

Table 1. Summary of Surface Water Allocation and Permitting in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.

	<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>New Mexico</i>
State Agencies that manage water resources	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC)	Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB)	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Office of the State Engineer
Water appropriation system	Modified riparian doctrine	Hybrid doctrine	Hybrid doctrine	Doctrine of prior appropriation
Climate/annual precipitation	Humid/45 to 64 inches	Humid in east, arid in west/54 to 18 inches	Humid in east, arid in west/54 to 14 inches	Arid/12 to 20 inches; more in the mountains
Quantity of surface water (mi ²) ¹	1,149 mi ² , 2.16% of total 53,178 mi ²	1,296 mi ² , 1.85% of total 69,899 mi ²	5,607 mi ² , 2.09% of total 268,697 mi ²	293 mi ² , 0.25% of total 121,590 mi ²
Who owns surface water?	Public if navigable; riparian landowners if non-navigable	Public	Public	Public
Do riparian landowners need a permit to divert surface water?	No	Yes, except for domestic purposes	Yes, except for domestic purposes	Yes
Amount of surface water that may be diverted by riparian landowners	As much as needed, subject to the needs of other riparians	Amount appropriated by the OWRB	Amount appropriated by the TCEW	Amount appropriated the State Engineer
Who receives water during a water shortage?	Domestic users followed by registered riparian landowners	Domestic users followed by senior rights holders	Domestic users followed by senior rights holders	Senior rights holder
Numbers of years of non-use to lose permit	Riparian user—cannot lose right; non-riparian—two	Seven	Three	Four

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstracts of the United States: 2011; Table 335.