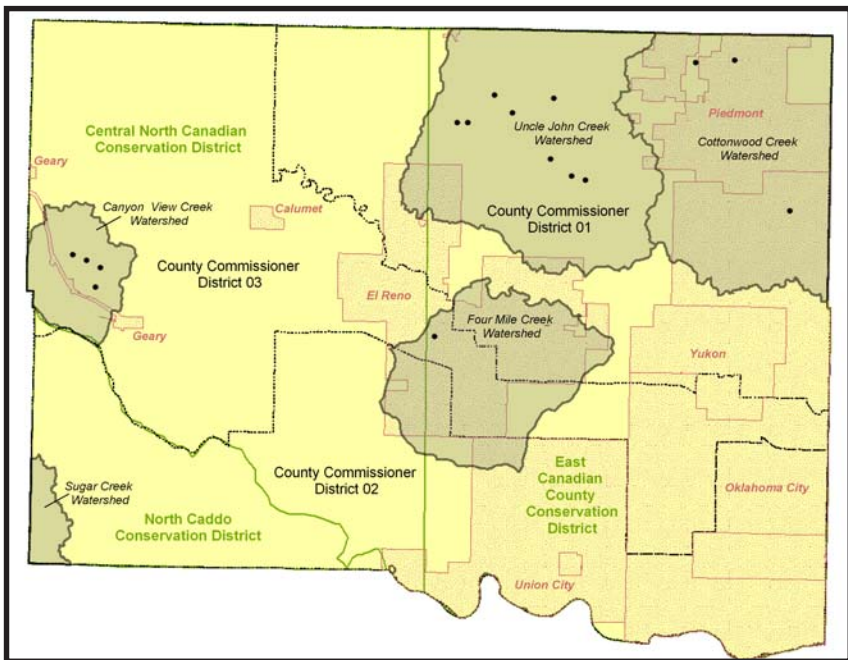


# Flood Control Dams In Canadian County

Oklahoma has 2,107 flood control dams in 61 counties. These dam have been built in the state through conservation districts with financial and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), authorized through Public Law 78-534, Flood Control Act of 1944 (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 natural resource issues such as soil erosion, water quality, animal waste management, irrigation water management, water supply, wetland development or enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation.

Watershed projects also include conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, ponds, gully control, and pasture and rangeland plantings.



## Operation and Maintenance of Dams

The annual operation and maintenance of dams is a major responsibility for 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 dams function as they were designed and remain safe. Maintenance work includes clearing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to dams and spillways following heavy rainstorms and keeping inlet towers cleared of debris.

## Operation and Maintenance Needs

\$22 million is needed to meet the operation and maintenance needs of the 2,107 flood control dams in the state for fiscal years 2012-2016.

## Annual Benefits

The 2,107 flood control dams and conservation practices in the watershed projects provide an estimated \$82 million in average annual benefits. Below are the benefits from watershed projects that are located in Canadian and adjoining counties.

## Rehabilitation and Dam Safety

Some dams will need rehabilitation to remain safe and protect the people that live or work downstream. It is estimated that \$200 million will be required to rehabilitate the existing 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 below the dam and in the breach flood area.

NRCS assistance is available to project sponsors in rehabilitating flood control dams with 65 percent federal cost-share and technical assistance. Local project sponsors provide 35 percent of the rehabilitation costs.

### North Caddo Conservation District

P.O. Box 698 (201 E. Main St.)  
Hinton, OK 73047-0698  
405/542-3205

### East Canadian County Conservation District

1625 E. US Highway 66  
El Reno, OK 73036-5769  
405/262-1958 x 3

### Central North Canadian River Conservation District

129 E. Main  
Geary, OK 73040-2421  
405/884-2383

Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)							
Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in Canadian Co.	*Monetary Benefits	Farms / Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Canyon View	4	4	\$96,016	24	3	72	12,513
Cottonwood Creek	16	3	\$394,021	174	13	484	100,880
Four Mile Creek	1	1	\$777,436	35	9	86	18,325
Uncle John Creek	12	8	\$628,899	164	15	397	90,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$1,896,372</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>222,512</b>

\*Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages and may include other benefits such as soil erosion control, recreational areas, irrigation water, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife habitat (Price Base 2010).