Program Overview



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Mike A. Guess

Water Use Registration Program Coordinator

History of Water Registration in the State of Arkansas

- Water-use registration began in the 1950's
- The current registration program began in 1985
- The program is administered by the Natural Resources Division (NRD) of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture

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USGS science for a changing world

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Through the cooperation of various local, state, and federal agencies the Water-use Registration Program has become one of the country's most comprehensive inventories of site-specific water usage data from more than 55,000 surface and groundwater withdrawal points

Water-use Registration Program

The Laws and the Rules & Regulations

- Arkansas codes pertaining to the Water-use Registration Program: § 15-22-205, § 15-22-215, § 15-22-301, § 15-22-302, § 15-22-913, § 15-22-914, & § 15-22-915

- Title III – "Rules for the Protection and Management of Ground Water"

- Title IV – "Rules for the Utilization of Surface Water"



Withdrawals that Need to be Registered

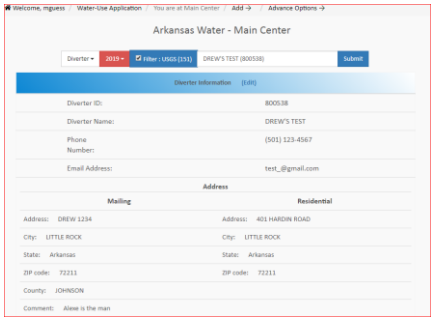
- Any non domestic under ground water withdrawal (well or natural spring) that has the potential of 50,000 gallons a day (**35 gpm flow rate**) should be registered



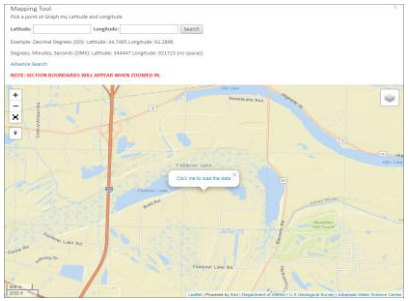


- Any surface water withdrawal, that is not from a pond/lake in the exclusive ownership of one person, not diffused surface water, or not recirculated surface water, that withdrawals 1 acre foot or more a year (**325,851 gals**) should be registered

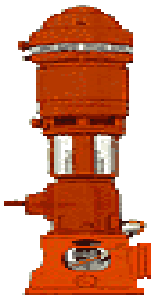
Information That is Required



- Contact information: name, address, etc… of water user and/or land owner



- Location of withdrawal: latitude & longitude and legal description



- Pump information: type, horsepower, etc…



- The type and use of the water withdrawn



- Monthly and annual withdrawal amounts

Types of Registered Water Users

Agricultural Usage

Irrigation



54,000 Withdrawals

Agriculture



1700 Withdrawals

Non Agricultural Usage

Commercial



120 Withdrawals

Industrial



195 Withdrawals

Mining



915 Withdrawals

Power Supply



55 Withdrawals

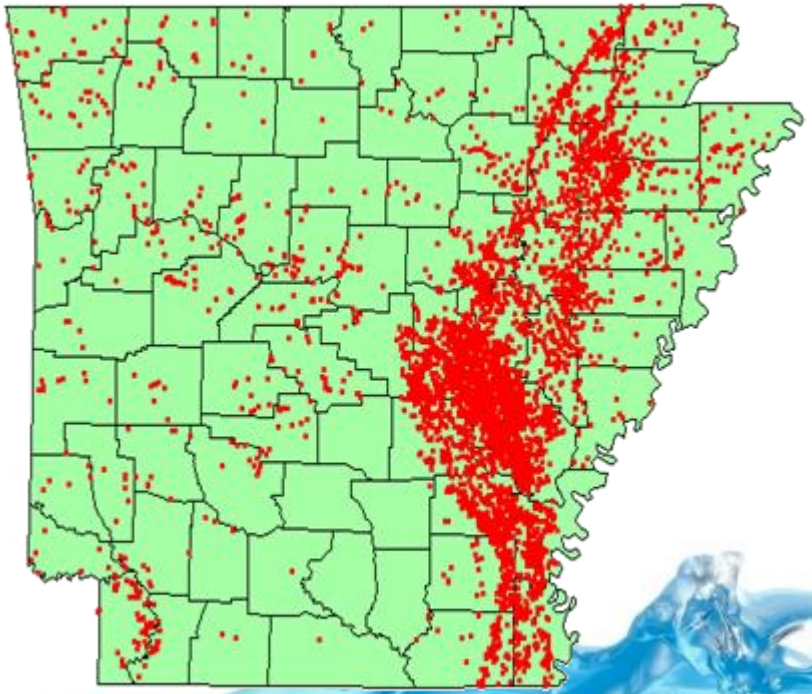
Water Supply



940 Withdrawals

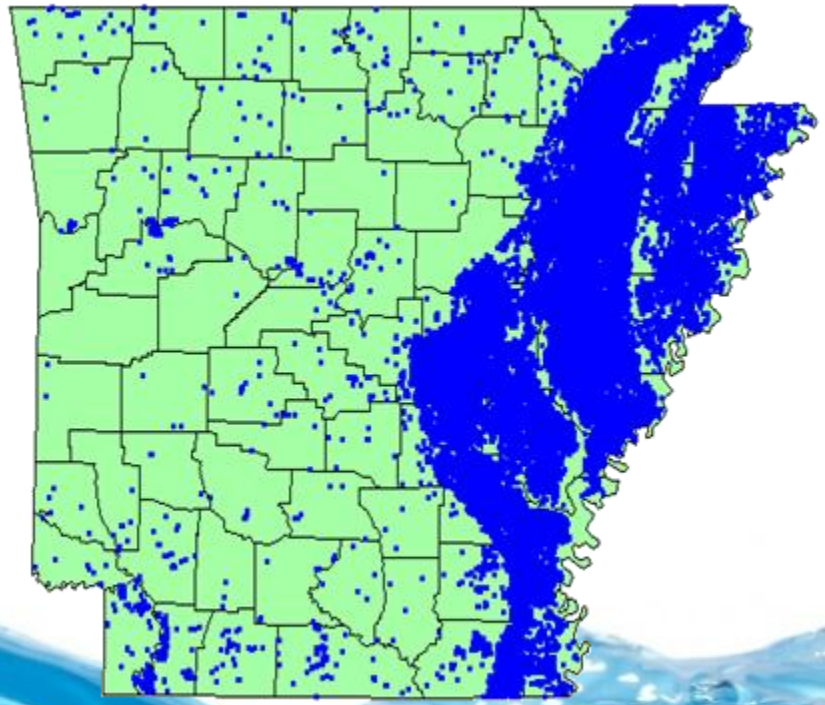
Registered Withdrawals

Surface water: 7,400 sites



3.4 b. gal./d. Withdrawn

Ground water: 49,800 sites



7.2 b. gal./d. Withdrawn

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Natural Resources Division Responsibilities



- Inventory the surface and ground water resources by registering water users, each year from October 1 thru March 1



- Collect from water users a registration fees of $10.00 per withdrawal site



- Contact and collect penalties from delinquent water users (water users that fail to report and/or pay fees before March 1 registration deadline)



- Delegate authority to those other agencies and organizations that assist with the registration program
- Provide assistance and training to those organizations that assist with water-use registration





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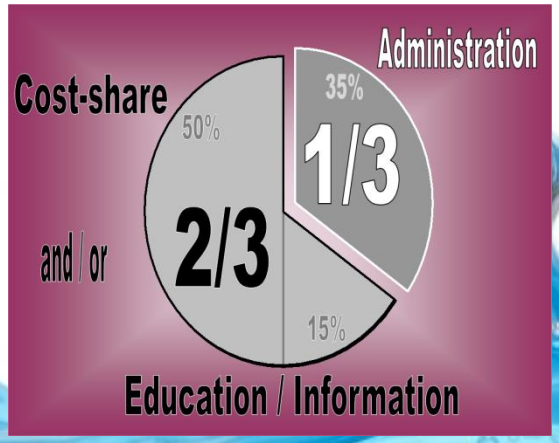
Commission's Allocation of Registration Fees



- Fees and penalties collected by the ANRC are deposited in the Arkansas Water Development Fund



- Two-thirds (2/3) of all funds deposited shall be used for an education and information program and/or cost sharing for water conservation and development

- The remaining one-third (1/3) must be used for the administration costs

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts Responsibilities

Through a cooperative agreement with NRD

- Required to allocate registration money the same as NRD
- 29 districts register agricultural water users in their district
- Enter information directly into the registration data base through the data entry website
- Keep half (1/2) of all registration fees and two-thirds (2/3) of penalties in the their district

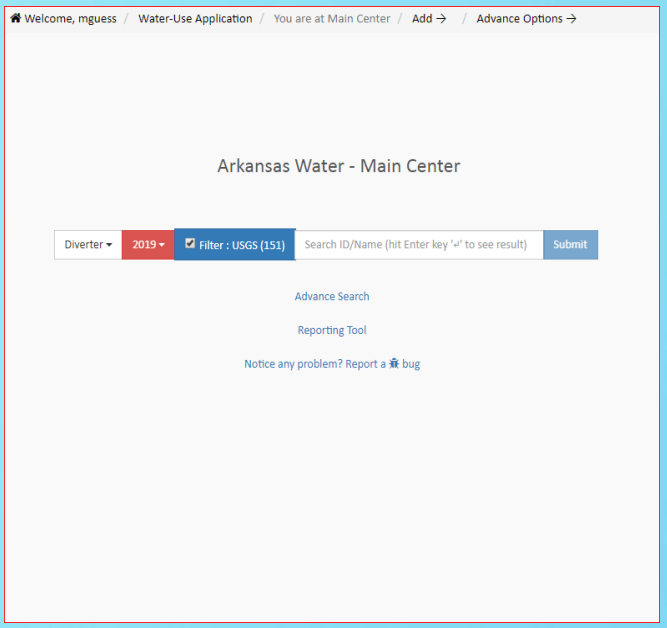


Districts in green participate in the Water-use Registration Program

U S Geological Survey Responsibilities

Through a cooperative agreement with NRD

- Develop and maintain the water-use registration data base
- Develop and maintain the website data entry program in which all registration data is entered into the data base
- Provide assistance and training to all of those who use the data entry website

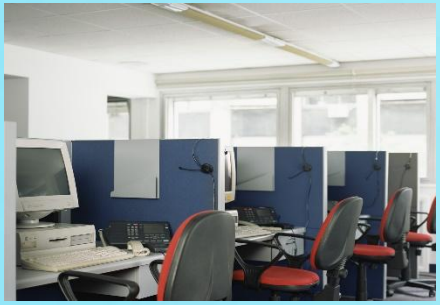




Natural Resources Conservation Service Responsibilities

- Provides Internet connection to some of the conservation districts that participate in the Water-use Registration Program





- Provides office space to the districts

- Provides a computer to certain districts to enter registration data on the data entry website



How Registration Data is Used

NRD Uses of Registration Data

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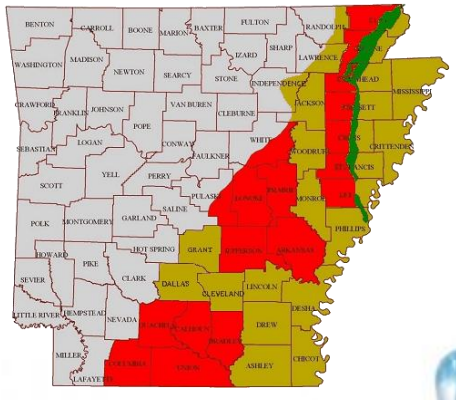
Ground water data is used:

- To help develop comprehensive ground water protection program



- To help designate critical ground water areas
- To help establish ground water rights within critical areas

Surface water data is used:

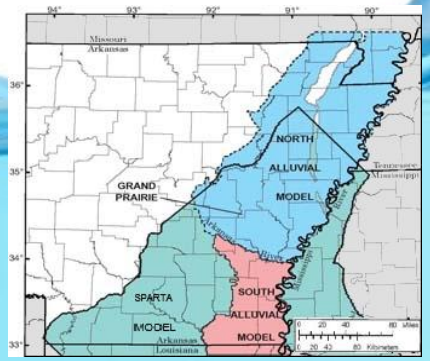


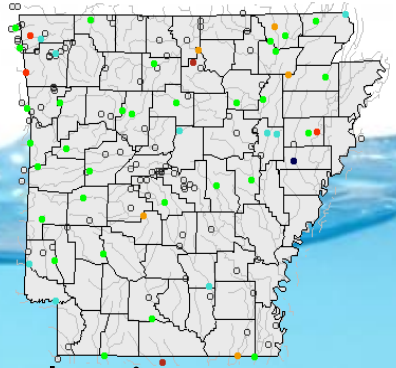
- To help allocate water in times of shortages
- As a basis for determining the state's overall usage
- As Water needs for inclusion in the Arkansas Water Plan

Water-use Registration Program

How Registration Data is Used

USGS Uses of Registration Data





- Ground water flow model input
- River assessment (White River)
- Water level program – potential study sites
- NAWQA – determination of potential sample locations



Data Provided to Others:

- 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

Benefits to Registered Water Users



- Cost share program to help off set costs for water conservation practices, up to 40% (Example: land leveling, flow meters, poly pipe, ditches, etc…)



- Registered ground water users have the benefit of being grandfathered, if they are in an area that is declared a critical ground water area (A three year history of registration records is required)

- Registered surface water users are insured a precedence to water over a non registered water user, in times of allocation

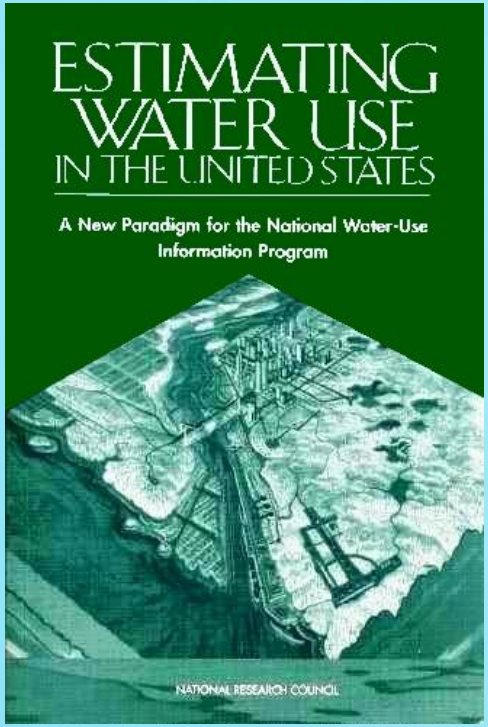


- If a registered water user is involved in a legal dispute over water they will have a better position over a non registered water user



Summary

- Arkansas' Water-use Registration Program provides protection to insure that the state's water resources are here for everyone to use for centuries to come



- Arkansas' Water-use Registration Program is so successful because of the efforts and cooperation of all of those involved. This includes all the users that accurately report their withdrawal information and water usage



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