has a population of approximately 211,680.

All of the counties in the Council area are engaged in a wide variety of field agriculture and livestock operations. The primary crops in the region include soybeans, corn, peanuts, cotton, and truck crops. A few specialty crops such as Vidalia Onions are impacting farming. Also, several producers have converted to turf production and ornamental nursery production. There is approximately 827,000 acres of cropland in the area. This number continues to decrease due to the declining agricultural economic situation.

The timber industry is very predominant and important to the area. There are 2,314,000 acres of managed timber production in the 13 county Area. This resource is gaining value as timber is aligning itself to be the most bountiful and economical food stock for alternative fuels. Also, the Pinestraw market is very strong which provides landowners income from their trees prior to the merchantable age.

Groundwater is sufficient for municipal, industrial and irrigation of crops however, the number of streams on the Environmental Protection Agency list of impaired streams continues to increase.

Demographics

Counties	% of population in poverty	Population	Population Growth Rate	Employment Growth	Per Capita Income	Unemployment Rate
Bleckley Co	15.0%	12,141	4.1%	-15.9%	\$24,176	7.6%
Dodge Co	20.0%	19,574	2.1%	-9.6%	\$19,674	5.8%
Emanuel Co	22.0%	22,108	1.2%	27.6%	\$21,422	5.8%
Johnson Co	23.0%	9,538	11.4%	6.1%	\$18,211	5.7%
Laurens Co	18.0%	46,896	4.5%	.5%	\$23,855	5.5%
Montgomery Co	19.0%	8,909	7.7%	18.2%	\$20,083	5.8%
Pulaski Co	18.0%	9,737	1.6%	-6.2%	\$25,291	5.8%
Telfair Co	25.0%	13,205	12.0%	-1.5%	\$17,137	7.2%
Toombs Co	21.0%	27,274	4.6%	5.3%	\$22,214	6.4%
Treutlen Co	23.0%	6,753	-1.5%	.7%	\$17,175	7.4%
Washington Co	20.0%	20,118	-5.0%	-17.6%	\$23,576	7.1%
Wheeler Co	26.0%	6,706	8.5%	20.1%	\$16,207	6.8%
Wilcox Co	24.0%	8,721	1.7%	-0.5%	\$21,103	6.5%

Natural Resources

County	% Forest Land	Forest land acres	Cropland acres	No of Farms	Miles of major rivers	Miles of impaired stream segments	Total Land Area
Bleckley	57	78,000	36,000	265	16	6	140153
Dodge	64	204,000	92,460	491	40	23	322502
Emanuel	71	313,000	106,500	554	44	36	440525
Johnson	71	138,000	56,760	286	20	37	196103
Laurens	60	312,000	116,160	709	28	65	522067
Montgomery	72	113,000	49,580	252	0	17	156262
Pulaski	50	80,000	44,890	187	20	11	159501
Telfair	75	210,000	48,776	304	56	36	284096
Toombs	60	139,000	62,243	382	28	44	237466
Treutlen	80	103,000	23,182	182	0	21	129319
Washington	73	315,000	83,080	411	8	58	437446
Wheeler	81	154,000	40,000	156	28	28	191411
Wilcox	62	151,000	68,400	311	12	20	244442

Resource Needs and Opportunities

Public Participation Activities

In May of 2004, Pine Country RC&D Council members and partners met to develop long range goals for the organization. The meeting was facilitated by an employee of the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation. The facilitator asked the participants to work in small groups to discuss issues and opportunities affecting the council. The work day concluded with a list of resource needs for the area and the 2004 plan was adopted.

In July of 2007, the RC&D Council developed a survey to be used for input into the process of revising the area plan. The survey was posted on the website, presented at soil and water district meeting, emailed to partners, and direct mailed. Over 70 responses were received. The revised plan was developed from this public input. The result is a document that will guide council efforts in achieving the organizational mission over the next five years. Updates to this document will be necessary as changes in conditions dictate. The document achieves this while complimenting the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's four statutory elements described below.

