



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

101 S. Main Street
Temple, TX 76365
Voice 254.742.9800
Web: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>

By Beverly Moseley
State Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS

Flood control structures withstand El Nino generated storm waters

Areas of Texas continued to experience their fair share of El Nino related weather events as 2015 came to a close. Some areas of Texas had already received devastating historic rainfall totals in May and October and then along came late December rains. Once again lands became saturated, water bodies filled to capacity, creeks swelled and some landowners and communities were faced with the prospect of flash flooding.

It's during extreme rainfall events when the benefits of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assisted flood control dam structures are realized by landowners and communities.

“It is events such as the December rains that highlight the critical need for properly operating flood control dams. Without these structures protecting property, lives, communities and the landscape as a whole, the outcomes can be devastating,” said NRCS State Conservationist Salvador Salinas.

The residents in the Texas counties of Collin, Grayson, Fannin, Hunt, Cooke, Montague, Denton, Lamar and Red River quickly learned in December just how critical the role of properly functioning flood control dams play in protecting lives, property and communities during weather events. Over an estimated three day period, more than 5.7 inches of rain fell in these nine counties.

Numerous watersheds were impacted by the flooding rains. An estimated 13 creeks within those counties flooded and flood control dams quickly filled. The financial benefits realized, due to the 281 functioning flood control dams with these watersheds, was upwards of \$18 million. Economic data was derived from factors such as housing, infrastructure and farm lands.

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