

## Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

## Reinvesting in the Plum Creek Dam No. 5, Texas

### Introduction

This watershed rehabilitation project will create or save jobs, put this dam into compliance with current safety standards, and provide better flood protection to an urbanizing area near the City of Kyle.



Plum Creek Dam No. 5 is located in Hays County, Texas.

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:** Hays County, 25th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$2,452,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$1,000,000

The project will raise the top of the dam, add another principal spillway and modify existing spillways, and install a new impact basin, drain system, and splitter dike.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Plum Creek Conservation District
- Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District
- Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District

### Benefits

This rehabilitation project will protect 35 homes, one public property, and three roadways from flooding. If the dam were to breach, approximately 30,000 cubic yards of earth fill from the dam would move downstream, clogging stream channels, and increasing flooding on roads and bridges. The risk of loss of human life would be significant. Total damages would approach \$3 million. Historical floods in the past 45 years have caused the auxiliary spillway of Plum Creek Dam No. 5 to flow on several occasions.



Plum Creek Dam No. 5 was built in a rural area that has become urbanized in recent years.

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### Economic Opportunities

Jobs will be created or saved through this project, including jobs in industries that supply or support construction activities and in businesses that sell goods and services to these workers and their families. Upon the completion of this construction project these jobs will not be directly sustainable at this project location. However, the experience gained from this project will position these workers to future employment as more dam rehabilitation projects are undertaken. The project will provide an average annual flood damage reduction benefit of more than \$215,000 and a net economic benefit of up to \$94,800 annually.

### Statewide Perspective

Plum Creek Dam No. 5 is one of nearly 2,000 dams constructed by NRCS in Texas. These dams provide nearly \$120 million of benefits annually, protecting lives, property, and infrastructure.

### For More Information

USDA, NRCS  
101 South Main  
Temple, TX 76501  
(254) 742-9800  
[www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov)



Plum Creek Dam No. 5 has been reclassified as a high hazard dam due to urban development downstream. Rehabilitation is needed to meet current safety and performance standards.

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