



Oklahoma's Watershed Dams Located Within Tribal Land Boundaries

Oklahoma has 129 watershed projects sponsored by local units of government such as conservation districts and cities.

Local watershed project sponsors with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have constructed 2,107 flood control dams in 61 counties to reduce flooding, control erosion and sediment, improve fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality and in some cases provide recreational areas and municipal water supplies. Of these 1,862 dams are located within tribal land boundaries.

Several dams are usually constructed in a watershed to trap rainfall and slowly release it through pipes in the dams preventing flooding downstream.

Watershed projects sponsors and NRCS have worked with landowners to help them install thousands of conservation practices to help control erosion and sediment.

Watershed projects have established a \$2 billion infrastructure that provides \$94 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damage and other benefits.

The flood control dams provide flood protection for houses, businesses, roads and bridges, and productive farmland downstream.

There are 332 flood control dams that have been planned but not yet constructed. Of these 277 are located in tribal land boundaries. Some of these planned dams have not been constructed due to land rights issues, land use changes and lack of federal and local funding.

The NRCS provides planning, design and construction of the dams through the Watershed Program. Federal funds are appropriated by Congress.

Local project sponsors provide land rights and easements and are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dams.

High Hazard Dams

There are 260 watershed dams that are classified as high hazard dams, which mean if the dams should fail, there could be loss of life downstream. Of these, 230 high hazard dams are located within tribal land boundaries (see map on back).

Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

Many dams today are in a far different setting than when they were constructed. Population has grown, homes and businesses have been constructed upstream and downstream from the dams; land uses have changed; sediment pools have filled; and concrete and metal components have deteriorated.

Many dams in Oklahoma do not meet current dam safety regulations due to the adoption of more stringent requirements after the dams were built.

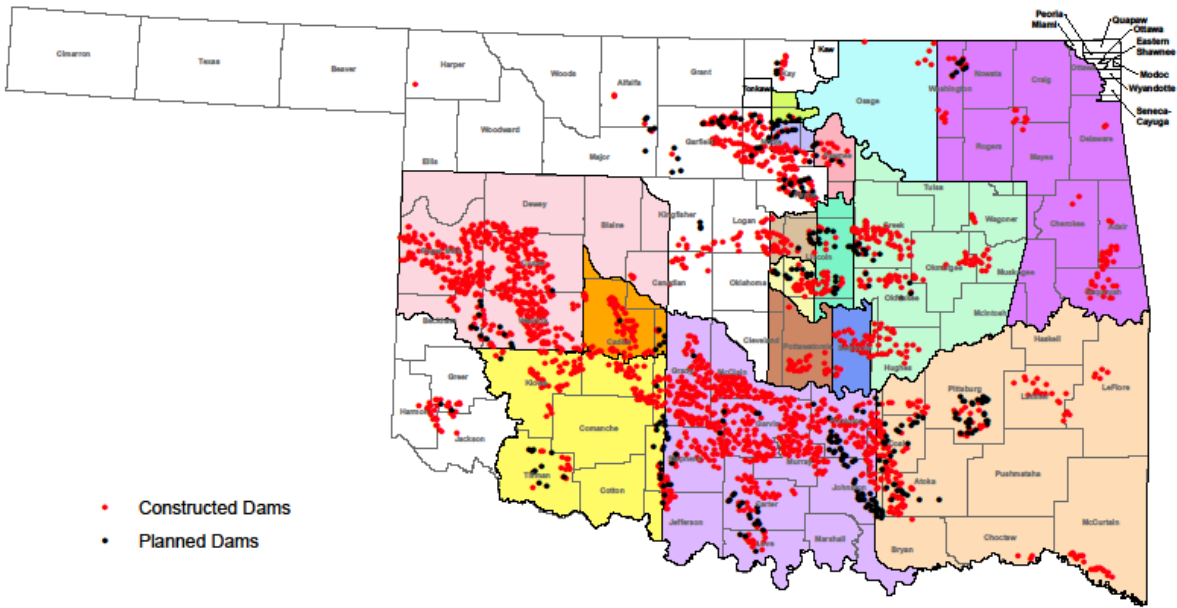
Rehabilitation to meet current safety standards usually requires raising the height of the dam, replacing the principal spillway inlet and conduit and widening the earthen auxiliary spillway. Thirty six dams have been rehabilitated with 34 of these located in tribal land boundaries (see map on back).

This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as authorized by Trey Lam OCC Executive Director. Copies have not been printed, but are available through the agency website, <http://conservation.ok.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. February 2018



Planned (332) and Constructed (2107) Watershed Dams and Tribal Boundaries of Oklahoma



Color Code	Tribe	Dams Built	Dams Planned	High Hazard Dams	Dams Rehabilitated	Average Annual Benefits (\$ mil.)
	Cherokee Nation	60	7	37	11	\$3.9
	Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes	472	13	50	12	\$9.5
	Chickasaw Nation	646	82	75	6	\$25.6
	Choctaw Nation	160	68	20	1	\$8.5
	Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	24	7	2	0	\$2.8
	Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma	24	14	2	0	\$1.5
	Kiowa - Comanche - Ft Sill Apache	125	26	11	1	\$8.7
	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	144	16	13	1	\$6.2
	Osage Nation	6	0	0	0	\$0.5
	Otoe - Missouria Tribe	15	11	0	0	\$0.2
	Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	16	4	3	0	\$1.9
	Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	1	7	0	0	\$0.0
	Citizen Potawatomi - Shawnee Nations	31	0	4	0	\$3.7
	Sac and Fox Nation	32	16	1	0	\$1.5
	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	32	0	5	0	\$0.9
	Wichita - Caddo - Delaware Nation	74	6	7	2	\$3.3
	Non-tribal	245	55	30	2	\$15.2
	Totals	2,107	332	260	36	\$93.9

High Hazard (260) and Rehabilitated (36) Watershed Dams and Tribal Boundaries of Oklahoma

