

4. Why aren't hiking trails on the USGS topographic maps?

Many trails are shown. Others are newer than the maps or weren't visible on the aerial photographs used by cartographers to make the maps.

Most USGS topographic maps are made from aerial photographs, and features such as hiking trails that are visible on the photographs typically are shown on the maps. Trails not shown on the maps may have been established after the photographs were made, or were obscured by vegetation. However, some trails that appear on maps no longer exist, or have been overgrown and are barely visible even on the ground. They may have been good trails when the photographs were taken, but are not now.

State and federal agencies in many cases carefully mark trails on their file copies of topographic maps. For example, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (Appendix 1) has maps showing trails in many State parks, and the U.S. Forest Service (Appendix 2) has maps showing trails in the Ouachita National Forest. Photocopies of these maps may be available for purchase.

5. What topographic maps cover Wildlife Management areas?

The OGS Publication Sales Office (Appendix 1) has a list of maps covering areas managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (Appendix 1). Contact us for information on areas that interest you.

7. Do you have a map showing all the oil and gas wells in Oklahoma?

We have no single map showing all the petroleum wells in the State. However, map GM-28, "Map of Oklahoma Oil and Gas Fields," shows all the oil and gas fields in Oklahoma.

In addition, the OGS can access the Natural Resources Information System (NRIS), a database of all petroleum wells for which a Completion Report (Form 1002A) has been submitted to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (Appendix 1). Using information from NRIS, maps showing well locations in any given area of the State can be printed at any scale (e.g., Fig. 1). (A fee is charged for this service.) Contact the OGS Computer Facility (Appendix 1) for more information about the NRIS database.

Several commercial firms publish maps of oil and gas wells in Oklahoma: Geo Information Systems, Herndon Map Service, IHS Energy Group, and PennWell Corp. (Appendix 5).

6. Where can I find a fishing map that shows the bottom contours of lakes?

Some of the topographic maps published by the USGS and sold by us show the topography of lake bottoms; others do not. If you have a question about a particular lake, contact the OGS Publication Sales Office (Appendix 1), and we will tell you what maps are available and whether or not bottom contours are shown.

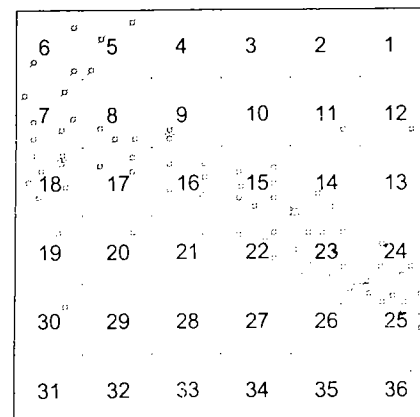


Figure 1 (questions 7 and 12). Map of township T. 15 N., R. 20 W., showing the location of natural-gas wells in the Moorewood NE gas field. Sections are labeled 1 through 36, beginning in the northeast corner of the township. Each section is one square mile. (Map by Jane L. Weber, Oklahoma Geological Survey.)