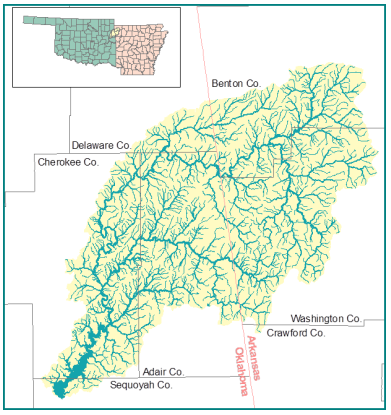
Illinois River
Oklahoma's Nonpoint Source Management Program at Work

Illinois River



- *The Illinois River watershed is one of Oklahoma's most valuable water resources. It has high recreational value as a Scenic River in addition to supplying drinking water.*
- *Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being installed on a voluntary, cost-share basis to reduce the amount of bacteria, phosphorus, and sediment entering the river and Lake Tenkiller. The highest priority BMPs are those that keep livestock out of the stream, such as fencing and alternative water supplies. These practices allow vegetation to grow and effectively filter out pollutants as well as stabilize the highly erodible streambanks.*
- *Over $3 million has been spent to install BMPs, and improvements in water quality have been seen.*

Fencing livestock out of riparian areas allows regrowth of vegetation, which filters pollutants and stabilizes streambanks.

Proper pasture management is accomplished through cross-fencing and rotational grazing and reduces runoff of soil and bacteria into nearby streams.

Freeze-proof tanks supply water to livestock fenced out of streams, and reinforcement of heavy use areas with gravel, concrete, and geotextile reduces soil erosion.

The Illinois River Watershed Implementation Project is a partnership between local landowners, local conservation districts, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC), the NRCS, and the USEPA to address water quality impairments in the project area.

For more information, visit our website at: www.conservation.ok.gov

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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