

**2003 GEORGIA WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE**  
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**Presentation Abstract**

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**Fecal Coliform TMDL Implementation – A Case Study**  
McIntosh Trail Regional Development Center, Griffin, GA

Potato Creek, in the Upper Flint Watershed, is listed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources as an "impaired" stream due to excessive fecal coliform pollution. However, it is almost impossible to identify the source of fecal coliform pollution. Therefore, new technology is being developed that can identify bacterial pollution sources. The City of Griffin, as part of a regional approach to TMDL implementation, is working with the University of Georgia, a leader in what is termed microbial source tracking (MST), to develop a practical application in the Potato Creek Watershed. The goal is to define sources of bacterial contamination throughout the Watershed in a practical application of the MST technology. The implementation plan will then reflect focused and cost-effective water quality improvements that will reduce bacterial pollution in the Potato Creek Watershed. The MST technology is part of a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) application for revising the current Potato Creek TMDL Implementation Plan. The application has been recommended by EPD for funding and is currently under consideration by EPA.

The regional approach is being facilitated by the McIntosh Trail Regional Development Center. The RDC and its members have committed to sponsoring a project that will identify the sources of bacterial pollution in the Potato Creek Watershed, identify the appropriate BMPs to reduce it, and revise the Potato Creek TMDL Implementation Plan to reflect the greater understanding of Potato Creek bacterial sources. This commitment is exhibited by the unanimous agreement of the six major governmental entities (City of Griffin, City of Thomaston, Lamar County, Spalding County, Pike County, and Upson County) that encompass the entire Potato Creek Watershed, to provide matching funding for the project. This cooperation and the sound technical foundation of microbial source tracking produce the best possible environment for municipal cooperation and mutual goal progress in the Potato Creek Watershed. Future implementation efforts in the Watershed will be enhanced when the Plan Revision moves toward completion and a clear understanding is obtained by the RDC members of the specific steps required and essential funding necessary.