

Rabun County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan 2010



Prepared for:
Rabun County
City of Clayton
City of Dillard
City of Mountain City
City of Sky Valley
City of Tallulah Falls
City of Tiger

Prepared by:
Georgia Mountains RDC
Gainesville, Georgia

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Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Solid Waste Management Plan will serve as a guide to local decision-making related to solid waste issues, and assist in meeting the statewide goal of reducing waste, providing for effective solid waste management, and ensuring ten years of collection capability and disposal capacity. This plan was developed under Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Chapter 110-4-3 Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management, effective January 1, 2004, and fulfills requirements of the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, OCGA Section 12-8-20 et seq., which establishes the statutory authority for local governments to develop solid waste management plans.

1.2 Scope

The plan is multi-jurisdictional and encompasses solid waste management planning for Rabun County and the cities of Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City, Sky Valley, Tallulah Falls and Tiger for the planning period 2005-2015, as well as the interim five-year update required in 2010. Plan elements include waste disposal stream analysis, waste reduction, collection, disposal, land limitation, public education and public involvement, followed by a five-year implementation schedule.

1.3 Community Profile

Rabun County is the most northeastern part of Georgia, along the North Carolina and South Carolina state lines and nestled into the Appalachian Mountains. Roughly 53% of the county is preserved forest land, with mountains growing taller and steeper as you progress from east to west across the county. Because of this abundance of preserved natural beauty the County is known for tourism and outdoor recreation, particularly along Lakes Rabun and Burton and the wild and scenic Chattooga River that forms the eastern border shared with South Carolina.

There are five municipalities within Rabun County, all essentially aligned along US 441 but each with a different character and role within the region. The town of Tallulah Falls straddles the county's southern boundary and welcomes visitors to the area with the scenic Tallulah Gorge and adjacent State Park. Traveling northward along US 441 the next cities encountered are, in order, Tiger, Clayton and Mountain City. Clayton is the county seat and largest, most urban community, featuring both a historic downtown and conventional retail and office uses amidst a scenic and compact space. Tiger and Mountain City, meanwhile, are smaller, predominantly residential communities complimenting Clayton's growth with modest outlying nodes of retail centers. To the north lies Dillard and Sky Valley, two small towns focused on their respective tourist resorts but with several shops and civic centers catering to local residents.

Population

Rabun County has modest population growth since the 2000 Census estimates were released. Roughly 1,500 new residents have come to the county and its municipalities since the turn of the century, amounting to approximately a 10% increase.

Table 1 - Population

Name	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Rabun County	15,085	15,389	15,561	15,828	15,939	16,149	16,305	16,519	16,734
Clayton	2,019	2,119	2,138	2,172	2,192	2,233	2,159	2,169	2,197
Dillard	228	224	238	253	257	251	245	245	248
Mountain City	830	821	812	802	790	775	757	746	756
Sky Valley	218	219	218	219	218	220	220	219	222
Tallulah Falls (pt.)	103	102	100	101	98	96	94	94	95
<u>Tiger town</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>319</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>320</u>
Unincorp. Rabun Co.	11,371	11,586	11,737	11,962	12,067	12,257	12,514	12,730	12,895
Stephens County	25,480	25,565	25,587	25,337	25,147	25,070	25,212	25,268	
Habersham County	36,124	37,004	37,588	38,244	38,732	39,388	40,896	42,272	
Rabun County	15,085	15,389	15,561	15,828	15,939	16,149	16,305	16,519	
<u>Towns County</u>	<u>9,371</u>	<u>9,576</u>	<u>9,682</u>	<u>9,940</u>	<u>10,135</u>	<u>10,268</u>	<u>10,620</u>	<u>10,894</u>	
Rabun Co. Sub-region	86,060	87,534	88,418	89,349	89,953	90,875	93,033	94,953	

Source: US Census; 2008 Estimates by GMRDC

Whether or not the county can sustain this level of growth is dependent on several factors, notably the availability of appropriate land and utilities. Issues persist with expanding sewer service and developing capacities for industrial needs, and accessibility is limited due to the surrounding topography. However, Rabun County is located in an area that is expected to continue growing for many years to come, spurred on by the expansion of the metropolitan centers of Atlanta and Greenville. As part of the Appalachia Mountain region Rabun County will undoubtedly remain popular with visitors, and ultimately that quality of life will appeal to more and more new residents seeking the mountain lifestyle on a full-time basis.

Table 2 – Projected Populations

Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Rabun County	16951	17172	17395	17621	17850	18082	18317	18555	18797	19041	19288
Clayton	2226	2255	2284	2314	2344	2374	2405	2436	2468	2500	2533
Dillard	251	255	258	261	265	268	272	275	279	282	286
Mountain City	766	775	786	796	806	817	827	838	849	860	871
Sky Valley	225	228	231	234	237	240	243	246	249	252	256
Tallulah Falls (pt.)	96	98	99	100	102	103	104	106	107	108	110
<u>Tiger town</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>328</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>369</u>
Balance	13063	13233	13405	13579	13756	13935	14116	14299	14485	14673	14864

Source: GMRDC

Economic Sectors

Like many communities in this region, Rabun County is experiencing a slow shift away from a predominantly agrarian and manufacturing based employment to one featuring more services and government employment. Overall employment remains modest due to the geographical isolation, but several smaller service sectors are growing along with the population. Rabun County will likely remain among the smaller economies of the region as other counties receive the bulk of industrial development in the area, due to closer proximity to metropolitan centers. For the foreseeable future Rabun County will not experience great change to its economic character.

Table 3 - Economic Indicators, 2005

Total Employment	All Industries	Goods			Avg. Weekly Wage
		Production	Government	Services	
Rabun County	6,165	34.3%	15.4%	50.3%	
Stephens County	9,491	30.5%	19.8%	49.7%	
Towns County	3,602	11.9%	15.6%	72.4%	
Habersham County	14,561	33.3%	21.1%	45.6%	
White County	6,351	24.8%	20.1%	55.0%	
Weekly Wages	All Industries	Goods Production	Government	Services	Avg. Weekly Wage
Rabun County	\$3,156,480	38.1%	16.8%	45.2%	\$512
Stephens County	\$5,182,086	35.0%	20.3%	44.6%	\$546
Towns County	\$1,523,646	11.2%	17.9%	70.9%	\$423
Habersham County	\$7,673,647	37.0%	22.6%	40.3%	\$527
White County	\$3,207,255	31.7%	23.7%	44.6%	\$505

Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, 2008

Table 4 - Unemployment

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Rabun	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.7	4.0	3.6	3.6	4.7
Stephens	6.5	5.6	5.6	4.7	3.5	5.0	5.0	5.9	6.3	6.0
Towns	5.7	9.8	4.8	3.9	4.0	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.5
Habersham	5.0	5.0	3.9	3.4	3.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7	4.3
White	3.4	4.1	3.8	4.3	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.2

Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, 2008

Rabun did have a larger manufacturing base as recently as the late 1990's, particularly in the textiles production industries. However much of that employment base has been closed down and 3 of the county's five largest current employers are service based. Fortunately Rabun County does feature several businesses that support the tourist industry and bring outside revenues into the county, such as the Dillard House and the Rabun Gap – Nacoochee School, a regional boarding facility.

The result in these economic changes is a subtle shift in the make up of the county's waste stream, yielding increases in common trash products such as paper wastes and recyclable items. Meanwhile, specialized industrial solid waste has been slowly decreasing or holding steady, depending on the type.

Largest Employers

Within Rabun County

Dillard House Inc
Hanesbrands
Medical Management Concepts Llc
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
Wal-Mart Associates Inc

Outside Rabun County

Fieldale Farms Corp
Habersham County Medical Center
Ethicon Inc
Habersham State Prison
Piedmont College

Source: Georgia Dept. of Labor, 2008

Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

2.1 Waste Characterization Study

Georgia Department of Natural Resources commissioned consulting firm of R.W. Beck, Inc. to perform a multi-phase, statewide municipal solid waste characterization study to better understand the composition of solid waste being disposed in Georgia. For the Georgia Mountains RDC, field sampling was performed at the Oak Grove Landfill in Winder, Georgia. Waste generated outside the state of Georgia was excluded from the study.

