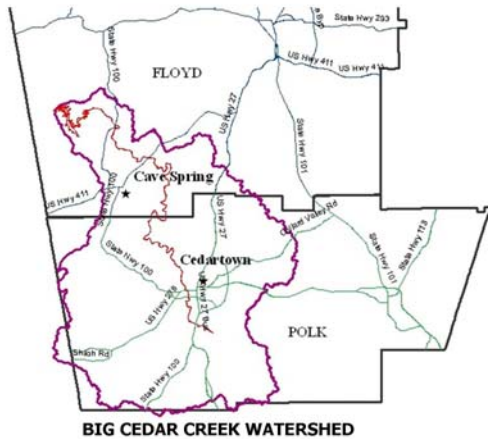


# Big Cedar Watershed Project

## About Big Cedar Watershed:

The Big Cedar Watershed encompasses 133,205 acres in Polk and Floyd Counties. Of this watershed, 99,904 acres (75%) are in Polk County and 33,302 acres (25%) are in Floyd. Big Cedar Creek headwaters in southern Polk County at Dugdown Mountain to the south and Indian Mountain on the west. It flows through Polk and Floyd counties into the Coosa River at the headwaters of Lake Weiss (Brushy Branch) in Floyd County. Tributaries include Cedar Creek, Little Cedar Creek, and Pumpkin Pile Creek. Both the cities of Cedartown and Cave Spring withdraw municipal water from within this watershed.



The EPD 2006 305(b)/303(d) *Rivers/Streams Not Fully Supporting Designated Uses* identifies 25 miles of stream segments within the Big Cedar Creek Basin. These segments list fecal coliform as the primary criteria violated due to non-point source causes including agricultural uses, failing septic systems, and other issues. In 2006, a *Tier 2 TMDL Implementation Plan* was completed for the Big Cedar Creek/Cedar Creek Basin to address the primary water quality impairment of fecal coliform. The listed segment of the Big Cedar Creek watershed begins outside the city limits of Cedartown at the intersection of Cedar Creek and Johnson Lake Road and continues to the Coosa River.

## Project Goal:

- Implement structural best management practices (BMPs) within the watershed to address sources of (1) fecal coliform impairments and (2) sediment impairments.
- Long range: Possible delisting these stream segments from the 305(b)/303(d) lists by lowering fecal coliform loads and improving water quality in the stream segments.



## Project Details:

The project will provide \$586,500 towards the implementation of water quality measures to address the impairments between January 2009 and May 2012. These funds will be offered in a cost share program to private landowners.

- Septic Best Management Practices (BMPs)—BMPs may include pumpouts, retrofits, septic system repairs, correcting failing and straight pipe grey water systems, and replacing straight pipe sewage with new septic systems.
- Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)—BMPs may include poultry litter stackhouses, nutrient management systems, poultry mortality systems (shed or rotary composters), livestock exclusion (from riparian areas), heavy use areas, critical area plantings, and streambank stabilization, etc.
- Other BMPs—BMPs may include decommissioning wells and addressing stormwater/sediment issues along stream channels.