

Flood Control Dams In Washita 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.

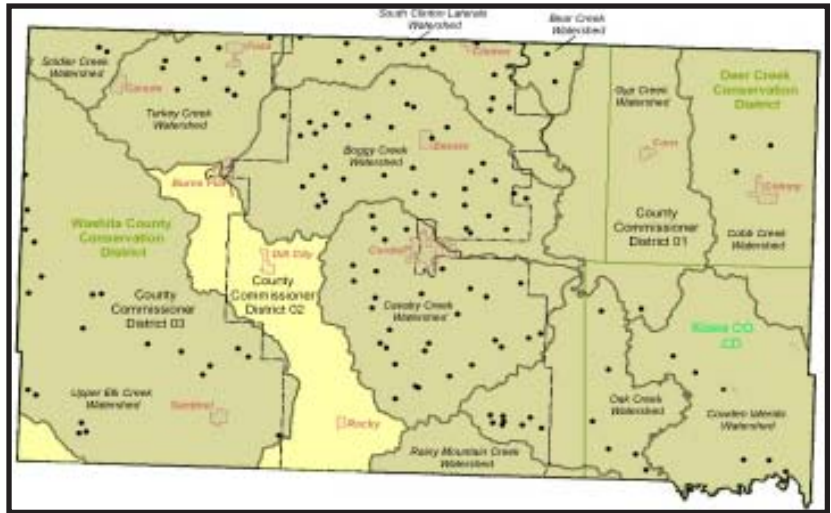
Operation and Maintenance of Dams

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 Washita 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.

Washita County Conservation District
1505 North Glenn English
Cordell, OK 73632-1405
580/832-3719

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

Kiowa County Conservation District
802 W. 11th St.
Hobart, OK 73651-5402
580\726\3786 x3

Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)							
Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in Washita Co.	*Monetary Benefits	Farms / Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Bear Creek	10	3	\$50,500	17	3	94	28,566
Boggy Creek	36	36	\$527,789	127	13	217	49,257
Calvalry Creek	30	30	\$683,724	121	70	555	122,684
Cobb Creek	12	3	\$252,609	365	34	420	160,186
Cowden Laterals	13	6	\$274,804	74	4	136	37,548
Gyp Creek	1	1	\$29,511	23	2	9	2,717
Oak Creek	14	14	\$572,463	62	8	221	63,822
Soldier Creek	12	2	\$293,146	74	5	286	37,612
South Clinton Laterals	16	14	\$200,844	51	8	231	48,078
Turkey Creek	12	10	\$447,060	74	5	418	56,270
Upper Elk Creek	35	21	\$1,264,422	251	27	925	192,226
Total	191	140	\$4,596,872	1,239	179	3,512	798,966

*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).