



**DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SCHEDULING**

THROUGH: James R. Lyons  
Under Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment

*Glenn H. ...*

FROM: Pearlie S. Reed  
Chief  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

*[Handwritten signature]*

JAN 05 2000

SUBJECT: Request for Secretary Glickman to Participate in Maryland Earth Day  
Celebration, Saturday, April 15, 2000

**ISSUE:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Anne Arundel County Soil Conservation District, and other conservation partners are hosting an Earth Day 2000 Celebration on Saturday, April 15, 2000, on a family farm near Annapolis, Maryland. We request the Secretary's participation in this millennium event.

**BACKGROUND:**

As a part of Department of Agriculture Millennium efforts, and to capture the momentum generated by the Secretary's Summit on Private Lands Conservation, NRCS, in cooperation with the Maryland conservation partnership, is planning an Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 15, 2000. The event is planned as a statewide event featuring a day-long schedule of demonstrations and installation of conservation practices, wagon tours of land stewardship activities, children's events, and a mid-day program with speakers. Attendance is estimated at more than 1,000, along with substantial media coverage. A summary of the planned activities is attached.

The centerpiece of the event will be the implementation of a conservation plan on a 107-acre farm owned by Mr. Robert H. Rossback, Sr., near Davidsonville, Maryland. Mr. Rossback raises beef cattle and rotates plantings of soybeans, corn, and hay. The farm is on the edge of urban sprawl and faces increasing pressure as the area changes from agricultural land to residential housing and office complexes. The farm has been enrolled in an agricultural preservation program and will remain in agriculture. On Earth Day 2000, numerous conservation practices will be installed, including an agricultural waste management system, no-till plantings, tree buffer plantings, a shallow water pond, wildlife enhancement measures, and backyard conservation measures. Private donations, along with Federal and State cost-share, will provide financial assistance for installation of the conservation practices.

*NRE-00-4*

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We would like the Secretary to lead the wagon tour of conservation practices and to provide keynote remarks regarding the importance of conservation on private lands. The wagon tour begins at 10 a.m., with the formal remarks scheduled for 11 a.m.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Tia Young, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 720-2771.

**DECISION:**

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss with me \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

## CONSERVATION 2000 - MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY EVENT

The Year 2000 Conservation Earth Day event will take place at the Rossback farm in Davidsonville, Maryland on April 15, 2000. The Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District will host this national event.

The Rossback's, with their fairly new 107 acre farm, offer a perfect site to celebrate our stewardship to the earth's resources for the year 2000. The family purchased this property 7-8 years ago and recently moved on to the farm. They are in the process of reverting from a cash grain rented operation to a grain/hay operation to support beef and horses. The property is in Agricultural Preservation and will remain in agriculture.

The following is a summary of the best management practices and events planned for the event.

