

Watershed Structure Rehabilitation Cost Share

Watershed Rehabilitation Program funds that may be made available must be equal to 65 percent of the total costs of the rehabilitation project, but must not exceed 100 percent of the actual construction costs. Construction costs must include the reconstruction or decommissioning of the dam and the relocation or floodproofing of downstream property. NRCS will also assume up to 100 percent of engineering and technical assistance costs, but these costs will not be a part of the cost-share calculation.

Purpose	Installation / Construction	Engineering / Technical Assistance	Real Property Rights
Rehabilitation	No more than 100 percent ^{1,2}	No more than 100 percent ¹	0

Costs associated with new water supply storage purposes added to the rehabilitation project may be cost-shared with watershed rehabilitation funds. Cost share for new water supply storage purposes will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If cost-share is authorized, the cost-share rate will be up to 65 percent of the eligible project cost allocated to the new water supply storage purpose.

Costs associated with new purposes added to the rehabilitation project that do not involve water supply storage will not be cost-shared with watershed rehabilitation funds. The costs allocated to these new purposes will be borne by the SLO.

Applicants should contact their State Watershed Rehabilitation Program Manager for specific cost share information for the proposed project.

¹ Specific rate established in the statute.

² Federal funding assistance must not exceed the rate of assistance or funding limitations to program participants for similar practices under other existing NRCS conservation programs at the time the long term contract is signed by the contracting officer.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program



Reduced flooding and erosion damages, improved wildlife habitat, recreation, and water supply.

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The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their 50-year design life or no longer meet federal or state standards. This rehabilitation addresses critical public health and safety concerns.

Since 1948, NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing 11,845 dams.



The Lake Pelham rehabilitation included replacement of the existing vegetated earth auxiliary spillway with a 5-cycle labyrinth weir.

Rehabilitation of watershed dams is authorized for dams originally constructed as part of a project carried out under any of the following four authorities—Public Law 83-566, Public Law 78-534, the pilot watershed program authorized under the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act of 1954, or the Resource Conservation and Development Program authorized by the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for the rehabilitation of aging dams. Many aging dams no longer meet current state and NRCS design criteria and performance standards and may pose a potential hazard to lives and property if a dam failure would occur.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors to rehabilitate aging dams that protect lives, property, and infrastructure. Local sponsors who are interested in rehabilitating their aging dam may request technical and financial assistance from NRCS. NRCS will select dams for rehabilitation based on the risks to lives and property if a dam failure would occur.

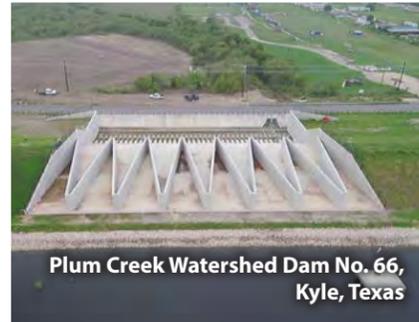
Benefits of Watershed Rehabilitation

Across the nation, watershed projects provide an estimated annual benefit of \$2.2 billion in reduced flooding and erosion damages, and improved wildlife habitat, recreation, and water supply for an estimated 47 million people. These projects provide additional benefits, such as improved water quality through sediment and erosion control. Watershed rehabilitation projects also can create rural economic growth and job opportunities.

In addition to dam rehabilitation assistance, NRCS maintains a robust dam safety program. NRCS GeoObserver for Dams is a geospatial dam monitoring tool that helps NRCS engineers keep up-to-date information for the National Inventory of Dams. NRCS DamWatch provides NRCS engineers and local project sponsors with web-based monitoring of dams during rainfall, snowmelt, or seismic events.

Watershed Rehabilitation and Drought

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program allows sponsors to build or augment existing water supplies based on current and future water supply demands.



Plum Creek Watershed Dam No. 66, Kyle, Texas



Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-44, Caddo County, Oklahoma

NRCS and Project Sponsors

Watershed project sponsors represent interests of the local community in federally assisted watershed projects. Sponsors request assistance from NRCS. When funding is allocated, the sponsor and NRCS enter an agreement that defines the roles and responsibilities of each party to complete the rehabilitation.

A watershed plan is developed for each project. The watershed plan addresses resource concerns including environmental impacts, costs, and benefits, planned conservation practices, and the responsibilities of involved parties. A variety of agencies and organizations can assist sponsors with developing a plan.



Pohick Creek Watershed Dam No. 3, Fairfax County, Virginia



Rehab activities on Mountain Run Lake included replacement of the existing vegetated earth auxiliary spillway with a 6-cycle labyrinth weir.

The Mountain Run Lake and Lake Pelham dams provide flood protection, water supply and recreational benefits for residents of Culpeper County and the Town of Culpeper, Virginia.

An estimated 1,500 residents regularly use more than 370 total acres of open water for boating, fishing and other outdoor activities in the Mountain Run Watershed. Constructed in 1959 and 1972 respectively, the aging structures required upgrades to meet more stringent design and safety standards.

The improvements to the Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake dams provide numerous benefits that go beyond meeting State and NRCS safety and performance standards for high-hazard dams.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to sponsors and assists them with the planning, design, and construction of the projects. Project sponsors are responsible for and agree to carry out specific parts of the project, including:

- Providing their share of project costs,
- Developing a watershed plan,
- Obtaining land rights,
- Obtaining required permits,
- Operation and maintenance throughout the evaluated life of the project (usually 100 years),
- Monitoring easement encroachment,
- Meeting permitting requirements,
- Developing and updating emergency action plans for high-hazard dams,
- Conducting regular inspections of installed works of improvements.

Contact Information

Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information or: www.nrcs.usda.gov