Cities and counties can use data generated from the project to estimate the composition of their municipal solid waste streams. The data also can be used in determining the quantity of material available for recovery, measuring the effectiveness of existing recycling programs, and right-sizing solid waste and recycling facilities.

Figure 2.1 Georgia Mountains RDC Disposed MSW Composition

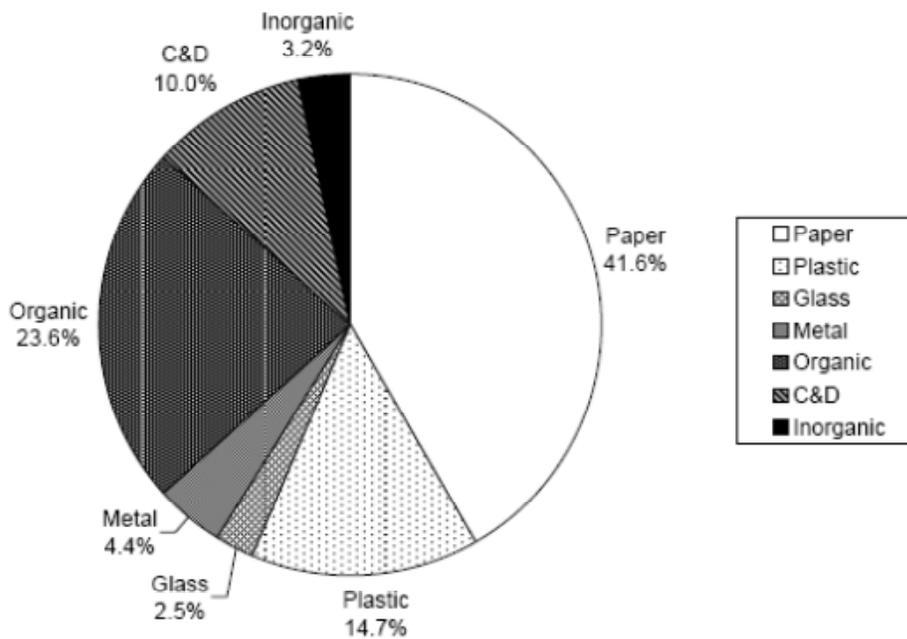


Figure 2.1 represents the aggregate composition of major material groups in the Georgia Mountains RDC's disposed municipal solid waste stream. As shown, paper and organics make up the largest fractions of the waste stream, followed by plastics. C&D and metal made up the fourth and fifth largest fractions of the waste stream, with inorganics and glass making up the smallest portion of the waste stream.

2.2 Waste Stream Projections

The population and economic projections for Rabun County indicate only marginal changes to the volume and character of residents and land use activities. As a result, it is estimated that waste amounts for the ten-year planning period will remain reasonably consistent with population trends and projections for the area.

Because Rabun County and its cities generally have not experienced significant seasonal fluctuations in the waste stream character or volume in the past several years, and do not anticipate seasonal fluctuations during the planning horizon. Thus, calculation of future waste production is based upon existing ratios of waste to residents. Waste generated in Rabun County and its cities is disposed at the R & B Landfill in Banks County. Landfill records indicate 17,230.49 tons of MSW from Rabun County and cities in 2008, and 16,041.49 tons for 2007. This information was used to develop waste stream estimates and projections for the planning period, based upon the anticipated total population growth for the area*. The resulting projections suggest a net increase in projected tons of solid waste produced by about 2,500 tons per year to just over 19,000 tons.

**= Though this plan represents the 2005-2010 time frame tonnage collected for 2005 and 2006 had already been confirmed at the time of plan production. Thus, for the purposes of this plan only the most current annual values were used.*

Table 5 – Calculation of Waste Production Rates

	MSW annual tonnage	Daily tonnage	Pounds per day	Total population	Lbs./ person/day
2008	17,230.49	47.2068219	94,413.64	16,734	5.64
2007	16,041.49	43.9492877	87,898.58	16,519	5.32
Average pounds per person per day					5.48

Table 6 – Calculation of Annual Waste Production

	<u>Population</u>	<u>lbs./day</u>	<u>tons/day</u>	<u>tons/year</u>
2009	16,951	92,891.5	46.4	16,952.7
2010	17,172	94,102.6	47.1	17,173.7
2011	17,395	95,324.6	47.7	17,396.7
2012	17,621	96,563.1	48.3	17,622.8
2013	17,850	97,818.0	48.9	17,851.8
2014	18,082	99,089.4	49.5	18,083.8
2015	18,317	100,377.2	50.2	18,318.8
2016	18,555	101,681.4	50.8	18,556.9
2017	18,797	103,007.6	51.5	18,798.9
2018	19,041	104,344.7	52.2	19,042.9
2019	19,288	105,698.2	52.8	19,289.9
2020	19,713	108,027.2	54.0	19,714.9

Similar to the trends for total waste production, trends in the categories of waste types are expected to mirror existing ratios. Using the establish variances between the different material groups cited for the Georgia Mountains region, a profile of the waste types projected for Rabun County can be found in Table 7. Paper and organic wastes should remain the most prevalent type, as Rabun county continues to be a residential and tourist based community, with plastic wastes as the third most abundant.

Table 7 - Estimated Annual Tonnage by Major Material Group

	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Organic</u>	<u>Plastic</u>	<u>C&D</u>	<u>Metal</u>	<u>Inorganic</u>	<u>Glass</u>
2009	7,052	4,001	2,492	1,695	763	542	424
2010	7,144	4,053	2,525	1,717	773	550	429
2011	7,237	4,106	2,557	1,740	783	557	435
2012	7,331	4,159	2,591	1,762	793	564	441
2013	7,426	4,213	2,624	1,785	803	571	446
2014	7,523	4,268	2,658	1,808	814	579	452
2015	7,621	4,323	2,693	1,832	824	586	458
2016	7,720	4,379	2,728	1,856	835	594	464
2017	7,820	4,437	2,763	1,880	846	602	470
2018	7,922	4,494	2,799	1,904	857	609	476
2019	8,025	4,552	2,836	1,929	868	617	482
2020	8,201	4,653	2,898	1,971	867	631	493

Beyond the standard breakdown of waste categories, Rabun County and the municipalities should be prepared for potential increases in C&D material, depending on evolving trends in the land development industry. Should residential and retail construction increase after the current economic recession the resulting wastes could come closer to the volume of plastic waste generated within Rabun County. Temporary spikes in material types might also be experienced as the County and cities encourage the redevelopment/reuse of vacant commercial and industrial facilities.

Waste Reduction Element

3.1 Inventory

Rabun County provides seven drop off/recycling centers that are staffed 12 hours a day for seven days a week, available to all residents within the county. These centers take most basic recyclables, including the following:

- Corrugated and mixed paper
- HDPE and PET plastics
- Brown, green and clear glass
- Vehicle Batteries
- Scrap metal
- Tires
- Aluminum

To date service provided through this system and at these facilities is considered adequate. Overall residents have indicated the variety of items accepted is quite favorable, and accommodations of locations and hours are also acceptable. There have been incidents of litter and/or illegal dumping encountered in several communities, but nothing considered representative of a waste management issue or a shortcoming of the existing drop off center approach. Meanwhile, recycling center services are regularly promoted through signs and notices, including references through recycling programs provided within the local school system.

3.2 Mulching

Rabun County does accept yard waste at the C&D Landfill on Boggs Mountain Road, which is processed and dumped on site. All communities also participate in the annual “Bring One for the Chipper” program for the collection and mulching of after-season Christmas trees.

