

Upper Elk Creek Watershed Dam No. 23D Rehabilitation Project Beckham County, Oklahoma

Fact Sheet
October 2021

History of the Dam:

The Upper Elk Creek Watershed Dam No. 23D was constructed in 1976 as a significant hazard dam. The dam was reclassified as a high hazard dam due to development downstream. A breach of the dam could result in loss of lives and property.

The dam is one of 35 flood control dams in the Upper Elk Creek Watershed Project in Washita, Beckham and Kiowa Counties. The dam was constructed by the North Fork of Red River Conservation District with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.



A new concrete pipe was installed using a “jack and bore” technique.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

Although the dam was functioning as originally planned and providing downstream flood damage prevention, rehabilitation means that in the future it will reduce the potential of a dam breach and subsequent potential damage to downstream properties and infrastructure and will reduce the risk of loss of life.

Additionally, the rehabilitation project will extend the service life of the dam for at least 100 years.

Rehabilitation Details

The project will raise the top of dam elevation by 4.4 feet. The height of a county road is being raised as well. A new 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe is being installed using a technique known as “jack and bore.” Articulated concrete blocks (ACBs) are being added to the exit channel of the spillway to provide erosion protection and prevent head cutting.

Project Cost:

Rehabilitation of the dam will cost an estimated \$4.3 million.

The NRCS is providing technical assistance in planning and design and 65 percent of the construction cost. Federal funding is provided through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is providing 35 percent of the cost on behalf of the North Fork of Red River Conservation District.

Benefits:

Rehabilitation will extend the life and benefits of the dam for another 100 years and provide flood protection for rural areas and homes downstream.

Partners:

- North Fork of Red River Conservation District
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- USDA NRCS

For More Information Contact:

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