

# Quapaw Creek Watershed Project

## Dam No. 15 – Meeker Lake

### Lincoln County, Oklahoma



*This is one of 129\* 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.*

## Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 15

The Quapaw Creek Watershed Project includes 38 flood control dams in Lincoln County.

Quapaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 15, known as Meeker Lake, is one of two dams that have been constructed in the watershed as multiple purpose structures. The Town of Meeker paid for 1,548 acre feet of water storage capacity above that needed for flood control to be used for municipal water and recreational use.

The dam is located three miles southwest of Meeker and was constructed in 1970 by the Meeker Utilities Authority 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

Meeker Lake has 250 surface acres of water and five miles of shoreline. Recreational facilities include boat ramps, boat docks, primitive campsites, picnic areas, a pavilion, nature trail and horseback riding trails.

Severe and damaging floods occurred regularly in the watershed before the 38 dams were constructed. There were forty-nine major floods between 1941-1960 (those that flooded over 50 percent of the flood plain) and there were 49 minor floods. Major floods occurred five times in 1945 and 1959.

These floods destroyed crops, roads and bridges, and fences and eroded the land. The average annual flood damages were estimated at \$225,000 for the years 1941-1954 (1960 dollars).

## Quapaw Creek Watershed Project Benefits – 38 Dams

- Dams provide \$1.7 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 374 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for 15 major bridges and many smaller bridges and county roads
- Created or enhanced of 500 acres of wetlands
- Reduces sedimentation of streams and rivers by 79,000 tons of soil annually
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water

The Quapaw Creek 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.

2,107 flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$90 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.



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