Program Overview & Summary of Registration Data

There has been some type of water-use registration in the state of Arkansas dating as for back as into the 1950's. The current water-use registration program which was established in 1985 has developed into one of the countries most comprehensive inventories of site-specific water usage data from more than 55,000 surface and groundwater withdrawal site. 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 Alluvium aquifer in eastern Arkansas.

In accordance with State laws any non-domestic user of groundwater that has the potentional to withdraw at least 50,000 gallons a day (35 gpm flow rate) or any user of surface water that withdrawals 1 acre-foot or more per year must report their Annual water usage and pay a $10.00 registration fee per withdrawal site between October 1 through March 1 each year, to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

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

Water-use Registration Categories

- **Agricultural types of water usage:**
  - Irrigation – this is water used for any type of crop irrigation.
  - Agriculture – this is water that is used for agricultural purposes other than crop irrigation (fish, livestock, poultry, etc…).
- **Non-agricultural types of water usage:**
  - Commercial – this is water that is used in a non-industrial capacity (convenience store, golf course, motel, restaurant, etc…).
  - Industrial – this is water used in the production of a product or in the normal operations of a facility.
  - Mining – this is water used in an excavating or mining of minerals, liquids, gravels, etc. This also includes water used in the processing of these types of products.
  - Power Supply – this is water used in the production of any type of electrical power.
  - Water Supply – this is water that is 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, etc…

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, etc…).
  - Acreage irrigated and/or aqua cultured.
  - Quantity of water used.
- **For Non-agricultural water usage:**
  - Name, address, and phone number of facility.
  - Number, size, and location of wells and/or surface water diversions.
  - Use made of the water.
  - Quantity of water used.

How Registration Data is Used

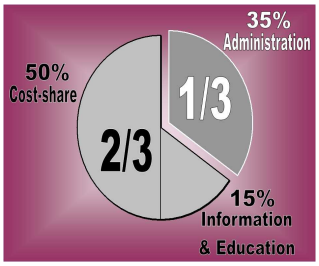
- **ANRC Uses of Registration Data**
  - To help develop comprehensive ground water protection program
  - To help designate critical ground water areas
  - To help establish ground water rights within critical areas
  - To help allocate water in times of shortages
  - As a basis for determining the state's overall usage
  - As Water needs for inclusion in the Arkansas Water Plan
- **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
- **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 shall, 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 shall not be excepted 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 ground 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 such 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 to transferred between the information/education and cost-share programs as deemed necessary.)
  - One-third of such funds must be used for the administration of the water management programs.



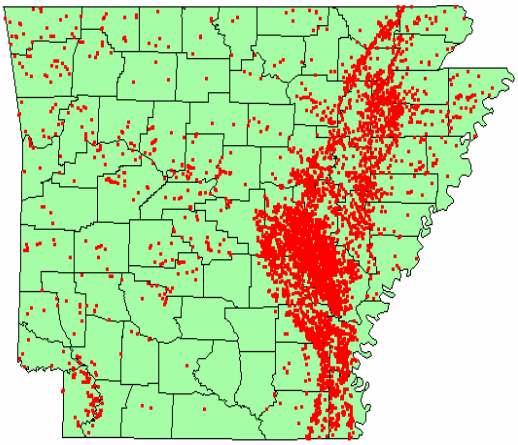
Summary of Registration Data

Registered Water Users

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

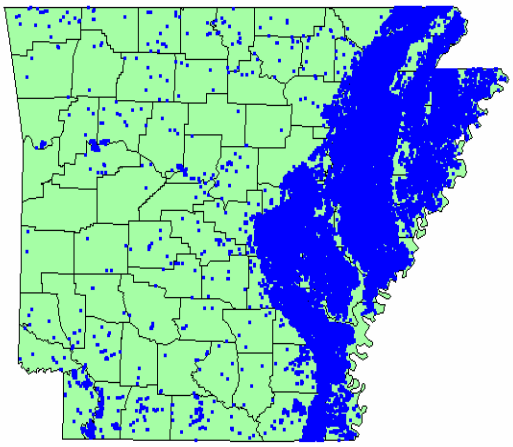
Registered Withdrawal Site Locations

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 used in this summary are based on averages of the water-use registration data.