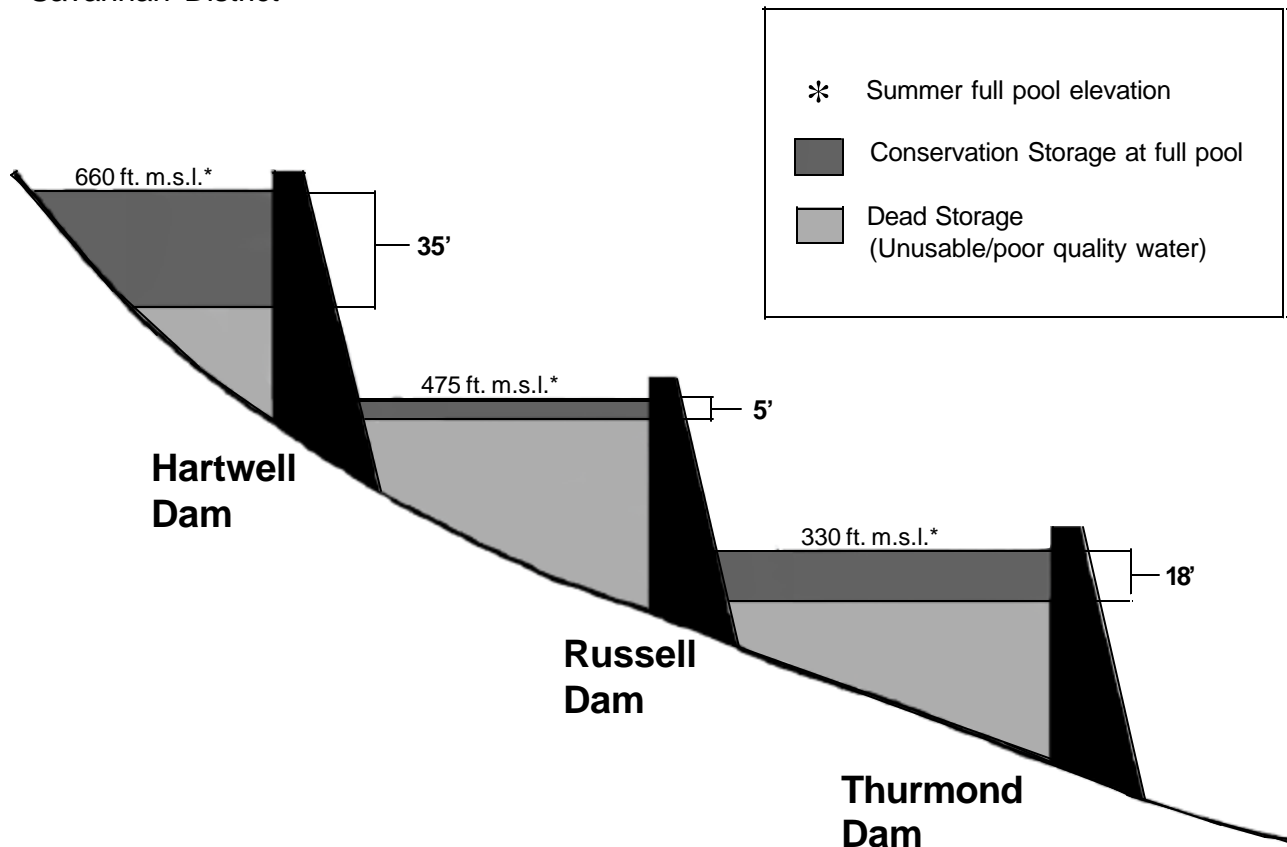




US Army Corps
of Engineers
Savannah District

Savannah River Basin System Savannah River Basin Fact Sheet



Savannah River Basin System

Water management of the three lakes is interrelated. This means that water management decisions are made with consideration given to each of the three lakes as well as the Savannah River below Thurmond Dam. During normal as well as drought conditions, lake levels at Hartwell and Thurmond are kept “in balance”. This becomes even more important during a drought because balancing the lake levels helps to equally distribute negative impacts of low levels as well as maintain minimum flow requirements below Thurmond.

The “conservation storage” at Hartwell is 35 feet and at Thurmond, 18 feet. Conservation storage refers to the amount of “usable” water in a lake - water that can be used to meet authorized purposes. If a reservoir goes beyond its designed conservation pool, the water being passed through would be of poor quality. As Thurmond nears the bottom of its conservation storage, storage from Hartwell must be used to provide the minimum flow for water supply requirements downstream of Thurmond. Because Russell Lake has only 5 feet of conservation storage, it cannot be drawn down equally with the other lakes beyond 3 or 4 feet (this is why Russell Lake may appear fuller than Hartwell and Thurmond Lakes during a drought).

Hartwell Dam & Lake

P.O. Box 278
5625 Anderson Hwy
Hartwell, GA 30643-0278
706-856-0300
1-888-893-0678
www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/hartwell

Richard B. Russell Dam & Lake

4144 Russell Dam Drive
Elberton, GA 30635-9271
706-213-3400
1-800-944-7207
www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/russell

J. Strom Thurmond Dam & Lake

Rt. 1, Box 12
Highway 221
Clarks Hill, SC 29821-9703
864-333-1100
1-800-533-3478
www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond