



1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner, at 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 13, 2017, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

Ted Nighswonger, Area I Commissioner
Andy Larson, Area II Commissioner
Brad Shogren, Area III Commissioner
John Wunder, Area IV Commissioner
Rod Vorhees, Area V Commissioner

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University (KSU)
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary of Agriculture (present 9:30-9:40)
Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Program Manager
Katie Burke, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager
Donna Meader, CD Program Coordinator
Cindy Woofter, Administrative Specialist
Andy Klein, Water Quality Forester, Kansas Forest Service

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Guests:

Jim Krueger, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, (KACD)
(present till 10:30 a.m.)

Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

3. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to certify the election to the Conservation Commission for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2017: Area II – Andy Larson, and Area IV – John Wunder. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to nominate Rod Vorhees to serve as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Andy Larson to nominate John Wunder to serve as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

5. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Under New Business, the following additions were made:

- b. Review FY 2016 Cost-Share Pie Charts
- f. Discuss possible allocation for WR and NPS cost-share programs

A motion was made by Andy Larson to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the November 20, 2016, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

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7. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Jackie McClaskey, Secretary of Agriculture, KDA – Jackie thanked all for supporting and working with KDA, and to let her know if there was anything that was needed.
- b. Stephanie Royer, KACD-EO President – was not present but provided a report for the SCC to review (See Attachment A).
- c. Rod Vorhees, SCC Chairman, passed out a handout entitled “Ag Allies” (See Attachment B).
- d. Jim Krueger, KACD Executive Director, announced that Dan Meyerhoff will be his replacement effective August 1, 2017. Jim will be attending the SCC spring workshops. He expressed his appreciation to those who attended the KACD meeting in Topeka, and mentioned that Bevin Law is now on the NACD board.
- e. Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) – At the SAKW Annual Meeting, it was discussed how SAKW might be able to get their foot in the door in regards to Waters of the US regulations.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Saline County – Dustin Durr, District Technician, start date 9-12-16
- b. Pottawatomie County – John Haug, District Technician, start date 11-14-16
- c. Stevens County – M'Lynn Swartz, District Manager, start date 11-28-16
- d. Labette County – Joyce Kramer, District Manager, start date 12-12-16
- e. Wilson County – Earl Ray, District Technician, start day 1-3-17
- f. Haskell County District Manager – OPEN as of 1-9-17
- g. Atchison County District Manager – Resignation, will stay on to train new employee

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Review Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Annual Report – Frost (See Attachment C)
 - i. Steve Frost discussed the CREP report. CREP contracts are continuous and it is a very successful project. The project has been in operation for 9 years and has been like a rollercoaster in regards to enrollment.
- b. Review updated SCC Spring Workshop dates and locations – Meader
 - i. Donna reviewed the updated list of locations, dates, times and meal arrangements for the upcoming SCC spring workshops. District Managers of the host counties will be taking reservations, and Donna will help collect lunch money at the meetings.

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- c. Review Commissioner and staff out-of-state travel - Reschke
 - i. Andy Larson, John Wunder, and Rob Reschke attended the NACD convention in Denver, Colorado. Rob said there was a lot of diversity there; there are many problems in some states that are actually positives in other states. Andy said the different motivational speakers were very good. John said the speakers were great and he was still trying to digest all the information he gained.
- d. Sediment Reduction Initiative Update – Reschke/Jones (See Attachment D)
 - i. The possibility of having a one-time incentive payment for this program instead of annual payments was discussed. Rob is hoping to move forward and have a roll-out of this program after July 1, 2017.

BREAK – 10:27 to 10:42

- e. Blue Ribbon Task Force/Water Vision Update - Reschke
 - i. Several House Bills are in the works right now regarding the Blue Ribbon Task Force and Water Vision.
- f. Watershed District Cost-Share Program Update – Jones
 - i. Dave will be working on a strategy for creative management between the DOC and Watershed Districts.
- g. Watershed Program Update – Saadi
 - i. SCC and DOC have been qualified by Corps of Engineers for conservation practices. There will be a meeting between DOC, KDA Legal Department, and SAKW in regards to a conservation easement and the MOU.
- h. CSIMS 2.0/RALIS Update – Carlson/Woofter
 - i. The goal is to have some features of CSIMS rolled out by July 1, 2017, with November 2017 having the final product finished up. CSIMS updates will be presented at the SCC Spring Workshops.
 - ii. In RALIS, most license renewals were complete. It is hopeful to have RALIS complete by the end of April.
- i. KACD Resolution follow-up review – Jones (See Attachment E)
 - i. Dave handed out a packet of resolutions that were presented at the KACD conference. He also reviewed the ending result of each proposed resolution.

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- j. Financial Report – Frost (See Attachment F)
 - i. Steve gave a brief summary of the financial reports.
- k. Streambank Projects Update – Burke (See Attachment G)
 - i. Katie gave an update on all the contributions. She is still working on Cottonwood, Tuttle, and Delaware. There is a need to get the uncommitted money committed by the end of Fiscal Year 2017.

LUNCH BREAK 12:00 p.m. to 12:48 p.m.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review and discuss FY 2018 proposed cost-share program policy revisions – Jones (See Attachment H)
 - ii. Dave discussed main point on the revisions; these will be voted on at the next SCC meeting in April
- b. Review FY 2016 Cost-Share Pie Charts – Reschke/Jones (See Attachment I)
 - i. The pie charts were created in an effort to show what Conservation Districts are doing (Dave put these together) from the CSIMS information. They tell exactly what money is being spent on. This will be discussed at the SCC Spring Workshops.
- c. Discuss Conservation District Annual Meeting schedule – Reschke (See Attachment J)
 - i. Let Cindy know if you will be attending any other meetings other than what is on the schedule so she can get you put on the map.
- d. Spring workshops agenda review – Reschke/Meader (See Attachment K)
 - i. Donna reviewed the workshops. Rob emphasized that workshops are a great time to take advantage of Supervisors being together and finding one to fill Regional Advisory Committee vacancies.
- e. State Aid to Conservation Districts Study – Reschke/Frost (See Attachment L)
 - i. As part of the budget discussion Jackie had an intern look into the specifics about state aid to individuals and active locations. This is most important in figuring out what the value of the Conservation District is.
- f. Discuss possible allocation for WR and NPS cost-share programs – Jones
 - i. Dave reported that there are good balances in both NPS and WR TMDL funds. He sent out a generic “call for projects” to get an idea of what funding is still out in the Districts. It was suggested to the Commissioners to do another fund cancellation.

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A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to cancel and reallocate all uncommitted balances in the FY 2017 State Water Resources and Non-Point Source cost-share programs per the call for projects list. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

- g. Kansas Technical Committee participation – Vorhees (See Attachment M)
- i. Commissioners discussed a letter that Rod composed asking NRCS to grant SCC membership to the Kansas Technical Committee. The full committee will meet in Salina on April 28. It was decided upon by the SCC to send the letter.

11. REPORTS:

a. Agency Reports:

- i. NRCS – A report was supplied by Eric Banks, who was not in attendance (See Attachment N)
- ii. K-State Agronomy – Peter Tomlinson – the Agronomy Department received National Conservation Innovation Grants to add to the KAW Water project. He will be attending the Midwest Cover Crop Council in Michigan in March.
- iii. KCARE – Dan Devlin – Dan provided a printed report for all to read and offered to answer any questions. He said the state costs keep increasing while the budget is decreasing, as it is everywhere (See Attachment O)
- iv. KDA – Terry Medley – Terry reported that his department hired an engineer in January and that his department has also asked FEMA for money to fund another stream engineer position.

b. Staff Reports:

- i. Steve Frost, DOC – nothing to report
- ii. Katie Burke, DOC – Katie reported that she made a poster for the Kansas National Resources Conference she attended. She also attended the windbreak conference. Katie expressed that she would like to review riparian and wetland plans with the counties that have them.
- iii. Cindy Woofter, DOC – Cindy mentioned she has been devoting much of her time to the Land Reclamation program and new data base, RALIS.
- iv. Rob Reschke, DOC – nothing to report.
- v. Dave Jones, DOC – Dave has been training DOC technician new hires and has attended some WRAPS and RAC meetings.

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- vi. Andy Klein, KFS – There are forest buffer projects currently being worked on, along with 21,000 seedlings gearing up to be planted. Andy attended a windbreak initiative conference.
 - vii. Scott Carlson, DOC – Scott gave a presentation on the Land Reclamation Program to the Wilson County Auxiliary group.
 - viii. Donna Meader, DOC – Donna completed cost-share reviews in ten counties, with two overpayments. She attended annual meetings, and is preparing for SCC spring workshops (See Attachment P)
 - ix. Hakim Saadi, DOC – Hakim reported that a final inspection was performed on a project that had been ongoing since 2009 (See Attachment Q)
- c. Commissioner reports:
- i. Area I – Ted Nighswonger – Ted said his county Annual Meeting went well.
 - ii. Area II – Andy Larson – Andy attended the NACD convention in Denver, Colorado.
 - iii. Area III – Brad Shogren – Brad reported that there are some WRAPS projects being finished up in his area.
 - iv. Area IV – John Wunder – John mentioned that farmers are starting to fertilize and do maintenance work in the fields. He also attended the NACD convention in Denver, Colorado.
 - v. Area V – Rod Vorhees – nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next scheduled SCC meeting will be April 10, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.



Rob Reschke
Executive Director



· Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
· Employees' Organization
·

KACD-EO Report
SCC Meeting
February 2017

There are only a couple of items for the EO to report on this month.

One being the KACD-EO appointed Kim Gerard of Stanton Co to fill Meghan Urwin's position in Area II. Meghan is no longer employed with the District. EO reps have been assisting in that county so that they could have their annual meeting and proceed with taxes, payables and customer invoicing.

Second being the KACD-EO board is planning the upcoming KACD-EO Statewide Conference. It will be May 2nd & 3rd in Salina, KS. Board is looking at having the first day at the Rolling Hills Zoo and second day at Great Plains Manufacturing. Big part of the meeting will be given to KDA-DOC to discuss CSIMS 2.0 Upgrade, Ranking Worksheet, Program Revisions and Cost-Share Contract File Reviews. Board is planning for a couple of featured speakers and encourage any SCC board member to attend and provide a SCC Report if it works. Final Agenda will be emailed once confirmed.

And as always, if anyone has any questions or issues they need assistance with please contact myself or your area KACD-EO rep for assistance.

AGAllies

The Kansas
Agricultural
Alliance
promotes
the
welfare of
agriculture
and rural
communities
in Kansas
and
nationally.

Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas, valued at more than \$62 billion and accounting for 43 percent of the state's total economy, according to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

The Kansas Agricultural Alliance (KAA) helps to promote the general welfare of agriculture and rural communities within Kansas and nationwide. The alliance focuses on legislative activities affecting agriculture, rural areas and cooperative services, like your rural electric cooperative. KAA members consist of statewide farm, livestock, commodity, cooperative, agribusiness and agri-service organizations—all working together as one voice on industry-related issues.

Guided by its statement of principles

“Because we have diversification even in the agriculture industry, we have different points of view on some different issues,” said Randy Stookey, 2016 president of KAA. “In order to take a stand on any legislative item, we must have unanimous consent or unanimous support—it’s how we avoid conflict.”

The alliance’s support for, or opposition to, specific legislation can’t occur without KAA members’ affirmative vote. Their statement of principles, which express the general view of KAA members, guide their actions:

► **AGRICULTURAL TAXATION** - The KAA supports the state of



Kansas' current constitutional method of classifying, appraising and taxing agricultural land. Property and sales tax exemptions and classifications that exist under current Kansas law are critical for agricultural entities to remain competitive. The KAA supports retaining these property and sales tax exemptions and classifications for agricultural production-related items and services.

- ▶ **AGRICULTURAL HOMELAND SECURITY** - The KAA encourages continued coordination among federal, state and local units of government, research entities and the agricultural industry to reasonably protect the food and fiber industry from accidental or intentional introduction of foreign animal diseases, plant and animal pests, or other pathogens detrimental to the agricultural industry. KAA supports voluntary protocols to protect agricultural producers and agribusinesses. Furthermore, KAA supports the maximum penalty provisions provided by law be applied to those individuals convicted of ecoterroristic and bioterroristic activities.
- ▶ **AGRICULTURAL THEFT/PROPERTY DAMAGE** - The KAA supports efforts to strengthen enforcement and penalties for stealing from, or causing property damage to, agricultural operations, agribusinesses and utilities.
- ▶ **AGRITOURISM** - The KAA will support legislative proposals and state agency initiatives that enhance economic activities for Kansas farmers and ranchers through agritourism. Furthermore, the KAA believes that Kansas

KANSAS AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE MEMBERS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▶ Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association | ▶ Kansas Grain and Feed Association |
| ▶ Kansas Association of Conservation Districts | ▶ Kansas Livestock Association |
| ▶ Kansas Association of Wheat Growers | ▶ Kansas Pork Association |
| ▶ Kansas Cooperative Council | ▶ Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association |
| ▶ Kansas Corn Growers Association | ▶ Kansas Soybean Association |
| ▶ Kansas Electric Cooperatives | ▶ Kansas Veterinary Medical Association |
| ▶ Kansas Farm Bureau | ▶ Renew Kansas |

law should provide liability protection for agricultural producers who seek recreational and tourism opportunities on farms and ranches.

- ▶ **FEE FUNDS** - The KAA realizes that various state agency program fee assessments are required to ensure the stability of regulatory agencies. KAA opposes the transfer and use of any fee assessments beyond the assessments' intended uses.
- ▶ **HOME RULE REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGULATION** - The KAA supports statewide administration, promulgation and enforcement of science-based environmental and agricultural regulations. The KAA supports the public policy of Kansas to conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of



Other significant issues the alliance will monitor are taxes and spending.

farmland for the production of food and other agricultural products. Zoning against agriculture is contrary to the purpose and violates state law. Environmental controls, prohibitions, or restraints on agricultural practices, to the extent they are reasonable, necessary, cost effective and have a rational basis in law, should be determined at the state level so that uniformity and consistency are achieved. Local government should not require permits, charge fees, or regulate agricultural activities.

▶ **PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION**

- The KAA supports protection of private property rights and recognizes that under Kansas law a water right is a property right.

- ▶ **SUPPORT FOR KDA PROGRAMS** - The KAA supports a strong Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and maintaining KDA's status as a cabinet-level agency. KDA plays an important role in ensuring a safe, wholesome, and affordable food supply in Kansas. Adequate funding and staffing for regulatory functions mandated on agriculture-related industry by the state legislature or Congress must be maintained to allow timely operation of agricultural businesses. KAA supports maintaining state general fund support for KDA programs that have a statewide benefit to the general public.

- ▶ **WATER AGENCY CONSOLIDATION** - Water is vital to all Kansans, particularly those

engaged in producing the state's food, fuel and fiber. Kansans have been well served in many capacities by a multi-agency approach to water management. The KAA believes no single agency should have authority over both water quantity and water quality matters.

2017 Legislative Session

Going into the 2017 Legislative Session, Stookey said the hot button issues on KAA's radar screen are tax policy and water issues, with taxes being a focus for the last several legislative sessions.

"That target has been on the back of agriculture," he said. "If and when those tax issues arise again this year, I can safely say the alliance will speak with one voice against increased taxation on agriculture."

"In addition, if there were legislation that would infringe on a person's property rights as far as the right to use water, the alliance most likely would take a position against it."

Other issues Stookey said the alliance will monitor in addition to taxes and water concerns are spending and aligning the budgets to revenue. Specifically, he said the alliance wants to ensure that agriculture is held harmless or at least not unduly burdened by new tax policy, and that the agencies that regulate the agriculture industry in Kansas are funded.

"It's important to us that our state agencies are funded appropriately to ensure they can do their jobs," he said. **KCL**



**UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER
CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
PERFORMANCE REPORT
BY THE
STATE OF KANSAS
October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016**



Remnants of a retired irrigation system remain silently idle among an established CREP conservation cover of native prairie grasses in southern Kearny County, Kansas.



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For additional information, contact:

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1320 Research Park Drive Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6622; www.agriculture.com/conservation

Executive Summary

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Kansas is a federal/state partnership created for enhancing water conservation efforts along the Upper Arkansas River (UAR) corridor from Hamilton County to Rice County. The Upper Arkansas River CREP has been officially approved and operating for nine years; this annual report provides a synopsis of the implementation activities and progress to date.

CREP is an “enhanced” version of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in which the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state of Kansas have mutually agreed to address specialized natural resource concerns. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is USDA’s provider of technical services in the field to producers who are implementing FSA’s CREP contracts. The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Division of Conservation (DOC) is the primary coordinator of the program in concert with numerous other state, local, and private partners including KDA’s Division of Water Resources; Kansas Water Office; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Kansas Geological Survey; Kansas State University; Groundwater Management District Nos. 3 and 5; and Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.

The Upper Arkansas River CREP is a voluntary, incentive-based program allowing producers to enroll eligible irrigated acres in targeted areas for 14–15 year contracts with FSA, permanently retire the associated state water rights on the enrolled acres, and establish an approved land cover (typically a native grass) on the same acreage. The producer receives an annual rental payment, plus additional cost share opportunities for specific conservation practices from FSA plus an upfront incentive payment from DOC.

Groundwater is the dominant source of water for all uses in the basin, and aquifer declines are a serious concern. Therefore, water conservation is the main management objective in the Upper Arkansas CREP. The program also provides other resource benefits including soil conservation, water quality protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, and energy savings. The majority of irrigated acres enrolled have been on highly erodible, sandhills soils that are unsuitable for dryland farming.

One of the most significant merits of the program to date has been establishing cover on these highly erodible lands. The extremely sandy and fragile, windblown soils of the sandhills will be very difficult to re-vegetate after irrigation is no longer possible and crop production ceases due to groundwater declines. The CREP program has provided these producers a viable option, financial opportunity and incentive for starting native grass stands and other conservation covers while limited irrigation water is still available.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, a total of 109 state CREP contracts on 18,318 acres have been approved by the State of Kansas (with the addition of 1,260 acres this year). These contracts have resulted in the permanent retirement of 37,430 acre-feet of annual water appropriation on 124 water rights from 162 wells. The contracts represent a total of \$1,179,762 in state sign-up payments to producers over the past nine years. These payments are matched by total annual producer rental payments from FSA totaling about \$2,103,000 per year over the 14–15 year life of the CREP contracts. The state of Kansas has again met its financial commitment to provide at least 20 percent of the federal costs of the program through a combination of direct payments, technical assistance and in-kind contributions with at least 10 percent coming from direct cash match. Since Dec. 6, 2007, a total of \$10,884,125 from state, local and private expenditures has been made in support of the project to match an estimated total of \$31,347,166 federal program costs.

Annual Progress Summary: In FY2016, a refreshed program rollout to renew interest and enrollment activity was accomplished and drew significant interest and inquiries from landowners again. Due to additional offers being received and approved this year, the program recorded its first CREP enrollment from Hamilton County, and both Gray and Kearny counties are now at the current enrollment cap of 7,237.5 acres each. After several years of devastating drought, the summers of 2015–2016 saw a return to more “normal” rainfall patterns in southwest Kansas, which has had a very beneficial impact on producers’ abilities to maintain land covers in the sandhill areas.

Overview

The Kansas Legislature approved funding for an Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (UAR CREP) in 2007 and 2008. CREP is a USDA program that creates individual rules and special conditions and rates for a geographic region or watershed. The USDA and the KWO worked with USDA's FSA and NRCS to develop and launch the program. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius on Nov. 27, 2007, and by Acting USDA Secretary Charles Conner on Dec. 4, 2007, officially established the Kansas UAR CREP.

The UAR CREP is a voluntary program that provides incentives and cost sharing to participants who enroll their land into eligible conservation practices such as native vegetation establishment or wildlife conservation for a period of 14 to 15 years. The CREP area lies within 10 counties along the Arkansas River corridor, covering 1,571,440 acres. In the CREP area, 718,683 acres were authorized for groundwater irrigation prior to program start-up. Another approximate 10,680 acres are authorized for irrigation from surface water. Reducing irrigation demands on the stream-aquifer system will help slow the aquifer declines, mitigate the spread of saline waters into the aquifer, and help restore stream and riparian health.

The Kansas Legislature has approved the enrollment limit up to a maximum of 40,000 acres, and FSA conducted its environmental impact assessment and initial approval procedures at that level. The state sought to first enroll up to 20,000 acres under the initial MOA — 17,000 acres of irrigated land, and 3,000 dryland corners from irrigated circles based on 1) the amount of funds that were then available; and 2) an additional stipulation regarding the amount of land coming out of CRP at that time. In 2011, FSA approved an expansion of the total project size to 28,950 acres with a target goal of 25,950 irrigated acres to be enrolled under a revised MOA. Joint efforts occurring during the 2015 program year again amend the MOA between USDA and the State of Kansas. These amendments were approved to increase state incentive rates, update important water use eligibility criteria and provide mechanisms for future flexibilities in adjusting the current county cap enrollment limits.

History

The CREP project area lies within the Upper Arkansas River basin. Overall, the target area includes portions of ten counties (Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Gray, Ford, Edwards, Pawnee, Stafford, Barton and Rice counties) and two groundwater management districts (Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3 (GMD3) and Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 (GMD5) along the river corridor. Within the entire project area, the Arkansas River has hydrologic interactions of surface flow and groundwater. The main water sources for producers within the project area are local stream / river surface waters, and the alluvial and High Plains aquifers. The Arkansas River flows from headwaters in the Rocky Mountains, and has been diverted for more than 100 years for irrigation in Colorado and Kansas. The river and groundwater system has had several decades of well-documented flow depletions entering the state of Kansas, and groundwater declines in the aquifer are resulting in loss of base flow to the river, decline in well yields, and in some locations, degradation of groundwater quality.

The Arkansas River is a resource of state and national concern for both water quantity and water quality. The flow into Kansas is extensively controlled though releases from the John Martin Reservoir in eastern Colorado, and is managed through the Arkansas River Compact Administration. Reduced flows as the river entered Kansas, in violation of the compact, have historically resulted in stream flow depletion, groundwater declines, and economic damage. The river is also one of the most saline in the nation where it enters Kansas, a result of the extensive concentration of salts occurring from irrigation use and reuse. The declining flows and deteriorated water quality threaten the viability of this important surface water source in western Kansas. Correlated with the reduced flow and increasing salinity of the river is the degradation of riparian health and wildlife habitat. Native plant communities have declined, and there has been an extensive and aggressive infestation of tamarisk and other non-native phreatophytes.

Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact

The Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact (Compact) was negotiated in 1948 between Kansas and Colorado with participation by the federal government. Its stated purposes are to settle existing disputes and remove causes of future controversy between Colorado and Kansas concerning the waters of the Arkansas River, and to equitably divide and apportion between Colorado and Kansas the waters of the Arkansas River as well as the benefits arising from John Martin Reservoir.

Kansas filed an original action in the United States Supreme Court, *Kansas v. Colorado*, No. 105, in 1985 to enforce the terms of the Compact. In 1994, a Special Master appointed by the Court, Arthur J. Littleworth, recommended that the Court determine that Colorado had violated Article IV-D of the Compact by means of post-compact well pumping in Colorado. On May 15, 1995, the Supreme Court agreed. Colorado paid Kansas more than \$35.1 million in damages for Colorado's Compact violations. This money has been deposited in three funds created by statute that specify generally how and where the money will be spent. The acceptable uses of two of these funds are consistent with UAR CREP objectives, while the third is for future litigation. The Water Conservation Projects Fund, now known as the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund after transfer to GMD No. 3, must be applied to projects within a portion of the CREP area.

The Special Master's fifth and final report to the Supreme Court in January 2008, and the Supreme Court "Judgment and Decree" entered on March 9, 2009, provided that the Supreme Court would retain jurisdiction for a limited period while the states evaluated the sufficiency of the 1996 Colorado Use Rules.

As a result of that evaluation, modifications of the initial judgment and decree were jointly developed by Kansas and Colorado based on decisions by the Special Master and the United States Supreme Court. The decree contains several appendices, such as the hydrologic-institutional model and accounting procedures, which will be used to determine if Colorado is in compliance. The states submitted a modified appendix to the Supreme Court on Aug. 4, 2009, bringing an end to the retained jurisdiction.

CREP Steering Committee

The Upper Arkansas River CREP Steering Committee consists of the Kansas Water Office; the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation; the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources; the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; and the Kansas Geologic Survey. These state agencies are joined by the Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Groundwater Management Districts nos. 3 and 5, and the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams.

The steering committee meets at least annually to review the progress of the CREP project and to make recommendations regarding the accomplishment of important goals and objectives. The Steering Committee met again on Sept. 27, 2016 (Attachment F). The input of the steering committee on the success of the CREP program and ways to improve it will become very beneficial as more acres enroll and the impact of the water right retirements and land conservation practices begin to become measurable.

CREP Project Implementation Summaries

The CREP program is designed to protect water quality and extend the usable life of the of the High Plains aquifer by establishing conservation practices and retiring the associated water rights on irrigated project lands in Barton, Edwards, Finney, Ford, Gray, Kearny, Pawnee, Rice and Stafford counties. Hamilton County was previously ineligible for the program because it was at a maximum level of acres that could be enrolled in a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). FSA rules regarding the maximum allowable acres specifically pertaining to CREP program enrollment were changed in 2011. Therefore, Hamilton County is now officially eligible for the program. The Kansas Legislature approved the enrollment limit up to a maximum of 40,000 acres. However, the program cap with FSA was initiated at the 20,000 acre level to stay

within a legislative stipulation which allows only one acre of land to be enrolled in CREP for every two acres of current CRP contracts which expire annually. This project cap has since been increased to 28,950 acres.

Eligible cropland conservation practices approved by FSA to meet the goals and objectives for this CREP project are as follows:

- CP2 (Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses and Legumes) – up to 27,550 acres;
- CP4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement) – up to 400 acres;
- CP9 (Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife) – up to 200 acres;
- CP21 (Filter Strips) – up to 100 acres;
- CP22 (Riparian Buffer) – up to 100 acres and;
- CP23/CP23A (Wetland Restoration, flood-plain & nonflood-plain) – 200 acres.

CREP applications are typically made in the county where the land is located, and all applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Farmers who enroll irrigated cropland in the program and permanently retire their water rights will receive rental payments for 14 to 15 years at rates between \$153 and \$193 per acre per year. Rates vary depending on the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) and irrigation system currently in place. Cost-share funds and financial incentives are available for seeding and well plugging on enrolled land. As a part of CRP, CREP acres are subject to normal FSA haying, grazing, burning, and other management provisions, and they can also be leased for hunting. Producers receive an upfront signing bonus from the state of either \$97 per irrigated acre (Tier 1 Soils) or \$55 per irrigated acre (Tier 2 soils). The KWO office will also provide a \$350/acre bonus payment for the CP9 practice.

The current goal of the UAR CREP is to enroll up to 28,950 acres of eligible cropland within the designated area to significantly reduce the amount of irrigation water consumptively used. Water quality will be improved through the reduction of agricultural chemicals and sediment entering waters from agricultural lands, and thereby impeding the spread of poor quality river water into the fresh alluvial and High Plains aquifers. Through permanent retirement of water rights appurtenant to the lands enrolled in CREP and the establishment of conservation covers and other resource management practices, the reduction of water consumption and non-point source contaminants will slow aquifer declines, moderate the loss of base flow, enhance associated wildlife habitat (both terrestrial and aquatic), and conserve energy.

Successfully meeting the goals and objectives of the UAR CREP involves interagency cooperation and adherence to a coordinated implementation plan. The implementation plan covers each agency's responsibility and the step-by-step process for outreach, processing applications, providing technical assistance, and monitoring success.