3.3 Special Management Issues

Items of special waste management categories, including household hazardous waste, must be taken to a facility outside the county, and requests are usually coordinated through the landfill. Requests for this remain minimal and Rabun County and the cities would require additional needs for, and a formal assessment of handling for, specific waste concerns taking on additional services and/or facilities.

3.4 Special Conditions Resulting From Disaster

Volumes of waste or special waste generated by a disaster event are to be addressed through coordination of the County EMA and Road Department, with support from the Sheriff’s Office and Public Works as needed. Established procedure calls for immediate removal of debris and waste from public areas to the transfer station, to be pre-sorted for recycling as feasible. Fallen trees and wood debris are to be cut, ground and chipped as quickly as possible. The public will be also notified of emergency drop-off site locations for tree limbs and other special waste through traditional media outlets and other public notification methods available immediately following the disaster event.

In the event of de-population of poultry operations by disaster or public health concern, birds will be disposed of with guidance from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Department of Agriculture. A long-term, dedicated site for disposal has not yet been identified, but the County will work with the local Extension Office and DNR to establish candidate sites and official recommendations by the end of 2010.

3.5 Waste Reduction Needs and Goals

Need

To continue to reduce the amount of solid waste produced in the communities through recycling, mulching, and other forms of waste reduction. This option of reduction will inevitably prove the most effective and environmentally sound component to reduce waste.

Goals

Expand information programs on and about solid waste, what it costs, who has to pay, and how we can reduce the volume as well as the cost.

Continue to provide cost-effective methods of recycling collection for citizens and business in the county through operation of the convenience centers.

Waste Collection Element

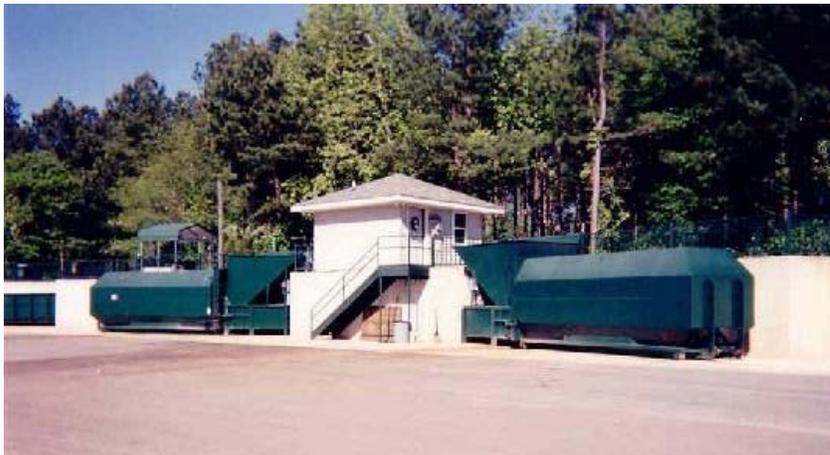
4.1 Inventory

Collection of municipal solid waste in Rabun County and Cities is handled in a variety of ways.

Rabun County (unincorporated)	Seven Drop-off Centers
Clayton	Contracted to Waste Away Corp.
Dillard	NA
Mountain City	NA
Sky Valley	Collected by City
Tallulah Falls	Collected by City
Tiger	NA

Rabun County Collection Centers

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Location</u>
Boggs Mountain	718 Longview Road	Tiger
Charlie Mountain	1405 Charlie Mountain	Clayton
Chechero	1776 Highway 76 E.	Clayton
Rabun Gap	3766 Highway 441 N.	Rabun Gap
Warwoman	5869 Warwoman Road	Clayton
Tallulah Falls	9976 US 441 S	Tallulah Falls
Laurel Lodge	4532 Laurel Lodge Road	Clarksville



4.2 Adequacy of Collection Programs

Based on population growth projections for the planning period, current methods of collection should prove adequate for anticipated demand across all communities. Both Sky Valley some Clayton customers of Waste Away enjoy twice weekly pick up while Tallulah Falls currently collects waste from residents once per week. To date this has been considered sufficient, however the City of Sky Valley is investigating turning that service over to a private contractor as a possible measure of cost savings.

4.3 Contingency Strategy for Interruption of Services

Should the current collection practices become interrupted or unavailable, governments would seek other haulers to provide for collection of solid waste for their citizens via the process outlined below. In the event of any interruption of services, residents would be directed to take their solid waste to the available Convenience Centers or to transfer stations in adjacent counties pending agreements with Habersham and/or Stephens County. (Those agreements will be discussed in 2010).

As a process for identifying new haulers, the cities would immediately begin contacting available haulers as recorded on a list referenced by the Department of Community Affairs (see list within this plan). This list will be updated annually (at each local government office) by communicating with each hauler to verify contact information and the availability to provide interim and/or permanent service to each/every community. Arrangements for restoring service would require that said service be initiated within 2-4 weeks, preferably the former time frame. These arrangements would also discuss possible collection of private waste dropped off at convenience centers on an interim basis should the capacity to provide full private pick-up/curb-side service require additional time.

Notification to the public would involve the following information and methodology:

- Notice within the local legal organ about the loss of previous service provider and the search for a new service provider, including contact information for the appropriate City or County office to learn more information;
- Notices mailed to customers as possible;
- Signs posted along primary collection routes and within major civic centers (city hall, post office, etc) confirming the temporary loss of service, as well as directions on how to dispose of wastes during this time frame;

As service is restored the public would be mailed notices concerning the details of the service, especially the contact information for the new provider (if applicable) and any changes to the provisions of service and/or service costs.

4.4 Contingency Strategy for Disaster

Volumes of waste or special waste generated by a disaster event will be collected by citizens, City and County forces. As indicated above Rabun County EMA and Road Department crews would lead immediate storm/ disaster waste collection, which will be pre-sorted for recycling as feasible. In the event of de-population of poultry operations by disaster or public health concern, birds will be disposed of with guidance from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Department of Agriculture. A dedicated site for disposal has not yet been identified, but the County will work with the local Extension Office and DNR to establish candidate sites within the year.

The public will be notified of emergency drop-off site locations for tree limbs and other special waste through traditional media outlets and other public notification methods available immediately following the disaster event.

4.5 Needs and Goals

Need

To provide collection of solid waste produced in the county through use of private and contract haulers, city forces and private citizens.

Goals

Continue to provide cost-effective methods of collection for citizens and business in the county through operation of the convenience centers, private and contract haulers, and city forces, as necessary.

Optional Waste Haulers, as currently permitted by Ga EPD.

