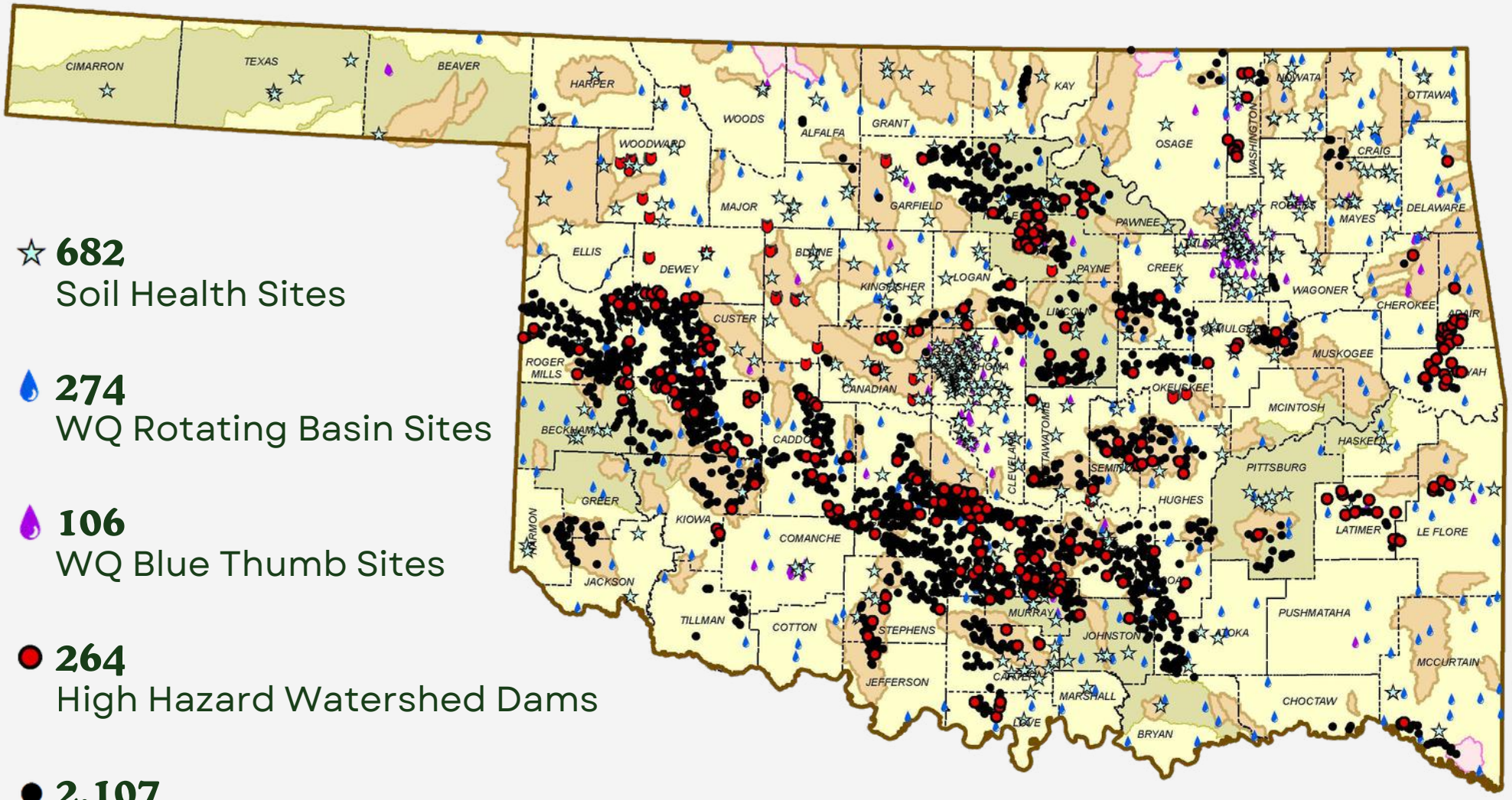
Oklahoma Conservation Commission

2025 Impact Report


WHAT IS SOIL?
MIXTURE OF MINERALS, ORGANIC MATTER,
25% AIR
45% MINERAL
25% WATER
ORGANISM
PLANT ROOTS SPREAD, ANIMALS BURROW
AND BACTERIA EAT. THESE AND OTH
SOIL ORGANISMS SPEED UP THE BREAKD
OF LARGE SOIL PARTICLES INTO SMALL
Nutrien
KLAHOMA
NSERVATION
MMISSION

By the Numbers: Our Work in Oklahoma



682
Soil Health Sites

274
WQ Rotating Basin Sites

106
WQ Blue Thumb Sites

264
High Hazard Watershed Dams

2,107
Watershed Dams

59
Brush Free Zones / Fire Breaks

Our agency works to conserve, protect and restore

Oklahoma's natural resources, working in collaboration with the conservation districts and other partners, on behalf of the citizens of Oklahoma.


NickelsWorth

WELCOME TO THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA URBAN & SMALL FARM HUB

The Southern Oklahoma Urban & Small Farm Hub officially launched on December 5, 2025, at the Ardmore campus of Murray State College. In partnership with Murray State College, the Chickasaw Nation, and the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, the hub will serve as a critical resource, offering technical assistance, individualized farm planning, educational training, financial assistance, cost-share programs, and retail opportunities.

"The first of its kind in Oklahoma, we are excited to create a space where conservation, agriculture, and community health intersect."
-Greg Kloxin, Assistant Director, Soil Health, OCC

Volunteers Make A Difference

Across the state of Oklahoma, over 100 volunteers actively monitor approximately 100 streams in an effort to help protect these water bodies.

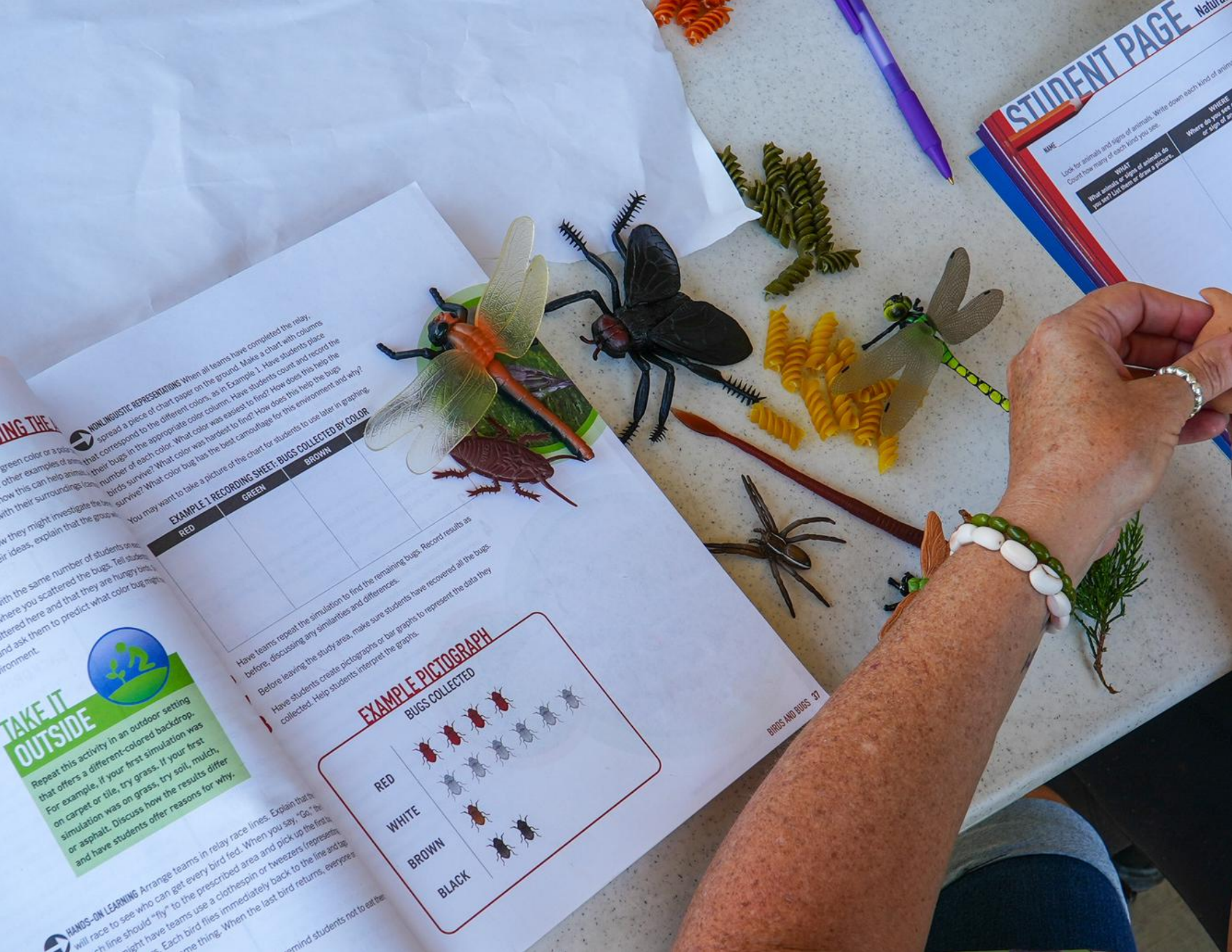
Blue Thumb volunteer monitoring is a **4-step approach** to learning about local streams:

- **Biological Monitoring:**
  Benthic macroinvertebrates and fish are collected to gather information on the life in the stream.
- **Physical Monitoring:**
  A stream assessment is done to gather information on how the stream rates as a home for fish and macroinvertebrates.
- **Chemical Monitoring:**
  A look at water quality at the instant sample water was collected.
- **Quality Assurance & Data Interpretation**
  Volunteer data is used to gain valuable information about the state's streams.

Making an Impact:

2025 by the Numbers

- **130** Volunteers
- **382** Students Who Monitor With a Teacher/Professor
- **111** Stream Sites Monitored
- **7,119** Volunteer Hours Logged


STUDENT PAGE
NAME
Look for animals and signs of animals. Write down each kind of anim
Count how many of each kind you see.
WHAT
What animals or signs of animals do you see? List them or draw a picture.
WHERE
Where do you see
or sign of a
NONLINGUISTIC REPRESENTATIONS When all teams have completed the relay, spread a piece of chart paper on the ground. Make a chart with columns that correspond to the different colors, as in Example 1. Have students place their bugs in the appropriate color column. Have students count and record the number of each color. What color was easiest to find? How does this help the birds survive? What color was hardest to find? How does this help the bugs survive? What color bug has the best camouflage for this environment and why?
You may want to take a picture of the chart for students to use later in graphing.
EXAMPLE 1 RECORDING SHEET: BUGS COLLECTED BY COLOR
RED
GREEN
BROWN
Have teams repeat the simulation to find the remaining bugs. Record results as before, discussing any similarities and differences.
Before leaving the study area, make sure students have recovered all the bugs.
Have students create pictographs or bar graphs to represent the data they collected. Help students interpret the graphs.
EXAMPLE PICTOGRAPH
BUGS COLLECTED
RED
WHITE
BROWN
BLACK
BIRDS AND BUGS 37
TAKE IT OUTSIDE
Repeat this activity in an outdoor setting that offers a different-colored backdrop. For example, if your first simulation was on carpet or tile, try grass. If your first simulation was on grass, try soil, mulch, or asphalt. Discuss how the results differ and have students offer reasons for why.
HANDS-ON LEARNING Arrange teams in relay race lines. Explain that th
will race to see who can get every bird fed. When you say, "Go," the
ch line should "fly" to the prescribed area and pick up the first
ight have teams use a clothespin or tweezers (representin
. Each bird flies immediately back to the line and tap
me thing. When the last bird returns, everyone
emind students not to eat the

Project WILD, Project Learning Tree & Project WET Accomplishments

1,038
Oklahoma Educators
Trained in 2025

45,865
Oklahoma Students
Estimated Reach

49
Certified Facilitators
Leading Workshops

Partnership Highlights

H2Oklahoma - We collaborated with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and others to scale this water festival field trip into three regional events reaching **958 students and 43 teachers from 8 school systems.**

Forestry Backpacks - We launched a hands-on backpack program at **84 rural libraries** across **46 counties** to help kids of all ages learn about Oklahoma's forests with help from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Program Overview

For **over 30 years**, OCC has been home to Project WET & Project WILD. In October 2024, a new collaborative partnership to deliver **Project Learning Tree**, **Project WET**, and **Project WILD** environmental education programs was established. This collaboration reached new heights in 2025, helping connect children to our natural world and nurture the **next generation of conservationists.**

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Creating A Conservation Legacy

Conservation District Employees

35 Years

Shirley Hudson
Ottawa County

20 Years

Cynthia Gerhardt
Custer County

Jennifer Smith
Harmon County

Chris Janda
Kay County

15 Years

David Milam
Atoka County

Doug Fitch
Grant County

Wade Helm
Lincoln County

Katie Scheihing
Central N. Canadian River

Troy Nelson
Shawnee

10 Years

Jennifer Bailey
Okmulgee County

Amy Isbell
Pittsburg County

Laura Willmon
McIntosh County

Conservation District Directors

20 Years

Patrick Brueggen
E. Canadian County

Dan Herald
Texas County

Larry Cometti
Coal County

David McCollough
Mayes County

Paul Brown
Grady County

Doug Eichelberger
North Caddo

25 Years

Greg Borelli
Kingfisher County

Mike Krittenbrink
Kingfisher County

Larry Taliaferro
Love County

30 Years

Matt Gard
Major County

Glenn Smoot
Blaine County

Richard Godfrey Jr.
Oklahoma County

Junior Bryant
Pawnee County

James Dorsey
North Caddo

35 Years

Mark Moehle
Oklahoma County

40 Years

Damon Doye
Comanche County

Everett Wollenberg
McClain County

45 Years

Johnnie Wallis
Okfuskee County

CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM YEAR 26

100%

Of Oklahoma Conservation Districts participated in PY26 Cost-Share Program.

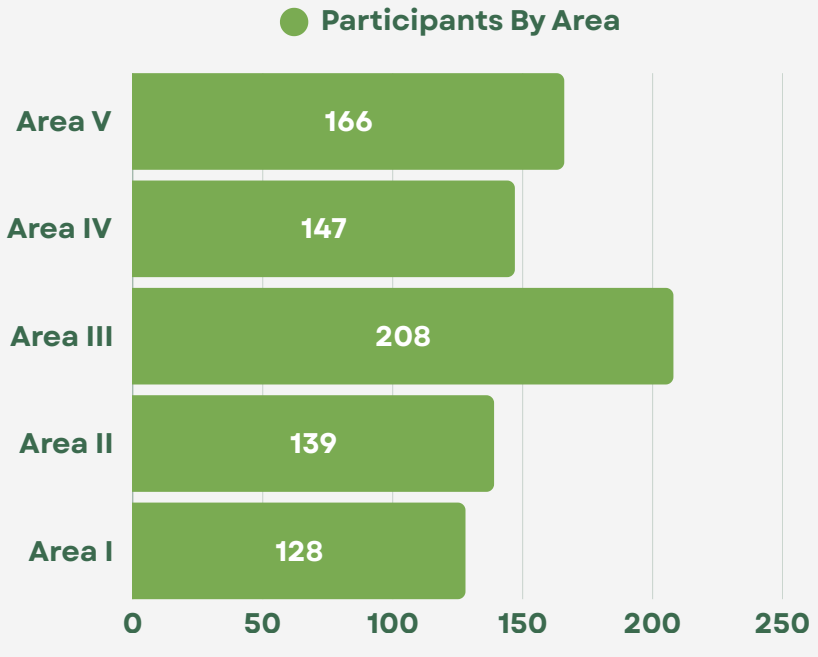
Over $3 Million in cost-share funds were administered to Oklahoma producers.

20

Types of Statewide Practices were completed. (Brush Management took the #1 spot as highest number of practices completed.)

The Conservation Cost-Share Program supports conservation efforts across the state by providing financial assistance to landowners for implementing conservation practices to improve water quality and control soil erosion.

The Oklahoma Legislature established the Conservation Cost-Share Program in 1998 and designated the Oklahoma Conservation Commission as the entity responsible for its administration.




FIELD
3
TOPSOIL
SUBSOIL

74th Annual National Land & Range Judging Contest

The 74th Annual National Land & Range Judging Contest hosted over 1,000 students and 199 teams from 39 states from April 29th through May 1st, 2025, to compete in El Reno, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) is the primary host of the National Land and Range Judging Contest, with additional sponsorship from 60 sponsors. In addition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the OCC Soil Health Team, and Conservation District Employees play a significant role in the event's annual success. The event reflected students as leaders of the next generation of conservationists.

Partnerships

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OCC works closely with the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to increase voluntary conservation programs and opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and other land users across Oklahoma.

This partnership, formed during the Dust Bowl, has continued to have a lasting impact on Oklahoma's natural resources. Several of our local conservation districts share office space with NRCS staff, aiding in daily collaboration on locally identified conservation priorities.

Oklahoma Watershed Dams

Since the **early 20th century**, Oklahoma has led the nation in soil and water conservation, pioneering the use of flood control watershed dams. Oklahoma built the **nation's first watershed dam** in **1948**, quickly rooting this unique approach to flood control and conservation into the Oklahoma landscape. Today, **2,107 watershed dams spread across 61 counties** are quietly protecting lives and property. Oklahoma's Watershed Program is a nationally recognized leader for its **stewardship**, **innovation**, and **commitment to protecting** the dams that protect Oklahoma.

Watershed Dam Fast Facts:

- **9 out of 10** Oklahomans live within **20 miles** of a flood control dam (that's **92.9%!**)
- Protect over **2,000 county and highway bridges**
- Provide **flood prevention for nearly 300,000 acres** of agricultural land
- Protects **tens of thousands** of homes and businesses
- Trap **19 million tons of sediment** yearly that would otherwise end up in major streams or lakes, like Lake Texoma!

Watershed dams work to protect life & property by minimizing downstream flooding.

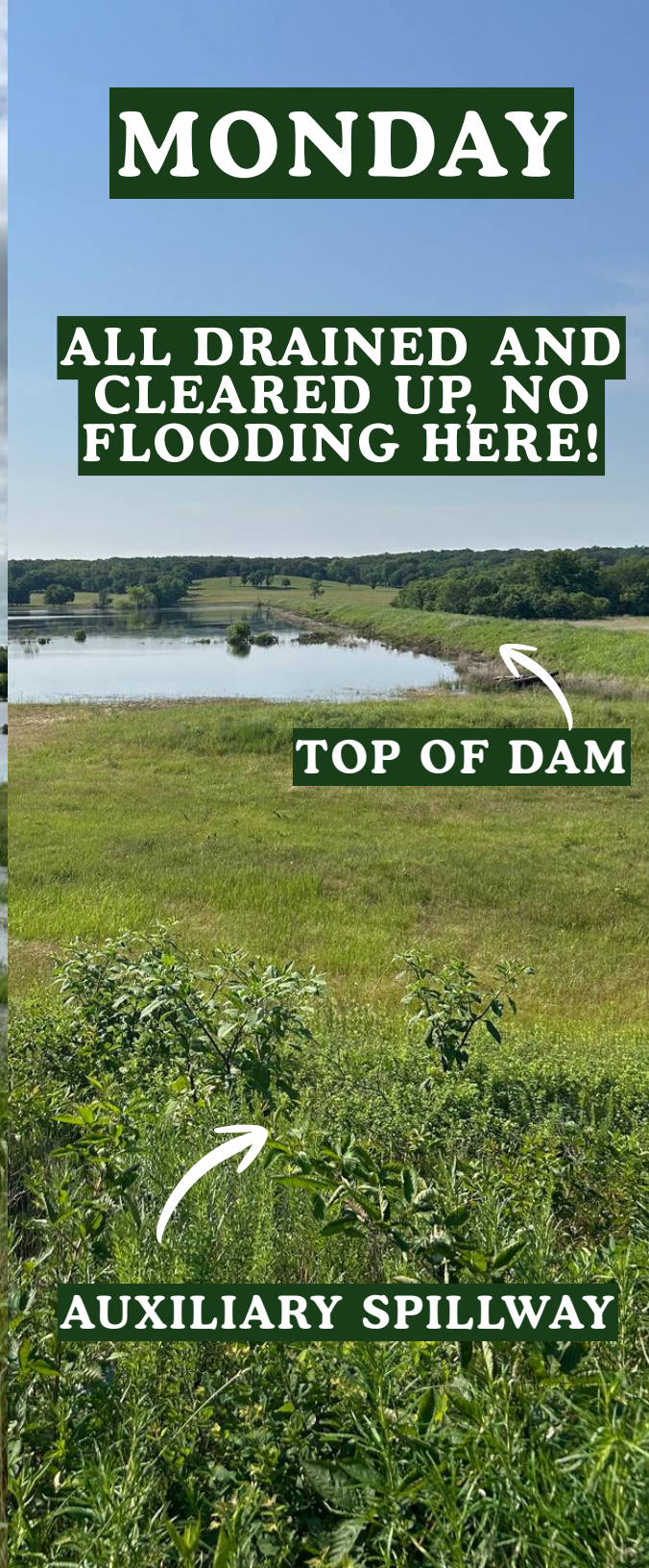
Barnitz #30

Many of the minor repairs and maintenance on the 2,107 dams can be performed by **Conservation District Watershed Aides.**

For larger projects, such as this principal spillway outlet pipe pictured above, external construction contractors are required. Many of our dams that are **over 50 years old** require significant repair.


FRIDAY
TOP OF DAM
AUXILIARY SPILLWAY


FRIDAY
AUXILIARY SPILLWAY


MONDAY
ALL DRAINED AND CLEARED UP, NO FLOODING HERE!
TOP OF DAM
AUXILIARY SPILLWAY

CONSERVATION PRACTICES HELP TO CONTROL FLOODING

According to the **Oklahoma Mesonet, April 2025** was the wettest since **1942!** Oklahoma's network of **2,107 flood control dams** prevented an estimated **$25.76 million** in flood damage in April. Reports verified that **26 auxiliary spillways flowed** on April 29th and April 30th. Conservation District and NRCS staff worked together to **inspect dam performance and identify potential issues.** Routine maintenance of the dams by local conservation districts and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission is a key factor in the lack of reported damage. Dams, like highways and bridges, must be maintained regularly to continue benefiting from them.

7-Day-Benefits

Oklahoma - $12.866 million in damage prevented

Tillman County - $1 million in damage prevented
- 10 dams in Jack Creek Watershed - $613,000
- 2 dams in Deep Red Run Watershed - $311,000
- 1 dam in Middle Deep Red Run Watershed - $35,000

Wildhorse Creek Watershed - $2.278 million in damage prevented
- 107 dams in Carter, Garvin, Murray & Stephens Counties

Rush Creek Watershed - $2.053 million in damage prevented
- 54 dams in Garvin, Grady & Stephens Counties

Roaring Creek Watershed - $479,000 in damage prevented
- 40 dams in Grady County

April 2025 Benefits

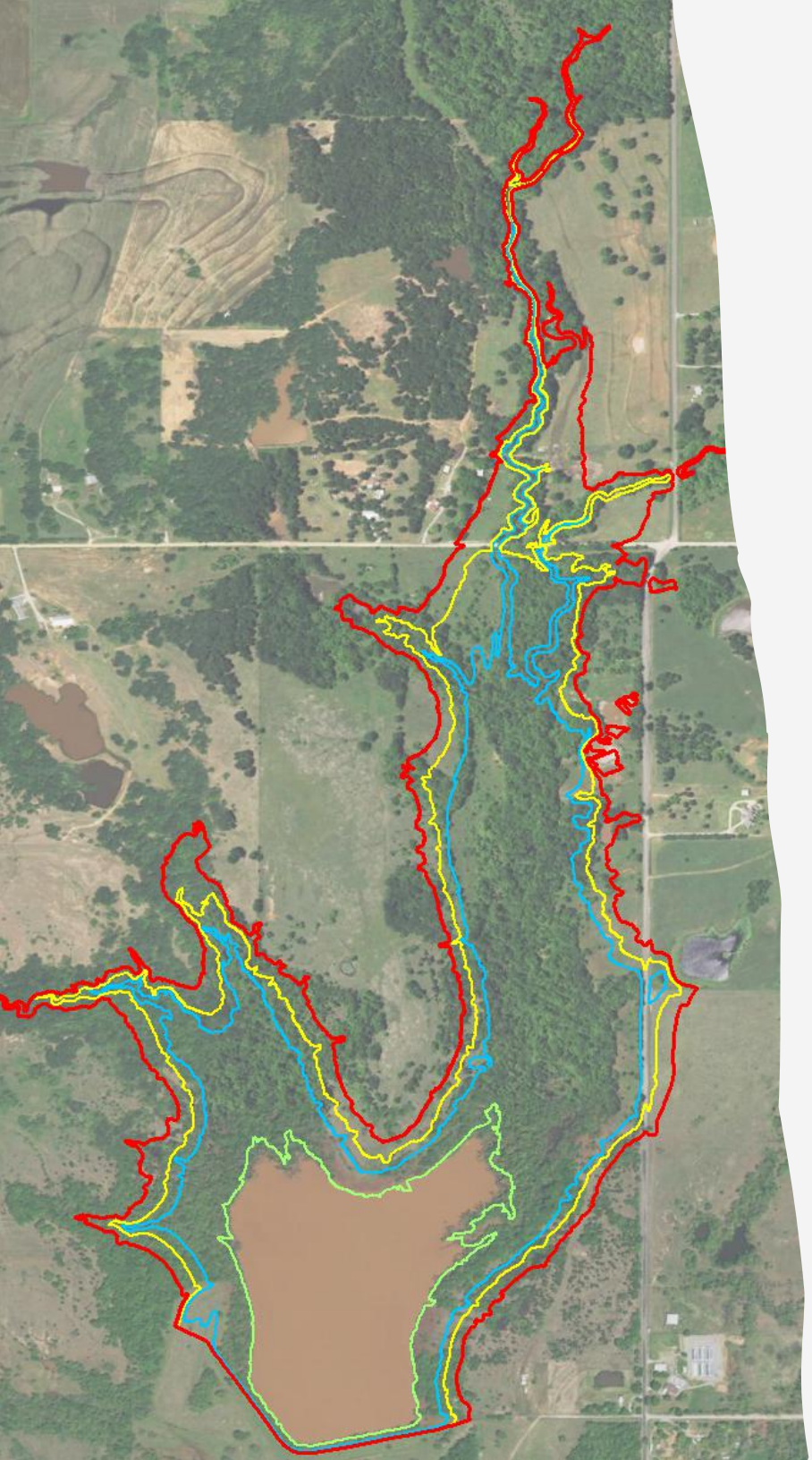
Oklahoma - $25.764 million in damage prevented

Tillman County - $1.413 million in damage prevented, total rainfall = 15.47 inches
- 10 dams in Jack Creek Watershed - $669,000
- 2 dams in Deep Red Run Watershed - $666,000
- 1 dam in Middle Deep Red Run Watershed - $48,000

Wildhorse Creek Watershed - $3.478 million in damage prevented, total rainfall = 13.59 inches
- 107 dams in Carter, Garvin, Murray & Stephens Counties

Rush Creek Watershed - $2.813 million in damage prevented, total rainfall = 12.57 inches
- 54 dams in Garvin, Grady & Stephens Counties

Roaring Creek Watershed - $873,000 million in damage prevented, total rainfall = 10.21 inches
- 40 dams in Grady County



Watershed Dam Easement Mapping Project

Maintaining data on our flood control dam systems not only ensures long-lasting benefits but also digitizes the records and easements around them.

Our agency and district staff have been collaborating on this project since the fall of 2022 and are working diligently to create an interactive, publicly available online map showing various information.

These maps show not only physical dimensions of the dam, but also any property easements that Conservation Districts have to prevent damage to the dam and downstream development that could increase risk to life and property. Conservation Districts respond to over 15,000 Okie tickets (call before you dig) a year that could potentially lead to damage to the public safety system, making this mapping project invaluable.

Some numbers from the project:

- Over 8,000 easement outlines mapped
- Currently, there are 1,605 of 2,107 sites with “complete” coverag,e meaning:
  - Dam, spillways, and the majority of the flood pool are covered through the top-of-dam elevation. Some far-off tributaries might not be covered.
- **Other things we map:**
  - Flood pool elevations:
    - Principal spillway
    - Auxiliary/Emergency Spillway
    - Effective top of dam
    - Effective top of dam + 5 feet


Semillas
Seeds
JOHN
BURLESON

Soil Health Implementation Program (SHIP)

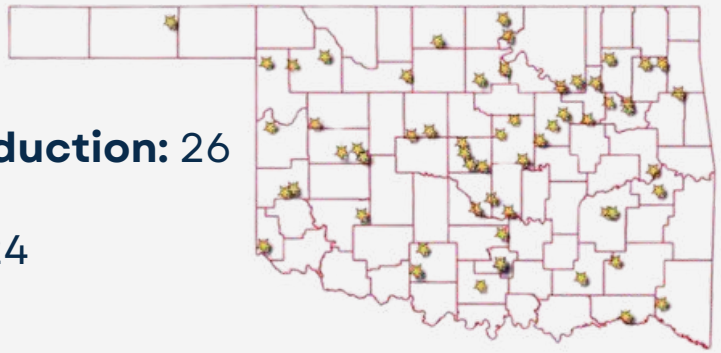
The **Soil Health Implementation Program (SHIP)** is an initiative to **advance soil health** and **regenerative agricultural practices** across the state of Oklahoma. SHIP aims to empower **crop, livestock, and urban** agricultural producers who are committed to elevating their **soil health management strategies.**

60
Oklahoma Producers
Reached in 2025

38,662
Acres
Impacted

21,193
Acres
of paid service

Producers Reached:



Combo Production: 26
Crop: 3
Livestock: 24
Urban: 7

> We're beyond grateful for the opportunity, and SHIP is going to be a game changer for our land, our operation, and our future. Being able to ask anyone on the team for their expert opinion gives us peace of mind with making important decisions.
>
> **Wyatt Lohman, SHIP Participant**

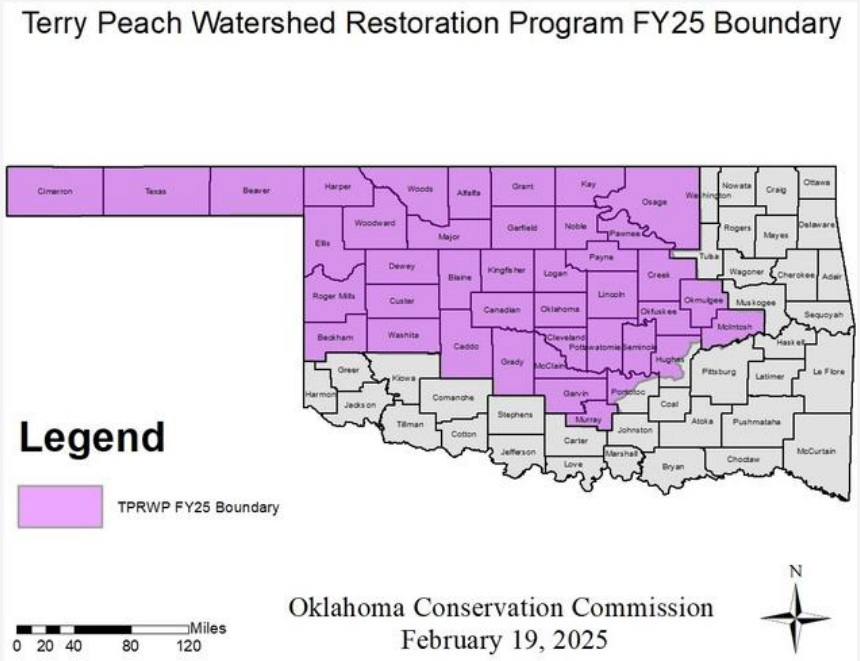
Invasive Woody Species

The **Land Management Division** created a pilot program to manage and eradicate invasive woody species in the **North Canadian River Watershed** through the **Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act**. Today, the program's coverage area has expanded to **41 counties** to assist more landowners.

Local conservation district Land Management Technicians perform brush management duties to **prevent loss of life and property** in local communities and rural infrastructure by using **prescribed fire** and **mechanical brush clearing**.

Invasive Woody Species Cost Share:

- Provided up to **$50,000** per land owner with Eastern Red Cedar, Saltcedar, or Mesquite on their land
- **400+ applications** received in the inaugural program year
- **$3.7 million** total in funds obligated to the program



Making an Impact:

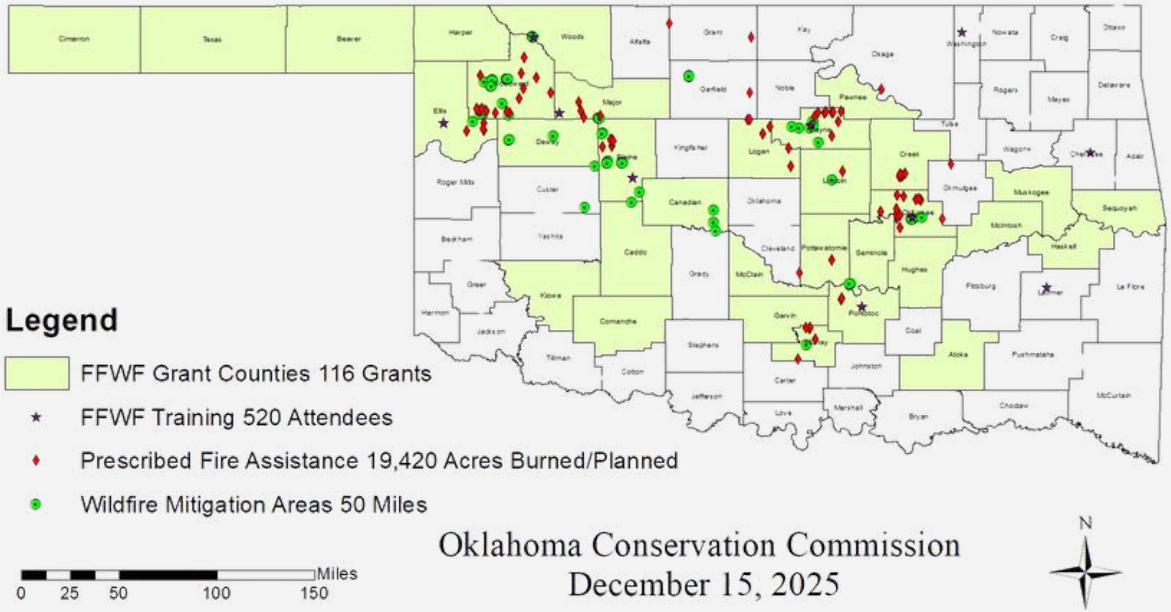
2025 by the Numbers

- 🔥 **59** Brush Free Zones created
- 🔥 **5,000+** Acres burned through prescribed fire cost share
- 🔥 **$100k+** Paid out to landowners for prescribed fire assistance

Fighting Fire With Fire

As part of the **Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act**, the Fighting Fire with Fire Program was established alongside Oklahoma State University's Extension office to bring **prescribed fire training** to local and rural **landowners, fire departments, and prescribed burn associations (PBA)**.

After attending a training, PBAs and fire departments are eligible to apply for **financial assistance** to purchase equipment and perform prescribed burn plans. The goal of this program is to **equip people** throughout the state with the **tools, knowledge, and skills** required to safely and effectively hold prescribed burns to **mitigate wildfire risk**.



Making an Impact:

2025 by the Numbers

- **116** Grants Awarded
- **19,420** Acres Burned/Planned
- **50** Miles of wildfire mitigation area established

Water Monitors

Mulched Cedars

Wildlife/Soil Health Benefits

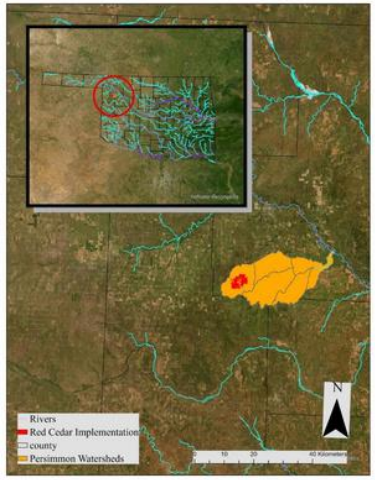
Terry Peach Monitoring

Project Goals:

Assess the hydrologic, vegetation, and soil health changes following removal of the invasive woody species Eastern Red Cedar.

