

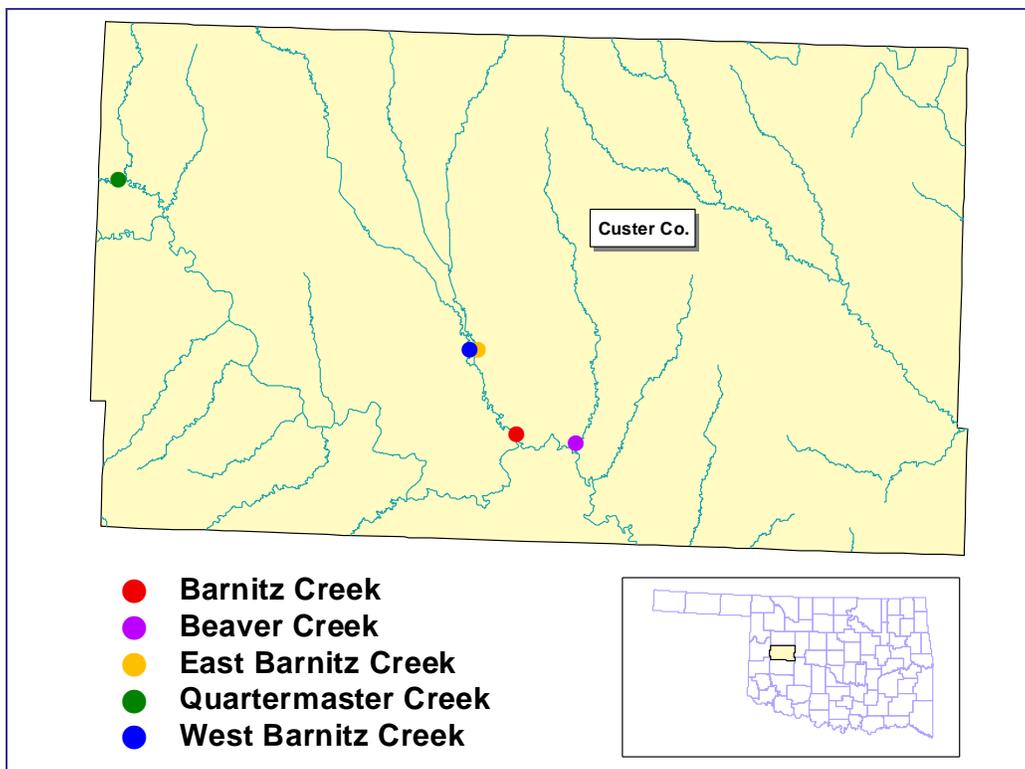


Rotating Basin Site Summary Central Great Plains Level 3 Ecoregion: Custer County

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 the 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 first cycle of the monitoring program for streams in Custer County. The full report can be accessed online at:

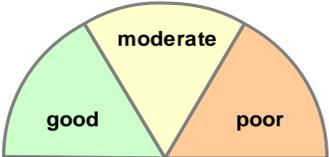
http://www.ok.gov/okcc/Agency_Divisions/Water_Quality_Division/WQ_Reports/WQ_Assessment_Reports
or by calling (405) 522-4500 and requesting a copy of the "Rotating Basin Year 4 Final Report."



OCC Rotating Basin monitoring sites within Custer County.

Through the Rotating Basin Program, five streams in Custer Co. were sampled approximately every five weeks from June 2004-June 2006. Nineteen 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 during this time. 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 Central Great Plains ecoregion and by assessment using Oklahoma State Water Quality Standards†.

	<i>Good</i>	<i>Moderate</i>			<i>Poor</i>
	Barnitz Creek	Quartermaster Creek	Beaver Creek	East Barnitz Creek	West Barnitz Creek
Overall Stream Health	51	43	41	35	23
Phosphorus	5	5	5	5	5
Nitrogen	5	5	5	5	5
Ammonia	5	5	5	5	5
Dissolved Oxygen	5	5	5	5	5
pH	5	5	5	5	5
Turbidity	5	5	5	5	5
Salts (chloride, sulfate, TDS)	5	-5	-5	-5	-5
Fish	5	5	5	5	-5
Macroinvertebrates	3	5	1	5	3
Instream/Riparian Habitat	5	5	5	5	5
Bacteria	3	3	5	-5	-5
<i>Scale of 1-5 with 5 being the best</i>					

KEY: 1=significantly lower than high quality sites
 3=not as good as high quality sites but not impaired
 5=equal to or better than high quality sites in the area
 -5=impaired by state standards

Barnitz Creek (OK310830-03-0200C): This stream is not impaired and is comparable to high quality sites in the ecoregion for all parameters.

Beaver Creek (OK310830-03-0190C): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for total dissolved solids and sulfates, indicators of high mineral content. All other values were good with the exception of macroinvertebrates, which had a significantly lower average value than high quality streams in the ecoregion.

East Barnitz Creek (OK310830-03-0210C): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for total dissolved solids and sulfates, indicators of high mineral content, and for bacteria, which may be associated with animal waste entering the stream.

Quartermaster Creek (OK310840-01-0060L): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for total dissolved solids and sulfates, indicators of high mineral content. All other values were good.

West Barnitz Creek (OK310830-03-0230C): This stream is on the state’s 303(d) list† as impaired for total dissolved solids and sulfates, indicators of high mineral content, and for bacteria. In addition, this stream’s fish community is impaired by state standards†.

† 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

