



Woods

Woods County was created at statehood from portions of Woods and Woodward counties, Oklahoma Territory. It was part of the Cherokee Outlet, given to the Cherokees in 1828 as a hunting outlet. In 1893, the Cherokee Outlet was opened to white settlement by a land run, the greatest horserace in history. The area which was to become Woods County was originally designated as County "M."

The Oklahoma Constitutional Convention divided old Woods County. The eastern portion became Alfalfa County; a southern portion became Major County, and part of Woodward County north and east of the Cimarron River was added to the remainder to make up present-day Woods County.

Books written about Woods County include *Pioneer Footprints Across Woods County*, *The First 100 Years of Alva, Oklahoma*, *Reflections Across Woods County*, *History of Woods County, Oklahoma*, and *Ranchland to Railroads*. Annual events in the area include the Nescatunga Arts & Humanities Fair in June, the Rattlesnake Hunt the first weekend after Easter, and the Freedom Rodeo during the third week in August.

The county tourist center is located on the campus of Northwestern Oklahoma State University. For more information, call the county clerk's office at 580/327-0942.

Districts

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Cong. | 3 |
| St. Sen. | 27 |
| St. Rep. | 58 |
| D.A. | 26 |
| Ct. of Appeals | 6 |
| Ct. of Crim. Appeals... | 5 |
| Supreme Ct. Jud. | 4 |
| N.W. Jud. Adm. | 4 |
| (Div. 1) | |

County Officials

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Court Clerk | Della Dunnigan (R) | Alva |
| Clerk | Pam Small (D) | Dacoma |
| Sheriff | Rudy Briggs Jr. (D) | Alva |
| Treasurer | Barbara Long (D) | Alva |
| Assessor | Monica Schmidt (D) | Alva |
| Elect. Brd. Sec. | Wylodean Linder (D) | Alva |
| Dist. 1 Comm. | Clint Strawn (R) | Alva |
| Dist. 2 Comm. | Jimmie Woodard (R) | Freedom |
| Dist. 3 Comm. | Mike Goucher (R) | Waynoka |

Property Valuations

| | 2003-2004 Assessment | 2004-2005 Assessment | Increase or Decrease |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Real Estate and Improvement | \$34,748,858 | \$35,309,072 | \$560,214 |
| Personal Subject to Tax | \$17,291,716 | \$18,484,187 | \$1,192,471 |
| Total Locally Assessed | \$52,040,574 | \$53,793,259 | \$1,752,685 |
| Homestead Exemptions Allowed | \$2,355,594 | \$2,318,437 | (\$37,157) |
| Net Assessed Locally | \$49,684,980 | \$51,474,822 | \$1,789,842 |
| Public Service Assessment | \$18,093,516 | \$18,693,766 | \$600,250 |
| Net Assessed Valuation | \$67,778,496 | \$70,168,588 | \$2,390,092 |

County Seat—Alva (Pop. 5,034) 2003 Estimate
Area (Land & Water)—1,290.07 square miles
Per Capita Income (2003)—\$25,515 (Ranks 12th of 77 counties)
Population Stats (2000)—Fem.—4,457, Male—4,632 • **Ethnicity**—
 Wh.—8,354; Bl.—212; Am. Ind.—137; As.—48; Other—0; Pacific Is.—2;
 Two or more races—116; Hisp.—220
Births (2003)—77 • **Deaths (2003)**—112
Unemployment Rate (2003)—11.4%
Labor Force (2003)—4,750
Number of Establishments (2002)—280
Number of Manufacturers (2002)—8
Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)—\$107,744
 TANF—\$57,736 • Supplements —Aged—\$16,445; Blind—
 \$0; Disabled—\$33,563
Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles—6,986;
 Farm Trucks—2,000; Comm. Trucks, Tractors,
 Trailers—407; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—315;
 Motorcycles—250; Manufactured Homes—5; Tax Exempt
 Licenses—32; Boats—451
Institutions of Higher Learning—Northwestern
 Oklahoma State University, Alva
Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder—0; Rape—2;
 Robbery—0; Fel. Assault—6; Breaking and Entering—53;
 Larceny—85; Motor Vehicle Theft—8; Arson—1 • Total
 Crime Index—154; Crime Rate per 1,000—17.49
Farms (2002)—761 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—816,386

| County Population | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1907 (Okla. Terr.) | 15,517 |
| 1910 | 17,567 |
| 1920 | 15,939 |
| 1930 | 17,005 |
| 1940 | 14,915 |
| 1950 | 14,526 |
| 1960 | 11,932 |
| 1970 | 11,920 |
| 1980 | 10,923 |
| 1990 | 9,103 |
| 2000 | 9,089 |
| 2004 Estimate | 8,570 |

Recreation Area—Little Sahara
Major Stream Systems—Salt Fork
 of the Arkansas River, Cimarron River
 and its tributaries
Museums and Historic Sites—
 Cherokee Strip Museum and
 Northwestern Oklahoma State
 University Museum, Stevens-Carter
 Museum of Natural History, Alva
Minerals—oil and gas

