Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma House District No.18

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.

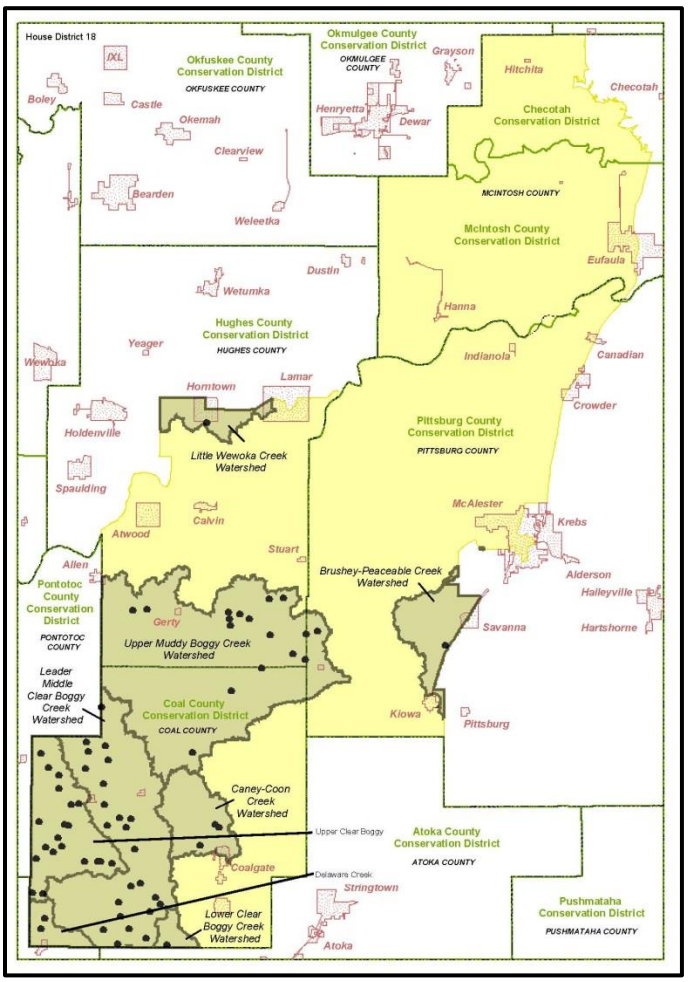
Maintenance work includes removing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the principal spillway inlet towers cleared of debris.

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 House District No. 18.



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 18	Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Brushy-Peaceable Creek	18	1	$735,153	198	5	269	20,409
Caney Coon Creek	3	3	$339,681	53	2	183	32,652
Delaware Creek	13	2	$693,334	109	5	299	61,885
Leader Middle Clear Boggy Ck.	33	24	$861,330	161	7	472	64,238
Little Wewoka Ck.	16	1	$458,909	344	23	790	51,568
Lower Clear Boggy Ck.	23	1	$543,281	335	2	742	122,979
Upper Clear Boggy Ck.	49	20	$1,151,130	394	20	1,033	167,410
Upper Muddy Boggy Ck.	24	17	$450,032	334	9	369	63,298
Total	**179**	**69**	**$5,232,850**	**1928**	**73**	**4,157**	**584,439**

Conservation Contacts for Oklahoma House District 18

Conservation Districts are a primary sponsor of most watershed projects in Oklahoma. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that administers the watershed program and provides technical and financial assistance to the local project sponsors.

Listed below are conservation districts located in House District 18 that have watershed projects and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program.

Checotah Conservation District
201 Matthews Lane, Checotah, OK
918-473-6217
checotahcd@conservation.ok.gov

Coal County Conservation District
106 East Post Avenue, Coalgate, OK
580/927-3414
coalccd@conservation.ok.gov

Hughes County Conservation District
419 East Highway, Holdenville, OK 74848-4057
405/379-2570
hughesccd@conservation.ok.gov

Pittsburg County Conservation District
3101 Elks Road, McAlester, OK 74501
918-423-3990
pittsburgccd@conservation.ok.gov

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd. Suite 160
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4210
(405) 521-2384
info@conservation.ok.gov
http://www.ok.gov/conservation

Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 2775
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2775
http://www.okconservation.org

Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 USDA, Suite 206
Stillwater, OK. 74074-2655
(405) 742-1204

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