NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas
28th Texas Senate District

In the mid-1930s, Congress began looking at ways to complement the downstream flood control program of the Corps of Engineers. It passed flood control acts in 1936, 1944, and 1954 and assigned responsibility of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program to the USDA Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Since that time, the NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in construction of nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures (dams) in 145 watershed projects across Texas. In addition, the NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in installation of land treatment practices, channel improvements, and dikes for watershed protection. Texas watershed projects provide over **$131 million** in annual benefits.

The dams in District 28 provide **$15.7 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 2.5 million tons of sediment annually. Over 400 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected. *See the table on the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by individual watershed projects in the 28th Senate District.*

There are **125 constructed watershed dams** in 16 watershed projects in the 28th Senate District. Ten dams remain to be built in the district.

The local sponsors of these projects have also provided guidance and leadership in applying on-farm conservation practices within each of these watershed projects. These included terrace systems, pasture planting, fencing, critical area treatment, brush control, and others.

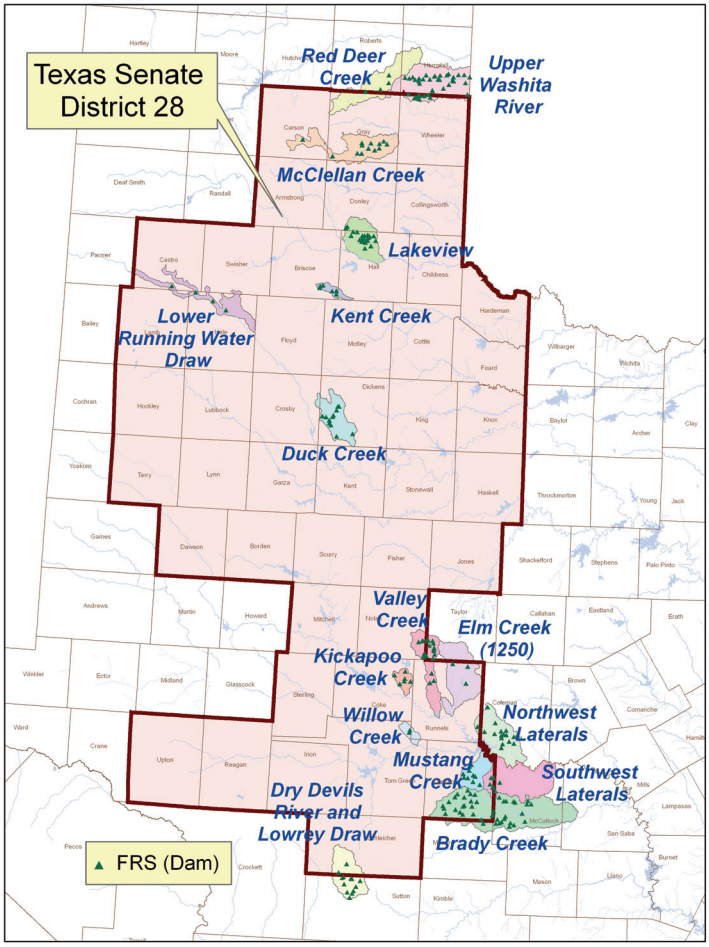
Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

The annual operation and maintenance of dams and their components is the responsibility of project sponsors (local units of government such as conservation districts, city and county governments, and special purpose districts).

See the attached page for a list of the watershed sponsors in the 28th Senate District.

Operation and maintenance of watershed dams can be expensive and labor intensive, but is necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe. Maintenance work includes clearing trees from dams and spillways, repairing soil erosion damage, repairing damages after heavy storm events, and keeping the principal spillway inlet clear of debris.

Five dams in the 28th Senate District need repair, at an estimated cost of $416,000.



Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

NRCS assistance is available to rehabilitate aging watershed dams. A typical candidate site for rehabilitation was constructed between the late 1950's to the middle 1960's, and no longer meets current safety criteria.

There are 25 dams in the 28th Senate District that are over 50 years old; 52 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 25 dams that are 30-39 years old.

