

# Caney Coon Creek Dam No. 2M

## Coalgate Lake Coal County, Oklahoma



### Protecting Our People - Protecting Our Natural Resources

*This is one of 2,107\* 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.*

#### Caney Coon Creek Watershed Dam No. 2M

Caney Coon Creek Watershed Dam No. 2M, known locally as Coalgate Reservoir, is located two miles north of Coalgate, Oklahoma. The dam was constructed in 1965 by the City of Coalgate and the Coal 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.

The dam provides flood control, a source of water for the City of Coalgate and recreational areas.

When the Caney Coon Creek Watershed Project was developed in 1958 the population of Coalgate was 2,300 and growing. Thirteen water wells had been drilled between 1910 and 1953, but only five wells were still producing and they were only providing 160,000 gallons per day. Wells were not going to be an option in the future, so Caney Coon Watershed Dam No. 2 was planned as a multipurpose structure. The City of Coalgate paid for an extra 3,000 acre feet of water storage to be added to the flood control dam for a water supply.

The dam is one of three dams in the Caney Coon Watershed project, all in Coal County. These dams provide over \$357,000 in average annual benefits. The dams provide flood protection for 53 farms and ranches and numerous county roads and bridges.

Flooding occurred on a regular basis in the watershed before implementation of the watershed project often closing State Highways 3 and 31 and many county roads. With flooding occurring as many as six times a year farmers had been forced to convert much of their bottomland cropland to grasslands. Erosion was also a problem that was addressed in the watershed project by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners in applying conservation practices.

#### Rehabilitation of the Dam

The dam was originally designed as a low hazard dam with a 50-year design life. It was reclassified as a high hazard dam due to development downstream. Because of its age and it no longer met current high hazard dam safety criteria, the dam was rehabilitated in 2013.

Rehabilitation included removing and disposing of the existing concrete principal spillway and constructing a new concrete principal spillway to meet current NRCS requirements; and constructing a 300-foot-wide roller compacted concrete auxiliary spillway over the top of the dam.

The Caney Coon 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 flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$85 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.

