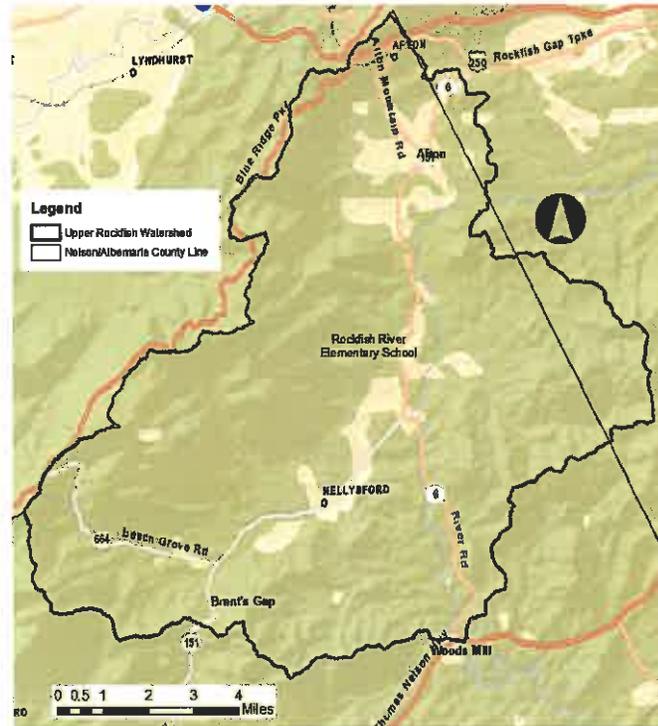


## Where Can I Get More Information?

Contact Luke Longanecker at the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (434) 975-0224 ext. 106 or by email [luke.longanecker@tjswcd.org](mailto:luke.longanecker@tjswcd.org)

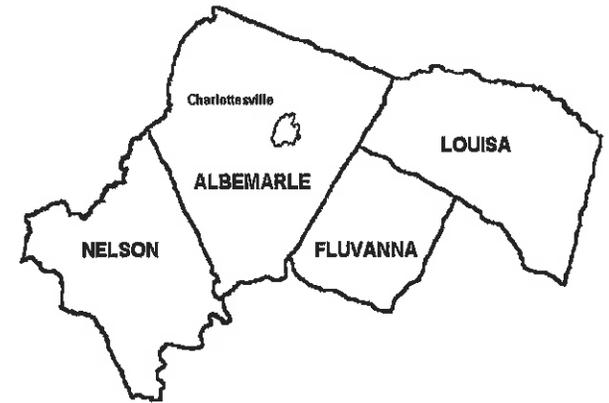
Luke Longanecker grew up in Nelson County and went on to study at Virginia Tech. After graduation, Luke interned for USGS before getting a job with the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District as a Conservation Technician. After spending a year over in the valley, Luke moved back to Nelson County and began working for the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District. Luke is very happy to be back in the area he grew up in and looks forward to working in the place he calls home.

## Where is the upper Rockfish River Watershed?



*This project received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), via grant contract number: 15749.*

## Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District



## Septic System Cost Share Assistance Programs

### *Upper Rockfish River*

*"To exercise leadership in promoting natural resource protection"*

## Signs that your septic system is failing?

- Wastewater backing up into household drains.
- Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or in your basement.
- Septic odor inside or outside of your home.
- Bright green, spongy grass on the drain field, even during dry weather.



These are indicators that your septic system could be failing. There could also be problems within the septic tank that may not be visible. Having your septic tank pumped out and inspected every 3-5 years is recommended. It can prevent unwanted costs and unnecessary pollution.

**What do I do if my septic system is failing or if I want to replace my straight pipe?**

**CONTACT US!!!**

**There is financial assistance to help maintain and repair your septic system.**

## Septic System Cost Share Assistance Program

### What It Is:

This cost share program provides financial assistance for septic pumpouts. There is also financial assistance available to repair and/or replace failing septic systems.

### Who is this program for?

This program is available to residents and homeowners in the Upper Rockfish River Watershed in both Nelson and Albemarle Counties.

### Why is this program available?

This program was made available through a clean-up plan developed with stakeholder input for the Rockfish River Watershed. The Rockfish River does not currently meet water quality standards due to elevated levels of bacteria.

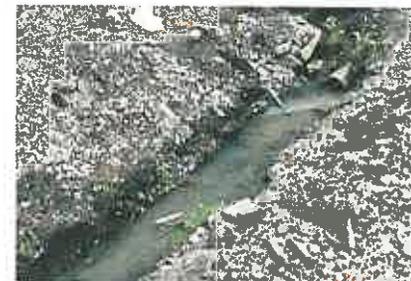
Failing septic systems and straight pipes were found to be one of the causes for the Rockfish River being polluted. This cost share program was developed to address residential pollutants in the Upper Rockfish River Watershed and to increase septic system awareness.

## Benefits of Pumping Your Septic Regularly

- Regular maintenance such as pumpouts can prolong the life of your septic system and prevent major damages and septic failures in the future.
- Pumpouts cost an average of \$300, replacements and repairs cost between \$3,000 and \$7,000.
- A failing septic system allows harmful bacteria from untreated waste to leach into groundwater supplies, contaminating your drinking water. The untreated waste on the ground's surface pollutes our local streams and rivers by carrying bacteria in runoff after storm events which can make people sick.

### DID YOU KNOW???

**The absence of a septic waste treatment system is ILLEGAL.** Pipes that lead directly from a home's toilet and drains directly into a ditch, stream or river are called straight pipes. Straight pipes are not



Pictures courtesy of the Virginia Health Department

treating discharge and sewage properly and directly contaminate water supplies.