

# Caddo Creek Watershed Project

## Carter County, Oklahoma



### Protecting Our People - Protecting Our Natural Resources

*This is one of 129\* examples of how local, state and federal government agencies have worked together to utilize the Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Program to address natural resource needs and improve the quality of life for thousands of Oklahomans.*

#### Caddo Creek Watershed Project

The 217,000 acre Caddo Creek watershed is located in Carter, Murray and Stephens Counties. Twenty-eight flood control dams have been constructed in the watershed by the Arbuckle Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

Flooding was a common occurrence before the dams were constructed. In the period between 1923 and 1942 there were 21 major floods (those where flood water covered more than one-half of the flood plain) and 32 smaller floods. A major flood in 1957 caused over \$600,000 in damages. Floods damaged crops, pastures, fences and oil field installations, and killed livestock. They also caused soil erosion which deposited silt in streams.

In 1960 the Arbuckle Conservation District requested assistance from the NRCS in developing a watershed project that would consist of flood control dams and the installation of conservation practices. The 28 flood control dams were constructed between 1962 and 1979.

Caddo Creek Watershed Dam No. 13 (Lake Jean Neustadt), located seven miles north of Ardmore, serves as a municipal water source for 32,000 users in the City of Ardmore in addition to providing flood control. There are boat docks around the 462 surface acre lake which is open to the public for fishing.

Caddo Creek Watershed Dam No. 18 (Lake Scott King), located 6.5 miles northwest of Ardmore, also provides municipal water and is open to the public for fishing. It has 245 surface acres of water.



Caddo Creek Watershed Dam No. 13 (Lake Jean Neustadt) provides flood control and municipal water for the City of Ardmore.

#### Caddo Creek Watershed Project Benefits

- Provides \$2 million in annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- 800 acres of wetlands have been created or enhanced
- Provides flood protection for 695 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Sedimentation is reduced by 126,000 tons of soil annually

The Caddo Creek Watershed Project is one of 129\* projects in Oklahoma that have been planned and implemented by local people with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

2,107 NRCS-assisted flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$81 million in average annual benefits.

For additional information about watershed projects in the state visit the Oklahoma Conservation Commission website at: <http://conservation.ok.gov> or visit your local conservation district and NRCS office.