

# Double Creek Watershed Dams No. 1-6 Rehabilitation Project Washington County, Oklahoma

**Fact Sheet**  
March 2017

## History of the Dams:

The Double Creek Watershed Project consists of six flood control dams in a 38,000 acre watershed in southern Washington County, Oklahoma.

The dams were constructed between 1954 and 1955 by the Caney Valley Conservation District with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. NRCS provided assistance through a National Pilot Watershed Program authorized under the 1944 Flood Control Act.

The primary purpose of the dams is to control flooding and reduce erosion and sedimentation. Before the dams were constructed the watershed had a long history of frequent and severe flooding.

Between 1917 and 1936, flood water from 36 major floods covered more than 50 percent of the 3,800 acres of floodplain and there were 43 smaller floods during that period.



Double Creek Watershed Dam No. 3 during rehabilitation construction.

## Why Rehabilitate the Dams?

The dams were originally designed as low hazard dams to protect agricultural land from flooding. Since construction of the dams there have been changes in land use and population in the watershed and in the required dam safety standards. The dams were reclassified as high hazard dams by NRCS due to the risk of loss of life and property if the dams were to fail.

## Rehabilitation Details:

The six dams were rehabilitated between 2004 and 2009. This was the first complete watershed project in the nation to have all the dams rehabilitated. Rehabilitation included removing and replacing the principal spillways, raising the height of the embankments and widening the auxiliary earthen spillways. Rehabilitation brought the dams up to current dam safety criteria and extended their service life for another 100 years.

## 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.

## Benefits:

The dams provide flood protection for 3,800 acres of floodplain that includes 60 farms and ranches, U. S. Highway 75, a major railroad, and public facilities, businesses and homes in the Town of Ramona.

## Partners:

- Caney Valley Conservation District
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## For More Information Contact:

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