Summary of Area needs and opportunities according to RC&D Program Elements

Public input identified the following needs under the **Land Conservation Element**:

1. Conservation Assistance on Agricultural lands
2. Agricultural and Environmental Education
3. Reduction of Soil Erosion

There are 827,000 acres of cropland in the RC&D Area. In addition, Georgia EPD identifies 400 miles of stream segments within the Pine Country Area as being impaired. A primary source of the impairments is sediment. One source of sediment is soil erosion on cropland. The Pine Country RC&D Council will address this problem in two ways: 1) Incorporate a conservation tillage program that makes equipment available for rent throughout the RC&D area and 2) Utilize the Envirothon competition to promote environmental education in our school system.

Public input identified the following needs under the **Water Management Element**:

1. Water Conservation
2. Groundwater Protection
3. Agricultural Water Management

The Georgia EPD has identified 400 miles of stream segments within the Pine Country Area as being impaired. Over 50% of these stream segments are listed for high levels of FC. There are three potential sources of fecal coliform: failing septic systems, agricultural livestock, and natural causes. The Pine Country RC&D Council has identified four small watersheds to install agricultural BMP's that will reduce FC loading caused by livestock operations in the adjacent stream segments. Also, within these same watersheds, the Council will implement a program that will reduce the FC loading cause by failing septic systems. This program will include repairing or replacing faulty systems and provide training to homeowners on septic system maintenance.

Another activity in the Pine Country Area that has a direct impact on water quality is forestry. There are over 2 million forested acres in the area. The 2004 Forestry BMP Survey showed a 44% compliance rate on forestry stream crossings. A reduction in stream sedimentation from forestry practices will be addressed by the RC&D Council with a program that promotes the use of portable bridges for stream crossing instead of the traditional culvert, fords, and debris crossings.

A third activity that affects water quality is the improper maintenance of unpaved roads. According to GA EPD, dirt roads rank second only to row cropping as a source of sediment. The Pine Country RC&D Council will work in partnership with three other councils to implement a program that demonstrates the use of BMP's on unpaved roads and educates county managers on dirt road maintenance.

Public input identified the following needs under the **Community Development Element**:

1. Rural Economic Development
2. Quality Jobs
3. Economic/Business Opportunities

Lack of transportation is the number one barrier to employment listed by TANF clients in a study conducted by the University of Georgia School of Social Work. Demographics show that 20% of the population in the Pine Country area is in poverty. The average unemployment rate is 6.4%. Transportation assistance provided by the Pine Country Council will support area employment opportunities and job retention.

Statistics show that per capita income is decreasing throughout the RC&D Area. There are many other opportunities for the RC&D Council to support rural economic development efforts. One planned activity is to assist rural fire departments lower their ISO ratings. By lowering insurance premium dollars, more money is circulated in the local community therefore increasing economic activity. Another opportunity for the council to support rural economic and business opportunities is to provide current information to limited resource farmers on the opportunities available through the 2008 farm bill.

Public input identified the following needs under the **Land Management Element**:

1. Zoning and Community Wide Land Management
2. Agriculture Sustainability
3. Energy Conservation

Currently there are no zoning laws or land use restrictions within the 13 county area. Several county governments have initiated zoning efforts but never received public support and the efforts were dropped. However, there have been several occasions in which undesirable or controversial businesses tried to relocate in the area which resulted in public outcry against these businesses and large legal expenses to the local county government. All of this could have been avoided if there had been some local land use planning. The Pine Country Council sees this as an opportunity to promote and encourage land use ordinances as a tool that ensures the integrity of local communities.

In 1986 the Pine Country RC&D Area estimated to have over 135,000 acres of trees in the Conservation Reserve Program. In 1996, the 10-15 year contracts began to expire. One of the biggest impacts of the expiring CRP contracts is the reduction of farm income. The Pine Country Council will promote silvopasture systems in former CRP fields as a method of agriculture sustainability and an alternative source of income to area producers.

Oil prices have resulted in dramatic increases in energy costs. Alternative fuel sources are becoming more attractive and energy conservation is a concern. There is a need to identify, promote the wise use of, and convey information about alternative energy sources throughout the area. The RC&D Council will address the energy situation by demonstrating the feasibility of producing on farm energy, train landowners on energy conservation, and support efforts to utilize local feed stocks for the production of alternative energy.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

GOAL A: ASSIST 13 AREA COUNTIES IN THE PINE COUNTRY AREA REDUCE SOIL EROSION ON 15,000 ACRES BY 2013.

