

Wildhorse Creek Watershed Dam No. 39

Lake Fuqua

Stephens County, Oklahoma



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. 39

Wildhorse Creek Watershed Dam No. 39, known as Lake Fuqua, was constructed in 1963 by the City of Duncan and the Stephens County Conservation District with the assistance of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program.

The dam, located 21 miles northeast of Duncan, was constructed for flood control, municipal water supply and recreation. The lake provides municipal water for Duncan and the recreational facilities around the 1,500 surface acre lake include an enclosed floating fishing dock, 54 RV hookups, two boat ramps, and a sanitary dump station.

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

Frequent flooding occurred in the watershed before the dams were constructed. Between 1923 and 1942 there were 23 major floods in the watershed (flood waters covered more than one-half of the floodplain) 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.

Conservation districts in the four counties and the Wildhorse Creek Flood Prevention Association requested assistance from the NRCS in developing and implementing a watershed project to address the flooding, erosion and the need for water supply. The 107 dams were constructed between 1949 and 1993.

Five dams in the watershed were designed as multipurpose structures to provide municipal water and recreational areas. These include four dams in Stephens County (Duncan Lake, Clear Creek Lake, Lake Humphreys, and Lake Fuqua); and one in Garvin County (Elmore City Lake).



Lake Fuqua provides flood control, water supply and recreational areas.

Benefits of the Wildhorse Creek Watershed Project

- Provides \$5.4 million in average annual benefits from reduced flood damages
- Provides flood protection for highways, railroads and county roads and bridges
- Provides flood protection for 600 farms and ranches
- Impounded water has created fish and wildlife habitat, waterfowl nesting areas and livestock water
- Sedimentation is reduced by 500,000 tons of soil annually

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 and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

*2,107 NRCS-assisted flood control dams have been constructed in 61 Oklahoma counties. These watershed projects that also include thousands of conservation practices provide over \$81 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.