

# Sponsor

*a person who vouches or is responsible for a person or thing*

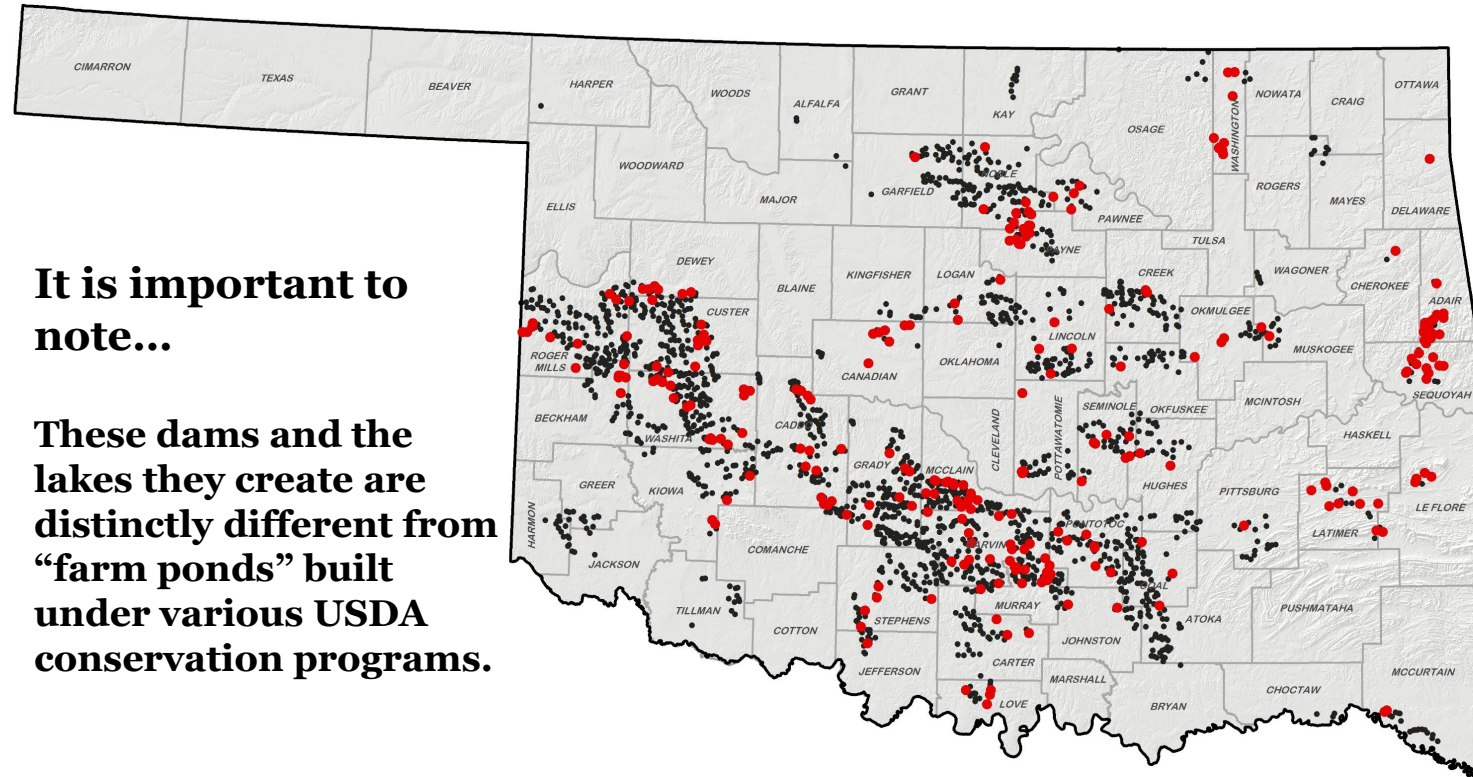
# Responsibility

*fact of being responsible, answerable, or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management*

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## Oklahoma Conservation Commission Watershed Dams



**It is important to note...**

**These dams and the lakes they create are distinctly different from “farm ponds” built under various USDA conservation programs.**



# Oklahoma Watershed Dams

129 Watershed Projects

66 Conservation Districts

2,107 Dams

20% of the National Total

# Watershed Dams = Critical Infrastructure

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- Protects lives and property
- Builds community resiliency to extreme weather events
- Reduces the need for federal disaster assistance
- Improves water quality and quantity
- Provides reliable/high quality drinking water
- Creates and preserves jobs



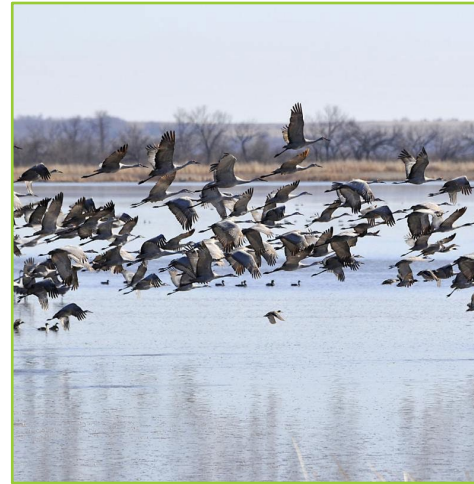
# Average Annual Benefits

2,107 dams

\$2 billion infrastructure

\$96 million benefits

- Flood control
- Municipal & livestock water
- Boating, fishing & hunting
- Sediment capture
- Drought relief
- Fire suppression



# Dam Responsibilities

- Ø Operation and Maintenance
- Ø Communicating and educating landowners and others
- Ø Monitoring easement encroachment and taking immediate action when necessary
- Ø Annual dam inspections and after heavy rainstorms
- Ø Maintain local dam records
- Ø Emergency Action Plans on high hazard dams



# 15 Characteristics of Successful Sponsors

1. State and local sponsor leadership
2. NRCS leadership
3. Education and communication
4. Partnerships (dam safety)
5. Multi organizational partnerships and sponsorships
6. Monthly Watershed Program specific partnership meetings with NRCS
7. Full and active boards
8. Sound legal advice



# 15 Characteristics of Successful Sponsors

continued

9. Quality O&M effort
10. Accountability
11. Multiple funding streams
12. Funding feedback
13. Benefits enumerated (asset based mindset)
14. Sponsor education to recruit and retain board members
15. Positive publicity... telling your story



Thank You