United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference

Conservation As A Planning Tool

Gary Mast

USDA Deputy Undersecretary for

Natural Resources and the Environment

Washington D.C.

United States Department of Agriculture

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Everything Done in Conservation Impacts WATER

Conservation As A Planning Tool

NRCS – What We Do . . .

- Conservation on private land
- Provide voluntary assistance (technical & financial)
- Work in partnership with locally led conservation groups

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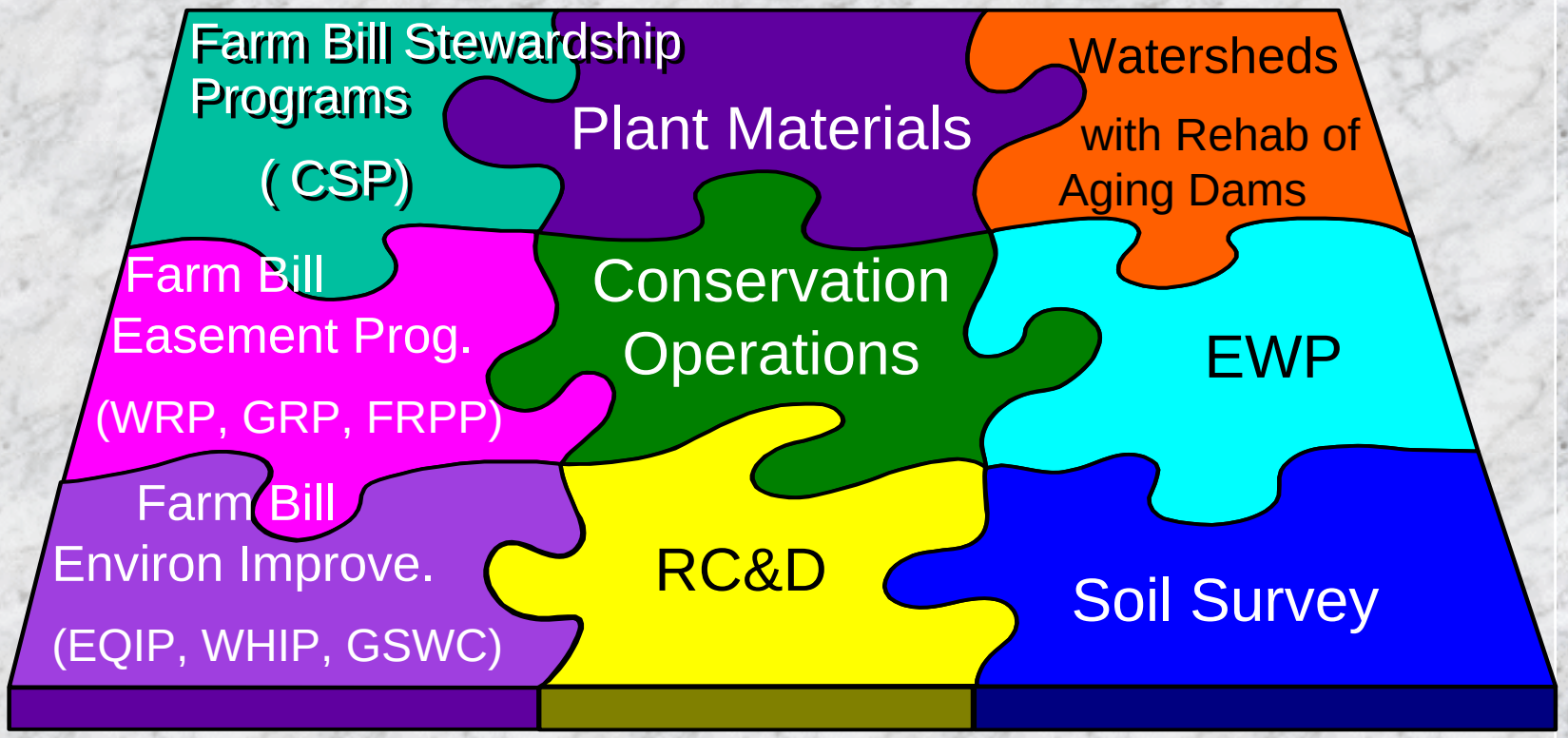
Programs to get Conservation on the Land



