

NEWS RELEASE

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

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**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

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For Immediate Release

NRCS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR DAM CONSTRUCTION

Bismarck, ND, September 27, 2004— The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has awarded a contract for the construction of a dam across Otter Creek in Morton County, approximately 9 miles north of the City of Mandan. The project, locally known as the Harmon Lake Dam, is part of the Square Butte Creek Watershed. It has a drainage area of 37.5 square miles and will provide flood control benefits to areas downstream, as well as recreation benefits on the reservoir itself. Otter Creek is a tributary to Square Butte Creek, which is a tributary to the Missouri River.

The contract award is for \$6.1 million, and construction is scheduled to begin late this fall or early next spring. Estimated completion date for the construction of the dam is the fall of 2007. This contract is for Phase 2 which is the construction of the dam. Several future phases will complete the recreation facilities as funding becomes available. Recreational facilities include trails, boat ramps, camp sites, and beach areas.

Project sponsors include the Morton County Water Resource District, Oliver County Water Resource District, Morton County Soil Conservation District, and Oliver County Soil Conservation District. Cost-share assistance is being provided by the North Dakota State Water Commission, the City of Mandan, and the Morton County Water Resource District.

More information on the project can be obtained by contacting Wes Wiedenmeyer, NRCS State Conservation Engineer, at 701-530-2086.

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