
Lake Greenwood Facts



The 11,400 acres of Lake Greenwood was created by the construction of the Buzzard's Roost dam in 1940. Water was initially impounded to a surface elevation of 440, but was later revised to 439 msl. This is currently normal pond. The facility was built and operated by the Greenwood County Electrification Commission until it was dissolved and the operations went into the county administration.

In 1966, Greenwood County voted to sell the transmission lines and combustion plant, and to lease the powerhouse to Duke Power. As part of their requirements in the 40 year lease, Duke Power worked on Greenwood's behalf to renew the operating license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has rules and regulations for hydroelectric producing lakes. Part of the licensing process involved getting input from state and federal agencies regarding fishery and wildlife issues, drawdown curves, sustained river flows, shoreline habitats, and improving public access.



On December 2, 2004, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control issued Greenwood County a General Permit to authorize the construction, repair, and maintenance of private non-commercial encroachments. In 2006, Duke Power's lease expired, but they continued to operate the plant until Santee Cooper took over in March 2007.

FERC has required the County to become more assiduous about the permitting of encroachments and enforcing regulations. With increasing development, and in order to insure that the development takes place in a

way that doesn't impact the lake and habitat areas, Greenwood County has become more diligent in managing the lake.

In 2006, the Lake Management Department was created to help with these requirements. In general, the Lake Management Department is responsible for issuing permits, receiving registrations, aiding with FERC requirements, lake log removal, mosquito spraying, and upkeep of public access boat ramps, and other issues as they arise.



Greenwood County is in the process of planning an additional public access boat ramp off of Riverfork Road. The construction is scheduled to begin in 2007, once all regulatory permits are received.

Resolutions regarding Lake Greenwood can be found online at www.lakegreenwoodonline.com. USGS lake levels, contact info, contractor's list, maps, FERC license, and forms are a few topics that are listed on the above website.

