



Comprehensive Update of the Arkansas Water Plan

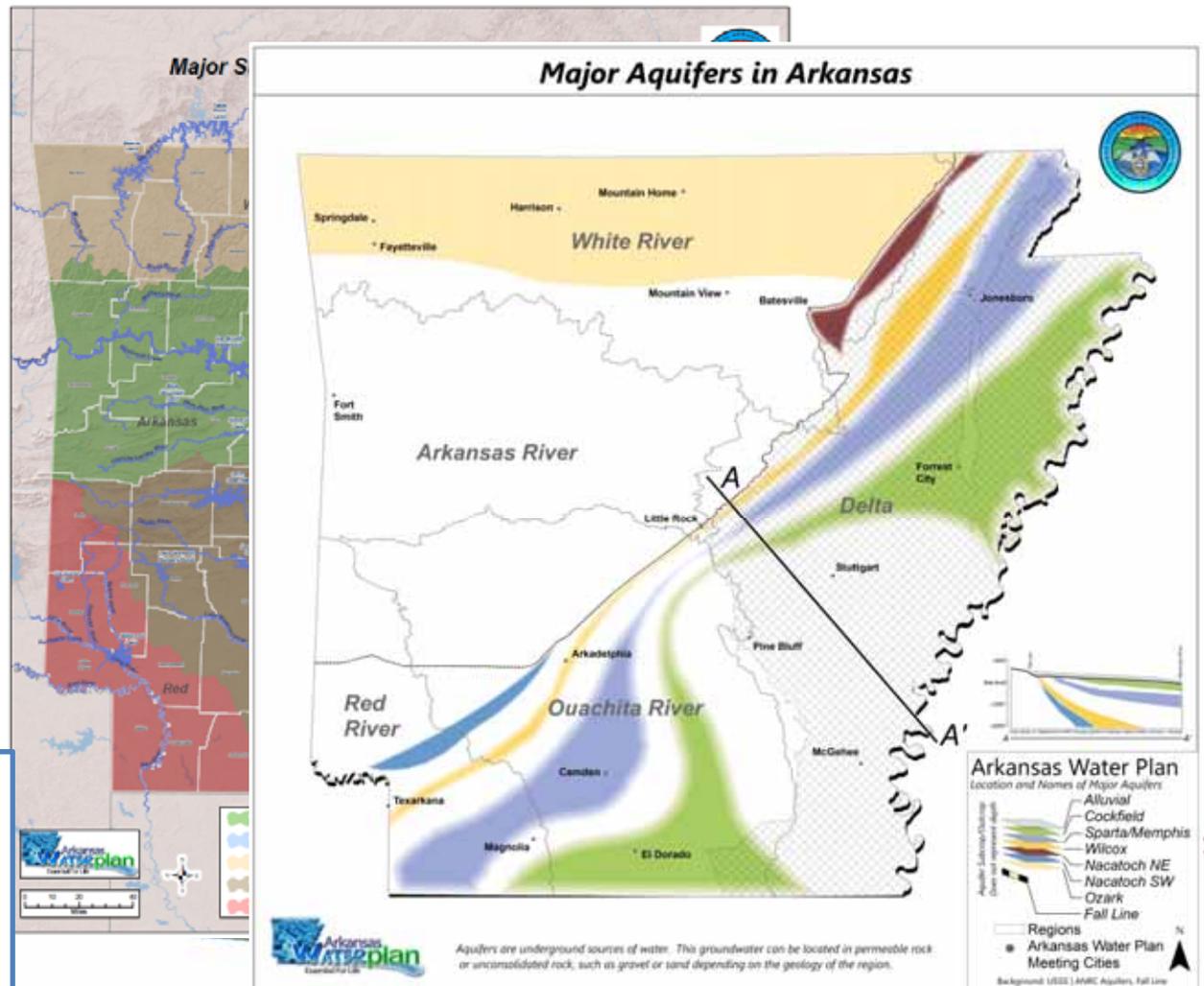
**Helping Arkansas Achieve a
Safe and Reliable Water Resource Future**

November 13, 2012



Welcome

Major Ground and Surface Water Resources of our State



"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in Water"

Loren Eiseley

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting?

Learn more about our water resources and provide an Overview of the Arkansas Water Plan Update

- Discuss why its important to have a water plan
- Review the purpose and short history of water planning in Arkansas
- Provide you an opportunity to ask questions and share your thoughts about water resource planning
- Outline the major steps in the water planning process
- Provide you with information to allow you to follow and continue to be involved in the ongoing process to Update the Arkansas Water Plan

Arkansas Water Plan

Charting the Path to a Safe and Reliable Water Future

- What are some of the major questions that you have about Arkansas Water?
- Are there any specific water issues or needs that you would like to see the Water Plan address?

Please note we will revisit these questions at the end of the presentation!

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.

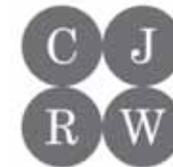
Draft Goals

- Optimize the use of surface and groundwater for the differing economics 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

to update and implement the Arkansas Water Plan and needs.

