

Information Regarding Rainbow Dam

With the recent posting of the survey on the R-Ranch website in regard to Rainbow Dam, it became apparent that many R-Ranch owners have limited knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the Rainbow Lake and the dam. The following is a summary describing the situation with Rainbow Dam.

In 2003, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/ Environmental Protection Division classified Rainbow Dam as a Category One Dam. The definition of a Category One Dam is any dam that is higher than 25 feet or contains more than 100 acre feet of water. Our dam is lower than 25 feet. However, it holds back more than 100 acre feet of water. In order to operate a Category One Dam one must obtain a permit from the DNR. One of the criteria for the permit is an inspection from the DNR to determine the soundness of the structure. In 2004, when the DNR performed the inspection, it was noted that the 48" pipe that controls the level of the dam had several cracks, leaks and defects along its 100 ft length. It was also noted that the concrete emergency spillway was cracking and showing signs of seepage. There was also excessive dampness at the base of the dam which is indicative of leakage and could contribute to the deterioration of the structure. It was also further noted that failure of our dam could result in loss of life and property of some structures located downstream.

An engineering firm was hired by R-Ranch to look into the issues brought up by the DNR and to present us with possible solutions. After all the calculations and studies were completed, R-Ranch was left with two choices. The first and least expensive option is to breach (remove) the dam at an estimated cost of \$250,000. The second option requires repairing the 48 inch overflow pipe and building a new emergency spillway to handle the worst case scenario flows that our dam could be faced with. The cost to repair Rainbow Dam and retain Rainbow Lake is estimated at \$1.5 million dollars or approximately \$1,500.00 per owner.

The repair or removal of the dam has been on the back burner as we dealt with the Crosswind issue. There seemed to be no need in spending any money if someone else was going to be responsible for at least some of the repair. With the Crosswind issue coming to a conclusion, it is apparent that the resolution to the dam issue will be ours alone to deal with. This situation with the R-Ranch and the DNR has been going on for several years. The DNR has been patient in waiting for the Crosswind litigation to be resolved. It is now time for R-Ranch to determine how to proceed with this issue. We continue to look into ways to avoid the costly repair and still keep the dam; however those options are a long shot at best.

Currently, Larry Blaze, is the contact for issues pertaining to Rainbow Dam. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to e-mail him or any other board member.