



## W h a t D o e s t h e H C P C o s t ?

**JULY 2009**

The Etowah Aquatic HCP adds an additional cost of \$85/ disturbed acre to new development activity in the basin. This implementation fee is collected by participating local governments and will support an HCP implementation staff hired by the Etowah Aquatic HCP Board (the board will consist of one representative from each of the participating local governments). This staff will assist local governments in implementing the policies of the HCP and oversee monitoring, adaptive management and training activities.

Some policies of the Etowah HCP, in particular the stormwater management policy, call for Low Impact Development (LID) practices that are new to some developers, and may cost more or less than traditional stormwater management practices, depending on site conditions and the practices employed. Since 2007 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has encouraged the use of these LID practices for new development projects within the range of the federally listed species of the Etowah. The FWS has consulted with developers on over one hundred projects, working with them to successfully design stormwater

practices that are cost-effective and consistent with Etowah Aquatic HCP requirements.

Therefore, any costs associated with HCP policies are already required for most new development in the Etowah basin; these are costs associated with complying with the Endangered Species Act, not with the Etowah Aquatic HCP. The good news is that incorporating LID practices into a site design is often less expensive than traditional stormwater management, according to a recent review by the Environmental Protection Agency, "Reducing Stormwater Costs through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices", available online at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07> .

In addition, a recent study has shown that the FWS's policy of working with developers in Cherokee County to implement these practices has had no effect on land values in the region. See "Impact of Endangered Species Act Standards on Vacant Land Prices in Cherokee County, Georgia" available online at [http://www.etowahhcp.org/research/documents/2009\\_cherokee\\_values.pdf](http://www.etowahhcp.org/research/documents/2009_cherokee_values.pdf) .



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