

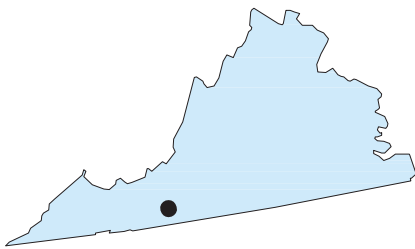
## Watershed Operations

August 2013

## The Case for Reinvesting in Little Reed Island Creek Watershed

### Introduction

Funds for this project will help protect human and animal health, and improve income on small family farms through improved grazing management.



Little Reed Island Creek Watershed

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs.

In Virginia, NRCS used Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands.

This project helped with planning and financial assistance to create rotational grazing systems. The benefits include better forages, decrease in noxious weeds and less soil erosion while protecting water quality.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Carroll, Pulaski and Wythe Counties and the Town of Hillsville, Virginia, 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
- **Size:** Covers 53,172 acres
- **Start Date:** April 2009

A watershed assessment plan calls for treating 15,629 acres of pastureland, hayland, woodland, cropland, and riparian corridors to improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, protect soil resources, and reduce sedimentation in Claytor Lake.

### Partners

- Carroll County Board of Supervisors, Virginia
- Town of Hillsville, Virginia
- Big Walker, New River, and Skyline Soil and Water Conservation Districts

### Benefits

Once the entire watershed plan is complete, the project will protect drinking water for approximately 2,800 residents in Carroll County and the Town of Hillsville. Measures installed to reduce sediment, nutrients and bacteria in local streams will help improve aquatic habitat and reduce water treatment costs by nearly \$3,400 per year.



Well managed pastures help protect drinking water for local residents and neighbors downstream.

# The Case for Reinvesting in Little Reed Island Creek Watershed

## Economic Opportunities

The project helped generate revenue for small, privately owned local businesses through increased sales of fencing and other farm supplies, equipment parts, and services.

The completed project protects local water supplies and helps maintain the economic viability of small family farms that are the mainstay of this rural area. It also enhances future economic growth and development by improving fish habitat and recreation opportunities.

Conservation measures included fencing, alternative watering systems, and rotational grazing. These practices helped prevent tons of sediment and nutrients from washing into streams and rivers.

**Heavy equipment tire troughs are a cost-effective alternative for livestock water.**



## Statewide Perspective

The project is located in Carroll, Pulaski and Wythe Counties and the Town of Hillsville. Situated in the Blue Ridge Mountains of south-western Virginia, the land consists of a gently rolling landscape with hills, farms and forests.

Although one-third of the land is in pastures, it contributes three fourths of the sediment to local streams. About two-thirds of the livestock in the region have unlimited access to streams.

ARRA funds were used to complete two contracts for installing conservation measures on 164 acres of pastureland. Funding for construction work on these farms totaled \$136,547 (including landowner contributions). Payments to landowners totaled \$102,410.

The projects were completed in May 2012.

ARRA funded: five spring developments, two pumping plants, nine watering facilities, nearly 8,000 feet of pipeline, two stream crossings, two water reservoirs, 1,052 feet of fencing and 42.7 acres of pasture and hayland planting.



**Before photo shows an eroded streambank.**



**After photo shows fencing and a riparian buffer.**

## For More Information

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