The UAR CREP is being implemented through continuous signup on a first come, first priority basis — until a county reaches the CREP program maximum for enrolled acres or the federal limit on CRP acreage enrolled in any one county. The application enrollment pattern in the first year demonstrated high interest in December of 2007, and in January / February of 2008, with a peak of more than 13,000 acres offered for enrollment. By March 2008, inquiries slowed, as most landowners had already made decisions on their land if a crop was to be planted during the upcoming season. A number of applications were subsequently withdrawn as some land was sold. Others were also withdrawn as crops were put in, as 2008 was a year of very high commodity prices and escalating land values. There were also a number of applications that ultimately were found to not meet the federal or state eligibility criteria during the review process. Finally, there were some inquiries that ultimately did not result in applications being filed because it initially appeared that the county cap had already been filled for Kearny and Gray counties. One state requirement is that no more than 25 percent of the CREP program acres can be in any one county, which in 2008 was a 5,000 acre cap. That cap has since been raised to 7237.5 acres per county.

At the end of the first fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2008, a total of 7,252 acres had officially been approved for enrollment in the CREP program. A total of 15,354 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations

associated with these acres had been voluntarily and permanently retired. By Sept. 30, 2009 (the end of the second fiscal year), an additional 1,902 acres had been approved for enrollment, bringing the project total to 9,155 acres. An additional 3,325 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations were also retired, bringing the project total to 18,679 acre-feet retired. At the end of the third fiscal year, 1,647 enrolled acres were added and another 2928 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations were also retired.

At the end of the fourth fiscal year, 247 enrolled acres were added, bringing the current project total to 11,049 acres, and an additional 532 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations were also retired, bringing the total to 22,139 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations retired. By Sept. 30, 2012, 4076 acres were added and a total of 15,126 acres had been enrolled, and 30,974 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations had been retired.

As of Sept. 30, 2013, a total of 15,800 acres had been enrolled, and 31,709 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations were retired. No additional acres were enrolled during the period Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014. As of Sept. 30, 2015, an additional 1,189 acres had been enrolled, bringing the cumulative total to 16,989 acres, with 34,527 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations being retired. As of Sept. 30, 2016, the end of the ninth fiscal year, an additional 1,329 acres had been enrolled, bringing the cumulative total to 18,318 acres, with 37,430 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocations being retired.

Outreach

Public outreach for the UAR CREP was initiated prior to and during the preparation of the project proposal to gather information and assess public support. Many outreach meetings occurred on the UAR CREP throughout Western Kansas and during the legislative session. The implementation team developed an informational brochure and poster about CREP for use during the awareness campaign. This brochure and related promotional posters were also updated and revised during the third program year, FY2010, and again in the fourth program year, FY2011, as well as in the ninth program year, FY2016 (attachment A).

A coordinated approach to outreach and support will continue through implementation of the program. Much of the initial success of the UAR CREP is a result of strong marketing of the program to interested producers. The outreach is accomplished through direct mailings, newspaper press releases, educational brochures, radio broadcasts and local informational meetings. Each of the agencies cooperating in the program is responsible for the outreach component, but the KWO, DOC, GMD3 and GMD5, and the local conservation districts were especially instrumental initially, as identified in Attachment A.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is provided to the producers enrolled in the UAR CREP by USDA's NRCS and the DOC. Over the brief life of the program, there have been a number of meetings between NRCS and the producers discussing the challenges of transitioning to a permanent cover on soils that are highly susceptible to wind erosion (the majority of the enrolled acres are in this category). These meetings and communications became even more frequent and heightened with the impacts of drought conditions. The process for implementing CREP in Kansas (KCREP_IP_02) has been modified to indicate that NRCS will meet at the CREP site with all new participants (Exhibit C).

A very productive meeting was convened between FSA, NRCS, DOC, KWO, DWR, GMD3 and GMD5 officials in Garden City on Feb. 26, 2009, to discuss the unique challenges, strategies, and techniques of establishing permanent grass covers on highly erodible soils associated with the majority of the CREP enrollment to date. Some very successful grass establishment was developed by the end of the 2010 season. NRCS staff had found a strategy involving an effective combination of cover crops, herbicides, irrigation and summer seeding times which has resulted in many circles of nearly 100 percent CRP grass

establishment after just two years. Other county offices were apprised of the methodologies so that the experience can be re-created in areas where the grass establishment has been difficult.

A second meeting was held in Dodge City at the USDA Service Center on July 7, 2011. Discussion at this meeting focused on the progress of the program including establishment of permanent vegetative cover. NRCS reviewed Kansas Conservation Reserve Program Technical Guidance Number 81, "Guidelines for Cover Crop and Grass Establishment on Sandy Sites Associated with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Acres." This guidance document has been updated to provide emphasis on the establishment of a cover crop, weed management, irrigation for establishment, and frequent monitoring.

NRCS staff expressed their concern with current conditions resulting from the severe drought being experienced in 2011 and the ability of participants to irrigate grass stands for establishment. The full effects of the drought on CREP stands will not be known for a few years. District conservationists had reported that some stands considered to be established in 2010 appeared to have died during 2011–2012.

NRCS conducted a field tour of selected CREP sites in Kearny County on May 22, 2012. As the drought had continued and worsened over the 2011–2012 winter, it became even more apparent that alternative strategies would be necessary to re-establish grass stands that were regressing to drastically low populations of desired prairie mixture species. After convening a technical team of soil and plant specialists, NRCS conducted sampling of sites which indicated problems or issues which might be resolved through alternative cropping or cultural practices. During the summer, the Kansas Department of Agriculture also conducted chemical sampling on the same sites for the purposes of determining any possible pesticide residual effects which could be contributing to plant deterioration. NRCS conducted a meeting with 30 landowners in Garden City on Nov. 13, 2012, to communicate the findings of the research effort and to convey recommendations for future planting of cover crops and grasses.

At the meeting, FSA announced its revised schedule of cost-share incentives for producers who needed to re-plant during the 2013 season. DOC, FSA and NRCS discussed compliance issues with the producers. [All parties are still in agreement that until fully normal precipitation patterns resume, no requirements will be enforced to re-cultivate fields with minimal cover that are in danger of blowing if adequate irrigation water is unavailable.] However, each CREP contract owner who is facing compliance issues because of drought related effects will still be required to be reviewed with a plan approved by the local FSA county committee.

The summer of 2014 brought a summer season of near normal rainfall to the project area, and provided moisture to annuals, weeds and grass for much needed ground cover. However, another very dry fall followed. This pattern was repeated in 2015 and 2016 with most of the project area receiving average to abundant summer precipitation, but very dry fall conditions. These stands will need to be evaluated again in future seasons to determine their post-drought status. The current conditions of the drought-stricken areas will challenge CREP participant's ability to establish the permanent cover required by the program.

NRCS has continued to conduct technical evaluations of the project sites — both at the local county office level, and with teams of experts from FSA, NRCS and DOC (May 7, 2014, and April 28, 2015). Another field tour is planned for the Spring 2017 season to determine how covers are re-emerging after the winter.

Agency and Organization Cooperation

The **Kansas Water Office (KWO)**, the state's planning agency for water issues, provides direction for the CREP program development. KWO contributes to public outreach through presentations at the Upper Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee (now reformed as a Regional Advisory Committee) and Kansas Water Authority meetings and to other interested stakeholders. KWO works collaboratively with DOC and each of the agencies identified below to prepare and provide USDA with annual CREP progress reports. The KWO director originally administered the Western Kansas Water Conservation Projects Fund for projects in the Upper Arkansas River corridor that provide water conservation, efficiency gains and aquifer recharge.

Legislative directives from the 2008 session transferred the fund and administrative duties to GMD No. 3. The KWO director continues to review and give approval for proposed projects recommended by the GMD No. 3 and the Arkansas River Litigation Funds Advisory Committee, with input from the DWR's Chief Engineer. The use of these funds is consistent with the purposes of CREP.

The ***Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC)*** (formerly *State Conservation Commission*) coordinates with local groundwater, watershed and county conservation districts, state and federal agencies, and other conservation partners to implement programs that improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, conserve water and reduce flood potential. DOC administers the state portion of CREP. DOC also is responsible to contract with eligible participating entities for the state upfront incentive payments (SUPs); to review, and make assurances that all CREP eligibility criteria are met and correctly documented; to assure that the relevant water right is properly and permanently dismissed; and to provide appropriate recommendations regarding final approval of FSA CREP applications. The DOC also administers a similar, solely state-funded water right retirement program (Water Transition Assistance Program). DOC utilizes an existing staff position as the State CREP Coordinator for Kansas to facilitate and oversee CREP in the Upper Arkansas River basin.

The ***Farm Service Agency (FSA)*** is the lead USDA agency for CREP. FSA provided the first public announcement of the program signups and made broad outreach to all potentially eligible persons. FSA field office staff work with landowners and producers to determine if CREP is a program that fits for their acreages and circumstances. FSA initiates the contract with interested parties; provides estimates of payments, and works with the landowner and NRCS to determine suitable conservation practices. Final approval of contracts comes from FSA county committees. FSA has no responsibility for the water right terminations, but coordinates with DOC and DWR as to the sufficiency of the voluntary dismissals.

The ***Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR)*** provides verification of water rights in good standing, administration of retired water rights, issuance of term permits, water well investigations and monitoring of aquifer levels and stream flows. DWR has and will continue to provide legal partitioning of water rights to facilitate enrollments, as necessary. This agency assists the Arkansas River Compact Administration with compact compliance. The chief engineer of DWR also reviews proposed project applications for water conservation and efficiency in the Upper Arkansas River basin through the former Water Conservation Projects Fund, now known as the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund, in coordination with the director of KWO. These efforts are consistent with the CREP objectives.

The ***Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)*** monitors surface water quality in the Arkansas River and its tributaries. Activities include collection and preparation of chemical, bacteriological and radiological lab samples taken from the Arkansas River at up to seven sites located between Coolidge and Great Bend, and analysis for chemistry, microbiology and radiological content of samples. KDHE coordinates water quality issues and meetings with Colorado and other Kansas state agencies, and partners and stakeholders.

The ***Kansas Geological Survey (KGS)*** provides annual monitoring of aquifer levels. KGS also provides technical studies on salinity fate and transport, aquifer characterization, and groundwater modeling. The KGS maintains a long-term research site for investigating phreatophyte and stream-aquifer interactions in the Arkansas River valley at the USGS gage site northeast of Larned, within the CREP project area. Most of the wells are screened in the alluvial aquifer and a few are screened in the underlying High Plains aquifer. Most of the wells are instrumented with pressure transducers that record water levels on a 15 minute time interval year round. Periodic measurements of specific conductance are made in the wells and at least one sample a year is collected from most of the wells. In future years, data from the Larned site may be used along with others with water-level data in the CREP area in conjunction with the model for the Middle Arkansas River subbasin to determine the effect of reduced pumping from CREP on the system. The KGS is also establishing index wells in the areas of GMD3 which are used in model developments pertinent to the CREP project area.

The **Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT)** provides fish and wildlife population monitoring. KDWPT conducts wildlife and habitat surveys through several programs including stream monitoring and assessment and shorebird surveys. KDWPT conducts statewide stream surveys to document the current range and distribution of riverine species. Since 2002, KDWPT has coordinated a volunteer effort to survey shorebirds at wetlands throughout Kansas. Portions of these ongoing survey efforts as well as additional wildlife population monitoring activities can serve as in-kind contribution towards the CREP project. KDWPT monitors visitation rates at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, to be used in evaluation of a CREP objective.

Groundwater Management Districts (GMD No. 3 and GMD No. 5) monitor water levels, collect water quality samples, recommend water management actions to the chief engineer, review and advise on water conservation projects in the Upper Arkansas River valley and promote water conservation. Both GMDs have sponsored stakeholder meetings to help explain and promote the Upper Arkansas River CREP. The GMDs have also provided technical assistance to interested parties on partitioning of water rights or fields to meet both the CREP eligibility criteria and the needs of the producer.

Kansas State University (K-State) has provided public outreach support to the cooperating state and local agencies involved with the UAR CREP proposal and implementation. Extension agents with expertise in programmatic areas important to the project are available to answer questions posed by users and other interested parties. K-State Research and Extension (KSRE) has established outreach networks to transfer important information and results to clientele and end users of program information. K-State also has the capacity to analyze and interpret economic impacts as the CREP program is further implemented. These impacts will include both positive and negative impacts in the sub-basin communities. Positive impacts will result from changes in the environment as less water is diverted for irrigation and related stream flow and the useable life of the aquifer is extended. Negative impacts will result from decreased economic activity as irrigated land is removed from agricultural production, whether temporarily or permanently.

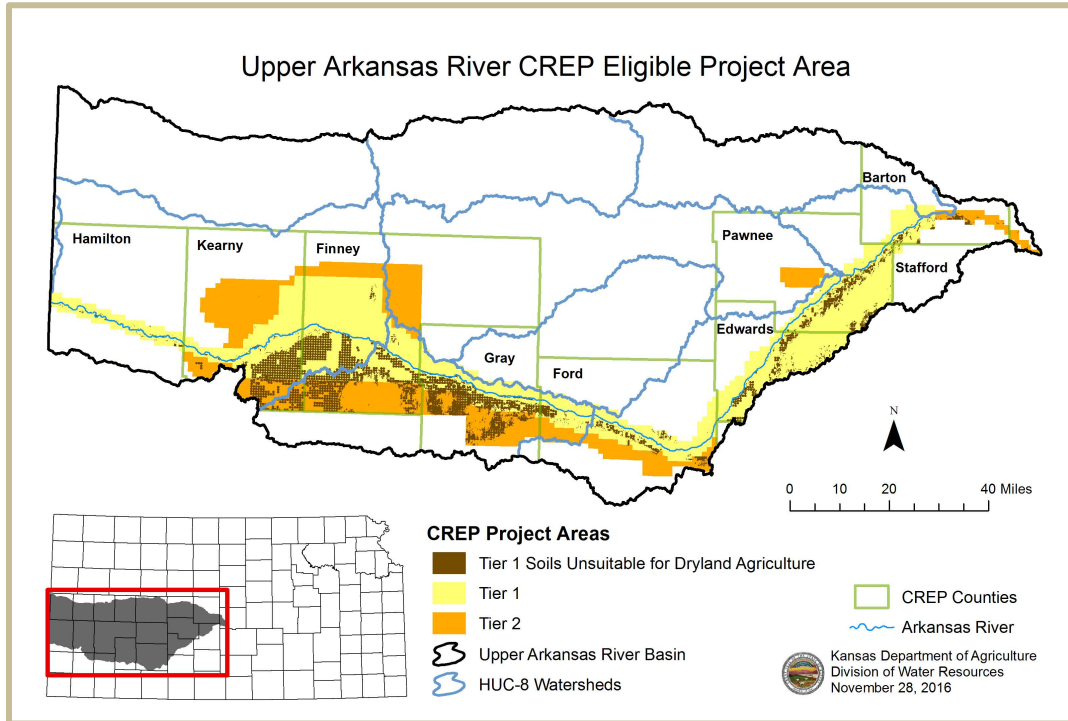
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance on CREP contracts to create the conservation plan of operations and implement the approved practices. NRCS employees evaluate the offered acres with the applicant to determine the appropriate suite of practices to meet needs of the land and producer. Specifications for practice implementation are documented and provided to the participant on conservation practice worksheets. NRCS personnel then follow up with participants by making site visits to evaluate progress, and by making recommendations to help with management decisions. NRCS determines whether the established conservation covers meet agency specifications.

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) became a new technical advisor to the steering committee in 2016. KAWS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit that collaborates with local people, conservation and community organizations, agencies and local governments to promote conservation of streams, wetlands, riparian areas, prairies, watersheds and wildlife. With an apolitical, inclusive, efficient, and science-based approach to promoting sustainability of the natural ecosystems and working lands of Kansas, KAWS is supported by a broad range of partners and advisors which make a good fit with the goals and objectives of the CREP program.

Pheasants Forever (PF)* is a national nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the conservation of pheasant, quail, and other wildlife. PF members are a diversified group of hunters, non-hunters, farmers, ranchers, landowners, conservation enthusiasts and wildlife officials organized in local chapters who work through fundraising and project development efforts to make a difference by creating habitat, restoring wetlands and protecting prairies. They also promote cooperative endeavors through public awareness, education and land management policies and programs which are being implemented in the UAR CREP.

[*In 2016, PF notified the CREP coordinator that their organization would no longer be able to support any financial commitments to the CREP project as originally envisioned, and subsequently requested to be withdrawn as an official financial partner in the project.]

Figure 1: Map of Upper Arkansas River CREP Eligible Project Area



CREP Program Implementation Summaries

Land Conserved

As of Sept. 30, 2016, the total amount of land which has been offered and approved for enrollment into the CREP program is 18,318.5 acres, as detailed in the table below (also see Attachment D).

Acres Approved for Enrollment: December 20, 2007 to September 30, 2016										
CREP County	Acres Approved December 20, 2007 – September 30, 2008	Acres Approved October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009	Acres Approved October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010	Acres Approved October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011	Acres Approved October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012	Acres Approved October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013	Acres Approved October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014	Acres Approved October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015	Acres Approved October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016	Total Acres Approved since Program Initiation
Barton										
Edwards										
Finney	129.4	574.2	76.5		1,338.6			412.7	475.9	3,007.3
Ford										
Gray *	2,677.8	723.5	1318.6	247.1	1,087.4	673.9		613.8		7,342.1
Hamilton									242.9	242.9
Kearny *	4,203.8	605.0	251.9		1,520.0			162.9	610.2	7,353.8
Pawnee	241.7				130.7					372.4
Rice										
Stafford										
Total	7,252.7	1,902.7	1,647.0	247.1	4,076.7	673.9	0	1,189.4	1,329.0	18,318.5

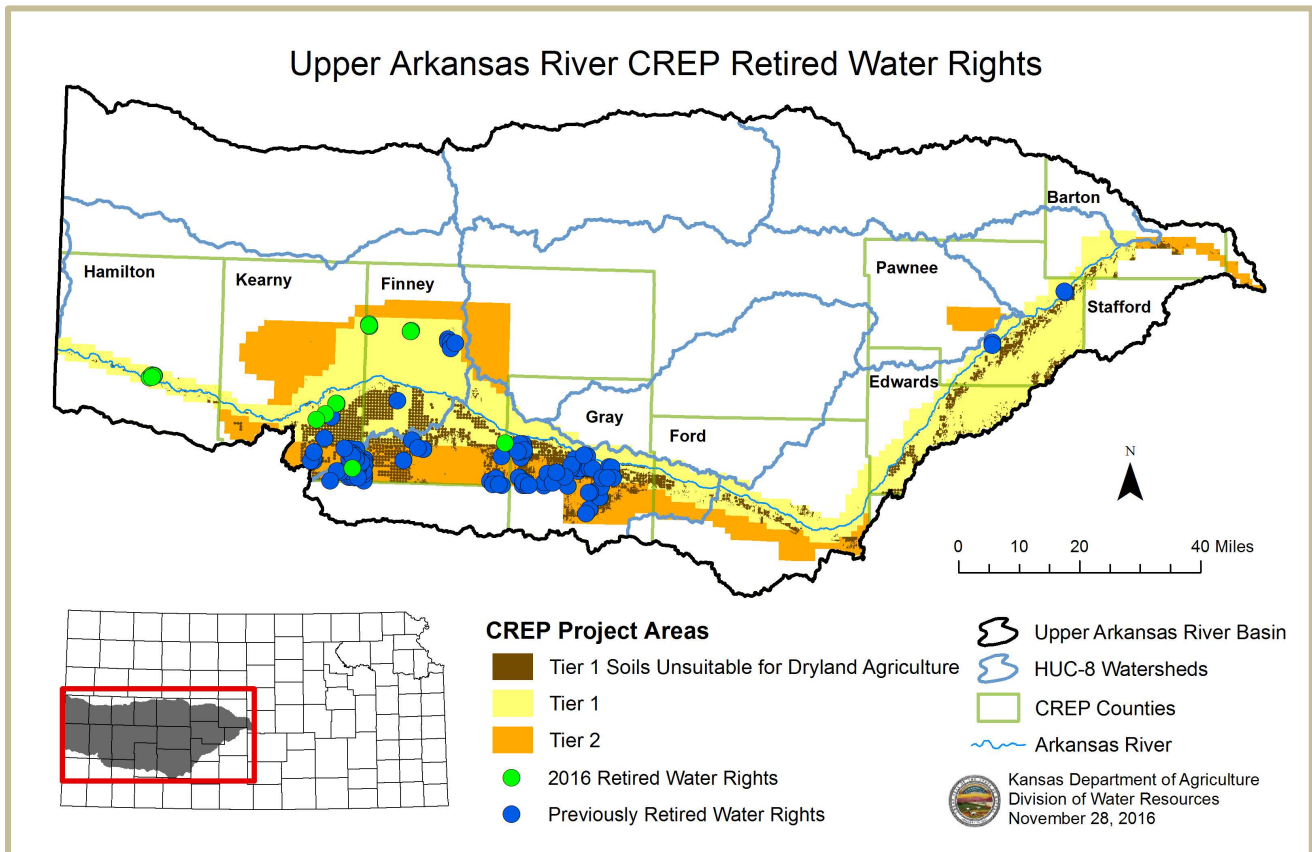
* Currently at the maximum county enrollment cap of 7,237.5 acres

Water Conserved

The total amount of water rights that have been offered and accepted for permanent retirement under state approved contracts from the beginning of enrollment on Dec. 20, 2007, through Sept. 30, 2016, are shown in the table below. To date, a total of 37,430 acre-feet of annual authorized water right allocation has been permanently retired from irrigation through enrollment into the Upper Arkansas River CREP.

CREP Authorized Water Right Allocation Permanently Retired: 2007–2016		
CREP County	Authorized Quantity (Acre-Feet) of Annual Water Right Allocation Permanently Retired on State Contract Approved Acres	Number of Irrigation Wells Being Permanently Retired on State Contract Approved Acres
Barton		
Edwards		
Finney	5,809 AF	24 Wells
Ford		
Gray	15,304 AF	62 Wells
Hamilton	386	3 wells
Kearny	15,345 AF	57 Wells
Pawnee	586 AF	16 Wells
Rice		
Stafford		
Total	37,430 AF	162 Wells

Figure 2: Map of Upper Arkansas River CREP Retired Water Rights



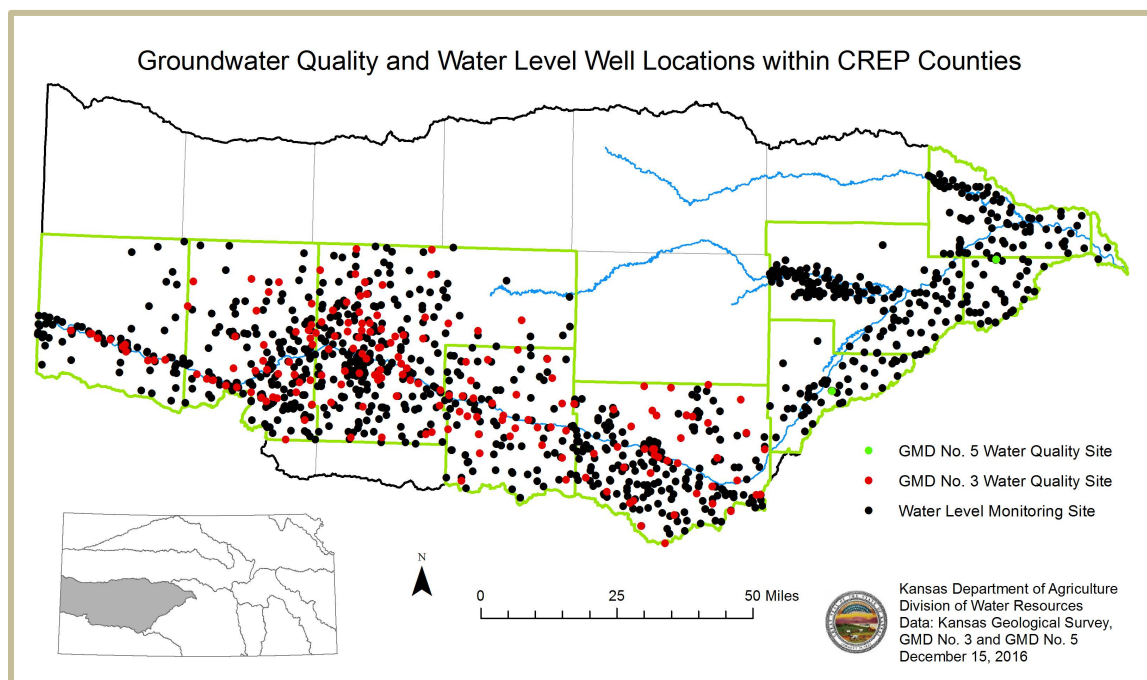
Groundwater Monitoring Activities

The majority of the acres enrolled in the Upper Arkansas CREP are requiring limited irrigation to get a permanent vegetative cover established on soils highly susceptible to wind erosion. The recent drought further necessitated that additional irrigation water be applied to re-start cover crops and grass stands that have been damaged, in addition to recent enrollments that are being initially established. Therefore, there will still be minimal initial reductions in pumping that will likely be reflected in the last measurements from the annual groundwater level monitoring program (January 2016). Many of the additional acres approved during FY2009, FY2010, FY2011, FY2012, FY2013, FY2015 and FY2016 did not get contracts established until mid-year. Ground-water level measurements and annual water use reports are being collected for the CREP project area (average groundwater levels and locations of monitoring wells are provided in Attachment E).

Water levels have been monitored at least annually at numerous locations in the CREP counties. Figure 3 includes the locations of historical water level measurements in the area. GMD5 obtains water level measurements from 25 wells in the CREP area. Annual measurements are collected from 14 of these wells and quarterly measurements of 11 wells are planned to continue.

Water levels within the boundaries of the CREP area, particularly in the areas where contracts are approved, will be measured over time. One option is to compare monitored changes with predicted changes based on the Middle Arkansas subbasin and GMD3 computer modeled scenarios. The Kansas Geological Survey is also working cooperatively with DWR and GMD3 to enhance the monitoring network for the aquifer close to the retired CREP acres and water rights in Kearny, Finney and Gray counties. Improvements include providing additional annual monitoring wells and increasing the measurement frequency, equipping some key well sites with pressure transducers and temperature loggers, and designating some wells as index calibration wells. Plans are also in development to conduct some future comparative analysis on CREP vs. non-CREP acres/ wells. Since a great deal of the enrollments in Gray and Kearny counties are in very close proximity, the establishment of such an enhanced monitoring program would result in some very specific information about the effects of substantial water right retirements in these highly localized areas.

Figure 3: Upper Arkansas River CREP Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring



Annual Irrigation Water Usage in CREP Area: 2007 - 2015

Water use reports of authorized acres actively being irrigated each year within the CREP project area have been received and verified by DWR for the 2007–2015 reporting years, as shown below (also see Attachment D).

