



Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Inc.



What is the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition?

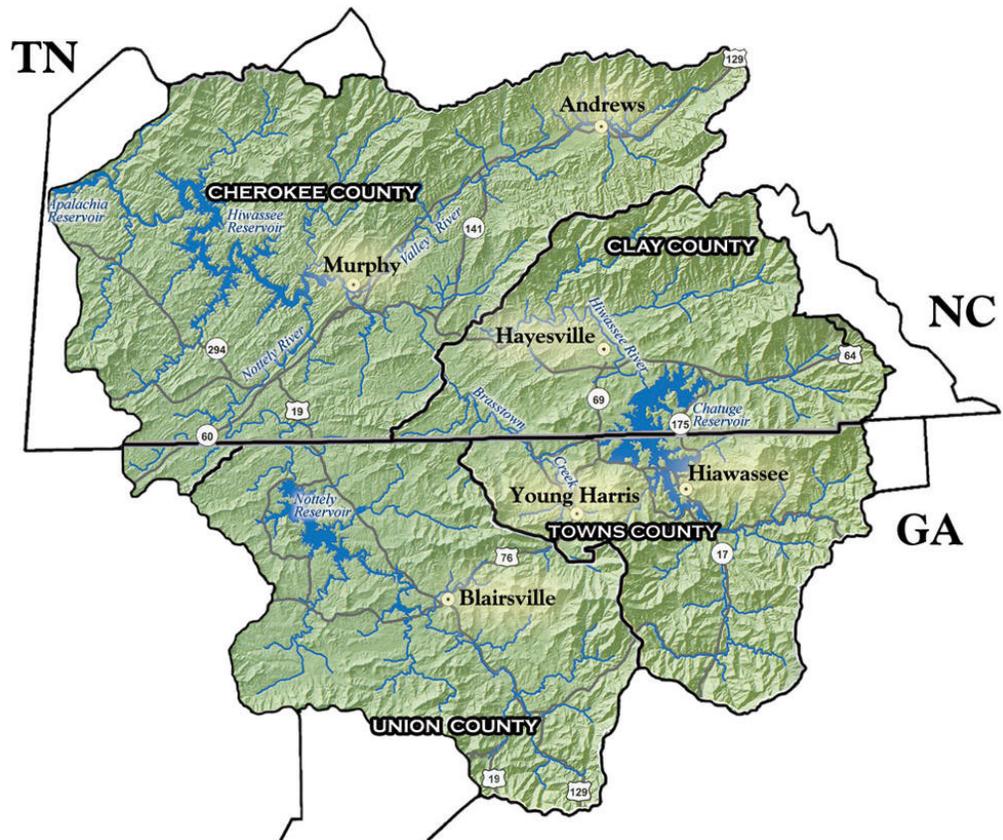
The Coalition is a 20-year-old private nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining good water quality in rivers, lakes and streams that flow into the Hiwassee River. It is a partnership between landowners and residents, businesses, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and local governments in the Hiwassee River watershed. The Coalition was founded by local people who were concerned about a decline in mountain fish communities, primarily in Brasstown Creek. Now HRWC has more than 400 members and 60 active volunteers!

What does the Coalition do?

The Coalition works with landowners, governments, schools and businesses to understand and address threats to our water resources. With a staff of knowledgeable professionals, the Coalition plans and implements volunteer-powered projects to solve problems before water quality is beyond reasonable recovery. The Coalition also maintains an extensive water quality monitoring program and conducts education programs for all ages about water quality concerns and what individuals can do to help. Our approach involves working collaboratively with a wide range of interests to yield long lasting and practical results. Though we are not confrontational in style, we actively confront problems with solutions that are context sensitive and based on scientific studies.

Where does HRWC work?

The upper Hiwassee River watershed boundary includes almost all of a 4-county area: Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina and Towns and Union counties in north Georgia. Lake Chatuge, Brasstown Creek, Lake Nottely, Tusquittee Creek, Valley River, and Hiwassee Lake are all part of upper Hiwassee River watershed.



Where does the Coalition's funding come from?

The Coalition's funding comes from a variety of sources:

- ◆ Membership Dues
- ◆ Fundraising Events
- ◆ Business Sponsorship
- ◆ Local Government Support
- ◆ Private Donor Contributions
- ◆ Grants



Over the past 15 years, the Coalition has brought \$6.8 million in grant funding into the upper Hiwassee River watershed. Approximately 93% of these funds were spent for on-the-ground projects and programs to facilitate water quality improvements in areas where it has declined! Less than seven percent went to the Coalition for operating support.

Why does the Coalition Need Your Help?

Today, grants for the Coalition's work are more competitive than ever! And although we are confident in our ability to continue to secure some grant funding for projects and programs, most grants will no longer pay for staff salaries or operating support. If the Coalition is to remain viable, membership dues, proceeds from fundraising events, and other local contributions must be the foundation of our effort, not grants. Also, the more local support we have, the more likely we are to receive larger donations from private foundations and corporations. If every family in our area joined for only \$30/year and brought a friend to one of our fun events, we could continue to avoid the water quality problems in so many other parts of our country and the world.



How can I get more information?

If you have access to the Internet, the Coalition's web site contains a wealth of information, including publications for free download, and a calendar of events: <http://www.hrwc.net>

If you are a Facebook user, you can engage with us there: www.facebook.com/hiwasseeiver

You may also visit the Coalition office at 90 Tennessee Street, Ste. D in downtown Murphy, NC. We are working Monday through Friday from 8:00-5:00; however, we don't have a full time office manager, so it's best to call ahead and make an appointment: 828-837-5414.