

# Another Conservation Success Story...

## Franklin County, Georgia

February 2007

### North Broad Watershed Rehabilitation

Since 1953, three hundred and fifty seven USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Assisted Project Dams have been constructed pursuant to Public Law 566 Federal funding. In Franklin County, there are seven watershed structures located in the North Fork of the Broad watershed which were built in the 60's and 70's.

The watershed structures were located at strategic points to provide flood prevention to flood plains, culverts, and bridges. Now, most of these dams provide flood protection benefits to communities downstream. And, of course, as man-made structures, these dams need regular maintenance. After years of neglect, many local sponsors, with financial assistance from the state, have allocated approximately \$200,000 for much needed maintenance.

NRCS provides technical assistance with identification of maintenance needs for the much needed maintenance to these watershed structures.



Fred Dilbeck , Soil Technician, and Gary Crowe stand atop the newly cleared dam in Franklin County.



The gyro-tech is a unique machine that can mulch trees. What used to take weeks can now be done in hours



#### Safe Dam Program

Since 1953, 357 project dams have been built in Georgia. The Georgia Safe Dams Program has categorized 150 of these as "High Hazard," indicating a potential loss of life if the dam were to fail. Preliminary investigations indicate that some \$120 million will be needed to upgrade these structures and ensure compliance with current dam safety legislation.



Markers like this one were a common sight in the 1960's

NRCS project dams annually provide \$19 million of benefits to local communities by providing flood protection, water based recreation, municipal water supply, and other water uses. One of the major issues involved with aging dams is the safety and health of an estimated 15,000 people downstream from the dams. Many dams were originally built in rural areas to protect agricultural lands.

Homes, businesses, and roads have now been built downstream, and increased damages would occur if they were to fail.

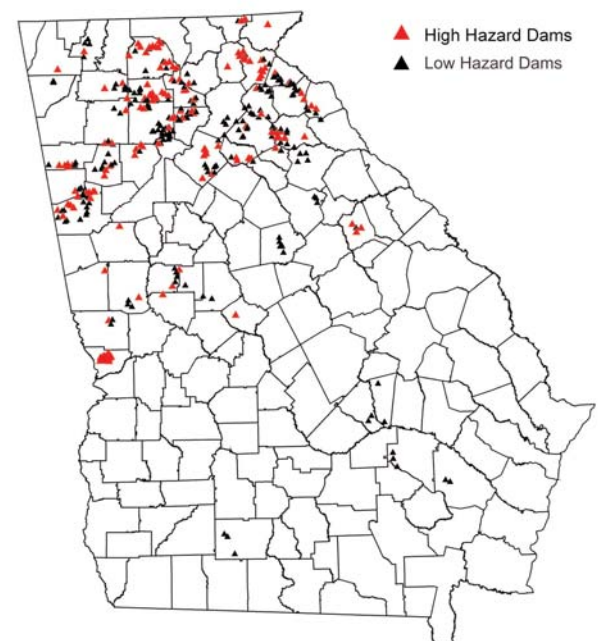
Congress passed legislation in November 2000 that authorized NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance for rehabilitation of dams that were originally constructed under NRCS water resources programs.

#### Hazard Dam Classification Map

#### NRCS Assisted Dams



#### Hazard Classification



November 2006

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D  
706-894-1591

 **NRCS** Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
706-376-5451

Broad River Soil And Water  
Conservation District

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.