

# OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation moving  
forward in a constantly  
changing year!

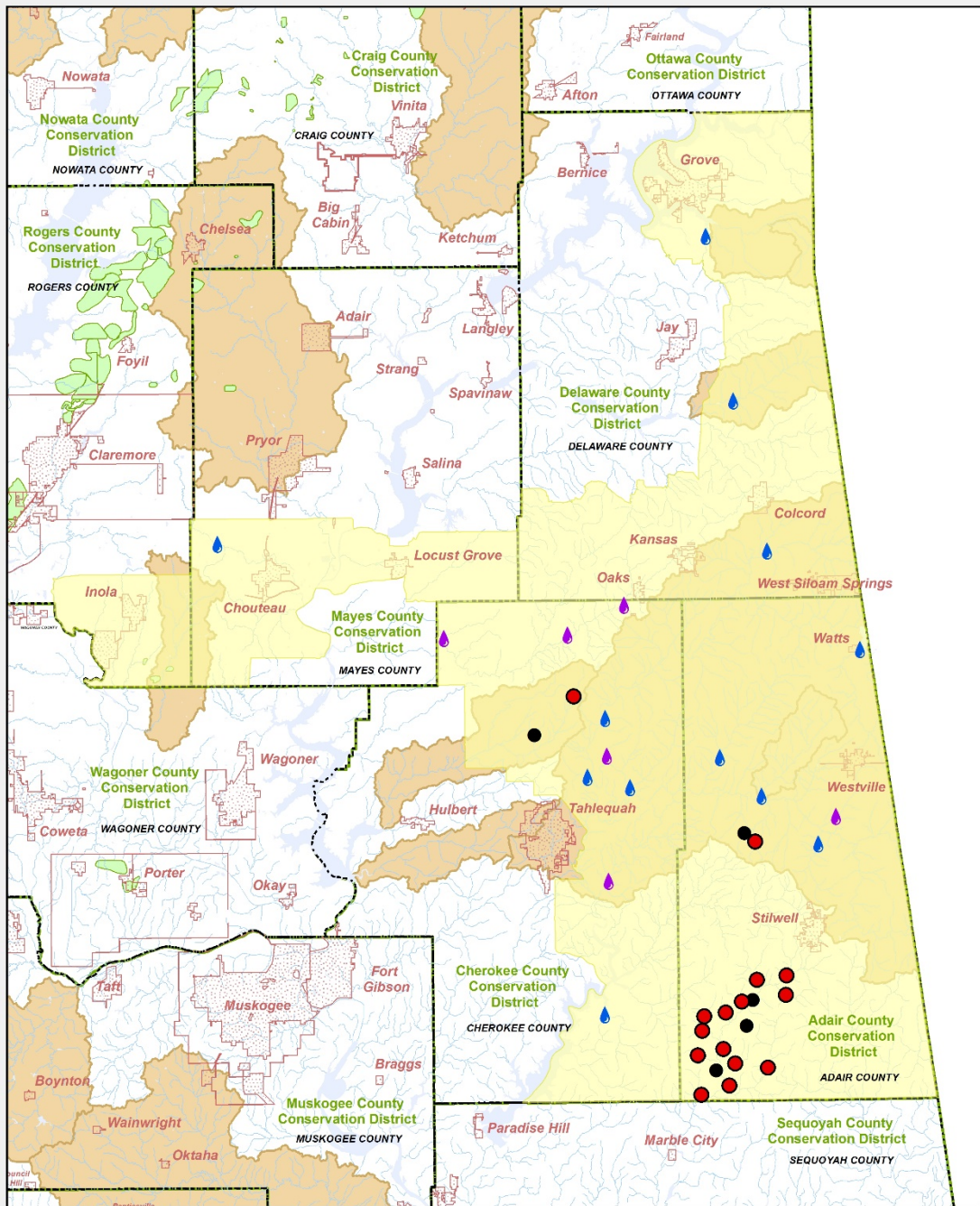
Trey Lam, OCC Executive  
Director

Our Land • Our Heritage • Our Future

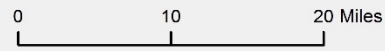


# Natural Resources and Regulatory Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee Blake Stephens

## Senate District 3 Conservation Impacts



- WQ Rotating Basin Sites: 12
- WQ Blue Thumb Sites: 6
- High Hazard Watershed Dams: 15
- Watershed Dams: 20
- AML Impacted Areas
- WQ 303(d) Delisted Success Stories
- Counties
- Cities or Towns
- Conservation Districts
- Oklahoma Senate District 3



Map Prepared by the OK Office of Geographic Information,  
December 2020



# Conservation Impacts for Senate District 3

Covers some or all of the Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, Mayes and Rogers Conservation Districts

## Impacts of Watershed Dam Benefits

- 29 flood control dams
- \$3,126,889 in monetary benefits
- 981 farms and ranches protected
- 27 bridges protected
- 790 acres of wetlands enhanced or created
- 175,116 tons of soil with reduced sedimentation