CREP Project Area Reported Irrigated Water Use and Irrigated Acres: 2007 - 2015										
County	2007 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2007 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2008 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2008 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2009 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2009 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2010 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2010 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2011 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2011 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area
Barton	16,658	15,776	15,972	12,218	16,705	15,335	16,318	17,759	16,556	22,780
Edwards	36,827	31,203	36,345	38,214	36,313	35,896	37,137	39,023	37,206	49,127
Finney	209,394	254,681	206,581	282,728	202,048	243,523	200,204	277,291	200,220	331,091
Ford	43,165	45,428	41,778	50,295	41,324	44,772	42,267	47,963	44,019	61,856
Gray	85,660	99,894	84,082	105,957	83,511	93,872	81,439	97,711	77,742	114,457
Hamilton	11,384	15,870	12,658	18,377	13,316	16,219	12,585	18,253	12,617	21,204
Kearny	104,113	184,319	108,220	191,396	112,090	169,008	109,788	189,041	108,017	179,932
Pawnee	50,861	40,285	50,627	40,585	50,315	44,125	50,645	53,988	52,757	67,943
Rice	336	281	331	221	331	230	331	370	331	611
Stafford	628	601	628	552	628	695	628	788	628	969
Total	559,026	688,337	557,222	740,543	556,581	663,675	551,342	742,187	550,093	849,970

CREP Project Area Reported Irrigated Water Use and Irrigated Acres: 2007 - 2015										
County	2012 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2012 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2013 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2013 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2014 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2014 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area	2015 Reported Irrigated Acres in CREP Project Area	2015 Reported Irrigation Water Use (AF) in CREP Project Area		
Barton	16,638	21,519	15,985	14,471	16,433	15,317	16,501	17,496		
Edwards	37,058	45,416	36,469	34,928	37,231	36,969	36,974	39,337		
Finney	196,864	319,860	197,711	287,789	193,318	272,640	191,903	229,668		
Ford	42,182	55,686	42,863	46,780	43,533	43,283	42,094	40,207		
Gray	76,814	101,092	75,079	94,673	71,942	87,512	72,464	71,622		
Hamilton	13,471	21,854	14,223	19,474	14,474	18,336	13,842	15,931		
Kearny	88,731	146,743	89,156	130,782	101,895	147,972	115,882	159,682		
Pawnee	50,929	61,025	52,354	48,160	52,832	51,089	52,886	49,509		
Rice	336	353	336	311	336	341	166	238		
Stafford	625	860	622	588	628	657	628	711		
Total	523,648	774,408	524,798	677,957	532,622	674,117	543,340	624,400		

Summary of Non-Federal Program Expenditures

The total estimated federal costs of the program to date are \$31,347,166. The state of Kansas, with its partners of other agencies, conservation districts, groundwater management districts and private partners has provided a cost share that meets or exceeds the required 20 percent match of federal costs. The state of Kansas agreed to pay not less than 20 percent of the program costs, as required for a CREP program, through a combination of direct payments, technical assistance and in-kind contributions. No less than 10 percent of this match is in direct match. Since Dec. 6, 2007, a total of \$10,884,125 of non-federal expenditures has been made in support of the CREP project. The state direct match now totals \$7,585,514.

State / Federal Match Summary (in dollars)										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
DOC Payments	439,901	116,122	93,916	15,320	245,011	37,677	0	113,669	118,146	1,179,762
Other KS Direct	143,089	673,670	1,576,507	1,278,249	336,275	336,285	49,134	287,424	1,728,119	6,408,752
Total KS Direct	582,990	789,792	1,670,423	1,293,569	581,286	373,962	49,134	401,093	1,843,265	7,585,514
KS Indirect	651,988	412,286	374,911	318,747	302,160	286,771	357,304	287,714	306,730	3,298,611
KS Dir & Indirect	1,234,978	1,202,078	2,045,334	1,612,316	883,446	660,733	406,438	688,807	2,149,995	10,884,125
ACCUM Kansas		2,437,056	4,482,390	6,094,706	6,978,152	7,638,885	8,045,323	8,734,130	10,884,125	10,884,125
ACCUM Federal				19,667,225	21,274,225	22,464,790		28,317,828	31,347,166	31,347,166
10% of federal										3,134,716
20% of federal										6,269,432

As of Sept. 30, 2016, a total of \$1,179,762 has been expended by the Division of Conservation for the state Upfront Payments (SUPs) in 109 separate state contracts to producers who have been approved and enrolled in the CREP program, as shown below. Producers will receive an average of about \$2,103,000 annually in direct payments from FSA over the 14-15 year period of the CREP contracts.

State Upfront Payments Approved by County										
COUNTY	State Upfront Payments 2008	State Upfront Payments 2009	State Upfront Payments 2010	State Upfront Payments 2011	State Upfront Payments 2012	State Upfront Payments 2013	State Upfront Payments 2014	State Upfront Payments 2015	State Upfront Payments 2016	COUNTY TOTAL
Barton										
Edwards										
Finney	\$8,022	\$33,756	\$2,677		\$78,251			\$34,124	\$45,299	\$202,129
Ford										
Gray	\$156,954	\$44,856	\$75,618	\$15,320	\$64,419	\$37,677		\$59,540		\$454,384
Hamilton									\$23,561	\$23,561
Kearny	\$260,632	\$37,510	\$15,620		\$94,241			\$20,005	\$49,286	\$477,294
Pawnee	\$14,291				\$8,103					\$22,394
Rice										
Stafford										
TOTAL	\$439,901	\$116,122	\$93,916	\$15,320	\$245,011	\$37,677	\$0	\$113,669	\$118,146	\$1,179,762

As of Sept. 30, 2016, a total of \$7,585,514 has been expended in the project for both cash payments and direct match. A total of \$1,728,119 was provided as cash payments and direct match during the 2016 year, as shown below.

Direct Match to Federal Dollars from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016		
Organization	Amount	Activities
KDA – Division of Conservation State Upfront Payments	\$118,146	State sign-up payments to CREP participants
State CREP Coordinator	\$48,254	Coordinate implementation of program with FSA, conservation districts, NRCS, and state agencies
KDA – Division of Conservation	\$0	Cost share on well plugging and other allowed practices
Western Water Conservation Project Funds	\$1,561,719	Alternate delivery route, ditch lining, Lake McKinney storage capacity and bypass
Pheasants Forever / Quail Forever	\$0	Cost share on seeding; loan of grass seeder
Kansas Water Office	\$0	Cost share on tamarisk control, or wetland bonus payments
TOTAL DIRECT	\$1,728,119	Cash Payments and Direct Match

As of Sept. 30, 2016, a total of \$3,298,661 has been expended in the project for technical assistance and in-kind services as indirect match. A total of \$306,730 was provided as indirect match during the 2016 year, as shown below.

Services by Organizations from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016		
Organization	Actual	Activities
Technical Assistance		
Western Water Conservation Projects Fund Management	\$49,051	Preferred interstate, grant applications, general TA water rights, laws and issues
KDA – Div. of Water Resources & Information Technology	\$7,395	CREP database maintenance, water right reviews, divisions and retirements for applications
Kansas Geological Survey	\$54,000	Water level monitoring, database management, phreatophyte investigations, TA, water right communication, modeling, river water quality and practical saturated thickness work
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism	\$2,740	Wildlife and fish population investigations in CREP counties
Kansas Conservation Districts	-	No activity to report
State & Local In-Kind		
KDA – Div. of Conservation	\$1,223	Reports, outreach & CREP field inspections
Western Water Conservation Projects Fund	\$10,000	Alternative delivery system, storage capacity, and efficiency improvements (ARLFSC time)
Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5	\$48,000	Water level measurements, meter compliance, water banking, CREP assistance and clerical pay

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 3	\$117,053	Water management, stakeholder assistance in CREP area, program promotion
Kansas Department of Health and Environment	\$14,348*	Ark River coordination with Colorado, sampling of Ark River water quality
Kansas Water Office	\$2,920	Weather modification and phreatophyte CREP activities
TOTAL INDIRECT	\$306,730	Technical Assistance / In-Kind Services

*No report received for FY2016 — assumed to be the same as previous year

Progress on CREP Objectives (12 objectives)

1. Enroll a maximum of 28,950 acres into CREP in the project priority area (25,950 irrigated acres, 3,000 from dryland pivot corners as part of whole field enrollment), with a goal of up to 18,600 acres put into native grass.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, a total of 18,318 acres have been offered, accepted and enrolled into the CREP program. Of the total number of acres currently offered, only 2.5 percent (463 acres) was farmed dryland. Offers which are predominately “Tier 2 soils” comprise 9.1 percent (1679 acres) of the total approvals to date. This objective is 70 percent complete.

2. Reduce the application of groundwater for irrigation in the targeted area by 45,125 acre-feet, annually, with the enrollment of 25,950 irrigated acres.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, a total of 37,430 acre-feet of authorized water rights for irrigation have been permanently retired. This rate is averaging just over 2 acre-feet per acre, a rate higher than estimated in the CREP objective, particularly because the majority of the enrollment in the project area has been in the western counties where the water appropriation allowances are the highest in the state, and some irrigated acreage is authorized on land which is not being enrolled at the irrigated rate due to FSA restrictions. This objective is 82 percent complete.

3. Increase the frequency of meeting minimum desirable stream flows in the Arkansas River at the USGS gaging stations at Great Bend and Kinsley by 2020 from 71 percent and 52 percent, respectively, as measured in 1996–2004.

No assessment of this objective has been made as of Sept. 30, 2016. Measurement of the impact of enrollment of acres into the Upper Arkansas River CREP on minimum desirable stream flow will begin after water rights have been terminated and sufficient time has elapsed to have an effect on the system. Most of the acres enrolled have just recently terminated the water rights, or are still allowed temporary limited irrigation to establish vegetation on soils susceptible to wind erosion. Following is a summary of the anticipated methodology for this objective.

There are three components to stream flow: frequency, magnitude and duration. Each of these components will be reviewed at the Great Bend and Kinsley MDS gage. The daily flow from 1960 to 2004 will be summarized into annual data. The summarization parameters include:

1. *The percent of time the MDS was not met (frequency of excursion).*
2. *The volume of flow less than MDS as calculated by the difference between MDS and reported flow (magnitude of excursion).*
3. *The maximum length in consecutive days that MDS was not met (duration of excursion).*

The frequency, magnitude and duration for which MDS was not met will be compared for the pre-CREP years (1960–2006) to the post-CREP years (2007–2016). A nonparametric test, the Wilcoxon rank-sum, will be used to determine if a statistically discernible difference existed between the pre- and post-CREP period.

The same comparison will be made using the pre- and post-CREP period and the average annual Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for the region in which the MDS gage was located. This will create an index for the antecedent moisture conditions that will be a primary factor in determining each period's flow condition. One would expect that in those regions where the PDSI had become significantly greater (wetter), one should see a concomitant improvement in the magnitude, frequency or duration of the MDS condition.

Finally, the trend for the annual summarizations of the three components of flow will be assessed. This assessment will be used to determine whether there is a discernible trend in the annual frequency, magnitude or duration of minimum desirable stream flows through time (1960–2005).

4. Reduce stream flow transit losses due to inefficiencies in the delivery of the water by improving the channel and canal delivery system.

Improvements to the stream flow delivery system are underway. Construction is complete on the cleaning and reshaping of the canal used by the South Side Ditch Company to enhance delivery of water to its members and to more efficiently deliver water to the downstream Farmers Ditch Company during a drought. A significant number of water check control structures on this system are under construction that will greatly improve water management and system delivery efficiency of water to irrigated fields using buried pipelines instead of leaky and hard to maintain ditch lateral structures. It's estimated that water delivery to the Farmers Ditch Company via the refurbished canal has at least 15 percent less stream flow transit loss than delivery via the river channel. Also, significant upgrades and enhancements were initiated on the Amazon Canal intake structure and flume across Sand Creek near the Lakin Golf Course during 2015 and concluding in 2016. This site was featured in a 2016 Kansas Natural Resources legislative tour of southwest Kansas hosted by the Kansas Geological Survey this summer. Additional improvements are underway or being planned for river routing model study to improve river management and Stateline river flow delivery efficiency to the South Side, Farmers and Garden City Ditch systems that will be implemented as part of the Western Water Conservation Projects Fund expenditures.

5. Reduce the rate of groundwater declines in the alluvial aquifer and the hydraulically connected High Plains aquifer in the CREP area by 2020 from those measured during the winter months for the pre-CREP five-year period (2003–2007) and pre-CREP ten-year period (1998–2007).

No assessment of this objective has been made as of Sept. 30, 2016. The impact of enrollment of acres into the Upper Arkansas River CREP on groundwater conditions will be made after water rights have been terminated. At the present time, limited irrigation is still provided on many of the enrolled acres to help establish vegetation, where the soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion. Following is a summary of the anticipated methodology for this objective.

Water levels have been monitored at least annually at numerous locations in the CREP counties. The map below includes the locations of historical water level measurements in the area. GMD5 obtains water level measurements from 25 wells in the CREP area. Annual measurements are collected from 14 of these wells and quarterly measurements of 11 wells are planned to continue. Data collected from each of these measurements will be used to assess the progress towards meeting this objective.

Water levels within the CREP area, particularly in the areas where contracts are approved, will be measured over time. Depending on levels of change, monitored changes could also be compared with predicted changes with computer modeled scenarios. The steering committee is cooperating to create an enhanced monitoring network for the aquifer close to the retired CREP acres and water rights. Possible improvements mentioned include providing additional annual monitoring wells and increasing the measurement frequency, equipping some key well sites with pressure transducers and temperature loggers, and designating some wells as index calibration wells. Additional plans to analyze the impact on CREP water right retirements: 1) additional water level measurements need to be taken from new monitoring wells on established CREP fields, and 2) additional monitoring should be established in undisturbed areas adjacent to the CREP enrollments (upstream, downstream and control spots) in order to analyze the relative effects of what is happening with the water right dismissals and water use reductions in the broad context of the High Plains or Ogallala Aquifer.

6. Reduce the outward migration of river salinity within the High Plains aquifer by 2020 from the currently projected extent based on 1990s groundwater conditions in the Arkansas River valley.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, 17,855 irrigated acres have been offered, approved and enrolled into the CREP program. Some of the offered acres are close to the stream, and most are south of the river. An assessment of this objective will be made in the future, once more acres are enrolled, and when most of the wells are permanently turned off. A number of the wells are still in use for limited irrigation to help establish permanent vegetative cover. While no formal assessment of this objective is made at this time, the state's comprehensive water quality monitoring network, as described below, will be used to determine progress in meeting this objective.

Instream water quality and groundwater quality have been recorded historically through monitoring programs at the state and local level. KDHE has a long-standing network of monitoring stations along the Arkansas River from Coolidge to Great Bend. These stations are the foundation for the TMDL work in the Upper Arkansas Basin. Three years (2004–2006) of intensive bacteria sampling have been conducted with over 12 sessions of sampling 5 times within 30 days at these stations on the Arkansas River, in accord with K.S.A. 82a-2001, et seq. KDHE has been developing additional TMDLs in the Upper Arkansas Basin since 2011 for the next round of TMDLs on the Arkansas River.

The existing stations will be used to assess future post-TMDL conditions, over the 15 years of CREP rental periods. It is not expected that CREP will have an impact on the overall TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) levels in the river, however improvement is expected in the reduction of the advance of TDS or sulfate into the fresh water aquifers laterally from the river.

Annual groundwater sampling was temporarily suspended by GMD3 in 2011–2014 for the 183 monitoring sites in the CREP counties this report period. They were replaced by 40 additional groundwater samples collected for analysis of uranium in the CREP area by the KGS, including the regular suite of analysis. This work was done by KGS as an enhancement to a cooperative river flow sampling project funded by an EPA grant; it evaluates the deposition of uranium in Arkansas River flows. This work should broaden the water quality evaluations of CREP benefits and future management progress.

Further east, groundwater quality monitoring in the area by GMD5 has been conducted for specific projects from 12 wells. This information can provide a basis for comparison in the future.

This data will provide water quality information prior to CREP, and the continuing monitoring program will enable data analysis for documenting impacts of the program. This monitoring, along with the groundwater monitoring for other state initiatives, provides a baseline for post-CREP comparison. Stream and groundwater samples will be analyzed to determine mineral content at a frequency appropriate to determine representative water quality at least on an annual basis. At a minimum,

sulfate, selenium and total dissolved solids will be quantified. Groundwater samples will be obtained for analysis and result comparison from wells with an analysis history. Wells with previous data will be monitored from both the alluvial and High Plains aquifers.

7. Reduce the bacterial, nutrient and pesticide levels in the Arkansas River in Edwards and Pawnee counties by 2020 from the 1990–2000 levels.

Bacterial impairments under the new state definition are in the middle reaches of the basin. Intense sampling for bacteria after 2016, concentrating on the Kinsley area, is planned. Additional data will be available through the monitoring network as described in Objective #6. However, an assessment of this objective will not be made at this time.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, 372 acres have been enrolled into the CREP program in Pawnee County. No acres have yet been offered in Edwards County.

8. Increase aquifer recharge and wildlife habitat by enrolling 400 acres of playa lakes and soils, and other suitable locations for shallow water development.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, no acres have been formally offered for the CP9 Shallow Water Areas practice. Approximately 8 acres of playa soils occur on acres offered into the CREP program.

9. Reduce agricultural use of highly erodible soils with a goal of enrolling 7,000 acres that are unsuitable for dryland farming.

As of Sept. 30, 2016, approximately 17,586 acres of soils unsuitable for dryland farming have been enrolled in the CREP program. More than 100 percent of this objective has been met.

Acres Enrolled as of September 30, 2016	
Tier 1	1,309
Tier 1 Unsuitable Soils	15,330
Tier 2	1,679
Total Acres Enrolled	18,318

10. Reduce the amount of soil lost to erosion by approximately 80,000 tons per year on all enrolled acres.

Soil erosion in the Upper Arkansas River Basin occurs primarily due to wind erosion. Water erosion is also a factor in soil erosion in the basin, but to a lesser extent. In comparison, wind erosion can reach 4 tons/acre whereas water erosion would total 0.3 ton/acre on the same soil types with the same cropping patterns and management practices. Factors that affect wind erosion include residue cover, field width, crop rotation intensity, and tillage operations (USDA 2006).

With 18,318 acres enrolled in the CREP program as of Sept. 30, 2016, the amount of soil lost to erosion will be reduced by about 73,272 tons per year. Approximately 91 percent of this objective has been met. In order to help establish vegetative cover, limited irrigation for up to two full calendar years will be a condition on the water right termination for offers with highly erodible soils of factor I-34 or greater. Prior to final contract approval, a conservation plan of operation will be prepared, and limited irrigation may be recommended.

Soil Erosion	
4 tons / acre/ year	18,318 acres
Total soil erosion reduction	73,272 tons per year

11. Protect the ecological and recreational viability of the Cheyenne Bottoms with improved Arkansas River stream flow, as measured by an increase in the average, annual bird count at the Bottoms in 2015–2023 as recorded from 1996–2004, and with increased human visitation rates in 2015–2023 as recorded from 1996–2004.

No assessment of this objective has been made as of Sept. 30, 2016. The impact of enrollment of acres into the Upper Arkansas River CREP on the ecological and recreational viability of Cheyenne Bottoms will not be discernible until water rights have been terminated and wells turned off. Many application acres just recently had the associated water rights terminated, or have limited irrigation to establish permanent vegetative cover. Monitoring of the average annual bird count and human visitation rates will continue.

12. Reduce energy consumption from an average of 59,850 kW-hr to less than 5,000 kW-hr per pivot for the first two years on pivots enrolled in the CREP. In subsequent years, energy consumption will be reduced to zero, as the pivots eligible for limited irrigation will be removed from the enrolled parcel. Total energy savings for the term of the CREP contracts will approach 8 million kW-hr.

K-State Research and Extension staff provided a rough estimate of energy consumption for a 125-acre center pivot in counties along the Upper Arkansas River. An average energy consumption of 59,850 kW-hr per pivot per year was derived from their estimates. In the first two years of the program, offers made for acres that occur in soils unsuitable for dryland agriculture will have the opportunity to irrigate minimally to ensure establishment of grass cover. Therefore, a small amount of energy consumption will still be experienced in the first years of the program.

With 17,855 irrigated acres enrolled in CREP as of Sept. 30, 2016, more than 7 million kW-hr of energy savings may be achieved each year. More than 100% of this objective has been met.

Energy Savings	
Irrigated Acres Enrolled as of September 30, 2016	17,855 acres
Approximate Number of Center Pivots Retired	142 pivots
Average Energy Consumption per Pivot	59,850 kW
Total Energy Savings per Year (kW)	8,498,700 kW

ATTACHMENT A UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER CREP BROCHURE & POSTER

WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION IN THE UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER CORRIDOR

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program affords potential benefits for both farmers, land and water resources in 10 counties along the Upper Arkansas River. Landowners who enroll in CREP will receive up to 15 years of rental payments, a state sign-up bonus, as well as state and federal dollars to put irrigated acres into a conservation planting. The water rights associated with the enrolled land will be permanently retired. Enrollment is on a first-come, first served basis - individual county caps apply. Enrollment availability is only assured through June 2016, at this time.

What is CREP?

CREP is a targeted, enhanced Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a federal program administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). CRP was designed to prevent soil erosion, but also has provided water quality and wildlife habitat benefits. CREP allows the focus to be on a state resource concern; in this case, water conservation.

What are the water and soil benefits?

Reducing irrigation demands on the stream-aquifer system will reduce aquifer declines. It will also reduce the spread of saline river water into the aquifer and help restore stream and riparian health. Most acres enrolled have highly erodible, sandy soils. Multi-year transition with limited irrigation allows establishment of cover vegetation.

This program provides cash payments for land transition, while irrigation is still possible. Irrigation is permitted to establish a suitable land cover.

Among the approved practices eligible for cost share money are native grass seeding, wildlife habitat establishment, shallow water area construction, wetland restoration and filter strip and riparian buffer installation.

Are there targeted areas?

The program places priority on acreage where the retirement of the land and attendant water rights would have the greatest water conservation benefit and protect highly erodible soils.

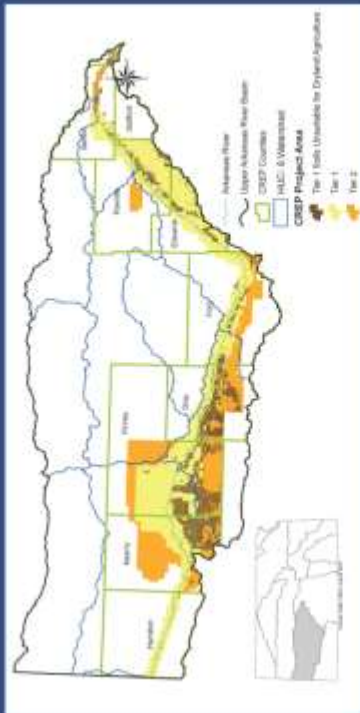
Are there wildlife benefits?

The conservation practices to be implemented open a host of opportunities for wildlife and landowner revenue related to hunting, recreation and other forms of agritourism.

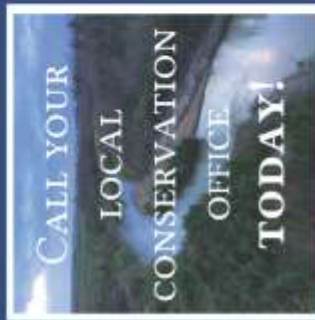


Landowner starts with FSA, NRCS and KGA officials about CREP grass covers.

NEW IN 2016 INCREASED FEDERAL RENTAL PAYMENTS AND STATE INCENTIVES



8-Digit HUC	DAFP Approved Irrigated Rental Rates (\$/AC)
1100001 - Paved	160
1100001 - Gravity	153
1100004 - Paved	163
1100003 - Gravity	154
1100004 - Paved	183
1100004 - Gravity	176
1100005 - Paved	166
1100005 - Gravity	159
1100008 - Paved	161
1100008 - Gravity	154
1100008 - Paved	193
1100008 - Gravity	186



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Federal and state eligibility criteria must be met to enroll your land in CREP. The partial list of the criteria will help to screen your eligibility in advance. Your local FSA office has a database to screen your application on these criteria.

1. At least one-half acre foot of water per acre was applied four out of six years (2008-2013).
2. At least 30 percent of the maximum annual quantity authorized to be diverted under the water right has been used in any three years within the most recent five years preceding offer submission for which DWR reports are available.
3. At least 51 percent of the offered land must be located within the CREP boundary.

BENEFITS TO FARMERS

- Federal annual irrigated rental and maintenance payments for 14 to 15 years.
- Rental payment on dryland cropland (i.e. center pivot corners) that's part of a whole field enrollment. State upfront payment of either \$97 or \$55 per irrigated acre.
- Up to 50 percent cost share on seeding.
- Well plugging cost share of \$1,000 per well.
- Bonus payment of \$350 per acre for shallow water area development in Kearny or Finney counties.
- Land can be leased for hunting.



A pheasant calls this CREP area his home

As you decide whether CREP enrollment fits your business plan, you'll be working with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

1 First stop is your local FSA office. FSA personnel will use a CREP database to determine whether at least half of the irrigated land offered for enrollment lies within the CREP boundaries and if minimum water use criterion have been met. They also will be able to provide eligible producers with a preliminary estimate of rental and upfront payments.

2 Any questions on water rights will be referred to the KDA Division of Water Resources or Groundwater Management District No. 3 or 5. Producers whose land is accepted into the voluntary program are expected to permanently retire the associated water rights(s).

3 KDA will make the state's upfront payments and practice cost-share payments on approved CREP contracts.

ARKANSAS RIVER CREP PARTNERS

Working partners include FSA, KDA, NRCS Southwest Kansas GMD No. 3, Big Bend GMD No. 5, Pheasants Forever, KGS, KDHE, KWO and Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams



CONTACT

Steve Frost, CREP Coordinator, KDA
(785) 564-6622, Steve.Frost@kds.ks.gov

Carla Wikoff, USDA-FSA
(785) 539-3331, Carla.Wikoff@ks.usda.gov

APPLICANTS WATER RIGHT QUESTIONS:

DWR, Garden City (620) 276-2901
DWR, Stafford (620) 234-5311
GMD No. 3, Garden City (620) 275-7147
GMD No. 5, Stafford (620) 234-5352

FARM SERVICE AGENCIES (FSA)

Barton (620) 792-5329
Edwards (620) 659-3142
Finney (620) 275-0211
Ford (620) 227-3731
Gay (620) 855-3515
Hamilton (620) 384-6955
Kearny (620) 355-7911
Pawnee (620) 285-2821
Stafford (620) 549-3321
Rice (620) 257-5184

UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER CREP

CONSERVATION RESERVE
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WATER AND SOIL
CONSERVATION IN THE UPPER
ARKANSAS RIVER CORRIDOR



SIGN UP TODAY
At Your Local USDA Farm
Service Agency Office



UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER CREP

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Water and Soil Conservation in the Upper Arkansas River Corridor

What's in it for you?

Farmer's Benefits

- Upfront signing payment of up to \$97 per irrigated acre
- 50% cost share on seeding
- FSA irrigated rental payments are between \$153-\$193 for 14-15 years
- Renewed landowner revenue from hunting, recreation and agritourism
- Assured income with annual cash payments

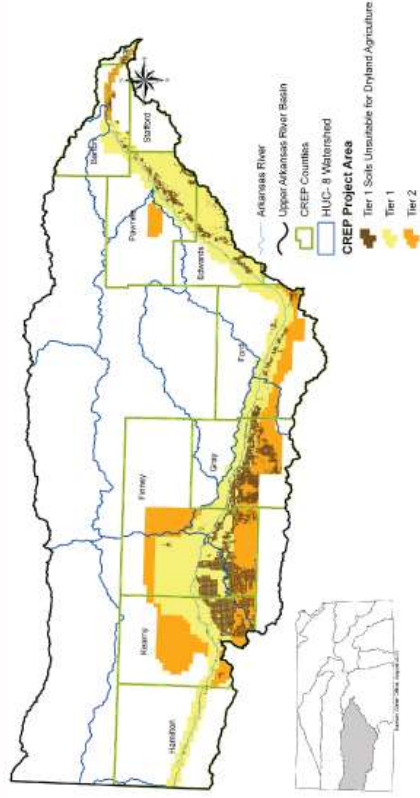
Regional Benefits

- Reduce aquifer declines
- Protect land from soil erosion with irrigated transition to a conservation cover
- Reduce the spread of saline water
- Restore stream and riparian health

Want more information?

Contact

Steve Frost, CREP Coordinator
 Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Steve.Frost@kda.ks.gov



SIGN UP AT YOUR LOCAL USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE!



