

Brushy Peaceable Creek Watershed

Pittsburg County, Oklahoma



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

Brushy Peaceable Creek Watershed

The Brushy Peaceable Creek Watershed encompasses 212,192 acres, all in Pittsburg County except for 218 acres in Latimer County. Eighteen flood control dams have been constructed in the watershed by the Pittsburg County Conservation District with assistance from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

Before construction of the dams the flood plains in the watershed had severe flooding with major floods that flooded over one-half of the flood plain. These floods occurred on the average of one ever 1.6 years. The floods destroyed crops, roads and bridges and drown livestock. U.S. Highways 69 and 270, mail and school bus routes and other county roads and bridges were subject to flooding.

The Pittsburg County Conservation District requested assistance from NRCS in 1969 in developing a watershed plan to deal with the flooding and erosion occurring during high rainfall events.

This original plan called for the construction of 44 flood control dams including two dams for municipal water for the City of McAlester. The plan was later revised to delete the development of the two dams for municipal water supply when the City obtained adequate waters supplies from Lake Eufaula. Two additional dams were added to the plan. Currently there are 28 dams in the plan that have not been constructed due to lack of funds, problems in obtaining easements or other reasons.

Benefits of the Upper Brushy Peaceable Watershed Project -18 Dams

- Provides \$761,719 in average annual benefits from flood reduction
- Provides flood protection for highways, railroads and county roads and bridges
- Provides flood protection for 195 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Reduces sedimentation in streams and rivers by 20,409 tons of soil annually
- Created or enhanced 269 acres of wetlands

The Brushy Peaceable 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 flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$94 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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