

OCC WETLANDS PROGRAM

Maggie Woods & Hattie Largent
Wetland Conservation Specialists
August 2026

OUR TEAM!



Dan Dvoretz
Sarah Gilmer
Hattie Largent
Maggie Woods
Brooks Tramell

(Left to Right)



WHAT IS A WETLAND?

- Shallow water
- Hydric (wet) soils
- Water adapted plants

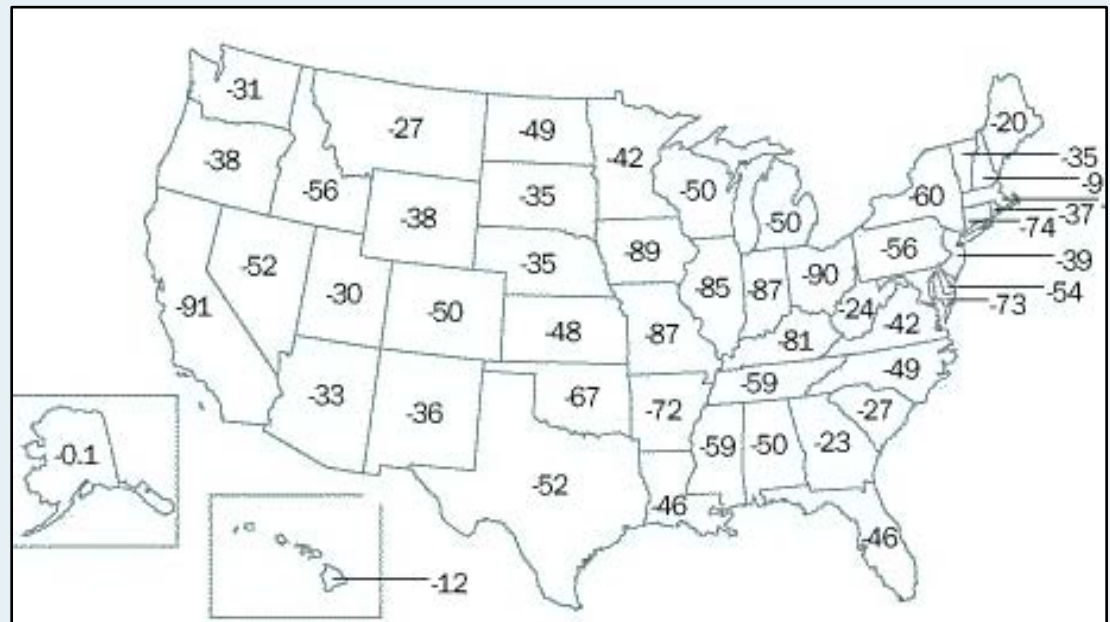


WETLAND BENEFITS

- Water quality improvement
- Flood reduction
- Aquifer recharge
- Wildlife habitat
- Recreational opportunities

LOSS OF WETLANDS

Currently, only about $\frac{1}{3}$ **of the wetlands** that were present in the late 1700s still exist. Loss of wetlands is the result of altered hydrology from human intervention and invasive species colonization.



Dahl TE (1990) Wetlands-losses in the United States, 1780's to 1980's. Washington, D.C., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report to Congress.



Nuisance “wet spots”



What can we do?

