USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bear Creek Watershed Plan-EA, Madison County, MS
Public Alternatives Meeting
Tuesday, July 30, 2024

FACTS SHEET

Project Background

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, is developing a Watershed Plan – Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for Bear Creek in Madison, Mississippi. Development of the watershed plan is authorized by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566). The Plan-EA will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions. The purpose of the Plan-EA is to develop and analyze the effects of the project plan alternatives on the natural and human environment.

Alternatives for Consideration

The Plan-EA addresses structural and non-structural alternatives, with the primary purpose of flood damage reduction. The Plan-EA alternatives are listed on the back of this handout.

Request for Input

We would appreciate your input or preference regarding these alternatives, especially in terms of how you believe they might affect the environment, both human and natural. ***Please fill out the comment form behind the "Comment Form" link and return via email or US mail as listed.***

Comments will also be accepted on comment forms e-mailed or by USPS postmarked by **Tuesday, August 13, 2024**, at the following addresses:

By Email: bearcreekinfo@waggonereng.com

By Mail: Waggoner Engineering, Inc.
Attn: Bear Creek Watershed
143-A Lefleurs Square
Jackson, MS 39211

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Draft Alternatives for Flood Damage Reduction in Canton

Alternative	Relative Benefits		Relative Impacts		
	Flood Reduction Benefits	Other Benefits	Potential Implementation Cost[1]	Potential Cost to County[2]	Other Considerations
1: Flood Storage throughout Watershed	Reduction not significant in critical areas	• Potential recreational opportunities • Sediment control	$20-30 million	High ($5-10 million)	• Impacts to local roads • Impacts to habitat
2: Flood Protection Levee/Wall on Batchelor Creek	2-3 feet along MLK, Jr. Dr.	Minimizes environmental impacts	$6-10 million	Low (< $1 million)	Benefits limited to Batchelor Creek area
3: Channel Widening along Batchelor Creek	1.5-2.5 feet along MLK, Jr. Dr.		$25-30 million	Moderate (< $5 million)	• Significant alteration to neighborhoods along Batchelor Creek • Significant utility relocation • Benefits limited to Batchelor Creek area
4: Flood Protection Levee in South Canton	Up to 6 feet in South Canton	• Potential increase in value for protected properties • Decrease flood insurance costs	$5-10 million	Low (< $1 million)	• Benefits limited to south Canton • Impacts to local roads (requires raising)
5: Flood Control Lake on Bear Creek	2-3 feet in South Canton	• Recreational opportunities • Economic Development opportunities	$40-50 million	Very High (More than $10 million)	• Benefits limited to south Canton • Significant impacts to habitat, local roads & utilities
6: Combination of Structural Measures on Batchelor and Bear Creeks (Elements of 1,2, & 4)	• 2-6 feet depth reduction in critical areas • Removes 225+ homes from risk	• Addresses risks on Batchelor & Bear Creeks • Benefits of 1,2,4 • Greatest benefits at least cost	• $15-20 million	Moderate (Less than $5 million)	Combined impacts of 1,2, & 4, except that it benefits Batchelor & Bear Creek areas
7: Nonstructural – Voluntary Floodplain Buyout Program	Potential for 100% reduction of flood damages in affected areas	• Restores floodplain and riparian buffer • Benefits depend on level of participation	• $15-20 million • Cost depends on level of participation	Depends on level of participation	Significant social impacts to neighborhoods