



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Savannah District

Drainage Basins Savannah River Basin Fact Sheet

What is a “Basin”?

Wherever you are right now and wherever your property is, you and your property are always in one!

The term “basin” refers to a “drainage basin” or “watershed” and is the area of land that catches rain (and other precipitation) that eventually drains or seeps into a marsh, river, lake, or groundwater. What separates different drainage basins/ watersheds from each other are ridges of higher land.

Drainage basins come in all different shapes and sizes. Some are millions of square miles and some are just a few acres. But no matter what size they are, basins are nearly always part of a larger basin area. The 10,579 square mile Savannah River Basin includes everything that eventually flows into the Savannah River – from above Hartwell Lake all the way to the Atlantic Ocean in Savannah.

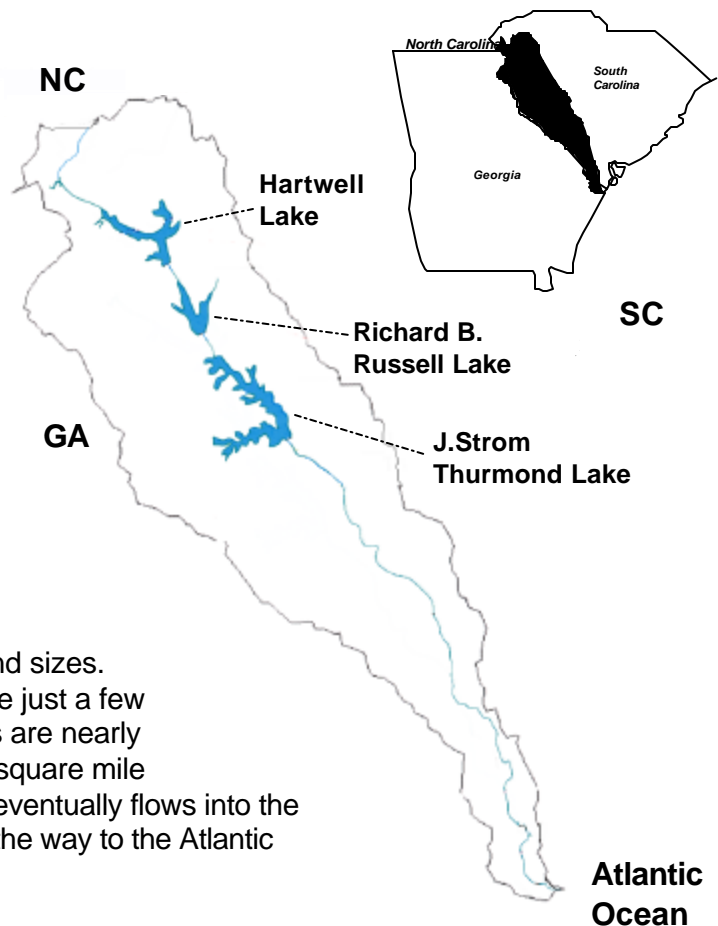
The drainage basins for Hartwell, Russell, and Thurmond Lakes vary in size as does the scenery and topography.

Cumulative Watershed/Basin Size:

Hartwell = 2,088 square miles
Russell = 2,890 square miles
Thurmond = 6,144 square miles

Savannah River Basin Size by State:

- 179 square miles in North Carolina
- 4,530 square miles in South Carolina
- 5,870 square miles in Georgia
- 10,579 square miles total



Did you know? The Savannah River begins 7.1 miles above the Hartwell Dam and is 312 miles long, ending at the Atlantic Ocean.

Hartwell Dam & Lake

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Hartwell, GA 30643-0278
706-856-0300
1-888-893-0678
www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell

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