



NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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### Program Overview and Summary of Registration Data

Water-use registration in Arkansas dates back to 1950. The current water-use registration program, established in 1985, is now one of the country's most comprehensive inventories of site-specific water usage data from more than 55,000 surface and groundwater withdrawal sites. All data is collected annually and stored in a site-specific database, based on latitude and longitude coordinates. The data from the registration program plays a significant role in the state's efforts to manage water resources, especially in heavily pumped regions like the Sparta aquifer in south central & south eastern Arkansas and the alluvial aquifer in eastern Arkansas.

Following the State laws, any non-domestic user of groundwater with protentional to withdraw at least 50,000 gallons a day (35 GPM flow rate) or any user of surface water that withdraws one acre-foot or more per year must report their water use and pay an annual \$10.00 registration fee per withdrawal site between October 1 through March 1 to the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC).

Through a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Geological Survey, the water-use registration database is maintained and housed at the USGS Arkansas District Office.

#### Water-use Registration Categories

##### Agricultural water usage:

- Irrigation - water used for any type of crop irrigation
- Agriculture - water used for agricultural purposes other than crop irrigation (fish, livestock, and poultry).

##### Non-agricultural types of water usage:

- Commercial - water used in a non-industrial capacity (convenience store, golf course, motel, restaurant)
- Industrial - water used in the production or in the normal operations of a facility.
- Mining - water used in excavating or mining of minerals, liquids, and gravels, This also includes water used in processing these types of products.
- Power Supply - water used in the production of electrical power.
- Water Supply - water provided to public, private, and individual users that do not supply their own water for commercial, domestic, industrial, or public water use. This type of water is usually provided by incorporated or unincorporated cities, towns, communities, water associations.

#### Required Information

For Agricultural water usage:

- Name, address, and phone number of land owner and diverter (water user).
- Number, size, and location of wells and/or surface water diversions.
- Crop type grown (rice, cotton, catfish, ducks).
- Acreage irrigated and/or aqua cultured.
- Quantity of water used.

For Non-agricultural water usage:

- Name, address, and phone number of the facility.
- Number, size, and location of wells and/or surface water diversions.
- Use made of water.
- Quantity of water used.

### **How Registration Data is used**

ANRC Uses of Registration Data:

- Develop a comprehensive groundwater protection program
- Designate critical groundwater areas
- Establish groundwater rights within critical areas
- Allocate water in times of shortages
- As a basis for determining the state's overall usage
- Identify water needs for inclusion in the Arkansas Water Plan

USGS Uses of Registration Data

- Groundwater flow model input
- River assessment (White River)
- Water level program – potential study sites
- National Water-Quality Assessment – determination of potential sample locations

Other Uses of Registration Data

- US Forest Service – identify water users in major forests
- NPS – Flow data for Hot Springs and other areas of the State
- USACE – Flow data for model input
- Data is provided to numerous other organizations as requested

### **Failure to Register**

Any person who fails to register a surface or groundwater withdrawal, site as required by law must, in addition to registration fees, pay penalty fees as follows:

- 1st Failure - to register by March 1: Written notice
- 2nd Failure - to register by April 1: \$25.00 fee
- 3rd Failure - to register by June 30: \$50.00 fee
- 4th Failure - to register by September 30: \$100.00 fee

The late registration penalty will not be accepted without payment of all applicable fees. Late registration penalties are to be assessed per registrant, not per diversion.

The Commission, by its Executive Director, may assess fees as provided by Ark. Code Ann. § 15-22-215 if it is determined that a registrant continues to fail to register following September 30. The maximum annual penalty per registrant is \$500, whether for groundwater or surface water use or both. The Commission will not impose monetary penalties without proof that the late registrant has received notice of the registration requirement.

### **Allocation of Registration Money**

All monies collected from fees and penalties will be deposited in the Arkansas Water Development Fund.

- Two-thirds of the funds must be used for information, education, and cost-share. (The two-thirds is obtained by using fifteen percent of all funds for the information/education programs and fifty percent of all funds being used in cost-share assistance for water conservation and development. However, the whole two-thirds amount can transfer between the information/education and cost-share programs as deemed necessary.)
- One-third of the funds must be used for the administration of the water management programs.

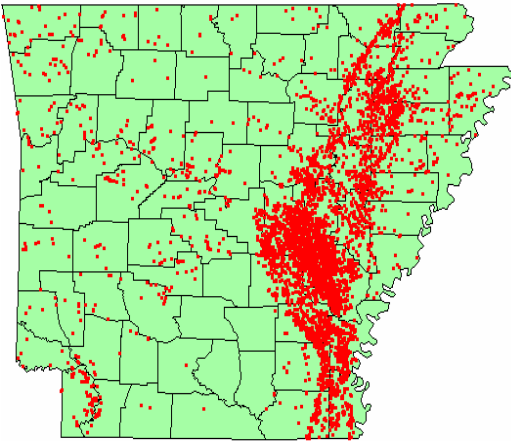
# Summary of Registration Data

## Registered Water Users

- Agricultural Users: 6,500
- Non-agricultural Users: 640

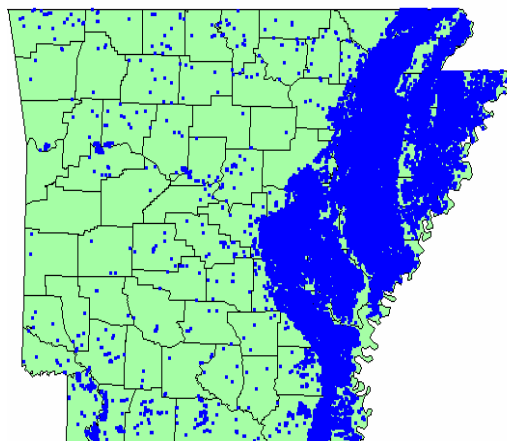
## Registered Withdrawal Site Locations

Surface Water: 6,400 sites



3.4 b. gal./d. Withdrawn

Groundwater: 48,600 sites



7.2 b. gal./d. Withdrawn

## Registered Types of Water Usage

### Surface Water

Agricultural withdrawals:

- Irrigation - 6,200 Withdrawals 1.5 b. gal./d.
- Agriculture - 10 Withdrawals 1 m. gal./d.

### Non-agricultural withdrawals

- Commercial - 35 Withdrawals 20 m. gal./d.
- Industrial - 25 Withdrawals 110 m. gal./d.
- Mining - 20 Withdrawals 1 m. gal./d.
- Power Supply - 30 Withdrawals 1.5 b. gal./d.
- Water Supply - 100 Withdrawals 280 m. gal./d.

### Groundwater

Agricultural Withdrawals

- Irrigation – 47,500 Withdrawals 7 b. gal./d.
- Agriculture – 95 Withdrawals 20 m. gal./d.

Non-agricultural Withdrawals:

Commercial	–	85 Withdrawals	3 m. gal./d.
Industrial	–	170 Withdrawals	65 m. gal./d.
Mining	–	15 Withdrawals	.5 m. gal./d.
Power Supply	–	25 Withdrawals	3.5 m. gal./d.
Water Supply	–	750 Withdrawals	120 m. gal./d.

*\*All numbers are based on averages of the water-use registration data.*