County	Permit Number	Facility Name	Owner/Contact Address	City	Zip Code	Area Code	Phone #
Rabun	PBR-119-05COL	Waste Away Disposal Collection Operation	P.O. Box 252	Lakemont	30552	706	782-6153
Stephens	PBR-127-12COL	R.G.P.	P.O. Box 1883	Toccoa	30577	706	886-6399
Stephens	PBR-127-17COL	Tristar Of America, Inc.	250 Parkside Club Court	Duluth	30097	770	232-0550
Stephens	PBR-127-18COL	Stephens Co- Douglas Grant Collection Operations	4230 Hwy 184-Homer Road	Stephens	30577	706	886-9778
Stephens	PBR-127-19COL	L. D. Loftis Garbage Pickup	340 Mulkey Road	Toccoa	30577	706	282-0214
Stephens	PBR-127-10COL	Carter Royal Disposal	5192 Brookhaven Circle	Toccoa	30577	706	779-5211
Stephens	PBR-127=21COL	Stephens Co =No Hassle Trash Service	7596h Defoor Rd	Toccoa	30577	706	7797090
Towns	PBR-139-04COL	Towns Co-Sprinkles Sanitation Service	Po Box 383	Young Harris	30582	706	379-2285
Towns	PBR-139-02COL	Southern Environmental Services	259 Murphy Highway	Blairsville	30512	706	745-4260
Habersham	PBR-068-13COL	Habersham Co- Lil' Pigs Sanitation	205 Rising Sun Lane	Clarksville	30523	706	754-1340
Habersham	PER-068-11COL	Habersham Co-D&B Sanitation	259 Butterfly Lane	Clarksville	30523	706	754-5379
Habersham	PBR-068-16COL	Habersham Co- North Georgia Sanitation	2345 Fredd Pitts Road	Clarksville	30523	708	768-6600
Habersham	PBR-066-18COL	Habersham North Georgia Bio Clean Biomedial Waste Decon And Collection	131 Mcallister Rd	Cornelia	30531	678	989-9224
Habersham	PBR-068-12COL	Habersham Co- Goss & Son Sanitation	1968 Wall Bridge Road	Clarksville	30523	706	939-6897
Habersham	PBR-068-09COL	Gator And Sons Sanitation, Inc.	Pob 1325	Clarksville	30523	706	754-2110
Habersham	PBR-068-05COL	James R. Galloway	8 Edwards Street	Cornelia	30531	706	778-3690
Habersham	PBR-068-02COL	James R. Galloway Cornelia Collection	8 Edwards Street	Cornelia	30531	706	778-3690
Habersham	PBR-068-14COL	Habersham Co- Crazy J's Sanitation	1610 J. Warren Road	Cornelia	30531	706	499--4425
Habersham	PBR-068-14COL	Habersham Co- Crazy J's Sanitation	1610 J. Warren Road	Cornelia	30531	706	499-4425

Waste Disposal Element

5.1 Inventory of Disposal Facilities

All Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) collected in Rabun County and the cities is disposed at R & B Landfill in Banks County. Rabun County does maintain a Construction and Demolition Landfill at Boggs Mountain Road that is open from 7 am – 4:30 on weekdays and on Saturday mornings during the summer. A new cell for this site has recently been approved by the State, and the County will begin preparation of the grounds within the year.

Facility Name Permit Number	Facility Type Description Dominion	Reporting Year	Remaining Capacity (CY)	Average Daily Tons	Rate Of Fill (CYD)	Years Remaining	Estimated Fill Date
Chambers R & B Landfill Site #2 006-009D(MSWL)	Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Private Commercial	2008	14114415	3000	4412	10	8/6/2017
Rabun Co - Boggs Mountain Rd C/D Landfill 119-006D(C&D)	Construction and Demolition Landfill	2008	216450	17	50	16	3/13/2024

5.2 Thermal Treatment Technologies

There are no thermal treatment facilities operated within Rabun County, nor have there been any significant volumes of requests for such facilities. The closest available approved thermal treatment facilities are within Hall County, roughly 60 minutes south from Clayton.

5.3 Contingency Strategy for Interim Disposal

Should the current disposal practices become interrupted or unavailable, Rabun County governments would seek other MSW landfills located in adjacent or nearby counties that would be able to provide capacity for disposal of solid waste for their citizens.

The process for identifying new disposal facilities would immediately begin with the Cities and County contacting regional sites as recorded on a list referenced by the Department of Community Affairs (see below). This list will be updated annually (at each local government office) by communicating with each facility to verify contact information and the availability to receive waste from each/every community. Arrangements for delivering waste should be initiated within 2 weeks, if not immediately.

Facility	Location	ID #	Phone #
Habersham Co. - SR13 MSWL	Cornelia	068-020D(SL)	706-778-0926
Hall Co. – Candler Rd. (SR60)	Gainesville	069-015D(MSWL)	770-531-6853
Stephens Co. –SR145 PH 2&3	Toccoa	127-003D(SL)	706-886-1920

Notification to the public would involve the following information and methodology:

- Notice within the local legal organ about the loss of previous service provider and the search for a new service provider, including contact information for the applicable City or County office to learn more information;
- Mailout notices as possible to all customers;
- Signs posted along primary collection routes and within major civic centers (City halls, post office, etc) confirming the temporary loss of service, as well as directions on how to dispose of wastes during this time frame;

As service is restored the public will be mailed notices concerning the details of the service, especially the contact information for the new provider (if applicable) and any changes to the provisions of service and/or service costs.

5.4 Contingency Strategy for Disaster

Volumes of waste or special waste generated by a disaster event will be disposed of at R & B Landfill in Banks County. In the event that this landfill is unable to accept the disaster waste, governments would seek other MSW landfills located in adjacent or nearby counties that would be able to provide capacity for disposal of storm or disaster waste for their citizens. The governments are aware of available facilities and will be prepared to ensure that any interruption of service would be minimized.

In the event of de-population of poultry operations by disaster or public health concern, birds will be disposed of with guidance from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Department of Agriculture. A dedicated site for disposal has not yet been identified, but the County will work with the local Extension Office and DNR to establish candidate sites within the year.

5.5 Assessment of Existing Facilities and Current Practices

All Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) collected in Rabun County and its' cities is disposed of at R & B Landfill in Banks County, for which this facility anticipates 9 years of capacity. Given the projected rate of growth for the planning area, the MSW disposal needs of Rabun County will not be met by this facility unless further expansion is allowed. Currently, the administrators at the Chambers R & B Landfill are exploring the possibilities for expansion and developing a facility plan for handling waste beyond the latest identified for reaching capacity at the existing Banks County site. Rabun County and the Cities will work with the company in planning for additional capacity and long-term disposal, and adjust their contracts and plans as needed pending the results of this study.

Similarly, there is considered sufficient space within the existing County C&D landfill to handle projected volumes of construction and demolition debris. The County also works with corporate developers to plan for minimizing C&D waste and, where possible, having it hauled away by the developer.

As a result of these assessments Rabun County and the Cities do not identify a need to locate new facilities within the county to meet the waste disposal needs of its residents. This will need to be revisited, however, pending the results of the expansion plans for the Chamber R & B Landfill site.

5.6 Needs and Goals

Need

To provide disposal capacity of solid waste produced in the county through use of private operators of permitted landfill or disposal facilities.

Goals

Continue to provide cost-effective methods of disposal for citizens and business in the county through use of R & B Landfill or other private permitted landfill.

Continue to maintain contact with other MSW landfills located in adjacent or nearby counties that would be able to provide capacity for disposal in the event of interruption or unavailability of adequate disposal capacity.

Land Limitation Element

This element of the Solid Waste Management Plan assesses the various environmental conditions that place restrictions on the locations and feasibility of landfills. Landfills are a necessary land use within states and regions in order to manage the waste produced by communities, however, environmental prudence and sound practices mandate that any facility be located in accordance with all land disturbance and environmental regulations.

6.1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

(Note: Much of this element is taken/paraphrased from the Rabun County Joint Comprehensive Plan, 2005)

Topography

Rabun County is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Appalachian Mountain Chain, with thousands of acres of woodland, streams, high ridges and fertile valleys. Situated in the extreme northeastern corner of the state, the County features the Chattooga River on the east and the Appalachian Trail on the west, and also contains significant portions of the Little Tennessee River, and the Tallulah River. Much of the forest land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service (63% of the county) and the Georgia Power Company (approximately 8%), with another 1% is owned by the State.

Rabun County has two primary physiographic districts: the Blue Ridge Mountains District and the Gainesville Ridges District. The Blue Ridge Mountains District occupies almost the entire County with the exception of a small portion along the Chattooga River. Rugged mountains and ridges ranging in elevation from 3,500 to 4,700 feet characterize the Blue Ridge Mountain District. Varying degrees of erosion have carved the mountains with both narrow and wide stream valleys. Many of these valleys lie 1,500 to 2,000 feet below adjacent mountaintops. In the southeastern edge of the county lies a small strip of the Gainesville Ridges District, part of the Georgia Piedmont Province. The Gainesville Ridges District is characterized by northeast trending, low, parallel ridges dissected by narrow stream valleys. The Gainesville Ridges of Rabun County range from 1,500 to 1,600 feet in elevation.

