



*Protecting and Restoring the
Upper Saluda Watershed*

Upper Saluda Watershed Program for Sediment

South Saluda River


North Saluda River



Why Sediment?

- Impairs water quality
- Affects drinking water sources
- Effective pollutant carrier
- Degrades aquatic habitat
- Impacts recreation
- Loss of Land



A young boy wearing a dark t-shirt, shorts, and a cap stands on a rocky bank next to a creek. The water is brownish and flows over rocks. The background shows a sandy bank with some green vegetation. A circular white overlay with a black border is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text.

Railroad
Creek,
tributary to
North Saluda
River





Saluda Lake Dredging

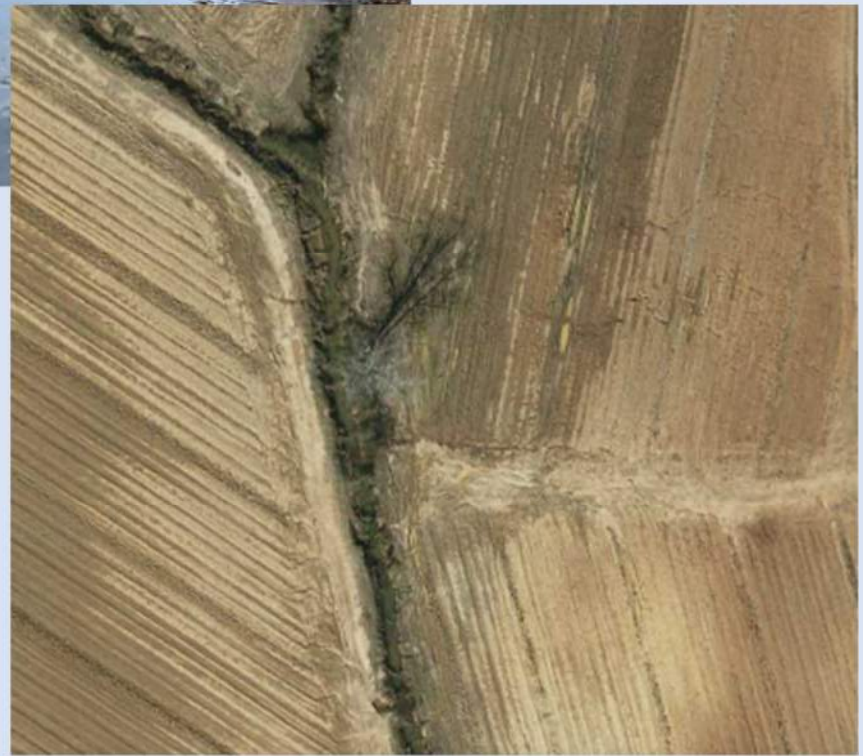
- \$8,000,000+
- 366,000 yd³ sediment removed
- Completed 2012
- Already filled in again



Saluda Lake intake

- Historic Land Use
- Accelerated Erosion and Sedimentation
- Legacy Sediment Effects














**Watershed Plan for Sediment in the
North Saluda River and Saluda Lake**

December 2018



Watershed Plan for Sediment in the South Saluda River

July 2020

Program Objective

- To fund soil conservation projects in priority watershed areas using BMPs that most effectively reduce sediment loading and protect water quality
- To effectively leverage 319 funding and partner match with USDA-NRCS EQIP funding for more BMPs on the ground in priority areas



Watershed Plan Implementation Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Crop Farm BMPs

- Cover Crops
- Intercropping
- Vegetated Riparian Buffers
- Conservation Tillage
- Vegetated Filter Strips/Field Borders/Pollinator Strips
- Culvert/Ditch Stabilization
- Farm Access Road Stabilization
- Vegetated Waterways
- Sediment Control Basins
- Terracing and Contouring
- Streambank Stabilization