Authorization Element: Land Conservation

Objective A1: By 2013, reduce erosion on 15,000 acres of cropland/pastureland by making no-till equipment available in the RC&D Area.

Strategies:

A1a. Provide a minimum of six (6) no-till drills for rent in the RC&D Area through 2013.

A1b. Replace two (2) older drills with new equipment by 2010.

A1c. Promote the no-till rental program on website, at district meetings, and in news articles through 2013.

Objective B2: Promote conservation education in thirteen school systems through 2013.

Strategies:

A2a. Host the South Region Envirothon Competition annually for the Georgia Envirothon Council through 2013.

A2b. Contact and recruit ten new schools by 2013 for increased participation in the south competition.

A2c. Process Envirothon team registrations for 4 competitions annually.

A2d. Maintain Georgia Envirothon Council financial records and submit IRS reports as required annually.

A2e. Seek 2 additional funding sources to support the Georgia Envirothon by 2013.

GOAL B: IMPROVE, CONSERVE OR PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN FOUR WATERSHEDS BY 2013.

Authorization Element: Water Management

Objective B1: Reduce non-point source pollution associated with livestock operations in four (4) priority watersheds by 2013.

Strategies:

- B1a. Install BMP's on five (5) farms and close out the EPA319 contract in the Turkey Creek Watershed by 2009.
- B1b. Install BMP's on four (4) farms in the Williamson Swamp Creek Watershed and close out the EPA 319 contract in 2008.
- B1c. Install BMP's on seven (7) farms in the Oohoopee/Little Oohoopee Watershed by 2009 and close out EPA 319 contract in 2009.
- B1d. Execute EPA 319 contract for Yam Gandy Watershed BMP Project in 2008.
- B1e. Develop contracts with 25 landowners in Yam Gandy Watershed by 2009.
- B1f. Install BMP's on 25 farms in the Yam Gandy Watershed by 2013.
- B1g. Close out EPA 319 Yam Gandy Watershed contract in 2103.

Objective B2: By 2013, reduce non-point sources of pollution associated with forestry operations by 50%.

Strategies:

- B2a. Establish guidelines in 2008 for promoting the use of portable stream crossings in forestry operations throughout the state.
- B2b. Demonstrate the use of portable bridges at six (6) timber harvesting sites in each of Georgia's 14 river basins by 2013.
- B2c. Promote the use of portable bridges at five (5) timber harvester training meetings by 2010.
- B2d. Close out EPA 319 Contract and document results by 2011.

Objective B3: Reduce non-point source pollution associated with failing septic systems in four watersheds by 2012.

Strategies:

- B3a. By 2013, conduct 8 educational programs educating homeowners on the importance of septic system maintenance.
- B3b. Repair 75 septic systems in project area by 2011.
- B3c. Pump-out 300 septic systems by 2011
- B3d. Provide septic system maintenance training to 200 homeowners within the priority watersheds by 2011.
- B3e. Provide septic system maintenance training to 200 homeowners within outside of the priority watersheds by 2011.

Objective B5: Reduce non-point source pollution in associated with unpaved roads in one watershed by 2013.

Strategies:

B4a. Develop an Unpaved Roads BMP Manual by 2008.

B4b. Print and distribute five hundred (500) manuals by 2009.

B4c. Hold one BMP training workshops for county road employees in RC&D Area by 2012.

B4d. Implement 1 (one) gravel/ dirt road sediment reduction demonstration project in RC&D Area by 2010

Goal: C – ASSIST 13 COUNTIES BUILD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BY PROVIDING ECONOMIC, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE ASSISTANCE THROUGH 2013.

Authorized Element: Community Development

Objective C1: Support employment opportunities or job retention for 50 low-income individuals in Council area through 2013.

Strategies:

C1a. Maintain a program to provide transportation to work for forty (40) needy individuals through 2013.