Attachment B

Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Outreach

December 2007 – December 2008 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Events (Brochure distribution and conversation)

- Stakeholder Meeting – Garden City, GMD3, December 2007
- Conservation District Meetings in the 10 counties in CREP area – Jan. 11 - Feb. 28, 2008
- GMD5 Meeting – Stafford, February 7, 2008
- No-till on the Plains – Salina, January 2008
- 3i Show – Great Bend, May 2008
- Upper Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee Public Meeting – Jetmore, May 21, 2008
- Upper Arkansas Basin Advisory Committee Public Meeting – Garden City, July 16, 2008
- KSU Agronomy Day – August 2008
- Kansas Agribusiness Expo – November 2008
- CREP Producer Outreach Information Meeting – Larned, December 12, 2008; Garden City, December 17, 2008; Dodge City, December 18, 2008

December 2008 – December 2009 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Garden City Farm Show – January 2009
- NRCS All Personnel Meeting – Hays, February 11, 2009
- NRCS All Personnel Meeting – Scott City, February 12, 2009
- Collaborative Technical Issues Meeting – Garden City (FSA, NRCS, SCC, KWO, GMDs), February 26, 2009
- Middle Ark WRAPS Meeting – Dodge City (KSU, GMD3), March 3, 2009
- Middle Ark WRAPS Meeting – Larned (KSU, GMD5), March 5, 2009
- Upper Ark WRAPS Meeting – Garden City (KSU, GMD3), March 10, 2009
- Water and the Future of Kansas Conference – Topeka (SCC, KWO Presentation), March 12, 2009
- 3i Show – Great Bend, May 2009
- Kansas Legislative Field Tour – Lakin (SCC, KWO Presentation), June 4, 2009
- Stakeholder Meeting – Garden City, GMD3, October, 2009
- Public Information / Education Meeting – St. John (w/ GMD5) October 29, 2009

December 2009 - December 2010 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- 3i Show – Garden City May 2010
- GMD3 CREP promotion – Ongoing

December 2010 – September 2011 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- FSA National Press Release – August 23, 2011
- KDA & KWO Kansas Press Release – August 23, 2011
- 3i Show – Great Bend May 2011
- GMD3 CREP promotion – Ongoing
- Second technical meeting preparing for 2011 MOA updates - Dodge City, July 7, 2011 at USDA Service Center (DOC, NRCS, FSA, DWR, GMD3, and GMD5 participating)
- September, 2011 – DOC sent a directed mailing to 1235 landowners who appeared to have eligible water rights in the project area

October 2011 – September 2012 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- 3i Show – Great Bend May 2012
- May 22, 2012 – NRCS CREP Drought Impacts Field Tour in Kearny County
- August 2012 – KDA field chemical sampling project in Gray, Finney and Kearny counties
- November 13, 2012 – NRCS CREP Drought Impacts Landowner Meeting in Garden City
- GMD3 CREP promotion – Ongoing

October 2012 – September 2013 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- November 11, 2012 – CREP Producer Meeting in Garden City
- February 6, 2013 – Presentation to Kansas Water Congress Annual Meeting in Topeka
- August 1, 2013 – Presentation to Kansas Water Congress Summer Meeting in Garden City

October 2015 – September 2016 Outreach for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- Program training meeting for FSA, NRCS, DWR and GMD personnel – Dodge City, January 2016
- March, 2016 – DOC sent a directed mailing to 1,103 landowners who appeared to have eligible water rights in the project area

Brochures / Posters

- Updated CREP promotional poster to be distributed at CREP informational meetings in December to FSA offices and Conservation Districts
- Updated CREP promotional brochure for distribution by State Conservation Commission at stakeholder meetings in August
- Updated CREP promotional brochure used at 2011 K-State Agronomy Day
- Updated CREP promotional brochure used at 2011 Kansas Agribusiness Expo
- Updated CREP Promotional brochure and posters used in 2016 refreshed program rollout

Articles

- **Establishment of Upper Arkansas River CREP**, (December 2007, Governor Sebelius and KWO press release)
- [**Upper Arkansas River CREP Attracts More Than 12,000 Acres in Seven Days**](#) (January 2008 KWO HydroGram)
- [**CREP Conservation Practices Include Aquifer Recharge**](#) (January 2008 KWO HydroGram)
- [**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Benefits Water Resources & Farmers**](#) (September 2008 KWO HydroGram)
- **Response to Hutchinson Daily News editorial by SCC executive director on behalf of KDA, KDWP, and the KWO** (November 2008)
- [**Congressional funding measure keeps CRP rolls open**](#) (January 2008 HPJ news release)
- Pratt newspaper article on KDWP conducting a wildlife impact survey starting last spring per an article, as part of the CREP effort.

Internet

- **Access to various resources and reports on the Upper Arkansas CREP program are continuously updated and made available on the DOC's website at:**

www.agriculture.ks.gov/conservation

ATTACHMENT C
PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTING UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER CREP IN KANSAS

FSA Kansas Exhibit 44 (Par. 171, 401)
 2-CRP (Rev. 5), KS Amend. 6
 March 9, 2016

STEP	ACTION	RESULT
<p>1. Initial Application with FSA</p>	<p>a. Producer visits local FSA office and provides a recent water use report with water use permit number for offered acreage. FSA enters water right number in CREP database to determine general eligibility. Water rights are by legal description. The website is: https://connect.kda.ks.gov (No WWW in front) (Each County will be provided a password)</p> <p>b. If a water right is ineligible, process would stop.</p> <p>c. If producer's water right meets basic eligibility as determined by CREP database, producer identifies physical location of acres and CREP practice (identify on an aerial photo). If, necessary consult with CREP coordinator to determine water rights acreage. FSA uses CRP-GIS tool, and determines total # acres and soil rate within CREP boundary and within HUCs.</p> <p>FSA estimates payment rate through CREP calculator. FSA reviews with producer total incentive package on another tab (includes state upfront payments, cost share, SIPs, PIPs if apply, etc.).</p> <p>NOTE: FSA follows normal continuous enrollment processing found in 2-CRP, Part 7, Section 3.</p> <p>Producer initiates process by signing CRP-2C and CRP-1 and processes the offer according to 2-CRP. NOTE: Applicant signs CRP-2C and CRP-1 based on application acres. The forms will be finalized based on actual contracted acres after water right review.</p> <p>d. FSA informs producer of process and works in conjunction with NRCS to determine appropriate practice. Producer is provided a packet with the process and practices. Producer is provided a sheet listing guidelines for cover crop establishment on sandy sites associated with CREP acres. If producer has questions on a water right issue, he/she is directed to a) DWR or GMD on water right termination issues; b) KDA-DOC for state upfront payments and Shareholder Agreement; and c) KWO for wetland bonus payment. NOTE: No water right is terminated without an approved, signed CREP contract.</p>	<p>a. FSA enters water right number into database and a register number is automatically assigned. This state developed database indicates eligibility based on water right information and location.</p> <p>b. If ineligible on CREP database, process stops here. Producer can contact DWR, GMD, or DOC to review water use history.</p> <p>c. Save an electronic copy of estimated total CREP payments and provide a copy to the producer. After acreage has been determined by measurement service scan and email an encrypted copy of the CRP-1, CRP-2C, aerial photo and summary of payment to the State Coordinator using password: KSCREP4State.</p> <p>d. Producer is responsible for getting additional signatures if needed, make a copy for personal record. The State Coordinator will complete any additional needed forms and provide to the producer.</p>

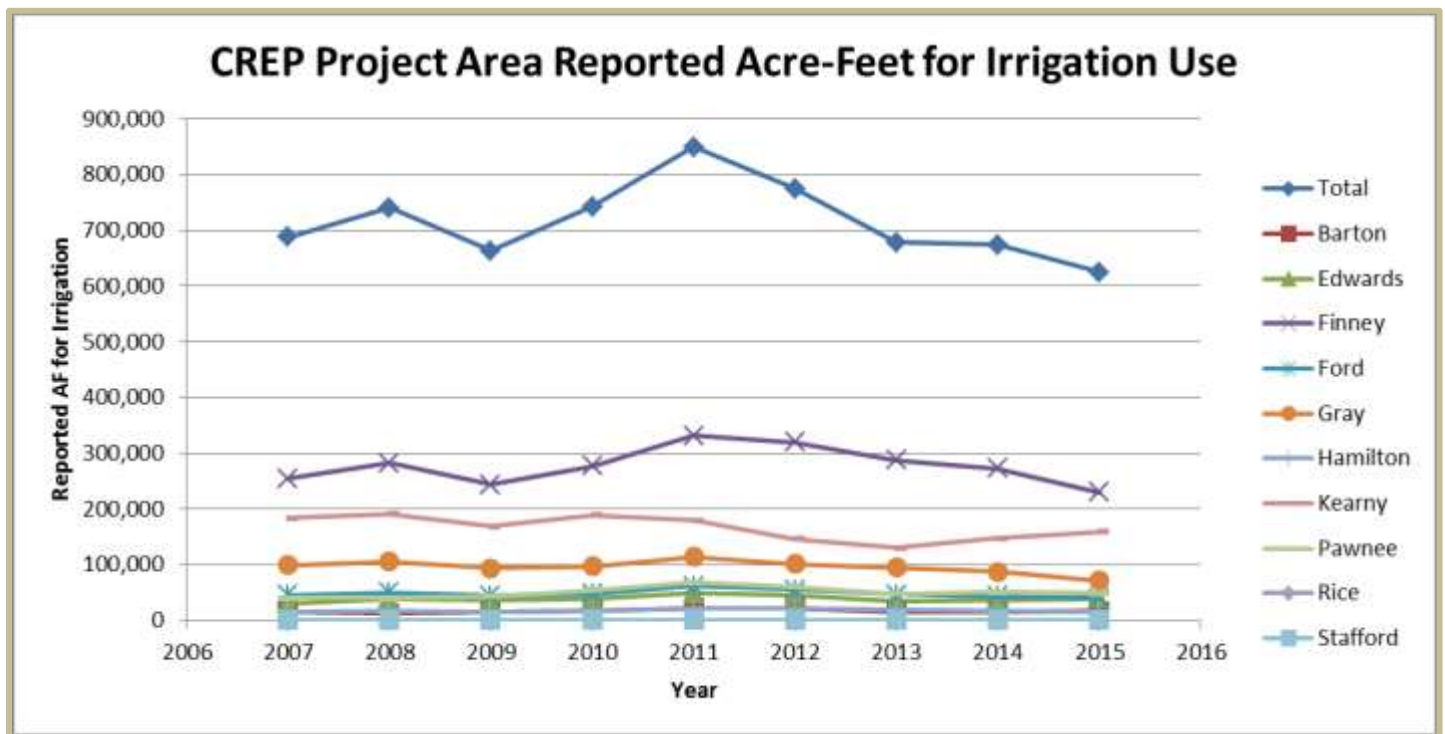
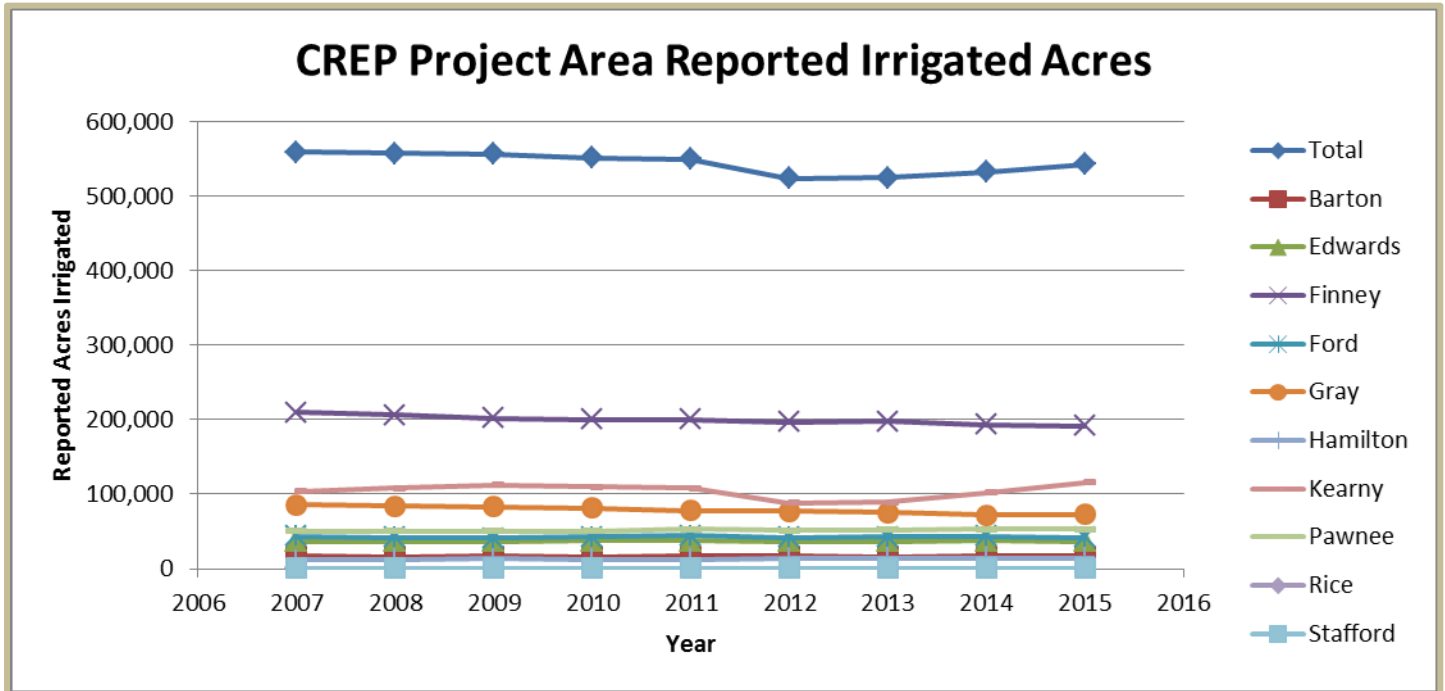
STEP	ACTION	RESULT
2. FSA	<p>a. Determination of basic Federal CREP Eligibility (FSA County Office) Example: ownership, person, land, practice, cropping history, CRP acreage cap. Ensure all eligibility requirements are met as provided in paragraph 181 in 2-CRP handbook.</p> <p>b. If eligible, FSA recommends conservation practices for application acres, and FSA provides NRCS a copy of CRP-2C.</p> <p>c. If ineligible based on Federal criteria, FSA notifies producer and copies State CREP coordinator. Explain appeals process to applicant.</p>	<p>a. FSA enters supplemental information related to practices and acres offered are entered into the CREP database.</p> <p>b. If eligible, process moves forward with NRCS and State CREP coordinator.</p> <p>c. If ineligible on federal criteria, producer can review with FSA.</p>
3. KDA-DOC	<p>a. State CREP Coordinator receives CRP-2C and map from FSA, and reviews for state eligibility, including county cap of 25% of total CREP acres. If not eligible, inform producer of finding and explain review process. State CREP coordinator determines predominant tier of irrigated acres in application, in consultation with FSA office.</p> <p>b. Review water right termination form for manageable unit and eligibility. 1) Identify if water right needs to be divided or if application acres have overlapping water rights. If yes, go to Step 3B. 2) Identify if application acres have both a ground water right and ditch water irrigation. If yes, go to Step 3C. 3) Identify if application acres unsuitable for dryland farming; if yes, notify owner he/she has option of requesting limited irrigation condition on water right termination to establish vegetative cover.</p> <p>c. After steps 3B & 3C are complete, if needed, and application meets state eligibility, sign water right termination form and forward it to KDA-DOC and copy FSA County Office with current status of application and file completion.</p> <p>d. Enter necessary information on application for SUP.</p> <p>e. Check GIS coverage for Tamarisk on application acres; note it on a file with applicant's name and HUC 8.</p> <p>f. Forward to KWO contract sheet for wetland bonus on CP-9, if applicable, with update on application status.</p> <p>g. Notify producer if application meets state eligibility and if all forms are in order. Provide information on State cost share for well plugging and tamarisk control and see if interested in participation.</p>	<p>a. If applicant doesn't meet state eligibility, explain applicant can meet with KDA-DOC to review application.</p> <p>Predominant tier will determine SUP rate.</p> <p>b. Owner may consider limited irrigation option if soils predominantly unsuitable for dryland farming, and discuss it with FSA as part of CPO, and request it from DWR, if desired.</p> <p>c. If needed, CREP coordinator notifies producer to meet with DWR on water right changes, or to get signatures on shareholder agreement and return to KDA-DOC (see 3B and 3C). Copy DWR on the referral.</p> <p>d. Inform FSA office and producer on preliminary status of state eligibility and file completion.</p> <p>e. SUP is to be shared with participants in same arrangement as on CRP contract.</p> <p>f. Notify KDA-DOC tamarisk control program manager.</p> <p>g. Wetland bonus is to be shared with participants in same arrangement as on CRP contract.</p>

STEP	ACTION	RESULT
3B. KDA-DWR and KDA-DOC	<p><u>If needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicant meets with DWR or GMD to request necessary changes on water right. DWR or GMD flag change forms as a CREP Application. b. DWR completes process to adjust water right or place of use, so that a water right can be retired on CREP application acres. c. State CREP coordinator re-evaluates application based on split water right or adjusted application acres to confirm eligibility and maximum acres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water right may need to be legally split or eligible place of use adjusted, so that a manageable unit is available for CREP enrollment. b. DWR copies CREP coordinator on changed water right information. c. KDA-DOC notifies producer and FSA County Office of re-evaluated application, maximum acres and file completeness.
3C. KDA-DOC	<p><u>If needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CREP Coordinator receives a signed copy of CREP Shareholder Agreement (KCREP_SA_03). Application acres with both a ditch surface irrigation and a ground water right, must file this form to not deliver ditch company surface water on specific tract(s) while enrolled in a CREP contract. b. When CREP Coordinator receives a fully signed form, update CREP database, and notify FSA County office and DWR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicant gets Irrigation Association or Ditch Company's signature, and returns signed shareholder agreement to CREP Coordinator. b. Enrolled acres cannot be irrigated by surface water during the life of the CREP contract. The associated ground water right must be terminated.
4. KDA-DWR	<p>Receives owner and KDA-DOC signed water right termination form.</p> <p>NOTE: The termination of the water right is conditional upon final approval of CREP contract. The CRP-1 is not approved by the COC at this point.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water right termination form will be held by DWR, and cannot be processed without a copy of producer and FSA signed CRP-1 contract.
5. NRCS	<p>NRCS makes a site visit to determine suitability of practice, needs and feasibility.</p>	<p>NRCS notify FSA County Office of practice suitability. Use CRP-2C form.</p>
6. FSA and NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When KDA-DOC indicates application file is complete, FSA makes an appointment with applicant to finalize application at county office. b. FSA completes CRP-2C and CRP-1 for irrigated & dryland acres. c. NRCS develops CPO, and fills out CPA-52. CED completes & signs CPA-52. Identify if soil and climate conditions make this site at risk for wind erosion during seeding and special cover crop considerations should be included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finalize application and adjust final contracted acreage at the county office. If necessary, enter the effective date and actual contracted acreage and practice totals to the CREP database.
7. FSA with producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. County FSA meets with producer to complete application materials. 	

STEP	ACTION	RESULT
FSA with producer Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Producer signs CPO. c. Notify CREP Coordinator Producer has signed CRP-1 and CPO. 	
8. FSA KDA-DWR KDA-DOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. FSA County office confirms by electronic receipt and verification of CREP database, that water termination agreement has been signed by producer and evaluated by DWR. b. COC approves CRP-1 and CPO. c. FSA send a copy of CRP-1 and map to State CREP Coordinator, and notifies NRCS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. FSA notifies producer. DOC updates CREP database. b. FSA County office updates CREP database with COC approval date.
9. KDA-DWR KDA-DOC FSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. DWR receives the copy of signed CRP-1 and issues the water right termination order by the Chief Engineer. DWR sends order to owner, with a reminder owner is responsible for filing a copy with County Registrar of Deeds. DWR provides a copy to State CREP coordinator. b. KDA-DOC notifies FSA county office of agreement completion, and updates CREP database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As applicable, FSA approves and pays SIP and State CREP Coordinator approves and pays SUP based on CRP contract shares.
10. NRCS or producer FSA KDA-DOC KWO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As required by procedure, either NRCS conducts an on-site review of practice installation and certifies installation on form FSA-848 or producer self certifies completion of practice on form FSA-848. b. CREP coordinator notifies KWO of CP-9 practice installation, where eligible for wetland bonus payment, and updates CREP database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As applicable, FSA issues PIP and cost share payments. b. KWO pays wetland bonus on CP-9, to participants as share on CRP contract.

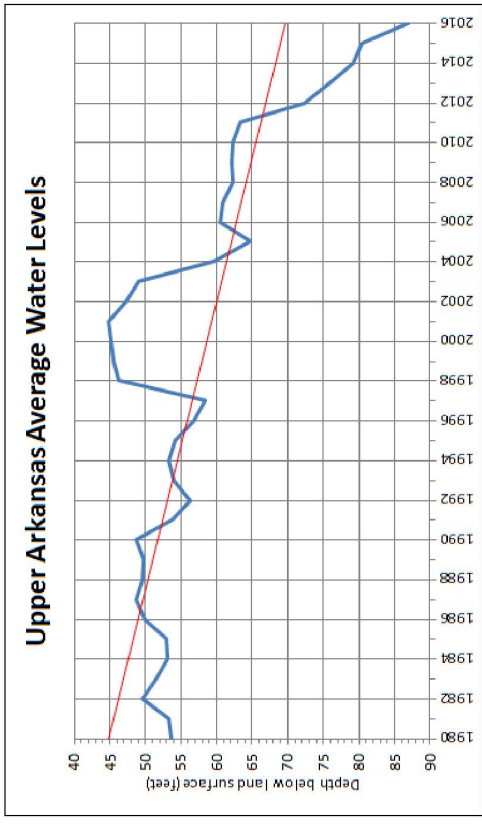
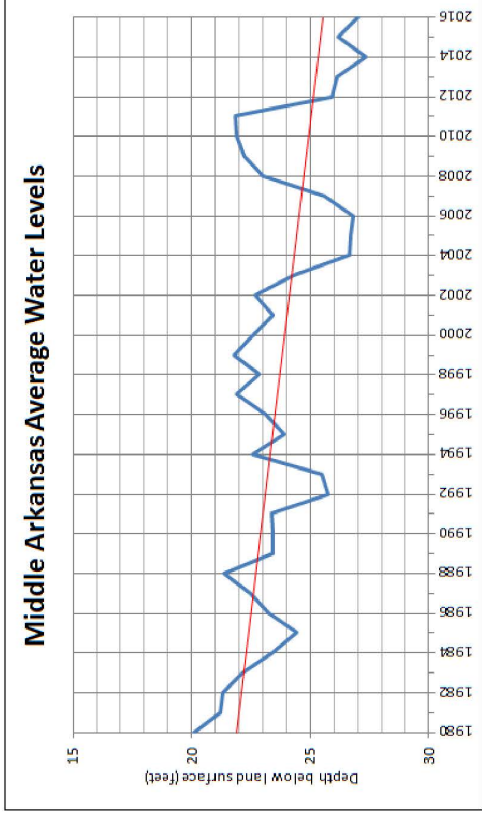
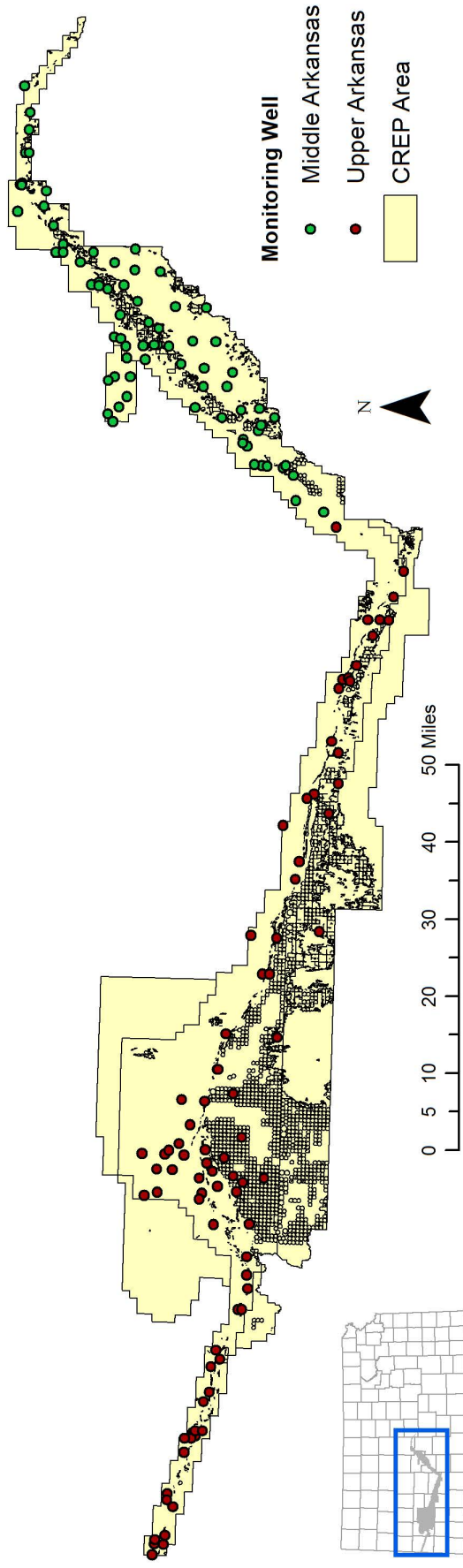
ATTACHMENT D

CREP Project Area Reported Irrigated Acres and Irrigated Water Use: 2007–2015



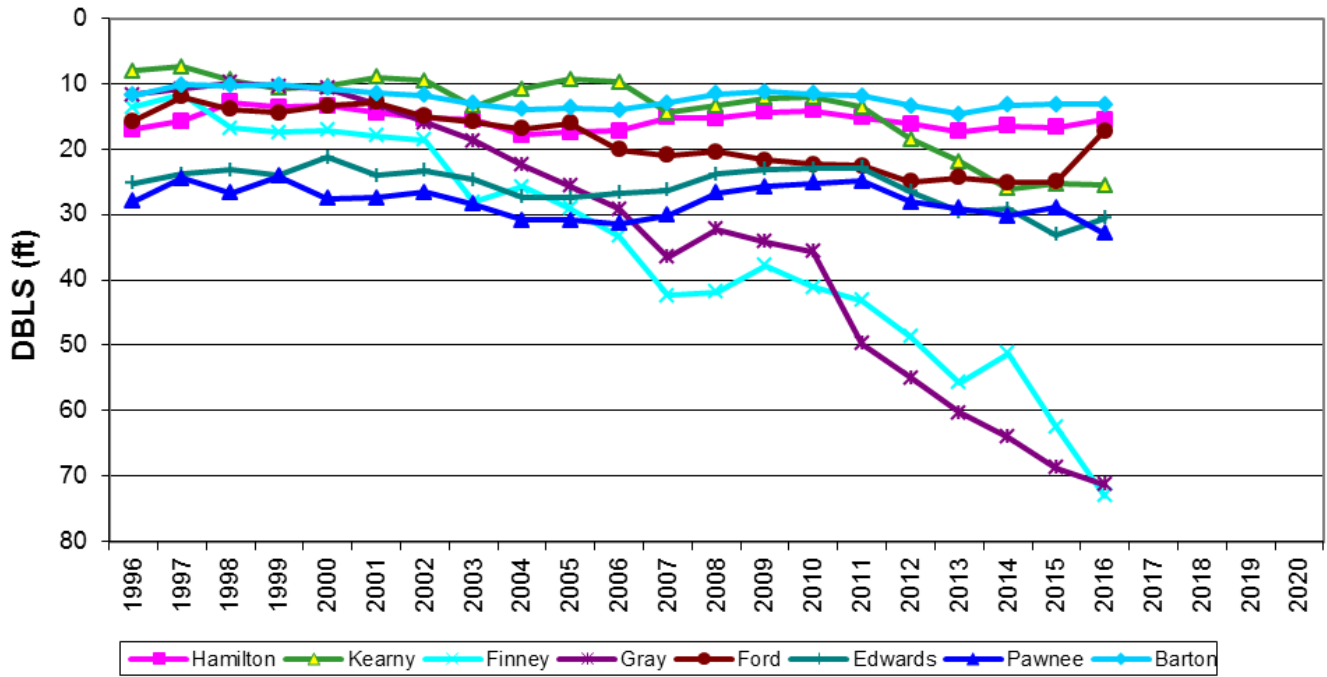
Monitoring Wells and Average Groundwater Levels

Upper and Middle Arkansas CREP Area 1980-2016

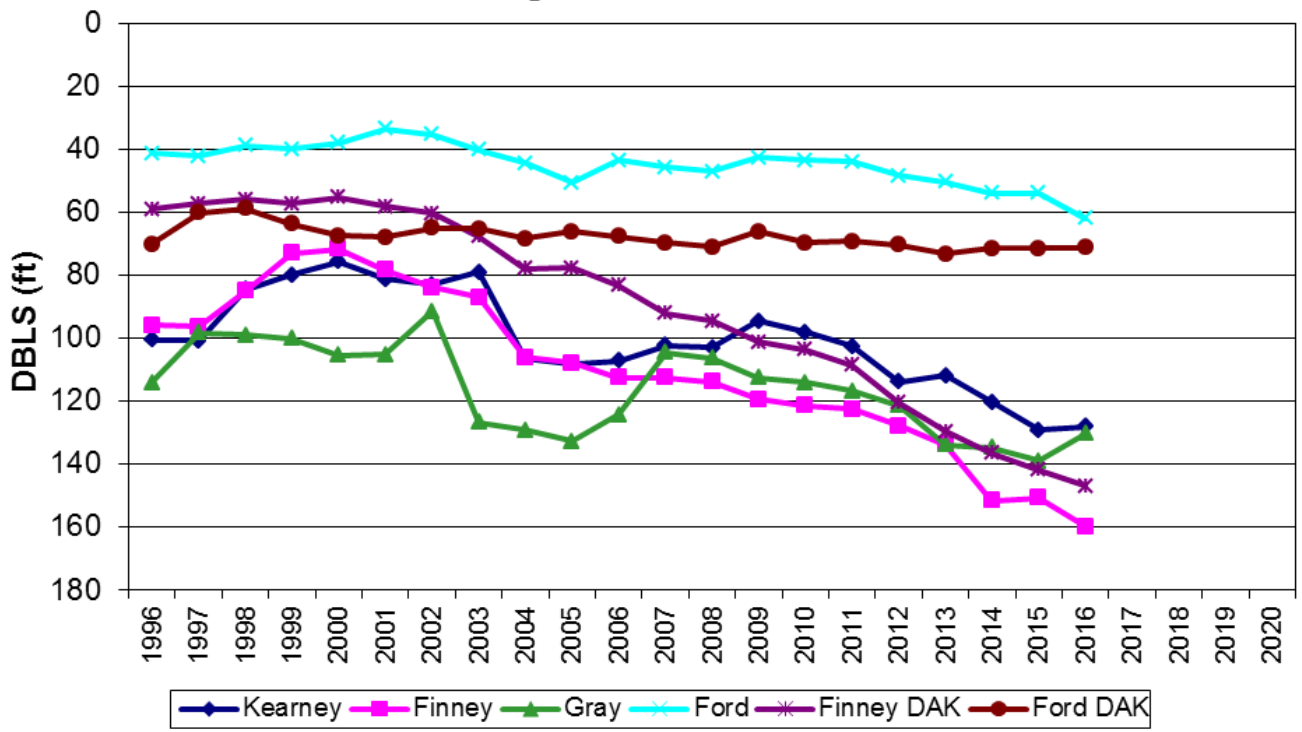


Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
November 29, 2016

CREP Alluvial Water Levels



CREP Ogallala / Dakota Water Levels



**Attachment F
Steering Committee Minutes**

**CREP Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 27, 2016
10:00 AM
KDA Conference Room 322**

Attendees:

Rod Winkler (FSA); Dean Krehbiel and Andy Burr (NRCS); Ginger Pugh (DWR); Steve Frost (DOC). **Joining by phone:** Mark Goudy (FSA); Diane Coe (KWO); Jake George (KDWPT); Mark Rude, Jason Norquest, Chris Law and Trevor Ahring (GMD#3); Orrin Feril and John Hildebrand (GMD#5); Joe Kramer (KAWS).

