



ARKANSAS WATER PLAN UPDATE

Fact Sheet No. 1 - October 2012

Kick-off Information

Welcome from Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Director J. Randy Young



It is my pleasure to announce the official kick-off of the Arkansas Water Plan Update. There is no resource more important to our state than water. We depend upon water for our very existence. Water grows the food we eat, nourishes our bodies, and supports our businesses, industries, and overall economy. Water is equally vital to

our natural environment, fisheries, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.

I invite all Arkansans to join me in charting our path forward for the wise and efficient use, management, and development

of our precious water resources. It has been over 25 years since we completed our last state water plan. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission needs the cooperation and support of all of our citizens, our various water use sectors, and our political and business leaders to ensure a successful update to the Arkansas Water Plan by November 2014. Get involved in the public participation process and become part-owner in the 2014 Arkansas Water Plan. To follow or participate in the state water planning process, go to ARWaterPlan.Arkansas.gov for continuous updates and progress reports.

Please take a moment to read through this fact sheet to learn more about the water plan update.

What Needs to be Done?

The Arkansas Water Plan is the state's comprehensive planning process for the conservation, development, and protection of Arkansas'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 water plan update will be based on these principles.

Careful planning and management is essential to assure continued availability of high quality ground and surface water by identifying and evaluating water problems and presenting specific solutions and recommendations to meet future water needs. The most recent data and extensive research will guide planning objectives and potential solutions.

Statewide water planning has a long history in Arkansas. The Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission started handling the Plan in 1969. In 1985, the legislature directed the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission to update the original plan and this update was completed in 1990. The 1990 Arkansas State Water Plan was successful in addressing the needs of the state over the last two decades; however, our

state has changed and how our citizens use and value water has changed. According to the US Census, by the year 2030 our state's population is expected to exceed 3 million residents (**Figure 1**).

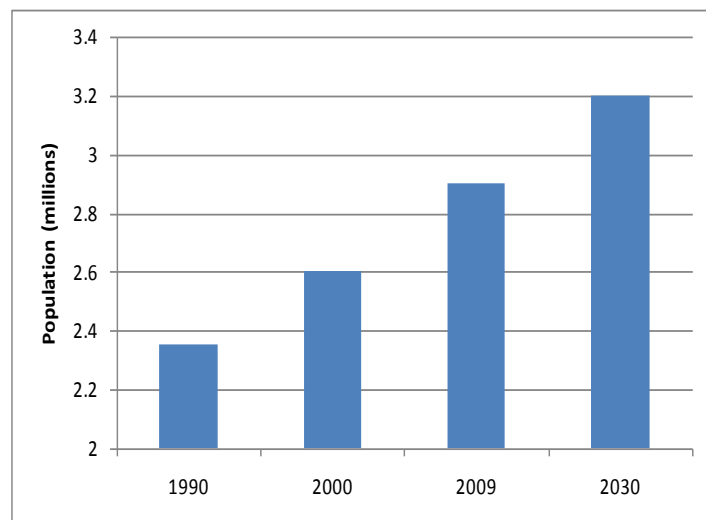


Figure 1. Arkansas Population Trends and Projections

During the water plan update, projected water needs will be further evaluated to the year 2050 for all of our state's major water demand sectors—Municipal, Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, and Energy. United States Geological Survey and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission 2005 estimates of water use by sector are shown in **Figure 2**.

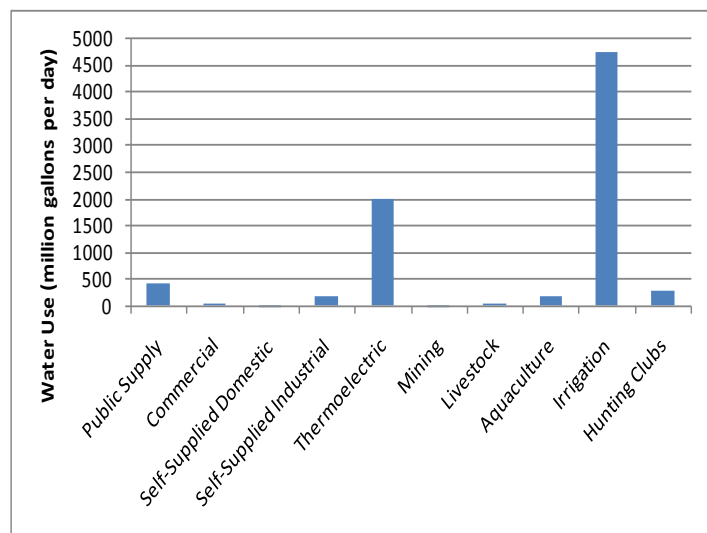


Figure 2. Water Use by Sector (2005)

Estimates of available water supplies will also be completed incorporating needs to protect fish and wildlife. This information will be evaluated to determine what types of solutions are needed to ensure that we manage and develop our water resources to meet current and future needs. Where shortfalls between supply and needs occur, solutions will be identified to help ensure a safe and reliable water supply for our citizens and the environment.

