United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Operations

December 2009

Arkabutla Creek Watershed, Mississippi

Introduction

This project is located in Northeast Mississippi. Soils in this watershed are generally a deep silt loam and are susceptible to severe erosion. Surface water runoff results in massive gullies.

Arkabutla Creek is located in Tate and Panola Counties, Mississippi.

Project Description

- **Location:** Tate and Panola Counties, 1st Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** $1,900,000

This project consists of rock riprap bank stablilization using peak stone dikes and the installation of corrugated metal pipe drop structures. Streambank erosion will be reduced, thereby improving water quality.

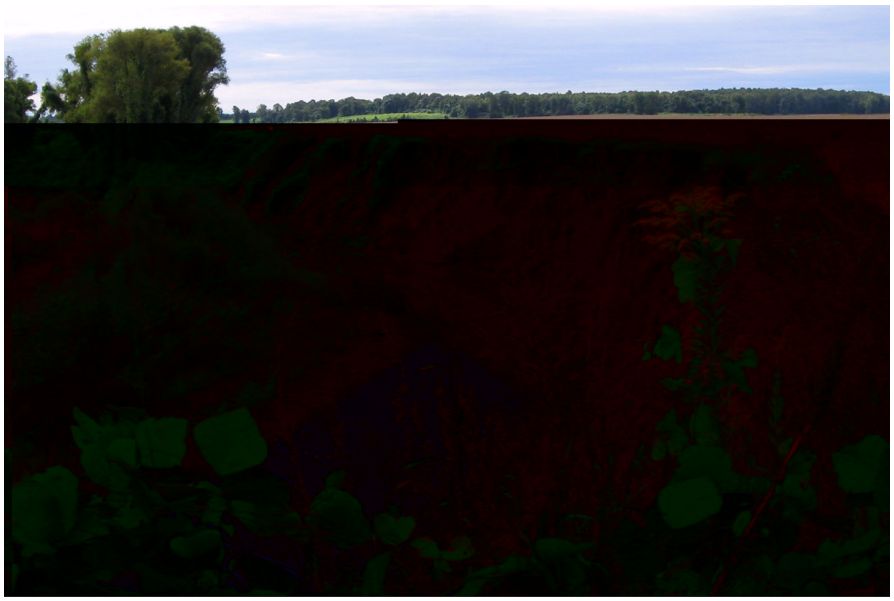
Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Arkabutla Creek Drainage District

Benefits

This project will enhance more than 25 miles of stream corridor and floodplain function and greatly improve public health and safety by substantially reducing the potential for flood damages. It will also reduce threat of loss of life and injury; disruption to community (road crossing and utility) services after a flood; and loss of agricultural lands and downstream sediment accumulations due to erosion. It will also benefit all county road crossings. The estimated average annual flood damage reduction benefits are $640,000.

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.



Severe streambank erosion threatens farmland and reduces downstream water quality.

Economic Opportunities

An estimated 75 residents and landowners will benefit from the project. The majority of these beneficiaries own farmland and live on roads that cross the stream along the lower 18 miles of the Arkabutla Creek floodplain.

Statewide Perspective

Water quality improvements will benefit communities and wildlife habitats downstream. The Arkabutla Lake Flood Control Reservoir is located downstream of the project area and will benefit from the improvements by greatly reducing sedimentation.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
Ste. 1321, Federal Building
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39269
Phone: 601-965-5205
www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov

A peak stone dike like this will provide stability for the bottom of the channel of Arkabutla Creek.