



NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas 25th 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 that impact the 25th Congressional District provide **23.8 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 4 million tons of sediment annually. Over 1,000 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected.

There are **151 constructed watershed dams** in 12 watershed projects and one RC&D project in 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).

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.

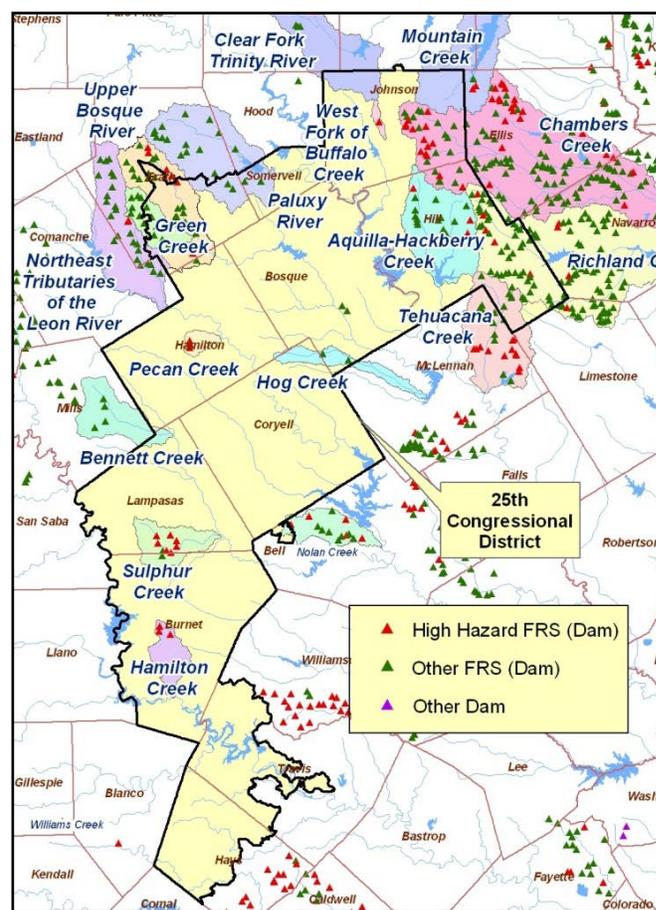
Fourteen dams in the 25th Congressional District are currently in need of funding for repairs at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

NRCS assistance is available to rehabilitate aging watershed dams. A typical site for rehabilitation was

constructed between the late 1950's to the middle 1960's and no longer meets current safety criteria. There are 37 dams in the 25th Congressional District that are over 50 years old, 51 dams 40-49 years old, and 49 dams are 30-39 years old.

The majority of the 25th 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. Thirty-nine dams in the 25th Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. Twenty-six of these dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of \$36 million including \$12.6 million in sponsor's cost.

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 25	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Aquilla-Hackberry Creek	16	16	\$677,000	55	239	84,900
Chambers Creek	137	32	\$9,249,000	286	4,256	453,900
Green Creek	13	6	\$1,264,000	20	359	50,000
Hamilton Creek	3	3	\$251,000	12	38	2,100
Hog Creek	2	2	\$241,000	60	101	34,600
Paluxy River	19	4	\$1,851,000	68	461	105,800
Pecan Creek	4	4	\$238,000	12	24	9,800
Richland Creek	125	51	\$3,539,000	350	3,047	2,378,100
Sulphur Creek	9	9	\$1,091,000	21	310	110,700
Tehuacana Creek	28	6	\$2,684,000	80	1,053	389,200
Upper Bosque River	27	15	\$1,532,000	60	850	432,800
West Fork Buffalo Creek	1	1	\$1,182,000	20	57	3,900
Bosque Bottomlands RC&D	2	2	\$11,000	3	25	1,000
Total	386	151	\$23,810,000	1,047	10,820	4,056,800

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 25th Congressional District:

<i>Bosque County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Hamilton-Coryell Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Bosque Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Hill Country Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Brazos Valley Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Hill County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Burnet County</i>	<i>Hill County-Blackland Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Hood County</i>
<i>City of Alvarado</i>	<i>Johnson County</i>
<i>City of Burnet</i>	<i>Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>City of Cleburne</i>	<i>Lampasas County Water Control and</i>
<i>City of Dawson</i>	<i>Improvement District #1</i>
<i>City of Ennis</i>	<i>Limestone County</i>
<i>City of Glen Rose</i>	<i>Limestone-Falls Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>City of Hamilton</i>	<i>McLennan & Hill Counties Tehuacana Water Control</i>
<i>Coryell County</i>	<i>and Improvement District #1</i>
<i>Cross Timbers Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>McLennan County Commissioners Court</i>
<i>Dalworth Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>McLennan County Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Ellis County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Navarro County</i>
<i>Ellis-Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>Navarro Soil and Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Erath County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Somervell County</i>
<i>Hamilton County Commissioners Court</i>	<i>Upper Leon 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