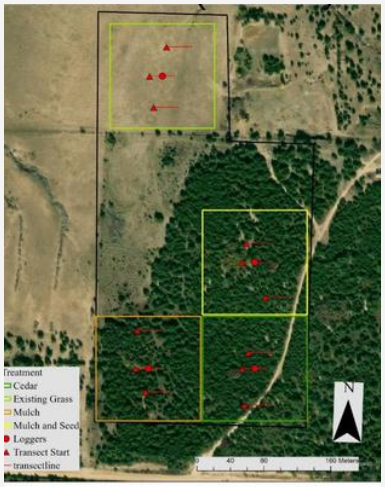
Study Area

- Persimmon Creek Watershed
  - Tributary of North Canadian River
  - 110,000 acres
  - Goal of 1,000 acres of removal in headwaters



Study Design

- Randomized block design
- 4 blocks with 4 treatments
  - Cedar Control
  - Existing Grass
  - Cedar Removal - Mulch
  - Cedar Removal - Mulch & Seed



Preliminary Data (May-Sept. 2025)

Depth	Cedar	Inter canopy	Grass	Mulch	Seed
0-15	9.1%	13.7%	15.9%	11.7%	16.2%
15-30	9.3%	13.5%	22.1%	13.6%	19.1%
30-45	11.1%	10.7%	22.2%	14.9%	20.6%
45-60	12.1%	12.1%	22.3%	19.3%	22.4%
Gallons / Acre of Water more than Cedar			51,488	14,560	44,832

Caveats

- Cause
- Timeframe
- Vegetation
- Regionality
- Mulch
- Q & G

Vegetation & Soil Health

- Pre- and Post-Monitoring
- Vegetation
  - Composition
  - Diversity
  - Cover
- Soil Health
  - Infiltration
  - Soil chemistry
  - Worm activity

Hydrology

- Continuous soil moisture monitoring
  - 60cm depth in each treatment
  - Variability in cedar plots
- Weather Station
  - Precipitation
  - Evapotranspiration
- Modeled improvements in groundwater recharge and discharge

Moving Forward

- Continuous soil and weather monitoring
- Yearly vegetation and soil health monitoring
- Monitor Persimmon Creek for flow, chemistry, and biology
- Track changes in vegetation, soil health and hydrology

Oklahoma Unpaved Roads Program

Cherokee County Before

Cherokee County After

The Unpaved Roads Program works to create a **better unpaved county road system** with a **reduced negative environmental impact on priority water resources** in Oklahoma. The program focuses on best management practices (BMPs) that reduce the **impact of sediment** and **road runoff to streams, rivers, and drinking water supplies** while **reducing** long-term unpaved **county road maintenance costs**.

The program is designed to fund work on public roads with **unbound road surfaces**. Projects are selected based on several criteria, with preference given to those in **priority watersheds**. All Oklahoma counties are eligible to apply for project funding.

Up to **$75,000** in grant funding is available for approved projects that meet the application criteria.

> "Alfalfa County District 2 cannot express enough how grateful we have been to be approved for four Unpaved Roads Grants. The knowledge & helpfulness our entity has gotten from the Commission and the training received has been an absolute game changer for us."
>
> **- Mike Roach, Alfalfa County District 2 Commissioner**

Making an Impact:

2025 by the Numbers

- **38** Grants Awarded
- **14** Trainings Held
- **14** Project Partners


Beaver River


Largemouth Bass


Cooper Creek
Fathead Minnow


Turkey Creek


Boggy Creek


Turkey Creek

Rotating Basin Program

The **Water Quality Division** has developed a strategy to monitor small feeder streams on a **rotational basis** to assess the impacts of nonpoint source pollution on the state's water resources.

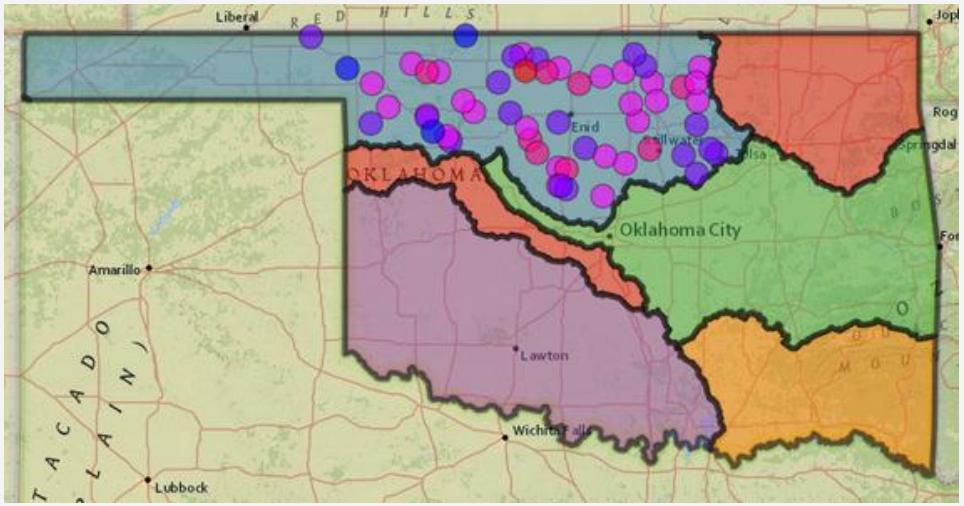
Each year, monitoring begins in one basin, where streams are **monitored for two years**. Using this rotation, **all basins and 250 streams are monitored every five years**, and then the rotation begins again.

Monitoring is used to:

- Determine the beneficial use status of streams
- Collect information on sources of pollution
- Evaluate the success of past and current restoration projects
- Gather data for planning and implementing future projects

Through its Rotating Basin Program, Oklahoma has removed over 100 streams from the EPA's impaired/polluted list.

Oklahoma consistently leads the nation in improving water quality in its smaller streams. Almost every year, Oklahoma **leads the nation** in **phosphorus reduction** in our water. In fact, **over 25% of all phosphorus removed** from streams in the United States is removed by Oklahoma. We have historically **ranked 2nd or 3rd** nationwide in **nitrogen removal**.



Our most recent cycle of rotating basin monitoring (Cycle 5) included streams in the **Upper North Canadian, Upper Arkansas, and Cimarron River** basins. Most streams were in **fair condition**, though several had higher E. coli concentrations than in previous monitoring cycles. **Additional monitoring** will be needed to determine whether changes in bacterial concentrations were driven by **anomalous weather patterns or land-use changes** within the Basin.

GRDA Grand River Dam Authority

OKLAHOMA Water Resources Board

OKLAHOMA Environmental Quality

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Septic Tank Remediation

The **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality** receives numerous complaints each year regarding **sewage surface runoff** from **failing septic tanks.** Many of these complaints are within a short distance of an **Oklahoma water body**, leading to higher rates of **nonpoint source pollution.** The cost of replacing a failing septic system ranges from **$3,000 to over $16,000.** Many Oklahomans have limited resources to afford a new system, which could result in **displacement from their homes.** Working with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, ODEQ, and the Grand River Dam Authority, the OWRB provided **$300,000** in principal forgiveness loan to OCC to implement a statewide septic tank replacement program.

