

Natural Resources Conservation Service
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
Environmental Assessment, Floodwater Retarding Site No. 15
Lyons Creek Watershed in Dickinson and Morris Counties, Kansas

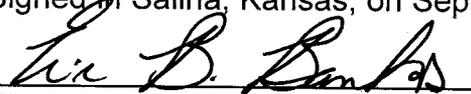
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended. Pursuant to the implementing regulations for NEPA (40 Code of Federal Records (CFR) parts 1500-1508); the USDA Departmental Policy for the NEPA (7 CFR part 1b); the NRCS Regulations (7 CFR part 650); and the NRCS policy (General Manual Title 190, Part 410); the NRCS gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for constructing a single floodwater retarding dam in the Lyons Creek Watershed, Dickinson and Morris Counties, Kansas. The Environmental Assessment was developed in coordination with the sponsoring local organization (Lyons Creek Watershed Joint District No. 41) for a proposed floodwater retarding dam in the Lyons Creek Watershed to reduce flood damages downstream of the site. Upon consideration of the affected environment, alternatives, environmental consequences, and comments and coordination with concerned public and agencies, the State Conservationist for NRCS, Kansas found that based on the significance and context and intensity as defined in 40 CFR part 1508.27, that the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Thus, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is being made.

The Lyons Creek Watershed Joint District No. 41 concurs with this determination and supports the proposed project to construct a single floodwater retarding dam to current NRCS high hazard class requirements and for a design life expediency of 100 years. The following action is proposed to construct a floodwater retarding dam across an unnamed tributary to Lyons Creek, approximately one and one-half miles upstream from their confluence. For further information relating to the project action, please refer to the Environmental Assessment located at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pl566/.

For information regarding this finding, contact: Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 760 South Broadway, Salina, Kansas 67401; telephone (785) 823-4500. No administrative action on implementation of the proposed action will be taken until 15 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Availability in the local news media.

Conclusion: I find that the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Thus, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been made.

Signed in Salina, Kansas, on September 23, 2009.


ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist