Addressing Water Issues Through Partnerships and USDA Programs

September 16, 2019

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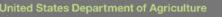
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Addressing Oklahoma Water Issues

- Most efforts done on a field basis with individual landowners
- Landscape is like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle each piece fits together with another
- Maximum water quality benefits come from a completed puzzle – all stakeholders involved
- Challenge
 - Each piece may be controlled by different landowners with different views and objectives
- Conservation Planning leads to more opportunities for "Conservation on the Ground"
 - Planning = Educate, Motivate and Influence – System Approach
- Partnerships
 - Reaching more landowners/managers
 - Coordinated and Targeted Conservation Efforts
 - Programs working together





Addressing Oklahoma Water Issues

- Conservation Planning and Implementation Process
 - Collection and Analysis NRCS assessment tools and monitoring activities; benchmark monitoring data; 303d list
 - Develop solutions Systems Approach right practices, right time, right place; research
 - Implementation and Evaluation evaluate effectiveness of implemented practices and allow for adaptive management; monitoring programs
- Financial Assistance Farm Bill Programs
 - Various programs, purposes and rules
 - Provides financial assistance to apply practices



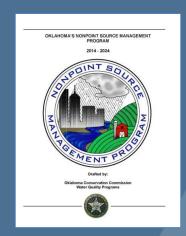
Targeting Efforts

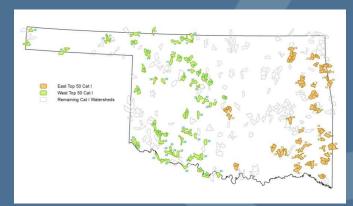




Partners Working Together

- Working Group to develop Oklahoma Strategies
 - Oklahoma Nonpoint Source Management Plan revision
 - Unified Watershed
 Assessment
 - Ranking watersheds (HUC 12)
 - Serves as foundation to target CWA program efforts (319, TMDL, NPS implementation)
 - Serves as resource for targeting NRCS efforts



