

assessment and copies of the rehabilitation plan are available for public review at the following location: Natural Resources Conservation Service, 210 Walnut Street, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, IA 50309-2180.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared for the Little Sioux Watershed Flood Prevention Project in 1976. The EIS discusses the effects of installing flood prevention and grade stabilization dams and land treatment practices.

Recommended Action

Rehabilitation of site 2-2 will consist of relocating three houses currently located in the breach inundation area and rehabilitating the dam to low hazard class criteria for a new 50-year life. Rehabilitating Site 2-2 includes replacing the inlet of the principal spillway, raising the crest of the principal spillway one foot, and excavating about 1.5 acre-feet of sediment from the existing pool. The three houses will be purchased and the three homeowners will be provided relocation assistance in accordance with the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policies Act (Public Law 91-646). The Woodbury County Zoning Administrator will carry out the relocation process.

Site 3-1, which is in series upstream of Site 3-2, will be rehabilitated for a new 50-year life using high hazard class hydrology but will remain a low hazard class dam. Site 3-1 will be rehabilitated by replacing the corrugated metal pipe with concrete pipe, raising the principal spillway elevation one foot, and raising the top of dam 6.2 feet. About 3.5 acre-feet of sediment will be removed from the existing permanent pool. The auxiliary spillway will be widened an additional 40 feet.

Site 3-2 will be rehabilitated to high hazard class criteria by replacing the corrugated metal pipe with concrete pipe, raising the principal spillway elevation one foot, and raising the top of dam 5.5 feet. The auxiliary spillway will be widened an additional 40 feet. The rehabilitation of this site eliminates the threat to loss of life at one house from catastrophic dam failure.

Future residential and commercial development in the breach inundation areas of Sites 2-2 and 3-1 will be restricted. Downstream of Site 2-2 the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors will take fee title to the three lots following relocation of the houses. The sponsors may also add deed restrictions prohibiting development or use county zoning ordinances for these three lots. The balance of the breach inundation

area beyond the acquired properties will be restricted by using county zoning ordinances. Restrictions will be enacted prior to any rehabilitation construction. County zoning ordinances will prohibit development in the upstream areas of each site, as defined from principal spillway elevation to an elevation of six feet above designed top of dam.

Effects of the Recommended Actions

- Threats to loss of life from catastrophic breaches and storm events are eliminated at Sites 2-2 and 3-2. Eleven people in four houses are protected.
- There are no cultural resources in the area of potential effect. Construction discoveries will be handled in accordance with NRCS General Manual, Section 420, part 401.
- Gully erosion remains controlled at all 3 sites. Sheet and rill erosion as well as ephemeral cropland gully erosion remains controlled.
- Flood control benefits are maintained for another 50 years on 366 acres of agricultural land.
- Sediment delivered to all three sites is trapped and not delivered to Farmers Drainage Ditch and Little Sioux River system. A total of five acre-feet of sediment will be removed during construction from Sites 2-2 and 3-1. This sediment will be used to top dress Site 3-1's borrow area and the area where the three houses are removed. A plan to remove, utilize, and stabilize the sediment by controlling erosion and runoff will be developed with consultation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- There are wetlands associated with the three pools. Raising the spillway elevation will deepen water over some wetlands. This deeper water will not eliminate any wetlands but it will change their classification to another type. The expanded pools will create new wetlands.
- No Threatened and Endangered species are present at the existing sites.
- Raising the principal spillway elevations of the structures will inundate an additional 1.5 acres of low value grassland habitat. Increasing the fill heights of the structures will impact 1.6 acres of low value grassland habitat. The area downstream of Site 2-2, where the three houses are removed, will be seeded to a mixed prairie seeding increasing this habitat type by 3.3 acres in the subwatershed. The impacts to grassland habitat have been determined to be not significant, therefore formal mitigation will not be required.
- Continued flood protection on 110 acres maintains the land as prime farmland.

- Soil erosion, especially gully erosion, will be controlled in this portion of the Loess Hills which are a nationally recognized and unique natural resource.

- Construction will result in temporary generation of dust and emissions from internal combustion engines.
- Local fishing opportunity will be maintained.
- No other significant adverse environmental impacts will occur from installation of project features.
- There are no existing or anticipated public controversies associated with this proposed action.

Alternative Actions

Other alternative actions were considered in the planning process but were rejected. The plan is the most acceptable to local residents and local project sponsors. The plan eliminates threats to loss of life from catastrophic breaches and storm events. The original project purposes of gully control and flood prevention are maintained. The plan is not the National Economic Development (NED) plan. An exception to selecting the NED plan was granted by the Chief of the NRCS on April 21, 2003.

Consultation and Public participation

The Woodbury County SWCD and the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors discussed and conducted official actions to support the rehabilitation of Sites 2-2, 3-1, and 3-2 at their respective public meetings in 2001. The sponsors indicated a clear interest in rehabilitating these three Glen Ellen sites. Representatives of the sponsors, the Woodbury County Secondary Road Department, and NRCS met on February 12, 2001, to discuss the dam hazard class changes and possible alternatives to resolve the situation. The road department agreed to investigate relocating a segment to Glen Ellen Road as a component of raising the dam at Site 2-2. A follow up meeting was held on June 13, 2001.

Iowa NRCS conducted a state level informational meeting on the Watershed Rehabilitation Program on October 30, 2001. More than 60 letters of invitation were mailed to state level representatives of state and federal agencies, tribes, conservation groups, agricultural groups and others. Discussion of the Glen Ellen project was included at the meeting.

Two public meetings were held in Sergeant Bluff on November 29, 2001 to inform the public about the rehabilitation needs on Sites 2-2, 3-1, and 3-2 in addition to gaining public