

POSTER #12

Ethnographic Research in the Upper Washita Watershed

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While still in very early stages of execution, this poster highlights research strategies and preliminary findings from in-situ ethnographic fieldwork in the Upper Washita River watershed. The context for this particular socio-ecological observatory corresponds more precisely to the political boundary of Caddo County and the overlapping tribal jurisdictions of the former Kiowa-Comanche-Apache and Wichita-Caddo-Delaware reservations. Situated amid a semi-arid mixed cropland/ prairie mosaic landscape, this observatory displays a staggering diversity of water, land, and community/cultural resources. Historic and contemporary land tenure relations and land use patterns continue to shape perceptions of local resources and climate conditions in significant ways. While land and resource relations both within and between variously differentiated communities has been shaped by a host of federal, state, and local agencies and interventions, research in the Upper Washita is exploring the influence of internal community dynamics and individual agency on the reception and implementation of resource conservation strategies.