United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Lost Creek Watershed Project (B-2), Missouri

Introduction

This watershed rehabilitation project will create or save jobs and put the structure in compliance with Natural Resources Conservation Service and State of Missouri standards.

The Lost Creek Watershed is located in Newton County, Missouri.

Project Description

- **Location:** Newton County, 7th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** $147,350
- **Sponsor Funding:** $78,527

This project will complete a floodwater retarding structure that is out of compliance due to land development downstream.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Lost Creek Watershed District
- Newton County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Newton County Commission
- City of Seneca, Missouri

Benefits

This project will reduce flood risks to developed areas, cut soil erosion, prevent the deposit of sediment in wetlands and on prime farmlands, and protect wildlife habitat.

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.

The Lost Creek B-2 Floodwater Retarding Structure prevents floodwater damage to crops, roads, railroads, and the town of Seneca, Missouri. This photo, taken from the top of the dam, shows the structure that is no longer in compliance with state and federal regulations.

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Economic Opportunities

This project will create or save jobs and provide an estimated $45,900 in average annual flood damage reduction benefits.

Statewide Perspective

The watershed affects the city of Seneca with a population of 2,220 acres and an additional 3,507 people in the area. The population continues to grow as people move in from larger cities such as Joplin to the north and Neosho to the east. During flooding events, large amounts of gravel, debris and sediment are washed into Seneca. The structure is located in a valley considered to have a "losing" stream. Due to the well-drained nature of the soils in the area, a permanent pool of water cannot be sustained. A catastrophic failure of this structure following a large rainfall and runoff event would include potential loss of life to residents of seven homes and to motorists traveling on U.S. Highway 86, State Highway CC, State Highway K, Bluff Street in Seneca, and possibly along one location of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad.

The average farm size in this watershed is 67 acres and the majority of the land is used for grassland and grazing purposes (65%).

As of the 2000 census, the median income for a household in the county was $35,041, and the median income for a family was $40,616. The per capita income for Newton County was $17,502. About 8.10% of families and 11.60% of the population were below the poverty line; including 14.20% of those under age 18 and 9.50% of those were aged 65 or over.

For More Information

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Trailer downstream of structure.

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