Proceedings:

Steve started the meeting with introductions and providing tentative updated enrollment numbers for the CREP program during the current federal fiscal year – October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016:

County	Total Acres
BT, ED, FO, HM, RI, SF	0.00
FI	3007.3
GY	7342.1
HM	242.9
KE	7353.8
PN	372.4
Program Total to Date	18,318.5

- * 18,318.5 acres will be approved for enrollment
- * 1,329 additional acres were added in FY2016
- * 162 wells retired on 17,855 irrigated acres from 124 water rights
- * 37,430 acre-feet of annual water appropriation rights have been permanently retired
- * 109 state contracts approved for a total of \$1,179,762 in sign-up cost-share incentives
- * 99% are CP2 practice code (native grasses) – and 91% are Tier 1 / Unsuitable soils

A new offer on 3 water rights and 242 acres was approved in Hamilton County – the first from that county.

Program Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Acres Enrolled	7,252	1,903	1,647	247	4,077	674	0	1,189	1,1329	18,318

Enrollment has had a few peaks and valleys since the project start date on December 20, 2007. A very large peak occurred upon the initial program rollout, and another small peak occurred during 2012 after irrigated rental rates had been raised by FSA. Enrollment was very slow again during the severe drought years of 2011 - 2013. With the increased federal and state payment rates, another promotion of the program in the winter of 2015-2016 drew significant interest and inquiries from landowners again, especially in the sandhill areas of the western counties. So far, there does not appear to be a concurrent amount of related sign-ups this time.

The recent drought period appeared to have created an issue in the program regarding enrollment of more water rights, and establishment / maintenance of grass stands regarding contract compliance. Water levels in the project area have been significantly affected due to increased pumping to make up precipitation deficits. The summers of 2014 – 2016 saw a return to more “normal” rainfall patterns in Southwest Kansas which seems to have had a beneficial impact on at least maintaining some type of land covers in the sandhill areas.

All project HUCs now reflect rental rates of \$153 - \$193 per acre on irrigated land (increased from \$110 - \$140 in 2015, as increased from the very first rates of \$100 - \$125 in 2007). The State of Kansas raised its incentive payments from \$62/acre (Tier 1 soils) and \$35/acre (Tier 2 Soils) to \$97 and \$55 respectively in 2016.

The total project limit is currently 28,950 acres with an individual county cap of 7,237.5 acres. Both Gray and Kearny counties have now met the individual county caps and cannot process any additional offers under the current program rules. (However, the Kearny County FSA office reports that 9 offers (1,154 acres) over the existing cap have been received, but they are not being processed pending the possibility of the acreage caps being expanded or adjusted. Gray County is also reporting additional offers totaling 1,140 acres being received in excess of the county cap, but they also are not being processed at this time.) **However, the most immediate program goal, is still to stimulate more activity in counties that have so far had little enrollment.**

Senate Bill 330 was passed in the 2016 Kansas legislative session, which authorized a programmatic basis and regular appropriations process for CREP projects in the state. The bill placed a 40,000 acre limit on all CREP enrollments, including the current CREP project and any future CREP projects. No additional appropriation was made for the current CREP project for FY2017 – so the FY2016 carryover provides the only funding for enrollments - \$90,779 is currently left for the state incentive payments on any offers for the rest of the year. That would be enough for about 5 - 10 offers, or about 935 acres of enrollments in Tier 1 soils. One very important requirement of the legislation is that the Kansas Department of Agriculture will provide an economic study on the impacts of the CREP project every five years, beginning in the 2017 session.

Agency Reports / Special Comments from the Agencies:

FSA – From the state office perspective, Rod Winkler discussed the moratorium which has been placed on all CRP enrollments by Congress until October 1. Offers and enrollments are being limited to 24 million acres nationally. FSA is trying to determine the overall status of enrollments and the implications of future funding and strategies. This situation will also affect any new CREP enrollments in Kansas until the process for going forward is announced. County Executive Director Mark Goudy from Kearny County said that CREP enrollees and other producers are much more optimistic now because of the improved rainfall, and he commented on a grazing trial which FSA is allowing as a research project in Kearny County on some select areas where establishing vegetation has been very difficult. Mark was very optimistic about the progress and results so far, indicating that the hoof action associated with livestock grazing was having a beneficial impact on the sandy soils with hard pans as far as retaining moisture and allowing better seed germination and root growth.

NRCS – Dean Krehbiel reported that the field conditions for CREP grass stands established in Southwest Kansas have improved considerably. He also referred to the special livestock grazing study in Kearny County and indicated that there appears to be a positive response to the soil conditions from the grazing - the ability of the grass to respond from the drought effects seems to be improved. Dean cautioned everyone by saying that, while the precipitation has been good, there is no magic bullet for the challenges, and some problem areas still exist out there – we are only a season away from another return to the drought.

GMD3 – Mark Rude discussed the status of the individual county caps and the need to try and raise them.

GMD5 – Orrin Feril stated that the district would like to promote more voluntary, incentive-based programs such as CREP, and requested that there be some informational meetings in the area to provide landowners with additional explanation about the project. In referring mailings that recently went out to landowners with eligible water rights, he noted that he had received a call from a tenant complaining about his landlord wanting to enroll in the program and retire the irrigation water right. Orrin asked that the GMDs each be provided with a list of the eligible water rights landowners in their respective districts so that they could potentially work with prospective landowners on offers. (Steve and Ginger affirmed that a new eligibility list is being developed and that the GMDs would be provided with the information.

KWO – Diane Coe reported on the newly formed Regional Advisory Committees and some of the recent meetings in the Upper Arkansas RAC. Diane noted that it would be beneficial to have a CREP update report at one of the near future meetings as most of the new committee members are not fully aware of the project.

KAWS – Joe Kramer reported on the Playa Lake Symposium which is being conducted in Garden City on January 10 – 11, 2017. Playa Lake Joint Ventures, KAWS and Ducks Unlimited are the main partnering organizations – KDA’s DOC has provided a \$10,000 sponsorship toward the education information effort. Research has shown playas to be important sites and sources of recharge for the High Plains Aquifer, and the goals of the symposium are aligned well with the CREP project. Steve mentioned the CP9 (shallow water development area) conservation practice which is an approved part of the FSA CRP practices for the Upper Arkansas CREP - more education and information to promote this practice needs to be incorporated in future public outreach efforts.

KDWPT – Jake George discussed some of the “voluntary public access” grants which his department has been receiving – he noted that there is a good opportunity to combine public hunting access and wildlife management as part of the CREP project efforts. Curtis Meyer and Charlie Swank are the district biologists in Garden City and Great Bend.

DWR – Ginger Pugh provided a progress update on DWR related CREP activities, noting especially the ongoing work being done on the CREP website and data base with the KDA’s IT staff. She also discussed the eligibility lists which are again being generated from the latest water use reports. Ginger again offered her assistance to any team members needing help with water rights and data needs.

Data Needs for Monitoring Results:

It was again noted that many of the monitoring activities which are incorporated in the CREP MOA are difficult for the agencies to significantly undertake at this time – or to determine any significant changes in results or impacts due to the CREP project because of the broad expanse of the water wells and related water use occurring in the overall aquifer area, both inside and near CREP fields. Even though enrollment is still increasing at this time, almost the entirety of the enrollment has been located in areas of the “Tier 1 / Unsuitable” soils classification in heavy water use areas some distance from the river valley. We have yet not seen any comparatively significant regional water use curtailment to monitor, and the recent drought continued to exacerbate this situation.

Enhancing Enrollment during 2016 – 2017:

Steve stated that DOC would probably not do another mass mailing in 2017 due to the very recent mailing which had just been completed in March with the new brochures. With the possibility of promotional meetings in GMD5, the GMDS may undertake some type of public contact on their own with the updated water right eligibility lists. Kansas is still looking for more ways to increase interest and enrollment in the CREP project. FSA, DOC, KWO and the GMDs will work to re-market and promote the program noting the higher rental / incentive rates and highlight successes of the grass establishment strategies.

Identification of Other Issues:

In regard to the annual report, Steve asked that all the team entities get their costs and narratives of activities in by early November. The next annual report is based on the federal fiscal year of October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

Items to be addressed again in the upcoming project year include expanding the individual county enrollment caps, results of the Kearny County grazing study and possible FSA project-wide approval for problem areas. The committee should begin addressing post-contract issues such as needs, special EQIP contracts, and involving academics and the research community on what has been learned from the project so far.

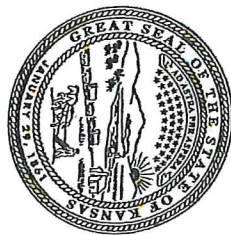
Conclusion:

The steering committee members were sincerely thanked for their time and efforts in fulfilling the mission of the CREP program. The meeting was concluded at 12:09 PM.

Note from the last steering committee meeting: "...even though the project has been through a rough period, things are looking up and many of the grass stands continue to be strong and healthy!" The drought has been a huge impactor on the fields and compliance issues, but there are still many, many productive conservation covers out there that have been established as a result of the program and are a benefit to their owners. The retirement of water rights in this magnitude will have long lasting water conservation implications.



State of Kansas



Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation

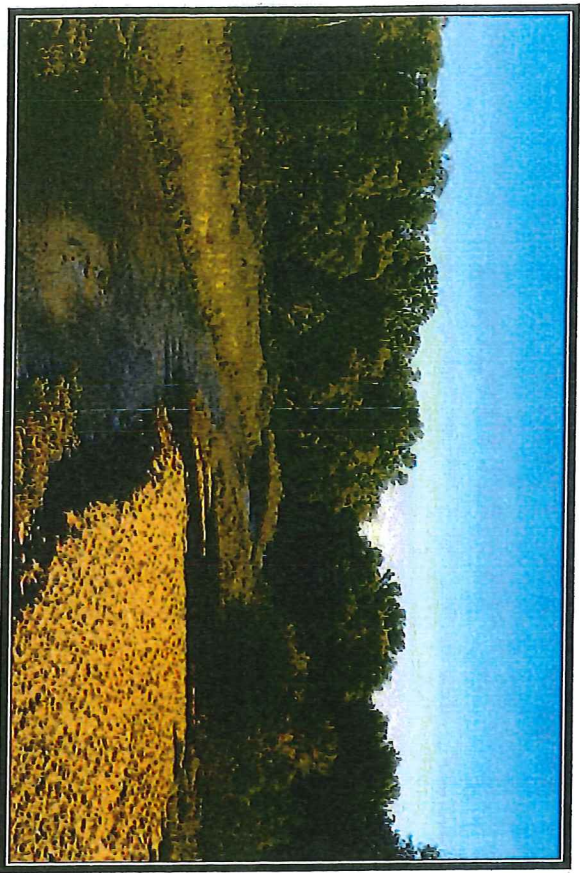
Water Right Transition Assistance Project Program



WTAP funding is provided by the Kansas State Water Plan

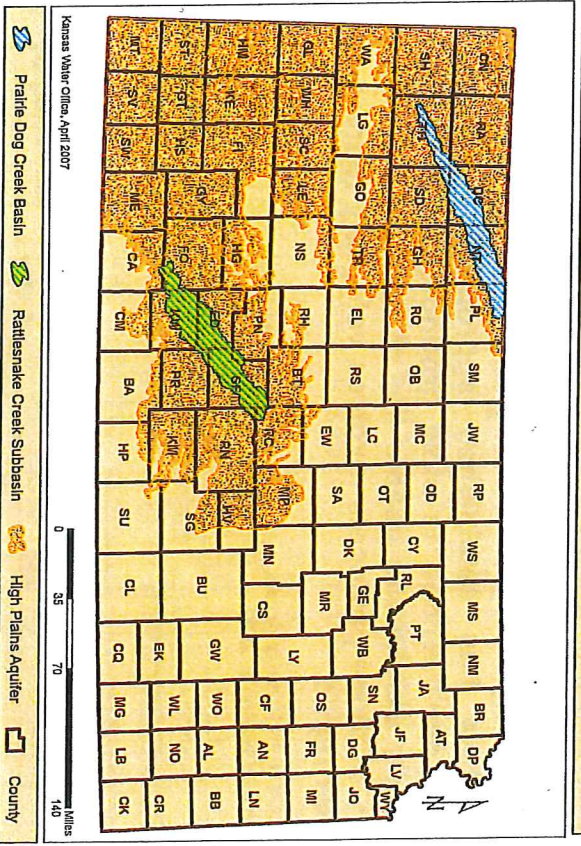
The Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project (WTAP) is a new water management program being administered by the KDA's Division of Conservation Commission (DOC). Its purpose is to reduce the consumptive use of water in targeted, high priority areas of Kansas by issuing financial grants for privately held water rights.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program whereby the landowner permanently retires (dismisses) water rights in exchange for compensable payment by the State. Mutually agreeable compensation is determined by the "historic consumptive water use" (HCWU) quantity of the water right and a competitive bid price submitted by the owner.



WTAP is especially useful for helping to restore the balance between alluvial aquifers and stream flows in critically depleted areas. In 2006, the Kansas Legislature initially identified the Prairie Dog Creek basin and Rattlesnake Creek sub-basin as pilot project areas because of their unique water supply issues.

Rattlesnake and Prairie Dog Creek Basins



Prairie Dog Creek is a tributary of the Republican River. This watershed is a vital component of the total water apportionments which the State of Kansas must supply to the State of Nebraska to maintain its interstate compact compliance. The Prairie Dog Creek basin covers parts of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Norton, and Phillips counties.

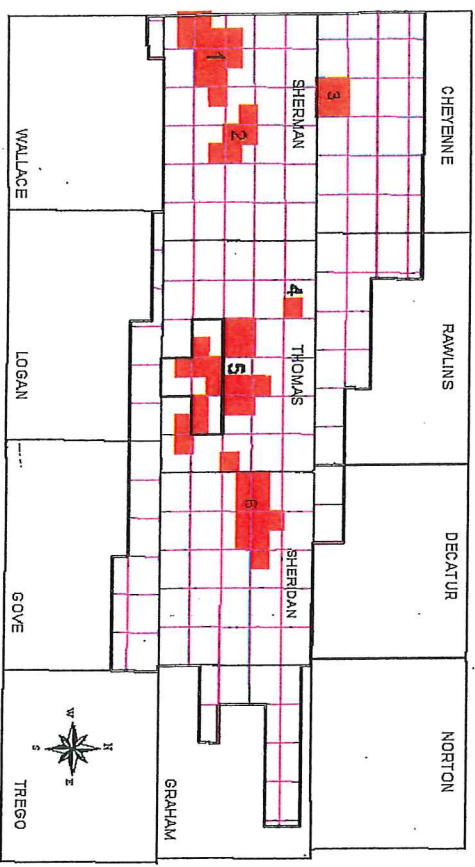
Rattlesnake Creek is a tributary of the Arkansas River that flows through the Quivira National Wildlife Area, a wetland of international importance. It covers parts of Clark, Ford, Kiowa, Edwards, Pawnee, Pratt, Stafford, Rice, Reno, and Barton counties.

DOC is working with Groundwater Management Districts and other partners to prioritize resource areas where water right retirements will provide the greatest benefit. WTAP grant applications proposing to retire water rights in ranked priority areas will receive the most consideration for funding.



In 2007, the NW KS Groundwater Management District No. 4 formally adopted six "High Priority Areas" which are the focus of special local water management efforts. These particular areas have been identified as a result of hydrologic modeling analysis, and the Board of Directors has established appropriate management protocols intended to slow groundwater declines and thereby extend the usable life of the Ogallala Aquifer. One of those protocols involves voluntary retirement of water rights.

GMD4 High Priority Areas
Adopted March 8, 2007



In September 2008, the Kansas DWR Chief Engineer found these areas to be "in need of aquifer restoration", and formally designated these six High Priority Areas in the NW KS Groundwater Management District No. 4 as "WTAP Target Areas", thus making landowners in these areas eligible for the program's financial grants.

With only very minor exceptions (such as domestic use and limited term permits), all of the WTAP target areas have been closed to the further appropriation of water to ensure that the State's investment in permanently retiring water rights is being protected.

WTAP Program Details:

To be considered "eligible" for retirement grants, water rights must be active "vested" or "certified appropriation" water rights that have been put to lawful beneficial use in at least 6 of the last 10 calendar years.

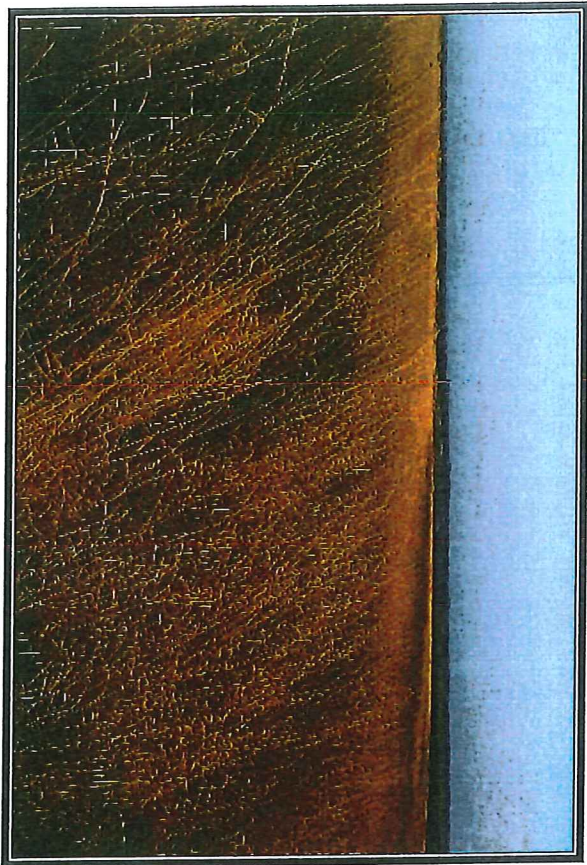
The State of Kansas is seeking to retire water rights with the greatest quantities of "historic consumptive water use". This quantity is calculated by averaging the irrigation water use reported during the last ten years of active water use prior to the WTAP application being submitted. Applications proposing to retire water rights with high average historic consumptive water use values will receive high consideration for payment approval.

The SCC establishes a state-wide fixed price rate for the HCWU during each enrollment period based on current market conditions for irrigation land and water right values. Applicants can bid less than the fixed price rate in order to increase their consideration for approval among competing applications. Applications which propose cost-sharing from a local sponsor (i.e. a GMD) can also increase the priority for consideration. The current fixed price rate is \$2,000 per acre-foot of HCWU.

The application periods for submitting WTAP retirement grant applications are October 1 through November 15, and February 15 through March 31. Applicants will be notified of the final status of applications within 60 days of the end of the application period. If approved, grants can be paid as multiple annual installments not to exceed 10 years, or as a lump sum.

Dryland farming is permitted after a right is retired.

Limited, temporary watering of up to three years is allowed to establish a permanent cover on the land being transitioned from irrigation if necessary.



If approved for a retirement grant, a water right must be completely separated from, or completely “overlapped” with, all other related water rights.

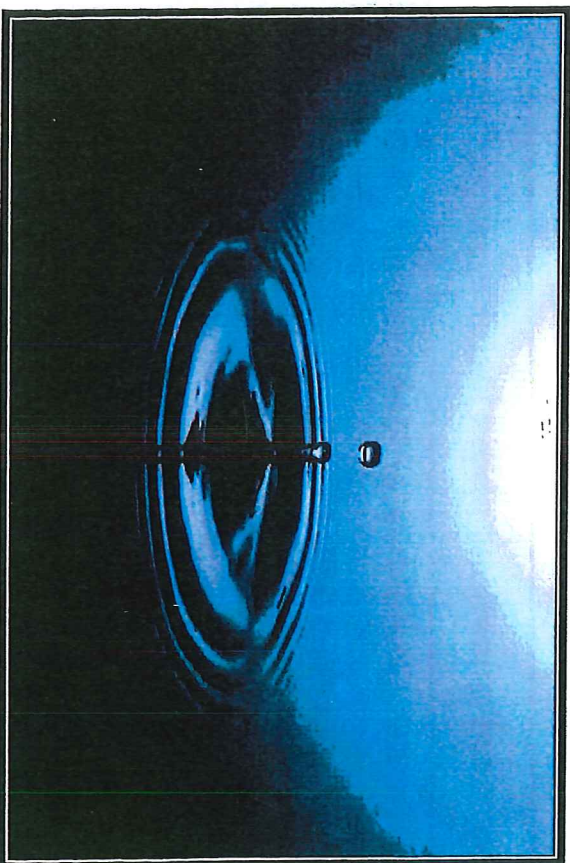
“Partial” water rights can be approved for retirement by permanent reduction. The approval of “partial” water right retirements also requires additional analysis and approval by the Kansas Division of Water Resources.

The affected land may also be irrigated again from other nearby water rights subject to analysis and approval by the Kansas Division of Water Resources.

Wells authorized by water rights being retired must be properly capped, plugged, or reconditioned as a domestic well in accordance with standards of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

A Few More Things to Remember:

- ❖ WTAP is only authorized until 2022 with an annual budget not to exceed \$1.5 Million – these grant funds are limited.
- ❖ Public entities are not eligible for WTAP and only irrigation water rights can be considered. However, financial sponsorships from other entities can increase the ranking priority of a WTAP application.
- ❖ Bid proposals are competitive within target areas and against bids in other target areas.
- ❖ The approval of applications with bids for water right retirement grants will be based on the best opportunities for reducing the greatest amount of consumptive use at the most reasonable, affordable price.



Steve Frost, Water Conservation Program Manager
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 Division of Conservation
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 Manhattan, KS 66502
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 E-mail: steve.frost@ks.gov



For additional assistance with water rights:

Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Division of Water Resources

Stafford Field Office
 105 North Main Street
 Stafford, KS 67578-6900
 (620) 234 - 5311

Stockton Field Office
 820 South Walnut
 Stockton, KS 67669-0192
 (785) 425 - 6787



For more questions about water management:

Kansas Groundwater Management Districts

Big Bend GMD #5
 125 South Main Street
 Stafford, Kansas 67578
 (620) 234 - 5352

Northwest Kansas GMD #4
 1175 South Range
 Colby, Kansas 67701-0905
 (785) 462 - 3915



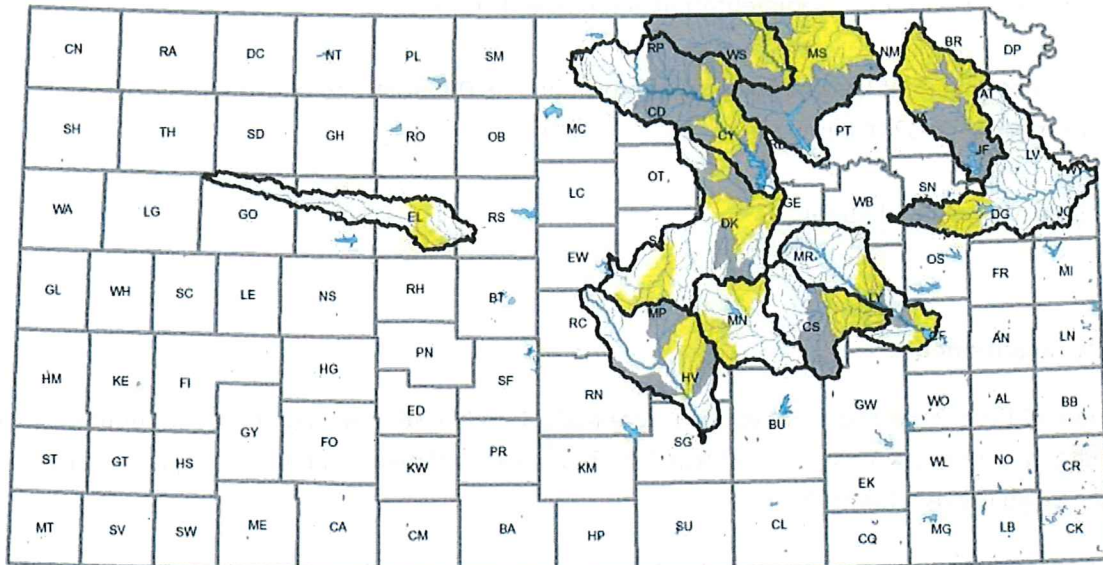
Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative for the Kansas, Neosho, Equus-Walnut, Smoky Hill-Saline, Solomon-Republican, and Upper Republican Regional Advisory Committees.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a cost-share and rental payment program under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Proposal:

Enroll up to or more than 10,000 acres into conservation practices such as grassed waterways, shallow water areas for wildlife, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restorations, farmable wetland/farmable wetland buffers, bottomland timber establishment and habitat buffers for upland birds in the Big Creek, Delaware, Little Arkansas, Lower Big Blue, Lower Kansas, Lower Little Blue, Lower Republican, Lower Smoky Hill, Neosho Headwaters, Upper Cottonwood and Lower Cottonwood watersheds. Provide a one-time state incentive to eligible producers who enroll in a voluntary 10-15-year CRP contract.

Project Area:



Kansas Sediment & Nutrient CREP
Tier

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- County



Watershed	Total Acres in Watershed	Total Proposed CREP Acres	Tier 1 Acres	Tier 2 Acres
Big Creek	545,465	94,111	94,111	-
Delaware	732,432	736,416	441,179	295,238
Little Arkansas	900,765	407,689	148,200	259,489
Lower Big Blue	984,413	949,734	360,798	588,936
Lower Kansas	1,043,472	232,121	143,889	88,232
Lower Little Blue	556,906	556,906	141,629	415,276
Lower Republican	1,252,810	937,086	235,126	701,960
Lower Smoky Hill	1,264,666	648,953	405,250	243,704
Neosho Headwaters	715,710	214,766	156,999	57,767
Upper Cottonwood	594,813	182,002	182,002	-
Lower Cottonwood	609,592	383,103	172,995	210,108
Total	9,201,044	5,342,887	2,482,178	2,860,710



Benefits:

The Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative will improve the quality of the project area waterways that serve as drinking water sources for area residents. This program will also support implementation of the Kansas Nutrient Reduction Framework developed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, thus demonstrating Kansas' commitment to addressing nutrient-related water quality issues. Practices implemented will reduce sedimentation and thereby slow the rate of storage loss in downstream reservoirs. The program will enhance the effectiveness of other programs and activities in the watersheds that focus on reducing nutrients and sedimentation. In addition, the project will improve wildlife habitat. The buffers, filter strips and other practices installed under the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction CREP will enable farmers to protect water quality while maintaining the productivity of their farms.

Goals:

The primary goals of the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction CREP include:

- Secure, restore and protect water supply storage and water quality through the installation of practices that reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff.
- Reduce sediment loading by up to or more than 58,000 tons and phosphorous loading by up to or more than 92,000 pounds.
- Improve wildlife habitat.

Eligibility Requirements:

Enrollment in the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative will be on a continuous basis. To participate in the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative, landowners must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Land must be located in the initiative project area
- Cropland must have been planted to crop for four of six past years and be physically and legally capable of being cropped. Marginal pastureland may also be enrolled provided it is suitable for use as a riparian buffer
- Land must have sites where filter strips, grassed waterways, riparian buffers or the other eligible practices are deemed needed
- Lands that have an existing CRP contract or an approved offer with a contract pending are not eligible for the initiative until that contract expires

Practices:

Potential practices in the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction CREP include:

CP7 – Erosion Control Structure CP8A – Grassed Waterways CP21 – Filter Strips CP22 – Riparian Buffer CP23 and CP23a – Wetland Restoration CP33 – Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

Incentives:

Participants in the Kansas Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative may be eligible for two types of incentive payments:

(1) \$225 per acre for contracts located in the Tier 1 area.

(2) \$162.50 per acre for contracts located in the Tier 2 area.

Tier 1 areas include those HUC12 watersheds identified in WRAPS plans as highest priority target areas for nutrient and sediment reduction, Tier 2 areas will encompass the remaining area within the boundaries.

Cost:

For enrollment of 10,000 acres, the estimated total financial obligation will be approximately \$3.75 million with \$2.0 million provided by the State of Kansas in sign-up incentive payments and \$1.750 million to fund seven Water Quality Coordinator positions for five years. The Water Quality Coordinator positions would be housed in the following NRCS Management Units and would be employed by local Conservation Districts.

WQC Management Units:

Brown, Jackson and Nemaha Counties

Washington and Marshall Counties

Shawnee, Douglas and Osage Counties

Clay Dickinson and Ottawa Counties

Lyon, Morris and Chase Counties

Marion, McPherson and Rice Counties

Ellis, Trego and Russell Counties

Water Quality Coordinators will be responsible for promoting the Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Initiative, local county NPS management plans, nine element plans and Kansas Sediment Reduction Plan. This includes information and education as well as promoting best management practices available from all cost-share programs.

KACD Resolution Review SCC Meeting February 13, 2017

Resolutions that affect SCC/DOC:

Resolution #5: Windbreak Practice Eligibility

Becky Wise, Jefferson County, moved to amend the resolution to read as is without the word "homestead" in it. Doug Blex, Montgomery County, seconded the motion. Motion carried

Katie Burke, DOC, explained the reason for amending the resolution and that soil erosion is the main goal of the resolution. She also explained the DOC analysis of the resolution.

Discussion: It was suggested to send the Resolution back to the Wildlife, Forestry and Recreation Committee for them to review and present it again at next year's KACD Business meeting. There was concern expressed by the crowd that Districts should be able to make the determination individually.

Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, moved to withdraw the amendment. Tom Barrett, Ottawa County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, moved to table the resolution until next year. Lyman Nuss, Russell County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolution #7: District Annual Audit Requirement

Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, moved to accept this resolution. John Wunder, Jefferson County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, moved to amend the resolution as follows:

Strike "request" and insert "continue to work with", and after the words "Division of Conservation" insert "to assist Conservation Districts to", and after the word "implement" strike the words "a more", and add "and" in between "comprehensive" and "cost".

John Wunder, Jefferson County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion: The way the resolution was originally worded would require certain actions to be completed and possibly costs Districts more money to have audits performed.

It was voted upon by the majority to adopt the resolution.

It was voted upon by the majority to adopt the amended resolution.

Resolution #2: Cost Share for Xeriscape

Mark Lehman, Crawford County, moved to accept this resolution as printed. Bevin Law, Clay County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave Jones explained the DOC analysis of the resolution.

Discussion: There are no current practices written, qualifications, or certifications. There were questions of how much water will actually be saved with this practice. Native plants do not have to be used, and this practice is not for implementation just in yards. Who will set the guidelines and specifications? Not looking for an immediate practice – may need to amend the resolution to allow DOC and NRCS research the practice more. There are concerns about cost share money already being spread thin.

The resolution was voted upon, but due to the nays having the majority of the vote, the motion failed.

Resolution #10: Change State Cost Share Rates to Flat Rates.

There was not a motion presented.

The resolution was voted upon, but due to the nays having the majority of the vote, the resolution failed.

Resolution #11: Lagoon Added to Practice 110A (Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater System)

Doug Plegge, Marshall County, suggested amending the resolution as follows:

Insert after Conservation the words “and the State Conservation Commission”.

Richard Runnebaum, Shawnee County, moved to accept the proposed amended resolution. Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was voted upon by the majority to adopt the resolution.

It was voted upon by the majority to adopt the amended resolution.

ALL 2016 Resolutions Considered by KACD

Resolution #1 - Failed

NRCS Policy Change and Land Use for High Tunnels

WHEREAS, high tunnels are only on land classified as agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, the loss of agricultural land is thousands of acres each year by urban encroachment; and

WHEREAS, non-agricultural land can be reclassified as agricultural land through a process with the Farm Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, agricultural land has to have cropping history and urban land has no cropping history; and

Whereas, placing high tunnels in urban settings can be more beneficial to more people;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts recommend to the Natural Resources Conservation Service that they amend policy so high tunnels can be used on suitable urban or rural land.

Resolution #2 - Failed

Cost Share for Xeriscape

WHEREAS, xeriscape is the practice of landscaping and gardening that eliminates the need for irrigation and other inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides; and

WHEREAS, xeriscape would significantly decrease pollution through contaminated runoff and leaching in urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, xeriscape would aid in restoring natural ecosystems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of the Conservation Districts recommends to the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to implement cost share for xeriscaping.

Resolution #3 - Adopted

Policy Change for Equitable Renewal and Rental Rates on CRP

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been and continues to be one of the best conservation tools to protect the soil from wind and water erosion, and to promote soil health; and

WHEREAS, CRP is an excellent practice to enhance wildlife habitat for upland birds, water fowl, deer, predators, threatened and endangered species and numerous other fauna and flora; and

WHEREAS, CRP can be used to plant pollinator plant species to help promote pollinator insects including the monarch butterfly; and

WHEREAS, CRP is being broke out and farmed, including the most erodible ground, at an alarming rate and new enrollment into CRP seems to have stalled; and

WHEREAS, the highest erodible ground should be the target for CRP because it is the most susceptible to wind and water erosion and is the most in need of soil health improvement; and

WHEREAS, lower Erodibility Index rankings can receive higher payment rates; and

WHEREAS, we encourage higher enhancement and higher diversity of the higher erodibility index soils to benefit wildlife; and

WHEREAS, enrolling the highly erodible ground with a diverse mix of species would address the most resource concerns; and

WHEREAS, an enhancement and encouragement to keep, enroll and renew the most highly erodible ground in CRP, the rental rate structure should be revised to pay the highest rate for the most highly erodible ground and the lowest rate for the least erodible ground; and

WHEREAS, CRP promotes air quality by increasing the amount of carbon storage in soils;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts ask the National Association of Conservation Districts lobby the United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency to change the payment structure so that applications with higher Erodibility Index receive higher rental rate and ranking consideration with renewal contracts be given priority.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that wind and water erosion be given equal consideration in comparison to priority wildlife areas.

Resolution # 4 - Adopted

Increasing Nationwide Caps on CRP Acreage

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been and continues to be one of the best tools to protect the soil from wind and water erosion and improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, CRP is an excellent practice to enhance wildlife habitat for upland birds, water fowl, deer predators, threatened and endangered species and numerous other fauna and flora, as well as insect pollinators; and

WHEREAS, CRP is being broken out and farmed, including the most erodible ground, at an alarming rate and new enrollment seems to have stalled due to acreage caps and visions of the 2014 Farm Bill;

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas recognizes the importance of the CRP program by supplementing federal dollars with state funds; and

WHEREAS, government funds have already been expended in establishing current CRP acreages and without funding continuation landowners may put sensitive land back into production;

WHEREAS, CRP is a proven program already in place with a need greater than the current acreage cap; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Kansas Association of Conservation District ask the National Association of Conservation Districts urge the United States Department of Agriculture and Congress to increase the acreage cap to 36 million acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, this increased acreage has priority as Native Grassland Plantings.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts urge the Kansas Congressional delegation to support the increase of acreage cap on the Conservation Reserve Program.

Resolution #5 – Tabled

Windbreak Practice Eligibility

WHEREAS, windbreaks are needed in Kansas to reduce wind-induced soil erosion, protect livestock and provide wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, landowners request cost-share funds to assist with the expenses associated with the establishment of windbreaks; and

WHEREAS, the windbreak practice is only eligible to be placed on cropland in federal cost-share programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourages all federal and state agencies to use the same windbreak practice eligibility criteria so that windbreaks can be planted on any land use in order to protect cropland and livestock.

Resolution #6 - Adopted

KACD Support for Governor's Water Vision, or KACD Support for Governor's Vision 50

Whereas, water is one of Kansas' most important resource; and

Whereas, the governor has recognized the importance of this resource and implemented a process, Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, Vision 50, for addressing water resources in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified financial and technical assistance needs in high priority watersheds and;

WHEREAS, through the process area, regional and state work groups have identified water resource concerns, and now fourteen regional planning areas were established and now are in the process of compiling strategies, goals and funding sources;

WHEREAS, a need exists to improve and sustain the State's rivers, streams and aquifers with conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified the priority watershed areas that need assistance to address non-point source pollution problems, reduce urban and rural flooding, and to reduce stream bank erosion and degradation of riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified a need for a water management plan in forecasted water short areas that includes adopting water saving practices that improve the sustainability of the Ogallala Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts have established the effectiveness of cost-share incentives to address resource concerns; and

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision identified a need for priority multipurpose small lakes projects, watershed dam construction and rehabilitation, restoration of water supply systems and riparian and wetland protection; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts and watershed districts are responsible for carrying out conservation and have been successful in implementation of watershed programs locally with local leadership and conservation partners; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Governors Water Vision, Vision 50, and in addition, supports the Vision utilizing the locally led structure of conservation and watershed districts in the implementation phases of the Vision.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas legislature to utilize the effective mechanism of the county conservation districts and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation as the agency to distribute and implement the local on land practices of the Vision 50 plan.

Further, be it also resolved, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts will continue to educate and promote the successes that conservation districts have had in putting cost share monies into completed projects on locally privately held lands.

Resolution #7 - Adopted

District Annual Audit Requirement

WHEREAS, the Kansas Conservation District Act requires an annual audit of conservation districts; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts desire to be fully accountable and improve audit efficiency and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts want consistency of this audit process in a cost effective way statewide;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts work with the State Conservation Commission and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to assist conservation districts to implement comprehensive and cost effective audit procedures.

Resolution #8 - Adopted

Protection of County Cost Share Funds

WHEREAS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts develops educational programs for conservation districts to work with the Kansas legislature, Kansas Water Authority and Regional Advisory Committees on the necessity of funding conservation districts to continue to carry out their goals; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts continue to implement the goals and objectives as outlined in the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' Strategic Plan and statutory responsibilities mandated by the Kansas Legislature through the Kansas Conservation District Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts lead a special initiative to encourage membership to develop a plan to educate decision makers at the county, state and federal level of the benefits of conservation funding and conservation districts to their constituents.

Resolution #9 - Adopted

Relax Crop Insurance Rules for Companion Cover Crops

WHEREAS, cover crops are proven to improve soil health; and

WHEREAS, cover crops are becoming a more common conservation practice; and

WHEREAS, current crop insurance rules restrict the use of companion crops;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts will ask the United States Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency to allow companion cropping in Kansas.

Resolution #10 - Failed

Change State Cost Share Rates to Flat Rates

WHEREAS, State cost share payment rates have been paid as a percentage of county average costs for best management practices since the establishment of the State Conservation Committee in 1937; and

WHEREAS, it can be confusing to landowners to have conservation districts pay a percentage of their county average costs; and

WHEREAS, a county flat rate would be much easier for landowners to understand; and

WHEREAS, a county flat rate would be more efficient for the conservation districts to implement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts ask the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to amend Kansas State Statute 2-1915 to change state cost share rates to county flat rates per State of Kansas fiscal year.

Resolution #11 - Adopted

Lagoon Added to Practice 110A (Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater System)

Whereas a lagoon may have been a better choice than other on-site wastewater treatment systems when first installed; and

Whereas the site may now require an upgrade to a different on-site wastewater treatment system or closing due to improper construction or the abandonment of a home site; and

Whereas there is existing cost-share on closing other failing wastewater systems, “seepage pits (rat holes), cesspools, drainage pits and septic systems as a result of system renovation to meet standards or the abandonment of a home site;” and

Whereas proper closing would ensure the elimination of possible groundwater contamination, and

Whereas an abandoned lagoon septic system is a safety hazard; and

Whereas proper closure would eliminate future problems with structural integrity for construction at or near the site; and

Whereas it would ensure proper closure by requiring a local county sanitarian inspection;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Kansas Association Of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to add “Lagoon” to practice 110A (Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater System).

Resolution #12 - Adopted

Water Transfer Accountability WHEREAS, when water rights have been converted from irrigation use to commercial use in the past under K.A.R. 5-5-9, only 70% of the acre feet are allowed in the conversion, using the consumptive use analysis; and WHEREAS, the City of Hays irrigation wells (on the R-9 Ranch) to be converted to municipal use have been approved by the Kansas Division of Water Resources’ (DWR) chief engineer at 99.7% of their original acre feet; and WHEREAS, the wells on the City of Hays, R-9 Ranch, property continue to decline, even though many wells have been taken out of use and Hays has not pumped the full water right acre feet since the 1990s; and WHEREAS, accountability of DWR’s

actions is desired by the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts member districts; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation

Districts request from the Kansas Division of Water Resources an explanation of the conversion formula used to convert uses. FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the explanation include how the chief engineer figured water right conversions for previous applicants to ensure fairness and consistency, and as the water transfer law is in place to protect sustainability and longevity of the water source and to protect adjacent water right holders, the explanation should include how the interpretation of the formula and the change of use acre feet uphold the law.

Resolution #13 - Adopted

Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 Division of Conservation Budget

WHEREAS, financial and technical assistance needs have been identified in high priority Total Maximum Daily Load watersheds of the Kansas – Lower Republican, Lower Arkansas, Marais Des Cygnes, Missouri, Neosho, Upper Arkansas, Verdigris, Walnut, Smoky Hill/Saline, Upper Republican, Cimarron, and Solomon River basins; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas State Water Plan has identified the priority watershed areas that need assistance to address non-point source pollution problems, reduce urban and rural flooding, and to reduce stream bank erosion and degradation of riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, a need for priority multipurpose small lakes projects, watershed dam construction and rehabilitation, restoration of water supply systems, and riparian and wetland protection is identified in the Kansas State Water Plan; and

WHEREAS, a need exists to improve and sustain the state's rivers, streams and aquifers with conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts have established a need for cost-share incentives to address local concerns; and

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Conservation is responsible for carrying out programs of state assistance to conservation districts, state assistance in watershed dam construction, water resources cost-share, riparian and wetland protection, multipurpose small lakes, non-point pollution control, water quality buffer initiative, water right transition assistance, CREP, water supply restoration, surface mining land reclamation and agricultural liming materials; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Division of Conservation's FY2018 and FY2019 budget

request as described below, and in addition, supports the Division's request for appropriation language allowing the carryover of funds from the current fiscal year to FY 2018, as well as the carryover of funds from FY 2018 to FY 2019, as follows:

FY 2018 FY 2019

STATE GENERAL FUNDS:

Administrative Operations \$478,500 \$482,500

STATE WATER PLAN FUNDS:

Aid to Conservation Districts \$2,000,000 \$2,092,637

Water Resources Cost-Share \$1,727,387 \$1,948,289

Water Supply Restoration \$ 0 \$ 0

Non-Point Source Pollution \$1,503,015 \$1,858,350

Watershed Dam Construction \$511,076 \$550,000

Riparian and Wetland Protection \$135,343 \$152,651

Water Quality Buffer Initiative \$88,662 \$200,000

Conservation Reserve Enhancement

Program\WTAP \$177,324 \$200,000

Subtotal—State Water Plan Special Revenue Funds \$6,142,807 \$7,001,927

FEE FUNDS:

Land Reclamation \$136,550 \$136,550

Agricultural Liming Material \$33,940 \$33,940

Subtotal – Fee Funds \$170,490 \$170,490

OTHER STATE FUNDS:

Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment \$ 120,000 \$ 120,000

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism \$75,000 \$ 75,000

Subtotal – Other State Funds \$ 195,000 \$ 195,000

FEDERAL FUNDS:

Natural Resource Conservation Service \$ 338,696 \$ 338,696

Environmental Protection Agency \$280,000 \$ 280,000

Subtotal – Other Federal Funds \$ 618,696 \$ 618,696

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST \$7,605,493 \$8,468,613

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2018 and FY 2019:

AND WHEREAS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts also unilaterally advocates the Kansas Legislature to fully fund the State Aid to Conservation Districts program; and

WHEREAS the annual budgets adopted for every conservation district in 2016 contain certifications of county allocations to each conservation district for calendar year 2017, and these district budgets should serve as the basis for the Division of

Conservation's FY 2018 and FY 2019 State Aid to Conservation District state budget request, and thereby, for providing the necessary matching funds to conservation districts as provided under state law; then

THEREFORE, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts requests enhanced funding of the State Aid to Conservation Districts program to meet county conservation district budget needs according to the county certified amounts as per K.S.A. 2-1907c up to \$2,625,000. The amount necessary to adequately fund the State Aid to Conservation Districts program for FY2018 is \$2,410,912 – an additional amount of \$410,912 over what is currently budgeted.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation

SCC FY2017 Financial Report as of January 31, 2017

SWP Funds	FY2016 Actuals	FY2017 Appropriations	FY2017 Appropriations w CF	Expenditures	Balance	[Commitments]
Aid to Cons. Districts	\$2,101,294	\$2,092,637	\$2,092,637	\$2,092,637	\$0	*\$2,092,660
Water Resources						
Administration (6%)	\$122,737		\$127,359	\$86,711	\$40,648	\$0
Cost-Share	\$1,739,323		\$1,659,391	\$425,950	\$1,233,441	\$1,178,799
TMDLs	\$54,124		\$210,000	\$27,773	\$182,227	\$63,530
CSIMS Software	\$14,650		\$128,900	\$25,200	\$103,700	\$128,900
Paybacks / Other	-[\$8,687]		-[\$2,985]	-[\$2,985]	\$0	\$0
Total WR	\$1,930,834	\$1,948,289	\$2,122,665	\$562,650	\$1,560,016	\$1,371,229
Non-Point Source						
Cost-Share	\$1,813,383		\$1,196,406	\$556,734	\$639,672	\$620,177
TMDLs	\$68,015		\$90,000	\$14,330	\$75,670	\$20,125
CSIMS Software	\$14,650		\$128,900	\$25,200	\$103,700	\$103,700
AFO / Other			\$101,500	\$84	\$101,416	\$50,000
Conservation Techs	\$80,115		\$210,000	\$92,207	\$117,793	\$0
NOTOP / Soil Health	\$45,818		\$52,500	\$24,147	\$28,353	\$25,075
Streambank Protection	\$13,708		\$215,736	\$51,781	\$163,954	\$133,763
Paybacks / Other	-[\$9,314]		-[\$377]	-[\$377]	\$0	\$0
Total NPS	\$2,035,689	\$1,858,350	\$1,994,665	\$764,106	\$1,230,559	\$1,020,633
Watershed Dam Const.	\$619,463	\$576,434	\$576,434	\$0	\$576,434	\$576,434
Water Supply Restoration	\$235,000	\$258,156	\$281,312	\$0	\$281,312	\$0
WQ Buffer Initiative	\$201,419	\$249,792	\$356,901	\$306	\$356,595	\$199,765
Riparian & Wetland	\$154,827	\$152,651	\$159,095	\$150	\$158,945	\$25,000
WTAP / CREP	\$465,380	\$0	\$249,685	\$118,173	\$131,512	\$42,433
TOTAL	\$7,743,906	\$7,136,309	\$7,731,628	\$3,538,022	\$4,295,373	\$5,328,154

Fee Funds	FY2016 Actuals	FY2017 Cash Balance	Deposits	Expenditures	Balance	[Commitments]
Land Reclamation		\$84,819	\$9,331	\$92,708	\$1,442	[\$127,600]
Ag Liming		\$33,122	\$26,563	\$36,335	\$23,350	
TOTAL		\$117,941	\$35,894	\$129,043	\$24,792	

Fiscal Notes:

- The Mined Land Reclamation Program receives its annual revenues of approximately \$123,000 from a combination of
 - license fees totaling about \$9,000 which are collected in the October – December time frame; and
 - site registration & tonnage fees totaling about \$114,000 which are collected April - May.
- The Agricultural Liming Materials Program receives its annual revenues of approximately \$33,000 from site registration & tonnage fees collected in the June – July time frame.

Land Reclamation

Annual Mine Report & Site Registration Renewal – due April 1
 Tons sold / consumed per year x \$.003 + \$45 per new acre affected OR
 \$45 minimum

License to Mine – due December 1
 License fee is dependent on tonnage reported on the Annual Mine
 Report

0-9,999 tons = \$25.00
 10,000-99,999 tons = \$50
 100,000-499,999 = \$100
 500,000 + = \$150

Ag Lime

Quarry Registration Renewal – June 30
 \$25 per quarry

Annual Tonnage Report & Inspection – July 31
 \$.05 per ton

Streambank Project Update - Feb. 13, 2017

	Contributing agency	FY 2016	FY 17	FY 18
Contributions to the "Pooled Funding" and projections for next year	KDHE - 319 Grant or SRF Loan	\$120,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$1,200,000.00
	KWO - other	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$700,000.00
	KWO - Marketing Fund	\$150,000.00		
	DOC - NPS	\$357,727.89	\$215,735.84	\$300,000.00
	Loan reimbursement (KDHE)		\$45,848.20	
	DOC - RW Buffer Commitments	\$118,981.84	\$114,455.40	unknown

	Pooled Money committed in FY2016/17:	\$1,025,806.29
	Expenditures:	\$514,305.11
2016/2017 Projects	Cottonwood construction (8 sites)	\$805,686.38
	Delaware design and oversight (5 sites)	\$88,097.45
	Delaware repairs (2 sites)	\$19,863.06
	Tuttle designs and oversight (6 sites)	\$112,159.00

	Uncommitted Pooled FY17 Funds:	\$949,938.59
Committed by June 1, 2017:	Tuttle construction (6 sites)	\$660,000.00 <i>estimated</i>
	New Tuttle designs (15 sites)	\$290,000.00 <i>estimated</i>



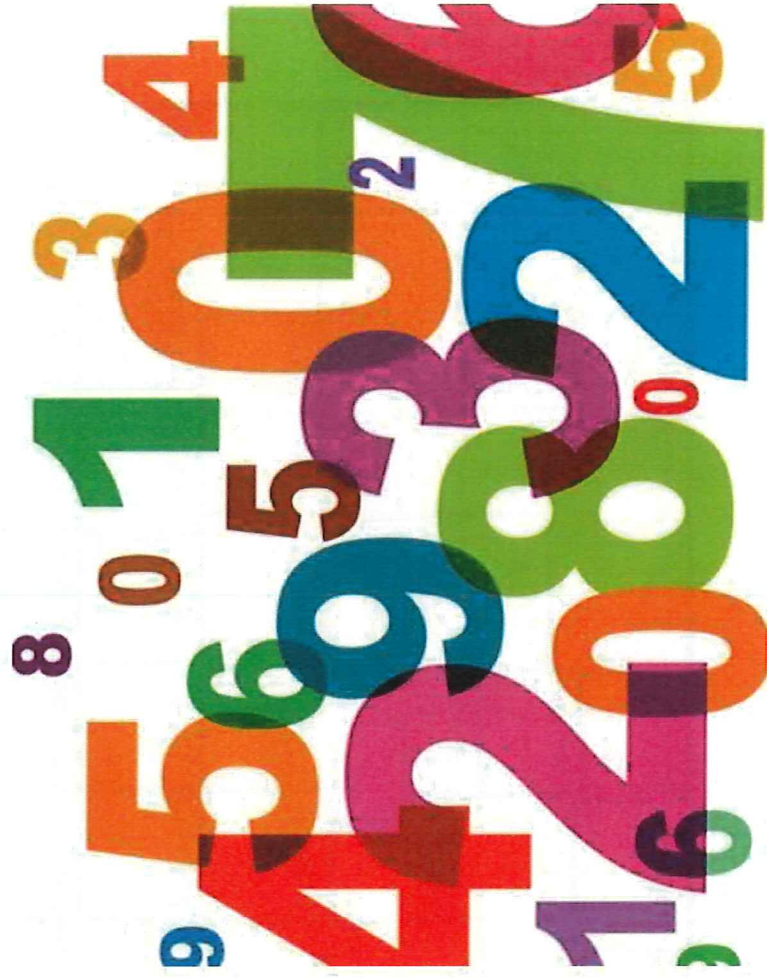
Cottonwood Site 15 project - construction completed in January.

