

# Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma

## Congressional District No. 3

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

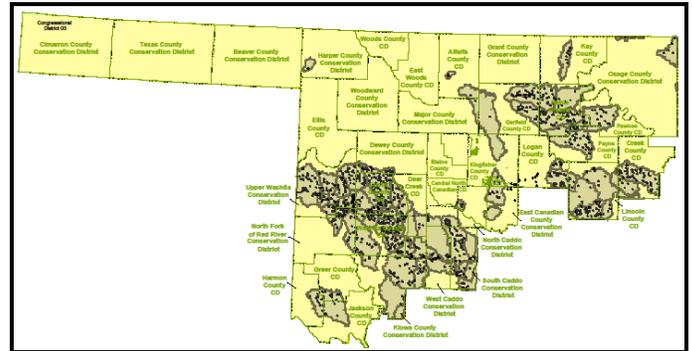
The annual operation and maintenance of dams is the responsibility of project sponsors (local units of governments such as conservation districts).

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.



### 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.

### 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. 3.

**Average Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)**

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 3	Monetary Benefits	Farm / Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Barnitz Creek	76	76	\$716,340	225	25	1,734	520,184
Bear Creek	10	10	\$52,432	17	3	94	28,566
Beaver Creek	15	15	\$398,192	77	11	475	63,234
Beaver Dam Creek	6	6	\$62,590	25	5	117	59,972
Big Kiowa Creek	6	6	\$70,637	23	5	151	108,135
Boggy Creek	36	36	\$547,980	127	18	769	105,507
Broken Leg Ck.	3	3	\$45,006	9	2	76	21,175
Butler Laterals	9	9	\$82,639	23	2	56	11,360
Cavalry Creek	30	30	\$709,880	121	70	555	122,684
Cobb Creek	12	12	\$262,273	365	34	420	160,186
Cowden Laterals	13	13	\$285,316	74	4	136	37,548
Dead Indian-Wildhorse Creek	12	12	\$418,312	59	8	346	121,278
Delaware Creek	2	2	\$41,875	23	2	5	974
Fort Cobb Laterals	9	9	\$213,306	61	3	126	26,463
Gyp Creek	1	1	\$30,640	23	2	9	2,717
Little Washita	45	8	\$1,327,736	492	69	748	171,836
Nine Mile Creek	18	18	\$222,738	49	28	225	54,605
Oak Creek	14	13	\$594,362	62	8	221	63,822
Panther Creek	6	6	\$137,646	68	5	119	22,286
Quartermaster Creek	36	36	\$666,760	134	19	743	154,228
Rainy Mountain Creek	29	29	\$1,138,210	315	20	1,706	271,117
Saddle Mountain Ck.	12	12	\$270,273	109	18	277	49,420
Sandstone Creek	42	42	\$370,141	60	8	809	296,123
Sergeant Major Creek	6	6	\$55,684	15	2	77	50,162
Soldier Creek	12	12	\$304,360	74	5	286	37,612
S. Clinton Laterals	16	16	\$208,527	51	8	231	48,078
Spring Creek	4	4	\$59,143	113	2	8	1,851
Sugar Creek	51	51	\$2,877,189	443	28	1,083	226,636
Tonkawa Creek	13	13	\$503,615	55	6	143	20,805
Turkey Creek	12	12	\$464,162	74	5	418	56,270
Upper Washita Ck.	35	35	\$784,376	148	4	750	186,995
Whiteshield Creek	19	19	\$146,522	21	11	131	23,847
Bear-Fall Coon Creek	31	30	\$1,082,958	540	84	673	111,689
Big Caney Creek	1	1	\$38,402	11	3	17	5,072
Canyon View Creek	4	4	\$99,689	24	3	72	12,513
Cotton-Coon Mission	11	5	\$595,656	262	8	245	43,704
Cottonwood Creek	16	16	\$409,095	174	13	484	100,880
Dry Creek	8	8	\$126,032	96	4	4	10,058
Fitzgerald-Solider Ck.	5	5	\$413,500	63	4	81	13,623
Four Mile Creek	1	1	\$807,177	35	9	86	18,325
Kickapoo Nations	5	4	\$2,194,961	289	8	327	60,466
Lambert Creek	2	2	\$189,386	10	7	42	7,367
Little Deep Fork	56	55	\$1,289,081	747	45	996	153,004
Long Branch Creek	11	11	\$82,955	73	12	197	31,430
Lost Duck Creek	9	9	\$447,594	69	12	249	40,396
Lower Black Bear	19	19	\$1,998,662	280	10	374	77,233
Lower Red Rock	7	7	\$100,865	46	2	124	18,308
Otter Creek	4	4	\$197,496	161	15	180	26,901
Paint Creek	1	1	\$188,247	13	5	33	7,478
Quapaw Ck.	38	38	\$1,798,272	374	25	533	79,139
Robinson Creek	5	5	\$578,017	80	5	123	34,607
Salt-Camp Creek	5	5	\$899,285	99	2	128	18,326
Stillwater Creek	34	34	\$2,362,582	252	20	524	87,655
Timber Creek	7	7	\$194,634	50	12	163	36,095
Tri-County Turkey Ck.	31	31	\$657,507	243	27	1,304	224,704
Turkey Creek	3	3	\$102,117	31	4	57	17,864
Uncle John Creek	12	12	\$652,958	164	15	397	90,794
Upper Black Bear Ck.	72	72	\$1,044,664	475	38	1,910	496,767
Upper Elk Creek	35	35	\$1,312,793	251	27	925	192,226
Upper Red Rock Ck.	43	43	\$544,692	203	19	1,432	237,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>\$34,478,139</b>	<b>8,650</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>24,724</b>	<b>5,379,352</b>