C1b. Assist with job placement/retention due to transportation issues for fifteen individuals by 2013.

C1c. Participate in 3 job fairs annually.

C1d. Seek 2 additional funding sources to support Wheels to Work program by 2012.

Objective C2: By 2008, educate 100 farmers in the Pine Country Area on the conservation provisions of the Farm Bill.

Strategies:

C2a. Host 3 Workshops to educate the farm community on farm bill programs by 2008.

C2b. Host 1 Master Equine Management Course to area Equine Farmers to educate them on the conservation related issues unique to the equine industry by 2008.

Objective C3: By 2013, assist 5 rural fire departments reduce their ISO ratings.

Strategies:

C3a. Meet with three fire chiefs by 2013 and introduce them to benefits of NFS technology.

C3b. By 2011, host one area wide meeting with rural firemen highlighting ISO success stories.

C3c. Assist two counties with dry hydrant installation by 2012.

GOAL D: PROMOTE LAND USE PLANNING AND PRACTICES IN THIRTEEN AREA COUNTIES THAT PROVIDE MARKETABLE PRODUCTS WHILE MAINTAINING LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY BY 2013

Authorized Element: Land Management

Objective D1: Demonstrate the use of Silvopasture systems in three counties as an alternative to traditional forestry, forage, and livestock systems by 2009.

Strategies:

D1a. Select three (3) landowners to establish silvopasture systems in the Pine Country Area by 2008.

D1b. Provide cost share assistance on three (3) silvopasture systems by 2009.

D1c. Host three (3) field day/workshops explaining the economic, environmental, and sustainability benefits of Silvopasture systems by 2010.

Objective D2: Support land use planning efforts in 13 area counties by 2013.

Strategies:

D2a. Identify a regional coalition and facilitate meetings to discuss the need for land use planning and zoning by 2010.

D2b. Provide three examples of successful land use planning efforts to council members by 2011.

GOAL E: – PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND ENERGY CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THIRTEEN AREA COUNTIES BY 2013

Auth Element: Land Management

Objective E1: Facilitate a 13 county regional effort to support alternative energy efforts by 2012.

Strategies:

E1a. Host an alternative energy seminar by 2008.

E1b. Establish a farm energy audit program by 2012.

Objective E2: Establish two demonstration sites to show the ability to produce on-farm fuel by 2008.

Strategies

E2a. Select one participant in the RC&D Area to construct and utilize an on-farm bio-fuel facility by 2008.

E2b. Provide technical assistance on the various systems available for producing fuel.

E2c. Host 1 on farm workshop explaining the economic, environmental, and sustainability benefits of alternative fuels by 2009.

Current and Potential Partnerships with USDA and Others

The Pine Country RC&D Council has established many partnerships with local, state and federal governments, in addition to working with private corporations and other non-profit organizations. Partnerships are both formal and informal agreements. Formal partnerships take the form of Memorandums of Understandings or Cooperative Agreements for long term projects of mutual benefit. Informal partnerships are most common among other organizations or entities with a history of working with the RC&D Council. Representative from many of these organizations serve on the Pine Country Council.

Federal Agencies:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Rural Development
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency

State Agencies:

- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Georgia Department of Transportation

County Organizations:

- Bleckley County Commissioner
- Dodge County Board of Commissioners

- Emanuel County Board of Commissioners
- Johnson County Board of Commissioners
- Laurens County Board of Commissioners
- Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
- Pulaski County Commissioner
- Telfair County Board of Commissioners
- Toombs County Board of Commissioners
- Treutlen County Board of Commissioners
- Washington County Board of Commissioners
- Wheeler County Board of Commissioners
- Wilcox County Board of Commissioners
- Central Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ochopee River Soil and Water Conservation District
- Altamaha Soil and Water Conservation District
- UGA Cooperative Extension Service

Non Profit Organizations:

- American Forest Organization
- Georgia RC&D Council
- Georgia Forestry Association
- Georgia Cattleman's Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- River Keepers

Linkages to the NRCS Strategic Plan: Three of the Pine Country Goals are directly related to the NRCS Strategic plan.