Figure 3 below shows a general schedule of major activities and their timing through November 2014. Public information and stakeholder involvement will occur throughout the water plan update including a series of meetings throughout the state at important points in the planning process. A more detailed meeting plan with locations and anticipated meeting topics is available on the water plan website.

A special thank you to the Arkansas Legislature and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for financing the water plan update. Through the leadership of the General Assembly and Governor Beebe, we have embarked on this effort to improve the management of one of our most important natural resources.

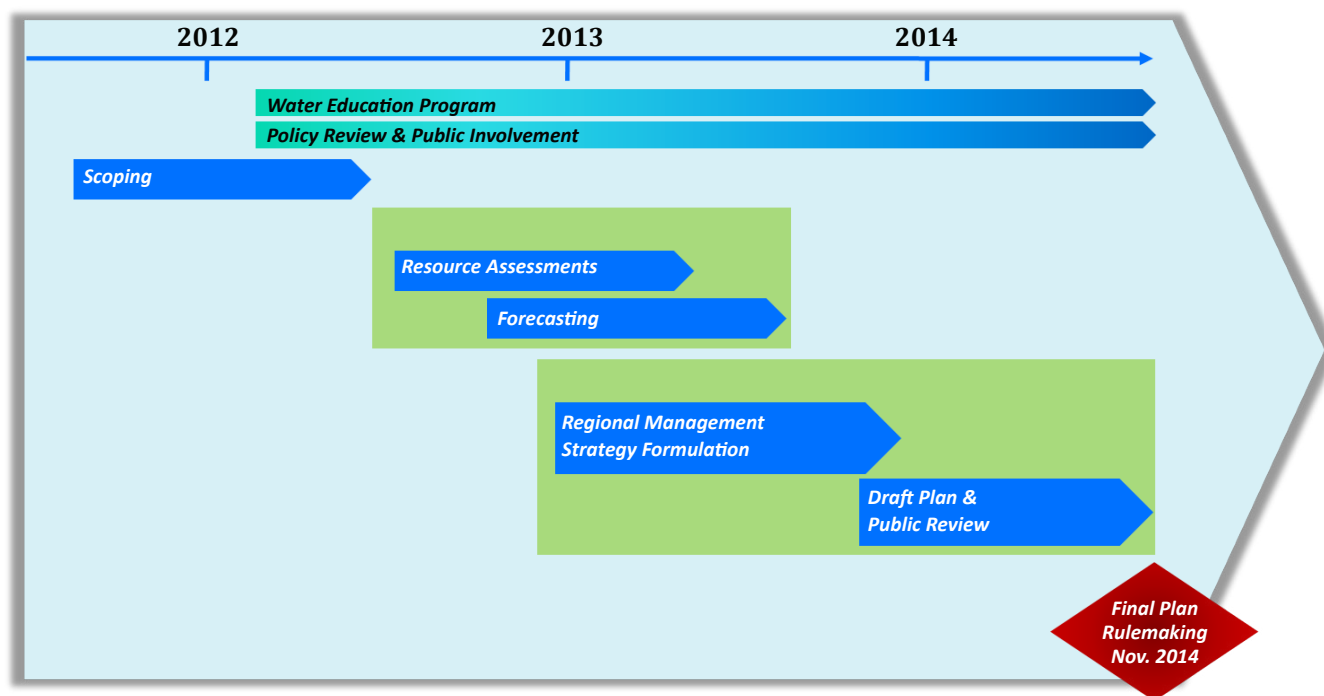


Figure 3. Schedule for Updating the Arkansas Water Plan

For more information please visit the following website:

ARWaterPlan.Arkansas.gov

If you would like to send comments please email them to ArkansasWater@CDMSmith.com or by mail to:

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Attn: Arkansas Water Plan

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