

Flood Control Dams in Oklahoma House District No. 17

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. Thirty-six of these dams are in House District No.17.

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.

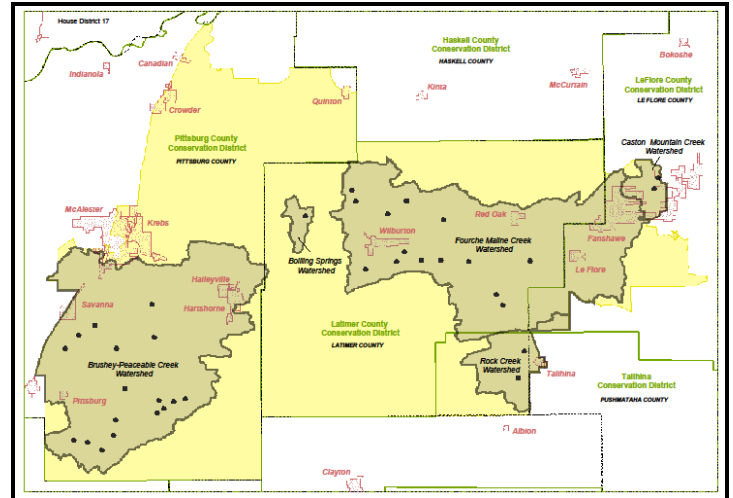
Maintenance work includes removing trees from dams and spillways, repairing erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the principal spillway inlet towers cleared of debris.

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 House District No. 17.



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.

There are twelve high hazard dams in House District 17 that 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. There are two dams currently scheduled for rehabilitation in House District 17 (Boiling Springs Dam No. 1 and Fourche Maline Dam No. 7, both in Latimer County).

Average Annual Watershed Benefits (Entire Watershed)

Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in District 17	*Monetary Benefits	Farms/Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Boiling Springs	1	1	\$37,627	18	3	25	4,516
Brushy Peaceable Creek	18	17	\$735,153	198	5	269	20,409
Fourche Maline Creek	14	14	\$1,489,078	744	12	386	92,846
Caston Mountain Ck.	5	2	\$877,811	219	5	149	35,576
Rock Creek	4	2	\$451,495	152	5	70	12,476
Total	42	36	\$3,591,164	1,331	30	899	165,823

*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 House District No. 17 that have watershed projects and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program.

Latimer County Conservation District

1110 W. Stovall Road
Wilburton, OK 7
latimerccd@conservation.ok.gov

LeFlore County Conservation District

109 Kerr Blvd.
Poteau, OK
leflorecdd@conservation.ok.gov

Pittsburg County Conservation District

2099 N. George Nigh Expressway
McAlester, OK
pittsburgccd@conservation.ok.gov

Talihina Conservation District

202 Dallas St.
Talihina, OK
talininacd@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
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/conservationok>

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

