

## Watershed Operations

October 2009

## Wet Walnut Creek Watershed Site 53, Kansas

### Introduction

This project provides essential flood protection for agricultural land, roads, and bridges. This dam in Wet Walnut Creek Watershed has suffered erosion so severe that it is non-compliance with state law.

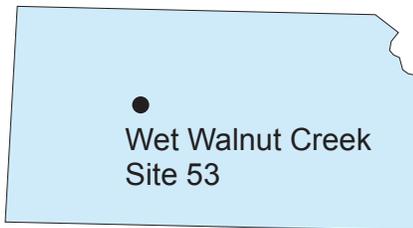
### Project Description

- **Location:** Ness County, 1st Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$199,000

Wet Walnut Creek is a small flood control dam in west central Kansas that has suffered severe erosion. The degraded dam slope means the structure is now non-compliant with current state law. This dam provides important protection to critical resources, such as agricultural land, roads, and bridges.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Wet Walnut Creek Watershed Joint District #58
- Ness County Conservation District
- Scott County Conservation District
- Lane County Conservation District



Wet Walnut Creek Watershed is located in Ness County, Kansas.

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.



The reservoir side of the dam has been damaged by wave action. This photo has been enhanced to show where the proposed rock riprap will be placed to protect the damaged side of the dam and to control any future damage.

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### Benefits

The dam currently provides an estimated \$72,200 in average annual flood protection benefits. Beneficiaries include each of the approximately 10,000 people in the area. In addition, 30 miles of stream corridor, with a floodplain that encompasses 50 farms and ranches, approximately 13,000 acres of agricultural lands, and seven roads and bridges will be protected.

### Economic Opportunities

In the short term, the repair work will require the hiring of construction crews to make the repairs. In the longer term, the repair work will ensure this flood control dam will provide the community lasting economic opportunities by reducing the costs of flood damage expenses to the community.

### Statewide Perspective

Making sound investments in our agricultural infrastructure, including flood prevention measures such as Wet Walnut Creek Site 53, is critical to the long-term economic health of the state.

### For More Information

USDA, NRCS

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[www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov)



View along fenceline. Eroded area is to the left of the fence. Concrete inlet riser appears at left side of picture.



View to the north along pool edge. Pool level has been lowered to facilitate surveying and construction.

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