

## Fact Sheet

April 2013

# Reinvesting in the South River No. 4 Dam, Georgia

### Introduction

This watershed rehabilitation project provides substantial flood protection below dam number 4 in Madison County. It helps promote the continuation of economic growth of the area by providing over \$57,238 in average annual flood damage reduction benefits.



### Project Description

- Location: Madison County, Georgia, Congressional District: 9
- Size: 59,875 Watershed Acres
- Federal Funding: About \$1, 400,000 design and construction costs
- Sponsor Funding: About \$450,000 design and construction costs
- Completion Date: April 2012

The structural upgrade consisted of a 54 ft wide conventional concrete chute auxiliary spillway with a two cycle labyrinth weir over the top of the existing dam. This provided the needed upgrade to meet current public safety standards to achieve the required protection downstream of this high hazard dam.

### Partners:

USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District  
Madison County Board of Commissioners

### Benefits

This project enhances four miles of stream corridor and flood plain function. There is a potential for more community open space where houses are removed.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project was part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy and create jobs. NRCS Recovery Act dollars was used in updating aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat and restore wetlands.



South River 4.  
Aerial view of completed spillway from upstream.

## Reinvesting in the South River No. 4 Dam, Georgia

Greatly improves public health and safety by substantially reducing the potential for flood damages to about 20 home and/or businesses, reduces threat of loss of life, injury or disease; reduces danger and need for emergency personnel; less disruption to community services after a flood.

Estimated average annual flood damage reduction benefits of \$57,238;

Estimated average annual non-flood damage reduction benefits of \$108,889

Estimated 630 residents directly or indirectly benefited in flood plain

Majority of beneficiaries reside along the lower four miles of the South River 100-year flood plain; also indirectly benefits all residents of one municipality

Range for the community served: Minority (predominately African-American): 1-5%; Poverty rate: 1-10%; Age 65 and over: 5-20%

### Economic Opportunities

Jobs were created or saved with the planning, design, and construction of this project. The added protection downstream of structure 4 protects transportation networks, utilities and real estate values in the floodplain. This protection helps maintain the

economic base and enhance future economic development and opportunity in the area.

### Statewide Perspective

Rehabilitation of South River No. 4 helps the state achieve the overall goal of upgrading all high hazard class dams to state safe dam standards which provides

maximum flood protection to the communities within each watershed.

### For More Information

USDA-NRCS  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601  
(706) 546-2272  
[www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov)



South River 4.  
Constructing labyrinth walls



South River 4.  
Constructing chute training



South River 4.  
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