

Utaba Dam Rehabilitation

Supplemental Watershed Project Plan - Environmental Assessment



Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the Utaba Retarding Dam in Weber County, Utah, which is located immediately downstream of the confluence of the North Fork of the Ogden River and Cutler Creek. The dam is currently out of compliance with NRCS and State dam safety standards.

A number of the dam's features are currently out of compliance with state and NRCS standards elevating the risk to visitors and the downstream community. The existing auxiliary spillway is undersized and in extremely poor condition with inward deflection on the walls, open joints, and spalling. Relocating the spillway to one side of the dam will improve maintenance and emergency access. Finally, improving the intake and spillway configurations will improve debris passage reducing maintenance effort and possibility of clogging.

The current narrow top width is a liability in a flood or seismic event. To improve the structure's stability and safety factor in an earthquake, the crest height may be increased and additional toe material may be imported. There is currently seepage around the primary outlet that may indicate larger unseen problems.

Because of these issues, a major rehabilitation of Utaba Retarding Dam must occur to maintain the functionality of the dam, comply with NRCS and State standards, and protect local residents against the impacts of a dam failure.

For more information visit:
<https://www.fransonicivil.com/utaba/>

How is the Project Being Funded?

This project is being funded through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program (PL 83-566 amendments) (REHAB) which assists units of Federal, state, local, and Tribal governments rehabilitate deficient structures. The NRCS funding will cover 65% of eligible project costs.



Project sponsors are responsible for all costs not covered by the grant (35%) including: water rights, easements, and land acquisition. Planning, environmental compliance, and design costs are covered 100% by the NRCS.

A Brief History of Utaba Dam

Utaba Dam was constructed in 1962 for the purpose of flood protection. When the dam was constructed, it was assigned a "moderate" hazard potential classification by the State of Utah, which is equivalent to a "significant" hazard potential classification by the NRCS. Development downstream of the dam has resulted in the dam being classified as a high hazard dam, due to a greater potential for loss of life.

About the Watershed REHAB Program

"The REHAB program provides assistance to local project sponsors to (1) rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design lives, and (2) build or augment existing water supplies based on current and future water supply demands.

These rehabilitation efforts, authorized by Public Law 83-566 and 78-534, address critical public health and safety concerns should a dam failure occur.

Since 1948, the NRCS has assisted local sponsors in constructing over 11,845 dams.

Across the nation, Watershed REHAB projects provide over \$2.2 billion in reduced flooding and erosion damage while improving wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality and supply for an estimated 47 million people. These projects also provide economic growth and opportunity for rural communities." (NRCS,2024)

For more information visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation>

Utah

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