



**MAINSRING**  
CONSERVATION TRUST

Stewards of the Southern Blue Ridge

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## Quick Facts for Mainspring Conservation Trust

- **Business Inception (start date):** 1/1/1997
- **Number of Employees:** 11
- **Estimated Annual Revenue:** \$7 million
- **In What Business Sector Are You Classified:** non-profit; environmental
- **Target customer or Consumer:** Varies depending on service
- **Who Are Your Competitors:** none

# WHAT MAINSPRING DOES

- Provides land trust remediation and conservation easements for land owners.
- Purchases land to put into trust and conservancy.
- Mainspring is the land trust for this special region, which spans seven counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain in North Carolina, and Rabun County, Georgia.
- Provides waterway reconciliation, maintenance and advisory services.
- Creates pathways for involvement of citizen scientists and local students.
- Maintains extensive data on regional land and water resources.

LAND | WATER | CULTURAL HERITAGE

# STEM & Classroom Integration

Science - MCT employees experts in the fields of biology and forestry to evaluate and improve natural water sources in WNC. MCT employees individuals with masters and doctorates in the sciences as well as paid summer internships for students pursuing associates and bachelors degrees in biology.

Technology - Over the past 30 years MCT has invested in technology and methods to assess the health of local streams, rivers, and lakes. During our visit, we used a an electronic system to catch, identify and release fish in Crawford Branch.

Classroom Integration - In CTE, teach introduce students to the biology and forestry careers available through MCT.





# STEM & Classroom Integration

Engineering - MCT works with on public lands and with private landowners to improve waterways and water quality in our region. These improvements can be as simple as planting a variety of vegetation to strategically adding structures (such as boulders) to improve water flow.

Mathematics - MCT uses a variety of scales to rate the quality of aquatic insects, fish, and waterways as related to other waterways, and to measure the improvement or decline of waterways over time.



# Stunning Fish to Evaluate the Health of the Stream



Jason and Intern stunning fish to evaluate the health of the stream