The geologic history of the County includes violent mountain building during the Triassic Geologic Period and subsequent massive earth moving erosion that smoothed the craggy mountains into today's rolling ridges and valleys. Mineral resources in the County include granite, feldspar, mica, kyanite, talc, soapstone, quartzite, pyrite, and gold.

Steep Slopes

Slopes in the County range from nearly level to 90%. Steep slopes are classified as areas with a slope of 25% or greater, and account for 43% of the county's area (103,500 acres) (Map 6-5). Privately-owned property with steep slopes account for 21,000 acres of Rabun County. The prevalence of severely steep slopes imposes

extreme development limitations and excessive erosion conditions including mudslides and landslides.

Some developers avoid extremely steep slopes, but vacation homes are often perched on the sides of mountains to afford a view of the beautiful landscape. This practice has become more common in recent years. Other locations of concern regarding steep slopes include the area surrounding Lake Rabun and Lake Burton and the US 441 corridor. All of these locations have both steep slopes and the potential of being developed. Other cities in the County do not occupy areas with such steep terrain; however, steep slopes are considered an environmental limitation for all of Rabun County and its municipalities. Related control mechanisms already in place, such as site plans, development regulations, and soil erosion and sedimentation control ordinances should be strengthened. These control mechanisms can be included in existing ordinances or developed as a stand-alone measure.

Protected Mountains

The DNR has established standards for the protection of mountain areas through provisions of the Georgia Mountain and River Corridor Protection Act. Specifically, affected "mountains" are: those areas which have a slope of 25% or greater for at least 500 horizontal feet, and all areas which lie above 2,200 feet in elevation. The crests, summits and ridge tops of mountains whose flanks meet the criteria for a protected mountain shall also be included within the protected area, even though the slopes may be less than 25%.

Two important factors greatly minimize the impact of the Act on the County. First, the 63% of land managed by the USDA Forest Service, in which the majority of Rabun's high mountains are located, are protected to a higher degree than provided in the mountain protection criteria. Of the remaining lands, approximately 8,900 acres of privately owned lands in Rabun County fall within the mountain protection criteria. Second, the Act was watered down to the point that regulations have little impact on mountain protection. However, the criteria set forth for mountain protection are a step in the right direction. All of the governments within the County are affected by the Mountain Protection Act.

Prime Agricultural and Forested Lands

Rabun County contains an abundance of prime forest land, most of which is contained within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee National Forest and is not under the County's jurisdiction. In 1998, the Forest Statistics for North Georgia identified 207,300 acres of total forestland in Rabun County (87% of the total area in the county). Privately owned forestland in Rabun County accounts for 57,900 acres (24%). Forest types include White Pine-Hemlock, Shortleaf Pine, Oak-Pine and Oak-Hickory. It is important that, as timber is harvested in the National Forest and private lands, replanting programs are promptly begun to preserve and regenerate this important natural and economic resource. Forest Service officials are taking a more environmentally sensitive approach towards protecting wildlife habitats and sensitive ecosystems. National Forests must now have guidelines for ecosystem management, which is comprised of a management prescription for each ecosystem as well as a

description of the emphasis for the area, desired condition, goals, objectives, and standards.

Prime Agricultural Land

Private landowners in Rabun County manage substantial amounts of prime forestland, but only a small portion of the county is used for agricultural purposes. The Soil Survey for Rabun County only identifies 9,850 acres, or 4% of the land area in Rabun County, as prime agricultural lands. The 2002 Census of Agriculture, developed by the Department of Agriculture, reported the area actually used as farmland in Rabun County to be 9,977 acres, or 4.2% of the County's land area. This contrasts with the 1992 area that was used as farmland, which was 12,733 acres or 5.4% of the County's land area. The average farm size has also declined from 97 acres in 1992 to 68 acres in 2002. Of the land occupied by the 146 farms that were identified in Rabun County in 2002, 3,641 acres (1.5% of the County's land area) were classified as cropland, while 2,266 acres were identified as harvested cropland (less than 1%). Both cropland and harvested cropland have been in decline since the 1992 Census of Agriculture. The 1992 study identified 6,865 acres as total cropland in Rabun County, which represents a 53% loss in agricultural land between 1992 and 2002. The figures for harvested cropland are similar. In 1992, 3,625 acres were harvested, which is a 62% decline in land actively used for agriculture. Irrigated acreage in the county was 409 acres in 2002, but has declined sharply from 3,314 acres in 1992. Despite the decline of lands used for agricultural purposes, agriculture remains a significant portion of the County's economy. The value of crops in 2002 was estimated to be 2.3 million dollars, while livestock and poultry were valued at 8.2 million dollars. Prime agricultural areas in Rabun County are located in stream valleys and on gentle slopes adjacent to floodplains.

These locations coincide with prime developable lands. As a result, the conversion of farmland into developed areas is common in locations that are transitioning from a traditionally agricultural economy to an economy based on the services, tourism, or industry. Increasing development pressures in Rabun County will speed the rate of farmland conversion.

Wetlands

Wetlands serve as important fish and wildlife habitats and breeding grounds and are an integral part of the food chain. Numerous plant varieties and animal species have adapted to the special conditions of freshwater wetlands and cannot survive elsewhere. Wetlands act as water filters and play an important role in water quality. They serve as storage areas for storm and floodwaters as well as natural recharge areas where ground and surface water are interconnected. In addition, wetlands are aesthetically pleasing and can be used as recreational areas.

The Corps of Engineers defines freshwater wetlands as: "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency or duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas."

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for restoring and maintaining the environmental integrity of the nation's wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is the major federal regulatory tool for preserving the nation's wetlands, and is jointly administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA. Under Section 404, a permit is required for wetland disturbing activities. Clean Water legislation discourages any alteration or degradation to wetlands unless it can be proven that no long-term adverse impacts or loss of wetlands will result.

The Georgia Planning Act of 1990 requires that local governments recognize wetlands identified in the Heritage Wetlands Inventory, which is sponsored by The Department of Natural Resources. Currently, neither Rabun County nor its cities have ordinances that specifically address wetland protection. However, if significant wetlands are to be disturbed (i.e., discharge of fill into a wetland), the 404 permitting process is utilized. Due to the limited number of significantly sized wetlands in Rabun County and its cities, this is rarely necessary. Rabun County municipalities recognize wetlands as a precious resource and the 404 permitting process is currently effective for protecting larger wetlands, but efforts to preserve rare "mountain bogs" should be pursued. Located at the heads of streams, along seepage slopes and near springs, they contain saturated peat-rich soils and support a variety of trees, shrubs, and rare plants. If attention is focused on any wetlands, it should be the mountain bogs because of their rare nature and vulnerability. Plant collection, livestock grazing, and ditching have already disrupted a number of these sensitive and unique natural communities.

The National Wetlands Inventory has identified most significant wetlands in the County, including agricultural ponds, detention ponds, and stream channels. The creation of a map that identifies only sensitive, rare, and significant wetlands should be undertaken in the future, perhaps at the County level. This map could serve as a red flag system for development, would contribute to the protection of the most important wetlands, and would enable communities to consider potential problems associated with wetland disturbance. Also required for wetlands protection, land use plans will include a list of uses that are acceptable and unacceptable within an identified wetland. The criteria states that unacceptable uses may include:

1. Receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants,
2. Hazardous or sanitary waste landfills,
3. Other uses unapproved by local governments.

Because 63 % of the land in Rabun County is managed by the National Forest, wetland protection measures, if adopted, can only go so far. It is also important that the U.S. Forest Service continue to be aware of, and sensitive to the needs and desires of, the County. Adhering to best management practices for vegetation management and watershed restoration are significant steps in the right direction, and will aid in preserving some of these wetlands for a period of time.

