### Addressing Water Issues Through Partnerships and USDA Programs

#### September 16, 2019

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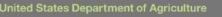
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#### **Addressing Oklahoma Water Issues**

- 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



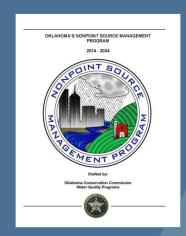
# **Targeting Efforts**

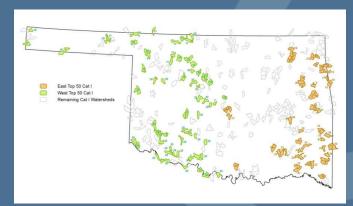




# **Partners Working Together**

- 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



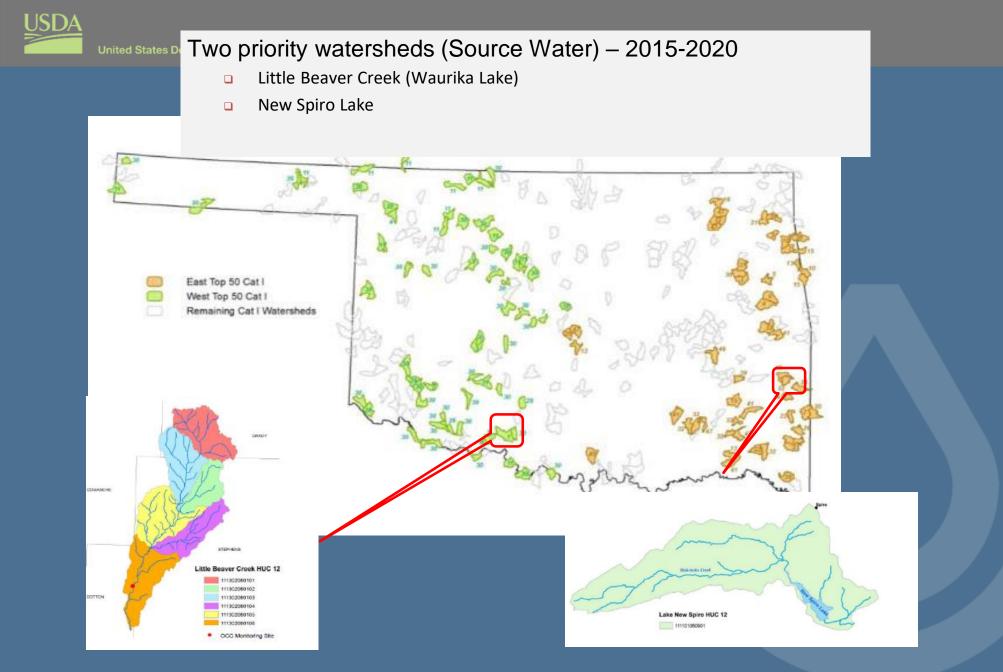




### **National Water Quality Initiative**

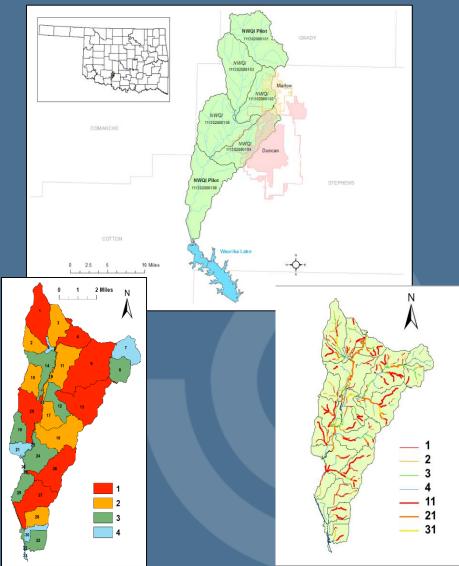
- Goal remove streams from 303d list
  - Ag related Nutrients, pesticides, sediments, pathogens
- Investment in Conservation yields multiple benefits
  - Reduced Pollutants Cleaner, safer water; Wildlife; Recreation
  - Enhanced Productivity and food security
- Watershed Selection
  - Local and State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





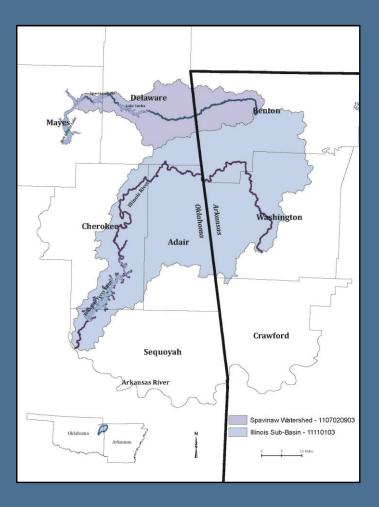
#### NWQI Little Beaver WS – Waurika Lake

