



## NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas 19<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, 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District provide **\$5.8 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 586,000 tons of sediment annually. Over 300 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected

There are **31 constructed watershed dams** in five watershed projects in the district. Three additional watershed projects have their headwaters in the district.

*See the table on the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by watershed projects in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.*

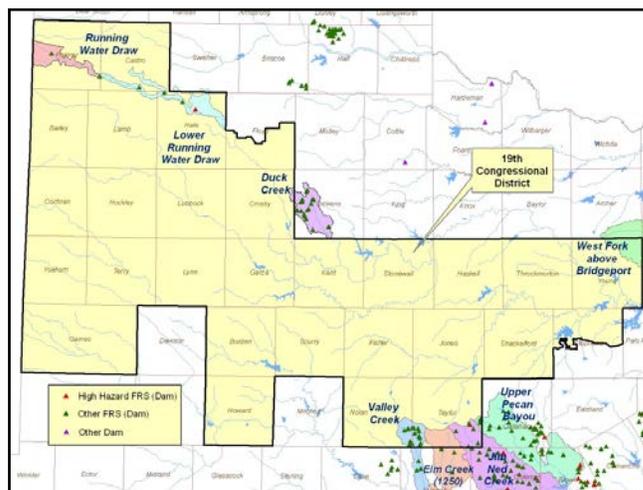
### Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

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).

*See the back of this page for a list of the watershed sponsors for projects in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional 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.



### 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 4 dams in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District that are over 50 years old, 19 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 7 dams that are 30-39 years old.

The majority of the 19<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. Two dams in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams and need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million, including \$875,000 in sponsor's cost.

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars  
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 19	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Jim Ned Creek	37	6	\$1,704,000	70	903	134,600
Lower Running Water Draw	4	4	\$849,000	62	197	54,500
Running Water Draw	2	2	\$675,000	150	342	77,700
Upper Pecan Bayou	25	3	\$1,527,000	21	550	165,000
Valley Creek	19	16	\$1,115,000	14	370	154,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$5,765,000</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>586,500</b>

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 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:*

<i>Brown County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Nolan County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Callahan County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Callahan Divide Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Parmer County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Castro County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Parmer Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Central Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Pecan Bayou Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>City of Clyde</i>	<i>Runnels County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>City of Coleman</i>	<i>Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>City of Plainview</i>	<i>Running Water Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Coleman County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Swisher County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Hale County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Taylor County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Hale County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Tule Creek Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Lamb County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Lamb County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Valley Creek Water Control District</i>
<i>Middle Clear Fork Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	

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)

