USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

RECOVERY.GOV

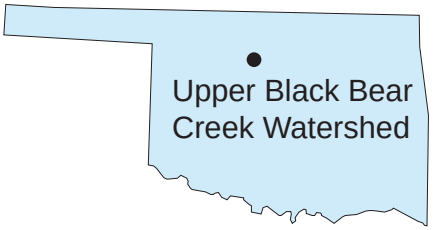
Watershed Operations

October 2009

Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed, Dam No. 28, Oklahoma

Introduction

The Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed is located in Garfield, Noble, and Pawnee Counties, Oklahoma. This watershed repair project will create or save jobs during the construction period.



The Upper Black Bear Creek Watershed Dam 28 is located in Garfield County, Oklahoma.

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

- **Location:** Garfield County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** $110,000

This project will repair the dam's severely eroded outlet basin. The basin will be reshaped and protected with rock riprap and vegetation to prevent future degredation.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Garfield County Conservation District
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Benefits

This project will avoid more costly repairs in the future and prevent a dam failure. A dam failure would have catastophic impact on water quality and downstream infrastructure. The project ensures that over $47,000 in average annual flood damage reduction benefits will continue into the future.

This severely eroded outlet basin will require reshaping, rock riprap, and revegetating to prevent further damage to the dam's principal spillway.

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Economic Opportunities

The construction of the project will provide jobs for heavy equipment operators, job foremen, and other construction personnel and subcontractors. Local businesses and suppliers will also benefit.

Statewide Perspective

Upper Black Bear Dam No. 28, 1 of 72 dams in the 241,546-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

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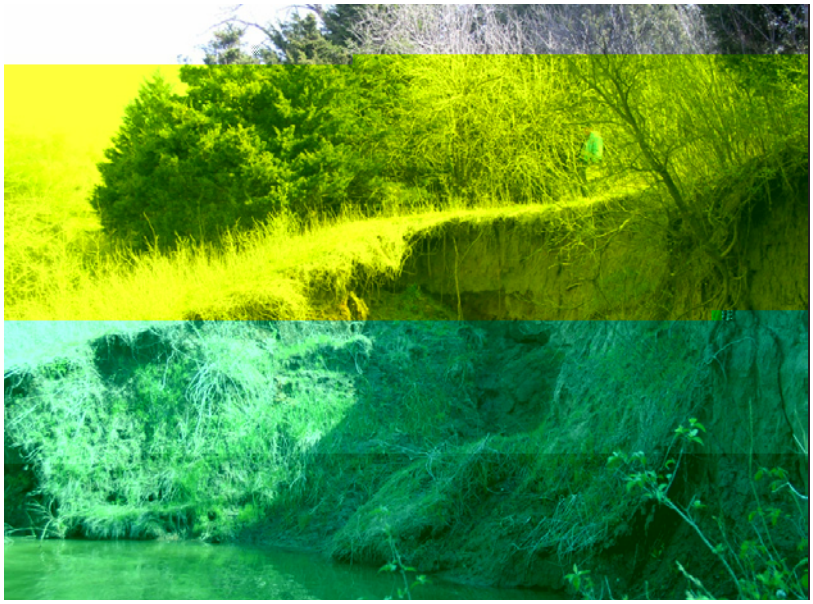

An inspector assesses the severity of the erosion on the backslope of the dam.

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