

Fact Sheet

April 2013

Reinvesting in the Sandy Creek No. 15 Dam, Georgia

Introduction

This watershed rehabilitation project provides substantial flood protection below Sandy Creek Dam No. 15 in Jackson County. It helps promote the continuation of economic growth of the area by providing over \$43,899 in average annual flood damage reduction benefits.



Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project was part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy and create jobs. NRCS Recovery Act dollars was used in updating aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat and restore wetlands.

Project Description

- Location: Jackson County, Georgia, Congressional District: 9
- Size: 21,000 watershed acres
- Federal Funding: About \$1,950,000 design and construction costs
- Sponsor Funding: About \$1,050,000 design and construction costs
- Completion Date: April 2012

The structural upgrades consisted of constructing a 180 ft wide conventional concrete chute auxiliary spillway with a six cycle labyrinth weir over the top of the existing dam. This provided the needed upgrade to meet current public safety standards to achieve the required protection downstream of this high hazard dam.

Partners:

USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District
Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Benefits

This project enhances 20 miles of stream corridor and flood plain function. There is a potential for more community open space where houses are removed.



Sandy Creek 15
An aerial view of completed spillway

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Greatly improves public health and safety by substantially reducing the potential for flood damages to about 14 home and 3 businesses, reduces threat of loss of life, injury or disease; reduces danger and need for emergency personnel; less disruption to community services after a flood.

Estimated average annual flood damage reduction benefits of \$43,899;

Estimated average annual non-flood damage reduction benefits of \$ 25,884.

Estimated 300 residents directly or indirectly benefited in flood plain.

Majority of beneficiaries reside along the lower 20 miles of the Sandy Creek 100-year flood plain; also indirectly benefits all residents of one municipalities

Range for the communities served: Minority (predominately African-American): 1-5%; Poverty rate: 1-10%; Age 65 and over: 5-20%

Economic Opportunities

Jobs were created or saved with the planning, design, and construction of this project. The added protection downstream of structure 15 protects transportation networks, utilities and real estate values in the floodplain. This protection helps maintain the economic base and enhance future economic development and opportunity in the area.

Statewide Perspective

Rehabilitation of Sandy Creek No. 15 helps the state achieve the overall goal of upgrading all high hazard class dams to state safe dam standards which provides maximum flood protection to the communities within each watershed.

For More Information

USDA-NRCS
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30601
(706) 546-2272
www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov



Sandy Creek Dam 15.
Completed chute spillway from downstream end.



Sandy Creek Dam 15.
Completed stilling basin



Sandy Creek Dam 15.
Stilling basin foundation construction

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