

Wildhorse Creek Watershed Dam No. 107 – Elmore City Lake



Protecting Our People - Protecting Our Natural Resources

This is one of 2,107 examples of how local, state and federal government agencies have worked together to utilize the Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Program to address natural resource needs and improve the quality of life for thousands of Oklahomans.*

Wildhorse Creek Watershed Dam No. 107

Wildhorse Creek Watershed Dam No. 107, known as Elmore City Lake, is located on the northeast edge of Elmore City, Oklahoma.

The dam was constructed in 1966 by the City of Elmore City and the Garvin Conservation District with assistance from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The dam was constructed for flood control and for a municipal water supply for Elmore City.

When the dam was planned in 1965 additional water storage was added for Elmore City along with plans for recreational areas to be developed around the lake. At the time Elmore City was obtaining their water supply from wells and one well had become unusable due to salting and there were concerns that the other wells would become unusable. It became urgent to develop another municipal water source.

The dam is one of 107 flood control dams that have been constructed in the 420,000 acre Wildhorse Creek Watershed Project in Stephens, Garvin, Carter, and Murray Counties.

Frequent flooding occurred in the watershed before the 107 dams were constructed. Between 1923 and 1942 there were 23 major floods in the watershed (flood waters covered more than one-half of the flood plain) and 57 smaller floods. This averaged four flood events each year. Floods destroyed crops; killed livestock; damaged fences; washed out roads and bridges; and eroded the land depositing sediment in streams and rivers.

Benefits Provided by the 107 Dams in the Wildhorse Creek Watershed Project

- \$5.4 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for 622 farms and ranches
- Provides flood protection for major bridges and numerous county roads and bridges
- Created or enhanced 1,236 acres of wetlands
- Reduces sedimentation by 503,000 tons of soil each year



Wildhorse Creek Dam 107 is located at the edge of Elmore City and provides flood protection, municipal water supply and recreational facilities

The Wildhorse Creek Watershed Project is one of 129 projects in Oklahoma that have been planned and implemented by local people with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

2,107* flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$90 million in average annual benefits.

For additional information about watershed projects in the state visit the Oklahoma Conservation Commission website at: <http://conservation.ok.gov> or visit your local conservation district and NRCS office.