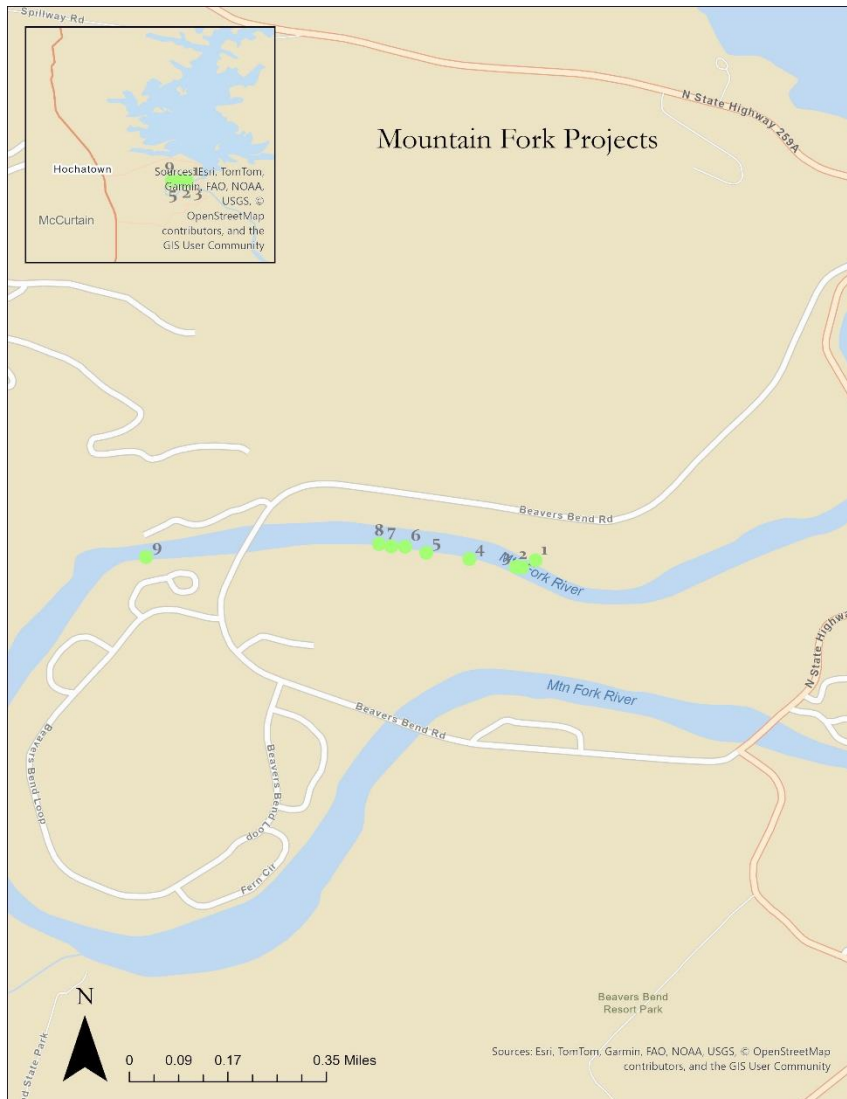


## PUBLIC NOTICE

April 21, 2026

The [Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) has received an application for a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Certification) pertaining to proposed activities in Mountain Fork River in McCurtain County. The activities require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the CWA (Section 404 Permit). Under [Section 401 of CWA](#), the State is required to review any Federal permit regarding activities in Waters of the United States. The purpose of the Certification review, according to DEQ regulations [[Title 252, Chapter 611-3-1\(a\)](#)], is to determine whether the proposed discharge(s) will comply with the [Oklahoma Water Quality Standards](#) (WQS), and Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA.

**This Public Notice opens on April 21, 2026, and will close on May 21, 2026.**



Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation submitted an application on behalf of the Lower Mountain Fork River Foundation for the bank stabilization on Mountain Fork River inside Beavers Bend State Park in McCurtain County. The repair work is covered under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Nationwide Permit 3, Maintenance (NWP3), and 13 (NWP13), Bank Stabilization. The WQS designates Mountain Fork River as a High Quality Water (HQW). The USACE has adopted HQW designations for Critical Resource Waters (CRW) relative to NWP3. For NWP13, DEQ has denied Section 401 Water Quality Certification in CRWs and requires a project-specific Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

The proposed project goal is to maintain and improve trout habitat and create more fishable areas for anglers. A map to show the areas of the proposed work is attached. The work will include the placement of stream rock along the riverbank to mitigate ongoing erosion, repair of five existing rock weir structures, and removing of stream rock from the river to provide better channeling for water movement. To protect from erosion 250 linear feet of the bank will be lined with 8-12 inches stream rock (site 3 on the map). Repairing rock weir structures would include excavating rock inside the

weirs to make deeper pools that have filled over the years and placing the rock and boulders on the top of the weirs to

slow water movement and create habitat (Sites 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 on the map). The size of the stream rock will be 8–12 inches, and boulders will be up to 2 feet in size. Approximately 135 cubic yards of stream rock will be removed at three sites (Site 4, 8, and 9 on a map) to improve flow. All stream rock and boulders utilized for this project will be sourced from within the river and consist of material that was displaced during the previous flood. Work would be done with an excavator and dump truck along the upland riverbank only. Work will be conducted using best management practices to protect water quality, maintain habitat complexity, and preserve natural river function.

The project is located in Section 5, Township 5 South, Range 25 East, I.M, in McCurtain County, Oklahoma.

DEQ is soliciting comments concerning the water quality impacts of the project. The comments received will be considered by DEQ in issuing a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project. Please submit your comments in writing by the end of the workday on May 21, 2026, to:

Elena Jigoulina  
Water Quality Division  
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 1677  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677  
(405) 702-8200  
[Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov](mailto:Water.Comments@deq.ok.gov)

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You are receiving this notice because you are either on DEQ's list to receive all public notices or you are located downstream in an affected watershed. **This notice is for informational purposes only; it is not to be published in the legal section of newspapers.**

If you are receiving this notice in error, are getting multiple notices, or do not want to receive future notices, please let us know.

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