

## Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

## *Reinvesting in Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-43, Oklahoma*

### Introduction

This dam rehabilitation project will create or save jobs during the construction period and will provide flood protection for agricultural land and properties downstream from the dam that would be adversely affected by a dam failure.



The Sugar Creek Watershed Dam is located seven miles northwest of Anadarko, in Caddo County.

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:** Caddo County, 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$1,645,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$753,850

The dam has been reclassified as high-hazard due to a house and a road downstream that would be inundated if the dam should fail. In August 2007, the area received over 8.3 inches of rainfall in a 6-hour period, causing damage to the auxiliary spillway. Failure of the dam is possible if another large storm occurs.

The top of the dam elevation will be raised eight feet and a new principal spillway installed. The elevation of the principal spillway inlet will also be raised, resulting in a 33-acre reservoir. The auxiliary spillway elevation will be raised which will result in a 117-acre flood detention pool.

### Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- West Caddo County Conservation District
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission

### Benefits

Rehabilitation of the dam will increase public safety and provide \$ 9.5 million in flood-reduction benefits over the dam's 100-year life.



Existing principal spillway inlet on Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-43.

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## The Case for Reinvesting in Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-43, Oklahoma

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### **Economic Opportunities**

The construction of the project will create or save jobs for heavy equipment operators, job managers, and other construction personnel and subcontractors. Local businesses such as motels, restaurants and fuel suppliers will also benefit.

### **Statewide Perspective**

Sugar Creek Floodwater Retarding Dam No. L-43, one of 51 dams in the 189,076-acre watershed, is part of a vital network of 2,105 dams in 121 NRCS-assisted watershed projects in Oklahoma. These dams make up a \$2 billion infrastructure and provide \$75 million in average annual benefits.

### **For More Information**

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The auxiliary spillway of Sugar Creek Watershed Dam No. L-43 was damaged in August 2007, when the dam's watershed received 8.3+ inches of rain in a 6-hour period.

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