<b>Riparian Forest Buffers</b>	Trees and shrubs will be planted along 2400 feet of stream by volunteers (scouts, students and general public) the week of the event. DNR's Forester will lead.
<b>Riparian Herbaceous Buffer</b>	4.5 acres of wildlife grass cover will be planted along 1350 feet of stream. Grasses will be mostly warm season grasses that will be no-tilled by volunteer farmers the day of the event.
<b>Stream Fencing</b>	3572 feet of fencing will be installed. The fencing will be installed by volunteers (farmers and general public).
<b>Trough/Pipeline</b>	3 troughs will be installed to provide water for livestock removed from the stream and to improve rotation grazing. Water source will be provided by a well to be dug and pumped by electric or solar energy. Practice will be installed before the event. A staff volunteer will explain practice.
<b>Barnyard Management</b>	An agricultural waste storage structure is in the planning phase and will be under construction the day of the event. Staff volunteer will explain practice.
<b>Stream Crossing</b>	This practice will be installed this winter and NRCS staff will discuss the day of the event.
<b>Shallow Water Pond</b>	A 5.0 acre shallow water pond and buffer will be constructed this winter. The buffer will be planted the day of the event. Duck's Unlimited will talk on this practice.
<b>Field Strip cropping</b>	16 acres of field strip will be laid out.
<b>Grassed Waterway</b>	2 waterways will be constructed days before the event. They will be seeded and mulched by volunteers (farmers and general public).
<b>Nutrient Management</b>	Maryland Cooperative Extension, along with the University of Maryland will have a hands-on station on Phosphorus Base Index sampling.
<b>Soils Display</b>	4 monoliths are being developed from the farm. They will show soil erosion & movement of soil on a field. They will also demonstrate the variety of soils on the farm and different drainage classes. The mini soil profile will be set up for youths to make profiles. Posters, teachers packages, etc will be available.
<b>Backyard Conservation</b>	The Plant Materials Center, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, NRCS, and Maryland Cooperative Extension are working with the landowner. Ideas planned are composting demo and native wildflower planting/seeding.
<b>Grazing Land Initiative</b>	2 acres of warm season grasses will be planted for summer grazing.
<b>Bio-Engineering</b>	600 feet of stream ditch will be planted on both sides with materials provided from the Plant Materials Center. Plants will be planted by volunteers.
<b>Pasture Panting/Renov/Aeration demo</b>	Maryland Cooperative Extension, Prince Georges SCD and volunteers will be servicing all pasture fields.
<b>No-till demo</b>	Volunteer farmers will give a demonstration and discuss no-till grain seeding.
<b>Exhibits</b>	Tent will be set up for conservation/environmental/wildlife exhibits.
<b>Vendors</b>	Tents will be set up for food vendors.
<b>Wood Duck Box</b>	Wood duck boxes will be built by students.



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THROUGH: James R. Lyons  
Under Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment

NOV 18 1999

FROM: Pearlie S. Reed  
Chief  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NOV 15 1999

SUBJECT: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Millennium Event for  
April 13-14, 2000

**ISSUE:**

NRCS is requesting participation by the Secretary, or the Deputy Secretary, at the Dedication of the Sergeant Major Creek Watershed, and at the celebration of Cheyenne/Arapaho Old Settlers Day in Cheyenne, Oklahoma, on April 13-14, 2000.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sergeant Major Creek Watershed is a part of the Washita River Flood Prevention Project, which was one of 11 watershed projects authorized by Public Law 534 (Flood Control Act of 1944). The first small flood control dam in the Nation was constructed in the Washita River Basin near Cordell, Oklahoma. It was dedicated on July 3, 1948. Since that time, 1,140 dams have been constructed in the Washita River Basin, including 37 in west Texas. Some 175 dams have been constructed in Roger Mills County.

The Cheyenne/Arapaho celebration is hosted by five communities (rotated annually) in western Oklahoma. It consists of a rodeo, parade, public barbecue, and street dance. This year's attendance is anticipated to be up to 10,000 people. Hammon, Oklahoma, is located about 15 miles east of Cheyenne. It is appropriate that the Sergeant Major celebration be a part of the Hammon event because Hammon, Oklahoma, has been directly impacted by the Washita Flood Control Project. In 1934, 17 Hammon residents were killed in a devastating flood. The more than 100 small watershed flood control dams constructed upstream from Hammon since 1948 have eliminated flooding in this area. Please see attached proposed schedule of events.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Please contact Tia Young, Director of Legislative Affairs at (202) 720-2771.

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**DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SCHEDULING**

**DECISION:**

Approve

\_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove

\_\_\_\_\_

Discuss with me

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by

\_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

*Sylvia  
Bolwien*

**DRAFT**

Overview  
Sergeant Major Creek Celebration  
Cheyenne, Oklahoma  
April 13-14, 2000

**Purpose:** Dedication of the reconstruction of Site No. 2, Sergeant Major Creek Watershed; the first formal rehabilitation project of a small watershed dam in the nation. Also commemoration of the Washita River Flood Control Project including construction of 1140 dams since 1948. This event has been submitted as a possible USDA Millennium Project.

**Location:** Cheyenne, Oklahoma (2 ½ hours west of Oklahoma City; 25 miles north of I-40 near the Oklahoma/Texas border.