Restoration: return wetland to original condition

Creation: create a wetland where one did not exist historically

Enhancement: improve wetland functions beyond existing conditions



State and Private Funds

2026 ReNEW Projects

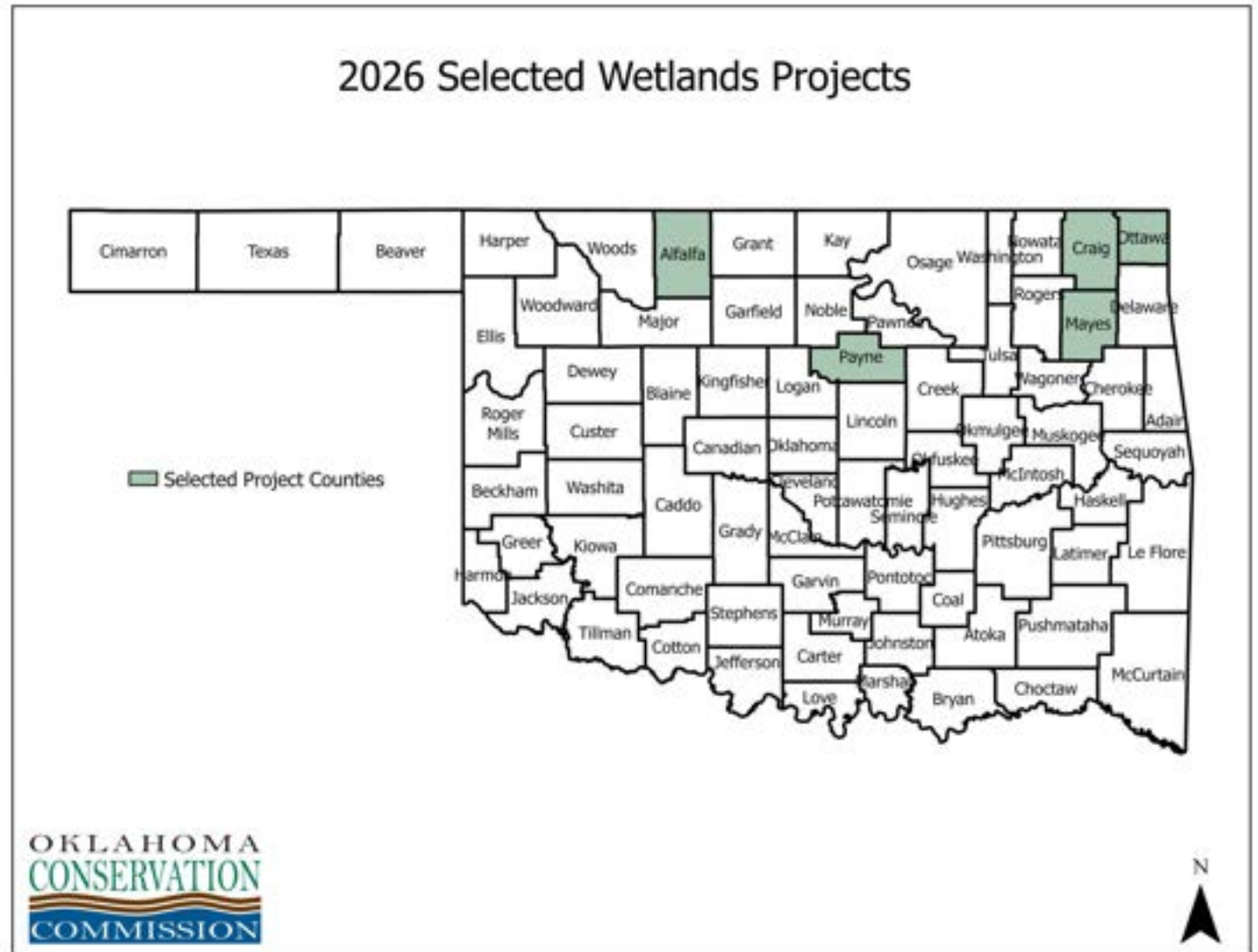
43

Applications

5

Projects

Design
Phase





Available Programs

- Application period and eligibility vary by program

STATE

FEDERAL

PRIVATE

State Funds

Restoring Natural Ecology in Wetlands (ReNEW)

PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE
APPLICANTS

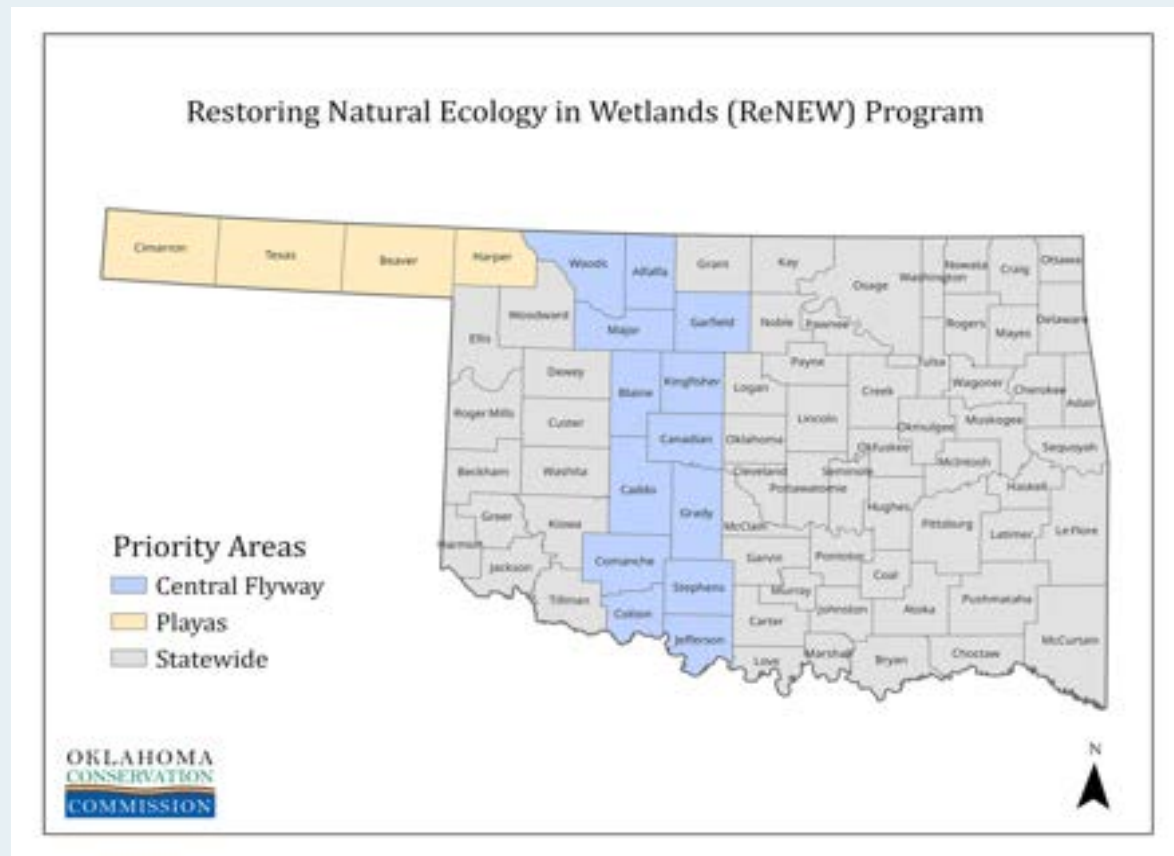
- State-wide, all wetland types eligible
- Restoration, enhancement, or creation

ELIGIBLE
PRACTICES

AVAILABLE
FUNDS

TIMELINE

FUND
DELIVERY





State Funds

Restoring Natural Ecology in Wetlands (ReNEW)

PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

AVAILABLE FUNDS

TIMELINE

FUND DELIVERY

Available Funds

- \$100,000 from state legislature
- 80% cost-share for completed practices

Application Period

August 17, 2026 – September 30, 2026

Timeline

- Selected applicants work with Wetland team to create restoration plan
- Projects completed by December 31, 2027

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION FORM

Please sign at next board meeting.

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Restoring Natural Ecology in Wetlands (ReNEW) Program
District Declaration of Participation

The _____ Conservation District

☐ Agrees to participate in accordance with program guidelines.

☐ Does not wish to participate at this time.