Pine Country RC&D GOAL A: ASSIST COUNTIES IN THE PINE COUNTRY AREA REDUCE SOIL EROSION ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS BY 2013.

NRCS Mission Goal: High Quality, Productive Soil

NRCS Objective: Farmers will manage 70 percent of cropland under systems that maintain or improve soil condition or soil carbon.

NRCS Overarching strategy: Seek and promote cooperative conservation efforts to achieve conservation goals.

Pine Country RC&D GOAL B: IMPROVE, CONSERVE OR PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN FOUR WATERSHEDS BY 2013.

NRCS Mission Goal: Clean and Abundant Water

NRCS Objective: Agricultural producers will reduce potential delivery of sediment and nutrients from their operations by 70 million tons.

NRCS Overarching strategy: Seek and promote cooperative conservation efforts to achieve conservation goals.

Pine Country RC&D GOAL E: – PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND ENERGY CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE AREA BY 2013

NRCS Mission Goal: Adequate Energy Supply

NRCS Objective: “to be established”

NRCS Overarching Strategy: Seek and promote cooperative conservation efforts to achieve conservation goals.

The Pine Country Resource Conservation and Development Council's program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A & B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Pine Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for procurement, suspension, and disbarment.

The Pine Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Pine Country RC&D Council, Inc.

By: _____
President

Date: _____

Attest: _____
Secretary

Date: _____

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Pine Country RC&D Council, Inc., on _____.

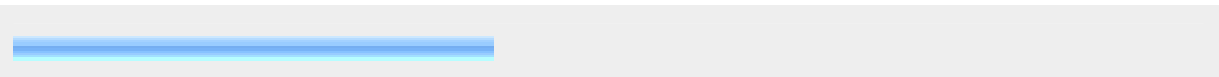
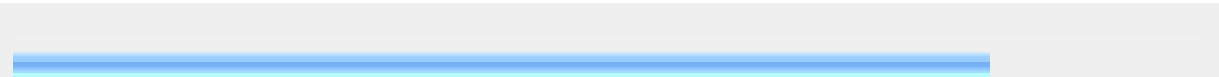
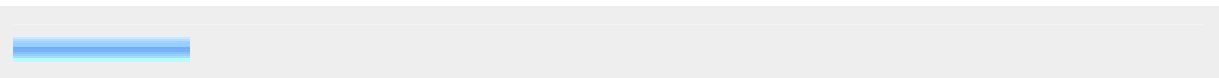
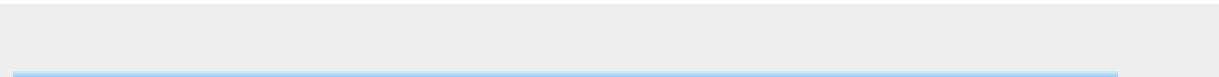
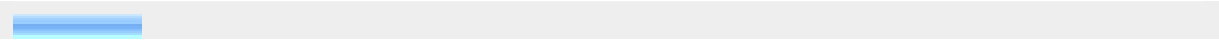
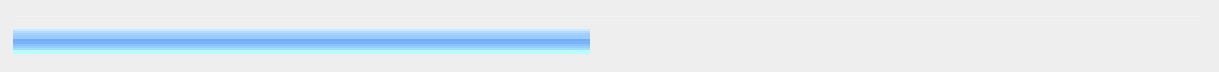

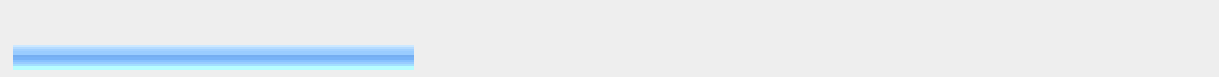
US Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of the Pine Country RC&D Council, Inc., as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
State Conservationist

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Pine Country RC&D Area Survey

What needs do you foresee for your community over the next five-to-ten years? (Please select no more than 3 in each category.) LAND CONSERVATION			Response Percent	Response Count
Reduction of soil erosion		30.6%	11	
Agricultural and Environmental Education		61.1%	22	
Streambank stabilization		11.1%	4	
Conservation Assistance on Agricultural Lands		69.4%	25	
Air Quality		8.3%	3	
Vegetation Management		36.1%	13	
 Other (please specify)		25.0%	9	

[close window](#)









Displaying 1 - 10 of 24 responses

<< Prev

[Next >>](#)

Jump To:

[Go >>](#)

	Comment Text	Response Date
 Find	1. funding assistance for conservation equipment	Fri, 8/3/07 2:10 PM
 Find	2. Different methods of vegetation suitable for Silvopasture. Mixing forages with Trees.	Fri, 7/27/07 10:03 AM
 Find	3. 1 Education in the schools and community. 2 Get help with funding to help plan and implement conservation plans. 3 Help with funding and management practices to remove undesirable vegetation.	Tue, 7/24/07 3:34 PM
 Find	4. Promote Ag & Environmental Education by sponsoring Area meetings with aproprate speakers. Also (possibly working w/ 4-H program) to reach school children. Work w/ FSA Agency to promote their conservation programs. My concern with vegetation mgt. is foreign pasture weeds that are invading the S.E. as well as the spread of privy headge in our forest. These issues could be addressed through cooperation with G.F.Commission.	Tue, 7/17/07 5:54 AM
 Find	5. Trash or waste product management is so over whelming to our government agencies. I am very concerned with how our waste is disposed of and how we are protecting our water resources.	Fri, 7/13/07 1:50 PM
 Find	6. Education: establish annual classes for those employed in agriculture to learn how agriculture and environment should work hand-in-hand. Share the benefits of a cleaner environment and share how they (farmers) can directly impact environmental conservation.	Thu, 7/12/07 8:13 AM
 Find	7. 1. Impelement positive youh development programs such as a Boys and Girls Club and other mentoring programs 2. Economic Development-Utilize services provided by GA TECH's Enterprise Innovation Institute to better compete for industry.	Wed, 7/11/07 7:26 PM
 Find	8. Require all producers who participate in USDA Farms programs through the FSA or NRCS agency to apply conservation program to be eligible for program payments.	Wed, 7/11/07 6:03 AM



9. Agricultural and environmental education can be done in the school system with the vocational students and some programs aimed at the college prep classes. Conservation Assistance on Agricultural Lands should come in the form of strip tillage grants, equipment leasing, and wetland protection. Vegetation management could involve temporary equipment leasing from your agency such as weed wipers for selective Roundup applications for one trip control of tall weed species that would require repeat mowings and constant trips across the field. This type of application would control problem nuisance weeds and be more wildlife nesting friendly.

Tue, 7/10/07 3:42 PM

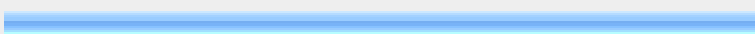

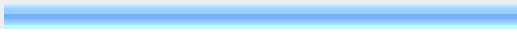
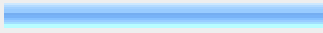
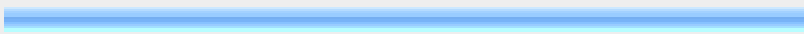
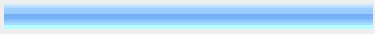
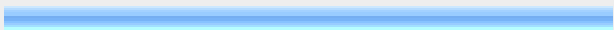
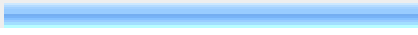


10. Get into the schools more with information to those who will be putting things into practice.

Mon, 7/9/07 7:08 PM

10 responses per page

What needs do you foresee for your community over the next five-to-ten years? (Please select no more than 3 in each category.) LAND MANAGEMENT

		Response Percent	Response Count
Agriculture Sustainability (healthy, productive soil, profitable farms)		47.1%	16
Agricultural-Tourism Opportunities		26.5%	9
Farmland Protection		32.4%	11
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection/Restoration		20.6%	7
Zoning and Community Wide Land Management		50.0%	17
Alternative Agriculture Opportunities (goats, sheep, fruit, herbs, etc.)		23.5%	8
Energy Conservation		38.2%	13
Reforestation		26.5%	9
Other (please specify)		0.0%	0

[close window](#)

