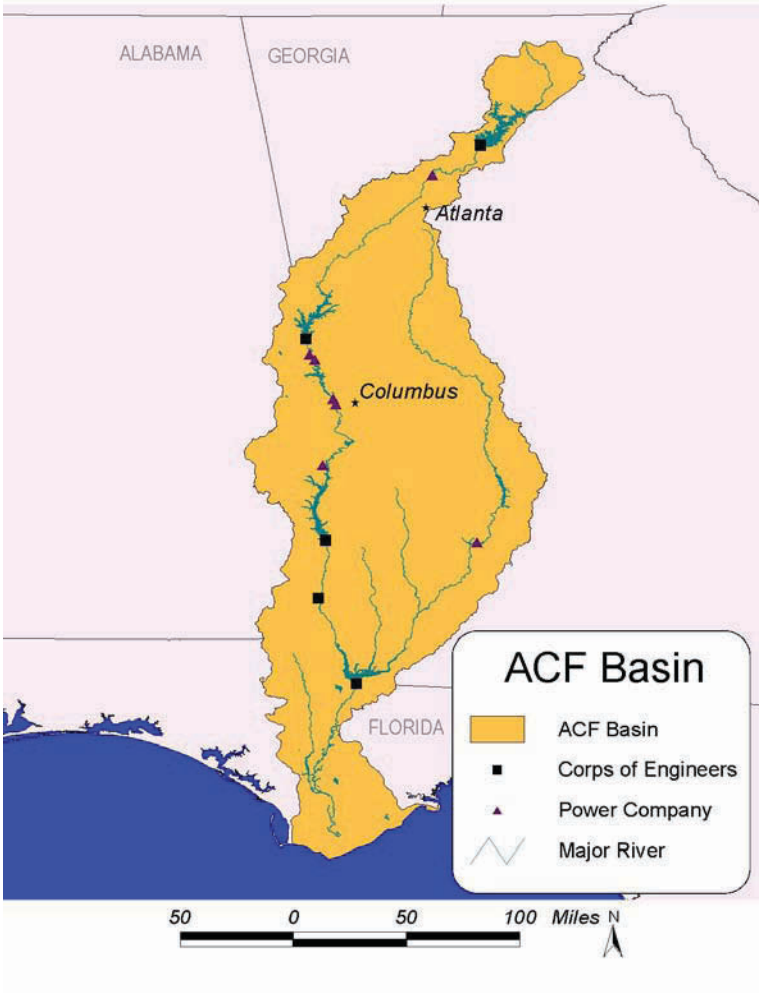
US Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District

Drainage Basin

Apalachicola, Chattahoochee & Flint (ACF) River Basin Fact Sheet

What is a "Basin"?

Where ever 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 19,600 square mile ACF Basin includes everything that eventually flows into the ACF – from above Lake Sidney Lanier all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. The drainage basins for Lanier, West Point, George, Andrews, and Lake Seminole, vary in size as does the scenery and topography.

Cumulative Watershed/Basin Size:
Lanier= 1,040 square miles
West Point= 3,440 square miles
George= 7,460 square miles
Seminole= 17,230 square miles
Total = 19,600 square miles

ACF Basin Size by State:
74% in Georgia
15% in Alabama
11% in Florida

To keep you informed, the Corps has developed a "Drought Information" websites at http://www.sam.usace.army.mil Check it out for latest lake level, projections, boat ramp closures, news releases, and more!