Conservation As A PlanningTool
Conservation Programs

- CRP – Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
- FRPP – Farm & Ranchland Protection Program
- WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- GRP – Grassland Reserve Program
- CSP – Conservation Security Program
- GSWC – Ground & Surface Water Cons. Program
- WRP – Wetland Reserve Program
- EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Conservation As A Planning Tool
Wetlands Reserve Program

- Restoring Wetlands
  - Benefits are numerous
  - 65,000 ac. of wetlands enrolled in Oklahoma

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Conservation As A Planning Tool
Conservation Buffers

Conservation As A Planning Tool
Conservation Buffers

- Benefits
  - Controls soil erosion by providing cover to protect the soil from washing into public waters
  - Improves water quality by trapping sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, and pathogens in runoff water
  - Reduces Flooding
  - Adds organic matter, reduces soil compaction, and increases biological activity in the soil at buffer sites

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

- Unique to animal feeding operations
- CNMP provides conservation management practices planned to address soil erosion and water quality concerns

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Cooperative Conservation Partnership with the State of Oklahoma
- $20.6 milllion project
- Create up to 9000 acres of riparian buffers and filter strips
- Spavinaw Lake and Illinios River/Lake Tenkiller watersheds

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USDA Small Watershed Program

Watershed Flood Control Dams

"Federally- Assisted"

not

"Federally Owned"

Project Sponsors (generally conservation districts or municipalities) are responsible for obtaining landrights, operation and maintenance of the project measures

Watershed Program Eligible Purposes

Flood Control

Recreational Development

Wetland Development

Water Supply

Watershed Program Eligible Purposes

Irrigation Water Management

Erosion Control

Wildlife Habitat

Animal Waste Management

Some of the best fishing occurs in Watershed Lakes!!

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Watershed Projects Benefit Communities

Watershed projects provide over $1.5 bil. in benefits each year:

- Flood control
- Water Supply
- Erosion Control
- Recreation
- Wetland Restoration
- Wildlife Habitat

Ironically, the USDA Small Watershed Program was a result of the 1930's Dust Bowl

The Dust Bowl Led to Increased Flooding

As Vegetative Cover was Destroyed and Streams Filled With Sediment

Flooding Devastated
Many People's Lives and Property

THE CLINTON DAILY NEWS

CLINTON, OKLAHOMA, THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1934

New Flood Warning - Torrent Racing Down Washita, Is Report

15 DEAD AND 6 MISSING IN FLOOD

Five Men, Numb With Exposure, Rescued From Tree Tops

RESCUE BOATS RATTLE WATER TO REACH MEN

All Free, Suffering From Cold, Said To Be Recovering

MOST POPULAR STUDENTS

CLINTON STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN FINE ARTS MEET

700 Contestants From 14 Towns To Enter Margum Contest

In U. S. for Visit

MANY COUNTY OIL LEASES RECORDED

Boger Echoes Still Strong Here

COUNTY CORN-HOG GROUP ORGANIZES

Lonnie Dunn Elected President

APPEAL FOR OLD CLOTHES ISSUED

River Bottom Is Hunted for Flood Victims

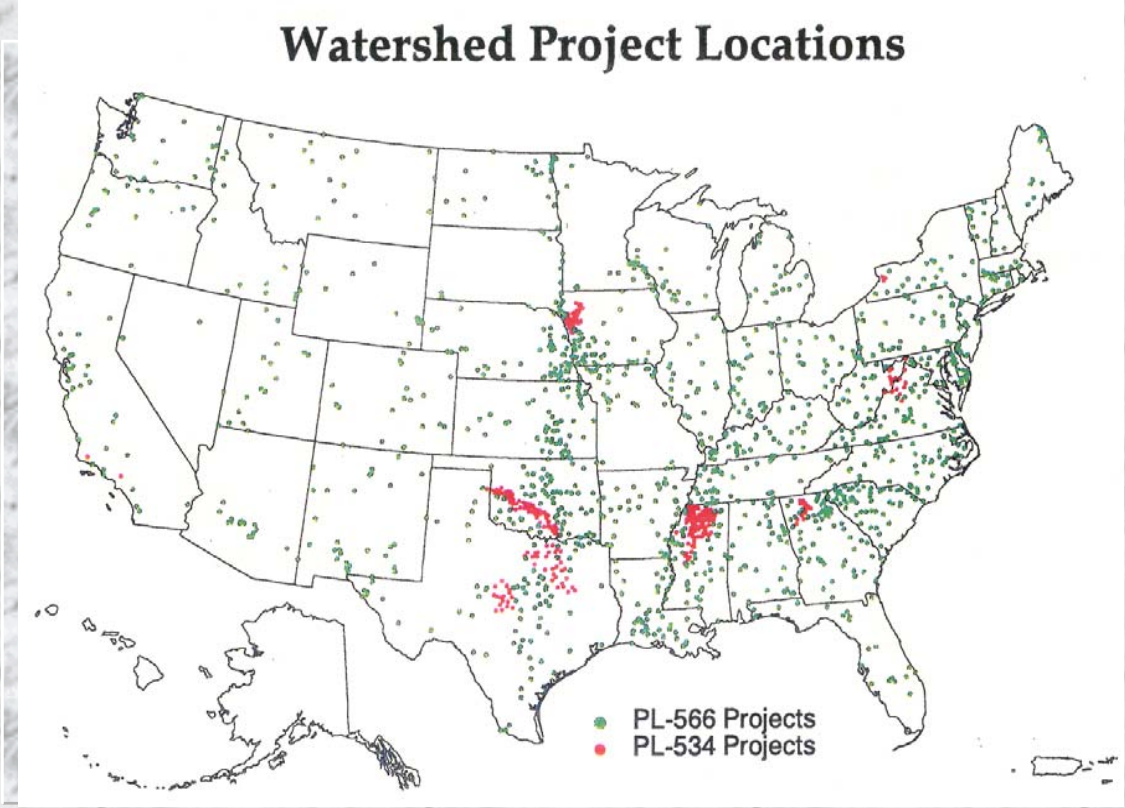
BULLETIN

Hammon Flood – April 1934

Flood Control Act of 1936 authorized studies

Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 534) authorized 11 Watershed Projects

The USDA Small Watershed Program



NRCS has assisted communities build more than 11,000 dams in 2000 Watershed Projects in 47 States since 1948

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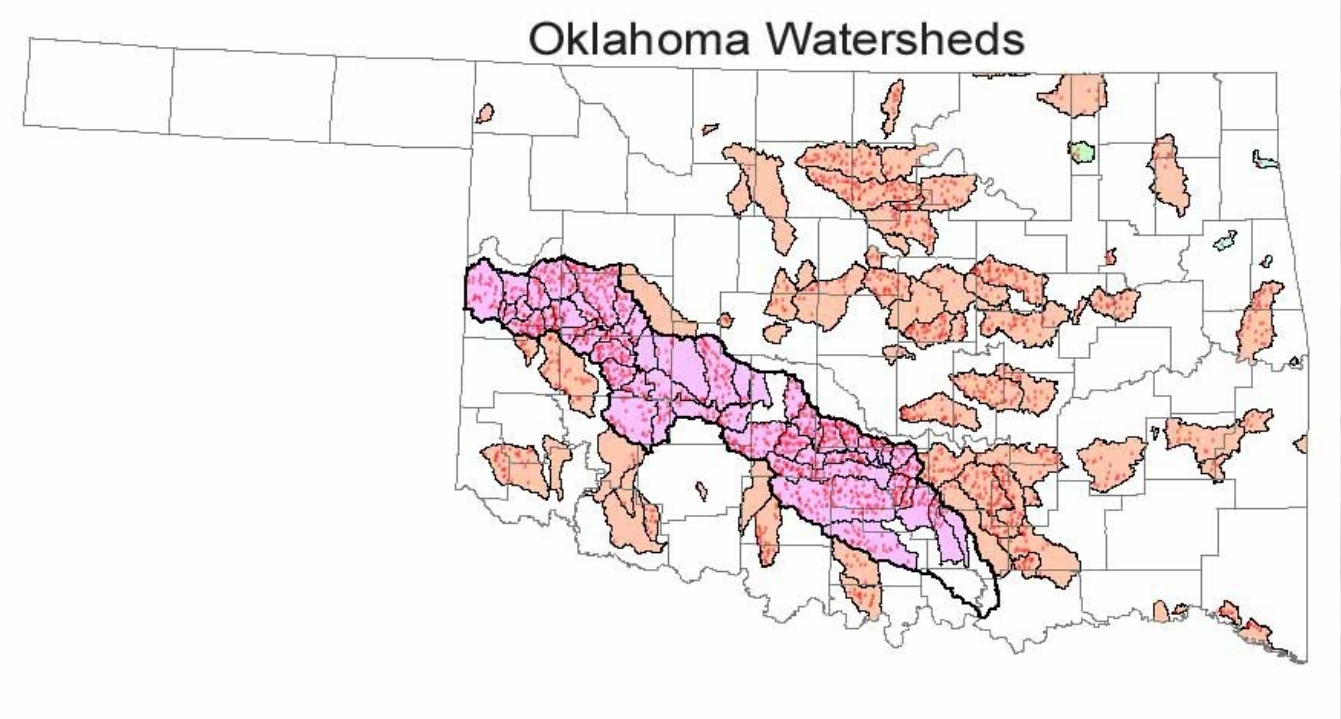
Oklahoma's Watershed Projects



2,105 Dams in 129 Projects (20% of the National Total)

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Nation's 1st Upstream Flood Control Dam
Cloud Creek Watershed Dam No. 1

Completed July 8, 1948 in Washita County, Oklahoma

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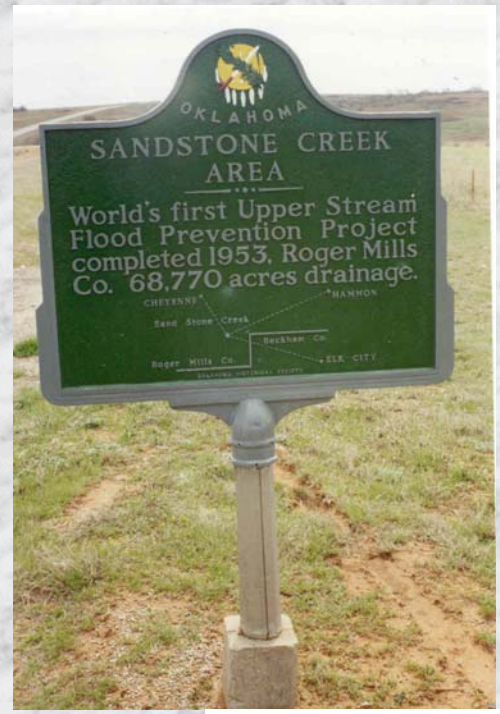
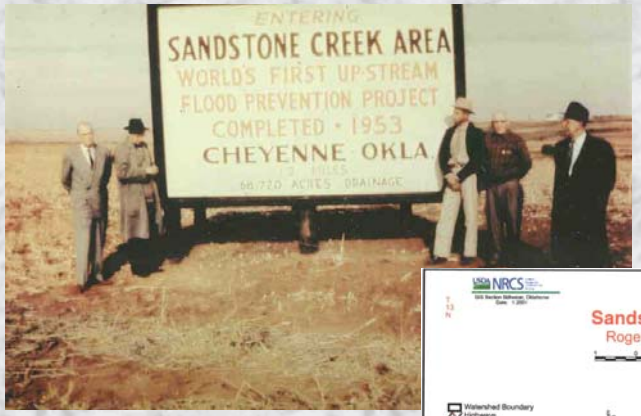
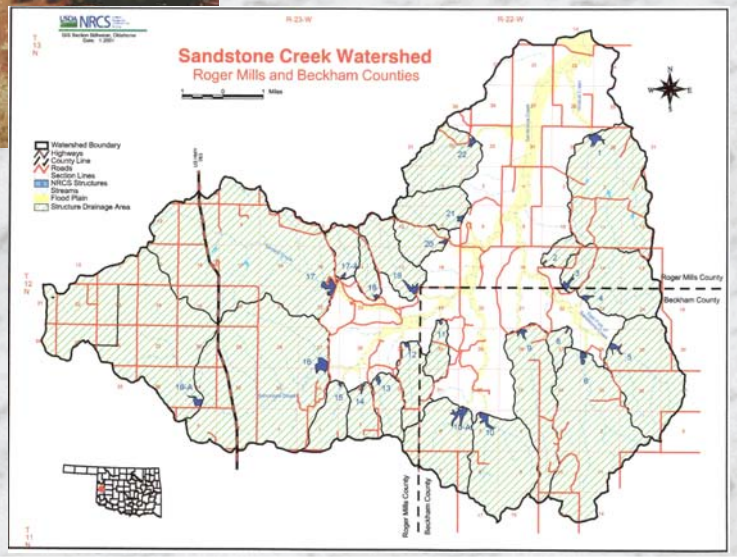
Sandstone Creek Watershed

"The World's First Completed Upstream Flood Control Project"







Roger Mills County

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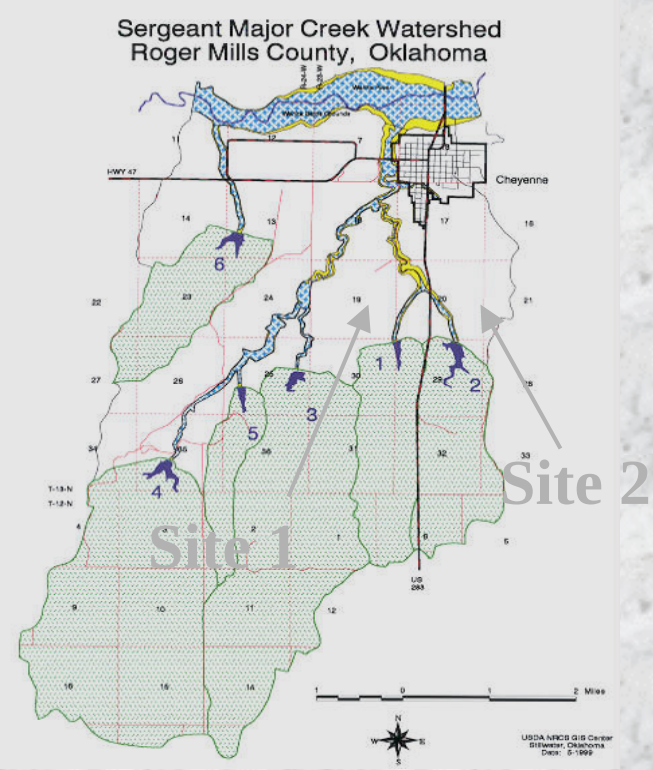
Sergeant Major Creek Watershed



