

The Robinson River Watershed

Robinson River and
Little Dark Run Watersheds

Robinson River
Length: 3.65 miles
Latitude: 38.4722
Longitude: -78.3153

Little Dark Run
Length: 4.26 miles
Latitude: 38.3661
Longitude: -78.2689

To promote the stewardship of soil and water and the conservation of our natural resources by educating and providing technical assistance to manage, protect, and enhance the land and water for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock Counties.

--

**IMPROVED
GRAZING
CLEANER
WATER:**

**FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO
IMPROVE YOUR
GRAZING
SYSTEM
WITH STREAM
EXCLUSION
PRACTICES**



What is a TMDL?

Many streams and rivers in the Culpeper District and elsewhere in Virginia are considered impaired by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality since they have been found to have above normal levels of E. coli bacteria. One of these rivers in Madison County is the Robinson River. When water bodies are officially listed as impaired, it is required that a plan be developed to reduce most of the inputs of that pollutant to the stream. This plan is called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL. It is essentially a recipe to clean up the stream of that particular pollutant. Three smaller areas are currently being targeted: Little Dark Run, Dark Run and Great Run.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) allocated funding to Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District to administer technical guidance and on-farm project funding to help farmers **voluntarily** exclude livestock from creeks in these impaired watersheds. These projects include stream exclusion and cross fencing and installing or developing clean reliable watering alternatives such as springs and wells. Our goal is to improve water quality while helping farmers improve their livestock operations and implement working rotational grazing systems.

This cooperative project has been funded wholly or in part by EPA through a Section 319(h) grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency through grant agreement number # 16679

What are the Benefits to my Operation?

- Cleaner water for your livestock watering needs
- Healthier livestock
- Lower veterinary costs
- A better grazing system
- Improved pasture utilization
- Quicker pasture recovery
- Less compaction of soils

Funding Available

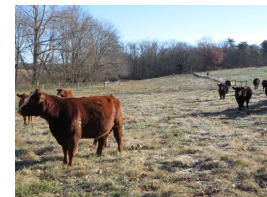
- **Project funding:** TMDL areas are eligible for cost share rates varying between 65-100% based on the District total estimated cost of a grazing system.
- **Tax Credits:** Producers may be eligible for a tax credit which is based on your out-of-pocket expense after cost-share has been calculated.

Program Flexibility: The fencing program allows for **four options:** 10', 25', 35' and 50' setbacks/buffers for stream exclusion fence. **Cost share rates range from 65% to 100%** depending on buffer width and contract length.

In addition, the buffer acres excluded from livestock receive **rent payments of \$80 per acre per year** (35 foot or greater buffer only), all paid up front for the life of the contract.

Technical Guidance

- **Field visits to review operation:** A Conservation Specialist will come to the farm to observe the current grazing operation and get producer input and goals.
- **Recommendations:** A Conservation Specialist will work with you to design a grazing system suggest ways to improve your existing grazing system.
- **Design and layout:** A Conservation Specialist will work with you to layout the grazing system and design the watering system including pipeline size and calculating the gallons of water needed daily to water cattle.
- **Construction Inspections to insure proper installation:** A Conservation Specialist routinely inspects projects to verify installation procedures and answer questions.
- **Flexibility:** It is not always feasible to invest in a complete grazing system at one time. The District has the flexibility in many cases to work with producers to plan projects to be installed in phases.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT**

Amanda McCullen 540-825-8591
amandac@culpeperswcd.org

Spencer Yager 540-308-6301
spencery@culpeperswcd.org