

# Watershed Lake Use

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Sometimes we receive questions about rules and regulations for the watershed lakes. The following is a list of the most common questions we receive. If you have additional questions, please contact us and we can connect you with the board members for the specific watershed you are inquiring about.*

1. Who has permission to access watershed ponds?

*You must own land on the lake. Watershed lakes are not public lakes.*

2. Is swimming allowed?

*Swimming is allowed to owners of land on the lake and at your own risk. It is suggested to contact SC DHEC to obtain a swimmable waters list.*

3. Is fishing allowed?

*Owners of land on the lake are allowed to fish as long as SC DNR regulations are followed.*

4. Are there outboard motor restrictions and are boats, jet skis, hydroplanes, water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, etc. allowed?

*The original deed should be checked due to the easement follows the land not the landowner. Big Creek Watersheds should also check with the Town of Williamston Public Works.*

5. Are there setback distances for building construction?

*Nothing can be built below top of dam elevation; no fill dirt can be placed below top of dam elevation.*

6. Are there dock restrictions?

*Docks will need to be approved by the specific watershed board.*

7. Who maintains the dam and is responsible for other issues concerning maintenance of the lake?

*The watershed board performs all maintenance and is responsible for the upkeep of the dam.*

Other things to consider:

- FEMA regulations - watershed areas can be seen as floodplains and could have issues with flood insurance if buildings are not constructed at the right elevations. It is suggested to get advice on FEMA and flood zones.*