

Professional management of watercourses

The inland position of the Czech Republic in the heart of Central Europe predetermines its relation to the European river network. From the hydrological viewpoint it may be called „the roof of Europe“. The basic hydrographic system according to the Central Register of Watercourses is constituted by approx. 100 km of watercourses (with both natural and regulated stream channels). Watercourses on the territory of the Czech Republic are divided into two categories: significant watercourses and minor watercourses. Professional management of watercourses in 2015 was carried out in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Water Act.

The main watercourse administrators are the River Boards, state enterprises and Forests of the Czech Republic, state enterprise, who report directly to the Ministry of Agriculture. From 1 January 2011, they are also responsible for the administration of minor watercourses transferred from the Agricultural Water Management Administration. Administration of minor watercourses was transferred to the respective River Boards, state enterprises according to the territorial scope and to the Forests of the Czech Republic according to the forest coverage criteria. State-owned River Boards, s. e. and Forests of the Czech Republic are responsible for the administration of about 94% of the total length of watercourses in the Czech Republic. Other entities involved, including the Ministry of Defence, the National Park Administrations and other natural and legal persons are responsible for approximately 6% of watercourse administration.

Professional management of watercourses broken down to the individual watercourse administrators is shown in next table.

Professional management of watercourses

Category	Administrator	Length of watercourses in km	
		2014	2015
Significant watercourses	Elbe River Board, s. e.	3,667	3,667
	Vltava River Board, s. e.	5,493	5,503
	Ohře River Board, s. e.	2,377	2,377
	Oder River Board, s. e.	1,111	1,111
	Morava River Board, s. e.	3,768	3,755
	Total	16,396	16,413
Minor watercourses	Forests of the Czech Republic, s. e.	38,491	38,495
	River Boards, s. e. in total	39,657	40,928
	Other administrators ¹⁾	5,857	4,962
	Other ²⁾	5	3
	Total	84,010	84,388
Watercourses in total		100,406	100,801

Source: Ministry of Agricultural

Note: Digital lengths of watercourses from the Central Register of Watercourses are presented.

¹⁾ Including National Park Administrations, the Ministry of Defence (authorities of military districts), municipalities and other natural and legal persons.

²⁾ From 2013 including sections of minor watercourses, for which the administrator has not yet been designated and which appear to be the solitary streams.

All significant watercourses are listed in Annex 1 of the Decree No. 178/2012 Coll., stipulating the list of significant watercourses and the method of carrying out the activities relating to watercourse administration. It provides an overview of 819 watercourses included

in the "List of significant watercourses". This list also includes the identifier of watercourses (Central Register of Watercourses). Minor watercourses constituting the so-called „border“ watercourses are also classified in this category. The significant watercourses, with a total length of 16,413 km, are administered under the provision in Section 4 of Act No. 305/2000 Coll., on river basins, by the respective River Boards, state enterprises: the Elbe River Board, the Morava River Board, the Oder River Board, the Ohře River Board and the Vltava River Board. The backbone watercourses are the Elbe (370 km), the Vltava River (431 km) and the Ohře River (254 km) in Bohemia, the Morava River (269 km) and the Dyje River (194 km) in the south of Moravia and the Oder River (135 km) with the Opava River (131 km) in the north of Moravia and in Silesia.

All the other watercourses (provision of Section 43 of the Water Act) are in the category of minor watercourses. The total length of minor watercourses according to the Central Register of Watercourses is 84,388 km. The administration of minor watercourses is carried out under the provision of Section 48 of the Water Act, based on the respective appointment by the Ministry of Agriculture (the provision of Section 48, subsection 2 of the Water Act). If no administrator of a minor watercourse is appointed, the watercourse in question is managed by the administrator of the receiving watercourse where the outfall of the minor watercourse is situated. It does so until the administration of the watercourse is established under Section 48, subsection 2 of the Water Act. The administration of minor watercourses may be carried out by the municipalities through the territory of which the minor watercourses flow, by natural or legal persons or, as the case may be, by the state organizational units using these minor watercourses or carrying out activities with which these watercourses are connected. The form and the content of the application for establishment of the administration of a certain minor watercourse is published and specified in detail in the above mentioned Decree No. 178/2012 Coll. During 2013, the mapping of defined minor watercourses continued to be refined.

On the basis of the adoption of the law no. 15/2015 Coll., on the abolition of the military area Brdy, to establish the boundaries of military regions and on amendments to related acts (act on the borders of military regions), occurred the so-called optimization of the borders of military regions, which consisted in the complete abolition of the military area Brdy and in the change of the boundaries of the other military regions. In connection with the optimization of military areas occurred to update the management of small streams in favor of other administrators, River Boards, state enterprises, and Forests of the Czech Republic, state enterprises.

The public administration bodies and the general public find detailed information on the establishment of the administration of the relevant watercourse in the „Central Register of Watercourse“, which is available on the portal of the Ministry of Agriculture (www.eagri.cz) or on the Water Management Information Portal (www.voda.gov.cz).

The acquisition value of the non-current tangible assets relating to watercourses amounted in the year 2015 to CZK 51.75 billion. Compared to the previous period, this value shows a year-on-year growth of CZK 0.63 billion.