

Fact Sheet

March 2009

Rehabilitation of New Creek Site 14 New Creek–Whites Run Subwatershed

Introduction

The New Creek Site 14 dam rehabilitation brings the existing structure into compliance with current design criteria and performance standards and maintains the current level of flood protection to the municipal water supply.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart 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:** Grant County, First Congressional District
- **Size:** 3,204 (watershed)
- **Start Date:** March 30, 2009

Rehabilitation measures include: construction of a concrete parapet wall on the top of the dam embankment to prevent overtopping during the Probable Maximum Precipitation event, installation of a new intake riser, lining the principal spillway pipe, installing an impact basin, installing an embankment surface drainage system, and mitigating the temporary elimination of the lake's fishery. The existing New Creek Site 14 dam was built in 1963. The lifespan of the dam and the benefits it provides will be extended another 50 years.

Partners

- Potomac Valley Conservation District
- City of Keyser
- West Virginia State Conservation Committee

Benefits

The rehabilitation of New Creek Site 14 meets the partners or local sponsors' objectives of bringing this dam into compliance with current dam design criteria and performance standards, maintaining the current 100-year floodplain, continuing to serve as a water supply source, and addresses resource concerns identified by the public. The primary purposes of the project is flood prevention and water supply.



The New Creek Site 14 dam rehabilitation is located in Grant County, West Virginia.

New Creek Site 14 provides water for the City of Keyser and recreation opportunities.



Rehabilitation of New Creek Site 14 New Creek–Whites Run Subwatershed



The existing principal spillway discharge will be updated with a reinforced concrete impact basin.

Rehabilitation provides continued protection for downstream houses, businesses, utilities, and other infrastructure in the floodplain that has been constructed since the structure was first built. WV State Route 93 and US Routes 50 and 220 receive protection from flooding because of this dam.

The site provides wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing, scenery, and is a popular hiking area. It maintains existing stream habitat downstream of the dam by augmenting flows during dry weather conditions. The project retains the existing fish and wildlife habitat associated with the lake and the recreation benefits for anglers. Site 14 provides important fishing opportunities (17,279 annual angler-days) in the New Creek Watershed.

Rehabilitation is necessary for structural reasons. The materials used to construct the principal spillway system, the pool drain, and water supply system are subject to weathering and chemical reactions due to natural elements within the

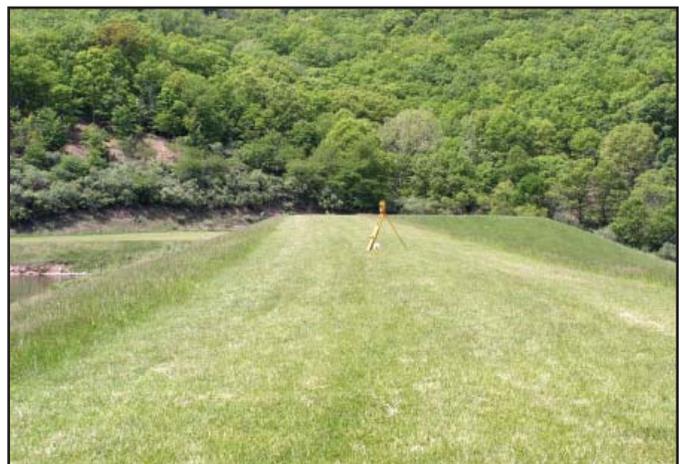
soil, water, and atmosphere. Concrete risers and conduits can deteriorate and crack, metal components can rust and corrode, and leaks can develop. Embankment failure can occur from internal erosion caused by leaks in the principal spillway conduit. The lifespan of the dam and the benefits it provides will be extended another 50 years with the completion of the structures' rehabilitation.

Site 14 provides water supply for the City of Keyser in Mineral County.

Economic Opportunities

The New Creek Project is estimated to generate over 16 jobs. It protects real estate values around the lake and downstream from the dam. The beneficiaries in the New Creek Watershed are estimated at 11,870 (including water customers). There are over 6,000 water meters.

This is the current view of the top of the dam. The dam height will be raised with a concrete parapet wall.



Statewide Perspective

The watershed is situated in the headwater region of the Potomac River Basin. The dam traps 1.6 acre feet of sediment annually, thereby improving downstream water quality.

For More Information

Bill O'Donnell, Assistant State Conservationist–Programs
304-284-7543
Bill.Odonnell@wv.usda.gov

www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov

New Creek 14, Dam Rehabilitation Project web site:

www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/newcreek14/newcreek14ov.html

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

