

USDA Forest Service Natural Resource Manager



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Topic: Natural Resources Manager (NRM) Water Rights and Uses Application

Summary: The NRM Water Rights and Uses (WRU) application supports the tracking and reporting of state and federally recognized water rights and uses. Core information such as water sources and purposes of use, quantity, and periods of water use is emphasized. Spatial and tabular data from water use inventories is supported. WRU is a mandatory repository for data associated with water rights and uses on National Forests and Grasslands and is an important tool for property management and reporting.

Key Points: WRU provides a comprehensive approach for:

- Managing water sources at multiple levels of the watershed
- Spatially representing water rights/uses and sources.
- Analyzing existing condition location information for the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).
- Linking forest level water data to official regional and state water right files.
- Improved file security and permanent storage for key water right and use documents.
- WRU improves the way the agency approaches work by creating an up-to-date inventory of water right properties and water uses/sources on the forest.

Key Features: WRU offers the following benefits:

- Single point of entry for all water rights and uses data.
- Full life-cycle management for record keeping and compliance.
- An audit trail, ad hoc reports, and data archive.
- Current spatial representation of water sources and developments on the forests.
- Data integration with the Range, Special Uses and other NRM applications to improve water utilization tracking.
- Photographic storage for a quick visual understanding of water rights and use developments.
- Display of USFS water uses and rights of others (non-USFS) that have water rights on USFS lands to better understand water demand on federal lands.
- Storage of field notes and site information to maintain history of water source use and condition.

WRU offers multiple aerial and topographic backgrounds to view and analyze water rights and uses data. The integration of the WRU data complements other NRM programs to improve a cohesive view of forest resources and uses, and project implementation.