

# Boiling Springs Creek Watershed Project

## Dam No. 1

### Latimer County, Oklahoma



*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.*

## Boiling Springs Creek Watershed Dam No. 1

The Boiling Springs Watershed, 5,160 acres in size, is located nine miles west of Wilburton in Latimer County. Dam Number 1 was constructed in 1973 by local project sponsors with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The Quachita Mountains Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council and the Latimer County Conservation District, serving as local watershed project sponsors, requested assistance from NRCS in developing a watershed plan for the Boiling Creek Watershed in 1971.

The plan called for the construction of one flood control dam and the installation of conservation practices to control flooding, erosion and sediment in the watershed. Local sponsors obtained the easements and rights of way and the NRCS provided engineering assistance and funding for construction of the dam.

Prior to construction of the dam severe flooding occurred in the watershed three to five times a year. Flooding destroyed crops, fences and roads, and drown livestock. School buses and mail delivery were often delayed due to flooded roads.

While most watershed projects include a series of dams this watershed is small in size and the dam is located in a place where it controls 53 percent of the drainage of the watershed.

The dam was originally designed and constructed as a low hazard dam, but it was reclassified by NRCS to high hazard due to homes constructed downstream. It is scheduled to be rehabilitated to bring it up to current dam safety standards.

## Boiling Springs Creek Watershed Project Benefits

- Dam provide \$37,000 in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 18 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for 3 bridges and county roads
- Created or enhanced 25 acres of wetlands
- Reduces sedimentation of streams and rivers by 4,516 tons of soil annually

The Boiling Springs 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 flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$90 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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August 2016

