

Rawhide Creek Watershed – Flood Damage Reduction – JEO & Dodge County NE

During fall 2022, JEO Consulting Group crews started preliminary fieldwork for the Rawhide Creek Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Plan. This initial work will help the planning team better understand the watershed to help determine the best flood risk reduction alternatives. The fieldwork was completed in spring 2023.

The team has also developed a list of proposed alternatives to address flooding within the Rawhide Creek Watershed, which was reviewed with the Dodge County Joint Water Management Advisory Board (JWMAB) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in summer 2022. Following this review, the project team began conducting fieldwork and reaching out to landowners to discuss proposed alternatives. The project team hosted a community meeting in North Bend in April 2022, which provided an overview of the project, the hydrology and hydraulics modeling at that time, and potential project alternatives to address watershed flooding.

Skull Creek Watershed Project – Flood Control

The Skull Creek Watershed Project is a multi-use project providing flood control and outdoor recreation in Butler and Saunders counties.

In the mid-1980s, the Lower Platte North NRD began work on a project to alleviate flooding problems in the Skull Creek watershed. Skull Creek drains the northeast corner of Butler County and the extreme northwest corner of Saunders County before emptying into the Platte River between Linwood and Morse Bluff.

An Application and Feasibility study was completed in 1985 and submitted to the state for funding consideration. In 1986, the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (now the Department of Natural Resources, NDNR) approved a flood control project for Skull Creek involving three dams and a levee system. However, before they would commit funds for the project, NDNR required at least 75 percent of the land above the structure sites to be treated with terraces or other conservation measures to reduce soil erosion.

Little progress was made in the next few years, and in 1989, the NRD and the Commission agreed to rethink the project. Two of the dam sites and the levee system were put on the back burner, and Site #55, one mile north of Bruno, became the focus of attention. Over the next 10 years, the NRD concentrated on meeting the requirement of 75% land treatment above Site #55.

Wahoo Creek Flood Reduction Efforts

The NRD is currently in the process of building ten flood reduction dams in Wahoo Creek watershed, estimated to cost \$19.7 million in 2020. Federal (WFPO) and state funds (JEDI) are expected to fund the entire project including planning, design, permitting, land rights, construction, and construction oversight. Construction will begin in FY2024 on three sites: 26a, 26b, and 27. Construction is expected to begin in FY2025 on the remaining seven sites: 55, 66, 77, 82, 84, 86, and 86. Completion of all ten dam sites is anticipated by the end of FY28.