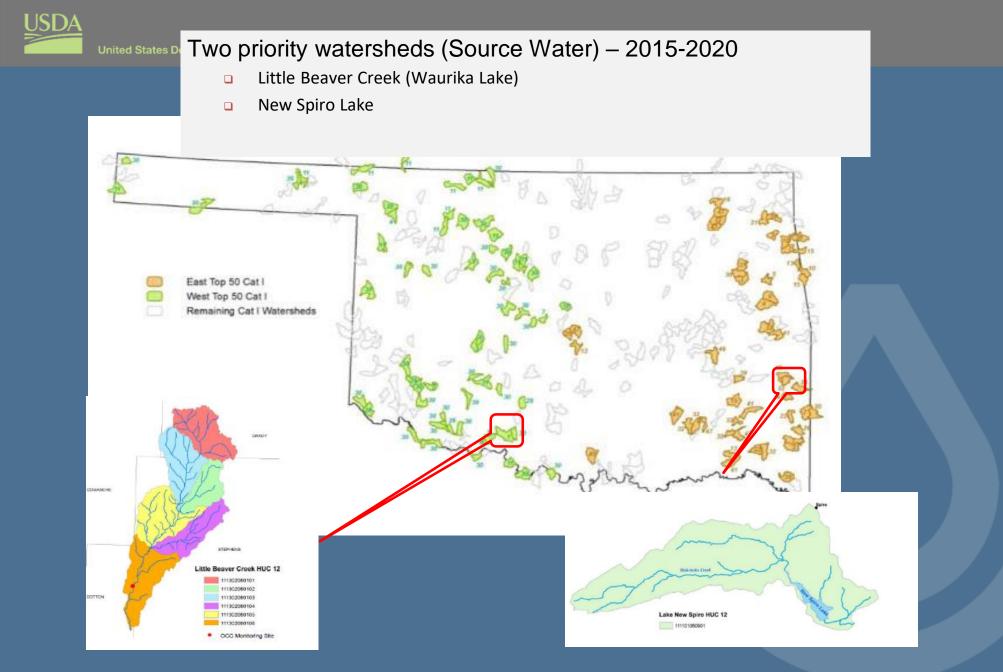




National Water Quality Initiative

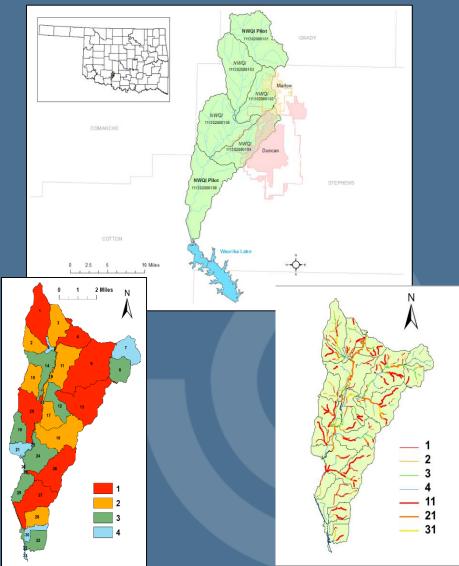
- Goal remove streams from 303d list
 - Ag related Nutrients, pesticides, sediments, pathogens
- Investment in Conservation yields multiple benefits
 - Reduced Pollutants Cleaner, safer water; Wildlife; Recreation
 - Enhanced Productivity and food security
- Watershed Selection
 - Local and State Partners





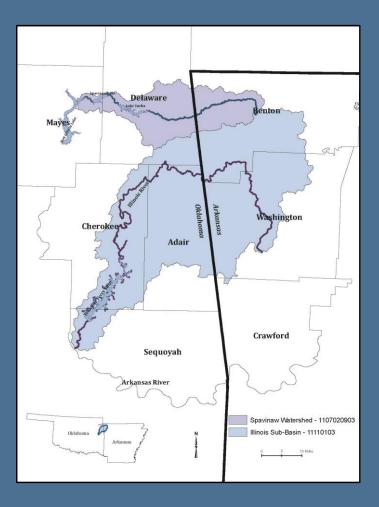
NWQI Little Beaver WS – Waurika Lake

- 2018- Development of watershed level assessment, outreach plans, and onfarm planning (2 additional HUCS)
 - Used as basis for future FA (EQIP, 319)
 - Vulnerable acres runoff, sedimentation, lack of conservation practices
 - Identify causes
 - Solutions
 - Outreach Plan target producers
- Partner with OCC Water Quality Division
- On farm planning, outreach and contracting beginning in 2019
- \$2 million investment over next 5 years
- Future opportunity for expansion to all contributing watersheds





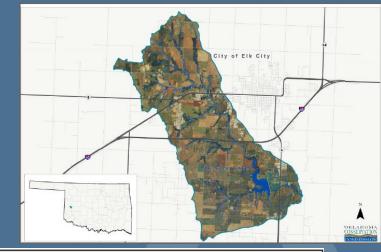
Illinois River – Eucha Spavinaw

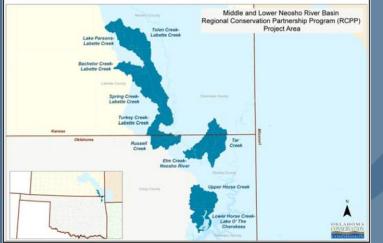


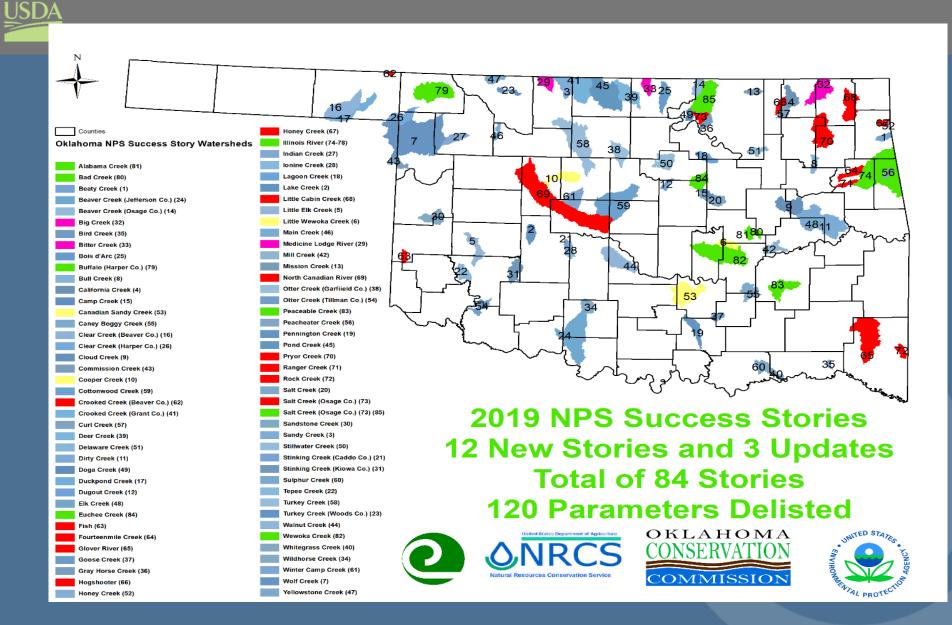
- 2010 2018 project
- Goal: Improved water quality
 - Animal Wastes
 - Sediment
 - Livestock use
- > \$20 million and 100,000 acres
- Work continues through EQIP, CStP, and partner efforts

