

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

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Presenter Title: Lakes Branch Chief

Duty Location: Savannah District

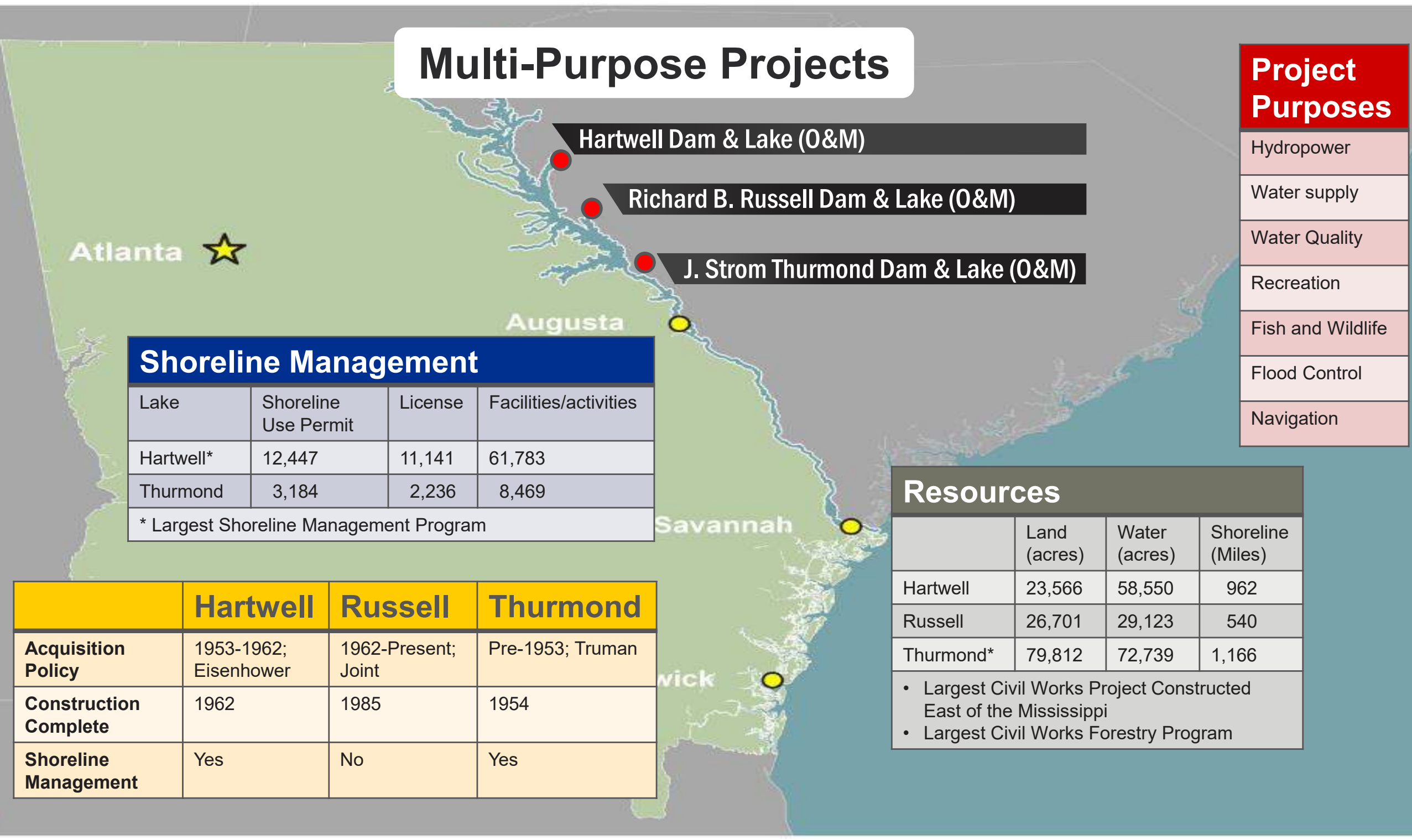
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US Army Corps
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Multi-Purpose Projects



Project Purposes
Hydropower
Water supply
Water Quality
Recreation
Fish and Wildlife
Flood Control
Navigation

Shoreline Management

Lake	Shoreline Use Permit	License	Facilities/activities
Hartwell*	12,447	11,141	61,783
Thurmond	3,184	2,236	8,469

* Largest Shoreline Management Program

	Hartwell	Russell	Thurmond
Acquisition Policy	1953-1962; Eisenhower	1962-Present; Joint	Pre-1953; Truman
Construction Complete	1962	1985	1954
Shoreline Management	Yes	No	Yes

Resources

	Land (acres)	Water (acres)	Shoreline (Miles)
Hartwell	23,566	58,550	962
Russell	26,701	29,123	540
Thurmond*	79,812	72,739	1,166

- Largest Civil Works Project Constructed East of the Mississippi
- Largest Civil Works Forestry Program



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NATIONWIDE SHORELINE GUIDANCE

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- 13 December 1974 – ER 1130-2-406 Shoreline (originally Lakeshore) Management at Civil Work Projects and Title 36 section 327.30
- Except to honor written commitments made prior to publication of this regulation, private shoreline uses are **not** allowed on water resource projects where construction was initiated after December 13, 1974, or on water resource projects where no private shoreline uses existed as of that date.
- Private shoreline uses may be authorized in designated areas consistent with approved use allocations specified in Shoreline Management Plans.