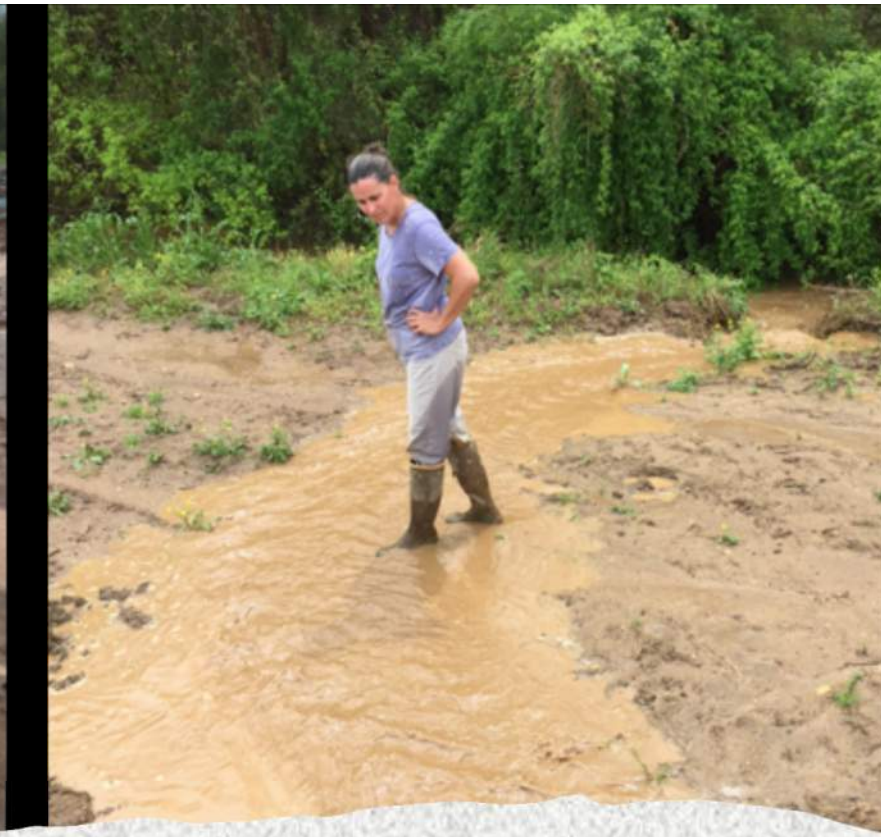
Livestock Farm BMPs

- Exclusion Fencing/Well/Water Trough
- Loafing Shed
- Vegetated Riparian Buffers
- Stream Crossings
- Stabilization of Streambanks
- Cross fencing/Pasture Planting
- Heavy Use Area Stabilization

Urban/Rural BMPs

Stream bank stabilization, Public Education, Muddy Water Watch, Land Conservation, Watershed Signs, Recommendations for Post-Construction Design Regulations