2012 Draft

Introduction to the Planning Team



cranford
johnson
robinson
woods
fiftieth year



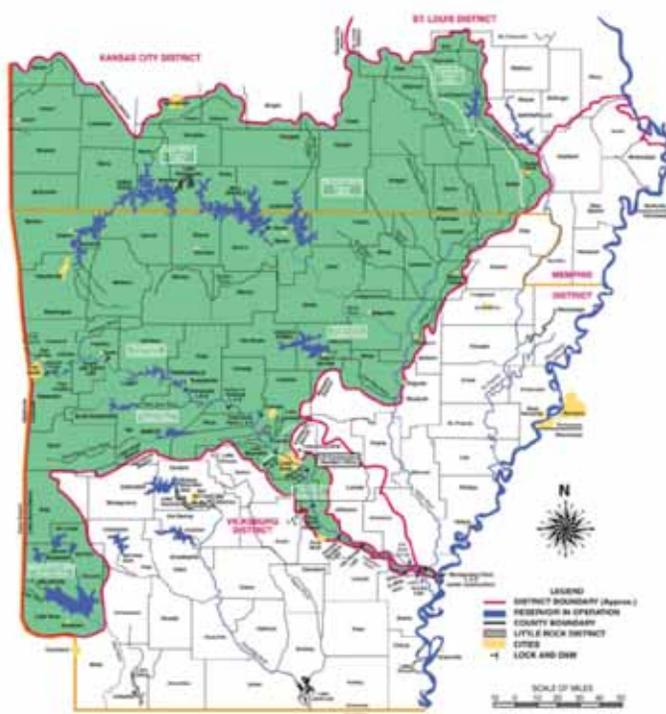
The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

- Establishes policy that makes funding and regulatory decisions relative to soil conservation, nutrient management, water rights, dam safety, and water resources planning and development
- Composed of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate
- The Arkansas General Assembly enacted the nation's first conservation district law in 1937
- Several other boards and commissions were combined to form the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission in 1963
- Renamed in 2005



USACE, USGS, State and Local Entities will be Key Stakeholders for Data Collection and Coordination

Water Resources are complex – we will need the help and understanding of All Arkansans