District Representative Signature

Date

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Restoring Natural Ecology in Wetlands (ReNEW) Program
Director Participation Form

The _____ Conservation District voted at their
_____ board meeting to

☐ Allow

☐ Not Allow

board members to apply for the ReNEW Cost-Share Program Year
_____. District board member(s) that will be making an
application are:

1. _____

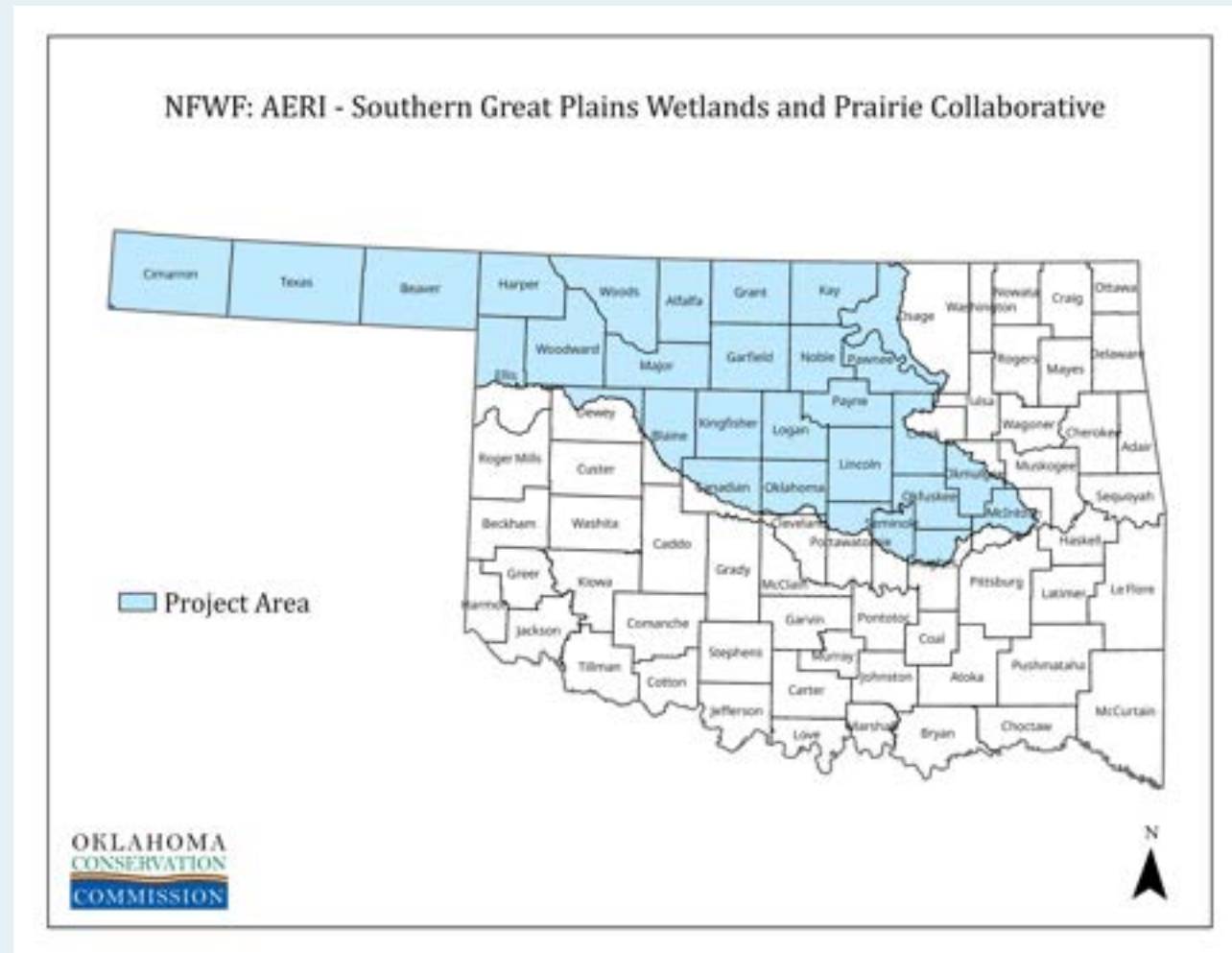
2. _____

District Representative Signature

Date

NFWF: America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (AERI)

- Depressional wetland restoration





Federal Funds

NFWF: America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (AERI)

PROGRAM

Available Funds

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- \$1million for Oklahoma wetland restoration

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- 90% cost-share for completed practices

