

Small Watershed Progress in Oklahoma

STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION
June 30, 1964

The development of the Upstream Flood Prevention Program in Oklahoma has been fantastic. It has received support from people in all walks of life, because in most cases it benefits all the people. No conservation program yet initiated has been as popular and in as much demand in Oklahoma as the Upstream Flood Prevention Program.

Besides flood control, the watershed projects offer many other benefits. A number of cities and towns have used the program to secure additional water. Multi-purpose sites are being used for irrigation, wildlife conservation and development of recreational enterprises.

In many cases drainage systems are being installed as a part of the watershed development. Besides the retardation dams, channel improvement where needed, is also a part of the watershed plan. Regardless of the problems encountered in a watershed, a plan can be developed to control the flooding and siltation.

With an appropriation of \$342,980.00 per year for watershed planning, the State Soil Conservation Board employs seven field survey parties to assist the Soil Conservation Service to plan watersheds. As a result of this help from the State Government, Oklahoma leads the Nation in Watershed development.

Upstream Flood Prevention was approved for the Washita River Watershed by Congress in 1946.

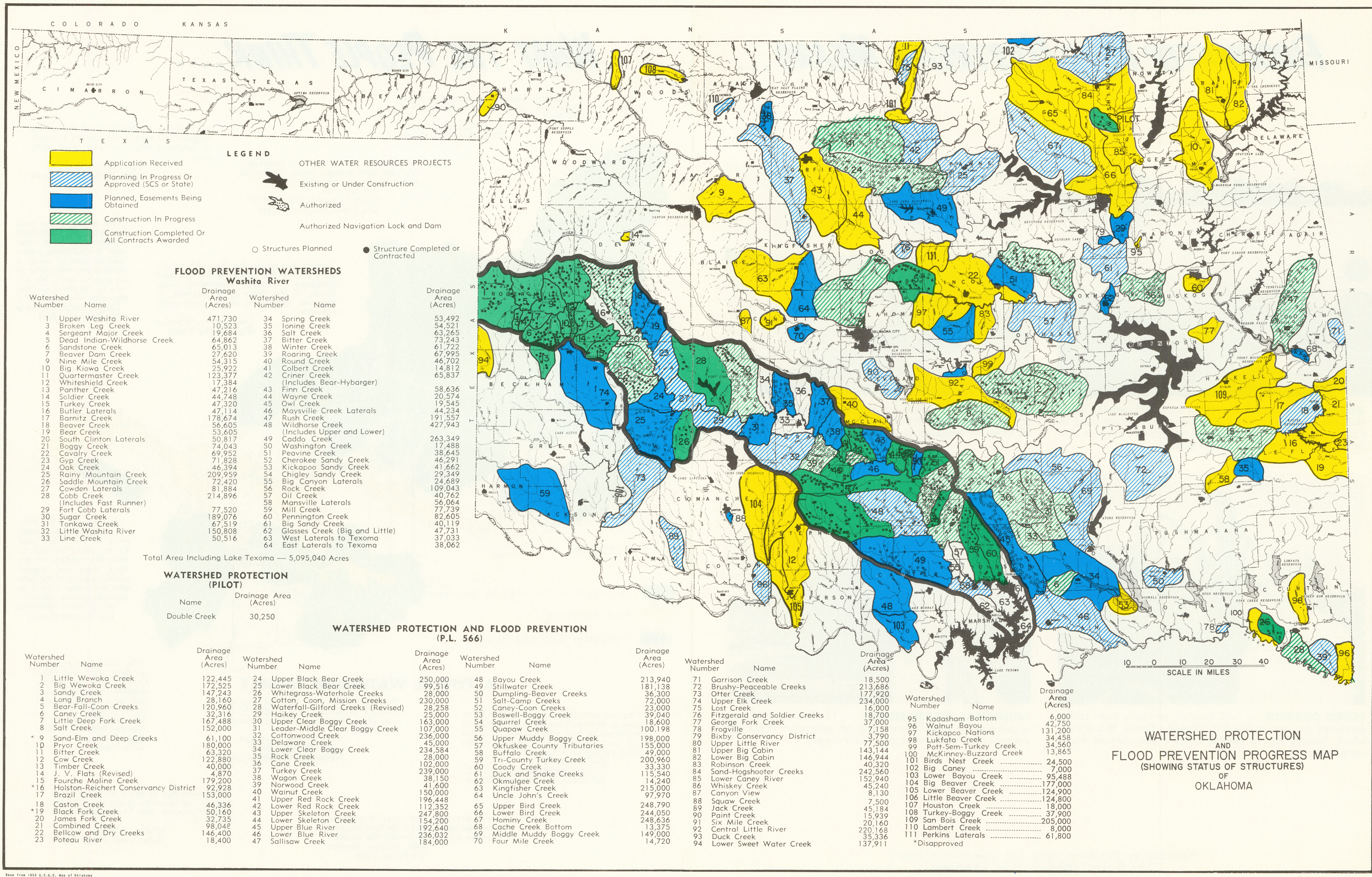
The experience gained on the Washita led to the adoption by Congress of Public Law 566 in

1954. This provided an opportunity for the development of all watersheds in the State.

Since that time, Oklahoma has really been on the move in development of the Upstream Flood Prevention Program.

