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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Watershed</th>
<th>Dams Constructed</th>
<th>Dams in District 4</th>
<th>Monetary Benefits</th>
<th>Bridges Benefited</th>
<th>Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)</th>
<th>Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auds Creek</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$217,000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>56,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caney Creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$244,000</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>109,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Creek</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$7,798,000</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>3,672</td>
<td>749,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choctaw Creek</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$2,138,000</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>206,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deport Creek</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>$168,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Fork above Lavon</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>$3,592,000</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>512,800</td>
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<td>Langford Creek</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>25,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Elm and Laterals</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$266,000</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>95,500</td>
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<td>Logan Slough Creek</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>$396,000</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>32,700</td>
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<td>52</td>
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<td>159,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Creek</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>$473,000</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>91,900</td>
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<td>Rowlett Creek</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>$384,000</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>$1,072,000</td>
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<td>Upper East Fork Laterals</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>$902,000</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>150,600</td>
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<td>Upper Lake Fork Creek</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>$625,000</td>
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<td>727</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>393</td>
<td>296</td>
<td><strong>$20,297,000</strong></td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td><strong>10,886</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,578,900</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- Partis 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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