## Conservation District Employees

Full Time Employees: 6.75

Part Time Employees: 2

## Cost Share

1,464 Cooperators Share: \$1,426,634

State Costs: \$1,099,797.38

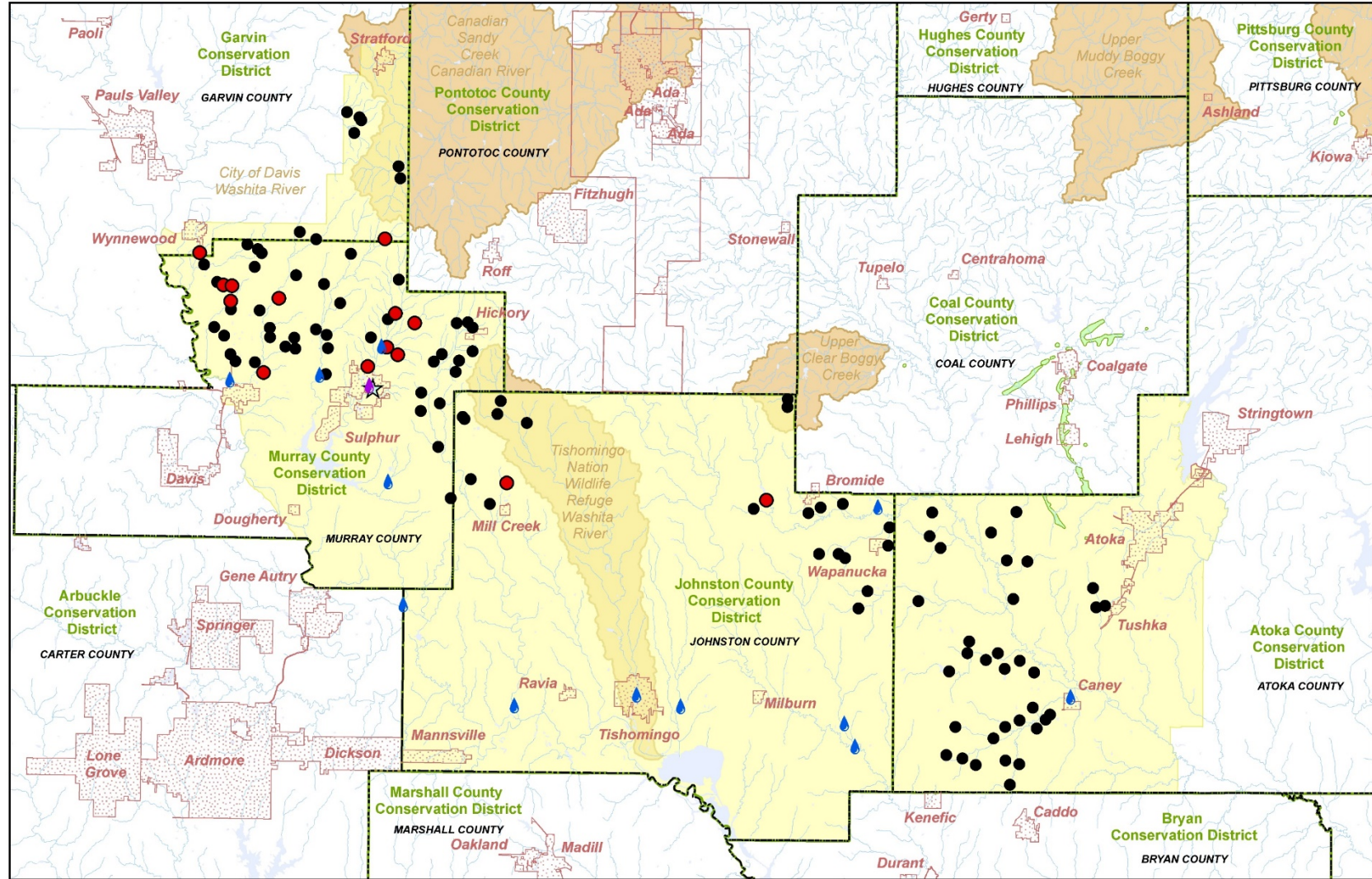
Total Cost: \$2,526,431.59

## Watershed Dam Rehabilitation Status

\* 5 Dams in Sallisaw Creek; Status: Complete

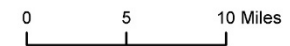


# Charles McCall, Speaker of the House House District 22 Conservation Impacts



- 💧 WQ Rotating Basin Sites: 12
- High Hazard Watershed Dams: 14
- ★ Soil Health Activities: 1
- AML Impacted Areas
- WQ 303(d) Delisted Success Stories
- Counties
- Oklahoma House District 22
- Cities or Towns
- Conservation Districts
- 💧 WQ Blue Thumb Sites: 2
- Watershed Dams: 118

Map Prepared by the OK Office of Geographic Information, November 2020



# Conservation Impacts for House District 22

## Covers some or all of the Atoka, Garvin, Johnston, Murray County Conservation Districts

### Watershed Benefits

#### Atoka County – 34 Flood Control Dams

- \$1,587,949 in monetary benefits
- 519 farms and ranches protected
- 16 bridges protected
- 1,287 acres of wetlands enhanced or created
- 223,260 tons of soil with reduced sedimentation

#### Garvin County – 145 Flood Control Dams

- \$13,634,490 in monetary benefits
- 2,897 farms and ranches protected
- 126 bridges protected
- 1,287 acres of wetlands enhanced or created
- 223,260 tons of soil with reduced sedimentation

#### Johnston County – 22 Flood Control Dams

- \$2,687,556 in monetary benefits
- 1,203 farms and ranches protected
- 44 bridges protected
- 2,528 acres of wetlands enhanced or created
- 421,094 tons of soil with reduced sedimentation

#### Murray County – 59 Flood Control Dams

- \$6,941,030 in monetary benefits
- 1,333 farms and ranches protected
- 66 bridges protected
- 2,445 acres of wetlands enhanced or created
- 703,432 tons of soil with reduced sedimentation

### Conservation District Employees

Full Time Employees: 7

Part Time Employees: 0

### Cost Share

613 Cooperators Share: \$1,043,973.46

State Costs: \$776,963.79

Total Cost: \$1,820, 937.25



# Conservation Impacts for House District 22

Covers some or all of the Atoka, Garvin, Johnston, Murray County Conservation Districts



## Impacts of Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program

- **Atoka County**

1 AML Project, Atoka County, cost of \$17,012.50

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Funds for Monarch Habitat

### Garvin County

\$27,670 Cost Share Payments

\$9,082.50 Participant Contribution

### Murray County

\$11,670 Cost Share Payments

\$8,342.50 Participant Contribution

### 4 - Soil Health Events

Johnson Ranch consultation

Lake of the Arbuckle watershed meeting

Murray CCD outreach meeting

WORMS App training, Chickasaws



# Yesterday's approach



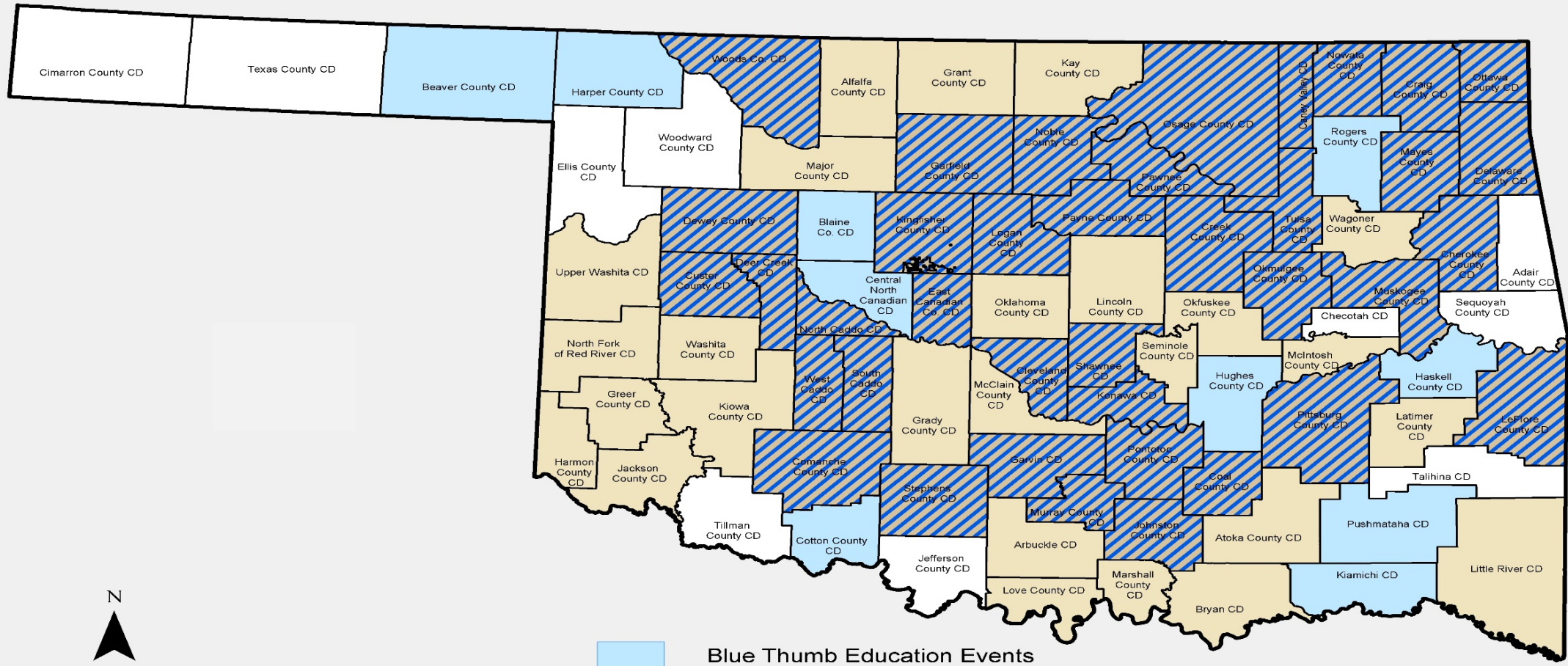
In the past, the 84 Conservation Districts would hold monthly Board Meetings in small rooms

