

# Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma Senate District No. 13

Oklahoma has 2,107 flood control dams in 61 counties. These dams have been constructed through local units of government, mostly conservation districts, who serve as local watershed project sponsors. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided financial and technical assistance to sponsors to build the dams through Public Law 78-534 Flood Control Act (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.

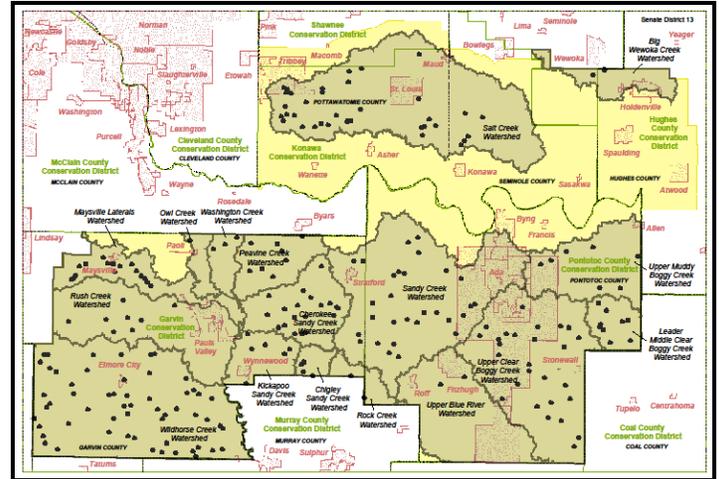
Watershed projects also include the installation of conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, ponds, gully repair, and pasture and rangeland plantings. These conservation practices improve water quality and soil health and reduce sedimentation into the lakes formed by the dams.

## Operation and Maintenance of Dams

The operation and maintenance of dams is the responsibility of the project sponsors. 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 spillways and dams after heavy rain storms, controlling beavers and rodents, 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 and to continue to provide benefits. 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 dams in the breach flood area.

NRCS can provide 65 percent of the cost 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.

This is a list of conservation districts that are located in Senate District 13 and have watershed projects. They can be contacted for more information about the watershed program and projects in District 13.

### Garvin Conservation District

20118 S. Indian Meridian  
Pauls Valley, OK  
405/238-7233  
[garvincd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:garvincd@conservation.ok.gov)

### Hughes County Conservation District

419 East Highway  
Holdenville, OK 74848-4057  
405/379-2570 (CD)  
[hughesccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:hughesccd@conservation.ok.gov)

### Konawa Conservation District

102 E.1st  
Konawa, OK  
580/925-3117  
[konawacd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:konawacd@conservation.ok.gov)

### Pontotoc County Conservation District

1328 Cradduck Rd.  
Ada, OK 74820-8442  
580/332-7979 (CD)  
[pontotoccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:pontotoccd@conservation.ok.gov)

### Seminole County Conservation District

1400 Indian Rd  
Wewoka, OK  
405/257-5578  
[seminoleccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:seminoleccd@conservation.ok.gov)

## Annual Benefits

The 2,107 flood control dams provide \$85 million in average annual benefits. Listed below are the average annual benefits from watershed projects in Senate District No. 13.

### Average Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 13	Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Big Wewoka Creek	41	2	\$1,240,920	543	7	1,628	329,494
Cherokee Sandy Ck.	19	19	\$1,404,656	160	6	316	48,533
Chigley Sandy Ck.	14	4	\$191,609	86	7	291	53,531
Kickapoo Sandy Ck.	20	6	\$240,851	104	8	305	49,728
Leader Middle Clear Boggy Ck.	33	9	\$861,330	161	7	472	64,238
Maysville Laterals	21	16	\$398,058	94	6	175	23,533
Owl Creek	15	1	\$175,894	72	4	161	23,841
Peavine Ck.	10	8	\$199,785	130	8	683	106,185
Rock Creek	17	2	\$373,531	337	10	259	41,129
Rush Ck.	55	9	\$2,819,293	570	9	778	181,337
Sandy Ck.	29	29	\$942,113	425	17	555	90,705
Salt Ck.	35	35	\$1,027,677	429	24	698	106,404
Upper Blue River	2	2	\$13,168	5	0	15	2,224
Upper Clear Boggy Ck.	49	27	\$1,151,130	394	20	1,033	167,410
Upper Muddy Boggy Ck.	24	7	\$450,032	334	9	369	63,298
Washington Creek	3	3	\$56,345	59	6	103	24,026
Wildhorse Creek	107	57	\$5,631,557	629	31	1,250	509,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>\$17,177,949</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>9,091</b>	<b>1,884,757</b>

### Other Conservation Contacts for Senate District 13

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.

#### Oklahoma Conservation Commission

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd. Suite 160  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4210  
(405) 521-2384

[info@conservation.ok.gov](mailto: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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