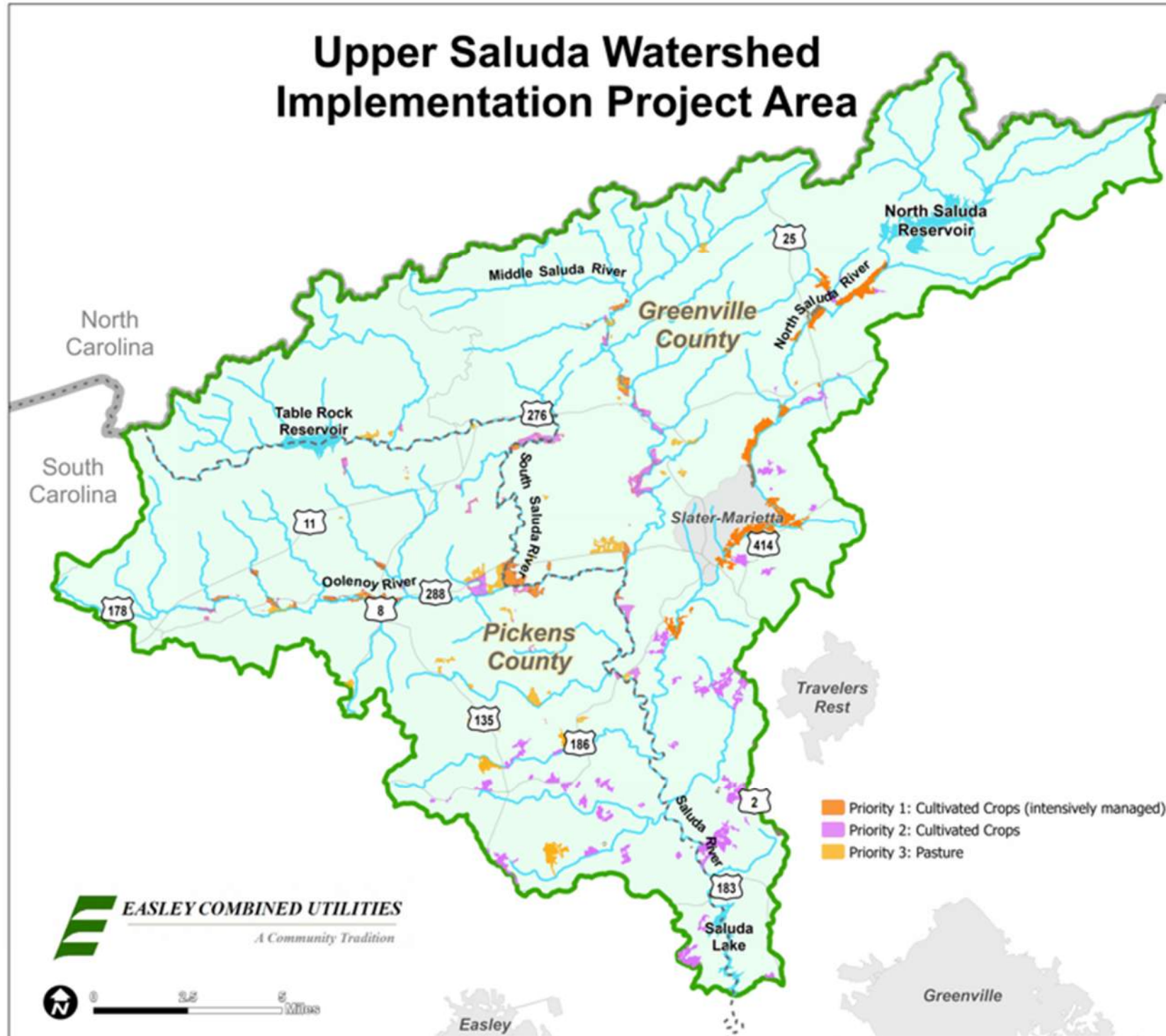




Critical Areas

Intensively Managed Croplands in Floodplains

Upper Saluda Watershed Implementation Project Area





Upper Saluda Watershed
Implementation for Sediment



Upper Saluda Program Assistance for Soil Conservation Projects

- 60% Federal 319 Grant
- 30% Partner Match
- 10% Landowner/Operator

= up to 90% Cost Share

May combine 319 with USDA NRCS
EQIP funding



Cover crops



Streambank stabilization



Tillage management



Culvert stabilization



Sediment basin



Heavy use area stabilization



Before



After

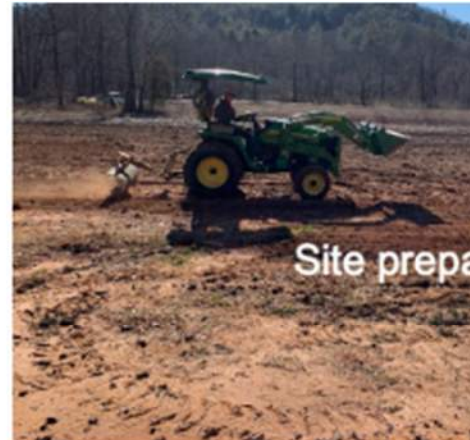


Farm road stabilization



Intercropping

River Falls Floodplain and Riparian Restoration Project



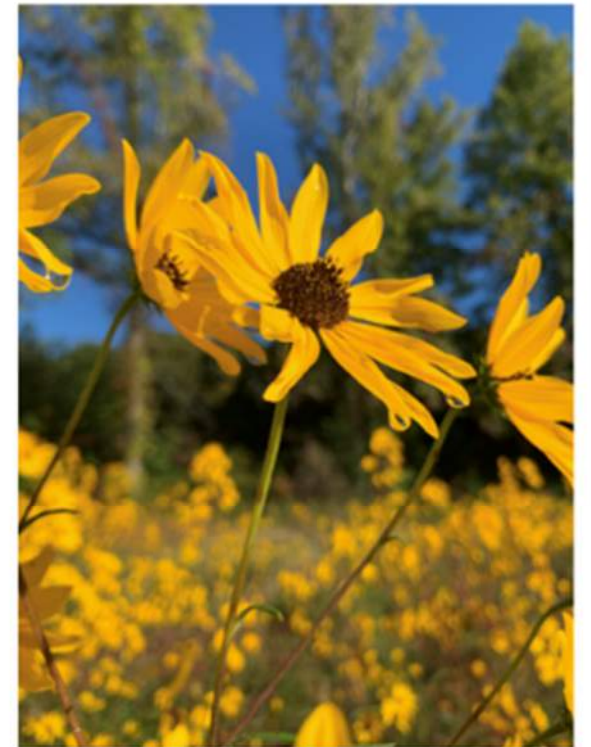
River Falls Floodplain and Riparian Restoration Project

