

Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Reinvesting in the Conewango Creek Watershed Site 3, New York

Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs and put the dam into compliance with current Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) design and safety criteria. During and after floods, it will prevent injury and disease, reduce need for emergency personnel, and prevent disruption of community services.



The Conewango Creek Watershed Site 3 is located in Chatauqua County, New York.

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:** Chautauqua County, 27th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,200,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$500,000

The project will raise the dam's embankment, change the way water flows along its spillway, and relocate its outlet structure further down stream. All sediment clogging the dam's pool will be removed and a drain needed to lower the pool's water will be replaced.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- County of Chautauqua
- Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Conewango Creek Watershed Commission
- County of Cattaraugus
- Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Dam Safety Section

Benefits

This rehabilitation project will protect two towns, 80 homes, farms, and several commercial establishments from flooding and provide flood protection for the next 100 years.



Flood pool of Conewango site 3 provides flood protection to 80 homes and several businesses.



View of the flood retaining pool and riser on Conewango site 3 from the top of the dam. The dam will be raised to meet modern safety criteria.

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Economic Opportunities

Construction and design jobs will be created or saved through this project. These jobs will not be permanent, but the experience gained from this project will position these workers for future employment as more dam rehabilitation projects come on line. This project will increase the demand for construction supplies and equipment. Protection provided by the dam will help maintain the economic base and enhance future economic development and opportunity in the area. The project will provide an average annual flood damage reduction benefit of \$173,000 with a net economic benefit of \$100,000 annually.

Statewide Perspective

Site 3 is one of 59 dams constructed by NRCS in New York. These dams continue to provide millions of dollars in flood damage reduction benefits while providing millions of dollars in economic benefits for local communities and the State.

For More Information

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