First Pilot Rehabilitation Project in the Nation - 2000

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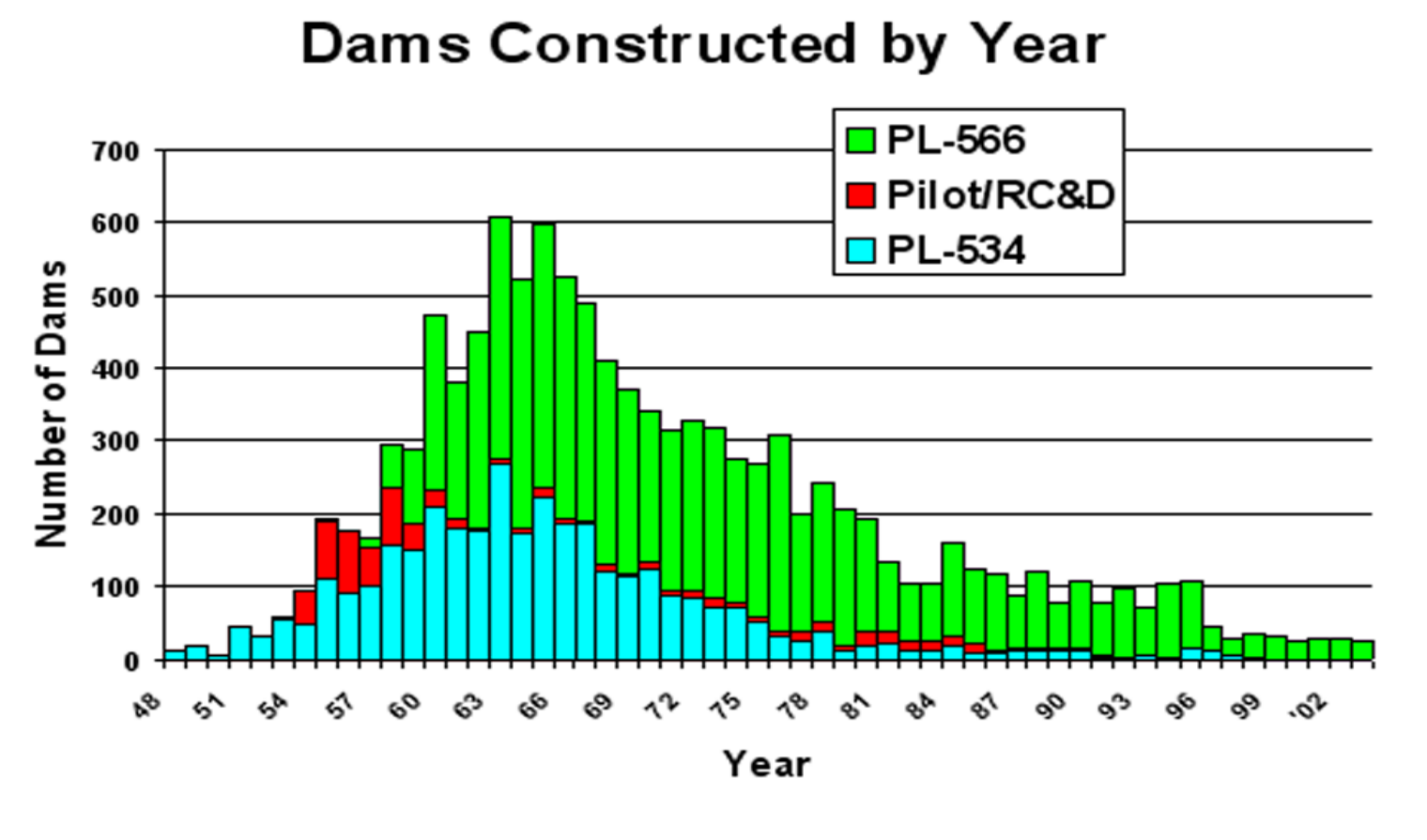
First Decommissioning of a Watershed Dam in the Nation

Cavalry Creek Watershed
Dam No. 6
Washita County

Watershed Dams Constructed by Year



Aging Dams Need Attention !

Sedimentation

Deterioration

Public Health & Safety Concerns

Downstream development can put people in harms way

Dam Failures Do Occur !

Impacts can be devastating to people, the local economy, and the environment

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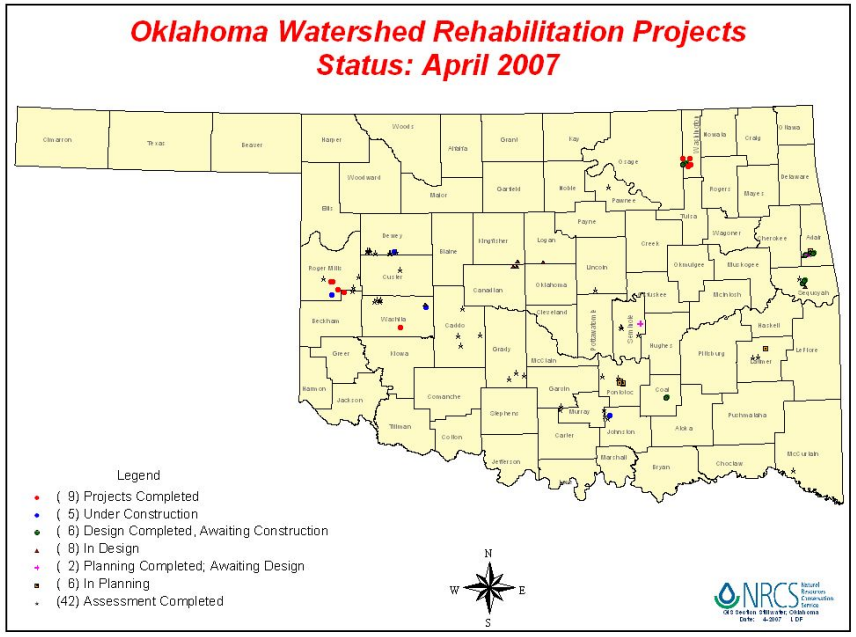
Oklahoma Watershed Rehabilitation Status

36 rehabilitation projects funded to date



- 9 completed
- 4 under construction
- 8 designed; awaiting construction
- 23 authorized & in or awaiting design
- 2 in planning

NRCS
Planning to Conserve Our Natural Resouces

Our Mission

Helping People Help the Land

Our Vision

Productive Lands –
Healthy Environment

Thank You

NRCS

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Visit our website at:
www.nrcs.usda.gov

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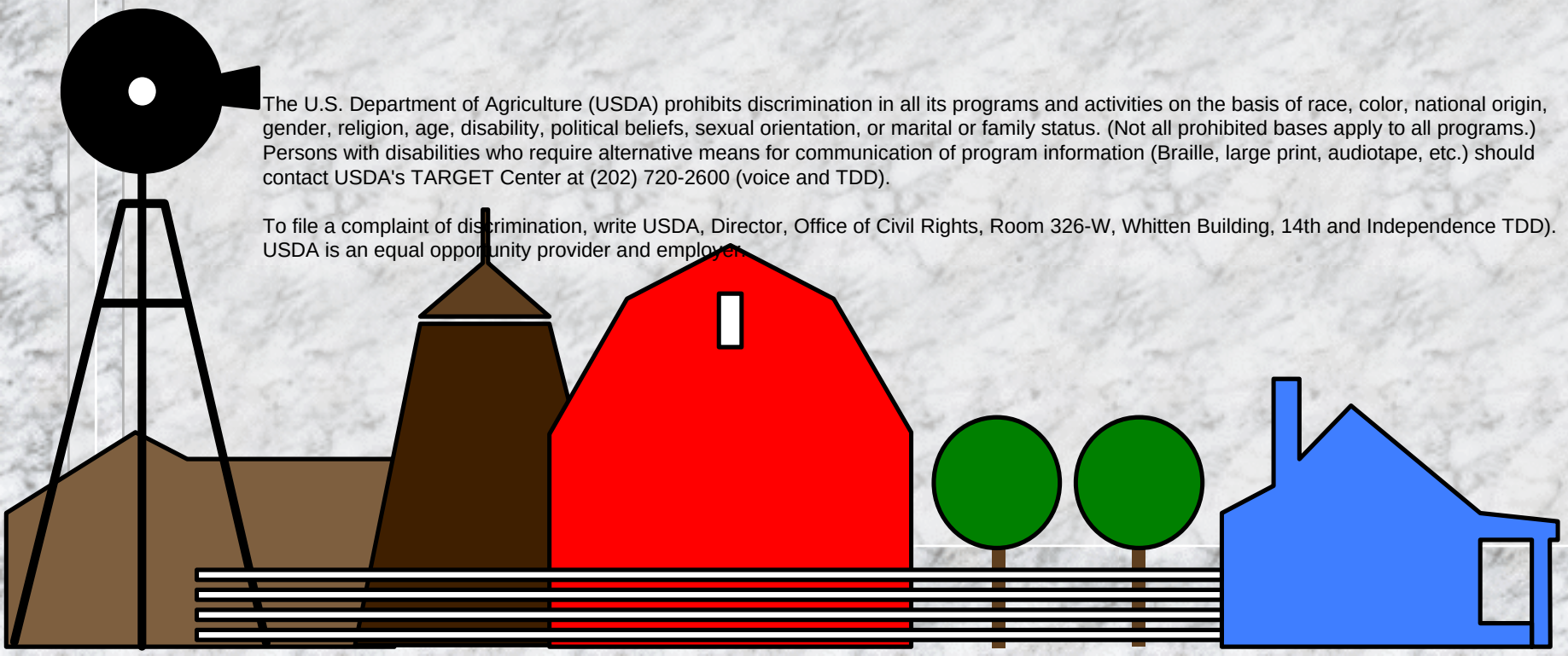
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