United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

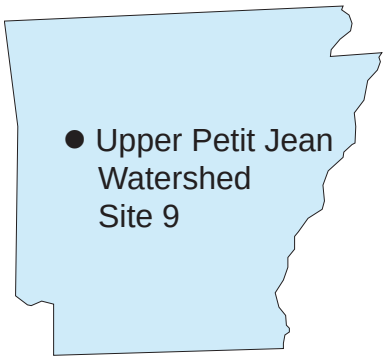
Watershed Operations

May 2009

Reinvesting in Site 9, Upper Petit Jean Watershed, Arkansas

Introduction

The remedial work on Upper Petit Jean Site 9 will create or save construction jobs and protect lives and property, agricultural land, and public works from dam failure. It provides water for 4,500 people in the City of Booneville and Logan County.



Site 9 of the Upper Petit Jean Watershed is located on Washburn Creek, 8-miles west of Booneville in Logan County, Arkansas.

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:** City of Booneville in Logan County, 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts
- **Federal Funding:** $134,000

The project uses a chemical grout to seal and bond stress cracks between the principal spillway inlet structure and outlet pipe. The cracks pose no immediate threats, but over time, they would allow corrosion of the steel in the reinforced concrete. This project will ensure a reliable water supply for the community.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Magazine Soil and Water Conservation District
- City of Booneville, Arkansas

Benefits

This project will provide a water supply for 4,500 people in the City of Booneville and vicinity. The 310-acre reservoir provides flood control, and once completed, benefits for the citizens include public health and safety improvements. This project will create or save jobs in an area with 8.7 percent unemployment.

An aerial view of Site 9 of the Upper Petit Jean Watershed dam west of Booneville, Arkansas.

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Economic Opportunities

The project will immediately contribute to the economic growth by creating or saving construction jobs. Site 9 provides $540,000 of flood prevention benefits annually. For every dollar spent on the project, a benefit of $1.30 is expected.

In addition to the jobs created, there will also be an increased demand in other industries' goods and services that could generate an estimated $208,000 for economies of the Upper Petit Jean Watershed and surrounding counties.

A chemical grout will be used to seal and bond three stress cracks in the transition between the principal spillway inlet structure and outlet pipe.

Statewide Perspective

Site 9 is one of 207 small dams in Arkansas. These dams provide flood protection for more than 225,000 acres in 54 watersheds.

For More Information

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A fisherman tries his luck in the plunge pool below the Petit Jean Watershed Site 9 dam.

Site 9 is the primary source of water for Booneville, Arkansas. The site also provides flood protection for the city.

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