

Dry Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project Fremont County, Colorado

The Dry Creek Watershed Dam was constructed in 1970 by the City of Florence, Colorado and the Fremont Soil Conservation District . Technical and financial assistance was provided through the Sangre de Cristo Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) administered by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service -NRCS).

Prior to construction of the dam extreme rainfall events created a serious flood hazard to the residential and business community of Florence. In addition to flood damages, large accumulations of water, sediment and flood debris had to be removed after floodwaters receded and streets and roads had to be repaired.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

The condition of the dam had deteriorated over time due to significant cracking, both shallow and deep and the presence of dispersive soils found in the embankment fill material. This caused the dam to no longer meet the current criteria for a high hazard dam.



Dam No. 4 spillway after rehabilitation

Rehabilitation Details:

The project completed in 2019 included removal of the upper 9.8 feet portion of the existing dam, installing geotextile fabric and granular fill material over the existing drainage system within the dam and reinstalling compacted earth fill to restore the embankment to its original lines and grades. The project extended the benefits and life of the dam for another 100 years.

Project Cost:

NRCS performed the planning and design work and provided 65 percent of the \$521,402 project cost. The remaining funding was provided by the City of Florence. Federal funds for the project were provided through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

Benefits:

The dam provides flood protection for 83 houses, thirteen businesses, a middle school, 11 roads and 267 citizens. It is estimated that the dam will provide an average of \$98,406 in annual benefits from reduced flood damages.

Partners:

City of Florence, CO
USDA NRCS

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