

# Arkansas Water Plan (AWP)

Contract # W912BV23D0010



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Little Rock District



**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL

May 2024



# Water Plan Update



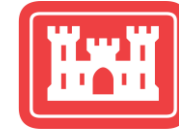


# Arkansas Water Plan

*Charting the Path to a Safe and Reliable Water Future*



# Introductions



**US Army Corps  
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Little Rock District



**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL



# AGENDA



Introductions



2014 Water  
Plan Overview



Purpose of  
Stakeholder  
meetings



Statewide  
Flood plan  
Initiation



Discussion:  
Needs and  
Concerns



AWP Roadmap

# Arkansas Natural Resource Division (ANRD)

- Governor Sander's Executive Order 23-27 directed the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and its Natural Resources Division to update the Arkansas Water Plan.
- Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 15-22-503, The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission is responsible for the preparation and development of a comprehensive program for the orderly development and management of the state's water and related land resources (referred to as the "Arkansas Water Plan");

# Purpose of the AWP Stakeholder Meetings

## Review

- Review purpose of Water Plan and Flood Plan

## Outline

- Water and Flood Planning process

## Identify

- Audiences and intended uses
- Local water and flooding issues

## Involvement

- Provide stakeholders with project updates and opportunities for continued involvement throughout the project lifecycle.

# Purpose of Water Plan

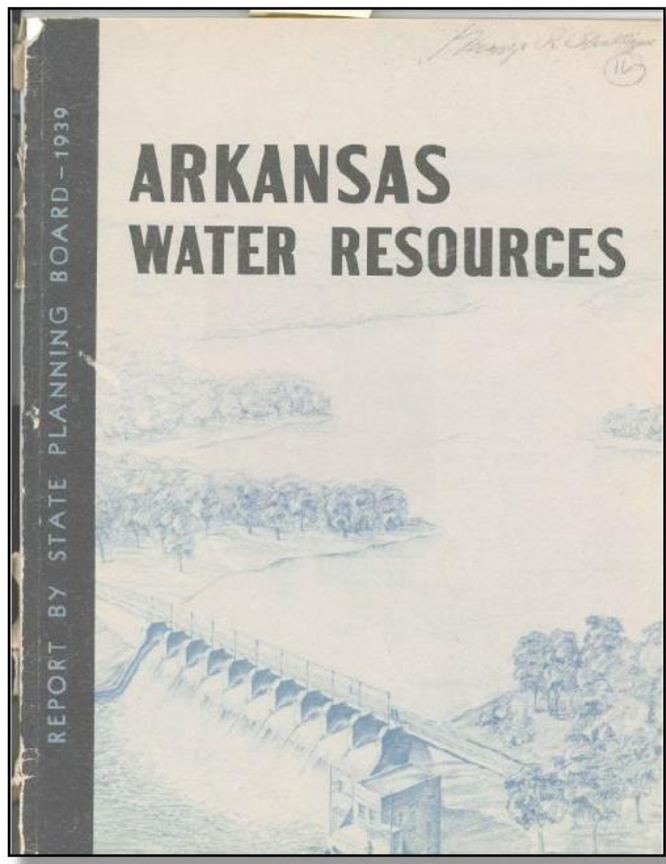
The purpose of the Arkansas Water Plan is to conserve and protect the state's water resources, with a long-term goal of sustainable use to maximize the environmental and economic benefit of the State of Arkansas, and the health and well-being of its citizens.



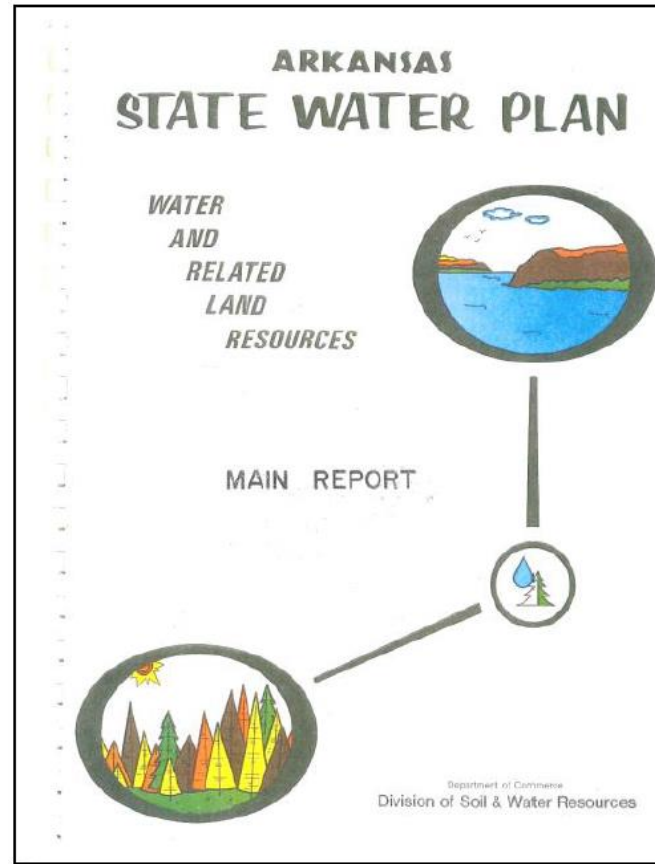
# Flood Planning

A new component of this AWP update will be a structural analysis of flood mitigation infrastructure and programs, and proposed solutions to reduce impacts of flooding.

