DAMS IN DANGER

PEOPLE AT RISK?

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For 50 years, America's small upstream dams have provided for flood protection, municipal water supplies, wildlife habitat, water for livestock, and recreational opportunities. But time has taken its toll. Many of the nation's dams, including those in Missouri, are in desperate need of repair. If problems are not corrected, the consequences are grave—to both people and the environment. Funding is needed, and now is the time to act.

Across the Nation…

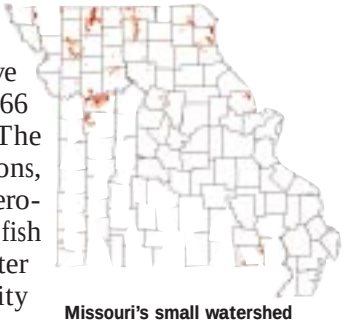
More than 600 dams need to be rebuilt and upgraded to ensure the safety and health of those downstream. In addition, another 1,500 dams need repairs so they can continue to provide flood control, municipal water supplies, recreational activities, water for livestock, and wildlife habitat. An estimated $540 million is needed to rehabilitate these dams.

Small watershed projects

Ten thousand dams built under Small Watershed Programs make up a $9 billion infrastructure. These dams provide more than $800 million in benefits annually. The majority of these dams were built for a 50-year lifespan and some have already or soon will reach that mark. Funds for building these dams have come from four programs: Flood Control Act of 1944 (PL-78-534); Pilot Watershed Program; Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1953 (PL 83-566); and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D).

In Missouri…

In 1954, Missouri built its first small watershed dam. Today, over 600 dams have been built under the PL-566 small watershed program. The dams serve many functions, including flood control, erosion control, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, water supply, and water quality improvement.

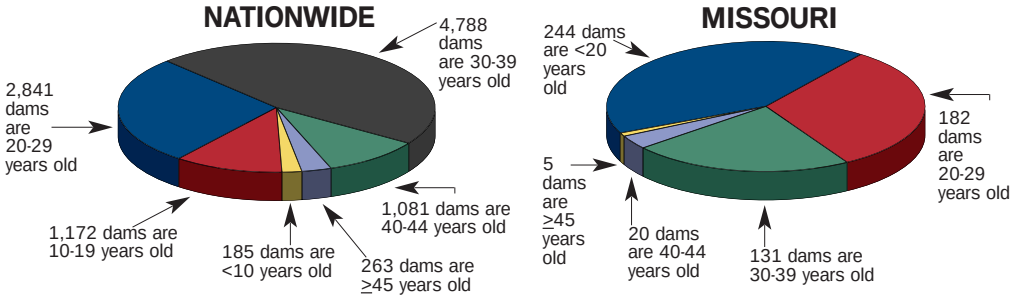


Missouri's small watershed projects with dams

Most watershed projects include dams to impound water. These structures vary in size and perform multiple functions. Many of the dams have a designed life of 50 years. Missouri has 22 dams that are more than 40 years old, and most will need major rehabilitation soon.

The original investment in existing dams needs to be protected. Rehabilitation is cheaper than reconstruction or new construction, but there is no local, state, or federal funding available. To begin rehabilitation, Missouri needs about $2 million and about $2 million per year for the next 10 years to keep pace with the needs.

Our Aging Dams



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A Case Study…

The Tabo Creek Watershed project in Lafayette County was authorized by PL-566 in 1960. The primary purpose of the project is erosion and sediment control.

Since the first dam was constructed in 1961, 64 grade-stabilization dams have been installed. The Lafayette County Soil and Water Conservation District is responsible for operation and maintenance. The district performs annual inspections on each of these structures. Three of the dams have been permitted by the State of Missouri's Dam Safety Program.

Dams in the Tabo Creek Watershed have many of the same problems that plague many of the older dams in other watersheds that are approaching the end of their 50-year design life. Those problems include:

- Deteriorating pipes.
- Sediment filling the reservoirs.

The most common problem in the watershed is deteriorating pipes. Of the 64 dams, 44 were installed with corrugated metal pipes.

One of the most visible problems is the lakes filling with sediment. Five structures have visible signs of silt within the pool area. Two of these have sediment above the inlet of the principal spillway. Three structures have sedimentation severe enough that landowners have requested the inlets be raised. Three structures with sediment at the inlet require trenching to get the pool area to drain.

Local sponsors of the Tabo Creek Watershed project don't have the funds to rehabilitate these structures. Nearly $6 million is needed for the rehabilitation.

THE PROBLEMS. Missouri's aging small watershed dams are experiencing problems that include deteriorating pipes and sediment filling the sediment pools. The dams are reaching the end of their 50-year lifespan, and need to be rehabilitated.

WHY REPAIR THE DAMS? The dams provide many benefits, including flood control, erosion control, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. The current situation poses a safety and health threat to people, communities, and natural resources.

A Call to Action in Missouri

22
dams in Missouri are more than 40 years old and most will require major rehabilitation in the near future

64
dams are located in the Tabo Creek Watershed. 44 of them were installed with corrugated metal pipe, and 5 of them have visible problems with sediment filling the sediment pools

$6 million
is the estimated cost to rehabilitate all the structures in the Tabo Creek Watershed