Proposed FY 2018 cost-share program policy revisions:

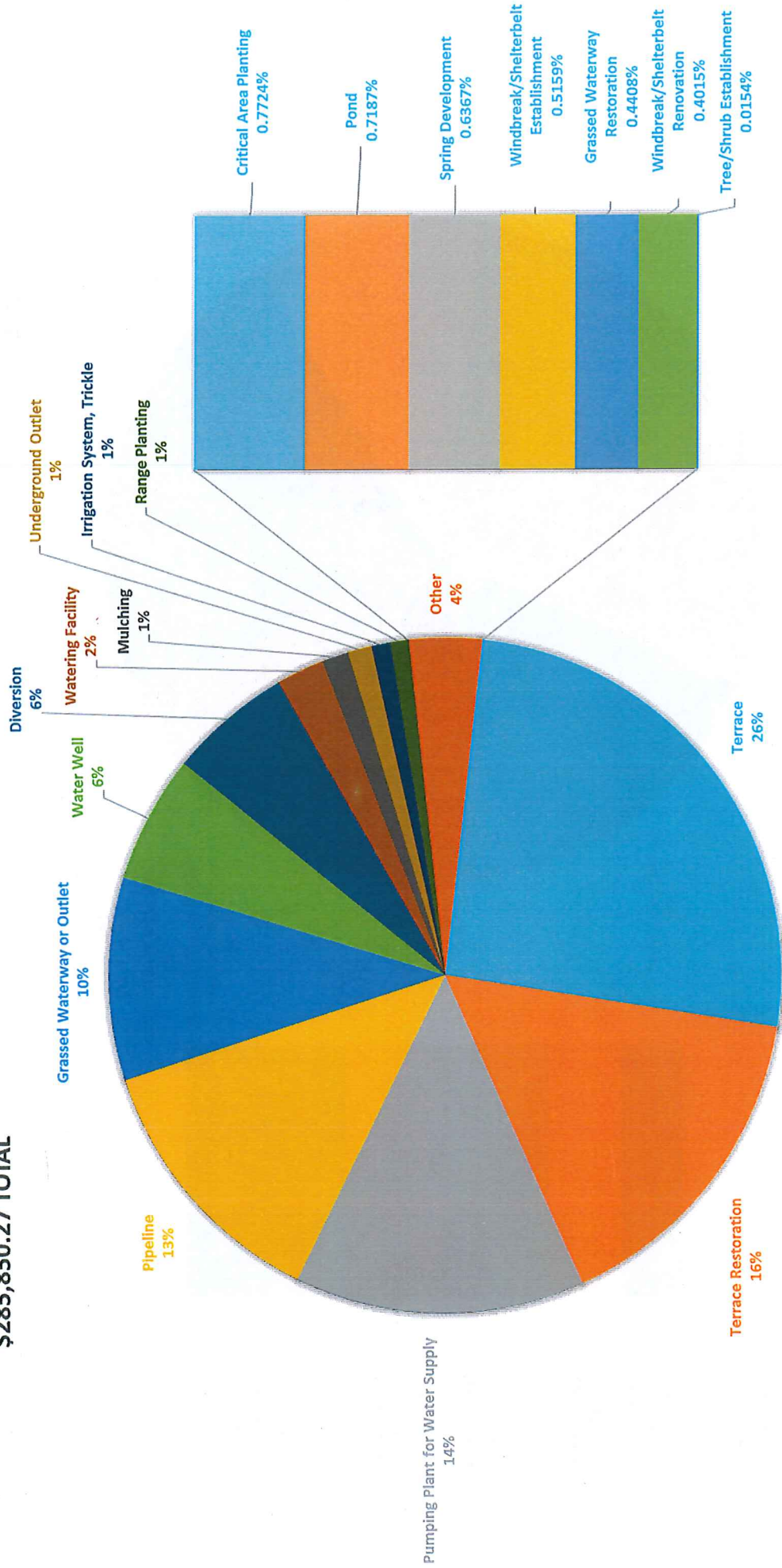
- Add forage balance estimate worksheet/grazing plan language as a policy to practice code 512 (Forage and Biomass Planting), if practice will be grazed. (WR & NPS)

- Add lagoon to practice code 110A (Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater Systems per KACD resolution passage. (NPS)

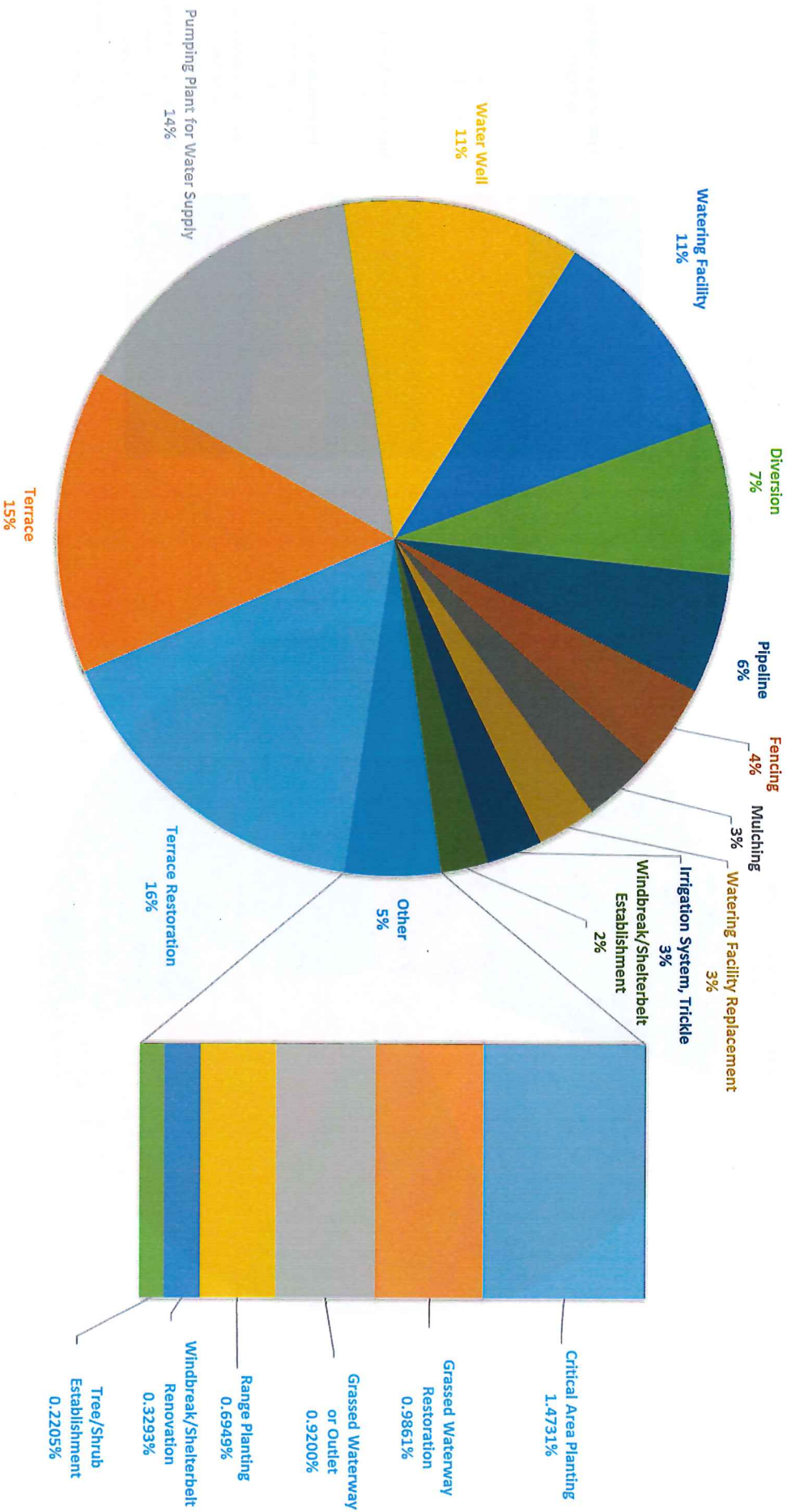
FY 2016 WR & NPS Cost-Share (by the numbers)



**FY 2016 AREA 1 WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE
\$285,850.27 TOTAL**

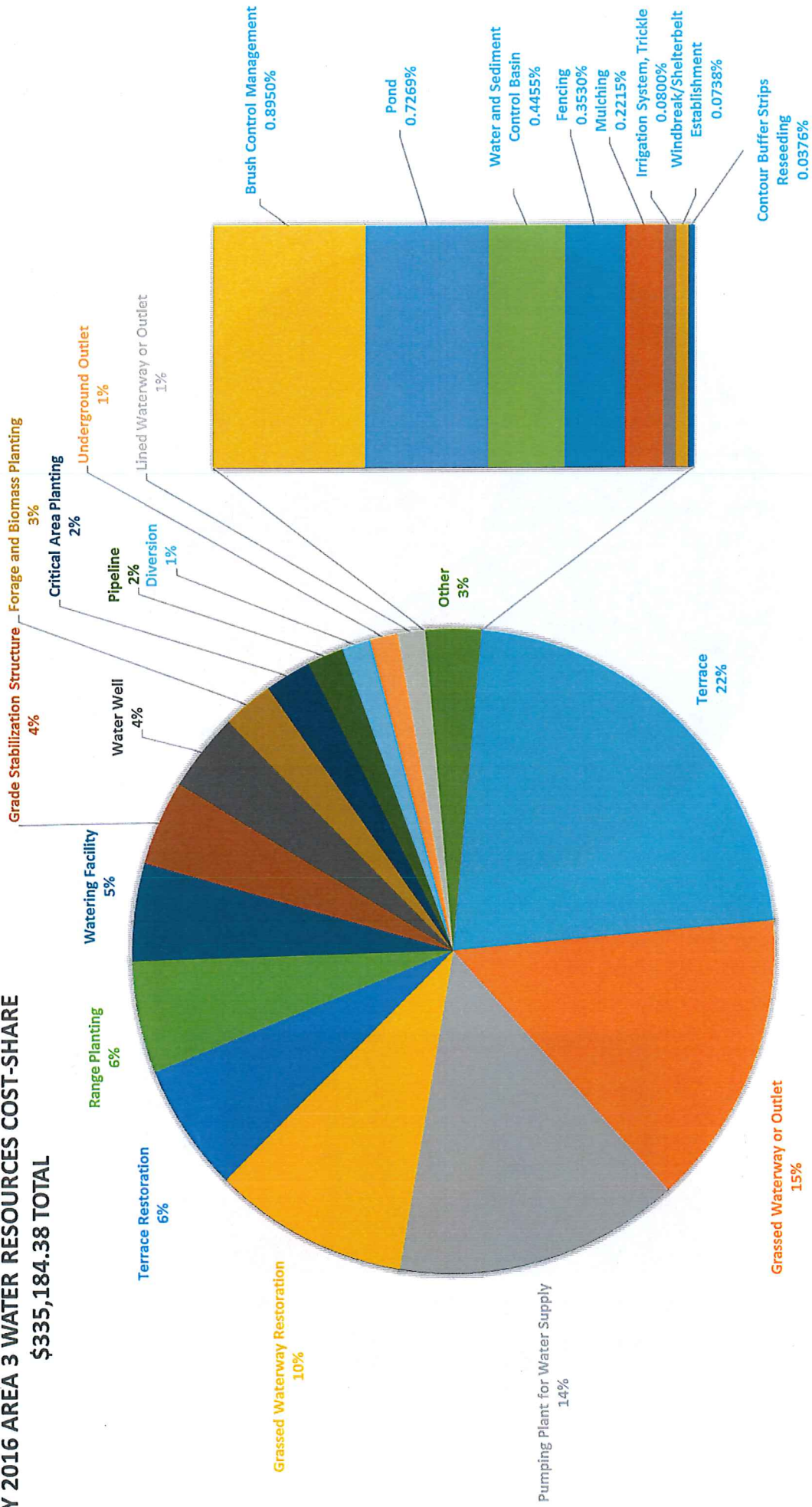


FY 2016 AREA 2 WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE
\$354,497.42 TOTAL

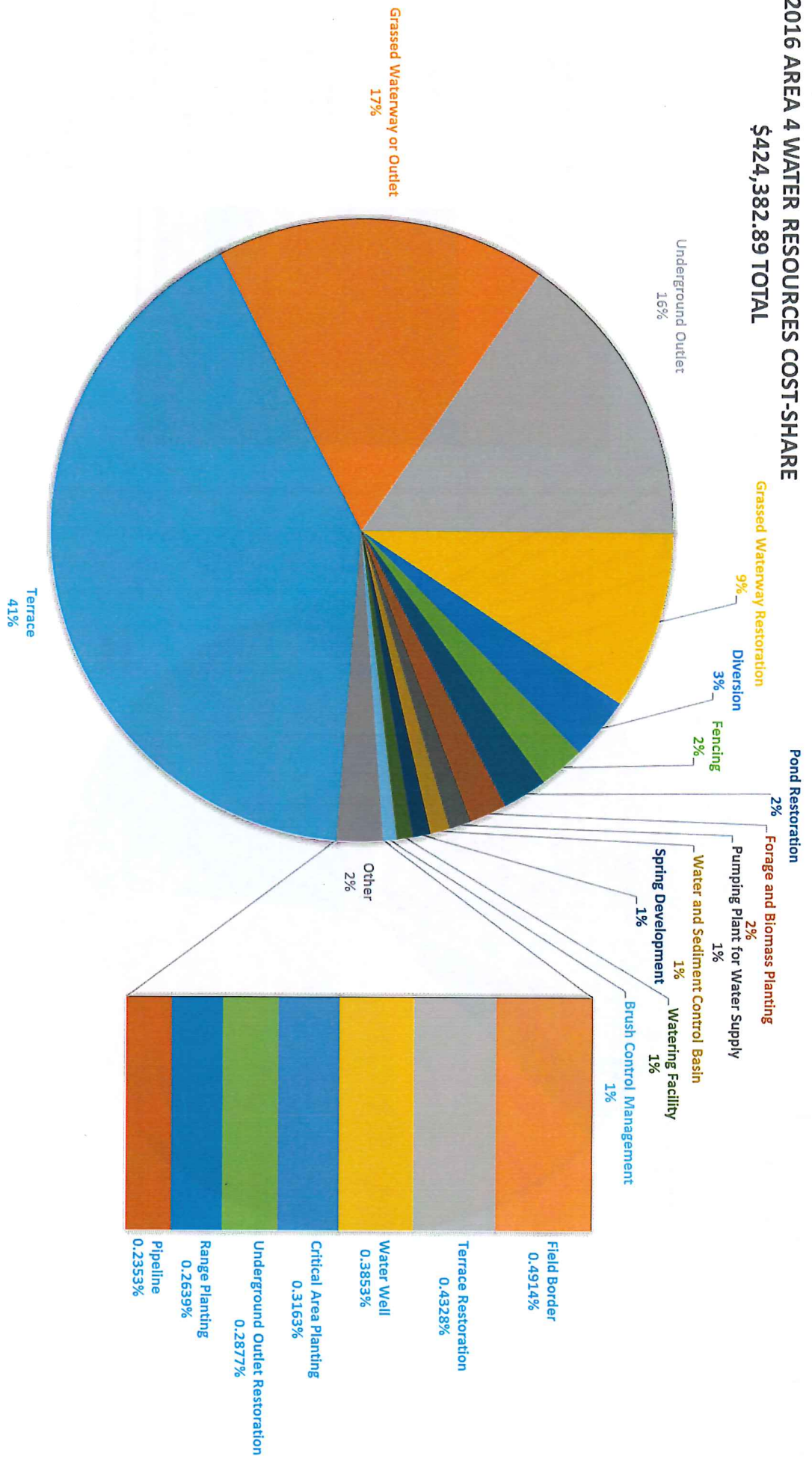


FY 2016 AREA 3 WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE

\$335,184.38 TOTAL

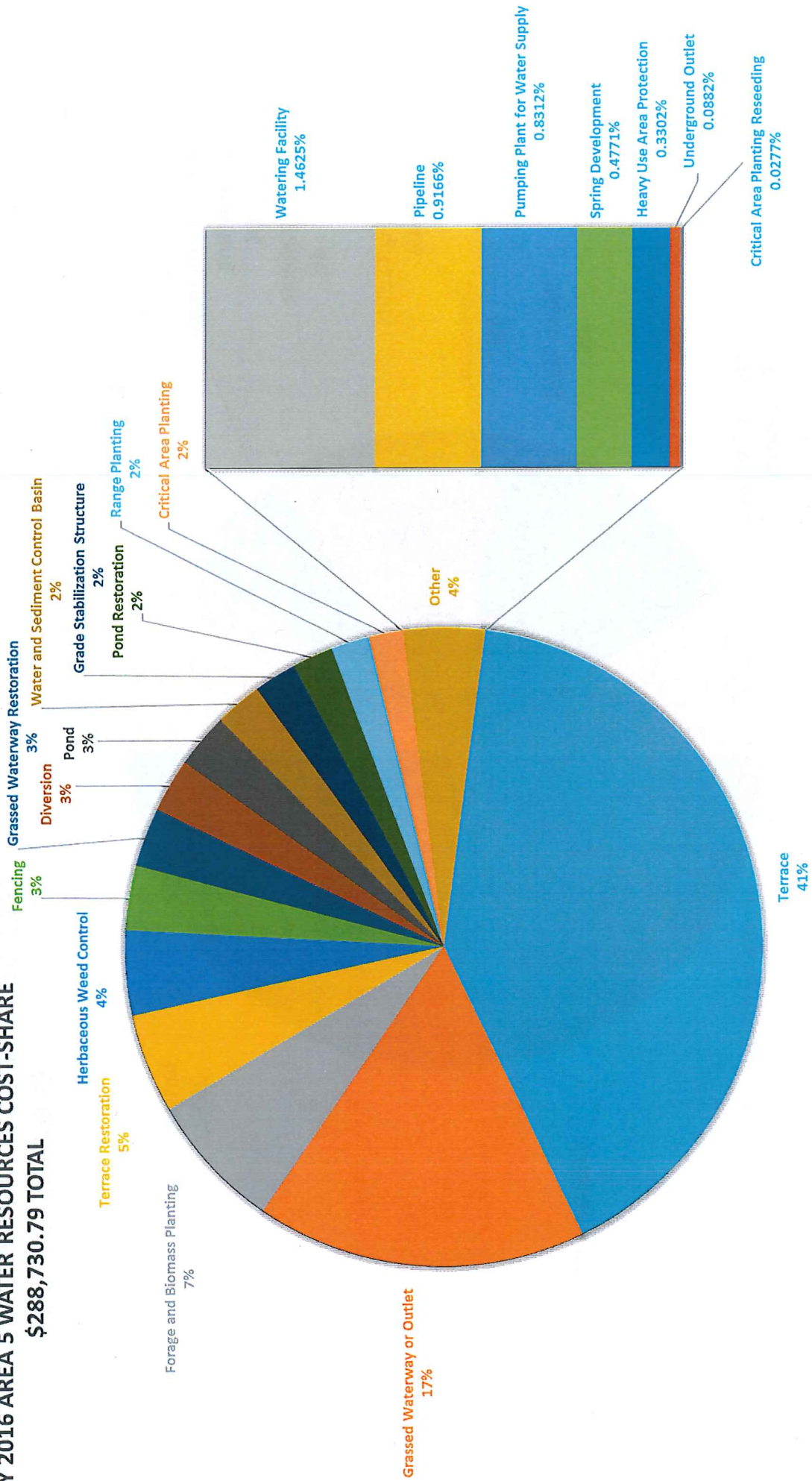


FY 2016 AREA 4 WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE
\$424,382.89 TOTAL

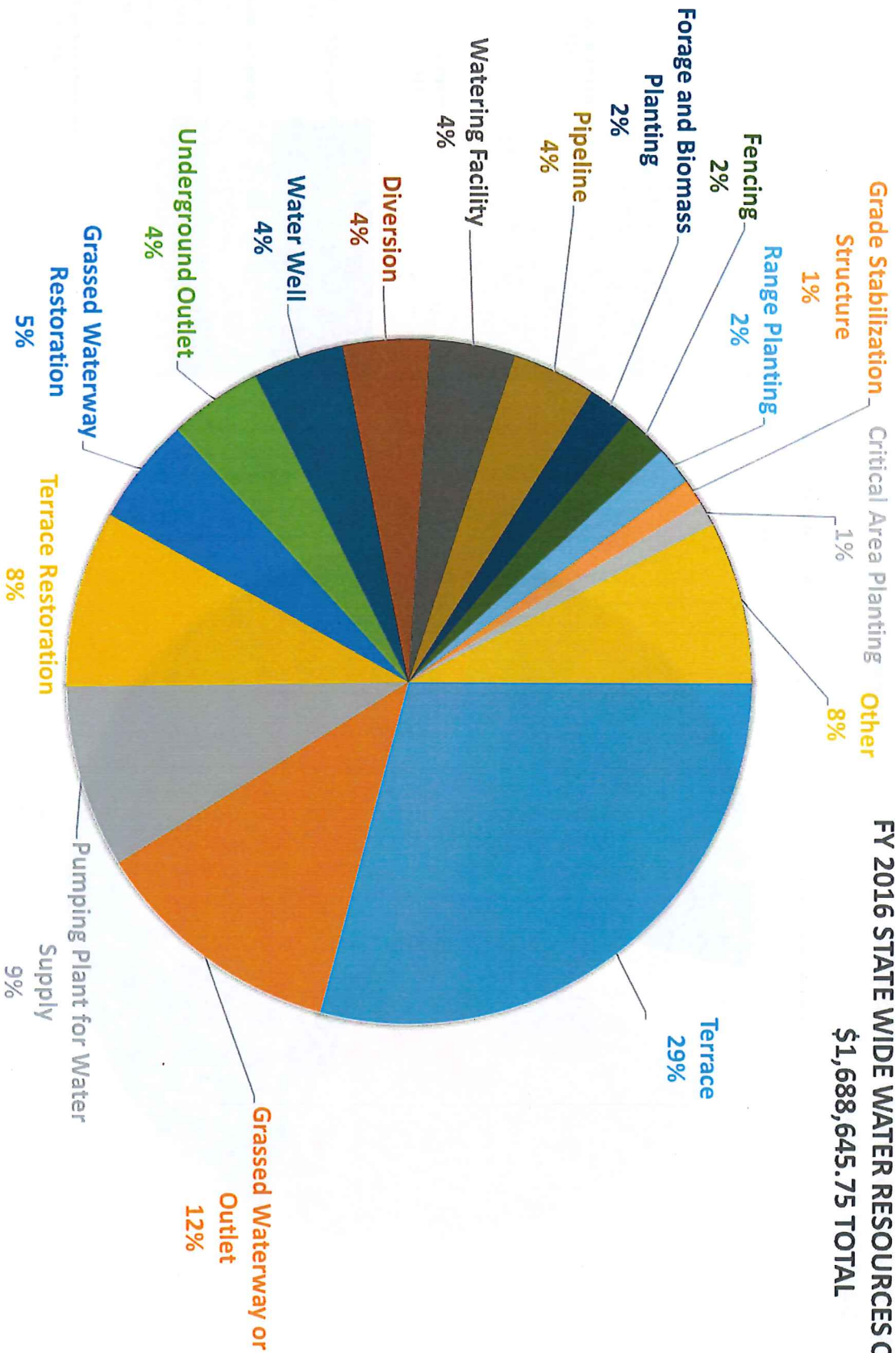


FY 2016 AREA 5 WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE

\$288,730.79 TOTAL

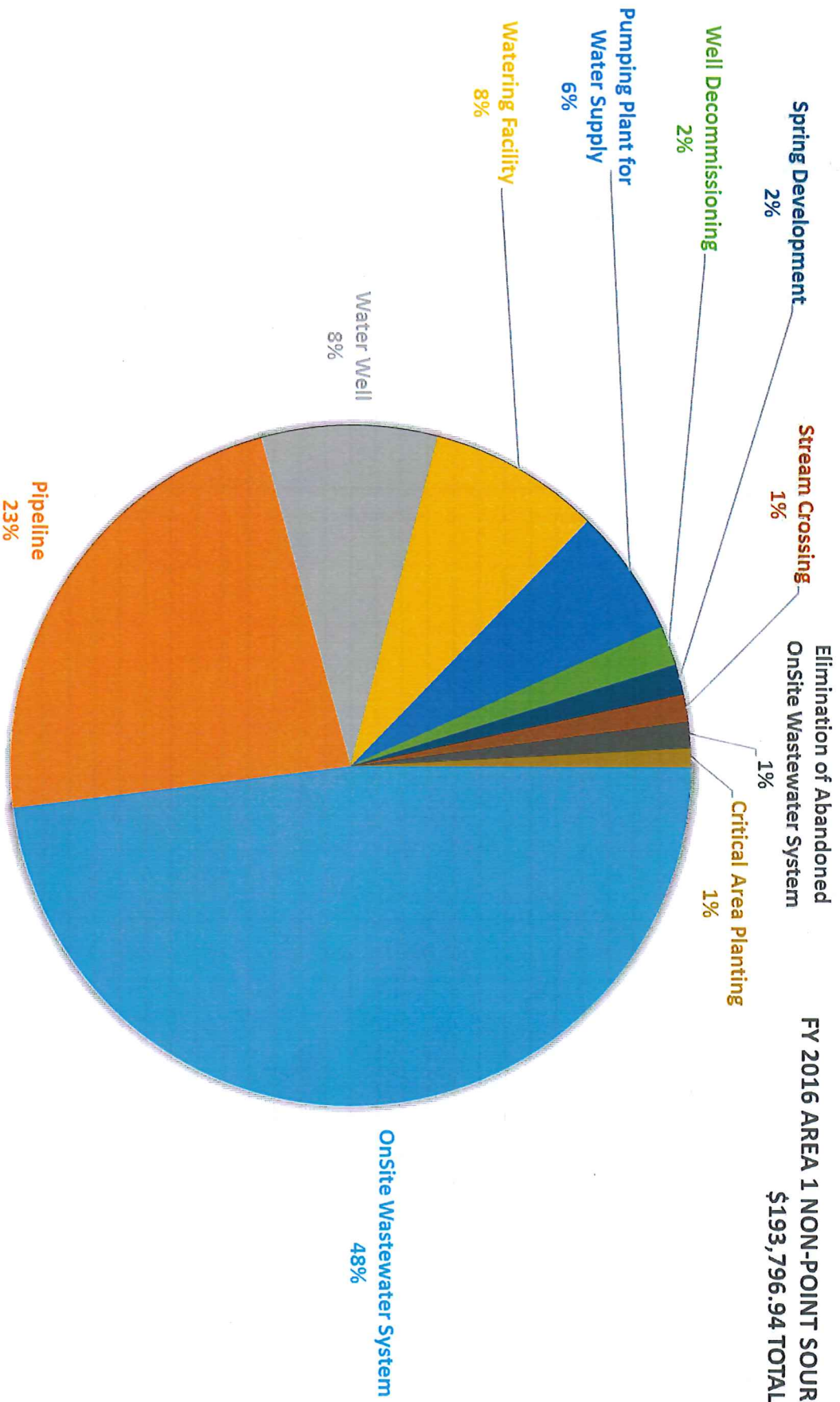


**FY 2016 STATE WIDE WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE
\$1,688,645.75 TOTAL**

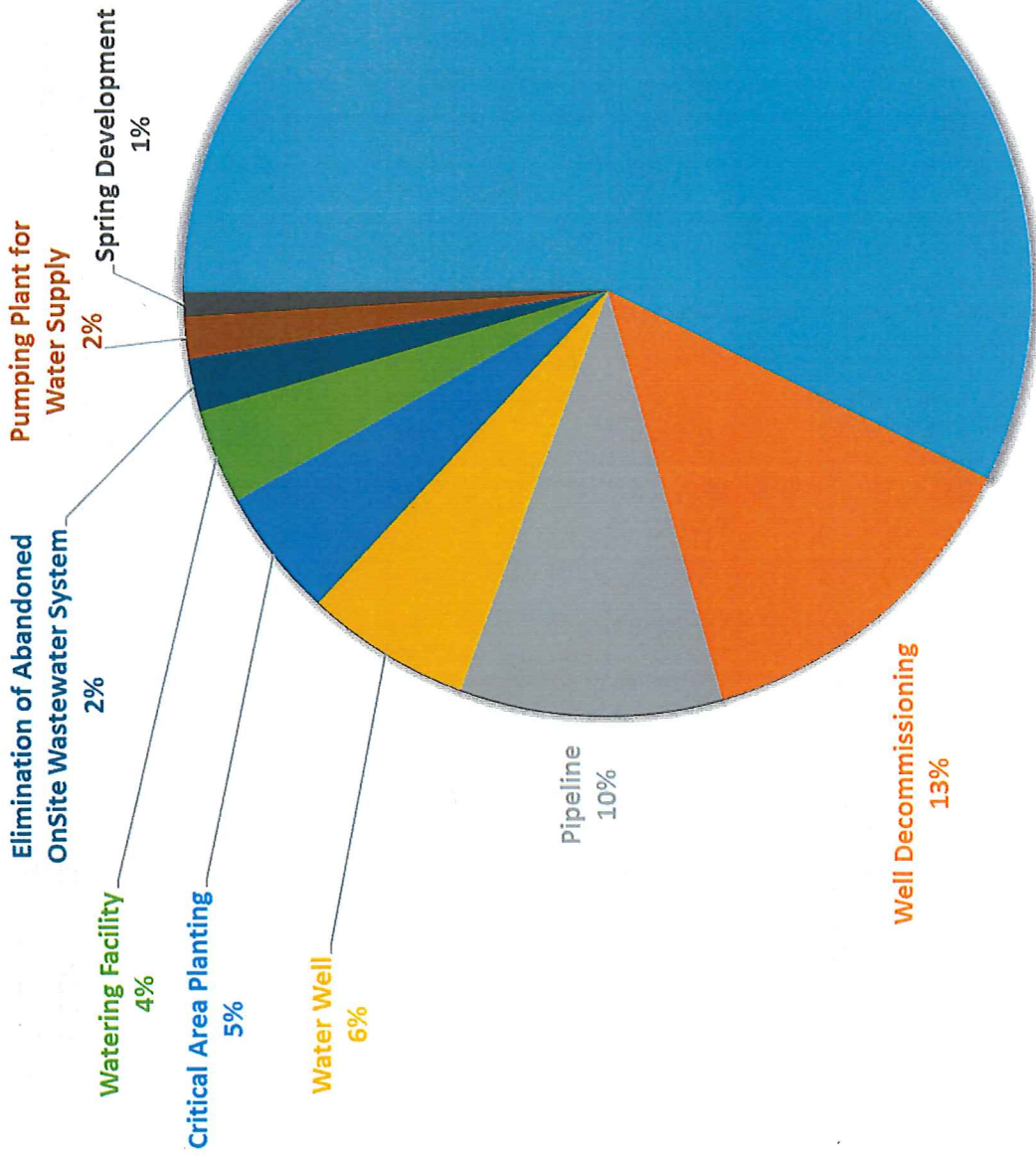


FY 2016 State Water Resources Cost-Share Practice	NRCS/DOC Practice Code
Terrace	600
Grassed Waterway or Outlet	412
Pumping Plant for Water Supply	533
Terrace Restoration	600r
Grassed Waterway Restoration	412r
Underground Outlet	620
Water Well	642
Diversion	362
Watering Facility	614
Pipeline	516
Forage and Biomass Planting	512
Fencing	382
Range Planting	550
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Critical Area Planting	342
Mulching	484
Pond Restoration	378r
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Pond	378
Herbaceous Weed Control	315
Irrigation System, Trickle	441
Watering Facility Replacement	614r
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380
Spring Development	574
Brush Control Management	314a
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650
Critical Area Planting	342
Field Border	386
Underground Outlet Restoration	620r
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Contour Buffer Strips Reseeding	332r
Critical Area Planting Reseeding	342r