Project Value = \$16,053

319 federal funding = \$5,007

partner funding = \$1,166

In-kind = \$9,880



- ✓ 10-ac floodplain area seeded with 16 species native grasses and forbs + cover/nurse crop
- ✓ 200+ native trees and shrub (16 species) planted in 0.5-acre riparian wetland area
- ✓ Middle Saluda River

Public Outreach Education/Involvement

- Cover Crop/Soil Health Workshops
- Online Surveys
- Postcards
- Social Media
- Farmer Scientists Video (translated to Spanish)
- **Direct landowner outreach**



Slake Test



Rainfall Simulator

NEW GRANT!
90% COST SHARE AVAILABLE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Grant funding is available to help pay for soil conservation practices at farms in the North Saluda River - Saluda Lake Watershed. Save Our Saluda is offering 90% cost share to landowners and farm operators for installation of soil conservation practices. New equipment is available for rent to participating farms: 8' Roller Crimper and 38" No Till Seed Drill.

Eligible Practices
Cover crops
Tillage Management
Intercropping
Vegetated Riparian Buffers
Vegetated Filter Strips
Field Borders/Pollinator Strips
Culvert and Ditch Stabilization
Farm Access Road Stabilization
Vegetated Waterways/Drainages
Sediment Control Basins
Livestock Fencing and Watering
Stream Crossings
Heavy Use Area Stabilization

8' Roller Crimper **38" No Till Seed Drill**

Interested landowners or farm operators may submit a Financial Assistance application, available at:
<https://bit.ly/22nVKRe>
or contact us at:
info@saveoursaluda.org
(864) 270-7629
www.saveoursaluda.org

Funding for this cooperative project was provided in part by the SCDNRCC with funds from the National Water Pollution Control Agency under Section 218 of the Clean Water Act and through additional partner support.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLANT COVER CROPS

Save Our Saluda is offering financial assistance for installation of cover crops at the following rates:

- \$54.09/acre for single species cover crop
- \$64.59/acre for multi-species cover crop

New equipment is available for rent to participating farms: 8' Roller Crimper and 38" No Till Seed Drill.

If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please call or email at:
info@saveoursaluda.org | (864) 270-7629 | www.saveoursaluda.org

Building soil health

Nutrient retention

Erosion control

Weed reduction

COVER CROPS IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH, HELP CONTROL WEEDS AND PREVENT SOIL LOSS!

Thursday, November 10th
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Pleasant Ridge Retreat Center
4232 Hwy 11
Marietta, SC 29661

Streambank Stabilization Workshop

SAVE OUR SALUDA



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

Join us to learn about streambank stabilization techniques and the importance of riparian buffers to protect your property! The workshop will include indoor presentations in the morning, a lunch, and a field tour in the afternoon.

RSVP

Contact Karen Jackson at
karen.jackson@woodplc.com

\$15



No-till Transplanter Trials



Cover Crop No-Till Transplanter Trials



Roller-crimper rolls down the terminated cereal crop cover crop ahead of transplanting. The cover crop residue reduces runoff, increases water infiltration, suppresses weeds, and adds organic matter to soils.



Squash plants after no-till transplant



No-till vegetable transplanter planting squash and cucumber plugs



Field Trial site, April 2019 – Vegetables grown using conventional plasticulture in floodplain areas next to the North Saluda





A photograph of a dense, lush green forest. In the center background, a small waterfall flows over a rock into a pool of water. The foreground is filled with various green plants and trees, creating a sense of depth and natural beauty. The text "Land Conservation for Source Water Protection" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Land Conservation for Source Water Protection

Photo courtesy of Mac Stone - Executive Director, Naturaland Trust

Riparian buffers, or corridors of vegetation along creeks and rivers, provide a variety of benefits to water quality and our communities.