The majority of this area was in a rural setting when the watershed projects were planned. Conversion from agricultural to urban land use has taken place and is intensifying. Many dams originally constructed as low hazard may soon be reclassified as high hazard as a result of downstream urbanization. Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to protect lives and downstream property.

Two dams in the 28th Senate District are classified as high hazard dams. These dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria, at an estimated cost of $2.5 million, including $875,000 in sponsor's cost.

Brady Creek FRS 34 Principal Spillway Inlet

Information about watershed projects and other conservation programs is available at local conservation district or NRCS offices. For further information refer to the Texas NRCS website located at: www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watersheds

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2010 Dollars
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Dams Constructed	Dams in District 28	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Brady Creek	42	21	$4,703,000	35	6,029	102,200
Dry Devils River and Lowrey Draw	13	2	$2,066,000	25	420	54,100
Duck Creek	12	12	$1,206,000	30	460	261,200
Elm Creek (1250)	3	3	$690,000	26	345	91,400
Kent Creek	6	6	$177,000	22	91	36,200
Kickapoo Creek	6	6	$349,000	20	242	68,400
Lakeview Creek	24	24	$1,259,000	50	587	674,100
Lower Running Water Draw	4	4	$778,000	62	197	54,500
McClellan Creek	13	13	$704,000	8	412	520,300
Mustang Creek	10	10	$247,000	14	255	37,400
Northwest Laterals	17	1	$565,000	20	372	27,700
Red Deer Creek	4	0	$153,000	30	40	52,300
Southwest Laterals	7	5	$642,000	11	181	18,700
Upper Washita River	38	8	$966,000	40	1,089	340,400
Valley Creek	19	8	$1,020,000	14	370	154,700
Willow Creek	2	2	$146,000	6	69	10,800
Total	220	125	$15,671,000	413	11,159	2,504,400

Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages to agricultural lands, and rural and urban infrastructure including roads and bridges. Other benefits include soil erosion control, recreational areas, irrigation water, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife habitat.

NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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Local Sponsors of Watersheds located in the 28th Senate District:

Carson County Commissioners Court
Castro County Commissioners Court
Central Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District
City of Ballinger
City of Brady
City of Bronte
City of Lakeview
City of Plainview
City of Sonora
City of Winters
Coke County Commissioners Court
Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District
Coke County-Kickapoo Water Control and Improvement District #1
Coleman County Commissioners Court
Concho County Commissioners Court
Concho Soil and Water Conservation District
Dickens County Commissioners Court
Dickens County Water Control and Improvement District #1
Donley County Commissioners Court
Donley County Soil and Water Conservation District
Duck Creek Soil and Water Conservation District
Edwards Plateau Soil and Water Conservation District
Eldorado Divide Soil and Water Conservation District
Elm Creek Water Control District
Gray County Commissioners Court
Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District
Hale County Commissioners Court
Hale County Soil and Water Conservation District
Hall County Commissioners Court
Hall-Childress Soil and Water Conservation District
Hall-Donley Counties Water Control and Improvement District #1
Hemphill County Commissioners Court
Hemphill Soil and Water Conservation District
Kent Creek Water Control and Improvement District #1
Lamb County Commissioners Court
Lamb County Soil and Water Conservation District
McClellan Creek Soil and Water Conservation District
McCulloch County Commissioners Court
McCulloch Soil and Water Conservation District
Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District
Middle Clear Fork Soil and Water Conservation District
Nolan County Commissioners Court
Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District
Roberts County Commissioners Court
Roberts Soil and Water Conservation District
Runnels County Commissioners Court
Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District
Running Water Soil and Water Conservation District
Schleicher County Commissioners Court
Sutton County Commissioners Court
Swisher County Commissioners Court
Taylor County Commissioners Court
Tom Green Soil and Water Conservation District
Tule Creek Soil and Water Conservation District
Valley Creek Water Control District
Wheeler County Commissioners Court
Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District
Willow Creek Water Control and Improvement District