

Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC)

- Mission Statement:
 - To conserve, protect and restore OK natural resources
 - Work in collaboration with the conservation districts and other partners

OCC Divisions

- Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
- Conservation Programs
- District Services
- Water Quality

OCC, Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Division

- Carries out the federally-funded Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program
- Protect the public from hazards left as a result of past coal mining practices
- 100 percent federally funded from tax on active coal mine production
- [Hazards remediated by AML](#)



OCC Conservation Programs Division

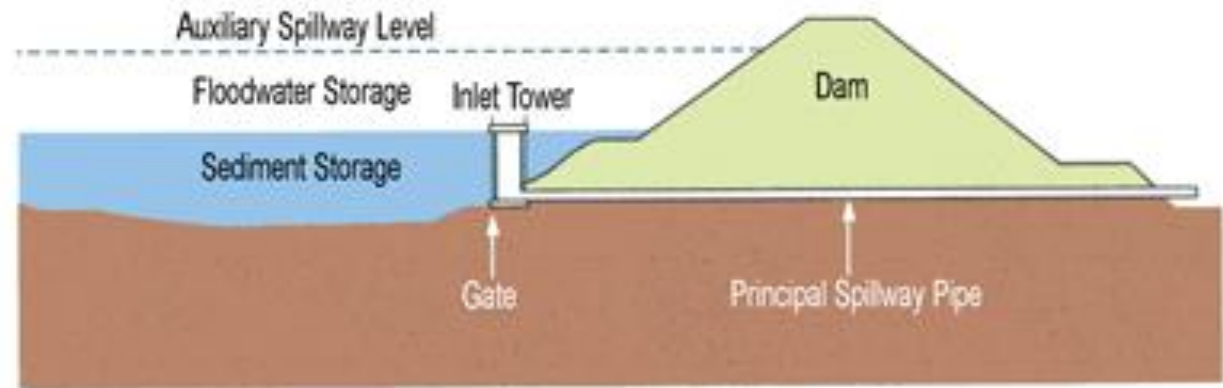
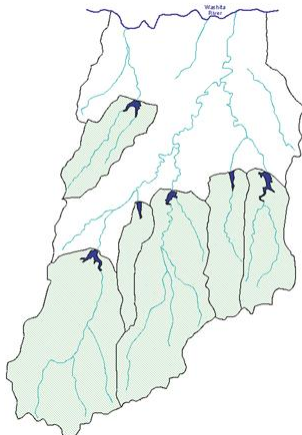
- [Small Watershed Program - Upstream Flood Control](#)
- [Flood Control Rehabilitation](#)
- [Locally-Led Conservation Cost-Share Program](#)
- [Conservation Education](#)

Small Watershed Program - Upstream Flood Control

- The division administers new construction of upstream flood control dams, the operation and maintenance of existing dams and with the rehabilitation of aging dams
- Operation and maintenance of almost 2,105 flood control dams is a major job for conservation districts
- Local sponsors for most of the projects

Upstream Flood Control

- Concept behind the upstream flood control program is to build small flood control dams on tributaries upstream from rivers or large streams



Upstream Flood Control: Benefits

- Protects 1,439 county and highway bridges.
- Provides flood prevention for 21,206 farms and ranches.
- Traps 9.4 million tons of sediment each year.
- Has created or enhanced 45,326 acres of wetlands.

Locally-Led Conservation Cost-Share Program

- Funds are allocated to conservation districts based upon appropriations from the Oklahoma Legislature
- Conservation districts administer the program to meet their local needs
- Funds cannot be allocated to land tracts of less than twenty acres with less than \$1,000 of soil-dependent products sold annually
- [2009-2010 report](#)

Conservation Education

- Main purpose of the Education Program is to educate Oklahomans of all ages about natural resources and the environment
- [Website](#)

Water Quality Division

- Responsible for identifying waters impaired by nonpoint source pollution
- Once problems are identified we work to prioritize and implement projects to reduce pollutants and improve water quality.
- Administer the EPA 319 Program
 - Non-point source pollution prevent program in the clean water act

319 Priority Watershed Program

- Focuses resources and efforts on areas where projects can be most effective
 - Considering the type of impairment
 - The needs of a particular watershed and its residents
 - The likelihood of restoring the beneficial uses.
- Elk city Lake, Grand Lake, Illinois River, Peacheater Creek, Fort Cobb Lake, Honey Creek, N. Candian River, Spavinaw/Beaty Creek

319 Targeted watershed program

- Cost share program that targets impaired water bodies
- Water bodies that are listed on the 303d list are selected by state agencies for 319 funding
- Lands within these watersheds are eligible.

319 Targeted watershed program

- Best management practices include both urban and agricultural practices
- Urban examples include
 - Waste water
 - Storm water management
- Ag practices include:
 - No-till
 - Riparian zone management

319 Targeted watershed program

- The program also includes educational efforts
 - Lawn and landscape nutrient management
 - Cropland nutrient management
 - Etc.
- Water monitoring a key component of Oklahoma watershed program
 - State operated monitoring sites
 - Volunteer programs, (Blue thumb)