

Horse Creek Dam

Santa Rosa Environmental Dept.

[Pick the date]

Newsletter

General Information

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In 1938, Santa Rosa tribal members began work on a dam on Palm Canyon Creek to store water for beneficial uses by the Band. Uses for the Band included domestic water supply, irrigation water supply, fire protection, recreation, fishing, fresh water wildlife habitat, ecological diversity,

cultural/traditional, agriculture, and groundwater recharge.

The Horse Creek Dam was completed in 1939; by 1972 the dam had filled with silt.



Dam Restoration

Beginning March, 2015, the Santa Rosa Band, in coordination with Walking Shield Inc., U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Defense Innovation Readiness Training Program, began work to remove the sediment and vegetation that had settled in Horse Creek Dam. In addition to restoring the original dam, also constructed was a sediment catch basin, which will help to ensure the dam will not fill with sediment again. The restoration project lasted 4 months and was completed in July, 2015. The Band immediately began work to fill the reservoir with water, stock it with fish, increase vegetation in the area, and fence it off to the public.

Working with the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Santa Rosa EPA will make sure water quality is continuously tested, wildlife activity is continuously monitored, fish (Sacramento perch) will be stocked in the foreseeable future, and the dam and surrounding land will be sustainably managed. However, managing Horse Creek Dam will rely most importantly on the use and care by Santa Rosa residents, as they will be the primary peoples with access to the dam.

Water Quality

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Horse Creek Dam is filled (almost) entirely by natural spring water. Some rainwater will make its way into the reservoir, but that amount is negligible, the springs are **CONSTANLY** feeding into the water reservoir. With that being said, the number 1 factor that can lead to poor water quality in the reservoir is human carelessness. Going to the bathroom near/in the water, leaving trash of any kind, driving cars, quads or motorcycles next to the water, and throwing items into the water are all forms of pollution and can lead to poor water quality.

The water that feeds into Horse Creek Dam is unpolluted and clean, maintaining that level of cleanliness relies heavily on the residents of Santa Rosa – or whoever visits the water.

Questions? Please call the Tribal Office (951) 659-2700



Fishing Rules & Regulations

(Rules & Regulations are enforced through Tribal Law)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fishing is only permitted after the fish have established a viable population. If the fish are not allowed to establish a population, they will simply be fished out of the reservoir and there will no longer be fish in Horse Creek Dam.• The estimated time needed to allow the fish to adequately establish a population is 6-12 months. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In cooperation with CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Santa Rosa Tribal and EPA staff reserve the right to ban fishing if the population is being overfished or is otherwise unhealthy and struggling to maintain a viable population.• Secure hooks to your fishing line and ensure all hooks are accounted for before you leave; nobody wants to step on your hook. |
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Safety

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- Nobody under the age of 18 is allowed near the water unsupervised.
- When fishing is permitted, hooks must be securely tied to the line so they do not fall off into the water, potentially cutting or stabbing into an individual's foot.
- No jumping off cliffs. Water depth can be misleading and severe injuries or death could result from a cliff jump.
- No fighting, pushing, dunking, or horseplay in or around the water.
- It is recommended that even adults travel in pairs of at least two, accidents do happen and dangerous wildlife is present on the reservation.
- No drugs or alcohol.



Sacramento Perch