

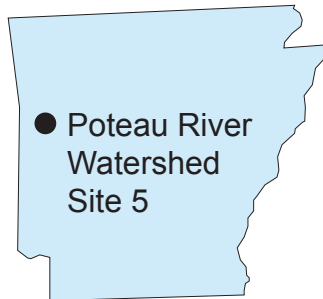
Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Reinvesting in Site 5, Poteau River Watershed, Arkansas

Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save construction jobs and protect lives and property, agricultural land, and public works from dam failure. It will provide water for 4,000 people in the City of Waldron and other areas of Scott County.



Site 5 of the Poteau River Watershed is located on the East Fork of the Poteau River about 5 miles northeast of Waldron in Scott County, Ark.

Project Description

- **Location:** City of Waldron in Scott County, 4th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,495,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$420,000

The dam will be brought up to current safety standards. This project will raise the top of the dam and extend the dam's service life by an additional 100 years. The principal and auxiliary spillways, which release water during small rainfall events, will be lengthened.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- City of Waldron
- Poteau River Watershed Improvement District
- Poteau River Conservation District

Benefits

Rehabilitation of the dam will prevent flooding, protecting the lives and property of 80 residents. Twenty homes and commercial businesses, farms and poultry operations, and a highway will be protected. The dam also will provide 2,100 acre-feet of water supply storage.

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.



An aerial view of Site 5 of the Poteau River Watershed northeast of Waldron, Ark.

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Economic Opportunities

The project will immediately contribute to the economic growth by creating or saving construction jobs. It will provide \$101,900 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 put an estimated \$3.1 million into economies of the Poteau River Watershed and surrounding counties.



The dam on Site 5 will be increased by 4.7 feet to alleviate safety issues and extend the service life of the dam for an additional 100 years.

Statewide Perspective

Site 5 is one of 207 small watershed flood-control dams in Arkansas. These dams provide flood protection for more than 225,000 acres in 54 watersheds.

For More Information

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700 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501)-301-3121
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The principal spillway, which releases water during small rainfall events, will be increased by 0.9 feet.

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