

# Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma

## Congressional District No. 4

Oklahoma has 2,107 flood control dams in 61 counties. These dams have been constructed through local watershed project sponsors 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. There are 665 of these dams in Congressional District No. 4.

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 is the administrative and management activities necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe. Operation work includes annual dam inspections and inspection immediately following heavy rains.

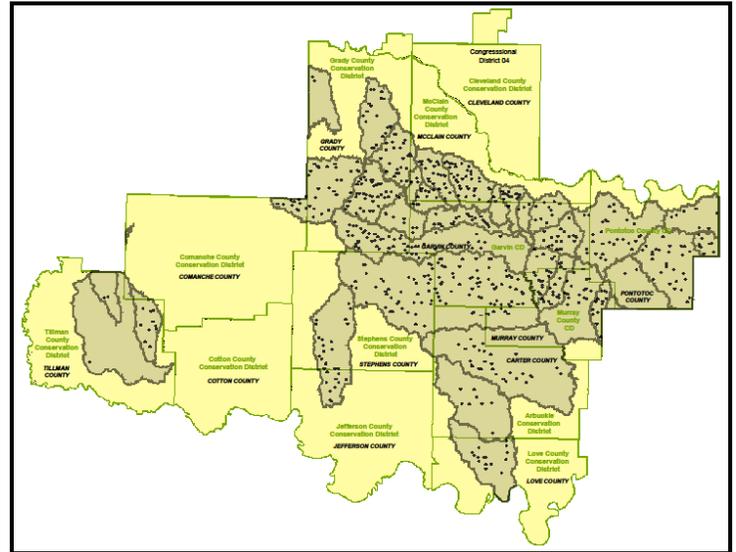
Maintenance work includes removing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the principal spillway inlet towers cleared of debris.

### Operation and Maintenance Needs

Operation and maintenance of dams can be expensive and labor intensive. \$4 million is needed to operate and maintain all 2,107 flood control each year. Only through continued investment in operation and maintenance will future generations enjoy the promise of safety these dams offer.

### Annual Benefits

The 2,107 flood control dams and conservation practices in watershed projects provide \$91 million in average annual benefits. The table on the back of this page lists the annual benefits provided by watershed projects in Congressional District No. 4.



### Rehabilitation and Dam Safety

As dams age some will need rehabilitation to remain safe and protect the people that live or work downstream.

At the conclusion of 2016, 260 flood control dams in the state have been classified as high hazard. Of these 115 do not meet current state or federal safety criteria. Approximately \$300 million is needed to upgrade the 115 dams.

Seventy-four of the 665 dams in Congressional District No. 4 are classified as high hazard have the potential for loss of life if they should fail.

The number of high hazard dams will continue to increase 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 December 2016 thirty-five dams in the state have been rehabilitated and 18 others are in various stages of planning, design or construction.

**Average Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)**

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 4	*Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Bear-Hybarger Ck	11	11	\$192,798	83	4	125	15,178
Bitter Creek	1	19	\$384,570	150	13	217	49,257
Caddo Ck.	28	28	\$2,179,828	697	17	796	126,254
Cherokee Sandy Ck.	19	19	\$1,404,656	160	6	316	48,533
Chigley Sandy Ck.	14	14	\$191,609	86	7	291	53,531
Colbert Ck.	3	3	\$145,440	51	3	90	18,288
Criner Creek	22	22	\$839,663	159	10	307	64,156
Finn Creek	35	35	\$1,603,590	216	10	577	96,104
Ionine Creek	3	3	\$13,401	5	2	0	80,722
Kickapoo Sandy Ck.	20	20	\$240,851	104	8	305	49,728
L. Washita River	45	37	\$1,327,736	492	69	748	171,836
Maysville Laterals	21	21	\$398,058	94	6	175	23,533
Mill Creek	18	13	\$143,597	177	10	340	49,903
Owl Creek	15	15	\$175,894	72	4	161	23,841
Peavine Ck.	10	10	\$199,785	130	8	683	106,185
Roaring Ck.	40	40	\$1,004,906	199	12	290	59,373
Rock Creek	17	17	\$373,531	337	10	259	41,129
Round Ck.	9	9	\$312,263	148	10	208	40,426
Rush Creek	55	54	\$2,819,293	570	9	778	181,337
Washington Creek	3	3	\$56,345	59	6	103	24,026
Wayne Ck.	2	2	\$28,775	77	9	54	10,069
Wildhorse Creek	107	107	\$5,631,557	629	31	1,250	509,141
Winter Ck.	24	24	\$524,972	204	10	356	62,267
Cow Creek	29	29	\$830,151	106	10	434	63,513
Deep Red Run-Coffin	2	2	\$3,730,578	83	5	365	95,771
Jack Creek	10	10	\$534,221	71	15	402	62,691
Leader-Middle Clear Boggy Ck.	33	9	\$861,330	161	7	472	64,238
L. Bayou Ck.	15	15	\$1,110,120	125	4	213	41,374
Middle Deep Run Ck.	1	1	\$172,723	19	4	149	16,888
Sandy Ck.	29	29	\$942,113	425	17	555	90,705
Upper Bayou Ck.	8	8	\$370,346	93	3	266	43,612
Upper Clear Creek	49	27	\$1,151,130	394	20	1,033	167,410
U. Muddy Boggy Ck.	24	7	\$450,032	334	9	369	63,298
Upper Blue River	2	2	\$13,645	5	20	524	87,655
<b>Total</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>\$30,359,507</b>	<b>6,715</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>13,211</b>	<b>2,701,972</b>

\*Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages to crops, roads, bridges, fences, etc. and may include other benefits such as irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply and recreation.

Conservation Districts are a primary sponsor of most watershed projects in Oklahoma. Listed below are the conservation districts located in Congressional District No. 4 that have watershed projects and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program.

**Arbuckle Conservation District**

2428 Autumn Run, Suite A  
Ardmore, OK  
[arbucklecd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:arbucklecd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Garvin Conservation District**

16664 N. Butler Road  
Pauls Valley, OK  
[garvincd@okcc.state.ok.us](mailto:garvincd@okcc.state.ok.us)

**Grady County Conservation District**

828 W. Choctaw Ave.  
Chickasha, OK  
[gradycd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:gradycd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Jefferson County Conservation District**

1431 East G Avenue  
Waurika, OK  
[jeffersonccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:jeffersonccd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Love County Conservation District**

1215 N. Highway 77  
Marietta, OK  
[loveccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:loveccd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Pontotoc County Conservation District**

1328 Craddock Rd.  
Ada, OK  
[pontotocccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:pontotocccd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Murray County Conservation District**

3490 Highway 7 W  
Sulphur, OK 7  
[murrayccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:murrayccd@conservation.ok.gov)

**McClain County Conservation District**

1721 Hardcastle Blvd., Suite B  
Purcell, OK  
[mcclainccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:mcclainccd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Stephens County Conservation District**

3901 West Beech Avenue  
Duncan, OK  
[stephensccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:stephensccd@conservation.ok.gov)

**Tillman County Conservation District**

102 E Floral Avenue, Suite 1  
Frederick, OK  
[tillmanccd@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:tillmanccd@conservation.ok.gov)

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is the lead state agency for upstream flood control programs and provides assistance and guidance to conservation districts.

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  
Web Page: <http://www.ok.gov/conservation>  
Twitter: [https://twitter.com/conservation\\_ok](https://twitter.com/conservation_ok)  
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/conservationok>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

100 USDA, Suite 206  
Stillwater, OK. 74074-2655  
(405) 742-1204