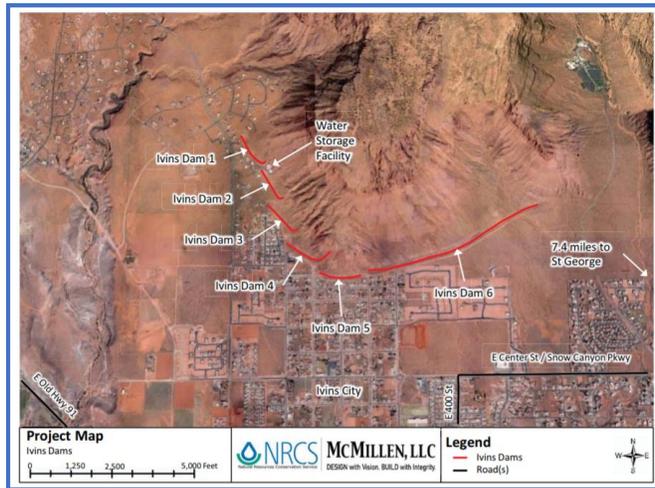


Ivins Dams Rehabilitation Project

Washington County, Utah

Flooding occurred regularly in the area around the City of Ivins (current population: 8,913) prior to the late 1970s. City officials worked with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service - NRCS) in 1968 to develop a watershed plan that included construction of six small flood control dams for protection of rural lands. Now the dams also protect residents' homes.

The dams are 10-15 feet tall and extend two miles around the base of the Red Mountain upstream from the town.



Dam No. 4 spillway after rehabilitation

The dams were rehabilitated to meet current NRCS and Utah Dam Safety engineering and performance criteria and to extend the life of the dams for another 100 years. The dams are classified as high hazard because a failure of the dams could cause loss of life and property downstream.

Rehabilitation Details:

- Auxiliary spillways were improved on all six dams to varying degrees.
- Old cages around the existing intake towers were removed and replaced.
- The crests of the dams were sloped toward the detention basins and regraded with an additional six inches of road base on top for improved stability.
- Any vegetation taller than 30 inches was removed from the dams to prevent formation of taproot into the dam embankment.
- Accumulated sediment was removed where necessary, primarily from dams No. 1, 2 and 6.
- In an effort to work sensitively in tortoise habitat a qualified biologist monitored the site full time through construction.

Project Cost:

The \$1,437,000 project was funded with 65 percent of the cost was provided by NRCS and 31.5 percent by the state of Utah. All remaining funding was provided by City of Ivins. Federal funds for the project were provided through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program funds.

Benefits:

Rehabilitation of the dams will bring them up to current State dam safety criteria and extend their lives and benefits for another 100 years. They will provide flood protection for both rural land and the City of Ivins. Over 250 homes, one school, one highway and four businesses receive benefits from the dams.

Partners:

Town of Ivins, Utah, Utah State Parks, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Red Cliff Desert Reserve,