

Monitoring

The County/environmental firm will evaluate the resulting samplings by monitoring data for the initial three (3) years of this program, to ascertain the level of pollutants of concern (POC) in the impaired waters and if it is likely to be originating in the County.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The County will continue to implement its Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) under its current NPDES Phase II MS4 permit. Because mercury in runoff is derived from atmospheric deposition, mercury in stormwater is accounted for in the calculation of the atmospheric load. Separate strategies for reducing nonpoint sources are not included in this plan because implementation of the strategies to reduce air deposition will ultimately reduce stormwater loading. Therefore, any efforts to reduce soil erosion will tend to reduce mercury entering a lake or river from nonpoint water sources. Many of these practices are already employed for control of sediment runoff and will result in reducing mercury loading to surface waters.

Public Outreach and Education

Lowndes County has a public outreach and education program that targets County offices and public facilities with flyers and brochures about stormwater and water quality of streams. Continued effort will be made to educate the public on household hazardous waste to ensure proper product disposal of all urban and rural residents of the county and encourage residents to segregate and properly dispose of mercury products.

Annual Evaluation:

Once the base year data is collected (i.e. the data from the first year of sampling), the County will evaluate each subsequent year's sampling data against the previous year/years data. The evaluation will be a comparative look at each year's data both at the individual outfalls and as an average of the outfall to each of the impaired basins. The intention is to identify trends that occur in the sampling data. If trends are found, the County will look for obvious factors that may account for the trending outside of the BMP's that have been implemented by the County. Unexplained trending may indicate the effectiveness of the BMPs' that are used.

Implementation Schedule

The County is prepared to implement this Monitoring and Implementation plan within a reasonable time after plan approval by the Georgia EPD.

Annual Reporting

Each year, the County will develop a brief water quality report for the Withlacoochee River. This report will include:

- Monitoring results
- Trend analysis
- Documentation of activities
- Recommendations based on evaluations

The water quality data along with the trend analysis will be utilized to determine if the trend is showing improvement or degradation relative to implementing BMPs. If the trend analysis indicates that water quality is worsening or not improving, then additional sampling and/or BMPs will be evaluated to identify sources within the area covered by County's MS4 permit. A copy of this report and sampling results/data will be submitted along with the County's annual report.