United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Operations

April 2009

Reinvesting in Lower Brushy Creek Watershed, Texas

Introduction

These watershed repair projects will ensure that $299,000 of annual benefits from reduced flood damage will continue. The dams provide flood protection benefits in a growing urban area near Georgetown, Texas.

Lower Brushy Creek Watershed in Williamson County, Texas.

Project Description

- **Location:** Williamson County, 10th and 31st Congressional Districts
- **Federal Funding:** $2,502,000

These projects will repair the slope slides of flood control dams. These slides have occured as a result of periods of heavy rainfall following extended drought. Soil will be removed, treated with lime, and replaced to stabilize the slopes. These repairs will ensure the dams are safe, providing benefits for years to come.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Brushy Creek Water Control and Improvement District #1B
- Taylor Soil and Water Conservation District

Benefits

Forty farms and three bridges downstream will benefit from continued reduction in flood damages and sedimentation. Six miles of streams will be enhanced, sedimentation will be significantly reduced and 51 acres of open water will be maintained.

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.

Slope slides on the dams will be repaired by removing the soil, treating with lime, and replacing to stabilize the slopes.

The Case of Reinvesting in Lower Brushy Creek Watershed, Texas

Economic Opportunities

These repairs in the Lower Brushy Creek Watershed will create or save jobs through industries supplying or supporting construction activities and the sale of goods and services. In addition to the jobs, this program will increase the demand for construction supplies and equipment, adding approximately $2,189,000 to the local economy.

Statewide Perspective

The dams within the Lower Brushy Creek Watershed are part of nearly 2,000 dams in Texas constructed by NRCS and local sponsors. These dams continue to provide nearly $120 million of annual benefits protecting downstream properties, infrastructure, and countless lives across the entire state.

For More Information

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Periods of heavy rainfall following extended drought caused the soil to separate and slide.