

Quapaw Creek Watershed Project

Lincoln 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.*

Quapaw Creek Watershed Project

The Quapaw Creek Watershed Project includes 38 flood control dams, all in Lincoln County. Two of the dams were designed as multipurpose structures that provide municipal water supplies and recreational facilities.

Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 15, known as Meeker Lake, is one of two dams that was constructed as a multiple purpose structure. In addition to flood control the Town of Meeker paid for 1,548 acre feet of additional water storage capacity for municipal water and recreational use.

The dam is located three miles southwest of Meeker and was constructed in 1970 by the Meeker Utilities Authority and the Lincoln County Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program

Meeker lake has 250 surface acres of water and five miles of shoreline. Recreational facilities include boat ramps, boat docks, primitive campsites, picnic areas, a pavilion, nature trail, and horseback riding trails.

The other dam in the watershed constructed as a multipurpose dam is Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 1, known as Sparks Reservoir. This dam was constructed in 1970. The Town of Sparks paid for an additional 150 acre feet of municipal water storage above that needed for flood water storage when the dam was constructed.

Severe flooding was a problem in the 98,000 acre watershed before the dams were built. From 1941 to 1960 there were 49 major floods (flood waters covering more than one-half of the flood plain) and 49 smaller floods. There were four major floods in 1941 and three major floods in 1944, 1948, 1950, 1957 and 1960. Damages from floods averaged \$225,000 annually. These floods destroyed crops, drown livestock, and washed out roads, bridges and fences.

Quapaw Creek Watershed Project Benefits

- Dams provide \$1.7 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 374 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for 15 major bridges and many smaller bridges and county roads
- 500 acres of wetlands have been created or enhanced
- Sedimentation is reduced by 79,000 tons of soil annually

The Quapaw 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.

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.



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