Flood Control Dams In Custer 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.

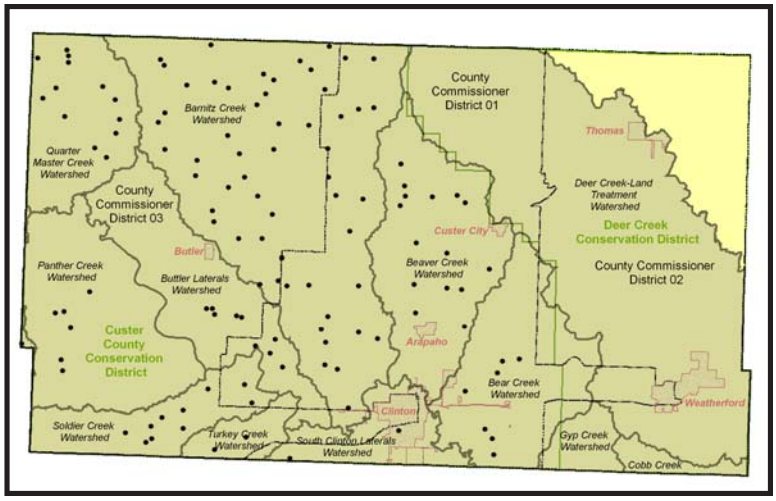
Operation and Maintenance of Dams

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 annual benefits. Listed below are the average annual benefits from watershed projects that are located in Custer 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.

Custer County
Conservation District
1508 Neptune Dr., Ste 1
Clinton, OK 73601-9731
580/323-4875

Deer Creek
Conservation District
300 S. Broadway
Weatherford, OK 73096-4951
580/772-7670 or 580/772-2320

Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in Custer Co.	*Monetary Benefits	Farms / Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Barnitz Creek	76	56	$689,946	225	25	1,734	520,184
Bear Creek	10	7	$50,500	17	3	94	28,566
Beaver Creek	15	15	$383,520	77	11	475	63,234
Butler Laterals	9	9	$79,595	23	2	56	11,360
Panther Creek	6	6	$132,575	68	5	119	22,286
Quartermaster Creek	36	13	$642,193	134	19	743	154,228
Soldier Creek	12	10	$292,146	74	5	286	37,612
S. Clinton Laterals	16	2	$200,844	51	8	231	48,078
Turkey Creek	12	2	$447,060	74	5	418	56,270
Whiteshield Creek	19	1	$141,123	21	11	131	23,847
Total	**211**	**121**	**$3,059,502**	**764**	**94**	**4,287**	**965,665**

*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).

February 2011