

## Watershed Operations

April 2009

## Construction of Turkey Creek Watershed Dams No. 3 and No. 8, Oklahoma

### Introduction

Two flood control dams will be constructed in the Turkey Creek Watershed. The watershed plan is to build 11 flood control structures and re-establish 43.5 acres of wildlife habitat.



The watershed covers 244,006 acres and is located in parts of 4 counties and all or part of 8 rural communities.

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:** Alfalfa County and Garfield County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,670,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$70,000

This project consists of building two flood control dams. Construction of the project in Alfalfa County will create a 25-acre permanent pool, resulting in new aquatic wildlife habitat. A 36-acre permanent pool will be a result of the Garfield County construction. Water quality in the stream below the sites will improve due to a reduction in sediments and more stable flow conditions.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Alfalfa County Conservation District
- Garfield County Conservation District
- Garfield County Commissioners
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- Turkey Creek Conservancy District

### Benefits

The two dams will protect eight bridges, eight county roads, and 934 acres downstream from flooding. When completed, the Turkey Creek Watershed Project will protect approximately 6,000 residents in the watershed and eliminate the flooding of 18 homes and businesses in the Town of Dover. It will also protect a total of 13,722 acres from flooding, including 440 farm operations.



Results of Turkey Creek flooding roads, farm operations, and residences.

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### Economic Opportunities

The construction of the project will create or save jobs for heavy equipment operators, foremen, and other construction personnel and subcontractors. Local businesses such as motels, restaurants and fuel suppliers will also benefit.

### Statewide Perspective

These Turkey Creek Watershed Dams will be 2 of 11 dams in the 244,006 acre watershed, and become a 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

USDA, NRCS  
100 USDA, Suite 206  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074  
Phone: 405-742-1204  
[www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov)



Existing wheat fields that will be protected from flooding by the construction of Dam No. 3.

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