

Watershed Operations

October 2009

North Fork Little River Watershed Project, Kentucky

Introduction

Dam #5 was built in 1962 and developed a significant leak, posing a high risk to life and property should catastrophic failure occur. This project will repair the leak so the dam will provide continued flood protection and recreation benefits.



North Fork Little River Multiple Purpose Structure No. 5 is located in Christian County, Kentucky.

Project Description

- **Location:** Christian County, 1st Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$725,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$133,500

In order to reduce the risk to life and property, this project will repair this leaking dam with concrete grouting.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- City of Hopkinsville
- Christian County Conservation District

Benefits

Dam #5 is one of four dams in the watershed that control drainage on more than 17,000 acres and protects approximately 600 acres of land and 31,000 residents within the City of Hopkinsville. This dam was completed in 1962 and is located approximately four miles north of the city, which currently operates and maintains the dam to provide flood protection and recreational benefits for area residents.

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.



Aerial view of Lake Blythe—waters muddy after heavy rains.

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Economic Opportunities

This project will provide repair to maintain the dam's integrity and continue the reduction of flood damages estimated at \$525,000 annually.

Statewide Perspective

Project implementation will ensure this North Fork Little River Multiple Purpose Structure continues to provide flood protection benefits, without risk of dam failure and subsequent loss of lives and property. There are two highways, a railway system, and multiple residences and businesses in the breach zone, which will be protected. In addition to flood prevention, the dam will keep the lake at a normal level and continue to provide wildlife and recreational benefits. This dam has also been utilized as an emergency water supply.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
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North Fork Little River Watershed MPS #5 stilling basin overflow, with installed rip-rap to prevent bank erosion as water passes from riser through pipe and is released into creek.



Lake Blythe with riser to the right.

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