Evaluation of Non-Consumptive Water Uses in the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

Non-consumptive water use, such as recreation, is an important consideration in the OCWP. The OCWP process included many opportunities for recreation interest stakeholders to participate. Also, there are OCWP products that directly and indirectly address non-consumptive water use. The following are some selected specific examples:

1. In addition to local and regional meetings across the state over a period of two years, water planning workshops that allowed citizens to deliberate on feasible water resource management strategies were conducted in 2009. There were 10 workshop themes. Several of the workshops provided multiple opportunities for recreation interests to contribute information to the process.

2. Following the series of OCWP workshops The Oklahoma Academy, Chaired by Neal McCaleb, provided a high profile Water Town Hall venue opportunity for input from recreation stakeholders. One of the Oklahoma Academy report recommendations was: incorporate information from the Instream Flow Study Work Group into the Water Plan (see number 3 below).

3. An important component of the OCWP process included the initial formation of an Instsream Flow Advisory Committee. Members with an interest in non-consumptive water uses such as outdoor recreation, included representatives from Oklahoma State Parks, State Chamber of Commerce, The Nature Conservancy, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A report that includes findings and recommendations for next steps is provided in the report: Oklahoma Instream Flows, Recommendations for the Comprehensive Water Plan dated 2/1/2011.

4. The development of OCWP tools such as the OKH2O tool and the Reservoir Yield Model, that are shared resources, will provide opportunities to include non-consumptive water use in future planning processes. For example impacts to future reservoir yield may have a direct and/or indirect effect on water based recreation. And the OKH2O tool will allow for scenario planning considering future non-consumptive demands in all 82 OCWP basins.