

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service





The Oklahoma Conservation Partnership

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Oklahoma's Keys to Success

- 1. Nonpoint Source Water Quality Monitoring
- 2. Strong, Effective Partnerships
 - Conservation Districts
 - USDA
 - Oklahoma Conservation Commission
 - EPA
 - Landowners



3. Locally-led, voluntary cost-share programs to install Conservation Practices

Part 1: Nonpoint Source Monitoring Program

- Monitors 245 3 5 order streams across the state
- Monitors upstream of permitted discharges, reservoirs, confluences, etc.
- Focus on pollutants for which the state has quantitative water quality standards
- Funded with EPA 319

Rotating Basin Monitoring Program



Part 1: Nonpoint Source Monitoring Program- continued

- In NPS Priority Watersheds, a paired watershed monitoring program monitors load reduction of critical parameters
- This monitoring has shown 60 – 70% reductions in-stream nutrient loading within 4 – 7 years of beginning implementation





Part 2: Strong, Effective Partnerships





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- Conservation Districts provide the locally-led link to landowners
- USDA funds installation of conservation practices, but also provides training and oversight for statefunded conservation plan-writers, as well as technical assistance for state funded conservation programs
 - Oklahoma Conservation Commission is the state natural resources conservation agency as well as the state lead for 319 which it uses to conduct water quality monitoring, education, and BMP installation
 - Landowners voluntarily adopt and maintain
 conservation practices and fund between 10 100%
 of the actual cost of installation and maintenance
- EPA funds the 319 program and has facilitated OK's unique approach to that program

Part 3: Locally-Led, Voluntary Cost-Share Programs to Install Conservation Practices

- USDA Programs
- State-funded Locally-Led Cost-Share
- EPA funded
 Conservation
 Practices (319)
- Landowner funded
 Conservation
 Practices







Bull Creek- NE OK

- 31,175 acre watershed
- 17 mile creek
- Wagoner, Mayes, and Rogers Counties in NE OK
- Landuse primarily pasture land
- Wheat, corn, and cattle production
- Listed on OK's 2002 303(d) list for turbidity, fecal bacteria, and dissolved oxygen

Bull Creek Watershed







Bull Creek

- Conservation Practice funding
 - EQIP and CSP invested approx. \$277,936
 - Conservation Districts provided approx. \$14,085 and landowners \$16,528 through the state cost-share program
- Practices installed included:
 - Pasture and rangeland planting on 169 acres
 - Brush management on 908 acres
 - Pest management on 3,431 acres
 - Forage harvest management on 281 acres
 - Prescribed grazing on 7,436 acres
 - 4,171 feet cross-fencing
 - 10 ponds
 - Conservation crop rotation on 216 acres
 - Conservation tillage on 948 acres
 - Nutrient management plans on 417 acres
 - 12,550 feet of terraces







Water Quality Results

- EPA 319 funded water quality monitoring has documented significant improvements in turbidity and E. coli bacteria
- Bull Creek was delisted from OK's 303(d) list for turbidity and E.coli.



Oklahoma Success Stories



http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/

Conservation Programs Work Streams With Good Things to Say

/ NPS Success Story.

Significant improvement in water quality due to implementation of conservation practices

"Fully supporting" Fish and Wildlife Propagation (FWP).

Healthy fish community and good values of indicators like dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity.

Supporting fish.

Healthy fish community, but at least one other water quality value does not meet state criteria.



Questions??

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