Also, in the past our staff would travel to a location to hold a Field Day attended by several local ag producers



# Oklahoma Conservation Districts

## Educational Events



- Blue Thumb Education Events
- Soil Health Events: Natural Resource Days, On Farm Field Days and Other Education Events
- Soil Health and Blue Thumb Educational Events





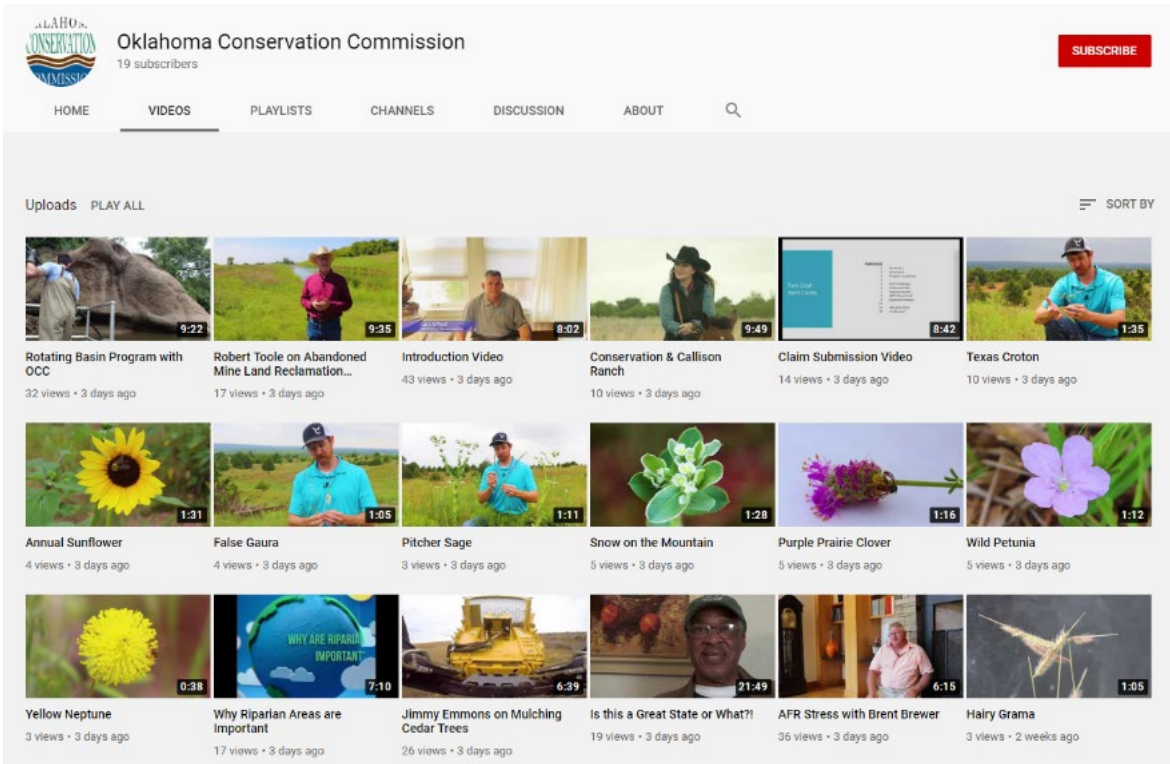
*MOVING FORWARD...*

*CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARDS*

*CONTINUE TO CONDUCT  
BUSINESS WHILE SOCIAL  
DISTANCING*



**OKLAHOMA  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION**



Videos have been made available on the OCC YouTube Channel <https://bit.ly/3hCiYJJ>

Instead of Area Meetings in November, OCC and OACD along with other partners, provided videos for Conservation Districts to view at board meetings  
**15 have 100-plus views/4 months**

