

Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma House District No. 55

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).

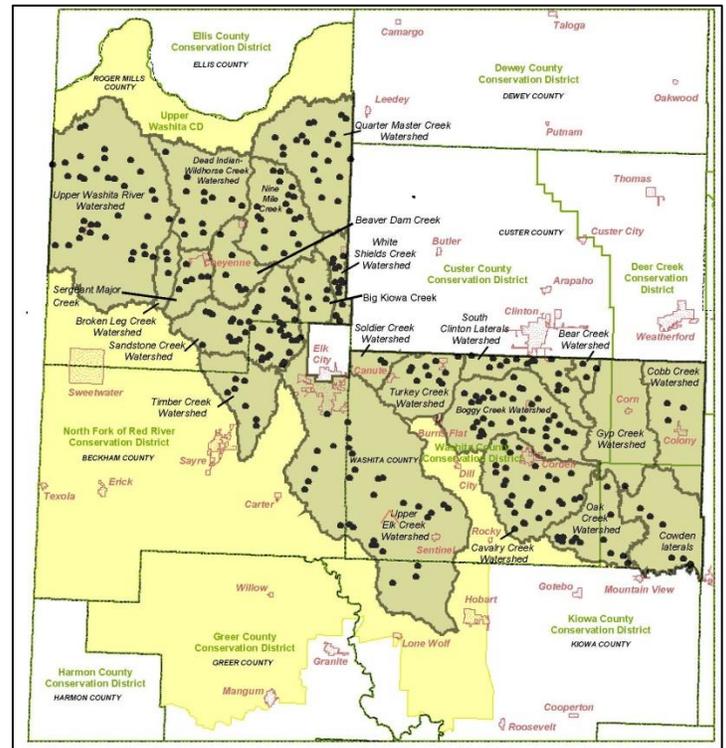
Operation and maintenance of dams can be expensive and labor intensive, but is necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe. Maintenance work includes removing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, 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. 55.



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 55	Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Bear Creek	10	3	\$52,432	17	3	94	28,566
Beaver Dam Creek	15	6	\$62,590	25	5	117	59,972
Big Kiowa Ck.	6	5	\$70,637	23	5	151	108,135
Boggy Ck.	36	36	\$547,980	127	18	769	105,507
Broken Leg Creek	3	3	\$45,006	9	2	76	21,175
Cavalry Ck.	30	30	\$709,880	121	70	555	122,684
Cobb Ck.	12	3	\$262,273	365	34	420	160,186
Cowden Laterals	13	6	\$285,316	74	4	136	37,548
Dead Indian-Wildhorse Ck.	12	12	\$418,312	59	8	346	121,278
Gyp Creek	1	1	\$30,640	23	2	9	2,717
Nine Mile Ck.	18	18	\$222,738	49	28	225	54,605
Oak Creek	14	14	\$594,362	62	8	221	63,822
Sandstone Ck.	42	42	\$370,141	60	8	809	296,123
Sergeant Major Creek	6	6	\$55,684	15	2	77	50,162
Soldier Ck.	12	2	\$304,360	74	5	286	37,612
South Clinton Laterals	16	14	\$208,527	51	8	231	48,078
Timber Ck.	7	7	\$194,634	50	12	163	36,095
Turkey Ck.	12	10	\$464,162	74	5	418	56,270
Quarter Master Ck.	36	21	\$666,760	134	19	743	154,228
Upper Elk Ck.	35	31	\$1,312,793	251	27	925	192,226
Upper Washita River	35	35	\$784,376	148	4	750	186,995
Whiteshield Creek.	19	14	\$146,522	21	11	131	23,847
Total	390	319	\$7,810,125	1,832	288	7,652	1,967,831

Conservation Contacts for House District 55

Listed below are conservation districts located in House District 55 that have watershed projects and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program.

Deer Creek Conservation District
300 S. Broadway, Weatherford, OK
580/772-7670
deercreekcd@conservation.ok.gov

Kiowa County Conservation District
802 W. 11th St., Hobart, OK
580/726-3786
kiowaccd@conservation.ok.gov

North Fork of Red River Conservation District
902 NE Highway 66, Suite C, Sayre, OK 580/928-9950
nforkredrivercd@conservation.ok.gov

Upper Washita Conservation District
301 E. Broadway, Cheyenne, OK 580/497-3413
uwashitacd@conservation.ok.gov

Washita County Conservation District
1505 North Glenn English, Cordell, OK
580/832-3719
washitaccd@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