

Missouri Major Water User Statistics

- Excluding water used for hydroelectric power generation, approximately 380 billion gallons of water was used in 2014.
- Eighty-five billion gallons of water were withdrawn from the ground for electrical power generation and cooling in 2014.
- Approximately 60 percent of Registered Major Water Users are irrigators.
- An estimated one half of the irrigators in Missouri are not registered Major Water Users.
- Each year, only about 50 to 60 percent of the Registered Major Water Users report their annual water use data.

PUB2221 (11/15)

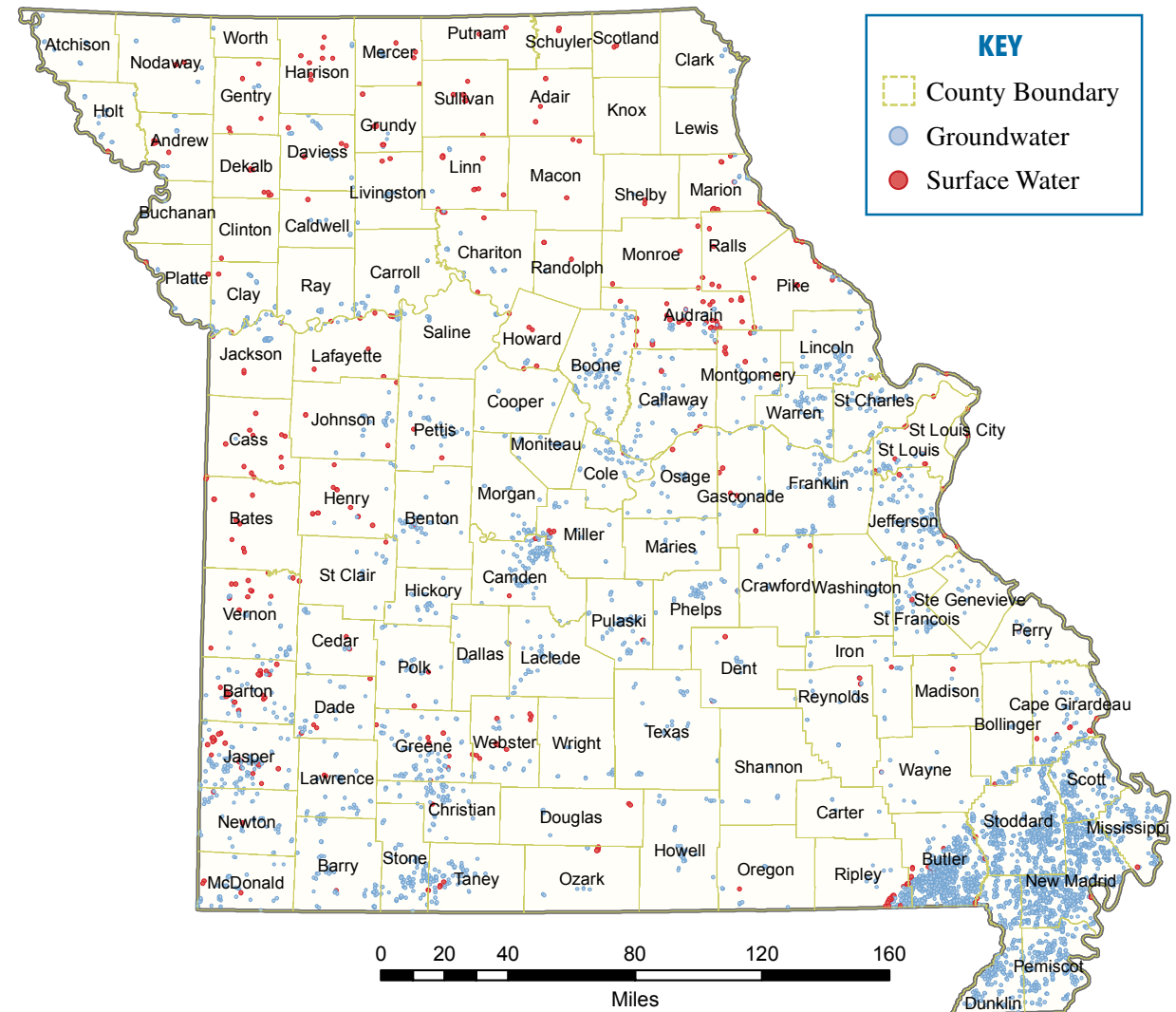


Water Use Reporting

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Registered Major Water Users in Missouri: Groundwater Wells and Surface Water Intakes



Although all data in this set have been compiled by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by the department as to the accuracy of the data and related materials

What is a Major Water User?

Any surface or groundwater user that has the capacity to withdraw or divert 70 gallons per minute or more from any water source.

Why care about water use?

Water shortages can have severe and expensive consequences. Adequate water supplies are vital not only to human health and safety, but also to the prosperity of our state. Whether it is for crop irrigation, industrial manufacturing or power generation, water is at the core of human existence and sustainability.

A few decades ago, the supply of water in Missouri was considered virtually unlimited. As population and industry have increased, a need for statewide water planning has emerged. No meaningful water planning can be performed without accurate accounting of water use.

Why is this data so important?

The purpose of sections 71.287, RSMo, and 256.400 to 256.430 is to insure the development of information required for the analysis of certain future water resource management needs. It is intended to provide important information required for technical assessment of current and future requirements for the regulation of water.

- This data is necessary to assess water availability during times of drought and water shortage.
- Missouri shares water resources with many other states, some of which regulate water use and have already established their demand for water. It is important for Missouri to document our need for water, to protect our right to that water.

Why should I report and how does this benefit me?

- It's the law.
- To establish your need for water.
- To help the department understand the water needs of Missouri citizens.



- To gain foresight of water supplies, and be able to apply conservation measures during periods of limited or diminishing supplies.
- The department considers the locations of major water users when determining where to locate stream and reservoir gauges as well as groundwater level observation wells.

How much water can I withdraw?

There are no state laws, regulations or policies that specify the quantity of water that any diverter may use. Missouri is a riparian water law state, and all landowners touching or lying above water sources have a right to a reasonable use of that water. Recent case law has established the reasonable use criteria the State Supreme Court has been following.

Reasonable use requires that other users and landowners not be overly impacted in an adverse manner. The Department of Natural Resources published "A Summary of Missouri Water Laws," WR-51, which provide more information. To purchase a copy, call 573-368-2175.

The publication is also available free online at dnr.mo.gov/geology/wrc/water_res_rpts.htm.



Do I have to get a permit?

No. The department does not regulate the use of water nor do we appropriate water.

Are there fees to withdraw water?

No. There are no fees.

How do I report?

Report online or download and print forms from on our website at dnr.mo.gov/geology/wrc/forms.htm.

Forms can be mailed to:
Missouri Water Resources Center
PO Box 250

Rolla, MO 65402-0250
Please call if you would like assistance
or if you have questions
573-368-2175