As of June 30th 1964—

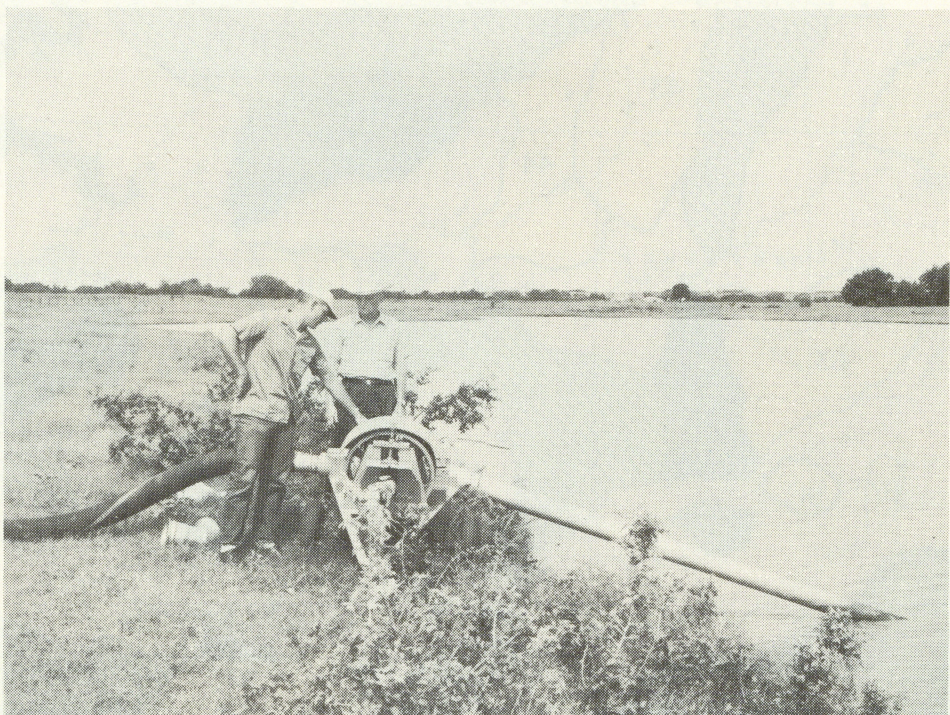
- Under Public Law 566, Oklahoma has 33% of the Nation's planned structures.
- 30% of the dams built under P. L. 566 in the nation have been built in Oklahoma.
- Besides the 64 sub-watersheds on the Washita, the State Soil Conservation Board has received 111 applications on watersheds from local people asking for assistance under P. L. 566.
- 16 million acres are within the boundaries of watersheds which have asked for assistance. This is 36% of all the land in Oklahoma.
- 612 flood control dams are built on the Washita in Oklahoma.
- 6 flood control dams are built on Double Creek (Pilot Project).
- 324 flood control dams are built under Public Law 566.
- 11 cities have participated in sites for municipal water and recreation.
- 4 million dollars annual benefits — this figure will increase as more dams are built.
- 66 million dollars have been spent on construction in Oklahoma by the Soil Conservation Service.



FLOODWATER HELD UPSTREAM MEANS...



RECREATION — Last year more than 300 people visited this site located on the Little Deep Fork Watershed in Creek County. Picnic facilities have been built to improve the area as a recreation area.



IRRIGATION — Water for irrigation being pumped out of Site 6a on Longbranch Watershed in Payne County. 28 acres of cropland are being irrigated from this site.



FLOOD CONTROL — 100 bushels per acre corn being produced on land in the Big Wewoka Creek Watershed which flooded ten to twelve times a year before dams were built.



MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY — 11 cities with a total population of 68,074 are using an upstream flood prevention site for a municipal water supply.

WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK....

"I had the highest assessment on Little Deep Fork—but it is the best bargain of my life."

Jack Carman, Bristow
Little Deep Fork Creek.

"It's the best thing that ever happened! We can keep bridges across the creeks and it makes my job easier."

