32nd Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Water Symposium

October 18, 2011

Norman, Oklahoma

Oklahoma's Watershed Program

Protecting our People
Protecting our Land

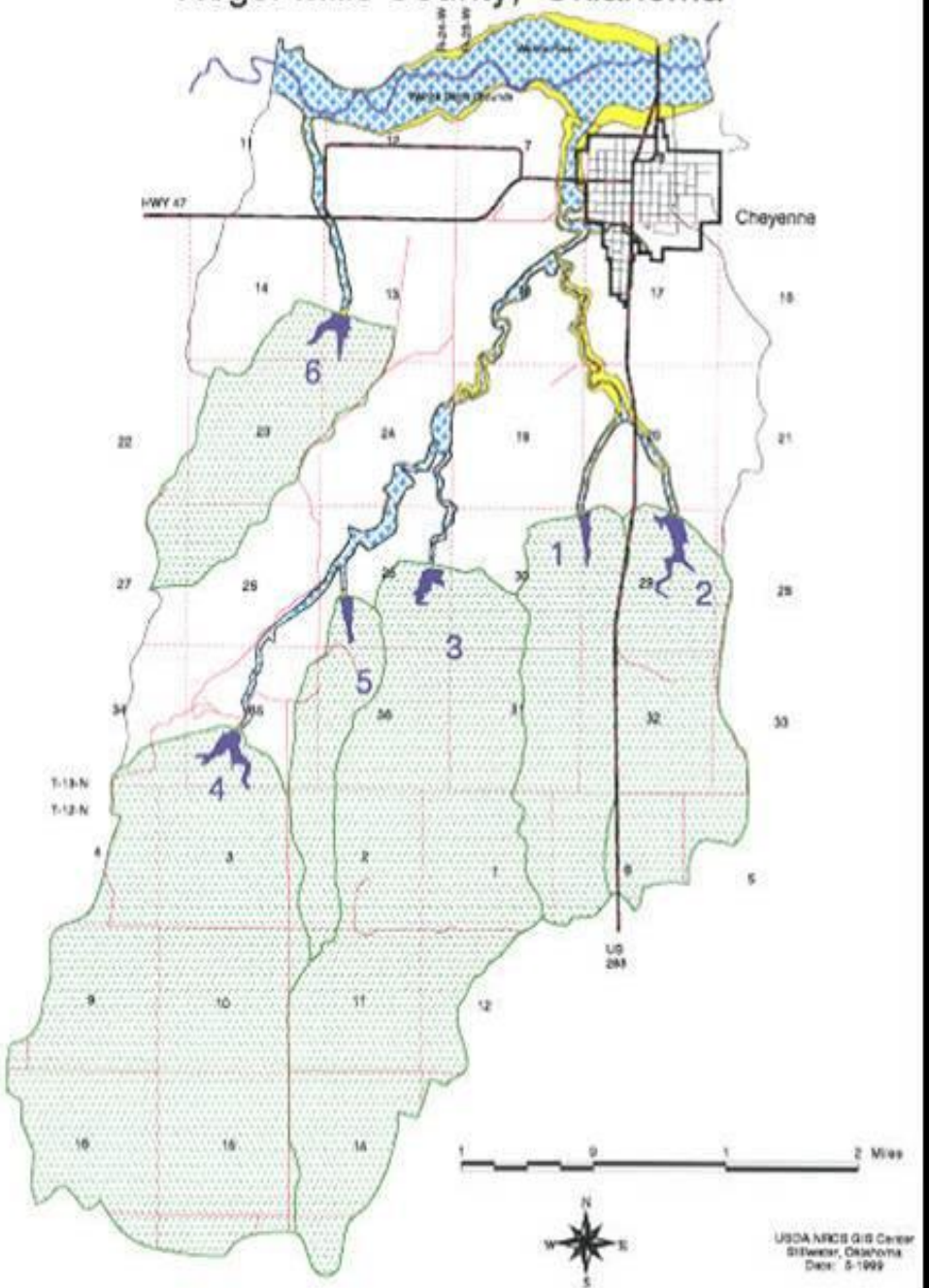
WATERSHED PROGRAM
- PURPOSE -

- Reduce Flooding

OKLAHOMAN ARCHIVE

The Hammon flood of 1934 killed 17 Oklahomans as the Washita River swelled well past its bank. In this view near Butler, east of Hammon, the Santa Fe railroad bridge and much of the terrain was flooded.

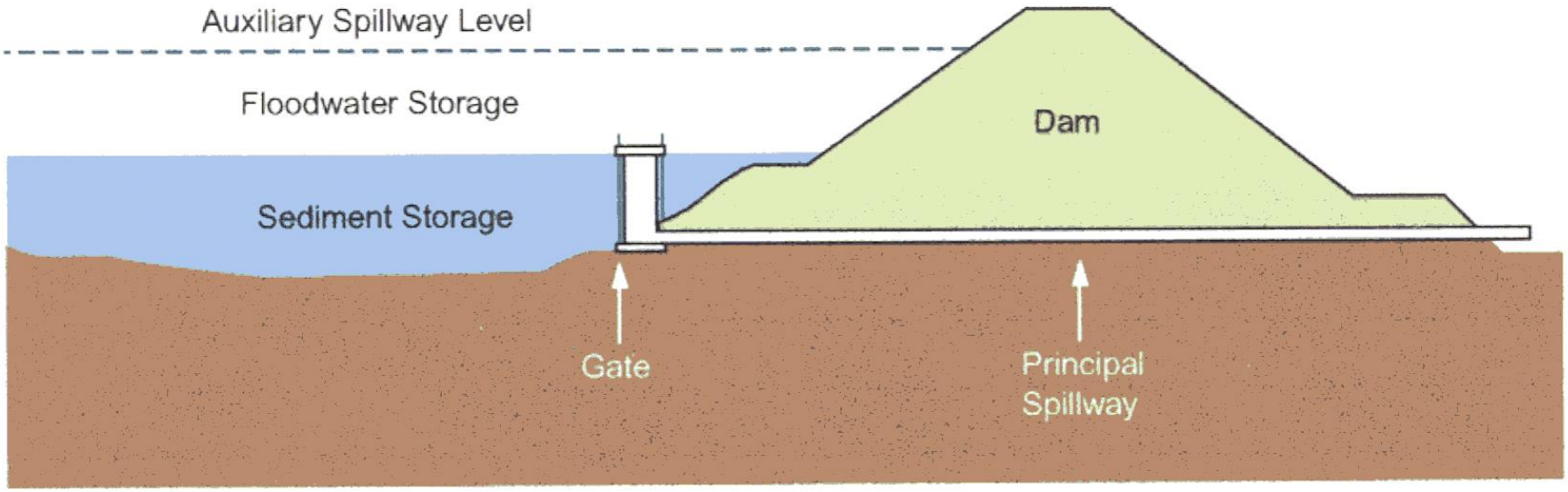
Sergeant Major Creek Watershed
Roger Mills County, Oklahoma



Storm runoff is temporarily stored in the reservoir …

…and slowly discharging the storm runoff for several days.

Cross-Section of Typical Flood Control Dam



The Watershed Program: A Partnership Federal, State, Local, Private

- **Federal (USDA-NRCS): PL 534; PL 566**
  - Technical Assistance (planning, design, construction, O&M)
  - Financial Assistance (construction)
- **Local Project Sponsors (Conservation Districts)**
  - Land rights (easements)
  - Operation & Maintenance
- **State (Oklahoma Conservation Commission)**
  - Funding Assistance / Technical Support
- **Private**
  - Donated Easements

Oklahoma's Watershed Program

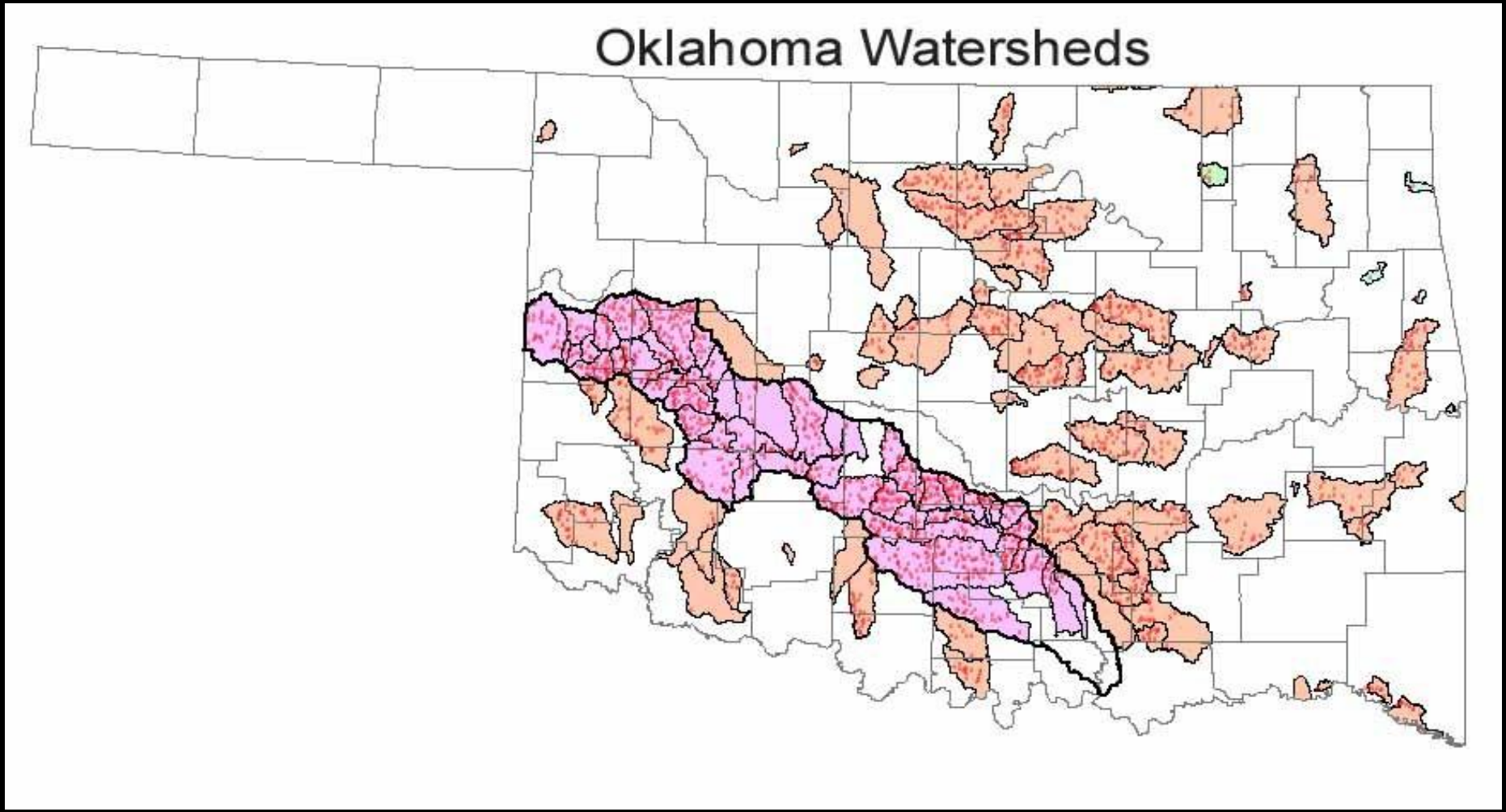
– National Leaders –

2,107
Floodwater Retarding Structures

$2 Billion
Public Infrastructure

$81 Million
Public Benefits

$200 Million
Private Contribution



2,107 Dams in 129 Watersheds

(20% of the national total)