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SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PURPOSE



- Protect and manage the shoreline
- Promote the safe and healthful use of the shoreline by the public
- Maintain environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public
- Achieve a balance between permitted private uses and resource protection for general public use



RICHARD B. RUSSELL SHORELINE STATEMENT

- The Corps of Engineers seek to manage and protect the shoreline of the lake by establishing and maintaining acceptable fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality and natural environmental conditions; and to promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines for recreational purposes by the public. Considerations must also be given to possible conflicts of use between the general public and the owners of private property adjacent to the project. Use of public land by adjacent private property owners which would lead the public to believe public land is privately owned is called private exclusive use. The policy of the Chief of Engineers is that private exclusive use will not be permitted on lakes constructed after December 1974 – and Richard B. Russell falls into that category. This means that privately-owned boat docks, launching ramps, driveways, gardens, buildings, developed walkways, vista clearings, under-brushing, mowing, and other private lakeshore uses will not be permitted. This policy does not mean that landowners who share a common boundary with public property at the lake cannot use the lakeshore lands. **There is no prohibition against pedestrian use of any public property at the lake except in a very few restricted areas near the dam. In this respect, adjacent landowners have the right accorded to any other member of the public, plus a private access point from their property to public land and water.**



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SHORELINE ALLOCATIONS OR ZONING



- Limited Development Areas (LDA) – Green - Areas where private facilities/activities may be authorized.
- Protected Shoreline Areas – Yellow - Areas designated to maintain or restore aesthetic, fish, and wildlife, cultural, or other environmental values. Also areas subject to excessive siltation, erosion, wind/wave action. Buffer to reduce conflict. Private facilities/activities prohibited except that some vegetation modification may be authorized in these areas – meandering path.
- Public Recreation Areas – Red or Orange – For commercial concessionaire facilities or Federal, State, local public recreation development.
- Prohibited Access Areas – Orange or Blue – Corps operational areas with no public access allowed.

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SHORELINE ALLOCATIONS

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Hartwell Lake

- Limited Development – 50%
- Protected – 26%
- Public Recreation – 24%
- Prohibited Access - <1%

Thurmond Lake

- Limited Development – 18%
- Protected – 61%
- Public Recreation – 20%
- Prohibited Access - <1%

■ Hartwell

- Allocated: 1972
- 1st SMP: 1979
- Revisions: 1989, 1998, 2007, and 2020

■ Thurmond

- Allocated: 1973
- 1st SMP: 1983
- Revisions: 1993, 2001, and 2018

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PUBLIC LAW PROTECTION

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- **Public Law 97-140, section 6** - no lawfully installed dock or appurtenant structures shall be required to be removed prior to December 31, 1989, if such property *is* maintained in usable condition, and does not occasion a threat to life or property.
- **Public Law 99-662, section 1134(d)** - any houseboat, boathouse, floating cabin or lawfully installed dock or appurtenant structures in place under a valid shoreline use permit as of November 17, 1986, cannot be forced to be removed from any Federal water resources project or lake administered by the Secretary of the Army on or after December)1, 1989, if it meets the three conditions below except where necessary for immediate use for public purposes or higher public use or for a navigation or flood control project:
 - (1) such property is maintained in a usable and safe condition;
 - (2) such property does not occasion a threat to life or property;
 - (3) and, the holder of the permit is in substantial compliance with the existing permit.

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SHORELINE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

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Typical Facilities/Activities

- Boat Dock – individual or community
- Dock anchorage
- Vegetation Modification – underbrushing to include meandering path
- Utility rights-of-way – electric, water
- Improved walkway – natural materials – concrete/asphalt;
- Steps/footbridges – handrails
- Dock located pumps

Public Law Protected Facilities

- Private boat launching ramps
- Roads and turnarounds
- Land based pumps
- Land-based or stationary boat docks and/or boat houses
- Picnic shelters and patios

Shoreline Instruments

Shoreline Use Permit – authorize boat dock and vegetation modification

Shoreline License – authorize land-based facilities

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SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES



- Review Shoreline Management Plans periodically, but no less often than every 5-years.
- Approval authority of a plan update rests with the Division Commander.
- Maximum public participation in the update process.
- District Commanders can make minor revisions to the Shoreline Management Plan when the revisions are consistent with Policy and funds for a complete plan update are not available.

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SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

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As reported in 2023 –

- only 82 of 420 Corps Projects have shoreline management plans
- 13 projects in the South Atlantic Division account for 45% of the total shoreline use permits
- 2 projects in Savannah District account for 20% of total shoreline use permits
- Hartwell alone accounts for 16% of the total shoreline use permits



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COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

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- “Surely I can have a dock since my neighbor has one.”
- “Since I bought this property that already has a permit, I don’t need to get a new permit.”
- “Since I see areas with grass lawns and no trees, I can do that too.”
- “I own lakefront property on Hartwell or Thurmond Lake.”
- “I’ll buy property in a yellow or red area because I know of people who have docks in those zones and if they can get one, so can I.”
- “Since there is already a dock in place adjacent to the property I want to buy, I’m sure it can be transferred to me when I buy it.”

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