

PREFACE

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February 2005

Dear Friend of Georgia's Waterways,

For more than a decade, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR), a non-profit, environmental organization whose mission is to protect and restore the Chattahoochee River, and its tributaries, has advocated for river protection and watershed health. We accomplish our goals by actively using advocacy, education, research, communication, cooperation, monitoring, and legal actions to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee watershed.

One of our primary program initiatives is to strategically tackle the Chattahoochee's most serious problem-polluted stormwater from land disturbance activities (i.e. construction). To do so, we have invested significant time and money to focus on erosion and sediment control education, training, research and enforcement. Tackling this issue has been one of the highest priorities for our organization.

To that end, we are pleased to present you with our most recent initiative:

Get the Dirt Out - The Georgia Construction Stormwater Project.

UCR and the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest (GCLPI) are partnering with other Georgia riverkeeper and watershed groups, in order to educate interested citizens about this important issue. According to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, over 60 percent of the monitored streams within the Chattahoochee River Basin do *not* support their designated use. In fact, stormwater runoff is the major cause of impaired water quality in Georgia and many of our streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries are severely impacted by development and resultant stormwater. Sedimentation problems are typically the result of inadequate erosion and sedimentation controls on construction sites.

UCR is pleased to present you with a copy of our ***Get the Dirt Out Manual and Workbook*** for citizens. This publication was developed as a result of concerned citizens, such as yourself, who needed information on ways to protect Georgia's waterways from eroded soil and sedimentation resulting from uncontrolled construction in the watershed. This Manual and Workbook will inform you about our erosion and sediment control laws and teach you how to get the dirt out of your waterways.

This project is being organized and managed under the direction of Alice Champagne, CPESC, UCR's Technical Programs Director. Legal coordination for this project is provided by Elizabeth Nicholas, UCR's General Counsel and Justine Thompson, Executive Director of the GCLPI.

