



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1321
Jackson, Mississippi 39269
Jeannine B. May, Public Affairs Officer
(601) 965-4336, Ext. 134 or jeannine.may@ms.usda.gov
Fax (601) 965-4940, Cell Phone (601) 260-0298
www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov

NEWS RELEASE

**Contact: Jeannine May
State Public Affairs Officer
Phone Number 601-965-4336, Ext. 134**

Vilsack Announces Nearly \$42.3 Million in Recovery Act Funding for Watershed Projects

Builds on USDA Efforts to Create Jobs, Help Rural Communities and Conserve Natural Resources

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., June 2, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA will provide nearly \$42.3 million in additional funding to 14 states to improve water quality, increase water supply, decrease soil erosion, and improve fish and wildlife habitat while creating jobs in rural communities as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

"This next wave of funding will give even more people opportunities to conserve our nation's natural resources while boosting local economies," Vilsack said. "The overwhelming response we received with the first wave of Recovery Act funding shows the assistance that people and communities need, and we look forward to helping them deliver it by investing in improving local watershed projects."

Through ARRA, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a key role in creating jobs for Americans in areas of our nation that are most impacted economically and by natural disaster. By working closely with local community sponsors to identify projects that are ready for implementation, NRCS will direct the technical and financial assistance available toward improving public safety and the environment as well as relieving stress on local economies through job creation and retention.

ARRA funds for these projects will be used for conservation practices to achieve a healthy environment through conserving water and improving irrigation efficiency, controlling soil erosion and installing filter strips, flood-proofing homes, enhancing stream corridor and floodplain functions, constructing small flood control dams, and improving wildlife and aquatic habitat.

The jobs ARRA creates in the private sector will enhance the rate of restoration and improve watershed management so that the impacts of flooding will decline and communities are safer, sooner.

Helping People Help the Land

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USDA is directing technical and financial assistance available through this funding toward projects that are ready to begin and that will relieve stress on local economies through the creation of jobs. NRCS has worked closely with sponsors to identify projects that are ready for immediate implementation.

State	Project	Funding
AL	Camp Branch	\$175,000
AL	Northeast Yellow River	\$255,000
CA	Lower Silver Creek	\$9,000,000
IA	Bear Creek	\$755,000
IN	Honey Creek	\$3,300,000
KS	Lyons Creek	\$1,248,000
MS	Ellison Creek	\$1,875,000
MS	Little and Upper Tallahatchie	\$2,200,000
MS	Town Creek	\$2,100,000
MS	Yazoo-Arkabutla Creek	\$1,000,000
MS	Yazoo-Upper Piney Creek	\$875,000
MS	Yazoo-Upper Skuna River	\$750,000
MT	Lower Birch Creek	\$527,000
NE	Gering Valley	\$2,200,000
SC	South Darlington	\$1,040,000
KS	Wet Walnut No. 5	\$199,000
KY	North Fork of Little River	\$725,000
NM	Prop Canyon and Tributaries	\$1,200,000
NM	Santa Cruz River	\$240,000
OK	Bear-Fall-Coon Creeks	\$75,000
OK	Lost Duck Creek	\$45,000
OK	Lower Clear Boggy Creek	\$50,000
OK	Uncle John Creek	\$175,000
OK	Upper Black Bear Creek	\$110,000
OK	Upper Muddy Boggy Creek	\$45,000
OK	Upper Red Rock Creek	\$85,000
OK	Washita Creek	\$809,000
TN	Cane Creek	\$12,400,000
Total	.	\$42,288,000

Funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. For more information, visit www.recovery.gov.

To learn more about your eligibility for USDA projects underway through the Recovery Act, go to www.usda.gov.