

Watershed Dams In Garfield County

Oklahoma has 129 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assisted watershed projects in 64 counties. Over 2,100 watershed dams have been built in the state with financial and technical assistance from NRCS authorized through Public Law 78-534, Flood Control Act of 1944 (Washita River Watershed) and Public Law 83-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

Watershed projects address a myriad of natural resource issues such as flooding, soil erosion, water quality, animal waste management, irrigation water management, water supply, wetland development or enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. Many of these watershed projects also include conservation practices such as terraces, waterways, ponds, gully control, and pasture and rangeland plantings.

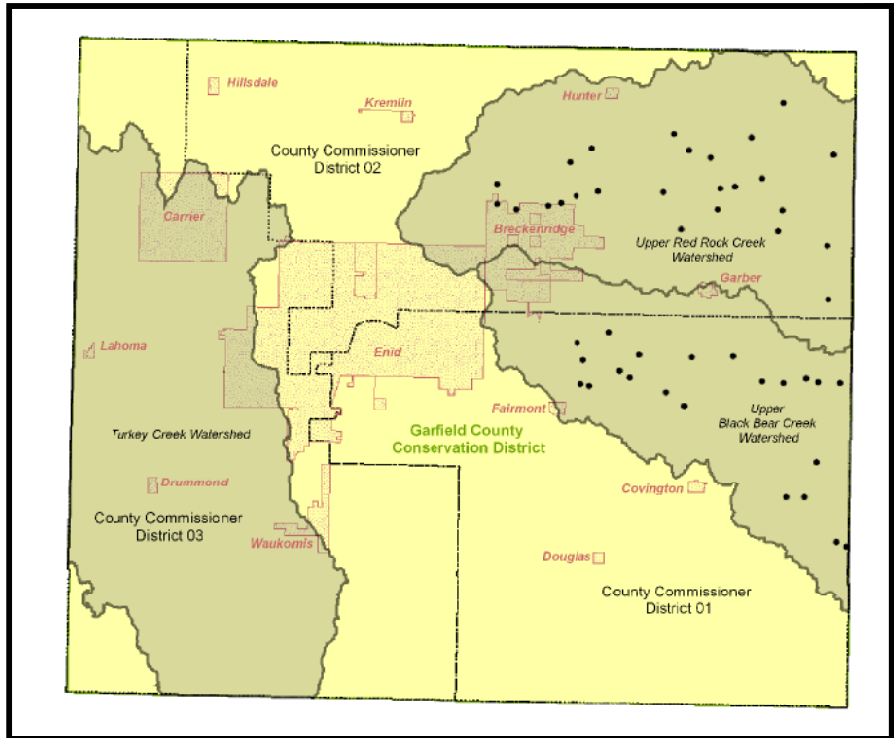
Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

The annual operation and maintenance of dams and their components is a major responsibility for project sponsors (local units of governments, usually conservation districts, conservancy districts, or city or county governments).

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 spillway, repairing soil erosion damage, repairing damage to the spillway and dams after heavy rainstorms, and keeping the inlet towers cleared of debris.

Operation and Maintenance Needs

\$4.4 million is needed to meet operation and maintenance needs on all watershed dams in the state for fiscal years 2008-2012.



Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

NRCS assistance is available to rehabilitate aging watershed dams with 65 percent federal cost-share. Local project sponsors provide 35 percent of the rehabilitation costs. Oklahoma currently has 26 rehabilitation projects in various stages of planning, design or construction. Oklahoma has 132 watershed dams that already exceed their 50-year design life span. Almost 500 dams will reach this milestone in the next five years.

There are 24 dams in the county that are 40-49 years old and 17 dams that are 30-39 years old.

Some Oklahoma dams will need rehabilitation to remain safe and protect the people that live or work downstream. It is estimated that \$30 million will be needed to rehabilitate the highest priority of these dams during the next five years.

Annual Watershed Benefits							
Watershed Name	Dams in Watershed	Dams in Garfield Co.	*Monetary Benefits	Farms / Ranches Benefited	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Enhanced/Created (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Upper Black Bear Ck.	72	22	\$936,071	475	38	1,910	496,767
Upper Red Rock Ck.	42	25	\$488,071	186	17	1,317	217,935
Total	114	47	\$1,424,142	661	55	3,227	714,702

*Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages and may include other benefits such as soil erosion control, recreational areas, irrigation water, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife habitat. (Price Base 2007)

Conservation Contacts for Garfield County

January 2008

Conservation Districts are a primary sponsor of most watershed projects in Oklahoma. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that administers the watershed program and provides technical and financial assistance to the local project sponsors.

Listed below is the conservation district in Garfield County and other conservation agencies that can be contacted for more information about the watershed program and other conservation programs.

Garfield County Conservation District

garfieldccd@conservation.ok.gov

1216 W Willow Rd, Ste D

Enid, OK 73703-2532

580/237-7880 (CD)

580/237-4338 (NRCS)

(FAX - 580/237-9536)

Board of Directors

Troy Loesch

Mark Thompson

Kim Farber

Dale Milacek

Everett Cutter

Board Meeting Date

1st Wed., 1:00 p.m., Jan-March & Nov-Dec

9:00 am, Apr-Oct

Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts

Clay Pope, Executive Director

Rt. 1 Box 76

Loyal, OK 73756

(405) 729-4336 (home)

(405) 699-2087 (cell)

claypope@pldi.net

Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Mike Thralls

Executive Director

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd. Suite 160

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4210

(405) 521-4827

mike.thralls@conservation.ok.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ron Hilliard

State Conservationist

100 USDA Suite 206

Stillwater, OK. 74074-2655

(405) 742-1204

ron.hilliard@ok.usda.gov