

## Departee Creek Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) Project in Arkansas

Departee Creek is located in northeast Arkansas. The Departee Creek Watershed Improvement District applied for assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through their Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) to rehabilitate the creek and restore it to its natural state.



Frequent flooding of the creek has resulted in high quantities of sediment buildup, nutrient loss and erosion along the waterway and adjacent lands. The partners will restore critical sections of the creek and then develop a low water weir on a lake located mid-stream to maintain desired water levels. The work will improve wildlife habitat improvement, limit loss of nutrients and crops, and reduce damage to personal property and roads. With successful implementation of the flood plan, the waterway also may be removed from the 303 (d) Impaired List.

The application was approved in fiscal year 2017 for \$180,000. Practices funded through the project include removing trees, debris and silt in the creek that are impeding the flow of the creek and adding to the flooding of the area which damages roads, bridges and utilities. The project has also been approved to receive \$6.5 million from NRCS in fiscal year 2018 for construction of a flood control dam.

Through RCP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

The two major factors in getting an application for an RCP project approved are developing partnerships and obtaining matching funding,” said Matt Mendenhall, Departee Creek Watershed Improvement District. “We were fortunate that we are able to do that and obtain approval for our application.”

There is a video on this web site on the project where Matt Mendenhall provides more details about the project.



Matt Mendenhall, Departee Creek Watershed Improvement District

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