

Upper North River Watershed Dam No. 77 (Hearthstone Lake) Rehabilitation Project Augusta County, Virginia

Fact Sheet
November 2018

History of the Dam:

The Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service - NRCS) assisted the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) develop the original watershed work plan for the Upper North River Watershed in 1960.

This plan called for the construction of three flood control dams in the headwaters of the North River. These three dams are known today as Todd Lake (built in 1963), Elkhorn Lake (built in 1965), and Hearthstone Lake (built in 1966).

The Headwaters SWCD assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of Todd Lake and Hearthstone Lake in 1993. The City of Staunton owns and maintains Elkhorn Lake.



Hearthstone Lake is a 14-acre impoundment in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests north of Stokesville, Virginia.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

The Hearthstone Lake Dam is a high hazard dam constructed for flood prevention, which means if the dam failed there would be a potential for loss of lives and property. It does not currently meet State dam safety standards.

Rehabilitation Details:

A contract was awarded for the rehabilitation of the dam in October 2018 and construction is expected to be completed in September 2019.

The project will consist of retrofitting the two-stage principal spillway riser footer and replacing metalwork on the riser tower; augmenting the existing earthen training dike by extending it from upstream of the control section to the hill slope exit; shifting the center line of the auxiliary spillway by 10 feet to obtain borrow material; reconstructing the diversion above the auxiliary spillway; installing a graded filter drain on the upstream right abutment; and improving the access road to the boat ramp and stage gages for flood warning.

Project Cost:

The NRCS is providing technical assistance and 65 percent of the total project cost. Project sponsors are providing easements and land rights for the project and 35 percent of the cost.

The total construction cost of the rehabilitation project is estimated to be \$3.7 million. Federal funds for the project will be provided through the NRCS Small Watershed Program Rehabilitation funds.

Benefits:

Rehabilitation of the dam will bring the dam up to current State dam safety criteria and extend its life and benefits for another 68 years.

The dam will provide flood protection downstream and trap sediment to keep it from moving downstream. The access road to the boat ramp and stage gages for flood warning will be improved.

Partners:

Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District
Augusta County Board of Supervisors
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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