



Comprehensive Update of the Arkansas Water Plan

Draft Vision, Mission, and Goals

Draft Vision for Managing Water Resources in Arkansas

Water is vital to the prosperity and health of Arkansas's people and their natural surroundings. As such, water must be managed in a sustainable manner to support local and state economies, protect public health and natural resources, and enhance the quality of life of all citizens by applying appropriate policies and best practices with limited regulation and preservation of private property rights.

Draft Mission of the Arkansas Water Plan

The Arkansas Water Plan is the State's comprehensive planning process for the conservation, development, and protection of the State's water resources, with a goal of long-term sustainable use for the health, well-being, environmental, and economic benefit of the State of Arkansas. The Arkansas Water Plan will achieve the following goals.

Draft Goals

- ◆ Optimize the use of surface and groundwater for the differing economies of the unique regions of the State.
 - ◆ Reliably meet agriculture water needs.
 - ◆ Reliably meet municipal & industrial water needs.
 - ◆ Manage water resources in a manner that protects the ecological needs of fish and wildlife.
 - ◆ Reliably meet the water quantity and quality needs to help support navigation, recreation, and tourism.
- ◆ Utilize the best available science, data, tools and technologies to support water resources decisions.
 - ◆ Employ the latest supply management and water efficiency technologies among the different sectors of use including residential, commercial, industry, natural resources and agriculture.
 - ◆ Identify and address emerging water resource management needs as identified through the water planning process.
 - ◆ Use best available science and data to update and implement the Arkansas Water Plan, and identify and address data gaps and needs.



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Draft Vision, Mission, and Goals – Continued

- ◆ Optimize existing water, wastewater and flood control infrastructure; including identifying opportunities to cooperatively address regional water and wastewater needs.
 - ◆ 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.
- ◆ Sustainably use surface and groundwater sources for the multiple intrastate uses while complying with interstate compacts.
 - ◆ Refine criteria for declaring drought, water shortages and excess water, and advance policies and procedures for allocating water during times of shortage or drought.
 - ◆ 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.
 - ◆ Include recreation and tourism as non-consumptive water uses.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 socio-economic conditions.
 - ◆ Provide education and open communication about the Arkansas Water Plan and its implementation.
- ◆ Work cooperatively with other regions and states, and among agencies and entities responsible for stewardship of the State's natural resources.