AVAILABLE FUNDS

Application Period

8/17/26 – until funding is expended

TIMELINE

Timeline

FUND DELIVERY

- Grant ends 6/30/2029
- Projects require environmental compliance

PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE
APPLICANTS

ELIGIBLE
PRACTICES

AVAILABLE
FUNDS

TIMELINE

FUND
DELIVERY

Private Funds

Playa Restoration

Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, and Harper Counties

- Playa restoration cost-share
- Irrigated to dryland incentive payments

Application Period

8/17/26 – until funding is expended



Private Funds

NE Oklahoma

- Restoration of all wetland types

Application Period

8/17/26 – until funding is expended

PROGRAM

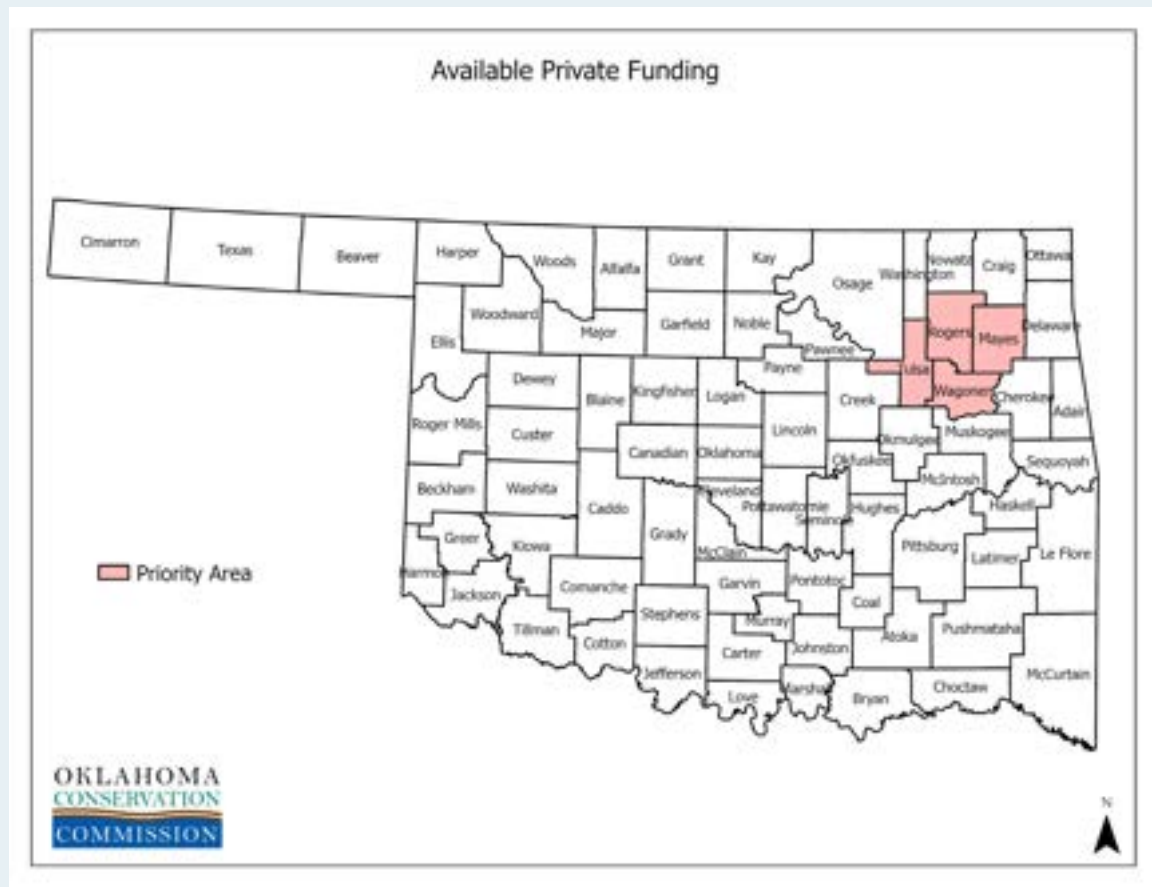
ELIGIBLE
APPLICANTS

ELIGIBLE
PRACTICES

AVAILABLE
FUNDS

TIMELINE

FUND
DELIVERY



Wetlands Assistance Application

- One application for all wetland cost-share opportunities!
- Available as a Microsoft Form or printable PDF
- 20 questions, approximately 10 minutes
- Link, QR code, and additional instructions can be found on our website



Wetlands Assistance Application

Please email printed applications to
wetlands@conservation.ok.gov

Wetland Assistance Application

Submit completed application to your local conservation district. Visit our website for program details and updates on expected review periods.

