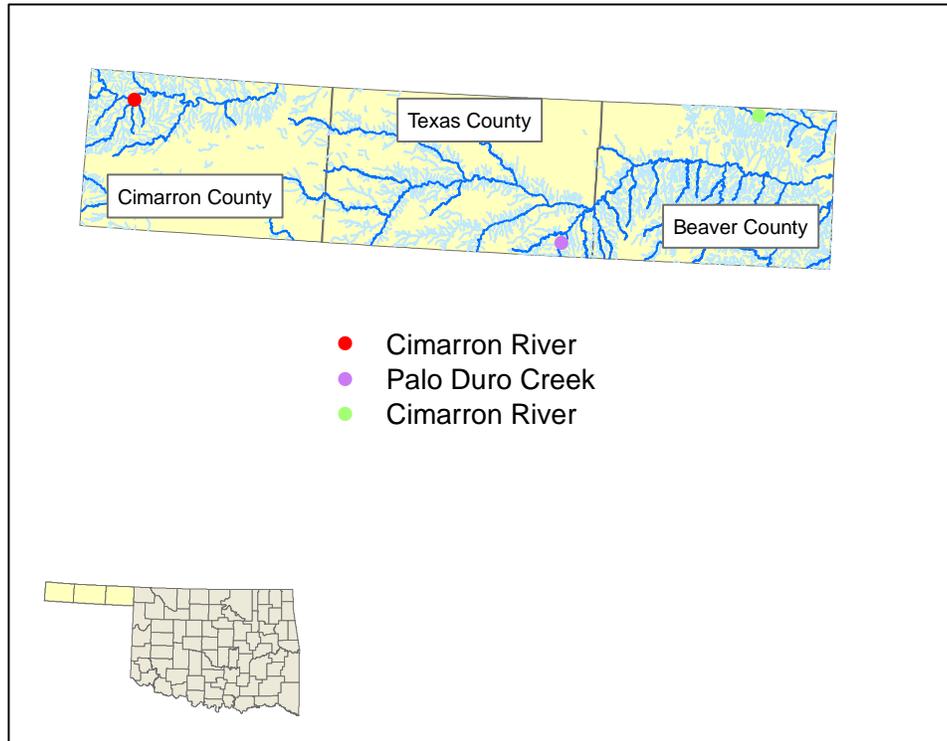




Know Your Stream: Rotating Basin Site Summary **Cimarron, Texas & Beaver Counties, Southwestern Tablelands Level 3 Ecoregion**

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) has the statutory responsibility of monitoring streams across the state in order to identify healthy streams as well as those which may be impacted by non-point source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution is pollution which runs off the land from diffuse sources rather than being discharged from a specific source. If a stream is found to be impaired by NPS pollution, the OCC may be able to implement a voluntary cost-share program to address the identified problems; however, streams must be monitored in order to select best management practices necessary for improvement. The OCC's "Rotating Basin Monitoring Program" provides the tools to assess and then restore water quality in Oklahoma.

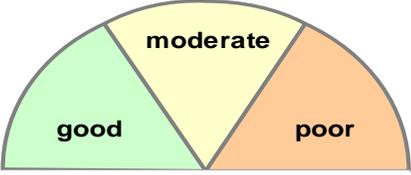
This leaflet gives a brief summary of the assessment results for the second 2-year cycle of the monitoring program for streams in Cimarron, Texas & Beaver Counties. The full report can be accessed online at: http://www.ok.gov/okcc/Agency_Divisions/Water_Quality_Division/WQ_Reports/WQ_Assessment_Reports or by calling (405) 522-4500 and requesting a copy of the "Rotating Basin Group 2, Cycle 2 Final Report."



OCC Rotating Basin monitoring sites within Cimarron, Texas & Beaver Counties.

Through the Rotating Basin Program, three streams in Cimarron, Texas & Beaver counties were sampled approximately every five weeks from June 2007-May 2009. Eighteen water quality parameters were measured or analyzed at each site visit. In addition, OCC staff conducted one fish and habitat assessment and up to four macroinvertebrate collections. Summer samples were also analyzed for *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* bacteria. Each site was compared to "high quality" streams in the ecoregion, streams known to have high quality fish populations, benthic macroinvertebrate populations, instream and riparian habitat, and water quality. All of the data collected has been distilled into a few key components in order to produce an index score of general, overall stream health, shown on the next page.

Summary of general stream health as determined by comparison to high quality streams in the Southwestern Tablelands ecoregion and by assessment using Oklahoma State Water Quality Standards†.

	<i>Moderate</i>		<i>Poor</i>
	Cimarron River (Beaver County)	Cimarron River (Cimarron County)	Palo Duro Creek
Overall Stream Health	33	26	7
Phosphorus	1	3	5
Nitrogen	1	5	5
Ammonia	5	5	5
Dissolved Oxygen	5	-5	-5
pH	5	5	5
Turbidity	5	5	-5
Salts (chloride, sulfate, TDS)	5	5	-5
Fish	5	3	1
Macroinvertebrates	1	Not Collected	1
Instream/Riparian Habitat	5	5	5
Bacteria	-5	-5	-5
<i>Scale of 1-5 with 5 being the best</i>			
<p>KEY: 1=significantly worse than high quality sites 3=not as good as high quality sites but not impaired 5=equal to or better than high quality sites -5=impaired by state standards</p>			

Note: Most streams in Oklahoma are impaired by at least one type of bacteria.

Cimarron River (Cimarron County) (OK720900-00-0180C): This stream is listed as impaired by state standards for elevated bacteria levels. The phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations were significantly elevated and the macroinvertebrate community was of significantly lower quality compared to high quality streams in the ecoregion.

Cimarron River (Beaver County) (OK620930-00-0010T): This stream is listed as impaired by state water quality standards low for dissolved oxygen and elevated bacteria. Phosphorus levels were slightly elevated compared to high quality sites. The fish community was of slightly lower quality compared to high quality sites in the ecoregion. Macroinvertebrates were not collected due to drought conditions which caused the total score to be reduced.

Palo Duro Creek (OK720500-02-0500G): This stream is listed as impaired by state standards for low dissolved oxygen and elevated turbidity, salts and bacteria levels. The fish and macroinvertebrate communities were of significantly lower quality relative to high quality sites in the ecoregion.

† The use of Oklahoma Water Quality Standards to assess streams and the 2008 results are described in the DEQ's 2008 Integrated Report, accessible online at:
http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/305b_303d/2008_integrated_report_entire_document.pdf

