United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Operations

October 2009

Turkey Creek Watershed, Dam Nos. 8 and 11, Oklahoma

Introduction

The Turkey Creek Watershed is located in Custer and Washita Counties, Oklahoma. These repair projects will create or save jobs during the construction period. These projects consist of repairing the front slopes of the dams, avoiding future failure of the dams.

This project is located in Washita County, Oklahoma

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:** Washita County, 3rd Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** Dam No. 8 - $76,500; Dam No. 11 - $76,500

These projects will repair the eroding front slopes of the dams, which, if left unchecked, would increase repair costs and endanger the dams leading to dam failure. The front slopes of the dams will be reconstructed with a sloped wave berm.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Washita County Conservation District
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Benefits

By repairing the front slopes of the dams, dam failures can be avoided. Failure of the dams would lead to adverse impacts to water quality from excessive sediment loading, and to a resumption of downstream flooding which would cause sedimentation and scour erosion of productive floodplain soils and damage to county roads and bridges.

Front slope erosion on Dam No 8, caused by wave action.

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Economic Opportunities

The construction of the projects will provide jobs for heavy equipment operators, job foremen, and other construction personnel and subcontractors. Local businesses and suppliers will also benefit.

Statewide Perspective

Turkey Creek Dam Nos. 8 and 11, two of 12 dams in the 47,320-acre watershed, is part of a vital network of 2,105 dams in 121 NRCS-assisted watershed projects in Oklahoma. These dams make up a $2 billion infrastructure and provide $75 million in annual flood-protection benefits.

For More Information

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Wave action has caused severe erosion along the front slope of Dam No. 11.