

Watershed Operations

August 2009

Saddle Mountain Creek Watershed, Dam No. 8, Oklahoma

Introduction

The Saddle Mountain Creek Watershed is located in Kiowa, Caddo, and Comanche Counties, Oklahoma. This repair project will create or save jobs during the construction period. This project will make essential repairs to the eroding front slope of this dam.



Saddle Creek Mountain Watershed, Dam No. 8, is located in Kiowa County, Oklahoma

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:** Kiowa County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$105,000

This project will repair the eroding front slopes of the dams, which, if left unchecked, would increase repair costs and endanger the dams leading to dam failure. The front slopes will need to be reconstructed to include a sloped berm and rock riprap.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mountain View Conservation District
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Benefits

This project will avoid more costly repairs in the future and prevent dam failures. Dam failures would have catastrophic impact on water quality and downstream infrastructure. This project will ensure that \$8,537 in average annual flood damage reduction benefits will continue into the future.



Wave action has caused erosion along the entire front slope of this dam.

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Economic Opportunities

The construction of the project will provide jobs for heavy equipment operators, job foremen, and other construction personnel and subcontractors. Local businesses and suppliers will also benefit.

Statewide Perspective

Saddle Mountain Creek Dam No. 8, one of 12 dams in the 72,420-acre watershed, is 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

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Rock riprap placed along the eroded front slope will protect the dam against wave action.

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