

# Sallisaw Creek Watershed Project

## Adair and Sequoyah Counties, 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.*

### Sallisaw Creek Watershed

The Sallisaw Creek Watershed Project includes 34 flood control dams, 16 dams in Adair County and 18 dams in Sequoyah County.

The Adair County Conservation District and the Sequoyah County Conservation District, serving as local watershed project sponsors, requested assistance from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the NRCS in developing a watershed plan for the Sallisaw Creek that included flood control dams and conservation practices.

Before the dams were constructed flooding was a major problem in the watershed. Between 1938 and 1957 there were 26 major floods (flood water covered more than 50 percent of the floodplain) and 144 smaller floods. These floods destroyed crops, caused soil erosion and damaged roads and bridges.



Sallisaw Creek Watershed Dam No. 18M was constructed in 1965 as a multipurpose structure that provides flood control and municipal water for the City of Stilwell and rural water districts. The dam was constructed by the City of Stilwell with the assistance of the NRCS and Adair County Conservation District.

### Sallisaw Creek Watershed Project Benefits – 34 Dams

- Dams provide \$2.8 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 720 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for 10 bridges and several county roads
- Created or enhanced 591 acres of wetlands
- Reduces sedimentation of streams and rivers by 123,120 tons of soil annually

The Sallisaw 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 \$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.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as authorized by Trey Lam, executive director. Copies have not been printed but are available through the agency website, <http://conservation.ok.gov>.  
January 2018

