

Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Reinvesting in Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-44, Oklahoma

Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs during the construction period and will provide flood protection for agricultural land, two houses and two roads downstream from the dam that would be adversely affected by a dam failure.



The Sugar Creek Watershed Dam is located four miles northwest of Anadarko, in Caddo 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:** Caddo County, 3rd Congressional District
- o **Federal Funding:** \$1,641,000
- o **Sponsor Funding:** \$755,550

The dam has been reclassified as high-hazard since there are now houses and roads downstream. There is a potential for loss of life if the dam should fail. The dam must be brought up to current safety standards.

In August 2007, the watershed received over 8.3 inches of rainfall in a 6-hour period, causing significant damage on the downstream side of the embankment as a result of spillway flows.

The rehabilitation will include moving the centerline of the dam downstream from the current location, rerouting a county road over the top of the dam, installing concrete spillway pipe, and raising the auxiliary spillway level 3.8 feet.

Partners

- o USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- o South Caddo County Conservation District
- o Caddo County Commissioners
- o Oklahoma Conservation Commission



Damage to Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-44 as a result of 8.3+ inches of rain in a 6-hour period in August 2007.

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Benefits

Rehabilitation of the dam will increase public safety and provide \$13 million in flood-reduction benefits over the dam's 100-year life.

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

Sugar Creek Floodwater Retarding Dam No. L-44, one of 51 dams in the 189,076-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 average annual benefits.

For More Information

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