



NRCS-Assisted Watershed Projects

North Deer Creek Dam No. 1M Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma

December 2021

There are 2,100 watershed projects in the nation established by local units of government with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program (Public Law 78-534 and Public Law 83-566). These projects consist of over 11,000 flood control dams and thousands of conservation practices that provide over \$2 billion in annual benefits in flood prevention, water supplies, recreational areas, and other benefits. The following is just one example of how the Watershed Program is benefiting local communities and the nation.

The North Deer Creek Watershed Dam No. 1M, known as Wes Watkins Reservoir, is located one mile south of McLoud, Oklahoma in Pottawatomie County. The dam was constructed in 1996 by the Pottawatomie County Development Authority (PCDA) and the Shawnee Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

The dam was constructed for flood control, municipal water and recreation by the PCDA. The NRCS funded the flood control portion of the dam with the PCDA providing funding for additional water storage. The NRCS and PCDA split the cost of the recreational development around the lake.

The 1,142 surface acre lake is the largest lake of the 2,107 flood control dams that have been built in Oklahoma with assistance of the NRCS Watershed Program.

Municipal water supplies from the lake are allocated to the cities of Shawnee and Tecumseh.

Recreational facilities around the lake include three boat ramps, fishing docks, and six restrooms with three sets of showers for overnight campers and swimmers. There are three large picnic pavilions, group barbecue grills, and overnight campsites that include 33 primitive tent sites and 16 RV sites.

The dam provides flood protection for some of the most productive bottomland farms in the county and for the City of Dale.

The dam provides \$2.4 million in average annual benefits. It provides flood protection for 150 farms and ranches; reduces sedimentation by 92,000 tons of soil annually; protects four bridges and several miles of county roads; and has created or enhanced over 300 acres of wetlands.



North Deer Creek Watershed Dam No. 1M provides flood control, municipal water and recreational areas

