

The Role of NRCS:

- Watershed projects are “federally assisted” in that the NRCS does not own the project, the easement, or the land the project is on.
- NRCS has no contractual relationship with the landowner.
- NRCS provides the cost of construction (100 percent on PL-566 & PL-534, and 65 percent on rehabilitation projects).
- The NRCS provides technical assistance to plan and design projects.

The Role of Project Sponsor:

- Project sponsors are responsible for obtaining all land rights, easements, and permits.
- Project sponsors are responsible for operating and maintaining the dam for the life of the project.

Watershed Rehabilitation

- On November 9, 2000, congress passed the “Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments” which authorized NRCS to provide technical and financial assistance to watershed project sponsors in rehabilitating their aging dams.
- Rehabilitation extends the service life of dams to meet applicable safety and performance standards.
- Project sponsors are responsible for providing 35 percent of the cost of rehabilitation.

The Sergeant Major Creek Watershed Protects the City of Cheyenne



*For additional information,
contact:*

Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 USDA, Suite 206
Stillwater, OK 74074
(405)-742-1204



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**Watershed Program
in
Oklahoma**

Helping People Help the Land



January 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Authorizing Legislation

Public Law 78-534

The Flood Control Act of 1944 gave NRCS the authority to assist local units of government plan and install measures to reduce runoff in eleven selected pilot watersheds in the nation. The Washita River Basin in Oklahoma was one of those eleven pilot watersheds.

Public Law 83-566

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 gave NRCS the authority to assist local units of government plan and install needed water management and flood prevention measures in watersheds throughout the nation.

Watershed Dams in Oklahoma

Program	Number of Projects	Number of Dams
PL-534	64	1,107
PL-566	77	985
Pilot	1	6
RC&D	4	7
TOTAL	146	2,105

Watershed Projects Benefit Oklahoma Communities

Oklahoma has over a \$2 billion infrastructure that provides over \$72 million in benefits each year.



Benefits

- Flood Control
- Water Supply
- Erosion Control
- Recreation
- Wetlands
- Wildlife



Historic Watersheds

Sandstone Creek

The first completed watershed project in the nation was the Sandstone Creek Watershed in Roger Mills County. Twenty-four dams were built between 1950-1953.



Cloud Creek 1948-1998

On July 3, 1998, a celebration was held in Cordell, Oklahoma, to commemorate the first watershed dam built in the nation. Construction of Cloud Creek Watershed Dam No. 1, in Washita County, was completed in July 1948.

