

# Rainy Mountain Creek Watershed Project

## Kiowa County, Oklahoma

Protecting Our People - Protecting Our Natural Resources



*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.*

### Rainy Mountain Creek Watershed Project

The Rainy Mountain Creek Watershed project is located in Kiowa, Washita and Comanche Counties. Twenty-nine flood control dams have been constructed in the 210,000 acre watershed, all in Kiowa County.

The dams were built by the Kiowa County and Mountain View\* Conservation Districts with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program (Public Law 78-534).

Flooding was a common and serious problem in the watershed before the dams were constructed. In the years from 1926 to 1945 there were 52 major floods (those were water covered more than one-half of the floodplain) and 61 smaller floods. These floods caused an estimated \$232,000 in annual damages to crops, fences, livestock and county roads and bridges.

In 1960 the Kiowa County, Washita County and Mountain View Conservation Districts requested the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) in developing and implementing a watershed project to construct the flood control dams and install conservation practices. The 29 dams were constructed between 1964 and 1977.

\*The Mountain View Conservation District was consolidated into the Kiowa County and Washita County Conservation Districts in 2010.



Rainy Mountain Watershed Dam No. 10, one of 29 flood control dams in the watershed project.

### Rainy Mountain Creek Watershed Project Benefits

- Provides one million dollars in annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for bridges, county roads
- Provides flood protection for 315 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Sedimentation is reduced by 271,000 tons of soil annually
- The project has created or enhanced 1,700 acres of wetlands

The Rainy Mountain 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 and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

2,107 NRCS-assisted flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects, that also include thousands of conservation practices, provide over \$81 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.