

Chiwapa Creek Watershed Dam No. 65 Rehabilitation Project Pontotoc County, Mississippi

Fact Sheet
February 2017

History of the Dam:

Chiwapa Creek Watershed Dam No. 65 is one of ten dams constructed in the Chiwapa Creek Watershed.

The dam, located in Pontotoc County eight miles west of Tupelo, Mississippi, was constructed in 1963 with assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The original objective of the dam was to reduce flood damages along the main stem and tributaries of Chiwapa Creek. The dam was rehabilitated to maintain that objective and upgrade it to meet current hydrologic criteria.



A new outlet channel and impact basin was constructed as part of the rehabilitation project.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

A dam assessment was completed in September 2005 that recommended a change in the hazard class for this dam from low to high hazard based on the potential flooding of three downstream houses and overtopping of a paved county road.

The Chiwapa Drainage District requested rehabilitation assistance from NRCS in 2005, and rehabilitation construction was completed in October, 2016.

Rehabilitation Details:

The top of dam was raised approximately 6.8 feet, the auxiliary spillway was widened by approximately 82 feet, a new outlet channel and impact basin were constructed and a chimney drain was added.

A new concrete principal spillway inlet replaced the existing one and a new 30-inch principal spillway pipe was installed.

Project Cost:

The NRCS provided technical assistance and 65 percent of the design and construction cost. Project sponsors provided easements and land rights for the project and 35 percent of the cost.

The total construction cost of the rehabilitation project was \$678,972.97. Federal funds for the project came from NRCS Small Watershed Program Rehabilitation funds.

Benefits:

Rehabilitation extended the life of the dam for another 100 years and ensures it will maintain the benefits of sediment reduction, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and water supply. This dam provides \$29,100 in average annual benefits.

Partners:

Chiwapa Drainage District
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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January 2017