Flood Plains

A floodplain consists of "the channel and the relatively flat area adjoining the channel of a natural stream or river which has been or may be covered by flood water. The

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has produced Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS), which identify the 100 year flood level for Rabun County and its municipalities. FIRMS identify the areas that are candidate for federal flood insurance. The cities of Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City, and Tallulah Falls all have flood hazard areas identified within their jurisdictions and are enrolled in the national flood insurance program. While FEMA has identified small areas of flood hazard in Tiger, the city is not enrolled in the federal insurance program. FEMA does not identify any flood hazard areas in Sky Valley.

Currently, Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City, Tallulah Falls, and Rabun County have floodplain management ordinances and participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. These ordinances limit development within the 100 year floodplain only to uses appropriate for flood areas. Municipalities not covered by flood insurance are not financially protected in the event of a flood and federal loaning institutions will not provide loans for activities in flood prone areas. In addition, the existence of flood maps and floodplain management ordinances help to steer improper uses away from floodplains, therefore reducing the risk of floodplain damage, danger, and public and private loss. A Floodplain Management Ordinance must regulate all areas within a municipality's 100-year floodplain before the National Flood Insurance becomes effective. Under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1963 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, all communities are required to meet the minimum federal requirements for floodplain management, but may impose more stringent or comprehensive regulations. Below is a list of uses commonly allowed within designated 100 year flood plain and typically included in municipal floodplain ordinances, although ordinances and allowed uses within the 100-year floodplain may vary.

Protected Rivers

Rabun County's stream systems are of great value for aesthetics, biological habitat, recreation, and their related economic importance. The Federal Government, the State of Georgia, and the local governments of Rabun County have taken action to help protect the County's streams.

Under definition of the Georgia Mountain and River Corridor Protection Act, streams with an annual average discharge of 400cfs, have established river corridor protection measures, which have been established by the DNR. The Chattooga River and the Tallulah River south of Lakemont have been identified as protected river corridors. Due to the location of these rivers, only the U.S.F.S, the County, and the City of Tallulah Falls are affected by the Act. The Department of Natural Resources requires that local governments containing protected rivers adopt River Corridor Protection Plans as part of their comprehensive plans and map the protected area, which includes a 100 foot buffer to be maintained along the stream banks.

Development in the Chattooga River protected corridor is not considered an issue, due to its designation as a Wild and Scenic River. This designation provides greater protection to the river than DNR criteria. However, the Tallulah River does not have such a designation. Therefore, affected communities must assess the impact of development within the corridor and develop a strategy to minimize potential problems in the future. Currently, the river downstream of Tallulah Falls Dam is not experiencing

negative impacts associated with development or contamination. Currently, the only potentially significant negative environmental impact within the protected river corridor is associated with the expansion of 441 between Tallulah Falls Dam and Tiger which has resulted in significant sedimentation of the Tallulah River within the protected corridor. Although this is a temporary disturbance, Rabun County is encouraged to adopt a river corridor criteria to satisfy DNR requirements and ensure continued permitting through the DNR.

DNR's river protection criteria are discussed briefly in the following paragraph:

In a protected river corridor, natural vegetative buffers must be maintained, extending on both sides, 100 feet from the top of the riverbank. In addition, handling areas for the receiving and storage of hazardous waste and landfills are prohibited. Single-family dwellings are allowed within the buffer under the following conditions: 1) the dwelling complies with zoning regulations, 2) the dwelling is on a minimum 2 acre parcel, 3) density allowed is only one dwelling per 2 acres, and 4) septic tanks may be located within the buffer but associated drainage fields may not. Existing industrial and commercial land uses within the corridor are exempt from the above criteria provided that: 1) they do not impair the drinking quality of the river water, and 2) industrial and commercial activities meet all state and federal environmental rules and regulations.

Trout Stream Protection Areas

Additional river protection in the County includes specific provisions with regards to "trout stream protection areas." The Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act establishes a 50 foot buffer along the banks of any state waters that are classified as "trout streams" except where a roadway drainage structure must be constructed or on small springs or streams that have an average annual discharge of 25 gallons per minute or less shall have a 25 foot buffer. Designated trout streams in Rabun County are classified as either primary streams, where trout can both survive and reproduce, or secondary trout streams, where streams support trout populations but the conditions are not suitable for reproduction. Primary trout streams in Rabun County include the Chattooga River and its tributaries, the Little Tennessee River and its tributaries, and the Tallulah River and its tributaries. The only secondary trout streams in Rabun County are Mud Creek from Sky Valley to its intersection with the Little Tennessee River and the Little Tennessee River downstream from the US 441 bridge. Strict enforcement of trout stream protection measures is necessary to maintain water quality and habitat.

Stream Protection on Lands Managed by the Forest Service

Forest Service policies concerning stream protection have an impact on Rabun County and warrant further consideration. The Forest Service provides numerous protection measures and management prescriptions for streams, riparian corridors, and watersheds. A riparian corridor is defined as a management prescription designed to include much of the riparian area. This riparian area includes corridors along all defined perennial and intermittent stream channels that show signs of scour, and around natural ponds, lakeshores, wetland, springs, and seeps. Within the riparian

corridor management prescription area, management practices are specified to maintain riparian functions and values. The standards used by the Forest Service in the riparian corridor are too numerous to list here.

These standards exceed minimum state requirements for stream protection. The Forest Service's Land and Resource Management Plan provides details concerning stream protection, and should be referenced for additional information. The management role of the Forest Service is also further discussed in the Park, Recreation, and Conservation section of this Plan.

Groundwater Recharge Areas

A recharge area is any portion of the earth's surface where water infiltrates into the ground to replenish an aquifer. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the United States Geologic Survey have identified and mapped "significant" groundwater recharge areas and developed standards for their protection based on their level of pollution susceptibility.

In order to avoid toxic and hazardous waste contamination to drinking water supplies, groundwater recharge areas must be protected. Groundwater recharge takes place when precipitation infiltrates into soil and rock and becomes stored in the soil pores or fractures in the rock. While recharge takes place throughout practically all of Georgia's land area, the rate or amount of recharge reaching underground aquifers varies from place to place depending on geologic conditions.

In the Piedmont Province of Georgia, the most reliable sources of groundwater are from zones where the underlying bedrock has been intensely fractured. From the fall line south, large aquifers are common. In the Blue Ridge Mountains Province and most of Rabun County, however, significant areas of groundwater recharge occur only in areas of "thick soils". While these "thick soils" have groundwater recharge potential, they are not as reliable for drinking water as aquifers.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has mapped "significant recharge areas" in the Hydrologic Atlas 18 (1989 edition.). The presence of a "significant recharge area" means that a local government is expected to comply with Official Code Georgia Annotated 12-2-8, by adopting, implementing, and enforcing ordinances for recharge area protection. It should be noted that the recharge areas mapped are those regions likely to have the greatest vulnerability to pollution of ground water from the surface and near surface activities of man. Two small areas of significant groundwater recharge are located in Rabun County. The first is located near the City of Tiger and the second is found near Rabun Gap. Local governments containing significant groundwater recharge areas are encouraged to adopt regulations at least as stringent as those outlined by the Department of Natural Resources.

Each city and county that has a designated significant ground water recharge area within its boundaries is required to consider and subsequently adopt all or a portion of the following recommended criteria for the protection of ground water recharge areas:

- New hazardous waste facilities are to be prohibited

- Sanitary landfills will be required to have synthetic liners and leachate collection systems.

Water Supply Watersheds

The DNR provides protection criteria for publicly owned water supply watersheds. A water supply watershed is the area of land upstream of a governmentally owned public drinking water intake.

A watershed is the area of land from which runoff water flows into a stream or lake. A water supply watershed, therefore, is a watershed from which drinking water is extracted. Protection of water supply watersheds is important to ensure safe drinking water for Rabun County inhabitants.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources provides recommended protection criteria for water supply watersheds. At the present, there are no water supply watersheds in Rabun County that require special protection, as defined by the Department of Natural Resources. However, the City of Sky Valley has a permit to withdraw water from Mud Creek, and will likely begin withdrawals in the future. Once Sky Valley initiates water withdrawals, the Mud Creek watershed will fall within the DNR's water supply watershed protection designation. The City of Clayton has a water withdrawal permit on Blacks Creek. This source will be used as a back-up and for emergency purposes. There is an existing source water assessment study for this water supply source on file with Georgia DNR EPD.