Applicant Information

1. Name

2. Does applicant's name match what is listed on the deed?
 Please select "No" if applicant is a lease or property is listed under an LLC or Trust.
☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Please enter the legal Property Owner on the deed

4. Applicant phone number

5. Is it okay to contact you through text messaging?
☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Email

7. Conservation District

8. Do you have a district cooperator agreement?
 If no and the applicant is selected, the applicant must agree to fulfill this requirement.
☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Enter the **latitude** and **longitude** of the area of interest on your property.
 Example: a frequently flooded spot
 This field is required for consideration. See the following instructions on the website for help:
<https://wetlands.ok.gov>
 Latitude Longitude

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Project Details

10. Does the project area have any indicators of being wet?
 Examples: standing water or moist soils at any time throughout the year.
☐ Yes ☐ No

11. How does the wet area get its water?
☐ Flooding from a river or creek
☐ Rainfall and runoff
☐ Groundwater
☐ Pumping from another water source

12. Project Summary
 Please describe your desired wetland outcomes. Why are you interested in this program?
 Why is restoration needed on your property? What do you envision your wetland looking like? What benefits are you interested in-gaining from restoration? What practices/restoration activities are you interested in implementing?

13. How involved do you want water management to be?
 We can help with water control structures, but wetlands with natural hydrology will work highest.
 If you do plan to use water control structures, managing them to mimic natural conditions will work higher than managing for a single use (waterfowl).
☐ Water flows in and out naturally with no human interventions
☐ Water flows in naturally and a berm with a set culvert controls water flowing out
☐ Water flows in naturally and actively managed water control structures control water flowing out.

14. What size (in acres) wetland are you looking for?

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15. Are you willing to install a native plant buffer around the wetland?
 Wetlands provide many environmental benefits, but they work best when they have a native plant buffer around them to help prevent sediments and excess nutrients from entering. This ideal buffer is at least 100ft wide around the wetland. Part of the restoration plan would include planting native seeds and/or fencing off area from cattle usage.
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable (surrounding land is already native vegetation)

Programmatic Questions

16. What other conservation programs are you enrolled in?
☐ OCE Soil Health Implementation Program (SHIP)
☐ OCE Invasive Woody Species Control Program
☐ OCE Prescribed Fire Assistance
☐ NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)
☐ NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
☐ NRCS Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
☐ NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
☐ USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
☐ ODWC Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)
☐ None

17. What funding sources are you interested in?
 OCE's Wetland Program receives funding from state allocations, federal grants, and private foundations. Projects using federal grant money may require a notice of the project for environmental compliance which can make the implementation process take longer. **Can select multiple.**
☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ Private

18. In an effort to highlight wetland projects, are you open to:
☐ hosting field days and be featured in publications
☐ being featured in publications only
☐ not interested in being featured
 We want to highlight wetland projects and encourage additional restoration, however, answering no does not disqualify applicants from the program.

19. Is your property open to public access?
 Answering no does not disqualify applicants from the program.
☐ Yes ☐ No

Page 3 of 3 <https://wetlands.ok.gov>

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- Application period open now
 - Application review (eligibility and ranking)
 - Project selection
 - Design and agreements
 - Construction
 - Reimbursement through district

Summary & Action Items

- Wetland restoration can benefit operations and financial assistance is available!
- Please direct all interested landowners to our Wetlands Assistance Application.
- Please add the district participation form to your September agenda and advertise the ReNEW Program.

CONSERVE.
PROTECT.
RESTORE.



<https://wetlands.ok.gov/>

THANK YOU!

Please reach out if you have any questions!

Maggie Woods
405-431-0958

Hattie Largent
572-206-6206



Wetlands Website