



## NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas 13<sup>th</sup> 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 with the installation of land treatment practices and channel improvements for watershed protection. Texas watershed projects provide **\$150 million** in annual benefits.

The watershed projects which impact the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District provide **over \$17 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 4 million tons of sediment annually. Over 1,100 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected.

There are **396 constructed watershed dams** in 15 watershed projects and under the RC&D program in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. *See the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by these watershed projects.*

### 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, 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.

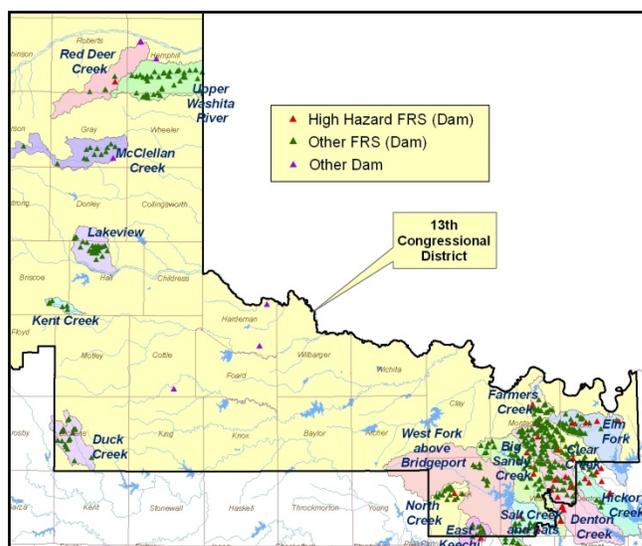
Nineteen dams in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are in need of funding for repairs at an estimated cost of \$3 million.

### 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 60 dams in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District that are over 50 years old, 213 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 73 dams that are 30-39 years old.

The majority of the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 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. Twenty-one dams in the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. Nineteen of these dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of \$28 million, including \$9.8 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.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/wpfp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/wpfp)

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars  
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 13	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Big Sandy Creek	38	36	\$1,355,000	178	687	161,300
Clear Creek	62	51	\$1,839,000	124	1,052	475,700
Denton Creek	97	93	\$4,056,000	318	1,600	381,600
Duck Creek	17	17	\$1,376,000	30	460	261,200
East Keechi Creek	10	8	\$255,000	14	337	60,100
Elm Fork	35	35	\$1,671,000	196	1,070	769,000
Farmers Creek	23	23	\$615,000	51	281	151,900
Kent Creek	6	6	\$197,000	22	91	36,200
Lakeview	24	24	\$1,473,000	50	587	674,100
McClellan Creek	13	13	\$818,000	8	412	520,300
North Creek	17	17	\$372,000	16	379	55,800
Red Deer Creek	4	4	\$161,000	30	40	52,300
Salt Creek and Laterals	17	16	\$476,000	99	269	60,600
Upper Washita River	38	38	\$1,107,000	40	1,089	340,400
West Fork above Bridgeport	8	8	\$1,570,000	4	268	59,700
Dams built under RC&D	39	7	*	*	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>\$17,341,000</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>8,622</b>	<b>4,060,200</b>

\*Benefits data not available. 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 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:

<i>Cap Rock Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Hemphill County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Carson County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Hemphill Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>City of Bowie</i>	<i>Jack County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>City of Lakeview</i>	<i>Jack Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>City of Muenster</i>	<i>Kent Creek Water Control and Improvement District</i>
<i>Clay County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Clear Creek Watershed Authority</i>	<i>McClellan Creek Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Cooke County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Montague County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Dalworth Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Muenster Water District</i>
<i>Denton County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Palo Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Denton County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Parker County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Dickens County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Parker County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Dickens County Water Control and Improvement District</i>	<i>Roberts County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Donley County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Roberts Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Donley County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Tarrant Regional Water District</i>
<i>Duck Creek Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Upper Elm-Red Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>East Keechi Creek Water Control and Improvement District</i>	<i>Wheeler County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Farmers Creek Watershed Authority</i>	<i>Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Gray County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Wise County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Wise County Water Control and Improvement District</i>
<i>Hall County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Wise Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Hall-Childress Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Young Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Hall-Donley Counties Water Control Improvement District</i>	

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