

Watershed Steward  
Bill McCall

-Submitted by Mike Kay  
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Bill McCall who has a farm in Keymar was recently nominated as a Watershed Steward for his work in Tree Planting and implementing Agricultural Conservation Practices. Bill entered the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in 2003 and has utilized the initiative to fence cattle out of Israel Creek and plant 23.1 acres of trees around the waterway.

Maintenance has involved mowing the site three times during the growing season, initiating some control of Canada thistle, fixing the shelters when the site was flooded in 2004 and sometimes when deer rub up against them, and removing shelters after the tree becomes 8' tall and 2" diameter. Fixing the shelters after the flood and cutting up and removing large sections of trees that were deposited with the flood were the hardest part of maintenance according to Bill. Mr. McCall seems to enjoy the work and is very proud of the results. He often invites visitors down to look at his trees when they stop by.

It's Bill's hard work and conscientious maintenance that keeps this project in tip top condition. Thanks to Bill, a 4,200 foot stretch of Israel Creek has a vigorous young forested buffer which helps to cleanse the water, improve the water for aquatic organisms, while providing habitat for wildlife in this "riparian" corridor.