

## BENEFITS OF THE TRIBAL-STATE AGREEMENT

The Water Settlement Agreement (WSA) is a landmark agreement that helps manage and protect water in the Chickasaw and Choctaw Reservation Areas. At its heart, the agreement is about working together to protect water through partnership, sustainability, and respect for the land and the people who depend on it. Below are the different ways the WSA protects water resources on the reservation.

| Issues                              | Settlement   | No Settlement   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                     | OKC use is restricted to lake level maintenance & priority is given to instream flows of Kiamichi, lake level management, and local use                                      | OKC can take the entirety of Sardis Lake storage (272,200 acre-feet) for their municipal and industrial uses                              |
| Water Use Rights                    | Oklahoma City can utilize approximately 37.5 billion gallons of water from Sardis Lake and must follow required in-stream flows & lake levels.                               | Oklahoma City could have utilized up to 88.8 billion gallons of water from Sardis Lake with no lake level or in-stream flow requirements. |
| Lake Level                          | Lake levels restrict OKC from draining Sardis Lake under specific levels dependent on the season.  | Oklahoma City could drain Sardis Lake down to 542 feet, mean sea level  |
| Drought & Conservation Requirements | OKC must have an industry standard conservation plan and the OKC lakes must be drawn down to 65% before it can draw water from the region during extreme drought conditions. | None  |
| Local Use Set Aside                 | OKC funds storage capacity to set aside 20,000-acre feet of water for local use.   | None  |
| In-Stream Flow Protections          | Requires at least 50 cubic feet per second flow rate before diverting to OKC   | None  |
| Mitigation                          | Establishment of \$10,000,000 mitigation fund and joint design for Atoka Lake and Sardis Lake recreational projects  | None  |
| Nations' Role in the Process        | 1) Engagement with stream system modeling prior to OWRB evaluation and decision on significant water use<br>2) Intergovernmental engagement in water planning efforts        | No specific mechanism   |
| Dispute Resolution                  | The Settlement Agreement will become federal legislation, enforceable as law in federal court  | No specific mechanism   |