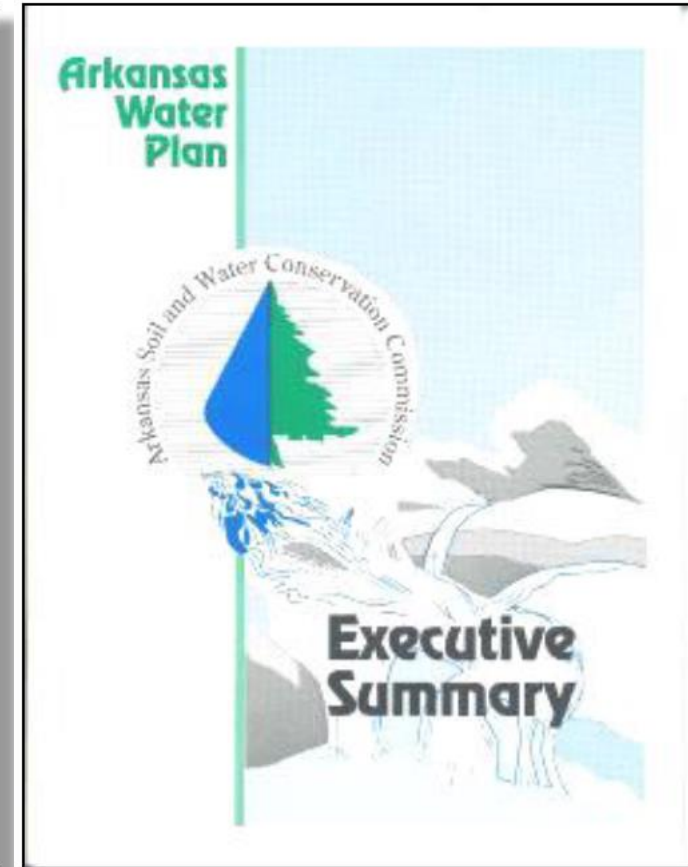
# Arkansas Water Planning



**1939**



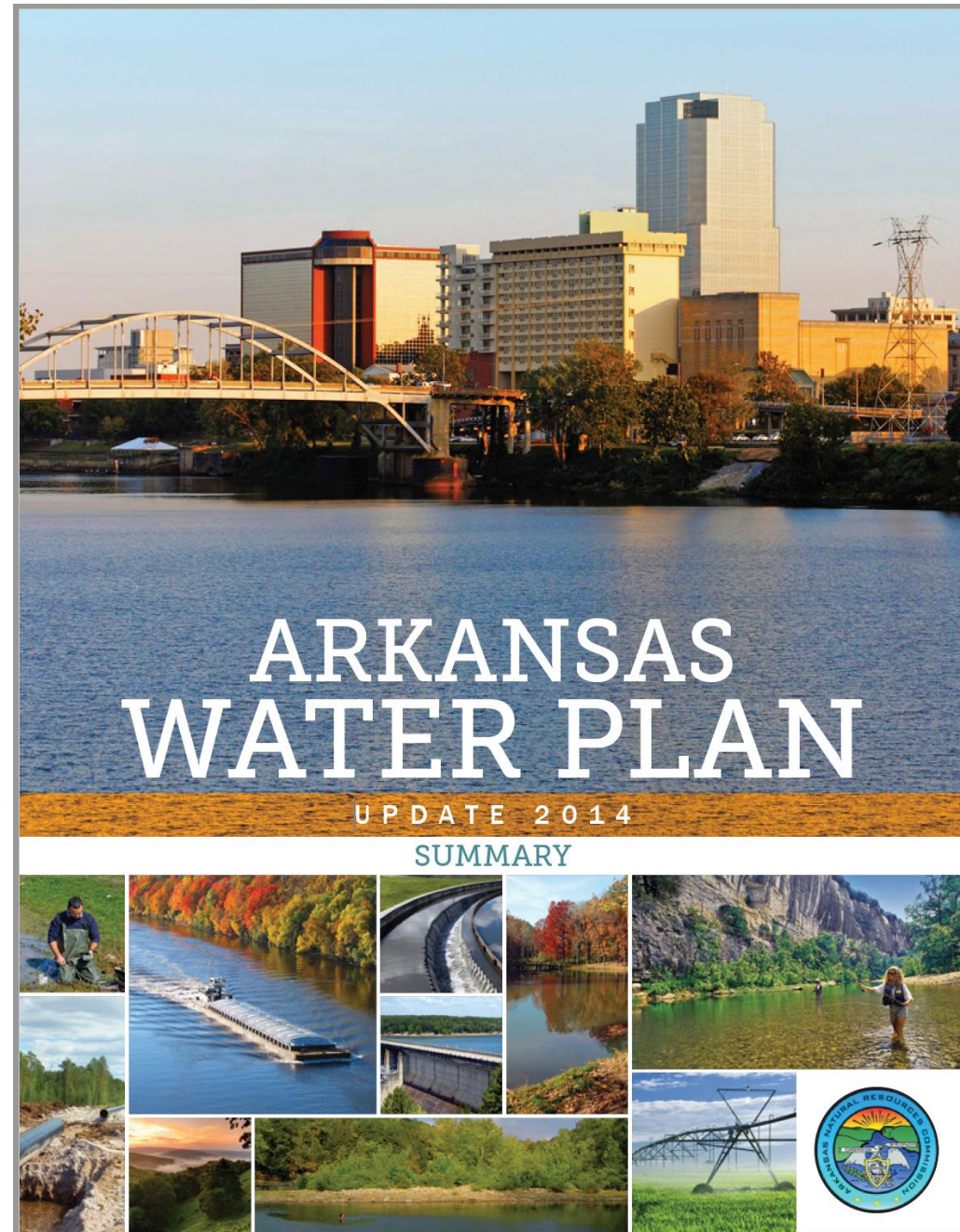
**1975**



**1990**

# 2014 Water Plan

- What is the Arkansas Water Plan
  - “A comprehensive program for the orderly development and management of the state’s water and related land resources”  
Arkansas Code § 15-22-503(a)
- Purpose
  - To assess quantity and quality of water in Arkansas
  - To be ready for growth, declines, and new challenges
- Structure
  - Supply
  - Demands
  - Issues
  - Recommendations
- Public Involvement / Stakeholder Engagement
  - Approx. 250 Meetings and Presentations for the 2014 update



# 2014 Water Plan Overview



Demands



Science and Technology



Infrastructure



Ecological Protection



Water Management



Water Administration



Education

# Demands



Meet the drinking water needs of the state.



Reliably meet agricultural water needs.



Reliably meet industrial water needs.



Reliably meet the water quantity and quality needs to help support navigation, recreation, and tourism.

# Science and Technology



Use the best available science, data, tools, and technologies to support water resource decisions.



Employ the latest supply management and water efficiency technologies among the different sectors



Use best available science and data to update and implement the AWP, and identify and address data gaps and needs.

# Infrastructure



Optimize existing water, wastewater, and flood control infrastructure



Maximize the current infrastructure reliability including dams, levees, and treatment and conveyance facilities.



Plan for changing demographics and related infrastructure maintenance and operation implications



Improve and update existing infrastructure and address aging infrastructure

# Ecological Protection



Manage water resources in a manner that protects the ecological needs of fish and wildlife.



Identify and recommend procedures and criteria to improve upon existing instream flow methodologies taking into consideration water quality, fish and wildlife needs, aquifer recharge, and navigation needs at the statewide and basin-specific level.



Identify opportunities to manage water, wastewater, and stormwater to improve the quantity and quality of water, while providing for wise land management, wetland, and riparian protection for fish and wildlife sustainability.