# Virtual Successes By Land and By Water



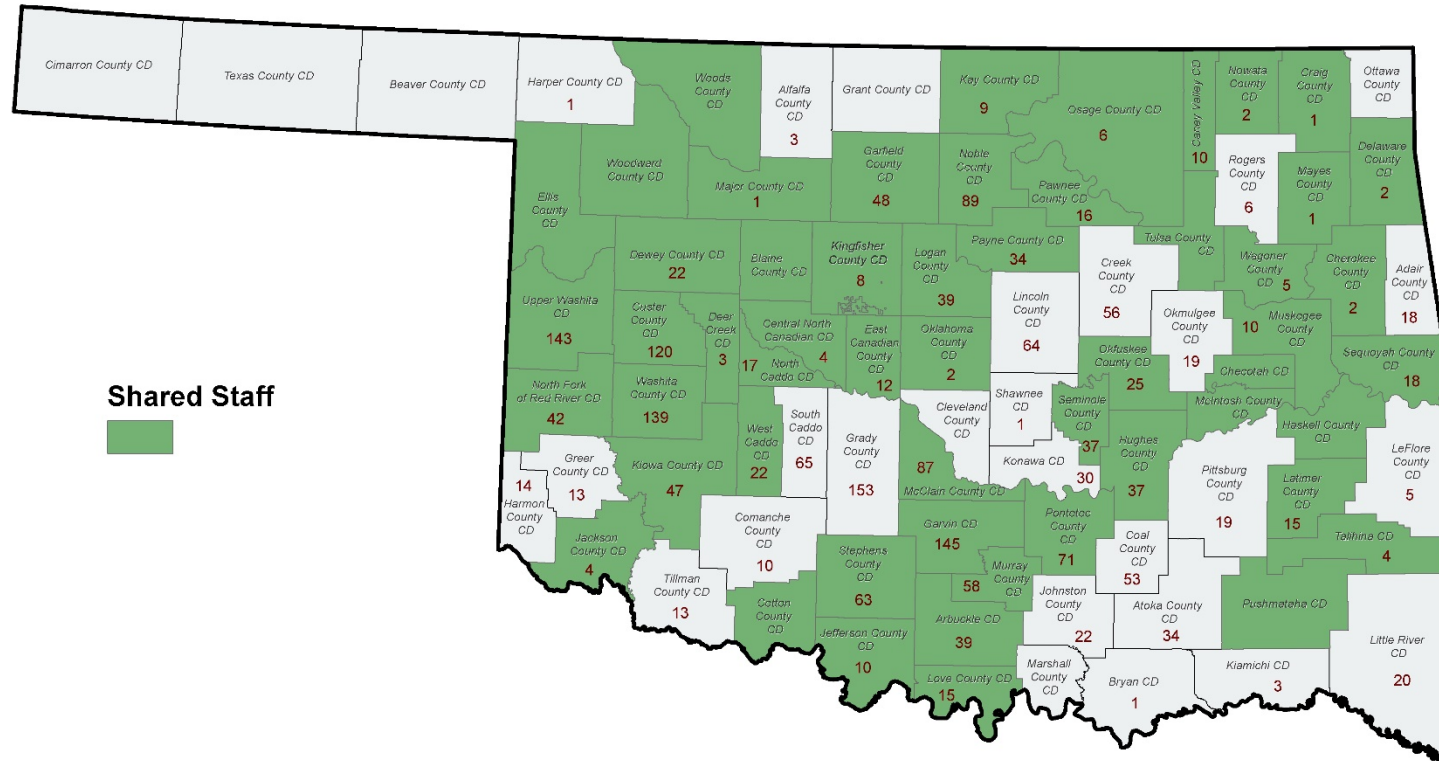
Soil Health Specialist Blane Stacy hosted an informative video series titled “Wild and Wonderful Weed of the Week” literally from ground level.



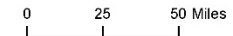
Oklahoma Blue Thumb Program produced two weekly educational social media video series: Macroinvertebrate Monday and Fish Friday.

# Solving the final Staffing Challenges – Trying to keep it local!

## Oklahoma Conservation District Employees Shared Staff as of December 1, 2020



Data created on January 6, 2021



# Funding for Flood Control Dams



Coal County

On the way...

3 new compact track loaders  
and trailers to replace old  
equipment

## ➤ Replacing Old Equipment

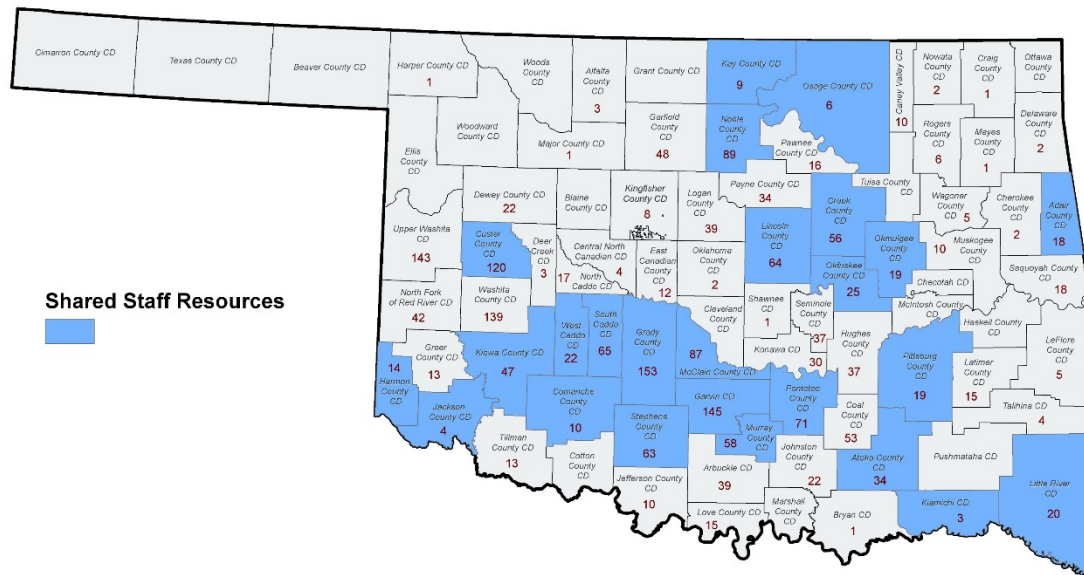
- Skid Steers
- Trucks (Ordered 7 last year)



# Funding for Flood Control Dams

Conservation District Watershed Aides and District Staff working on the backlog of flood control dam operation and maintenance needs – 2016 and Present

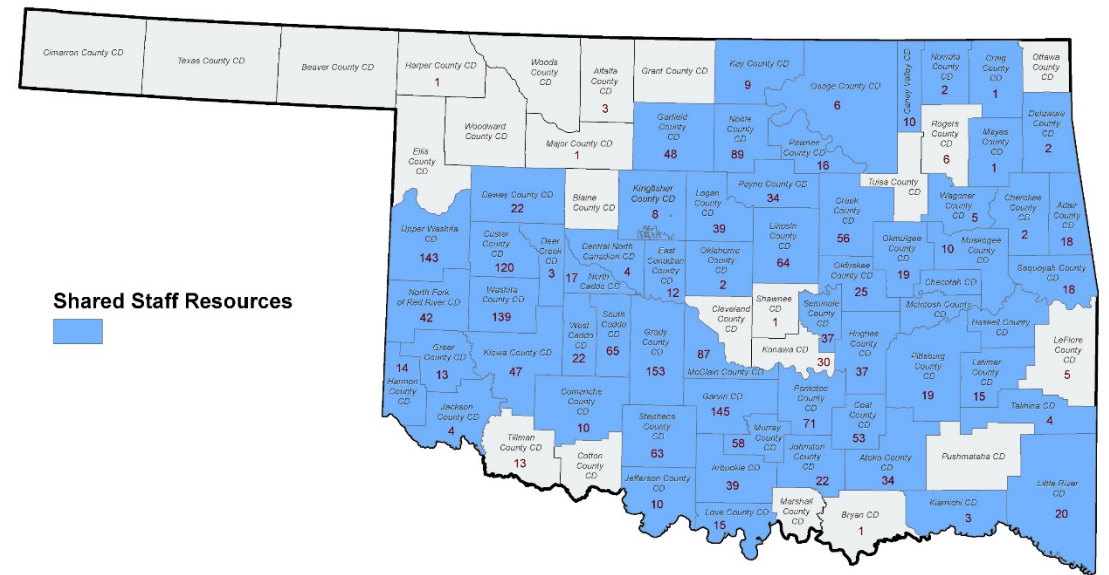
Oklahoma Conservation District Employees  
Districts with Field Staff Available  
to Perform Watershed Operations and Maintenance  
2016



