Natural Resources Conservation Service 100 USDA ste 206 Stillwater, OK 74074 405.742.1204

Oklahoma Conservation Partnership Report

October 2012

www.ok.nrcs.usda.gov

VISION: Productive Lands Healthy Environments – MISSION: Helping People Help the Land

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Engineering	2
Water Resources	3
Zone 1 Review	4
Zone 2 Review	5
Zone 4 Review	7

Sugar Creek Site L44 in Caddo County has been Rehabilitated!

The Sugar Creek Site L44 in Caddo County was severely damaged in 2007 as a result of Tropical Storm Erin dropping 8.31" of rainfall over the watershed in a matter of only 6 hours. The auxiliary spillway was eroded down to sandstone which directed flow toward the back toe of the embankment, causing a near failure of the embankment. The downstream road was overtopped and failed, sending sediment and a large volume of water downstream toward houses within the breach path.

The rehabilitation of this site included relocating the dam so that it would also serve as the road. The auxiliary spillway was designed to flow through a box culvert under the new road. Although construction of the dam is complete, construction will continue on the site until the paved road surface is built across the dam. The project was coordinated with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Caddo County Commissioners, Bureau of Indian Affairs, South Caddo County Conservation District, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the NRCS, and many other groups that were impacted by the structure.

Sugar Creek Site L44 Caddo County

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Engineering Review - submitted by Chris Stoner

Geotechnical Modeling Workshop

Kevin Cook, Scott Schneider and Victor Slowik attended a Geotechnical Modeling Workshop at the National Design, Construction and Soil Mechanics Center in Ft Worth, TX.

SLOPE/W is used to model and analyze slope stability problems like an embankment slope or a retaining wall. SEEP/W analyzes seepage; a model can help determine the need and extent of drains within an embankment. SIGMA/W models internal stresses and deformation in soils in response to varying loads and site conditions.

These three tools are useful for evaluating an earthwork structure throughout its planned life like a first filling analysis, long-term steady state seepage, and foundation stability. Many of these functions are currently provided in the soil mechanics report.

Soil Mechanics reports are prepared for Oklahoma NRCS by the Soil Mechanics Labs located in Ft Worth, TX and Lincoln, NE. Geostudio is the primary tool used to set the dam slopes and berm widths, as well as identify the type and extent of drainage needed within the dam.

With a better knowledge of Geostudio software, Oklahoma NRCS expects to increase the quality of submittals for soil mechanics analysis. As a result, recommendations for slope configurations and drainage requirements can be less conservative, which helps keep construction costs down for NRCS and its partners. Better submittals can also reduce turnaround time, which helps get projects under construction sooner.

Upper Clear Boggy Site 33 Final Inspection

The final inspection was held September 18th for the rehabilitation contract on Upper Clear Boggy Site 33 in Pontotoc County. This is a high hazard site south of Ada and was one of several sites in Oklahoma rehabilitated with ARRA funds. The project sponsor is the Pontotoc County Conservation District.

The rehabilitation included replacing the principal spillway conduit and tower. The pipe size was increased from 24 to 30 inches and the tower was raised 3.6 feet to increase the available sediment storage. The auxiliary spillway width was increased from 110 to 230 feet and the top of dam was raised one foot in order to meet current dam safety criteria. The total height of dam is now 48 feet.

The project was designed by URS Group, Inc. out of Denver, Colorado and the contract was administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. OCC hired Terracon to provide engineering services and that work was subcontracted to M&E Consultants and performed by David Haggard (Project Engineer) and David Gregory (Inspector).

Silver Spur Construction out of Haskell, Oklahoma was awarded the contract . The site was hay mulched but not vegetated due to the time of contract completion. Vegetation of the site will take place next spring.