- 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





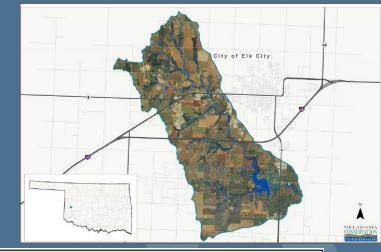
#### Illinois River – Eucha Spavinaw

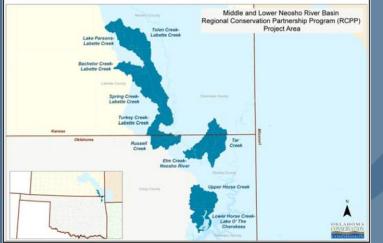


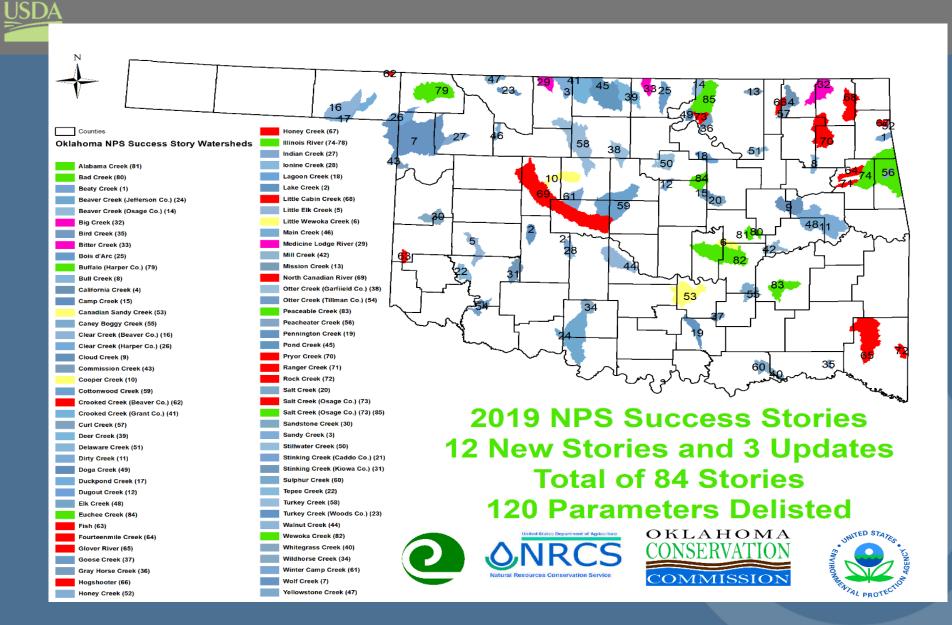
- 2010 2018 project
- Goal: Improved water quality
  - Animal Wastes
  - Sediment
  - Livestock use
- > \$20 million and 100,000 acres
- Work continues through EQIP, CStP, and partner efforts

# **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

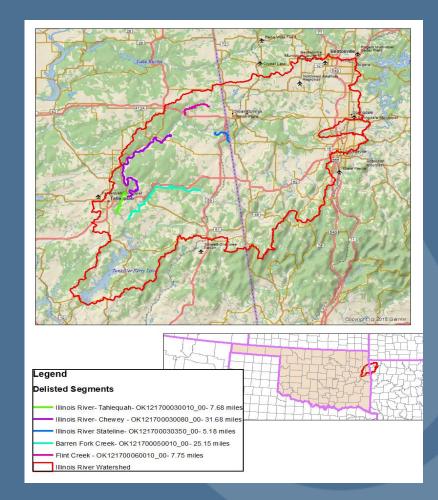






# Illinois River Watershed- 5 Streams Delisted for Bacteria

- 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



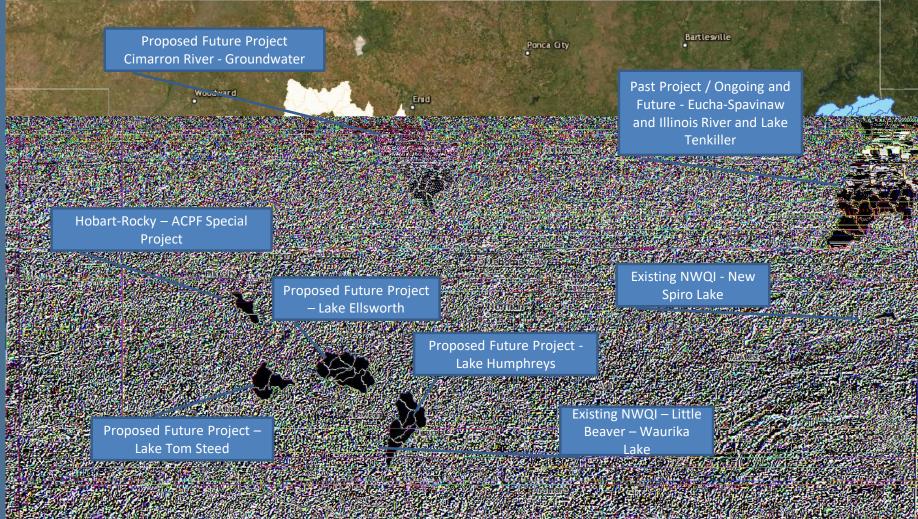


#### **Other NRCS Program Opportunities**

- 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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