# = Number of Watershed Dams located in each Conservation District

Data created on January 6, 2021

Oklahoma Conservation District Employees  
Districts with Field Staff Available  
to Perform Watershed Operations and Maintenance  
as of December 1, 2020



# = Number of Watershed Dams located in each Conservation District

Data created on January 6, 2021

# Funding for Flood Control Dams

## Conservation District Operation & Maintenance Work on Dams

\$905,575 allocated to 39 Conservation Districts to perform operation and maintenance on 816 dams



Custer County

### Types of Work performed:

- Tower repair / replacement
- Mechanical / Chemical Brush Control
- Erosion Repair
- Fence Repair
- Remove beavers
- Replace deteriorated components

Operation and maintenance of Oklahoma's Nation Leading 2,107 flood control dams is ongoing



Top Left: **Atoka County**

Top Right: **Dewey County**

Lower Left: **McClain County**



# Flood Control Dam Repair Work

\$1 million in repair needs annually to address \$4 million of backlog needed repairs.



Custer County



McClain County



Grady County



Garvin County

# Funding for Flood Control Dams

## Conservation District Operation & Maintenance Work on Dams



Cowden Laterals 5 - Kiowa County

# Pilot Project: Repair of Corrugated Metal Pipe Components

\$3 Million Federal dollars on 65 % Federal to 35 % State match

- 438 dams (42-71 years old) with these components as part of principal spillways. Assessing 50 of these dams.



Roaring Creek D6 in Grady County  
BEFORE and AFTER

# Pipe removal at Kadashan Bottom Channel 2 in Wagoner County





Grady Co., Little Washita GSS4 Before



Grady Co., Little Washita GSS4 After

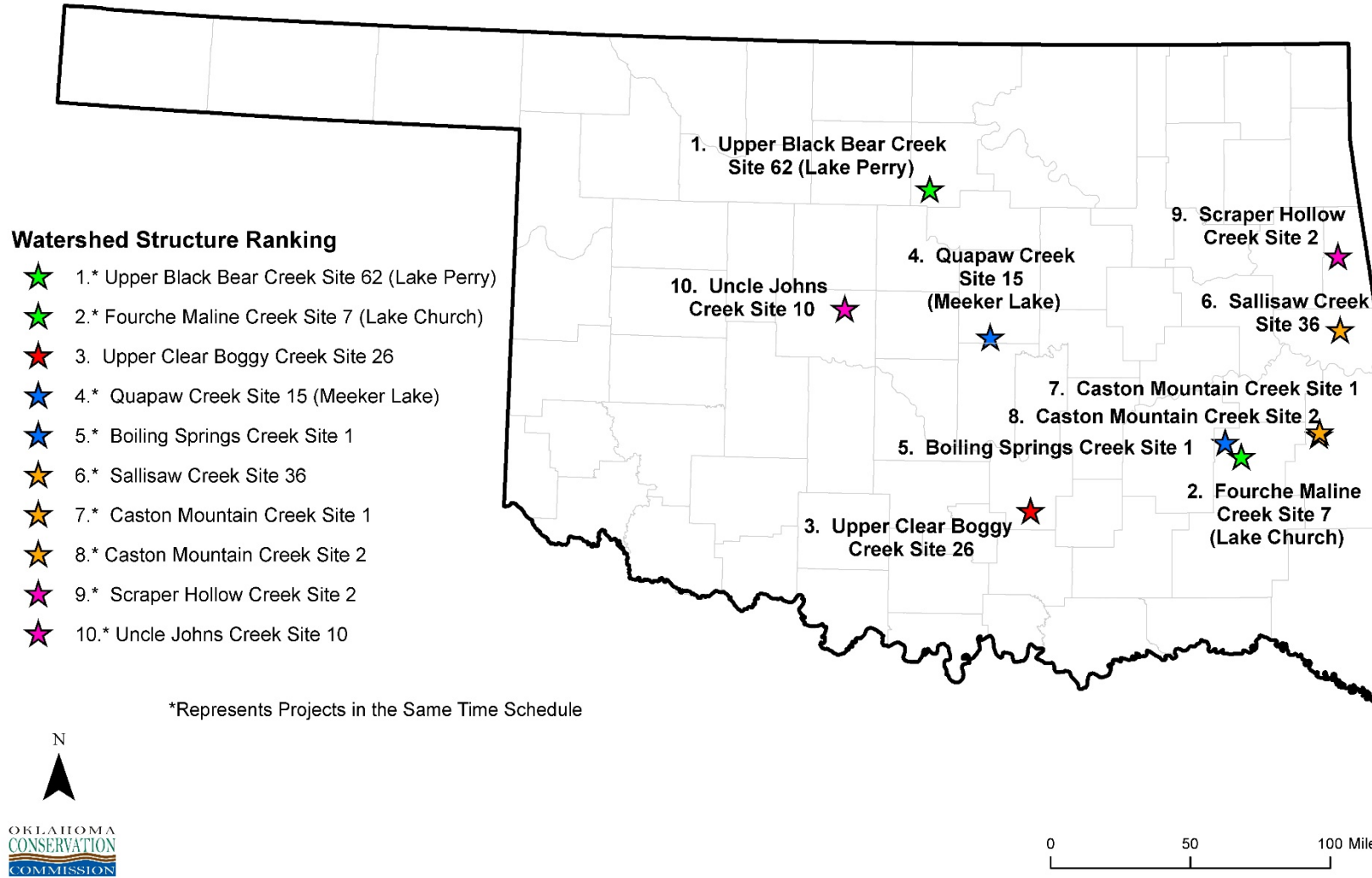


Stillwater 48 Before



Stillwater 48 After

## Bond Funds Put to Work \$17.5 million State leverages +\$50million Federal





# Cottonwood Creek Site 54 Rehabilitation - Logan County



# Conservation District Program Delivery

Program Year - 2020

## Locally-Led Cost-Share Program

- \$1.202 million Local Landowner contribution
- 7,951 acres of **Brush** management
- 76,211 linear feet of **Cross Fencing**
- 98 ponds – 44 **Wells**

## State Share of the Locally-Led Program

- \$1,376,002 million paid by districts to local landowners through the Gross Production Tax on Oil/Gas
- 569 Participants
- 623 Practices installed

## Feral Hog Traps – Approved under Cost Share Program

- West Caddo/North Caddo – \$8,200
- South Caddo - \$11,200
- Pushmataha - \$10,000





