

GROUSE-SILVER CREEK WATERSHED
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CONSERVATION NEWS

WINTER 2008

The Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed is operated by a locally elected board of supervisors and funding is provided by the Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed District # 92. Our district programs are administered through the Cowley County Conservation District which is housed in the same USDA Service Center as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

**Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed
Board Members**

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**Cowley County Conservation
District**

May Wells,
Water Quality Coordinator
Jyl Riebel,
Conservation District Manager

**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Barry Barber,
District Conservationist
Jess Biddle,
Conservation Technician
Kristen Cuevas,
Soil Conservationist

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 620-221-1850 ext. 3
FAX: 620-221-4162

The Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed Board meetings are held quarterly in Cowley County and are open to the public.

**DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN THE
WATERSHED**



Linda Bowlin, operator, stands in front of one of her water quality projects completed this fall with cost share assistance from the Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed District # 92.

With state regulations making it harder to construct watershed dams the Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed District #92 (GSW) changed their focus from flood control to quality control. This shift led to participation in the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) which is a planning and management framework that engages stakeholders within a particular watershed in a process to identify watershed restoration and protection needs, establish management goals for the watershed community, create a cost effective action plan to achieve goals and implement the action plan. A completed WRAPS plan includes a description of the surface water and groundwater quality of the watershed, water quality goals and the restoration and protection actions needed to achieve the water quality goals.

As we move along through the WRAPS process there are now opportunities for landowners to complete conservation practices that improve water quality and reduce soil erosion in the watershed.

Featured above is owner/operator Linda Bowlin who has completed several conservation practices to include: brush removal, riparian fencing, alternative water supply systems, critical area grass seeding and implementation of a rotational grazing system. These projects were funded using a combination of EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) and watershed district funds. The completion of the projects is critical to the conservation of one of the watershed district's flood control lakes. The watershed lake is silting in at an accelerated rate, and with the completion of the conservation projects Linda has not only improved the quality of her land and ranching operation, but also aids in saving the watershed's flood control structure. Currently the Grouse-Silver Creek Watershed is accepting applications for funding of conservation demonstration projects within their district boundaries.

For more information about the cost-share program please contact May Wells, Water Quality Coordinator, at the Cowley County Conservation District at 221-1850 Extension 35.