Enhance property values and reduce flooding impacts

Support recreation and local economies

Sequester carbon and improve air quality

Create green jobs

Filter pollutants from upland runoff

Provide space to view nature and relax along the banks

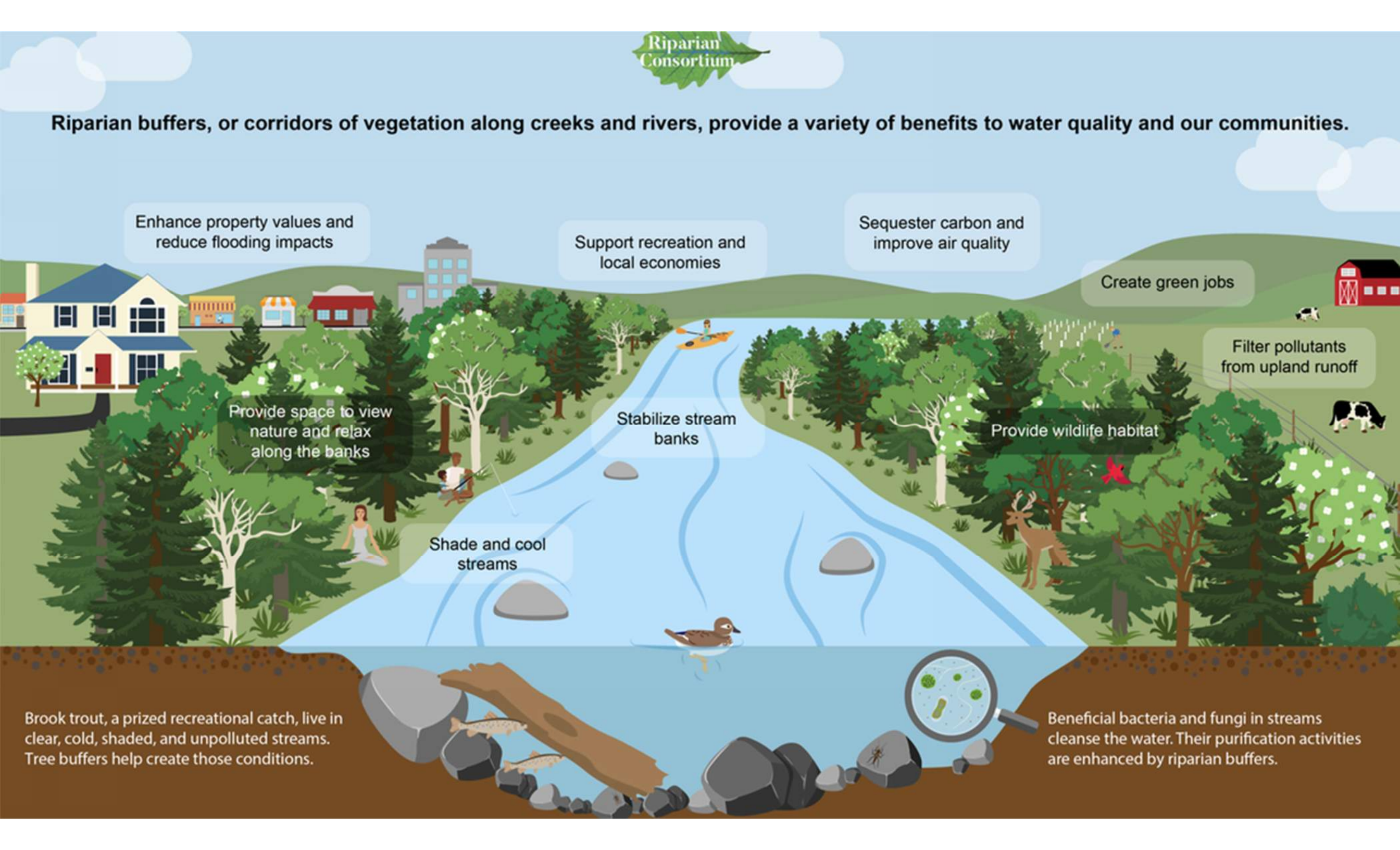
Stabilize stream banks

Provide wildlife habitat