We've found that some of our most meaningful work doesn't just happen with large-scale infrastructure; it starts right in the **backyards of Oklahoma families**. This proactive model protects our public health and safeguards Oklahoma's water quality at its source.

> "I've lived in my house for over 30 years. I don't know what I would have done without this program. My income is very limited, so I couldn't afford to put a new system in on my own. I was considering selling my house, but this program was a big help."
>
> **Marcella B., Stroud, OK**

Making an Impact:

2025 by the Numbers

- **19** Counties Served
- **$295k** Awarded to homeowners
- **34** Septic systems replaced

Oklahoma Wetlands Program

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission has been the state's **lead wetlands agency** since 1990.

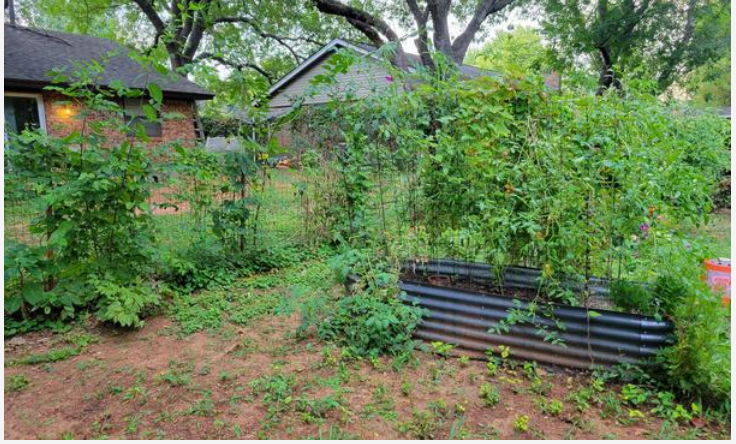
The Oklahoma Wetlands Program aims to improve the **quantity, quality, and biological diversity** of Oklahoma wetlands through voluntary wetland conservation, technical assistance, outreach, and the development of practical, data-driven tools.

OCC focuses on developing **science-based tools and applications** to support wetland management, advance wetland research, and ultimately improve the quantity and quality of wetlands in Oklahoma.

$100,000 initial state appropriations equate to **$11,000,000** in grant funds for **brush removal** and **wetlands development.**

Making an Impact:
2025 By the Numbers

- **321** Wetlands Assessed
- **5,452** Acres Restored or Enhanced
- **14** Project Partners




DOES YOUR YARD MAKE THE CUT?
COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROJECT
YARD BY YARD


COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROJECT
YARD BY YARD


COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROJECT
YARD BY YARD


COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROJECT

Wildlife Habitat Grant Program & Yard x Yard

About the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's Yard by Yard program and Okies for Monarchs are offering this program to provide voluntary, incentive-based payment to reimburse participants for native plant purchases used in creating new wildlife habitat benefiting insects and birds.

Program Successes

- **216** Wildlife Habitat Grant applications
- **33** Projects funded
- **3,809** Native plants planted
- **7,620** Square feet of new wildlife habitat planted

About the Yard by Yard Program

The Oklahoma Association of Conservation District's Yard by Yard program is a voluntary program for urban conservationists to make a difference in their own yard. The certification program focuses on introducing native plants, improving soil health, conserving water, creating wildlife habitat, and enhancing food production in urban spaces.

Program Successes

- **672** Applications
- **281** Yards certified

District

Innovation Growth

Program

The **District Innovation Growth Program** is an opportunity for districts to deliver unique, innovative services to their communities. Five districts were awarded $10,000 to fund their projects. Qualified proposals met the district's conservation mission, were outside of the district's normal course of business, and had plans to involve district director participation. The following were the funded DIG projects for FY25.

Sowing the Future: Implementing Hydroponic Agriculture at Fairview High School

Major County Conservation District is using $10,000 in DIG funding to install a hydroponic growing system at Fairview High School's greenhouse, partnering with Fairview FFA. The soil-free system will teach students sustainable farming techniques and encourage critical thinking about food security and environmental stewardship, and provide fresh produce for school programs and the local community.

Hoop Houses for Local Schools

Murray County Conservation District is using $10,000 in DIG funding to partner with schools to install and maintain hoop houses throughout the county. The district will provide technical support and maintenance during breaks, while students handle daily operations during the school year. Students will gain hands-on experience learning about soil health, pollinators, and healthy lifestyle habits. The project aims to inspire families to start gardens and become more conscious of their food sources, with the produce used in Family and Consumer Science and Agriculture classes.

Conservation on the Move: Traveling Conservation Classroom

Noble County Conservation District is using $10,000 in DIG funding to create "Conservation on the Move," a mobile educational roadshow. The district will convert an enclosed trailer into a traveling classroom equipped with hands-on learning tools, including an enviro-scape, erosion table, augmented reality sandbox, educational books, and pollinator activities. The wrapped trailer will serve as a conservation awareness billboard while bringing educational experiences directly to schools, civic groups, and community events, benefiting all ages and demographics.

Greenhouse for Conservation & Community: Native Plant Nursery & Educational Partnership

North Caddo Conservation District will use $10,000 to build a greenhouse to grow plants, flowers, and native species. Growing native plants helps protect local wildlife and supports healthy, sustainable landscapes. The district will build the greenhouse and provide starting materials. Local schools will help maintain the greenhouse and grow plants for future seasons. Students will learn hands-on skills in growing plants, conservation, marketing, and business.

Great Dragon Balls of Fire! Facilitating & Enhancing Prescribed Burn Practices Using Unique Ignition Tools

Woods County Conservation District will use $10,000 in DIG funding to purchase "Dragon Eggs" (aerial ignition devices) to expand prescribed burning and wildfire prevention efforts. These tools will be made available to local farmers, prescribed burn groups, and fire departments to control invasive species in hard-to-reach areas like deep canyons and brush piles. The district will partner with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to educate people on their use. Dragon Eggs will work alongside other tools to reduce cedar trees, improve soil health, prevent wildfires, and protect water resources, ultimately restoring prairies and benefiting wildlife, pollinators, and farmers.

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2025 Impact Report

Thank you to our friends, partners, and Oklahomans who make the work that we do possible.

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