

Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma Senate District No. 26

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. Four hundred and three of these dams are in Senate District No.26.

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.

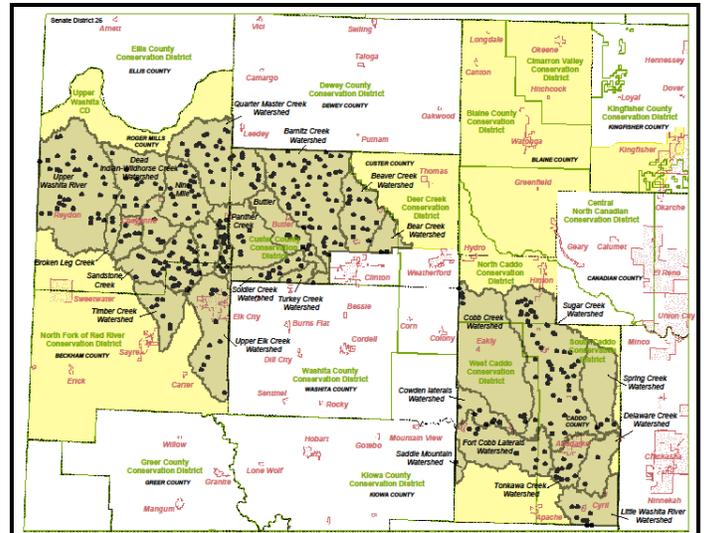
Maintenance work includes removing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the principal spillway inlet towers cleared of debris.

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 Senate District No. 26.



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.

Thirty-eight of the 403 dams in Senate District No. 26 are classified as high hazard and 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. Eight dams in Senate District 26 have been rehabilitated and one dam is in the process of being rehabilitated.

Average Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 26	*Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Barnitz Ck.	76	55	\$716,340	225	25	1,734	520,184
Bear Creek	10	2	\$52,432	17	3	94	28,566
Beaver Ck.	15	15	\$398,192	77	11	475	63,234
Beaver Dam Ck	6	6	\$62,590	25	5	117	59,972
Big Kiowa Ck.	6	6	\$70,637	23	5	151	108,135
Broken Leg Ck.	3	3	\$45,006	9	2	76	21,175
Butler Laterals	9	9	\$82,639	23	2	56	11,360
Cobb Creek	12	9	\$262,273	365	34	420	160,186
Cowden Laterals	13	7	\$285,316	74	4	136	37,548
Dead Indian-Wildhorse Ck.	12	12	\$418,312	59	8	346	121,278
Delaware Ck.	2	2	\$41,875	23	2	5	974
Fort Cobb Laterals	9	9	\$213,306	61	3	126	26,463
Little Washita River	45	8	\$1,327,736	492	69	748	171,836
Nine Mile Ck.	18	18	\$222,738	49	28	225	54,605
Panther Ck.	6	6	\$137,646	68	5	119	22,286
Quartermaster Creek	36	34	\$666,760	134	19	743	154,228
Saddle Mountain Creek	12	1	\$270,273	109	18	277	49,420
Sandstone Ck.	42	42	\$370,141	60	8	809	296,123
Sergeant Major Creek	6	6	\$55,684	15	2	77	50,162
Soldier Ck.	12	10	\$304,360	74	5	286	37,612
S. Clinton Laterals	16	1	\$208,527	51	8	231	48,078
Spring Ck.	4	4	\$59,143	113	2	8	1,851
Sugar Ck.	51	51	\$2,877,189	443	28	1,083	226,636
Timber Ck.	7	7	\$194,634	50	12	163	36,095
Tonkawa Creek	13	13	\$503,615	55	6	143	20,805
Turkey Ck.	12	2	\$464,162	74	5	418	56,270
Upper Elk Ck.	35	11	\$1,312,793	251	27	925	192,226
Upper Washita River	35	35	\$784,376	148	4	750	186,995
Whiteshield Ck.	19	19	\$146,522	21	11	131	23,847
Total	542	403	\$12,555,217	3,188	361	10,872	2,788,150

*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 conservation districts located in Senate District No. 26 that have watershed projects and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program.

Custer County Conservation District
North Fork of Red River Conservation District
Upper Washita Conservation District
North Caddo Conservation District
South Caddo Conservation District
West Caddo Conservation District

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