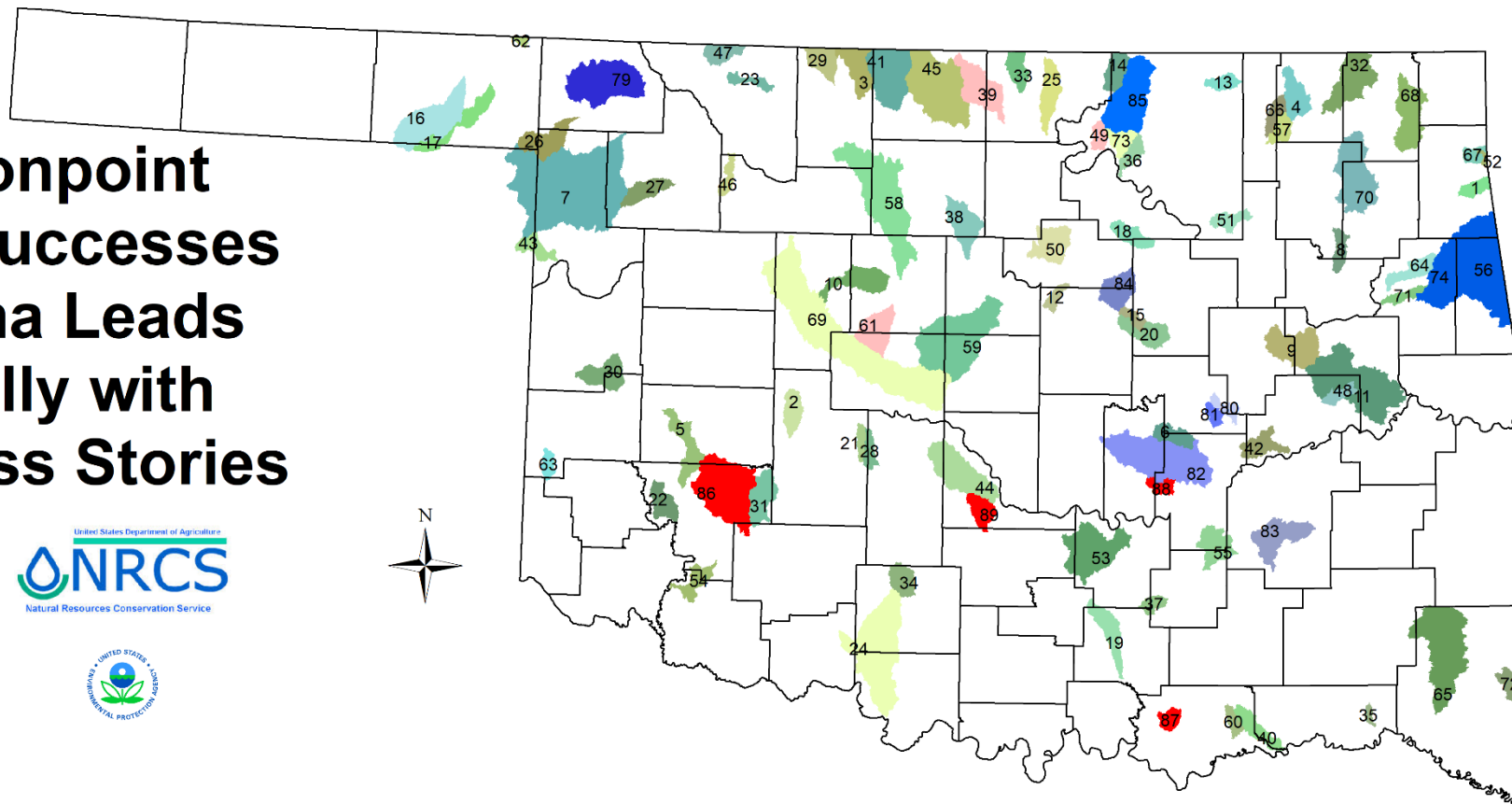


# YARD BY YARD COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROJECT IN OKLAHOMA!

Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties



# 2020 Nonpoint Source Successes Oklahoma Leads Nationally with 88 Success Stories



## OK NPS Success Story Watersheds

Alabama Creek (81)	Camp Creek (15)	Doga Creek (49)- UPDATE!	Indian Creek (27)	Peaceable Creek (83)	Stinking Creek (Kiowa Co.) (31)
Bad Creek (80)	Canadian Sandy Creek (53)	Duckpond Creek (17)	Ionine Creek (28)	Peachewater Creek (56)	Sulphur Creek (60)
Beaty Creek (1)	Caney Boggy Creek (55)	Dugout Creek (12)	Lagoon Creek (18)	Pennington Creek (19)	Tepee Creek (22)
Beaver Creek (Jefferson Co.) (24)	Clear Creek (Beaver Co.) (16)	Elk Creek (48)	Lake Creek (2)	Pond Creek (45)	Turkey Creek (58)
Beaver Creek (Osage Co.) (14)	Clear Creek (Harper Co.) (26)	Eucler Creek (84)	Little Cabin Creek (68)	Pryor Creek (70)	Turkey Creek (Woods Co.) (23)
Big Creek (32)	Cloud Creek (9)	Finn Creek (89)- NEW!	Little Elk Creek (5)	Rainy Mountain Creek (86)- NEW!	Walnut Creek (44)
Bird Creek (35)	Commission Creek (43)	Fish (63)	Little Wewoka Creek (6)	Ranger Creek (71)	Wewoka Creek (82)
Bird Creek (Hughes Co.) (88)- NEW!	Cooper Creek (10)	Fourteenmile Creek (64)	Main Creek (46)	Rock Creek (72)	Whitegrass Creek (40)
Bitter Creek (33)	Crooked Creek (Beaver Co.) (62)	Glover River (65)	Medicine Lodge River (29)	Salt Creek (20)	Wildhorse Creek (34)
Bois d'Arc (25)	Crooked Creek (Grant Co.) (41)	Goose Creek (37)	Mill Creek (42)	Salt Creek (Osage Co.) (73)	Winter Camp Creek (61)-UPDATE
Buffalo (Harper Co.) (79)	Curl Creek (57)	Gray Horse Creek (36)	Mineral Bayou (87)- NEW!	Salt Creek (Osage Co.) (73) (85)	Wolf Creek (7)
Bull Creek (8)	Deer Creek (39)- UPDATE!	Hogshooter (66)	Mission Creek (13)	Sandstone Creek (30)	Yellowstone Creek (47)
California Creek (4)	Delaware Creek (51)	Honey Creek (52)	North Canadian River (69)	Sandy Creek (3)	
	Dirty Creek (11)	Honey Creek (67)	Otter Creek (Garfield Co.) (38)	Stillwater Creek (50)	
		Illinois River (74-78)	Otter Creek (Tillman Co.) (54)	Stinking Creek (Caddo Co.) (21)	Counties