The Clayton-Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority operates a surface water intake on Lake Rabun. However, Lake Rabun's primary purpose is for the generation of electricity and is thus exempt from the Department of Natural Resources' watershed protection measures. Voluntary protection of the Lake Rabun watershed in accordance to DNR standards is recommended to ensure clean and reliable sources of drinking water.

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Additional environmental conditions and areas are recognized by the State as exhibiting special ecological value and/or extreme sensitivity to waste-disposal related activities. The following conditions have not been readily identified within Rabun County, but should be considered in any site assessment for the possible use as a waste disposal property:

- Fault Areas
- Seismic Impact Areas

Should a subsequent assessment reveal the presence of one or more of these conditions within or adjacent to properties being considered for a waste disposal facility, the assessment should take into account the potential impact on these areas and conditions and should include an evaluation on such conditions by the EPD.

6.2 Additional Land Use Compatibility Considerations

In addition to environmental features, waste disposal facilities must take into consideration any potential impact on adjacent or neighboring properties and land use activities. Specific consideration must be given to the following:

Airports

Public airports are subject to specific laws and regulations limiting the volume and locations of certain land uses and activities of surrounding areas. This is both to protect those properties from any hazards that may occur from an airport related accident but also to protect the airport from any undue nuisances or hazards from adjoining properties. However, there are no public airfields within Rabun County.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Parks, recreation areas and other major civic facilities are recognized as points of public congregation and often subject to high volumes of traffic and public activity. As such, Rabun County and the Cities wish to refrain from placing incompatible land uses near or adjacent to these sites, so as to protect visitors from undue odors, dust and/or other hazards or nuisances. Waste disposal facilities are discouraged from locating adjacent to parks or public recreation areas as designated by the local or State government.

6.3 Site Selection Criteria

Site selection criteria shall be in accordance with zoning ordinance of the local jurisdiction and consistent with the rules established by the Department of Natural Resources. As such, any development will be assessed for impact on the previously discussed conditions and criteria in accordance with the following standards:

<u>Condition</u>	<u>DNR Rule</u>
Water Supply Watersheds	391-3-16-.07(7)(c)
Groundwater Recharge Areas	391-3-16-.02(3)(a) + 391-3-4-.05(1)(l)(j)
Wetlands	391-3-16-.03(3)(e) + 391-3-4-.05(1)(e)
River Corridors	391-3-16-.04(4)(h)
Protected Mountains	391-3-16-.05(4)(l)
Zoning	391-3-4-.05(1)(a)
Airport Safety	391-3-4-.05(1)(c)
Flood Plains	391-3-4-.05(1)(d)
Fault Areas	391-3-4-.05(1)(l)(f)
Seismic Impact Zones	391-3-4-.05(1)(l)(g)
Unstable Areas	391-3-16-.04(4)(h)

DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(b) requires that whenever any applicant begins a process to select a site for a solid waste disposal facility, documentation demonstrating compliance with O.C.G.A. § 12-8-26(a) be submitted to EPD; further, whenever any applicant takes action resulting in a siting decision for a publicly or privately owned

solid waste disposal facility, documentation demonstrating compliance with O.C.G.A. § 12-8-26(b) be submitted to EPD.

Once a site has been selected, the applicant must conduct a Hydrological Assessment in accordance with the provisions of DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(k). Preparation of the land limitation element of a solid waste management plan should comply with the Solid Waste Management Act and the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Solid Waste Management (Chapter 391-3-4) relating to historic sites, airports jurisdictional boundaries, access, etc. These documents should be consulted for specifics on land limitations and siting of solid waste management facilities.

Based on existing land use and environmental conditions there are limited opportunities to locate a solid waste landfill within the county. Of the land categories suitable for landfills most of these areas are already populated and would likely present land use conflicts. Traffic management into the county would also marginalize the effectiveness of such a facility, while slopes and hydrological concerns would also hinder the potential for a landfill within the area.

Rabun County and the cities all maintain the environmental planning criteria and related enforcement regulations in accordance with DCA required standards and will ensure any new facility is in compliance with State laws and does not adversely impact local environmental conditions.

6.4 Plan Consistency Procedures

EPD may not issue or renew a permit for a waste handling facility within Rabun County that is considered inconsistent with the Rabun County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan. Further, Rabun County and its cities do not identify a need to locate new facilities within the county to meet the waste disposal needs of its residents during the planning period.

Should a need be identified in the future, this plan shall be amended to identify such need and to provide consistency with state permitting rules. Subsequent to the amendment, the public shall be notified of the proposed facility or expansion concurrent with submittal of DRI review (form 2) by publication of a display advertisement in the county's legal organ, and opportunity for comment concurrent with DRI procedures.

Any and all applications for the consideration of waste handling facilities must follow the appropriate development review procedures and standards as stipulated by the host government (Rabun County or one of the cities). All applications must be for the appropriate zoning designation where applicable and must be formally reviewed by the County Commission or the respective City Council, as appropriate. The host government will then evaluate the permit for its potential impact on the community based in part, but not solely, on the following factors:

- Suitability of the selected location, including environmentally, serving infrastructure and utilities;

- Applicant's abilities to properly deliver and manage the facility;
- Impact on neighboring land uses and properties;
- Anticipated impact on existing and proposed solid waste disposal facilities;
- Impact on local waste generation and state goals towards waste reduction;
- Consistency with all related conditions and criteria as established within the Rabun County Joint Comprehensive Plan and the Rabun County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan.

No application is to be considered approved unless the local government has issued a statement affirming Plan Consistency based on the above cited criteria.

All applications must involve a public notification and involvement process as stipulated by local development regulations or, if no such standards are established at the time of the application, must feature the following minimum measures:

- Schedule and hold at least one public hearing to exclusively discuss the proposal at which the applicant or their duly appointed representative should be present and able to describe the proposal and prepared to answer questions. This hearing is to be held at least 30 days prior to any official ruling by the local government;
- The posting of signs along the right-of-way of any and all public streets contacting the property. These signs will be provided by the host government and must be posted at least 30 days prior to the stated public hearing opportunity;
- An advertisement to be placed by the host government within the appropriate legal organ to be posted at least 14 days in advance of the stated public hearing opportunity. Similar notices are to be posted within the public access areas of the host government's administration building and elsewhere as appropriate.

6.5 Needs and Goals

Need

To protect environmentally sensitive lands in the development of solid waste landfills within the planning area, and to maintain the public health, safety and welfare in the development of solid waste disposal facilities.

Goals

Continue use of state rules and local land use regulation to support protection of sensitive lands and maintain the public health, safety and welfare.

Education and Public Involvement Element

7.1 Current Programs

In addition to the convenience centers Rabun County does currently employ at least one staff person responsible for education and enforcement of waste management and recycling policies and regulations. This includes regular community outreach and civic interaction, plus oversight of regular programs such as recycling events, school functions, etc. This assistance is available to the Cities, as well. The City of Clayton does use some staff for similar levels of code enforcement and promotion of waste reduction measures and programs. The Cities of Clayton, Mountain City and Sky Valley also participate in the annual Great American Clean Up. Apart from these efforts one of the Cities has their own organized education program, and there is no local Keep America Beautiful affiliate.

The Rabun County School System does maintain an annual recycling campaign to support youth involvement and education.

In January each year, the municipal governments participate and promote the “Bring One for the Chipper” Christmas tree mulching effort.

Civic groups also promote waste reduction and recycling programs from time to time.

7.2 Needs and Goals

Need

To promote education and public involvement efforts in waste reduction and recycling to further the state’s goal of reducing by 25 percent the per capita rate of municipal solid waste disposed statewide in solid waste facilities as compared with the per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate in FY 1992.

