

## Watershed Operations

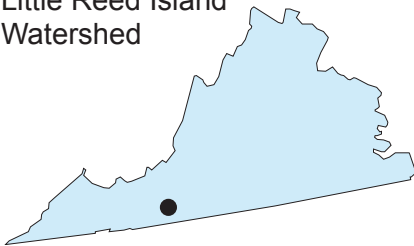
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## *Investing in the Little Reed Island Watershed, Virginia*

### Introduction

This project protects water supplies used for drinking and recreation. It will help protect human and animal health and improve income on small family farms through improved grazing management.

### Little Reed Island Watershed



This project is located in Carroll, Pulaski and Wythe Counties, Virginia.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using 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. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

### Project Description

- **Location:** Carroll, Pulaski, and Wythe Counties and the Town of Hillsville, 9th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$225,300

Conservation practices will be installed on 15,629 acres of pastureland, hayland, woodland, cropland, and riparian corridors. These practices will improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, protect the soil resource from degradation, and reduce sedimentation in Claytor Lake.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Carroll County Board of Supervisors
- Town of Hillsville
- Big Walker, New River and Skyline Soil and Water Conservation Districts

### Benefits

The project will protect drinking water for approximately 2,800 residents in Carroll County and the Town of Hillsville. These practices will reduce sediment, nutrients and bacteria in local streams that help reduce water treatment costs by nearly \$3,400 per year.



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

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## Little Reed Island Watershed, Virginia

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### Economic Opportunities

Jobs will be created or saved in the planning and installation of conservation practices in this project. It will generate revenue for small, privately owned local businesses through increased sales of fencing and other farm supplies, equipment parts, and services. When fully completed, the project will provide an estimated \$910,100 in net benefits.

### Statewide Perspective

Pastureland covers one-third of the land but contributes three-fourths of the sediment to local streams. The project will protect local water supplies and help maintain the economic viability of small family farms that are the mainstay of this rural area. It will also enhance future economic growth and development by improving fish habitat and recreation opportunities.

### For More Information

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Before work began, this photo shows eroded streambank.



Improvements can be seen after installing fencing and a riparian buffer.



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

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