

## Watershed Operations

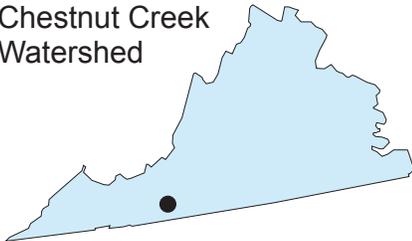
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## Investing in the Chestnut Creek Watershed, Virginia

### Introduction

This watershed project will improve water quality for drinking and recreation, increase farm income, protect aquatic habitat, and lower costs for water treatment.

### Chestnut Creek Watershed



Chestnut Creek Watershed is located in Carroll and Grayson Counties.

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 and Grayson Counties, the Town of Fries, and the City of Galax, 9th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$367,700

The project will install conservation practices on 12,883 acres of pastureland, hayland, woodland, cropland, and riparian corridors. These practices will improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and protect/enhance the soil resources in the watershed.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Carroll County Board of Supervisors, Virginia
- Grayson County Board of Supervisors, Virginia
- New River Soil and Water Conservation District
- Town of Fries
- City of Galax

### Benefits

Conservation measures installed will significantly reduce sediment, nutrients, and fecal coliform in streams. Trout fishery will be restored on 28.6 miles, creating an additional 2,900 user days for trout fishing. Water treatment costs will be reduced by nearly \$7,000 per year, and farmers will benefit from reduced damages caused by excessive erosion and sedimentation.



A watering trough provides clean water for cattle and keeps livestock out of streams.

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### Economic Opportunities

Funding for the Chestnut Creek project will provide jobs within Carroll and Grayson Counties. The project will generate revenue for small, privately owned local businesses through increased sales of fencing and other farm supplies, equipment parts, and services. Once completed, this project will provide \$1.8 million in average annual benefits.

### Statewide Perspective

Agriculture and forestry are the dominant land uses in the state of Virginia. Installing conservation practices on the agricultural lands improves on-farm natural resource conditions, farm productivity, and downstream water quality. Chestnut Creek is a water supply for approximately 2,700 residences in the City of Galax and the outlying communities of Fairview and Cranberry. This project will mean cleaner water for these Virginia residents and improved habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

### For More Information

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Better grazing management will improve farm income and water quality.



Trout habitat will be restored on 28.6 miles of local streams.



The project will reduce soil erosion by 283,400 tons per year.

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