Water Resources Review - submitted Bill Porter

Status of Oklahoma Watershed Rehabilitation Projects as of 10-17-12

Watershed	Dam No.	County	Conservation District	Status
In Planning				
Rock Creek	15 & 16	Murray	Murray County CD	Estimated completion 12-1-12
Planning Completed - Awaiting Design				
Sallisaw Creek	32	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending Landrights
In Design				
Quapaw Creek	15M	Lincoln	Lincoln County CD	Pending
Barntiz Creek	11	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated completion 8-15-13
Barnitz Creek	5	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated completion 9-15-13
Fourche Maline	7M	Latimer	Latimer County CD	Estimated completion 9-15-14
Cottonwood Creek	16	Canadian	East Canadian CD	Estimated completion 10-15-13
Cobb Creek	3	Washita	Deer Creek CD	
Upper Black Bear	62	Noble	Noble County CD	
Sallisaw Creek	29	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	
Planning & Design Completed - Awaiting Construction				
Cottonwood Creek	54	Logan	Logan County CD	Pending Landrights
Sallisaw Creek	34	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending Landrights
Sallisaw Creek	33	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	Pending
Ft Cobb Laterals	10	Caddo	South Caddo County CD	Estimated start 4-1-13
Barntiz Creek	1	Dewey	Dewey County CD	Estimated start 4-1-13
Sallisaw Creek	28	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	
Sallisaw Creek	30	Sequoyah	Sequoyah County CD	
Under Construction				
Caney-Coon Creek	2M	Coal	Coal County CD	Estimated completion 2-1-13
Sallisaw Creek	26	Adair	Adair County CD	Estimated completion 4-15-13
Upper Clear Boggy	34	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD	Estimated completion 2-15-13 *ARRA
Rehabilitation Completed				
Sandstone Creek	16A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Barnitz Creek	14	Dewey	Dewey County CD	
Mill Creek	18	Johnston	Johnston County CD	
Double Creek	1,2,3,4,5,6	Washing-ton	Caney Valley CD	
Cavalry Creek	6	Washita	Washita County CD	
Sandstone Creek	12,17A	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Sergeant Major Creek	1,2	Roger Mills	Upper Washita CD	
Cobb Creek	2	Washita	Deer Creek CD	

Water Resources cont...

Watershed	Dam No.	County	Conservation District	Status	
			Rehabilitation Completed		
Sallisaw Creek	15,16,20	Adair	Adair County CD		
Big Wewoka Creek	29	Seminole	Seminole County CD		
Cottonwood Creek	17	Canadian	East Canadian CD		
Sallisaw Creek	18M	Adair	Adair County CD		*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-43	Caddo	West Caddo County CD		*ARRA
Upper Clear Boggy	35	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		*ARRA
Cobb Creek	1	Washita	Deer Creek CD		
Upper Clear Boggy	36	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		
Cottonwood Creek	15	Kingfisher	Kingfisher County CD	Decommission	*ARRA
Turkey Creek	9	Washita	Washita County CD		
Upper Clear Boggy	33	Pontotoc	Pontotoc County CD		*ARRA
Sugar Creek	L-44	Caddo	South Caddo County CD		*ARRA

*American Recovery Reinvestment Act

Zone 1 Review submitted by Lanny Miller

MAJOR COUNTY – Fairview Field Service Center

Chris Best, Cindy Bierig and Michael Roberts staffed the fair booth at the Major County Fall Free Fair August 24 & 25, 2012. The booth was a joint outreach effort between the Major County Conservation District, Major County NRCS and Major County FSA. There were approximately 600 in attendance where we fielded many questions relating to who we are, what we do and basic conservation technical assistance. There were many opportunities to discuss a wide array of conservation issues from wildlife habitat conservation concerning bats to farm bill program and state cost share program opportunities.

Chris Best and Cindy Bierig representing the Conservation Partnership at the Major County Fall Free Fair

Participants at the fair picking up conservation pamphlets to take home

Zone 1 Review cont....

NOBLE COUNTY – Perry Field Service Center

Noble County Conservation District and NRCS Perry Field Office held an outdoor classroom at CCC Lake South of Perry October 3, 2012. There were 9 information stops for third graders from Noble County. Billings, Morrison and Perry Schools attended and approximately 150 kids enjoyed learning about water, soil, and plants, fire and animals habitat.

They were also entertained by a puppet show explaining what they should learn during their day. Many thanks go to Noble County Conservation District for organizing the Outdoor classroom and help from NRCS Soils Staff and Field Office staff, and Suzan and Dianne from Kay County plus all other presenters.

Zone 2 Review submitted by Chad Kacir

CRAIG COUNTY – Vinita Field Service Center

On October 25th, 2012 the Craig County Conservation District and the NRCS Vinita Field Office held the 23rd Annual Outdoor Classroom for area 5th graders. The over 250 students were divided into 8 groups and rotated through the various classes. The classes were lead by area professionals and included the topics of Soils, Plants, Water Quality, Nature Center, Health and Safety, Native American Culture, Wildlife and the role of NRCS and the Conservation District in the community. Lunch was provided to all by the Craig County Conservation District and many area businesses.

PAWNEE COUNTY – Pawnee Field Service Center

The bi-annual Pawnee County Banker's Awards Banquet was held at the Pawnee County Fairgrounds on Tuesday evening October 23, 2012. Awards were given to individual producers in Pawnee County that have done a good job of doing conservation work on their land this past year.

Zone 2 Review cont....

PAYNE COUNTY – Stillwater Field Service Center

The Payne County Outreach Advisory Council and Local Work Group met on Wednesday afternoon, October 3, 2012, in the Payne County USDA Service Center. Representatives from NRCS, FSA, County Extension, Payne County Fair Board, FSA County Committee, Payne County Conservation District, BIA Pawnee Agency, and the Commissioners of Land Office met to discuss conservation programs and outreach efforts in the county. Reports from all agencies represented were given during this outreach event.

TULSA COUNTY – Tulsa Field Service Center

EPA Region 6 held a week long training on Non-point source pollution in Tulsa. On October 16th, the group came to tour the Honey Creek demonstration farm on the property of Jerry Davis east of Grove Oklahoma. The group listened to the landowner describe his participation in the project. OCC staff Greg Kloxin and Shannon Phillips presented an overview and information on the planning and implementation of the project. Marti Mefford, Honey Creek 319 project coordinator went over practice selection and installation. Michael Ramming, NRCS District Conservationist in Delaware County went over the conservation partnership that exists in the county and how it helps all parties involved. The group then viewed the conservation practices that were installed and were given a demonstration of seining and micro-invertebrate sampling in Honey Creek.

Participants at the Honey Creek Demonstration Farm

Jill Ashbrenner, 319 Eucha/ Spavinaw Coordinatior and Charles Rogers, Soil Conservationist, Jay FSC, at the Honey Creek Demonstration Farm

Zone 4 Review submitted by Jamey Wood

CHOCTAW COUNTY – Hugo Field Service Center

The Hugo NRCS Office along with the Kiamichi Conservation District, the Choctaw Nation Agricultural Department, the Hugo FSA Office, OTCAC, and the Choctaw County OSU Extension Office hosted an **outreach meeting** on October 9. Jack Hicks (in left picture below) of the Choctaw Nation Agriculture Division served as the moderator for the meeting. Marty Montague of the OSU Extension Office discussed the Value of Chicken Litter compared to Commercial Fertilizer. Jerry Robinson of the Hugo FSA Office discussed the availability of and usage of the NAP Insurance Program. Joanna Morgan of the Hugo FSA discussed Loan Programs currently available through FSA. Greg Scott, State Soil Scientist for the NRCS gave a Rainfall Simulator Demonstration and discussed soil health. Jose Mendoza of the Hugo NRCS discussed the NRCS Programs that are currently available. Greg Robertson (in right picture below) the Kiamichi Conservation District Manager discussed State cost-share availability and equipment rentals through the Conservation District.

HASKELL COUNTY – Stigler Field Service Center

On October 10, Tom Neumeyer, NRCS District Conservationist in Stigler, assisted the NRCS and Conservation District offices in Latimer and Leflore Counties with conducting the annual **Natural Resources Awareness Day** at the Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton. There were over 370 5th grade students and teachers from numerous schools that attended the event. Students and teachers rotated around at least 15 different learning stations in 15 minute intervals that offered information and activities pertaining to various real life topics including: Fish and Wildlife Management and Awareness; Forestry Practices; Fire Safety and Prevention; Water Quality Concerns; Soil Quality and Health; Emergency Response Methods and Techniques; and Animal Health and Management. A delicious meal of hamburgers, chips, cookies and drinks were provided to all that attended, as well as a packet of informational materials. The photo is students and teachers receiving instructions prior to starting at the learning stations.

Zone 4 Review cont....

HUGHES COUNTY – Holdenville Field Service Center

The Holdenville Field Office and the Hughes County Conservation District have been busy with several projects ranging from **office renovations to educational programs**. The Hughes County Conservation District gave "Soil to Spoon" presentations at both Moss and Ethel Reed Schools for 540 students. The District also hosted a poster, essay and speech contest with a total of 130 entries.

The district held its first **Fishing Clinic** for 100 5th grade students from area schools. (pictured at left is O. B. Boyd, NRCS SCT, helping bait a hook)

(pictured right is a proud catch)

PITTSBURG COUNTY – McAlester Field Service Center

The Annual **Pittsburg County Land Judging Contest/County Free Fair** held every September was another great success this year. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pittsburg County Conservation District, and Farm Service Agency staff assisted over 100 students and 25 teams from 9 schools with judging soils and participating in the conservation quiz contest.

An Outreach Booth promoting programs and services along with information for the Women/Hispanic Settlement was also available during the 4-day Fair.

Pittsburg County Land Judging Contest