Joe Nemecek
County Commissioner District 1
Owl Creek, McClain County

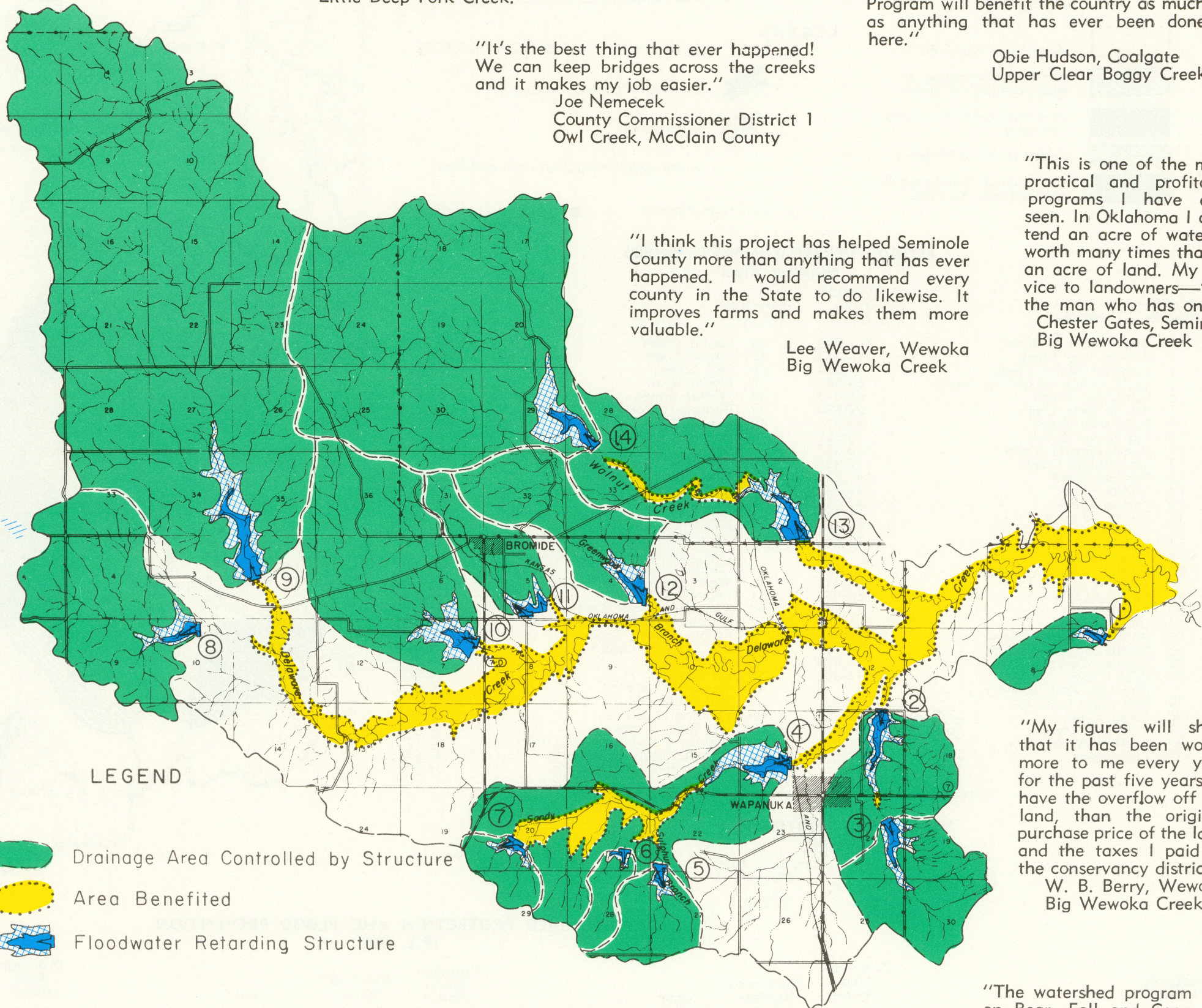
"I think the Upstream Flood Prevention Program will benefit the country as much as anything that has ever been done here."

Obie Hudson, Coalgate
Upper Clear Boggy Creek

"This is one of the most practical and profitable programs I have ever seen. In Oklahoma I contend an acre of water is worth many times that of an acre of land. My advice to landowners—ask the man who has one."
Chester Gates, Seminole
Big Wewoka Creek

"I think this project has helped Seminole County more than anything that has ever happened. I would recommend every county in the State to do likewise. It improves farms and makes them more valuable."

Lee Weaver, Wewoka
Big Wewoka Creek



A TYPICAL WATERSHED PROJECT

"We will save the county \$50,000.00 or more in the next ten to twenty years in maintenance and construction of roads and bridges because of the Upstream Flood Prevention Program."

Jim Tooley, Asher
County Commissioner, District 3.
Salt Creek, Pottawatomie County

"It is estimated that the total crop and livestock production will double in the area where flood protection and drainage is provided."

Virgil Jumper, President
Idabel National Bank
Whitegrass Waterhole Creek

"My figures will show that it has been worth more to me every year for the past five years to have the overflow off my land, than the original purchase price of the land and the taxes I paid to the conservancy district."
W. B. Berry, Wewoka
Big Wewoka Creek

"The watershed program on Bear, Fall and Coon Creeks has already doubled the value of my 560 acre ranch, located on Fall Creek."

Warren Douglas
Rancher-Mayor, Guthrie
Bear, Fall and Coon Creeks

"This watershed program along with our regular conservation practices, is the greatest program that has come along in years."

Walter Woolley, Ada
Upper Clear Boggy Creek

"I wouldn't take 160 acres of oil wells for my two lakes. This is the best program I ever saw for the land—and the people."
John Morgan, Duncan
Wildhorse Creek

OKLAHOMA... ON THE MOVE IN UPSTREAM WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT