

Oklahoma

Water
News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

OWRB Helps Towns Qualify for Flood Insurance Program

Enrollment in the National Flood Insurance Program has skyrocketed since it was first offered to Oklahoma communities in 1982. From humble beginnings, the program now oversees 335 individual communities, including coverage for 30 state counties and one Indian tribe.

Unfortunately, sorting through the maze of required floodplain management regulations can often be a cum-

bersome duty for small cities and towns that have had little experience with federal bureaucracy. The OWRB, as the state agency which coordinates the NFIP in Oklahoma, seeks to unravel the confusion through community assessment visits (CAVs).

The participation of any community in the NFIP is subject to adoption of zoning ordinances, subdivision

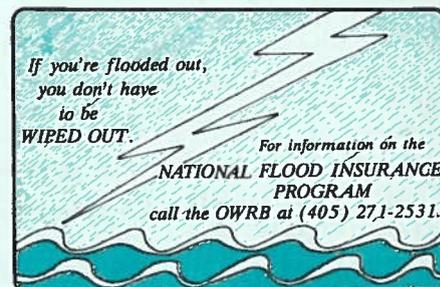
regulations, building codes and health regulations which restrict development in floodplain areas. Although a danger to life and property, flood-prone lands typically attract development due to their rich soils, minerals or advantageous locations. Board personnel use CAVs to help enrollees adopt, enforce and, most importantly, maintain proper floodplain management guidelines. These local guidelines and zoning laws should restrict floodplain development in a manner consistent both with nature's need to convey floodwaters and community land use needs.

"A normal assessment begins before we leave the office," according to Ken Morris, of the OWRB's Engineering Division. "We start by reviewing topographic and floodplain boundary maps which show where development should or should not be allowed by local floodplain ordinances." Morris directs the NFIP in Oklahoma with help from other employees in Oklahoma City and OWRB branch offices.

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Ken Morris (right) discusses wise floodplain development with Piedmont City Manager Dan Brandt (center) and building inspector Gene Mathews during a recent community assessment visit.



Mainstream, continued from page 3

How much you water depends primarily on the soil type. One inch of water applied to a clay soil on a flat surface will wet the soil six inches deep; a half-inch will water a sandy soil to that same depth.

Open Ditches Waste Water

Ditches in fields of fine sandy loam soil can lose 5372 gallons of water per ditch foot during a 2000-hour irrigation season. That's 21.76 acre-feet during an average growing sea-

son, or enough to irrigate an additional 65 crop acres with a four-inch application.

Clay loam soils can lose 1819 gallons, or 7.37 acre-feet of water in the same period—enough to irrigate 22 more acres with four inches of water.

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
AS OF MAY 30, 1989**

| PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR | CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF) | PERCENT OF CAPACITY | PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR | CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF) | PERCENT OF CAPACITY |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| SOUTHEAST | | | Wister | 63,250 | 100.0 ² |
| Atoka | 123,475 | 100.0 | Sardis | 302,500 | 100.0 |
| Broken Bow | 918,100 | 100.0 | NORTHEAST | | |
| Pine Creek | 77,700 | 100.0 ² | Eucha | 79,567 | 100.0 |
| Hugo | 157,600 | 100.0 ² | Grand | 1,384,520 | 92.8 |
| McGee Creek | 109,800 | 100.0 | Oologah | 544,240 | 100.0 |
| CENTRAL | | | Hulah | 30,594 | 100.0 |
| Thunderbird | 105,925 | 100.0 | Fort Gibson | 363,330 | 99.5 |
| Hefner | 73,307 | 97.3 | Heyburn | 6,600 | 100.0 |
| Overholser | 15,935 | 100.0 | Birch | 19,167 | 99.8 |
| Draper | 86,398 | 86.4 | Hudson | 200,300 | 100.0 |
| Arcadia | 27,390 | 100.0 | Spavinaw | 30,000 | 100.0 |
| SOUTH CENTRAL | | | Copan | 43,400 | 100.0 |
| Arbuckle | 62,571 | 100.0 | Skiatook | 271,622 | 85.0 |
| Texoma | 2,637,700 | 100.0 | NORTH CENTRAL | | |
| Waurika | 203,100 | 100.0 | Kaw | 428,600 | 100.0 |
| SOUTHWEST | | | Keystone | 616,000 | 100.0 |
| Altus | 132,886 | 100.0 | NORTHWEST | | |
| Fort Cobb | 77,777 | 99.2 | Canton | 97,500 | 100.0 |
| Foss | 183,451 | 75.2 ¹ | Fort Supply | 13,900 | 100.0 |
| Tom Steed | 80,787 | 90.8 | Great Salt Plains | 31,400 | 100.0 |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | STATE TOTALS | | |
| Eufaula | 2,329,700 | 100.0 | | 12,557,592 | 98.1 |
| Tenkiller | 627,500 | 100.0 | | | |

1. Conservation storage lowered for project modification
2. Seasonal pool operation

Data courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, and City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office.

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OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

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