Shade and cool streams

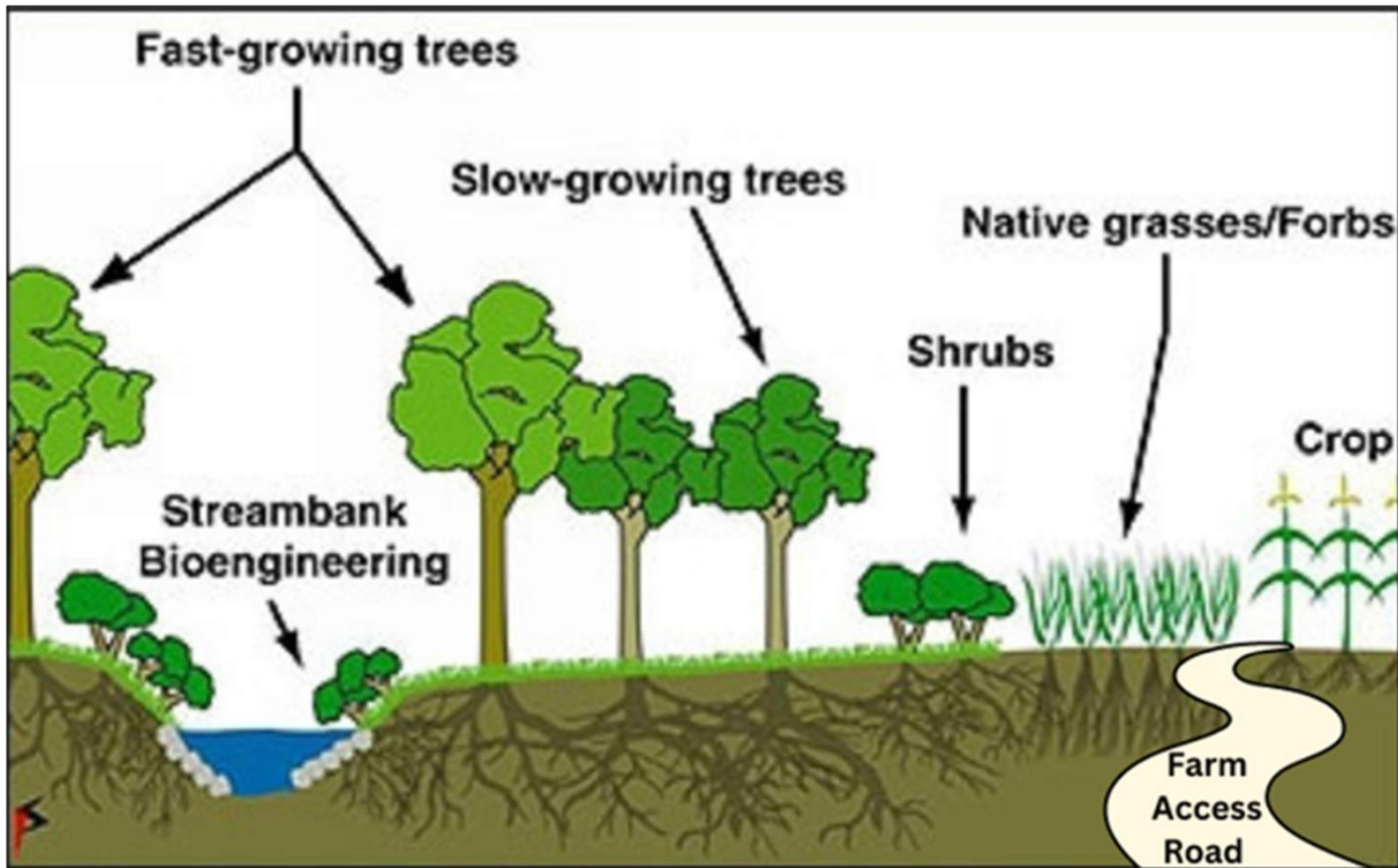
Brook trout, a prized recreational catch, live in clear, cold, shaded, and unpolluted streams. Tree buffers help create those conditions.

Beneficial bacteria and fungi in streams cleanse the water. Their purification activities are enhanced by riparian buffers.