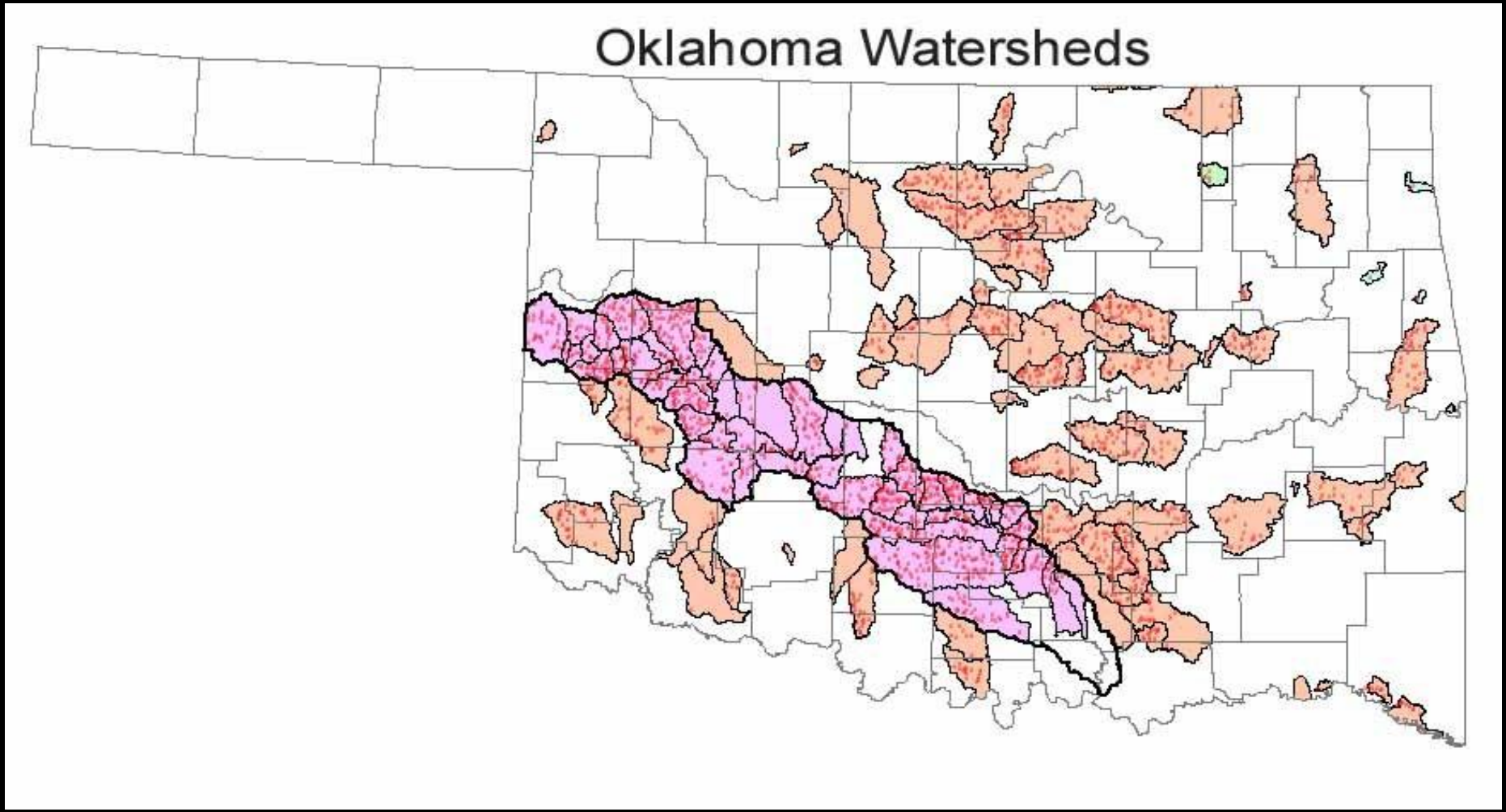
42 Multi-purpose Structures

Potential Water Supply???

- NRCS Scoping Review – Nov. 2009
  - Watershed yield/drainage area
  - As-built potential for modification to add supply
  - Location: current demand or future demand
  - Sponsor interest

NRCS Scoping Review – Nov. 2009

- 298 dams have potential
  - global review
  - very cursory
  - NOT an engineering study



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