

**Oklahoma Tribal Conservation  
Advisory Council  
(OTCAC)**

**Overview - 2004**



# Reasons Why OTCAC Was Organized:

- ❖ To get a “bigger voice” at all levels of USDA decision-making: State - Regional - National.
- ❖ To get a bigger share of the USDA money that goes to land restoration & conservation.
- ❖ To get changes to USDA policies like an Indian exception to the EQIP cost-share program.
- ❖ To get a statutory set-aside of USDA money for Oklahoma Indian landowners.



# Additional Purposes

- ❖ To promote conservation education and economic development among our native people.
- ❖ To promote and protect each tribe's definition of what is considered Indian Country.
- ❖ To promote conservation and ecosystem research.
- ❖ To promote the interests of all Council members equally.
- ❖ To promote and protect the uniqueness of all tribal cultures.
- ❖ To promote both the cultural and the economic needs of the tribes and their member landowners.
- ❖ To promote cooperation and encourage partnership building between the tribes and federal agencies.



# Some early **OBSTACLES**

- ❖ **Skepticism** - “Why do Indians need another organization?”
- ❖ **A general lack of Agency knowledge about Indians** - A) one agency doesn't know what the other agencies are doing to assist Indians - B) they don't understand the differences between the tribes/Nations (culture, government, language...)
- ❖ **Fed and State Agency barriers** – OTCAC will serve to educate agencies, develop links between agencies, locate funding, and enhance government to government relations
- ❖ **A lack of funding**....more people could participate if they had assistance.



# MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ To conserve and preserve natural resources in Indian Country through a process exercising sovereign rights of the American Indians, and obtaining funding for each tribe to control the destiny of our ecosystem including soil, air, lands, water, flora, fauna and cultural sustainability.



# **The Constitution of the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**

- ❖ Final Draft Approved May 7, 2002
- ❖ No comments received during 60-day comment period
- ❖ Officially adopted on December 9, 2002



# Current OTCAC Board

- ❖ Chairman: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
  - ❖ P. J. Workman
- ❖ Vice-Chairman: Cheyenne Arapahoe
  - ❖ Clara Bushyhead
- ❖ Treasurer: Citizen Potawatomi Nation
  - ❖ Art Muller
- ❖ Secretary: Absentee Shawnee Tribe
  - ❖ Renee' G. Hood



## **Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC)**

### **1. Western Area**

- (1) Apache Tribe
- (2) Caddo Tribe
- (3) Cheyenne-Arapaho
- (4) Comanche Nation
- (5) Delaware Nation
- (6) Fort Sill Apache Tribe
- (7) Kiowa Tribe
- (8) Wichita & Affiliated Tribe

### **2. North Central Area**

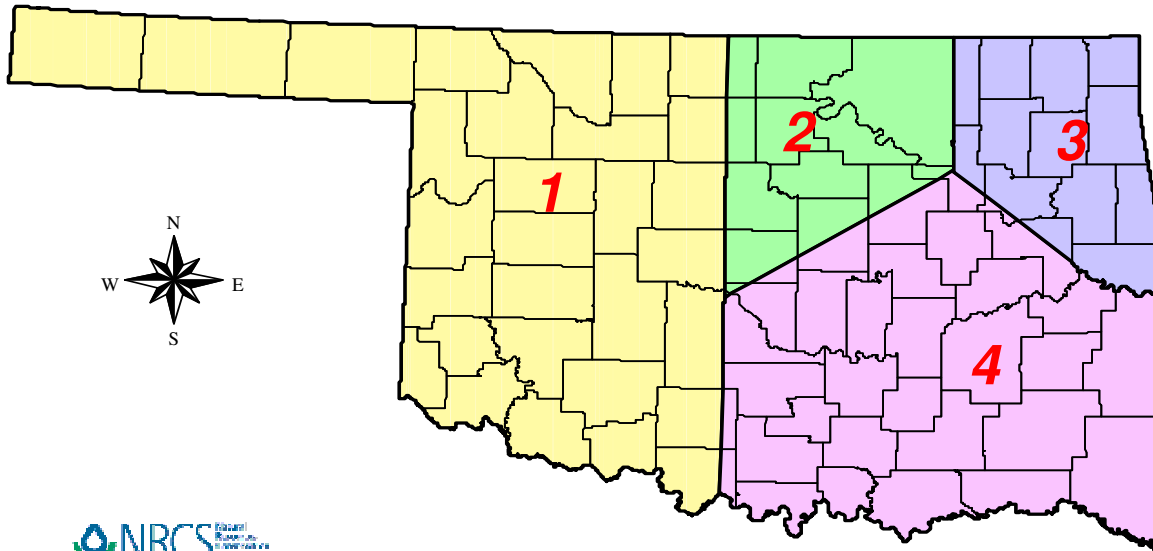
- (1) Delaware Tribe of Indians (Eastern)
- (2) Iowa Tribe
- (3) Kaw Tribe
- (4) Osage Nation
- (5) Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- (6) Pawnee Tribe
- (7) Ponca Tribe
- (8) Sac & Fox Nation
- (9) Tonkawa Tribe

### **3. Northeastern Area**

- (1) Cherokee Nation
- (2) Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- (3) Miami Tribe
- (4) Modoc Tribe
- (5) Ottawa Tribe
- (6) Peoria Tribe
- (7) Quapaw Tribe
- (8) Seneca-Cayuga Tribes
- (9) United Keetoowah (Band of Cherokees)
- (10) Wyandotte Tribe
- (11) Shawnee Tribe (Miami Oklahoma)

### **4. Southeastern Area**

- (1) Absentee Shawnee Tribe
- (2) Alabama Quassarte Tribe
- (3) Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- (4) Chickasaw Nation
- (5) Choctaw Nation
- (6) Kickapoo Tribe
- (7) Kialegee Tribal Town
- (8) Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- (9) Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- (10) Seminole Nation
- (11) Yuchi (Euchee) Tribe







## Funding & Resource Options:

- ❖ EPA, USDA, Administration for Native American (ANA), the Corp. of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, BIA, Fish & Wildlife, Dept of Forestry, private grants, IHS and others;



## OTCAC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- ❖ Delegates shall be selected from Four Regional Areas in OK (Western, Northeastern, North Central, Southeastern); Members from other states may choose to participate in the region of their choice with full voting privileges and responsibilities.
- ❖ OTCAC members will elect state officers: Chair, Vice-Chair Secretary, Treasurer;
- ❖ Non-voting technical advisors, and/or facilitators may participate at the request of the OTCAC;
- ❖ Meetings will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order;
- ❖ Quarterly and as needed meetings shall be rotated across Areas (piggy-backed w/other meetings where possible);
- ❖ Annual state meetings shall include all tribes from Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas.



## USDA \$\$\$'s are Available for:

- ❖ Conservation: soil, wetland, habitat, water quality;
- ❖ Cultural Preservation;
- ❖ Conservation Education:
- ❖ Research on natural resources within Indian Country
- ❖ We Need towards a set-aside for our tribes.



## **A Budget for the Organization**

- ❖ Using tribal meeting facilities, wherever feasible
- ❖ Seek sponsorships, promote the renting of booth space at our big meetings, etc.



# Status of Area Meetings

- ❖ 8-Area meetings were held with the tribes in 2004
- ❖ Next round of area meetings will be scheduled in March / April 2005
- ❖ Statewide OTCAC Meeting was held March 2004
- ❖ Next Annual State Meeting in March of 2005