

Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Reinvesting in Sallisaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 18M, Oklahoma

Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs during the construction period, protect homes, agricultural land, and public works from dam failure, and provide water for 20,000 people.



The Sallisaw Creek Watershed Dam is located four miles southwest of Stilwell, in Adair County.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- o **Location:** Adair County, 2nd Congressional District
- o **Federal Funding:** \$4,000,000
- o **Sponsor Funding:** \$2,097,850

The dam will be brought up to current safety standards. It is classified as high-hazard due to a 2006 study that shows 24 homes, a church, and a water treatment and pumping facility would be inundated if the dam failed. The dam's height will be raised by 3.4 feet, and existing spillways will be replaced.

Partners

- o USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- o Adair County Conservation District
- o City of Stilwell
- o Stilwell Area Development Authority
- o Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Benefits

Rehabilitation of the dam will increase public safety and provide \$20.7 million in flood-reduction benefits over the dam's 100-year life. The lake created by the dam provides 3,000 acre-feet of municipal water storage for the Stilwell Area Development Authority.



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The principal spillway inlet tower at Sallisaw Creek dam.

Economic Opportunities

The construction of the project will create or save jobs for heavy equipment operators, job managers, and other construction personnel and subcontractors. Local businesses such as motels, restaurants, and fuel suppliers will also benefit.

Statewide Perspective

Sallisaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 18M, one of 34 dams in the 185,280-acre watershed, is part of a vital network of 2,105 dams in 121 NRCS-assisted watershed projects in Oklahoma. These dams make up a \$2 billion infrastructure and provide \$75 million in annual flood-protection benefits.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
100 USDA, Suite 206
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www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov



Sallisaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 18M protects the City of Stilwell from floods and provides water for 20,000 people.

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