

Kickapoo Nations Creek Watershed Dam No. 1 Bell Cow Lake



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 resource needs and improve the quality of life for thousands of Oklahomans.*

Kickapoo Nations Creek Watershed Dam No. 1M Lincoln County, Oklahoma

Kickapoo Nations Creek Watershed Dam No. 1M, known as Bell Cow Lake, is located three miles northwest of Chandler, Oklahoma. The dam, one of 2,107 flood control dams in the state, provides multiple benefits for the citizens of Lincoln County and surrounding area.

The dam was constructed in 1990 by the City of Chandler and the Lincoln 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 was constructed to provide flood protection, a water supply for the City of Chandler and recreational areas. The recreational areas around the perimeter of the 1,070 surface acre lake include camp sites, RV hookups, restrooms, pavilions, picnic tables and 14.5 miles of equestrian trails.

The dam is one of five flood control dams that have been constructed in the Kickapoo Nations Creek Watershed. These dams provide an average of \$2 million in average annual benefits. Benefits include reduced urban and rural flood damages, reduced sedimentation in streams and rivers, recreational benefits, water supplies and protection of roads and bridges. If the remaining 15 planned dams in the watershed project were constructed, they would provide an additional \$700,000 in annual benefits.

Before the watershed project was implemented, flooding and severe soil erosion occurred in the watershed. Thousands of conservation practices were also installed in the watershed to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of the lakes.



"Bell Cow Lake is one of Chandler's most valuable assets; contributing in many ways to the growth and development of the City of Chandler and neighboring communities. Besides providing a large percentage of the region's water supply, Bell Cow Lake increases the quality of life by providing multiple avenues for recreation and leisure. The lake also attracts thousands of visitors each year which helps boost the local economy." James Melson, Chandler City Manager

The Kickapoo Nations Creek Watershed Project is one of 129 watershed 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 counties in the state and they provide over \$81 million in 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.