**Local celebration:** The celebration will be in conjunction with the Cheyenne/Arapaho Old Settlers Day celebration, which will be held April 14-15, 2000, in Hammon, Oklahoma. This celebration is hosted by five communities (rotated annually) in western Oklahoma. It consists of a rodeo, parade, public BBQ, and street dance. This year's attendance is anticipated to be up to 10,000 people. Hammon is located approximately 15 miles east of Cheyenne. It is appropriate that the Sergeant Major celebration be a part of the Hammon event because Hammon, Oklahoma, has been directly impacted by the Washita Flood Control Project. In 1934, seventeen residents of Hammon were killed in a devastating flood. The 100+ small watershed flood control dams constructed upstream from Hammon since 1948 has eliminated flooding in this community area.

**Preliminary schedule of events:**

Thursday, April 13, 2000:

Afternoon: Helicopter tour for invited dignitaries (Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, NRCS Chief Pearlle Reed, Governor Frank Keating, Congressman Frank Lucas, others).

Evening: Social and BBQ dinner for invited guests (75-100) at Coyote Hills Guest Ranch located 8 miles northwest of Cheyenne. Chuckwagon dinner (on tin plates) with real chuckwagon, cowboy songs, entertainment, and socializing.

Friday, April 14, 2000:

- 10:00 a.m. – Public ceremony in Cheyenne school auditorium (note schools will be dismissed this day to allow for the large number of people at this event). Auditorium has 800-person capacity with state-of-the-art amenities.
- Noon – Public BBQ lunch (1000-2000 person attendance (?))
- 1:00 p.m. – Dedication of Site 2, Sergeant Major Creek Watershed: flood control dam located two miles south of Cheyenne.
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Optional tours of watershed, Battle of Washita National Park, Black Kettle Museum, reconstruction of Site 1, and several cooperating agency projects in the Cheyenne area.
- 7:00 p.m. – Rodeo and street dance at Hammon.

Saturday, April 15, 2000

- 10:00 a.m. – Parade
- Noon – Public BBQ lunch (attendance 10,000?)
- 3:00 p.m. – Rodeo
- 7:00 p.m. – Street dance at Hammon.

**Local Planning Committee:** A planning committee has been established consisting of several local representatives and state and federal agency personnel. They are very enthusiastic and are initiating several activities to make this an interesting and fun first-class event.

**Sergeant Major Project background:**

Sergeant Major Creek Watershed is a part of the Washita River Flood Prevention Project which was one of eleven watersheds authorized by Public Law 534 (Flood Control Act of 1944). The first small flood control dam in the nation was constructed in the Washita River Basin near Cordell, Oklahoma. It was dedicated July 3, 1948. Since that time, 1140 dams have been constructed along the Washita River Basin including 37 in west Texas. 175 dams have been constructed in Roger Mills County.

In July 1998, NRCS Chief Pearlie Reed announced a national pilot rehabilitation project for Oklahoma. Sergeant Major Creek Watershed, Roger Mills County, was soon selected to be that project. This PL-534 subwatershed project was initiated in 1948. The project includes 19,640 acres that is protected by six flood control dams that were constructed between 1948 and 1963. One of the dams (Site No. 2) was originally constructed as a low hazard dam to protect agricultural areas downstream; since construction, development has occurred downstream which has resulted in the structure being classified as high hazard. There were also concerns with leakage in the principal spillway of the dam as well as excessive foundation seepage. Another dam in the watershed (Site No. 1) was constructed in 1948 and is completely filled with sediment. The corrugated metal principal spillway pipe is also deteriorating.

**Pilot Project Objectives/Accomplishments**

- **Locally-led Effort:** Establishment of a 15-member core work group consisting of local residents to provide leadership for a locally-led effort. This work group has identified six primary objectives to address resource needs within the watershed. Several actions are taking place to address these priorities.
- **Streamline planning process to address rehabilitation.** A work plan supplement has been completed, as well as an environmental assessment and interagency review. The work plan supplement includes addition of the rehabilitation of Sites 1 and 2 to the original work plan.
- **Rehabilitation of Sites 1 and 2.** The designs have been completed and the construction of Site 2 is currently underway (completion anticipated fall 1999). The construction of Site 1 is expected to begin in the winter and should be completed by spring/summer 2000).