



NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas 11th 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, channel improvements, and dikes for watershed protection. Texas watershed projects provide over **\$150 million** in annual benefits.

The watershed projects which impact the 11th Congressional District provide over **\$34 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 2.7 million tons of sediment annually. The dams in these watersheds protect over 650 bridges and numerous county and state roads, as well as creating or enhancing over 15,700 acres of wetland.

There are **361 watershed dams** in 30 watershed projects in the 11th Congressional District.

Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

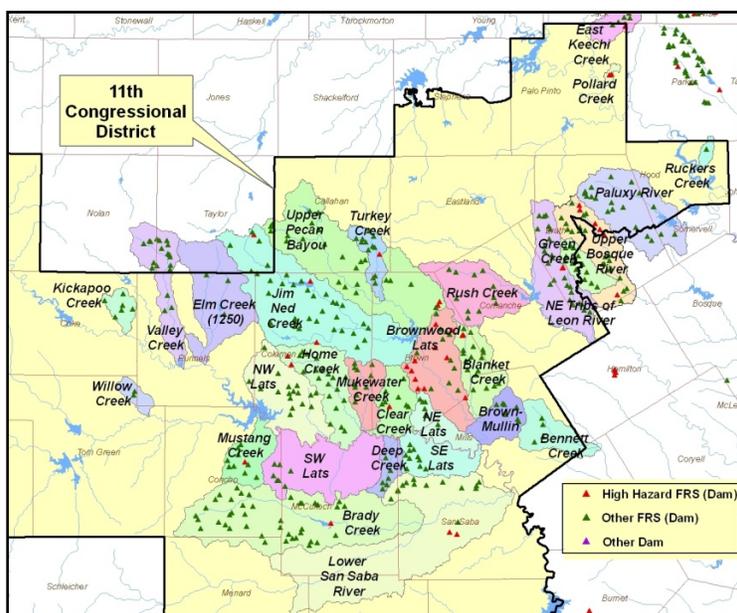
The annual operation and maintenance of dams and their components is the major responsibility of project sponsors (local units of government, usually conservation districts, city and county governments, and special purpose districts). *A list of the sponsors for watersheds located in the 11th Congressional District is attached to this sheet.*

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.

Six dams in the 11th Congressional District are in need of repairs at an estimated cost of \$1.2 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.



When the projects were planned, the majority of the 11th Congressional District was in a rural setting. Conversion from agricultural to urban land use has taken place and is intensifying. *There are 90 dams in the 11th Congressional District that are over 50 years old, 199 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 51 dams that are 30-39 years old.*

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 is needed to protect lives and downstream property.

Thirty-three dams in the 11th 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.

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars (Entire Watersheds)						
Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 11	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Bennett Creek	4	4	\$224,000	12	93	32,700
Blanket Creek	19	19	\$475,000	16	340	71,600
Brady Creek	42	42	\$4,999,000	35	6,029	102,200
Brown-Mullin	7	7	\$178,000	9	124	24,700
Brownwood Laterals	22	22	\$9,131,000	31	350	102,000
Clear Creek	8	8	\$894,000	6	376	69,700
Deep Creek	6	6	\$391,000	6	173	37,300
East Keechi Creek	10	2	\$255,000	14	337	60,100
Elm Creek (1250)	3	3	\$690,000	26	345	91,400
Green Creek	13	7	\$1,264,000	20	359	50,000
Home Creek	21	21	\$582,000	25	489	100,600
Jim Ned Creek	37	31	\$1,551,000	70	903	134,600
Kickapoo Creek	6	6	\$349,000	20	242	68,400
Lower San Saba River	16	16	\$451,000	20	437	74,000
Mukewater Creek	9	9	\$1,124,000	8	305	52,700
Mustang Creek	10	10	\$247,000	14	255	37,400
Northeast Laterals	6	6	\$195,000	8	109	27,700
Northeast Tributaries of the Leon River	26	6	\$695,000	47	632	262,100
Northwest Laterals	17	17	\$565,000	20	372	70,500
Paluxy River	19	15	\$1,851,000	68	461	105,800
Pollard Creek	2	2	\$316,000	12	37	4,700
Ruckers Creek	1	1	\$40,000	12	33	6,300
Rush Creek	11	11	\$540,000	20	434	332,400
Southeast Laterals	10	10	\$305,000	10	216	28,700
Southwest Laterals	7	7	\$642,000	11	181	18,700
Turkey Creek	13	3	\$289,000	14	303	59,700
Upper Bosque River	27	12	\$1,532,000	60	850	432,800
Upper Pecan Bayou	25	10	\$1,343,000	21	550	165,000
Valley Creek	19	3	\$1,020,000	14	370	154,700
Willow Creek	2	2	\$146,000	6	69	10,800
Total	419	361	\$34,355,000	655	15,774	2,789,300

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.

Local Sponsors of Watersheds located in the 11th Congressional District:

*Bosque County Commissioners Court
Brazos Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
Brown County Commissioners Court
Callahan County Commissioners Court
Callahan Divide Soil and Water Conservation District
Central Colorado Soil and Water Conservation
District
City of Ballinger
City of Brady
City of Bronte
City of Brownwood
City of Clyde
City of Coleman
City of Glen Rose
City of Mineral Wells
City of Winters
Coke County Commissioners Court
Coke County Soil and Water Conservation District
Coke County-Kickapoo Water Control and
Improvement District #1
Coleman County Commissioners Court
Comanche County Commissioners Court
Concho County Commissioners Court
Concho Soil and Water Conservation District
Cross Timbers Soil and Water Conservation District
East Keechi Creek Water Control and Improvement
District #1
Elm Creek Water Control District
Erath County Commissioners Court*

*Hamilton County Commissioners Court
Hamilton-Coryell Soil and Water
Conservation District
Hood County Commissioners Court
Jack Soil and Water Conservation District
Mason County Soil and Water Conservation District
McCulloch County Commissioners Court
McCulloch Soil and Water Conservation District
Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District
Middle Clear Fork Soil and Water Conservation
District
Mills County Commissioners Court
Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District
Nolan County Commissioners Court
Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District
Palo Pinto County Commissioners Court
Palo Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District
Parker County Soil and Water Conservation District
Pecan Bayou Soil and Water Conservation District
Runnels County Commissioners Court
Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District
San Saba County Commissioners Court
San Saba Soil and Water Conservation District
Somervell County Commissioners Court
Taylor County Commissioners Court
Tom Green Soil and Water Conservation District
Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District
Valley Creek Water Control District
Willow Creek Water Control and Improvement District*

Information about watershed projects and other conservation programs is available at 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