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Promotes coordination between NRCS and our partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners
 - Leveraging Resources to better accomplish common goals
- Oklahoma 6 projects; 2 Water Quality
 - Elk City Lake \$3.1 Million planned investment
 - Middle and Lower Neosho \$8.1 million planned investment

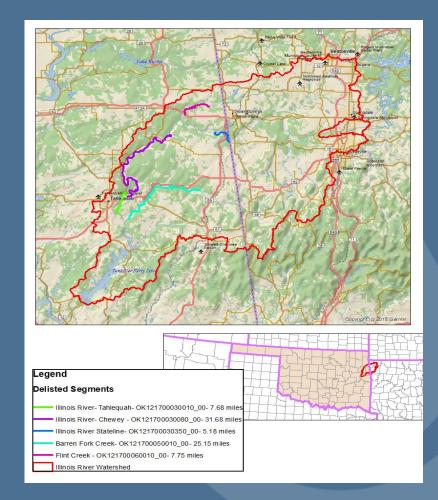






Illinois River Watershed- 5 Streams Delisted for Bacteria

- OCC, conservation districts, and NRCS started working in the IR Watershed in the 1980s.
- OCC and partners have spent tens of millions on NPS controls in the watershed since 2000
- Conservation efforts focused on:
 - Animal waste management
 - Streambank and riparian area protection
 - Grazing management
 - Septic system upgrades



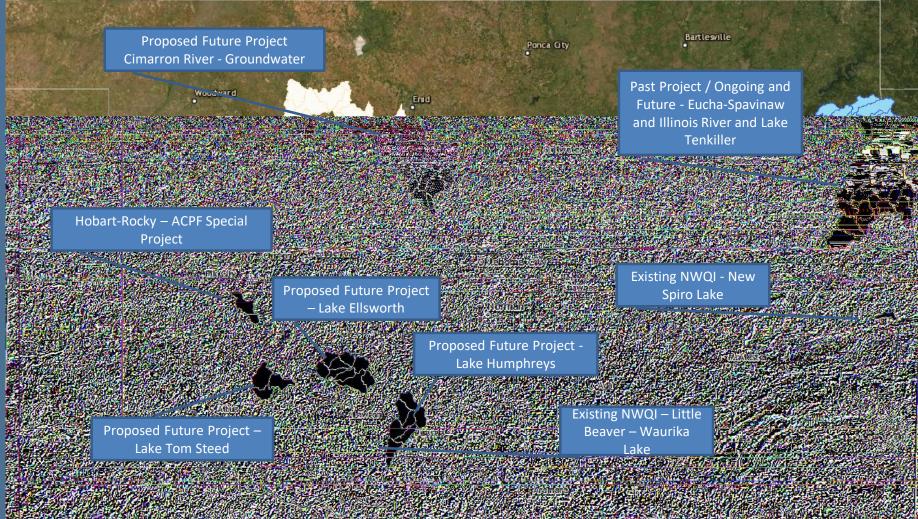


Other NRCS Program Opportunities

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Increased funding in new FB
 - Tremendous flexibility, focused on addressing resource concerns
 - States can target (LEA process in OK)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



Oklahoma Source Water Protection Priorities



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Questions ?



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