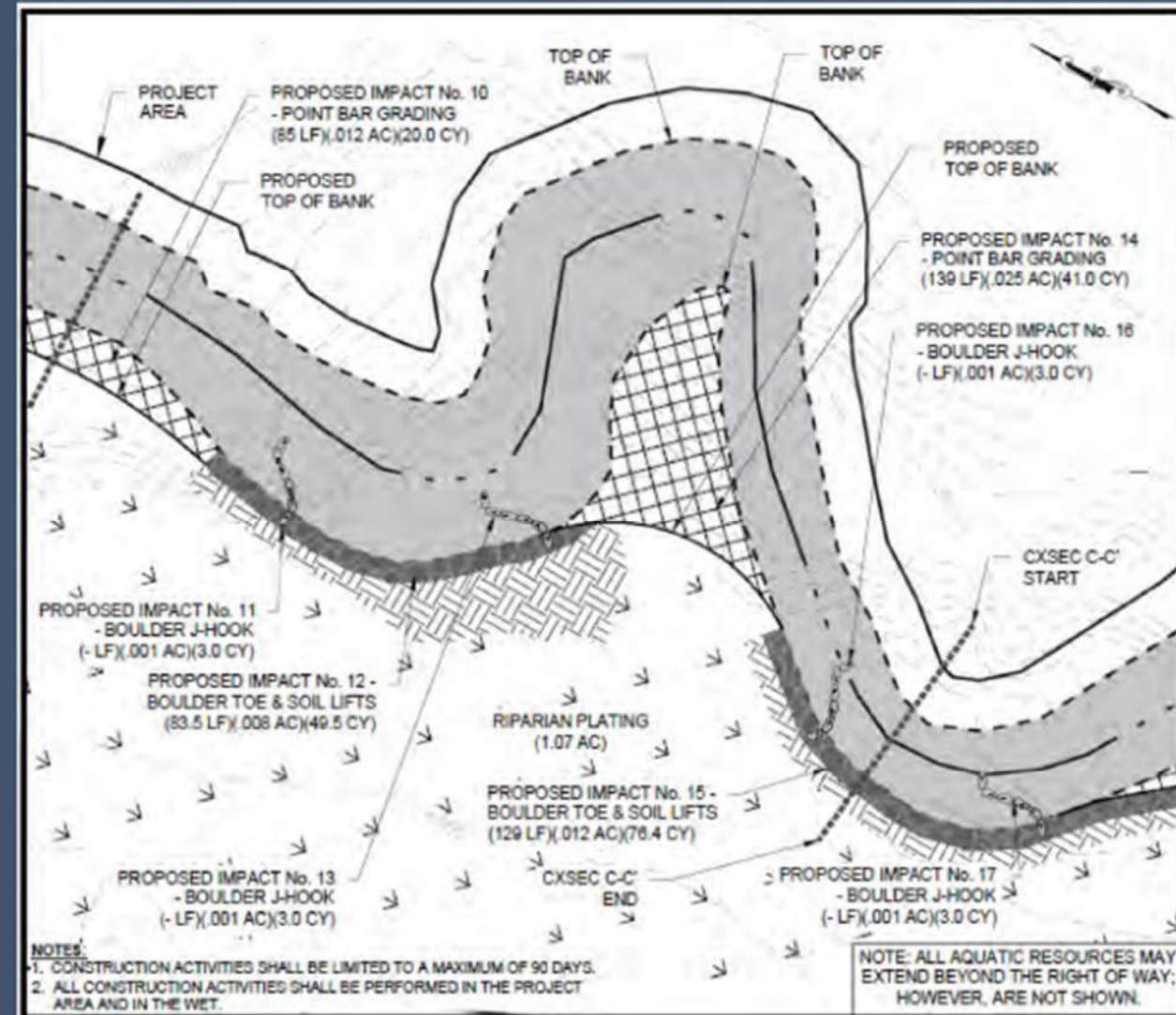
A scenic landscape photograph of a stream restoration project. The foreground shows a stream with clear, rippling water. A line of large, grey, angular rocks is placed across the stream, creating a riffle. The banks are covered in lush green grass and some small plants. In the background, a dense forest of tall green trees rises on a hillside under a clear blue sky. The text "Stream and Riparian Restoration Projects" is overlaid in white, centered in the middle of the image.

