

Watershed Operations

May 2009

Big Creek-Hurricane Creek Watershed Project, Missouri

Introduction

This watershed project will construct 10 small flood water retarding structures. There will be additional environmental benefits and immediate contracts available for the local construction industries and associated businesses within the project's community.



Big Creek-Hurricane Creek Watershed is located in Livingston and Carroll Counties.

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:** Carroll and Livingston Counties, 6th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$950,000

Big Creek-Hurricane Creek Watershed is 176,800 acres. The project consists of implementing conservation practices to protect the soil from erosion on cropland and construction of a series of small flood retarding dams. To date, 112 of 239 of these structures have been completed or are under construction.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Big Creek-Hurricane Creek Watershed District
- Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Carroll County Commission
- Livingston County Commission
- Missouri Department of Conservation

Benefits

This project will have a positive environmental effect on the watershed problems of soil erosion and floodwater damage. An estimated \$695,000 in average annual benefits have been realized through fiscal year 2008 from the installation of 112 single purpose structures. The watershed plan is estimated to reduce floodwater damage on 23,600 acres, protect stream channels, and benefit wildlife habitat.



This single purpose floodwater retarding dam is one of 112 structures that have been completed in the Big Creek-Hurricane Creek Watershed. The pool of this structure measured 2 feet deep after a heavy rain. The spillway safely releases stormwater after significant storm events.

Reinvesting in the Big Creek - Hurricane Creek Watershed Project, Missouri

Economic Opportunities

Major highways in the watershed cross the 100-year floodplain in numerous locations. Private and commercial transportation rely heavily on the ability of these routes to remain open for safety and commerce. Estimated average annual benefits are \$695,000.

Statewide Perspective

An estimated 3,200 residents are directly or indirectly benefited by this plan.

For More Information

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To date, 112 of 239 single purpose water retarding structures like this one have been completed or are under construction in the Big Creek-Hurricane Creek Watershed to safely detain, then slowly release stormwater.

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