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## IRRIGATION PROJECTS CELEBRATE COMPLETION

VIPs from local government, NRCS, and Senator Bennett's office were on hand last week to celebrate the completion of two major engineering projects in Southwestern Utah. On Thursday evening the Sevier County Board of Commissioners celebrated the completion of the Salina Creek Sluice Earmark. The v-shaped automated



structure makes it possible to eliminate much of the silt by flushing it back into the Salina Creek. John Huntimer was the coordinating NRCS engineer on the project. The accompanying photo (below) shows some of the commissioners trying out the system that will benefit more than 2,000 acres of farmland.

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On Friday afternoon, the Hanksville Emergency Watershed Protection Project was completed with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new diversion dam near Hanksville. A severe flood late in 2006 destroyed the irrigation diversion dam on the Fremont River and caused other significant damage to an irrigation water delivery system for area farmers. A \$9.2 million EWP grant under the sponsorship of the Wayne County Commission made it possible for NRCS to rebuild the irrigation system making much needed water available to Hanksville area farmers who have been without for two years.

The accompanying photo shows Commissioner Tom Jefferies, NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen and Irrigation Company President Ronnie Albrecht preparing to cut the ribbon. NRCS Engineer Jake Robison was the coordinator of this impressive project that includes a sluice structure and fish passage way.

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