Goals

Continue support and operation of convenience centers for participation in recycling.

Continue participation in the “Bring One for the Chipper” tree mulching program.

Continue support of civic groups that promote waste reduction and recycling programs from time to time.

Consider establishing a Keep America Beautiful affiliate, or participation in the Keep Our Mountains Beautiful or other affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The ability to achieve the goals and objectives of the Solid Waste Management Plan relies on the local governments implementing the policies and programs identified within. Further, these efforts should be monitored for progress and reviewed for effectiveness in order for the local governments to ensure they are proceeding in the right direction with their services.

This element provides the Work Program that outlines specific implementation measures identified within the Plan. These measures are to be enacted by the respective parties identified in the Work Program or referenced in the text of the plan for each specific element.

Note: Some items are listed with a variable cost. This is due to the differences in costs among governments/service providers or a fluctuating rate from year-to-year. Detailed costs can be obtained by contacting the respective governments, and future updates to this plan will attempt to provide greater detail in this section.

Report of Accomplishments

Action	Status	Comment
Service recycling drop-off centers daily	Complete	
Continue private municipal curbside collection	Complete	
Maintain and Lease/Purchase of collection vehicles	Complete	
Coordinate collection and waste reduction plan	Complete	
Monitor effectiveness of collection system	Complete	
Continue Waste Reduction Program	Complete	
Continue private recyclables drop-off	Complete	
Encourage recycling throughout Rabun County	Complete	
Encourage source reduction of food waste	Complete	
Continue source separation of recyclables	Complete	
Encourage paper products waste reduction	Complete	
Provide technical assistance to heavy generators to recycle	Complete	
Consolidate area recyclables for marketing	Complete	
Monitor effectiveness of waste reduction program	Complete	
Coordinate waste reduction with municipalities	Complete	
Monitor groundwater associated with closed landfill	Complete	
Perform annual fall cost accounting analysis	Complete	
Maintain certification of landfill operator	Complete	
Transport waste to Banks County MSW Landfill	Complete	
Allocate Capital Expenditures	Complete	
Continue volunteer subcommittee	Complete	
Continue solid waste data base	Complete	
Publish annual reports to Georgia DCA	Complete	
Continue Education Fund	Complete	
Encourage recycling program	Complete	
Publish calendar of events	Complete	
Continue Christmas tree recycling program	Complete	
Adopt a Highway Program	Complete	
Continue Citizens Advisory Committee	Complete	
Continue County coordination with school system	Complete	

Short-Term Work Program

Note: From 2010 forward, all actions considered ongoing practices for maintaining facilities and levels of service are hereby considered active policy and as such are not listed in the Short-Term Work Program.

Year	Action	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Responsibility
2005	Maintain existing programs for collection, disposal, recycling and education.	NA	NA	County, Cities
2006	Maintain existing programs for collection, disposal, recycling and education.	NA	NA	County
2007	Maintain existing programs for collection, disposal, recycling and education.	NA	NA	County
2008	Maintain existing programs for collection, disposal, recycling and education.	NA	NA	County
2009	Maintain existing programs for collection, disposal, recycling and education.	NA	NA	County
2010	Participate with WMI in exploration of future disposal sites in the region.	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC
2010	Investigate potential for privatization of collection service	\$1,000	General Fund	Sky Valley
2010	Develop formal list of potential waste collectors for emergency needs	\$1,000	General Funds	Clayton, Sky Valley, Tallulah Falls
2010	Annual review of SWMP	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC
2011	Perform study to determine site for disposal of diseased poultry/animals	\$15,000	GEFA, DCA	County, Cities, GMRC
2011	Annual review of SWMP	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC
2012	Review effectiveness of existing programs; Report to local governments	\$2,000	GEFA, DCA, General Funds	County, Cities, GMRC
2012	Annual review of SWMP	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC
2013	Update land use and environmental information on GIS; Review land suitability component	\$5,000	DCA, General Funds	County, Cities, GMRC
2013	Annual review of SWMP	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC
2014	Explore grant options to expand recycling programs	\$1,000	DCA, General Funds	County, Cities, GMRC
2014	Annual review of SWMP	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC
2015	Updated assessment of special waste handling needs	\$10,000	DCA, General Funds	County, Cities, GMRC
2015	Annual review of SWMP	NA	NA	County, Cities, GMRC

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE AMENDED RABUN COUNTY AND CITIES OF CLAYTON, DILLARD, ,MOUNTAIN CITY, SKY VALLEY, TALLULAH FALLS AND TIGER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, Rabun County together with the cities of Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City, Sky Valley, Tallulah Falls and Tiger prepared a Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan; and

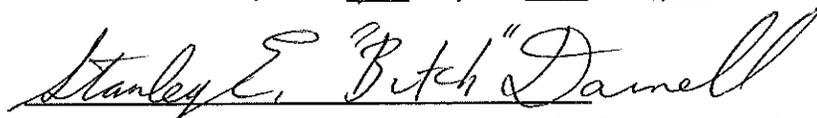
WHEREAS, Rabun County together with the cities of Clayton, Dillard, Mountain City, Sky Valley, Tallulah Falls and Tiger has amended that plan; and

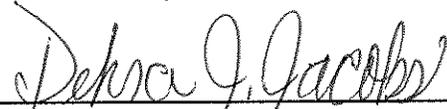
WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-8-31.1(a)2(B), any city or county that proposes to update or amend its solid waste management plan must publish notice in its legal organ or on its government Web site at least two weeks prior to adopting such update or amendment; and

WHEREAS, the required public notice was published (in the legal organ on July 7, 2011(date) AND/OR on the Counties/Cities Web site beginning on _____(date)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rabun County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt the SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SO ADOPTED, this 8th day of Feb, 2012.


Chairman, Rabun County Board of Commissioners

ATTESTED BY: 
County Clerk/CFO

RESOLUTION 12-02

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE AMENDED RABUN COUNTY AND CITIES OF CLAYTON, DILLARD, SKY VALLEY AND TOWNS OF MOUNTAIN CITY, TALLULAH FALLS, AND TIGER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

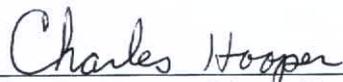
WHEREAS, Rabun County together with the cities of Clayton, Dillard, Sky Valley and towns of Mountain City, Tallulah Falls, and Tiger prepared a Multi-jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A 12-8-31.1 (a)2(B), and city or county that proposes to update or amend its solid waste management plan must publish notice in its legal organ or on its government Web site at least two weeks prior to adopting such update or amendment; and

WHEREAS, the required public notice was published in the legal organ on July 7, 2011.

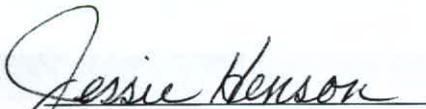
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain City Does hereby adopt the Rabun County Solid Waste Management Plan Update.

SO ADOPTED, this 14th day of February 2012.



Charles Hooper, Mayor ProTem
City of Mountain City

ATTESTED BY:


Jessie Henson, City Clerk



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY
ADOPTION OF THE
RABUN COUNTY JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

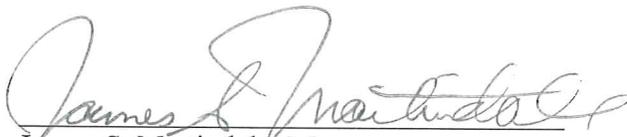
WHEREAS: The City of Sky Valley, Georgia has participated in the development of the required Rabun County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan; and

WHEREAS: The Plan has been developed in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS: The Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs;

Now, therefore, **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the City of Sky Valley that the Rabun County Joint Solid Waste Management Plan is hereby adopted.

Adopted by the City Council this 19th day of July, 2011.



James S. Martindale, Mayor
City of Sky Valley

ATTEST:


Clerk