**ABANDONED MINE LAND -  
EMERGENCY**

**HAILEYVILLE, OKLA.  
SCHOOL**

**OVER THE SITE OF A  
FORMER COAL MINE IN  
SOUTHEASTERN  
OKLAHOMA**





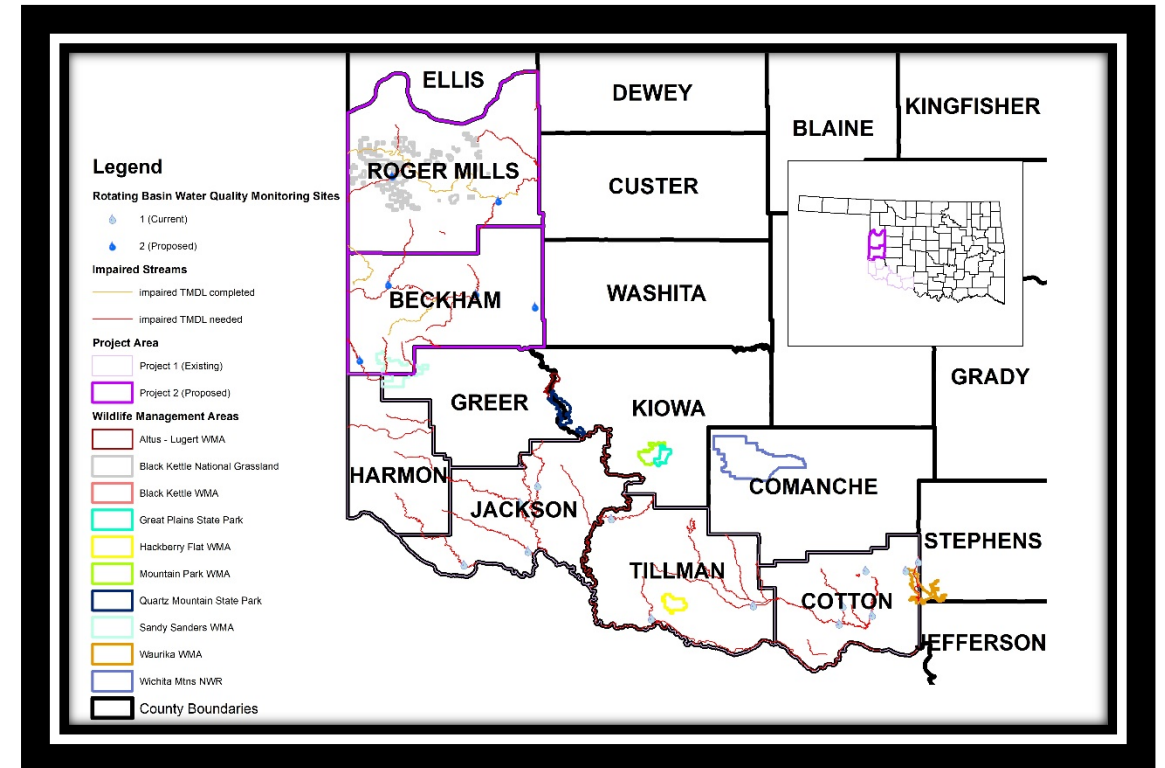
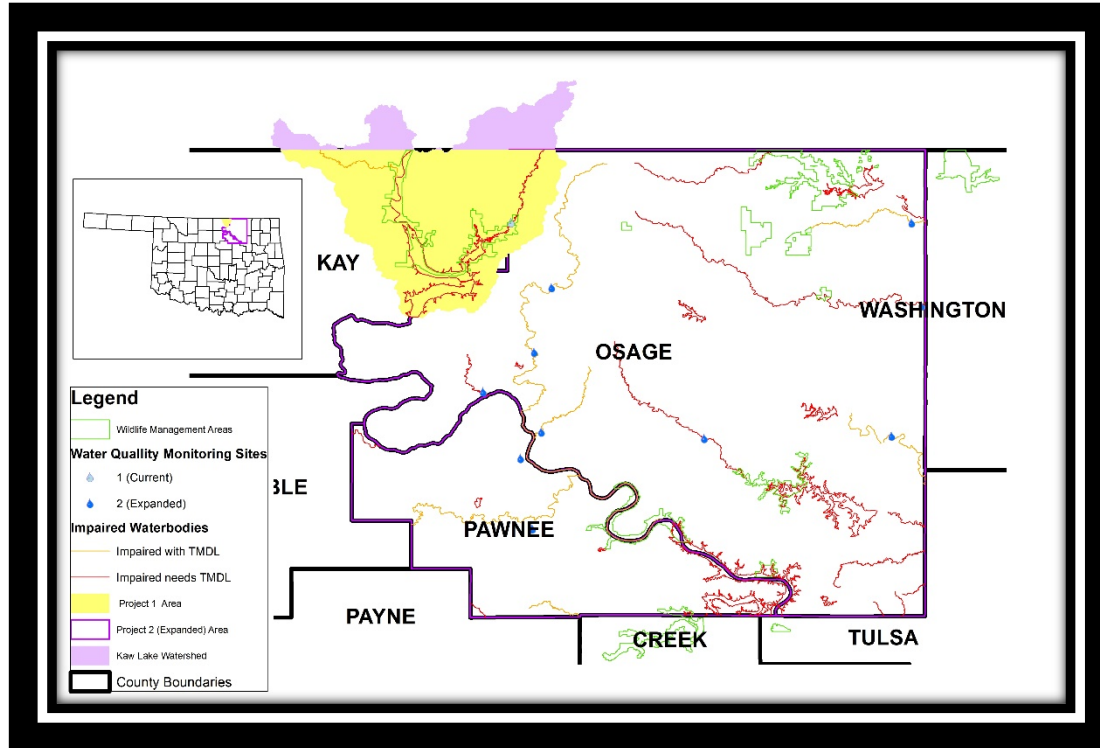
## **FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM**