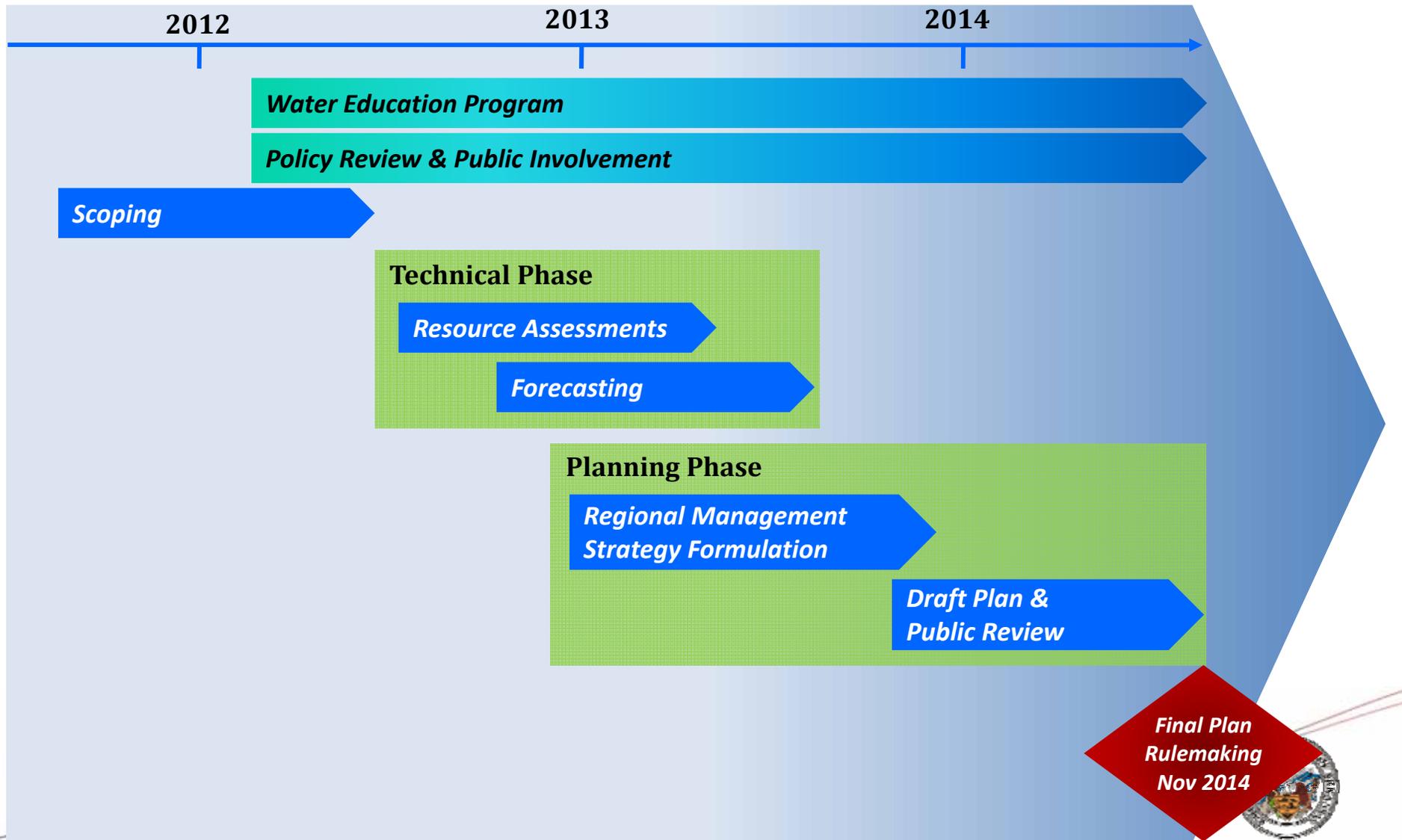


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Arkansas Water Planning - *Charting the Future*



Why is the Arkansas Water Plan Important to our Future?

- While Arkansas has significant water resources -- they are not infinite
- Water is vital to the social and economic well being of our communities, and our overall quality of life
- A dependable and viable water supply requires
 - Good water supply sources (quantity and quality)
 - The ability to provide this water to our homes and businesses
- The Arkansas Water Plan will provide us with the science and information to make informed decisions on the best way to manage water to meet the needs of our citizens and the environment

Why do we Need to Update the Arkansas Water Plan?

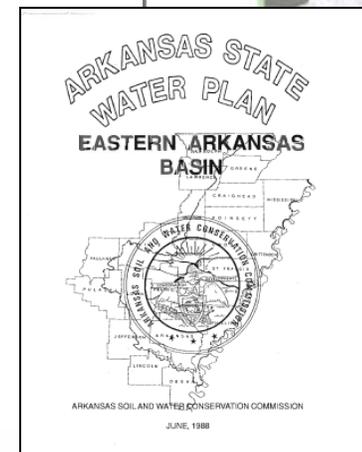
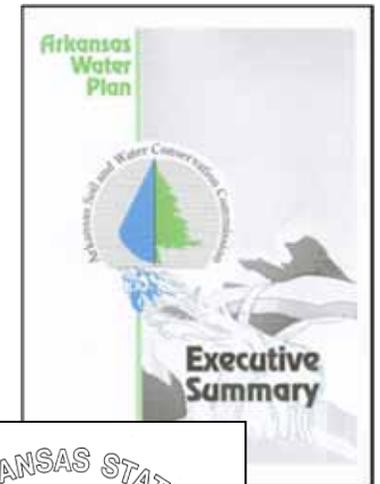
- We depend on water in sufficient quantity & quality for our very existence
- The wise use and protection of this resource is critical for current and future generations
- The existing AWP is over 20 years old
- How we use and value water has changed over this timeframe
- New data and information collection and analysis is needed to define water supply, water needs, and identify potential solutions to meet those needs
- Increasing demands on water resources requires new technical, policy, and financial tools to address identified water resource issues and needs

How did the Update to the Water Plan Start?

- ANRC recognized an essential need to update the Plan
- Speaker Robert Moore convened a legislative water plan study team and appointed Rep. John Edwards to lead the effort to find financing and to guide the development of the update
- Legislative support came together, and the General Assembly appropriated \$4 million for the update (\$1 million of which can from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission)
- The AWP has a defined delivery date for ANRC rulemaking of November 2014

What is the Arkansas Water Plan?

- A comprehensive program for the orderly development and management of the State's water and related land resources
- The State policy for the development of water and related land resources in this State
- A planning framework to be used by all State agencies, commissions, and political subdivisions in all matters pertaining to the discharge of their respective duties and responsibilities as they may affect the comprehensive plan



Legislative Policy on the Water Plan Revised in 2011

- Water is vital to the prosperity and health of both people and their natural surroundings
- Water conservation will keep agriculture, industry, tourism, and recreation strong for future generations
- Encourage best management practices, reliable data, and scientific methods for water conservation and management
- Surplus water is underused

Legislative Policy on the Water Plan Revised in 2011

- Groundwater supplies are being used at a rate that will result in aquifer destruction
- Surface water and groundwater supplies must be managed together for maximum effect
- State policy is to permit and regulate the construction of facilities to use excess surface water to:
 - Protect drinking water
 - Protect the rights of all persons
 - Maintain healthy in-stream flows
 - Prevent harmful overflows and flooding
 - Conserve natural resources



A Quick Look at Past Water Planning in Arkansas

Arkansas Water Planning

What has previously been done?

- Statewide water planning began in 1969 and the first Water Plan was completed in 1975
- ANRC responsible for developing the Plan
- The Plan should be comprehensive - to serve as the primary water policy document for the State
- In 1985 ANRC began the update of the 1975 Plan and the update was completed in 1990
- The 1990 Plan was comprehensive and included:
 - Identification of critical issues
 - Identification of current and future water needs
 - Assessed if excess surface water could be put to beneficial use

