



## Fish and Wildlife Flows Subgroup

### Meeting Summary

January 22, 2013

The first meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Flows subgroup was held January 22, 2013 at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Offices, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock. The following were in attendance: Mike Armstrong (AGFC), Edward Swaim (ANRC), Ken Brazil (ANRC), Jim Petersen (USGS), Tim Snell (TNC), Joe Nix, Jim Boggs (USFWS), Jeff Quinn (ANRC), Jason Throneberry (Arkansas Natural Heritage), Chris Soller (ANRC), Ron Redman (ANRC), Ken Gould (UALR), Lori Howard (UALR), Steve Filipek (AGFC), Kent Thornton (FTN), Linda Johnson (FTN), Rick Brown (CDM Smith), Nicole Rowan (CDM Smith). The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and the group adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The meeting followed the agenda and began with introductions and a discussion regarding the purpose of the group. Nicole Rowan and Rick Brown provided a brief overview of the major tasks of Arkansas Water Plan Update and discussed where fish and wildlife flow fit into the bigger picture of the water plan update. Nicole Rowan and Rick Brown also discussed the recommendations from the scope of work development regarding fish and wildlife flows and presented an overview of methods that could be used in the water plan update. A review of the PowerPoint presentation provides additional detail on the material that was presented.

A summary of the major comments, questions and responses is provided below.

Question: Could fish and wildlife flows could also be considered a demand? Answer: Yes, but historically they have been included in the supply analyses as part of previous water plans in Arkansas.

Comment: USFWS is in the process of listing several aquatic species, while these may not have a demand associated with them they could provide a constraint in the future.

Comment: Fish and wildlife flows are important in smaller streams – one method does not fit all. Scale is important for fish and wildlife flows.

Comment: May need to address regulated and unregulated streams separately.

Comment: Allocation of storage available from federal reservoirs needs to be addressed.

Comment: Quantity/Quality of surface water needs to be looked at in parallel.

Comment: A risk based approach to understanding impacts of diversions in streams will be important in the future.

Comment: This group needs to identify opportunities to improve how fish and wildlife flows were applied during the 1990 water plan.

Comment: Climate change needs to be addressed in water availability analyses.



# Arkansas Water Plan Update



Comment: Non-riparian permits provide an annual amount water that can be diverted for use – there is not a seasonal component to these permits – this is an area for improvement in the future.

Comment: At the end of the water plan we need to have a list of additional research that is needed and what questions need to be answered based on the work that was completed in the water plan. The water plan will not be able to address/resolve all of the issues related to fish and wildlife flows so there needs to be recommendations for the future.

Comment: Existing GIS information that could be utilized in water plan update includes: Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan, Arkansas Natural Heritage database, The Nature Conservancy's aquatic gap analysis.

Comment: Mike Armstrong suggested that due to the schedule of the AWP Update that this group focus on identifying methods for fish and wildlife flows for three areas: 1) the Delta west of Crowley's Ridge, 2) Bayou Bartholomew, 3) Fayetteville Shale (Little Red River). In addition to these 3 areas, the group should focus on the default method to be used in the water availability calculations for the water plan update.

Comment: The methodology for establishing fish and wildlife flows needs to be included in the AWP Updates so there it is clear how flows were and need to be determined.

The following next steps and logistics were discussed:

- CDM Smith will send a doodle poll and set-up a follow-up call to be held within the next two weeks
- The group should be thinking about what this group's deliverables should be as part of the water plan keeping in mind the scheduled for the water plan update prior to the next call.

Please e-mail questions, comments, or suggestions to [ArkansasWater@cdmsmith.com](mailto:ArkansasWater@cdmsmith.com).