



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Water Quality Impacts of Stream Fencing in Western North Carolina](#)

In spring, 1992 a western North Carolina cow/calf operator began fencing approximately 3 miles of streambanks to substantially reduce access by cattle and thus improve water quality. Long term objectives included the planting of trout in these streams. Pre and post fencing sampling was performed and indicated statistically significant decreases in suspended sediments and fecal coliform bacteria following fencing. Continuous water temperature monitoring for three years beginning in 1996 shows hottest stream temperatures well below lethal limits for trout and only slight potential for temperature stress. These temperature conditions are most likely due to the shading effects of increased riparian vegetation. 2006 water quality sampling shows continued maintenance of improved water quality. Stream habitat improvement is planned prior to the implementation of trout stocking.

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