Stream and Riparian Restoration Projects



Stream Restoration Preparation Needs

- Design
- USACE 401/404 permitting (if disturb below OHW and >500 feet)
- No rise analysis
- Floodplain permit (if in mapped 100-year flood area)
- Maintenance Plan

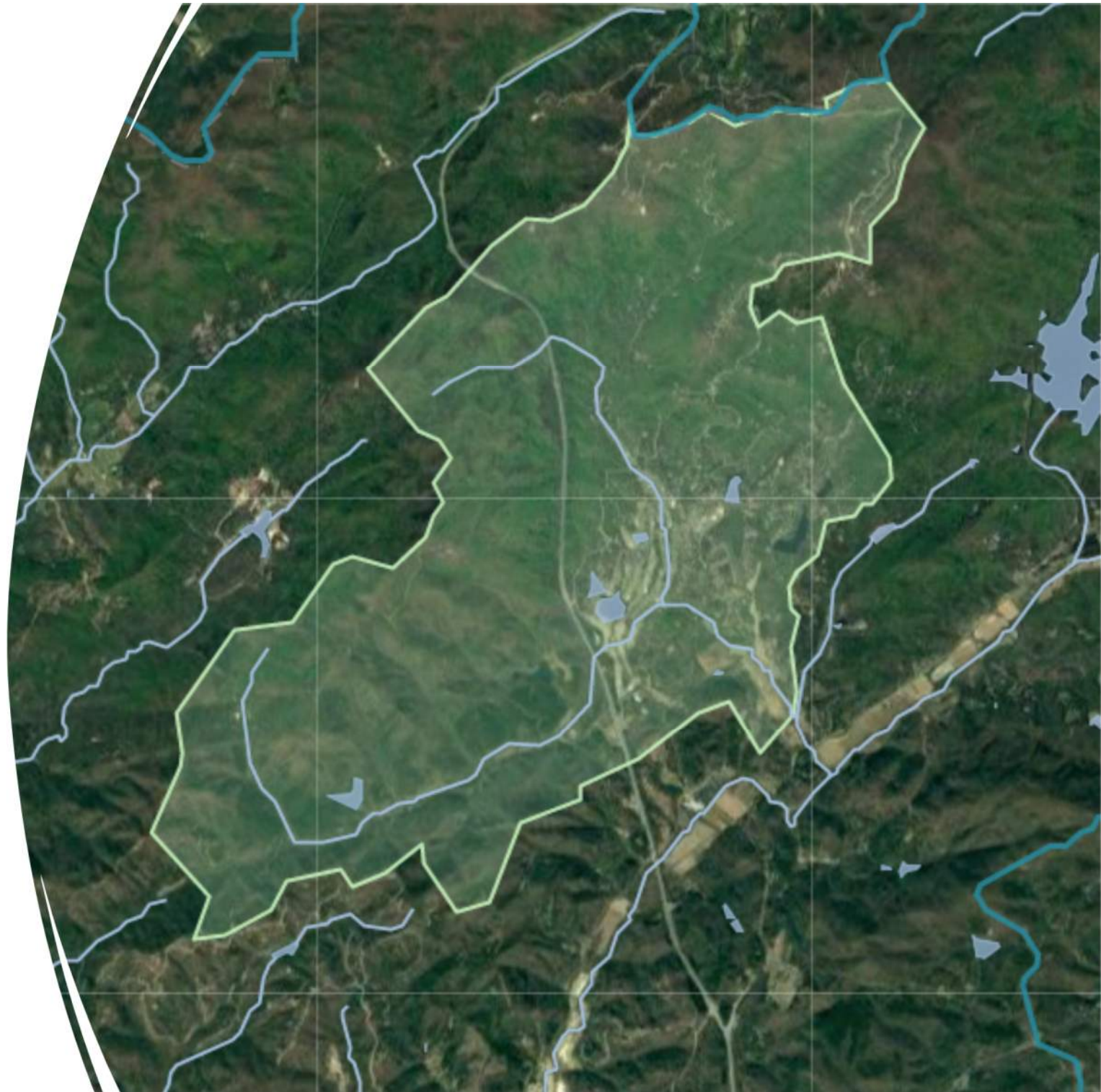


Exotics Control



Terry Creek Watershed

9.2 square miles
(5,900 acres)







Soil Loss from Channel Erosion



800 yd³ = 1,200 tons



400 yd³ = 600 tons