

Effect of Recommended Action

Rehabilitation of the structure will meet state dam safety requirements and prolong the life of the structure and pool for 100 years. The permanent pool will not change in size but the temporary flood pool will increase from 86 acres to 117 acres. Ten acres will be converted from cropland to a grassed auxiliary spillway.

Sediment delivery to downstream areas will continue to be held back. Recreation will still be available on and around the pool and structure.

Significant cultural resources identified during implementation will be avoided or otherwise preserved in place to the fullest practical extent. If significant cultural resources cannot be avoided or preserved, pertinent information will be recovered before construction. If there is a significant cultural resource discovery during construction, appropriate notice will be made by NRCS to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the National Park Service. Consultation and coordination have been and will continue to be used to ensure the provisions of Section 106 Pub. L. 89-665 have been met and to include provisions of Pub. L. 89-523, as amended by Pub. L. 93-291. NRCS will take action as prescribed in NRCS GM 420, Part 401, to protect or recover any significant cultural resources discovered during construction.

No threatened or endangered species in the watershed will be adversely affected by the project.

No significant adverse environmental impacts will result from installations except for temporary draining of the pool and minor inconveniences to local residents during construction.

Alternatives

Four alternatives were analyzed in this plan.

No Action alternative, the structure is breached by the sponsor in approximately four years. The structure will continue to be out of compliance with state dam safety regulations until it is breached. Flood protection provided by the structure would end and increased flooding and associated problems would increase. Recreational opportunities provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area which are owned by the state Game and Parks would be virtually eliminated.

Decommissioning alternative, the structure would be removed and would therefore not be out of compliance with the state dam safety regulations. Flood protection provided by the structure would end and increased flooding and

associated problems would increase. Recreational opportunities provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area which are owned by the state Game and Parks would be virtually eliminated.

Home Relocation alternative, the structure would be rehabilitated to current Low Hazard Criteria and the downstream homes in the breach area would be removed. The structure would then be in compliance with state dam safety regulations and flood protection and recreational opportunities would continue to be provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area.

Rehabilitation to High Hazard Criteria alternative, the structure would be rehabilitated to current High Hazard Criteria and would be brought into compliance with state dam safety regulations for high hazard structures. Flood protection and recreational opportunities would continue to be provided by the structure, pool and surrounding area.

Consultation-Public Participation

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District submitted an application for assistance January 2001. The request was a result of local concern and interest in addressing dam safety and flood protection.

A scoping meeting was held June 6, 2002 involving interdisciplinary efforts. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lancaster County Roads, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Resource Conservation and Development, University of Nebraska Extension Service, and local residents were in attendance.

The environmental assessment was transmitted to all participating and interested agencies, groups, and individuals for review and comment in July 2003. Public meetings were held throughout the planning process to keep all interested parties informed of the study progress and to obtain public input to the plan and environmental evaluation.

Agency consultation and public participation to date have shown no unresolved conflicts with the implementation of the selected plan.

Conclusion

The Environmental Assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant local, regional or national impacts on the environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement for the Upper Salt Creek 10-A Rehabilitation is not required.

Dated:

Stephen K. Chick,

State Conservationist.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Public Meeting With All Interested Parties To Comment on the Activities of the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a meeting to solicit comments on the activities of the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D). Section 2504 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171) requires that the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NAR&DC), evaluate the RC&D Program to determine whether it is effectively meeting the needs of, and purposes identified by, States, units of Government, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations, and councils participating in, or served by the program. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through NRCS, will conduct this evaluation, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the results of the evaluation, together with any recommendations of the Secretary for continuing, terminating, or modifying the program, by June 30, 2005.

As part of this evaluation, NRCS is conducting public meetings with all interested parties to solicit comments on the activities of the program. Comments will be solicited on, and should be limited to, the following topics: (1) RC&D Program effectiveness in meeting the needs of the States, units of Government, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations and RC&D councils served by the program; (2) RC&D Program effectiveness in developing community leadership conservation; (3) RC&D Program elements that best serve regional conservation and development needs; and (4) RC&D Program elements that can be strengthened to better serve