NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas
4th Congressional 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, NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in construction of nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures (dams) in 145 watershed projects across Texas. In addition, NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in installation of land treatment practices and channel improvements for watershed protection. Texas watershed projects provide over **$131 million** in annual benefits.

The dams in the 4th Congressional District provide **$20.3 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 2.5 million tons of sediment annually. Over 1,000 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 watershed projects in the 4th Congressional District.*

There are **296 constructed watershed dams** in 15 watershed projects in the 4th Congressional District. Fifty-nine dams in the district remain to be built.

Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

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

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.

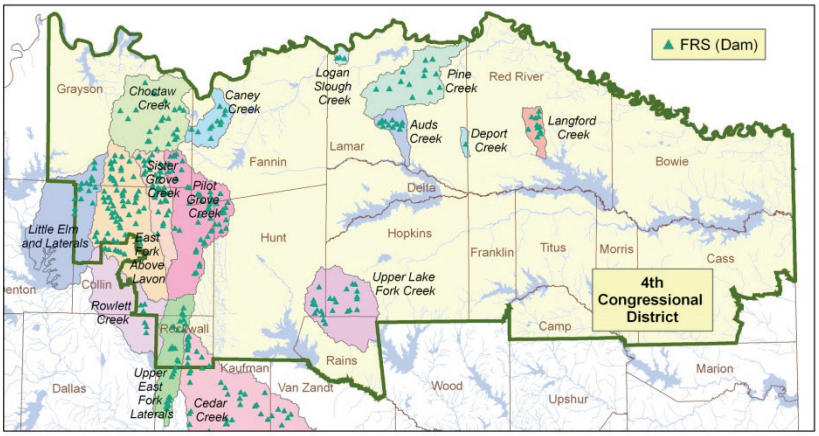
Thirty-nine dams in the 4th Congressional District need repair, at an estimated cost of $7.8 million.

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 89 dams in the 4th Congressional District that are over 50 years old; 149 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 44 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 are now classified as high hazard, or will soon be high hazard as a result of downstream urbanization.

Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to protect lives and downstream property. Sixty-six dams in the 4th Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. Fifty-six of these dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria, at an estimated cost of $83.5 million, including $29 million in sponsor's cost.



Information about watershed projects and other conservation programs is available at the 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 4	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Auds Creek	13	13	$217,000	15	272	56,100
Caney Creek	12	12	$244,000	13	513	109,000
Cedar Creek	91	14	$7,798,000	210	3,672	749,000
Choctaw Creek	23	23	$2,138,000	45	580	206,700
Deport Creek	1	1	$168,000	5	70	2,100
East Fork above Lavon	64	58	$3,592,000	330	1,344	512,800
Langford Creek	11	11	$240,000	30	304	25,400
Little Elm and Laterals	17	16	$266,000	34	483	95,500
Logan Slough Creek	3	3	$396,000	12	52	32,700
Pilot Grove Creek	52	52	$1,782,000	128	978	159,200
Pine Creek	13	13	$473,000	34	329	91,900
Rowlett Creek	6	3	$384,000	17	340	71,800
Sister Grove Creek	37	37	$1,072,000	77	675	159,700
Upper East Fork Laterals	27	17	$902,000	38	547	150,600
Upper Lake Fork Creek	23	23	$625,000	75	727	156,400
Total	393	296	$20,297,000	1,063	10,886	2,578,900

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.

Listed below are the sponsors for watersheds located in the 4th Congressional District;

Choctaw Watershed Water Improvement District
City of Clarksville
City of Denison
City of Deport
City of Kaufman
City of McKinney
City of Sherman
City of Terrell
Collin County Commissioners Court
Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)
Dalworth SWCD
Denton County Commissioners Court
Denton County SWCD
Fannin County Commissioners Court
Fannin County SWCD
Fannin County Water Control & Improvement District (WCID) #1
Grayson County Commissioners Court
Henderson County Commissioners Court
Hopkins-Rains SWCD
Hunt County Commissioners Court
Kaufman County Commissioners Court
Kaufman-Van Zandt-Rockwall SWCD
Lake Fork Creek WCID #1
Lamar County Commissioners Court
Lamar County WCID #1-Auds Creek
Lamar County WCID #3 - Pine Creek Watershed
Lamar SWCD
Logan-Slough Creek Improvement Dist. 2
Purtis Creek State Recreation Area
Red River County Commissioners Court
Red River County SWCD
Red River County WCID #1, Langford Creek
Rockwall County Commissioners Court
Trinity-Neches SWCD
Upper Elm-Red SWCD
Upper Sabine SWCD
Van Zandt County Commissioners Court

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Revised October 2011