

# Robinson 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.*

### Robinson Creek Watershed Project

The Robinson Creek Watershed Project encompasses 40,320 acres in the southeast corner of Lincoln County. The project was planned and implemented by the Lincoln County Conservation District, City of Prague and Lincoln County Commissioners with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

Severe erosion and flooding was occurring in the watershed prior to implementation of the watershed project. Floods occurred two or more times each year causing an average of \$75,000 in annual damages. Over 80 landowners farmed 2,500 acres of flood plain land in the watershed in the early 1950s-60s. This land frequently flooded destroying crops and fences, and eroding the land.

A watershed project plan was developed in 1978 by the Lincoln County Conservation District that included the construction of 11 flood control dams and the installation of conservation practices. Five dams were constructed between 1981 and 1985.

The City of Prague and the Lincoln County Commissioners became cosponsors of the project to develop one of the dams into a city water supply and a recreational area. The city paid for an additional 1,951 acre feet of water storage above that needed for flood control for municipal water and recreational use when Dam No. 4M was constructed.

Recreational facilities around Dam 4M, known as Prague Lake, include boat ramps, fishing areas including a fishing dock and handicapped-accessible picnic spaces. Hiking, cycling and equestrian trails have been added as well as RV hook-ups and handicapped-accessible bathrooms and showers.

An additional average annual benefit of \$225,000 could be realized if the remaining six planned flood control dams were constructed.

### Benefits of the Five Flood Control Dams in the Robinson Creek Watershed Project

- Provides \$556,719 in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 2,500 acres of floodplain
- Provides flood protection for bridges and county roads
- Provides flood protection for 80 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Sedimentation is reduced by 34,000 tons of soil annually

The Robinson 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.