**Feral hogs cause an estimated \$2 billion in damage to U.S. land and crops each year.**

**They pose disease risks to livestock, pets and humans!**



# Feral Swine Pilot Program Areas





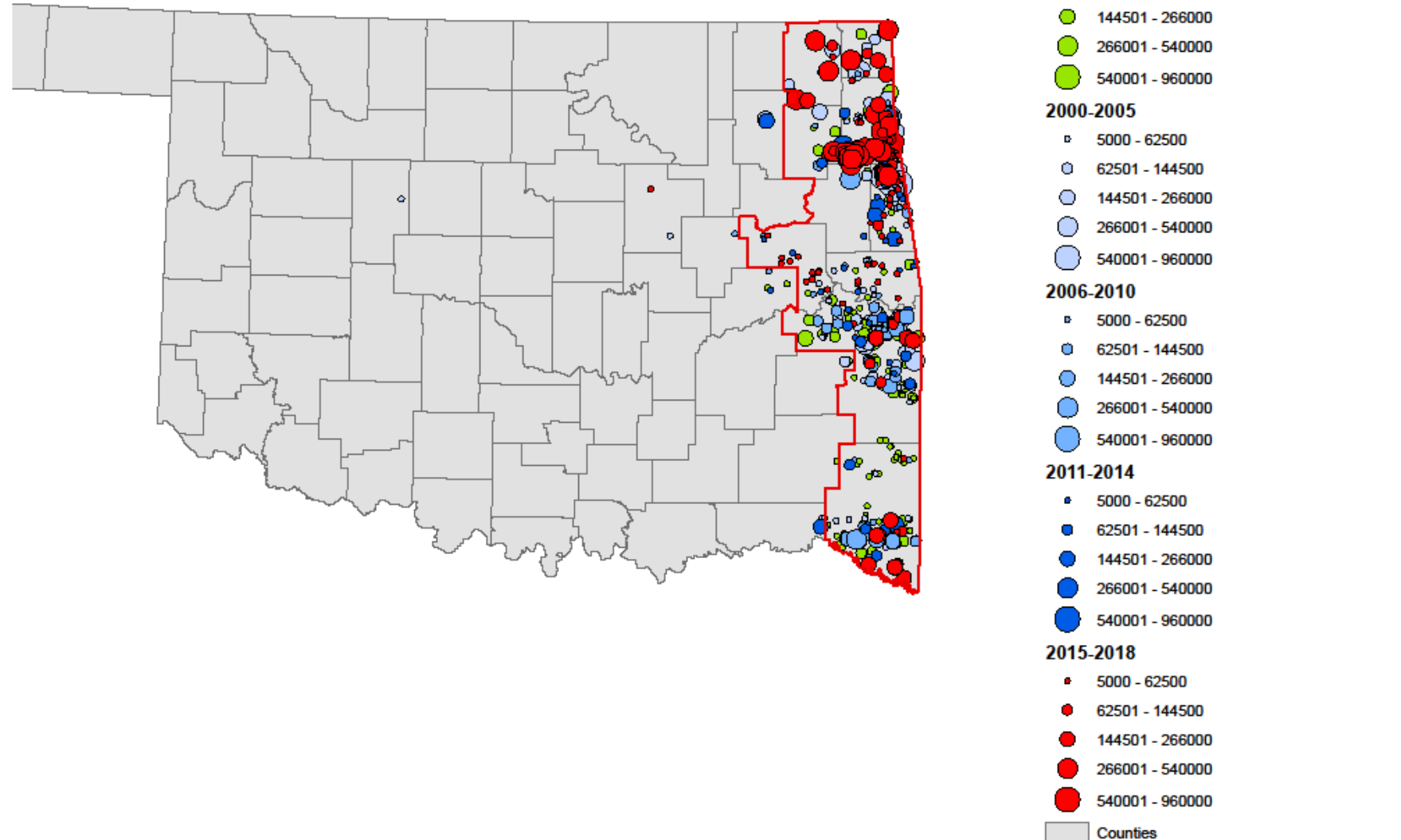
## **POULTRY NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION**

**IMPORTANT TO ALL**

# POULTRY FACILITIES IN OKLAHOMA

Poultry facilities are located in the Eastern fourth of Oklahoma

Poultry Facilities: Construction Year and Birds Produced





# Poultry Litter Transfer

Moving litter from specific watersheds to nutrient deficient areas



# Economics of Soil Health: Case Studies



## Known Benefits

- Prevent Soil Erosion
- Improve Soil Health
- Enhance Water Availability
- Sequester Carbon While Regenerating Soil Biology

The Unknown: What are the costs for the farmer or rancher?

# Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Upstream Flood Control Infrastructure Dam Safety     | \$1,000,000               |
| Operation, Maintenance & Repair Needs (2107 structures) |                           |
|   | Total Request \$1,000,000 |

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST – FISCAL YEAR 2022  
(Submitted by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
as approved by the State Geographic Information Council)

Operation Funding for the Office of Geographic Information \$ 536,000

# Benefits of a Funded Office of Geographic Information

- **Coordination of the production, delivery and maintenance of authoritative geographic data for the State of Oklahoma**
- **OGI's opensource data base used by public/private groups for emergency services, economic development and basic governmental services**
- **Sustainable operation of Oklahoma's geographic information clearinghouse-OKMaps**
- **Coordination of GIS support for state agencies could provide a 3:1 cost savings**
- **Supporting the development and maintenance of the Oklahoma Next Generation 911 System**
- **Providing a digital highway for economic and business developers seeking access to the state's digital infrastructure**

# Oklahoma – a Top Ten State in Conservation!!



**OKLAHOMA  
CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION** National Top 10

**#1**

**Conservation Programs Division**  
2,107 Small Watershed Flood Control Dams  
Over \$96 Million Saved in Flood Prevention

Conserve—Protect—Restore

## Oklahoma Conservation Commission

### National Leaders

**#1 88 Fewer Polluted Streams**

Five-time National Champions

**#1 Phosphorus Load Reductions**

24% of National Reduction Credited to Oklahoma

**#1 2,107 Small Watershed Flood Control Dams**

\$96 Million Saved from Flood Prevention

**#1 Volunteer Citizen Scientists**

85 Streams Monitored

**#3 Nitrogen Load Reductions in Streams**

Equates to Lower Water Treatment Costs



### Top 5 in the Nation

- Eliminating Public Safety Abandoned Mine Land Hazards
- 100s of FREE Maintained Public Accessible Mapping Layers

### Top 10 in the Nation

- 30,000+ Oklahomans Educated in Soil and Water Conservation, Protection, and Restoration

# Conservation in Oklahoma - A Winning Hand

## Highlights of each Division!



### Conservation Programs

#### Top of the Deck

- ♦ #1—2,107 small watershed flood control dams; \$96 Million saved from flood prevention

#### Dealing the Facts:

- ♦ Keeping you safe: Since 1948, flood control dams have been built to protect Oklahomans
- ♦ Busy, busy, busy: During peak construction of dams in the 1960s, 2 dams a week were constructed
- ♦ Near you: 9 of 10 Oklahomans live within 20 miles of a flood control dam

#### A Winning Hand:

- ♦ A little bit of everywhere: Oklahoma has 129 watershed projects in 69 counties
- ♦ Progress made: 245 watershed dams will reach end of design life in the next 5 years, but will still function with proper maintenance
- ♦ Money well spent: OCC & Conservation Districts spent nearly \$1 Million on needed repairs in 2020



#### A Good Card to Play:

- ♦ Dollars spent, millions saved: Watershed projects provided \$33.3 million in monetary savings during the May 2019 storms





# WE INVITE YOU TO THE 83rd Annual OACD Meeting (Virtual)

March 1-2, 2021

Oklahoma Association of  
Conservation Districts

*If you would like to record a  
message to your Conservation  
Districts, please send to  
[Bryan.Painter@conservation.  
ok.gov](mailto:Bryan.Painter@conservation.ok.gov)*