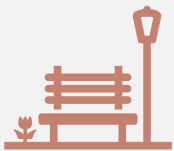
# Water Management

- Optimize the use of surface and groundwater for the differing economies of the unique regions of the state.
- Identify and address emerging water resource management needs as identified through the water planning process.
- Sustainably use surface and groundwater sources for the multiple intrastate uses while complying with interstate compacts.
- Identify implementable water resources alternatives that are socially, fiscally, technically, and environmentally feasible to protect, enhance, and wisely use surface and groundwater.
- Identify and implement alternatives that are fair and equitable.
- Allow for adaptability with changing technology, water uses, and socioeconomic conditions.
- Work cooperatively with other regions and states, and among agencies and entities responsible for stewardship of the state's natural resources.

# Water Administration and Education



Refine criteria for declaring drought, water shortages and excess water, and advance policies and procedures for allocating water during times of shortage or drought.



Include recreation and tourism as non consumptive water uses



Provide education and open communication about the AWP and its implementation.

# Flood Planning Preliminary Goals

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Flood Risk Assessment

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Identification of Mitigation Projects and  
Flood Reduction

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Flood Resiliency and Preparedness

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Development of Flood Response Action  
Plan

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Funding and Compliance

# Discussion



# Roadmap



## Phase 1

- Develop Programmatic Work Plan
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Upcoming Stakeholder meetings (May 2024)



## Phase 2

### Implementation of Work Plan

- Update of Water Plan
- Develop Flood Plan
- Stakeholder Engagement



## Phase 3

### Water Plan Roll Out

# THANK YOU

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For any questions/comments:  
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