Displaying 1 - 10 of 18 responses









<< Prev

Next >>

Jump To:


1


Go >>

	Comment Text	Response Date
 Find	1. Education Seminars	Fri, 8/3/07 2:10 PM
 Find	2. Again, by working with existing agencies and government agencies in order to inform the public and shape policy.	Tue, 7/17/07 5:57 AM
 Find	3. Redevelop the downtown area so that tourists will want to stop and tour the city. This has the potential of bringing in more dollars to the county.	Thu, 7/12/07 8:25 AM
 Find	4. Remove politics from zoning / land management. Ensure we (communities) have a land management strategy and hire more inspectors to enforce existing codes. Educate the general public on how energy conservation directly impacts their wallet. Provide energy managers for public assistance.	Thu, 7/12/07 8:17 AM
 Find	5. 1. Focus on affordable housing for single and multi family neighborhoods	Wed, 7/11/07 7:28 PM
 Find	6. Agriculture Sustainability could be done by taking soil samples and providing a premium for good soil management combined with good soil tillage practices. Make the owner/operator accountable for good farming stewardship practices. Zoning and Community Land management would be served through better land management practices and long term planning. Educate the public about Land Easements. Anything that promotes good Stewardship. Reforestation - There are several programs to get people to commit cropland into becoming pine forest but little support to retain pine plantings when they are clearcut. We need Reforstation programs that will assist the smaller landowner in the cost to reforest and not allow forestland to sit idle as we wait for natural regeneration.	Tue, 7/10/07 3:52 PM
 Find	7. State tourism needs to be enhanced, get more city folks out on the rural farms. Take active part in the centennial farm program and play up the fact that this is what has made our state great for the last 200 years.	Mon, 7/9/07 7:11 PM
 Find	8. I think the local governments should allow for fair zoning to allow land to be taxed on its current not its potential use. Otherwise land is permanently converted to uses that might provide short terms surges in revenue only to become a burden down the road due to population density and	Mon, 7/9/07 3:31 PM

overgrowth.

 **Find** 9. Not sure at this time Mon, 7/9/07 1:27 PM

 **Find** 10. CRP, biofuels, reduction in fuel use and cost. Mon, 7/9/07 7:39 AM

10 responses per page 

What needs to you foresee for your community over the next five-to-ten years? (Please select no more than 3 in each category.) WATER MANAGEMENT

	Response Percent	Response Count
Groundwater Protection	55.9%	19
Water Quality Improvement	32.4%	11
Nonpoint Source Pollution	8.8%	3
Wetland Protection/Restoration/Enhancement	20.6%	7
Watershed Planning	35.3%	12
Agricultural Water Management	41.2%	14
Water Conservation (Quantity)	55.9%	19

[close window](#)










Displaying 1 - 9 of 9 responses

<< Prev Next >>

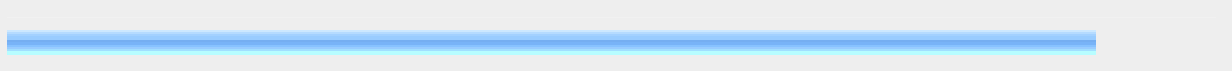
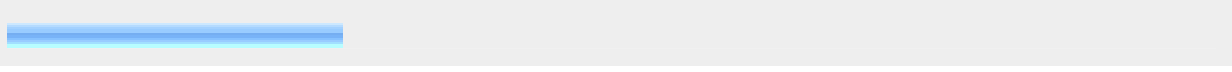
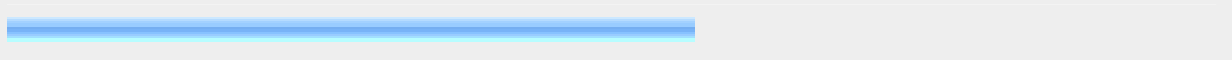
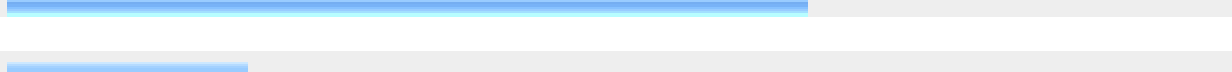
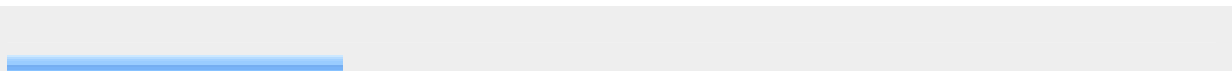
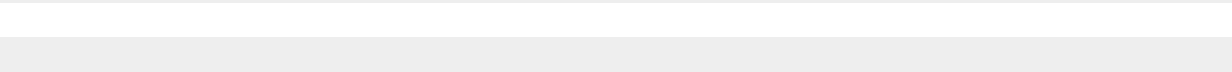
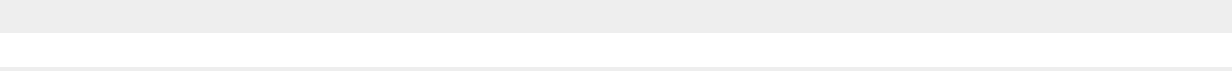
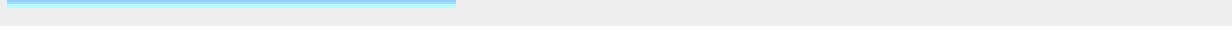
Jump To:

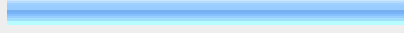
1

[Go >>](#)

	Comment Text	Response Date
 Find	1. Seek cooperation with existing agencies and government agencies to inform the public and shape policy in order to address these issues. Agricultural Water Management does not mean that farmers are restricted from water use, but that they are allowed to have access to water needed to provide food and fiber USA. This is actually a national security issue as recent reports of tainted food from China proves that we can not depend on foreign sources.	Tue, 7/17/07 6:03 AM
 Find	2. Protection for both of these areas	Fri, 7/13/07 1:52 PM
 Find	3. All the categories are really too close to seperate, but with out proper planning, quality and quantity issues are touch to put a finger on. I think it takes local planning and higher funding sources to develop a plan that address the remaining categories.	Mon, 7/9/07 3:34 PM
 Find	4. If I had the authority, I would authorize a permanent funding for irrigation water impoundments. We still have many requests for this type of assistance, especially after these droughty years we are having.	Mon, 7/9/07 7:32 AM
 Find	5. Please refer to notes made in previous categories and to the "other" section notes recorded above.	Sat, 7/7/07 11:57 PM
 Find	6. Need to continue toward building lakes to store water so we will have enough to supply our day to day needs.	Sat, 7/7/07 8:03 AM
 Find	7. Help row crop and vegetable farmers who need irrigation structures get them. Do not help landowners who are currently not actively farming.	Fri, 7/6/07 12:22 PM
 Find	8. Education will be key, but research into water conservation for agricultural operations will be beneficial.	Fri, 7/6/07 10:24 AM
 Find	9. Water management is critical -- all of your topics are critical and I had a hard time picking my top three. Again, education and hands-on assistance are important, but we must protect our water QUALITY as well. In a sense, land-use ordinances would help with that.	Fri, 7/6/07 10:21 AM

What needs do you foresee for your community over the next five-to-ten years? (Please select no more than 3 in each category.) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

		Response Percent	Response Count
Rural Economic Development		68.8%	22
Rural Fire Protection		21.9%	7
Economic/Business Opportunities		43.8%	14
Quality Jobs		50.0%	16
Transportation		15.6%	5
Local food production and availability		21.9%	7
Resource Based Economic Development		18.8%	6
Alternative Energy Sources		28.1%	9






[close window](#)

Displaying 1 - 3 of 3 responses

<< Prev Next >>

Jump To:

	Comment Text	Response Date
 Find	1. -Building more fire departments -educational seminars to assist people interested in self employment	Fri, 8/3/07 2:13 PM
 Find	2. Services that improve the condition for families and children	Wed, 7/11/07 7:32 PM
 Find	3. Focus on value-added agricultural products and entrepreneurship of local individuals.	Fri, 7/6/07 1:02 PM

10 responses per page 