

Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma

Congressional District No. 2

Oklahoma has 2,107 flood control dams in 61 counties. These dams have been constructed through conservation districts with financial and technical assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) authorized through Public Law 78-534 (Washita River Watershed) and Public Law 83-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The primary purpose of flood control dams is to reduce flooding. The secondary benefits of the dams address a myriad of public needs such as water supply, water quality, soil health, water management, wetland enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation. Flood control dams improve public safety, contribute to a healthy economy and support a strong nation.

Watershed projects also include the installation of natural resource conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, ponds, gully repair, and pasture and rangeland plantings. These conservation practices improve water quality and soil health and reduce sedimentation into the lakes formed by the dams.

Operation and Maintenance of Dams

The annual operation and maintenance of dams is the responsibility of project sponsors (local units of governments such as conservation districts).

Operation and maintenance of dams can be expensive and labor intensive, but is necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe.

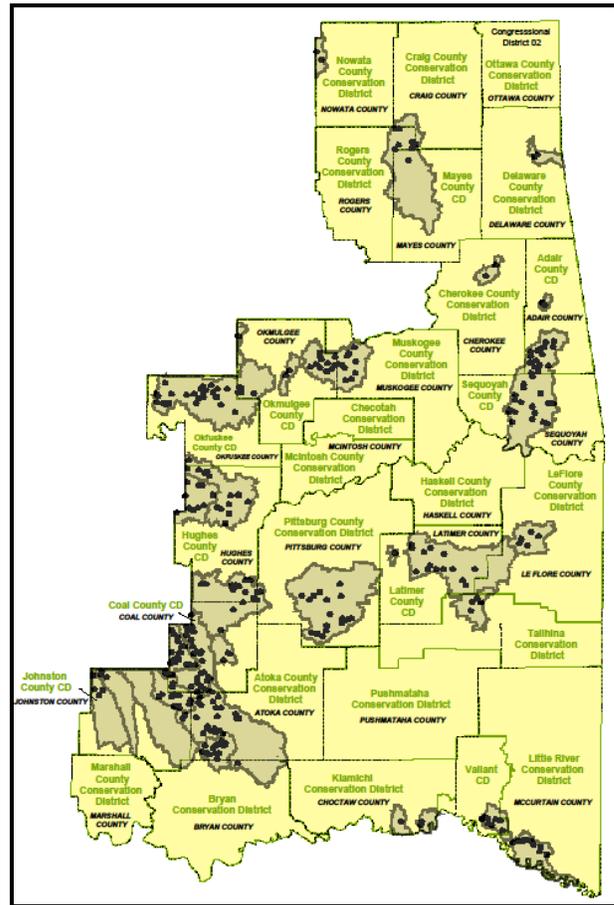
Maintenance work includes removing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the principal spillway inlet towers cleared of debris.

Operation and Maintenance Needs

An estimated \$6 million per year is needed to meet the operations and maintenance needs of the 2,107 flood control dams.

Annual Benefits

The 2,107 flood control dams and conservation practices in watershed projects provide \$85 million in annual benefits. Listed on the back page are the average annual benefits from watershed projects in Congressional District No. 2.



Rehabilitation and Dam Safety

Some dams will need rehabilitation to remain safe and protect the people that live or work downstream. There are 249 high hazard dams with 63 that meet current dam safety criteria either through original design or rehabilitation. It is estimated that \$653 million will be required to rehabilitate the remaining 186 high hazard dams to comply with federal and state dam safety laws. More dams will become high hazard as long as residential and business development is allowed downstream of the dam in the breach flood area.

NRCS can provide 65 percent of the rehabilitation costs and technical assistance to rehabilitate high hazard dams. Local project sponsors provide 35 percent of the cost and obtain any needed additional land rights.

As of January 2015 thirty-four dams in the state have been rehabilitated to meet state and federal mandated dam safety regulations and 18 dams are in various stages of planning, design or construction.

Average Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 2	Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Big Wewoka Creek	41	11	\$1,240,920	543	7	1,628	329,494
Boiling Springs Ck.	1	1	\$37,627	18	3	25	4,516
Brushy Peaceful Ck.	18	18	\$735,153	198	5	269	20,409
Cane Creek	21	21	\$505,900	311	12	695	107,768
Caney Creek	14	14	\$269,806	75	9	246	38,396
Caney-Coon Creek	3	3	\$339,681	53	2	183	32,652
Carney Ck.	1	1	\$66,208	52	3	37	4,183
Caston Mountain Ck.	5	5	\$877,811	219	5	149	35,576
Cotton-Coon Mission Ck.	11	2	\$595,656	262	8	245	43,704
Delaware Ck.	13	13	\$693,334	109	5	299	61,885
Fourche Maline Ck.	14	14	\$1,489,078	744	12	386	92,846
Fourteen Mile Creek	2	2	\$58,022	70	10	30	9,440
Frogville Ck.	2	2	\$474,852	29	10	7	703
Leader-Middle Clear Boggy Creek	33	24	\$861,330	161	7	472	64,238
Little Deep Fork Creek	56	1	\$1,289,081	747	45	996	153,004
Little Wewoka Ck.	16	14	\$458,909	344	23	790	51,568
Lower Clear Boggy Creek	22	23	\$543,281	335	2	742	122,979
Mill Creek	18	5	\$143,597	177	10	340	49,903
Okfuskee Tributaries	29	29	\$1,637,555	562	7	502	80,182
Okmulgee Ck	2	2	\$414,635	52	4	139	14,549
Pennington Creek	3	3	\$18,641	188	7	114	18,917
Pryor Creek	8	8	\$49,754	65	1	62	9,469
Rock Creek	4	4	\$451,495	152	5	70	12,476
Sallisaw Ck.	34	34	\$2,725,529	720	10	591	123,120
Scraper Hollow Creek	2	2	\$54,963	25	4	17	9,551
Upper Clear Boggy Creek	49	22	\$1,151,130	394	20	1,033	167,410
Upper Muddy Boggy Creek	24	17	\$450,032	334	9	369	63,298
Waterfall-Gilford Creek	11	11	\$111,923	215	47	167	21,768
Whitegrass-Waterhole Creek	9	9	\$1,389,415	148	9	191	24,581
Whitewater Creek	2	2	\$42,897	36	1	28	14,067
Total	468	317	\$19,178,215	7,338	302	10,822	1,782,652