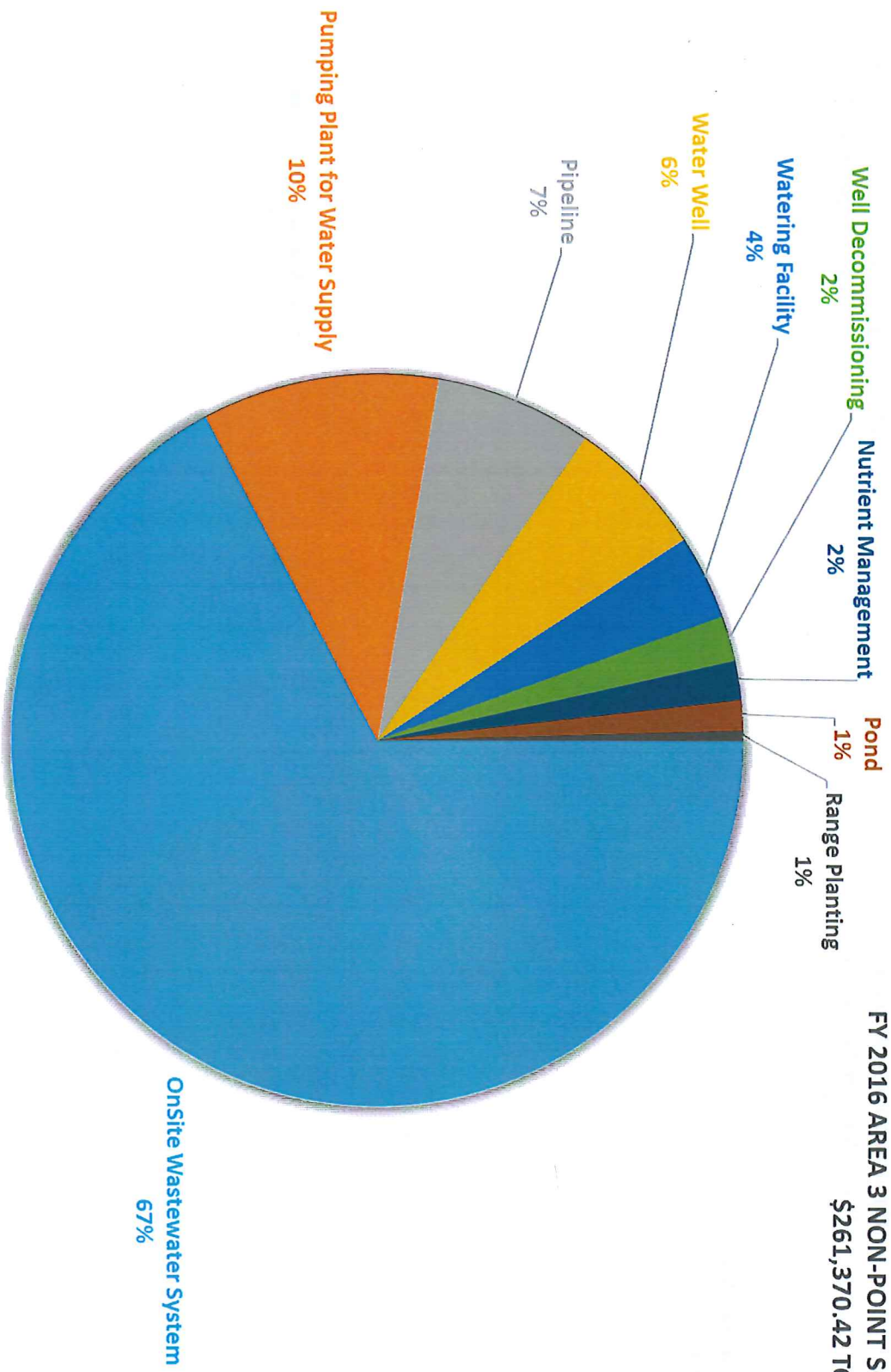
FY 2016 AREA 1 NON-POINT SOURCE COST-SHARE
\$193,796.94 TOTAL



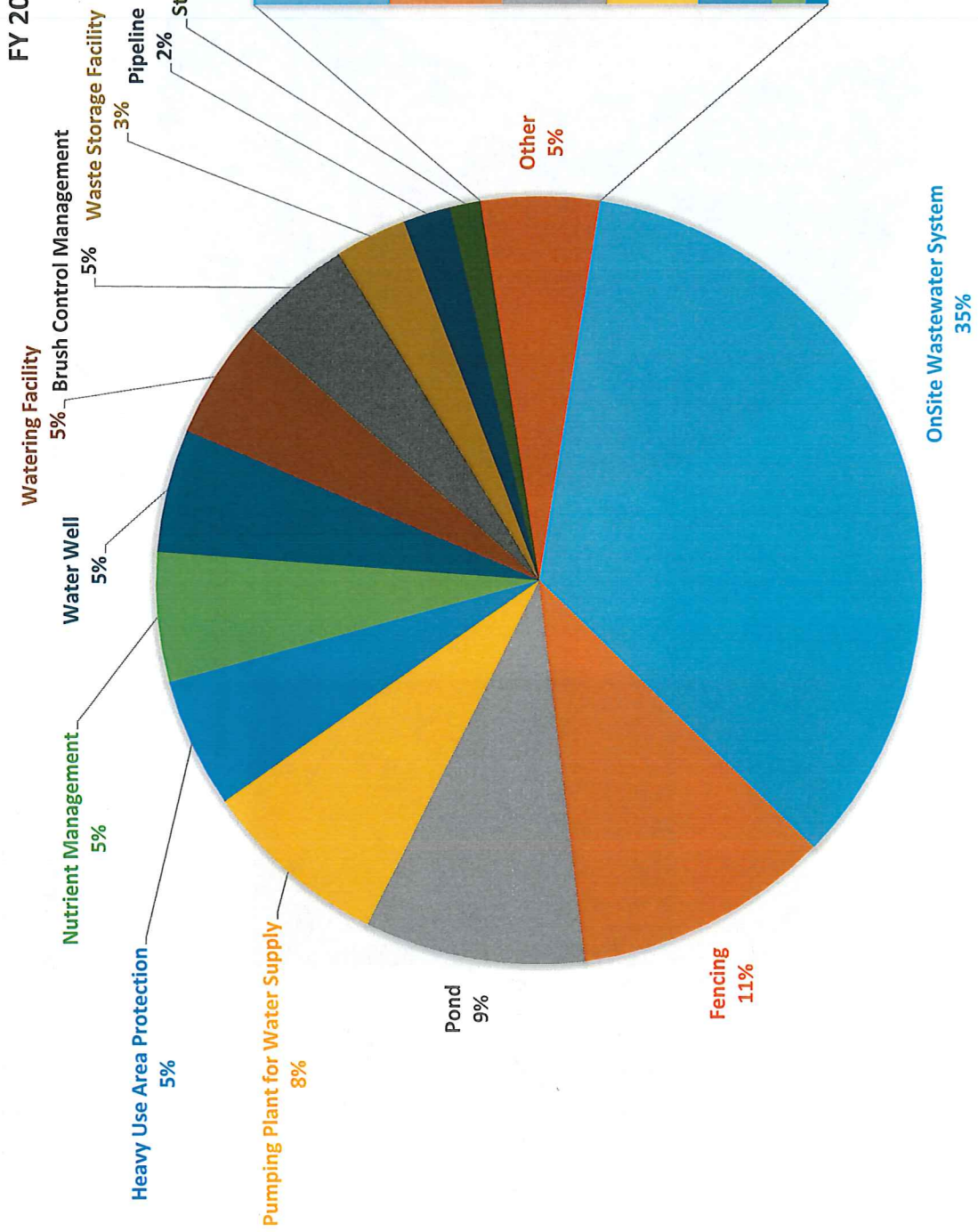
FY 2016 AREA 2 NON-POINT SOURCE COST-SHARE
\$196,665.83 TOTAL



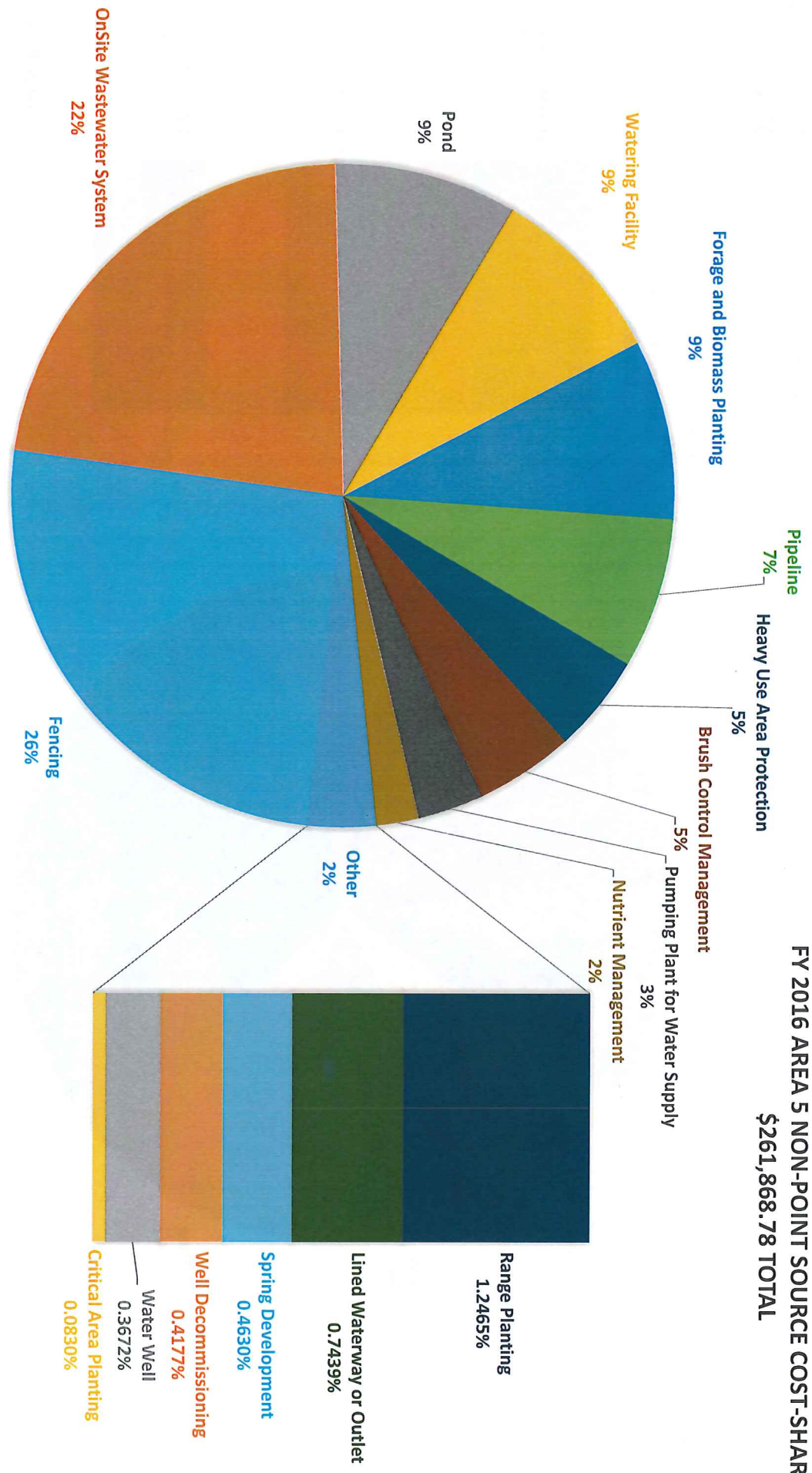
FY 2016 AREA 3 NON-POINT SOURCE COST-SHARE
\$261,370.42 TOTAL



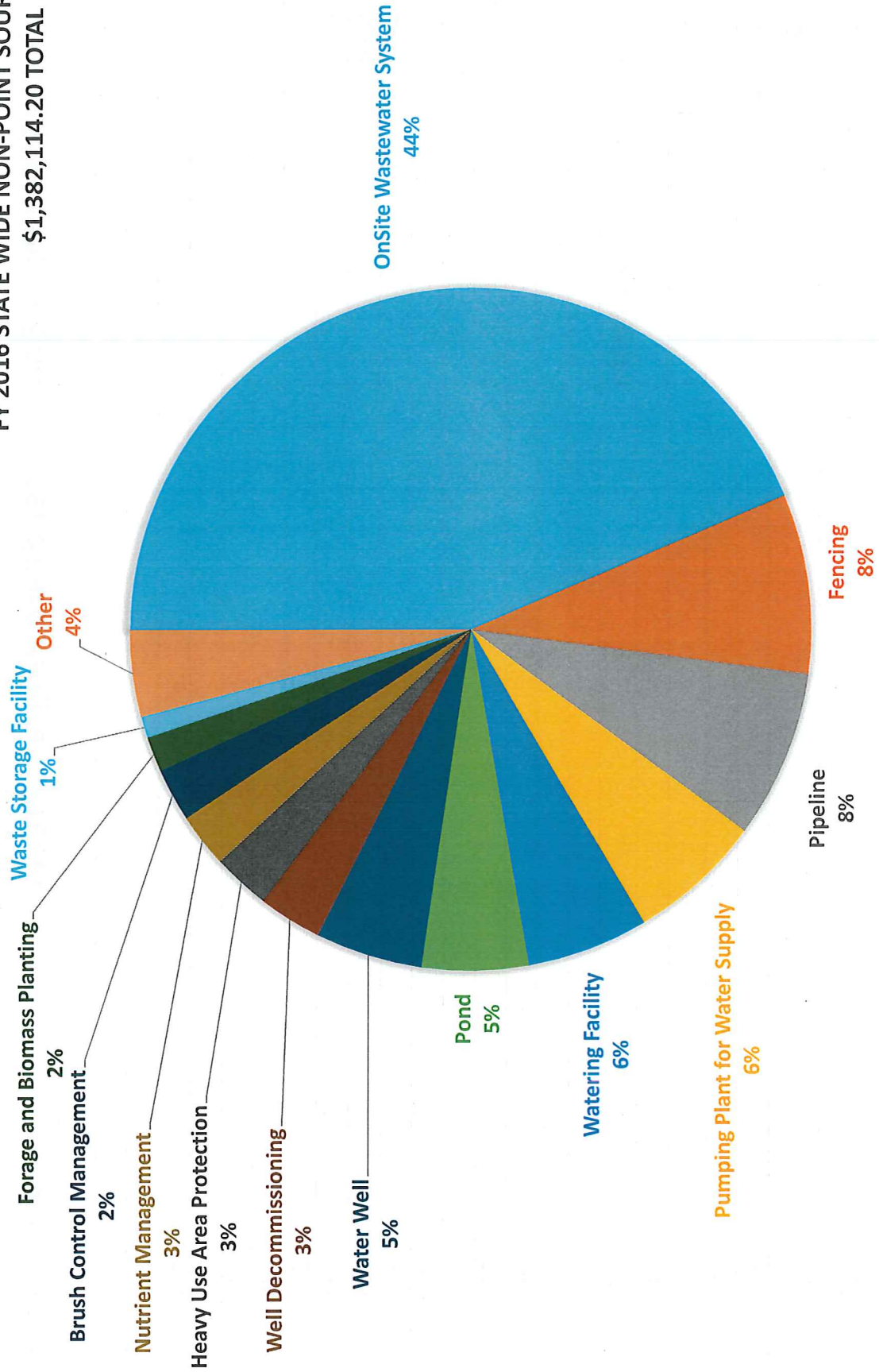
FY 2016 AREA 4 NON-POINT SOURCE COST-SHARE
\$468,412.23 TOTAL



**FY 2016 AREA 5 NON-POINT SOURCE COST-SHARE
\$261,868.78 TOTAL**



FY 2016 STATE WIDE NON-POINT SOURCE COST SHARE
\$1,382,114.20 TOTAL



FY 2016 Non-Point Source Cost-Share Program Practice

	NRCS/DOC Practice Code
On Site Wastewater System	110
Fencing	382
Pipeline	516
Pumping Plant for Water Supply	533
Watering Facility	614
Pond	378
Water Well	642
Well Decommissioning	351
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Nutrient Management	590
Brush Control Management	314a
Forage and Biomass Planting	512
Waste Storage Facility	313
Critical Area Planting	342
Spring Development	574
Stream Crossing	578
Elimination of Abandoned On Site Wastewater System	110a
Range Planting	550
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Underground Outlet	620
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468
Unpermitted Dump Site Remediation	120

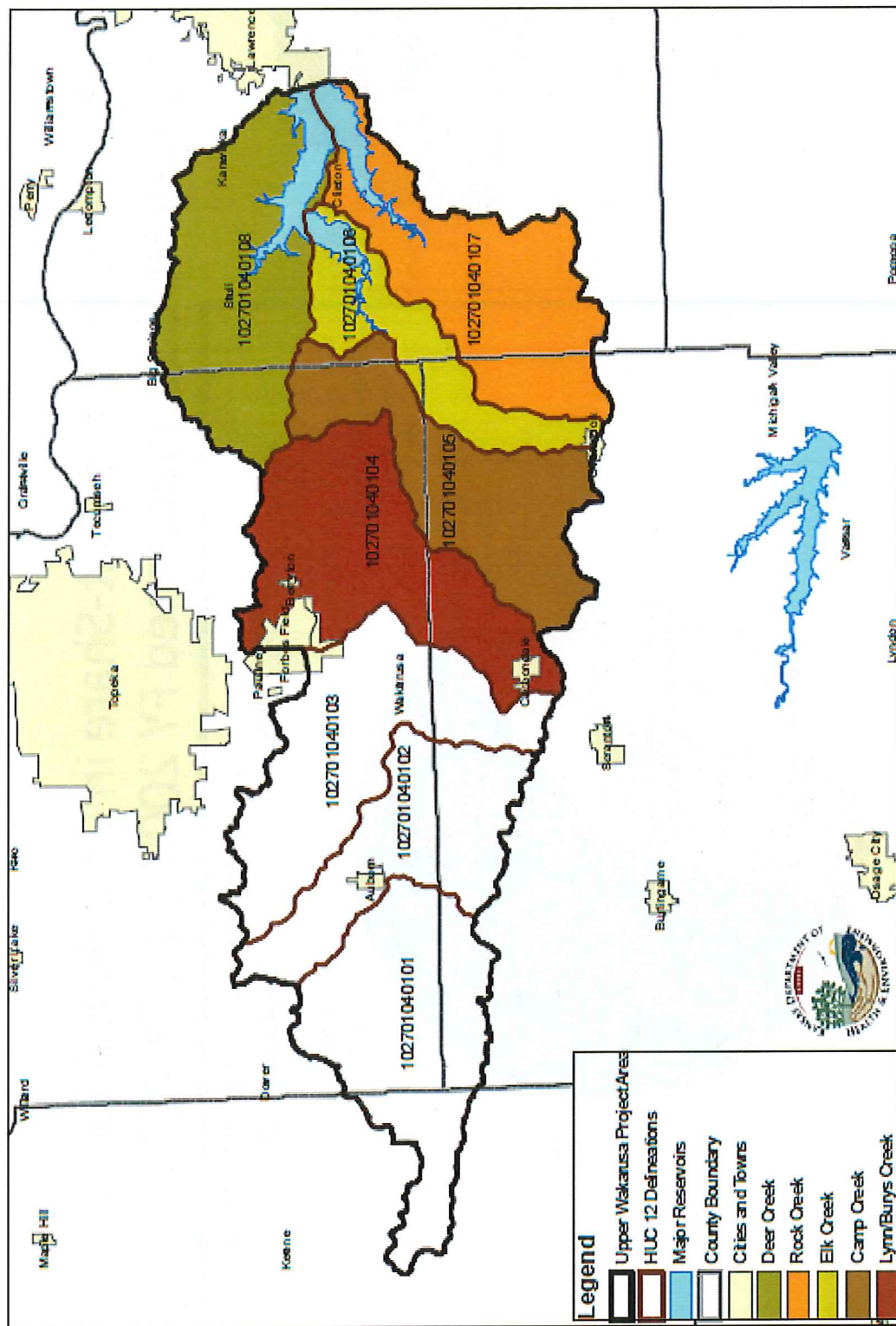
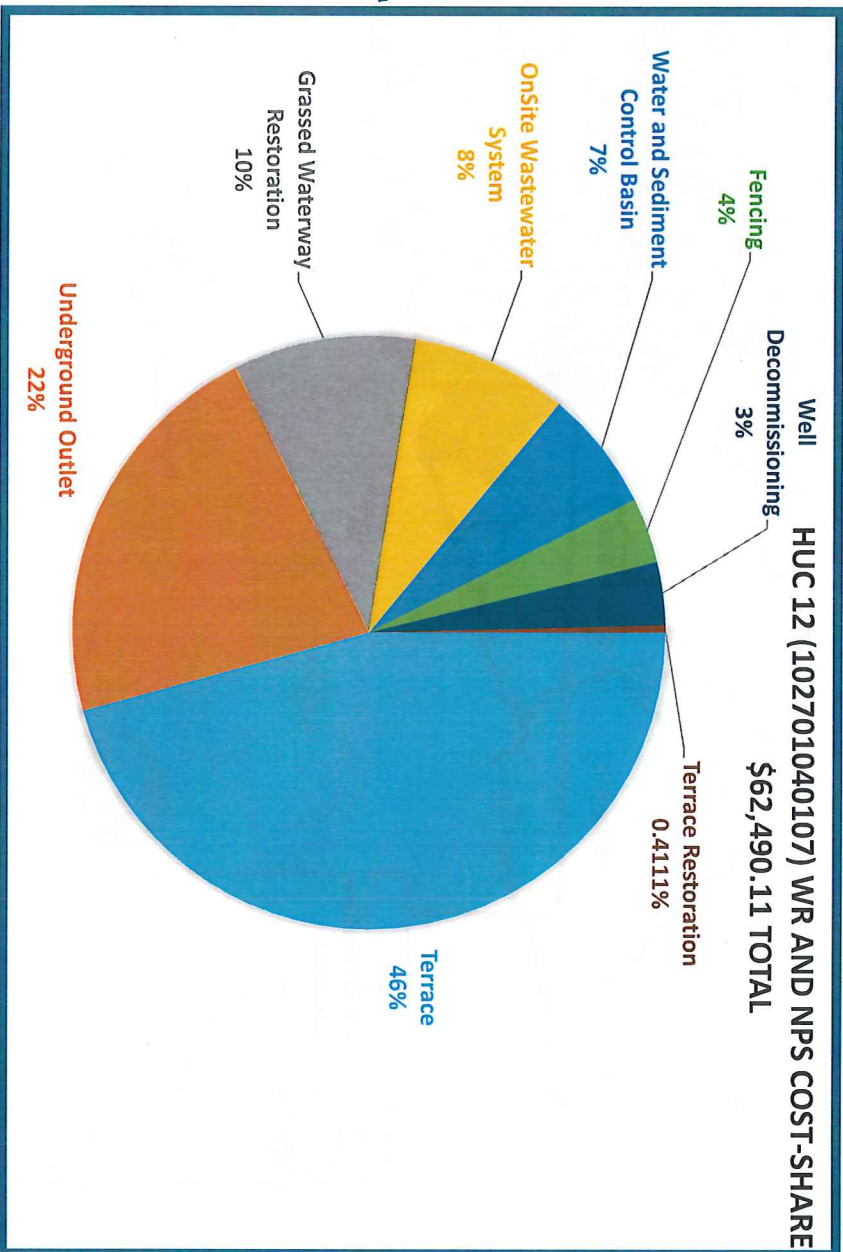
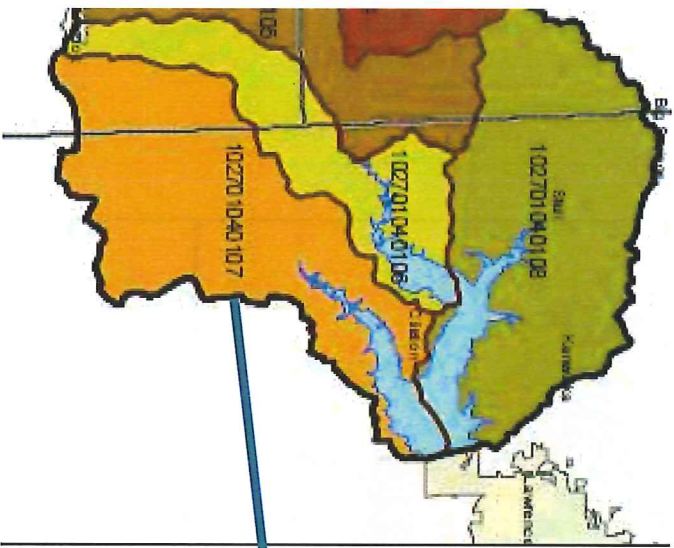
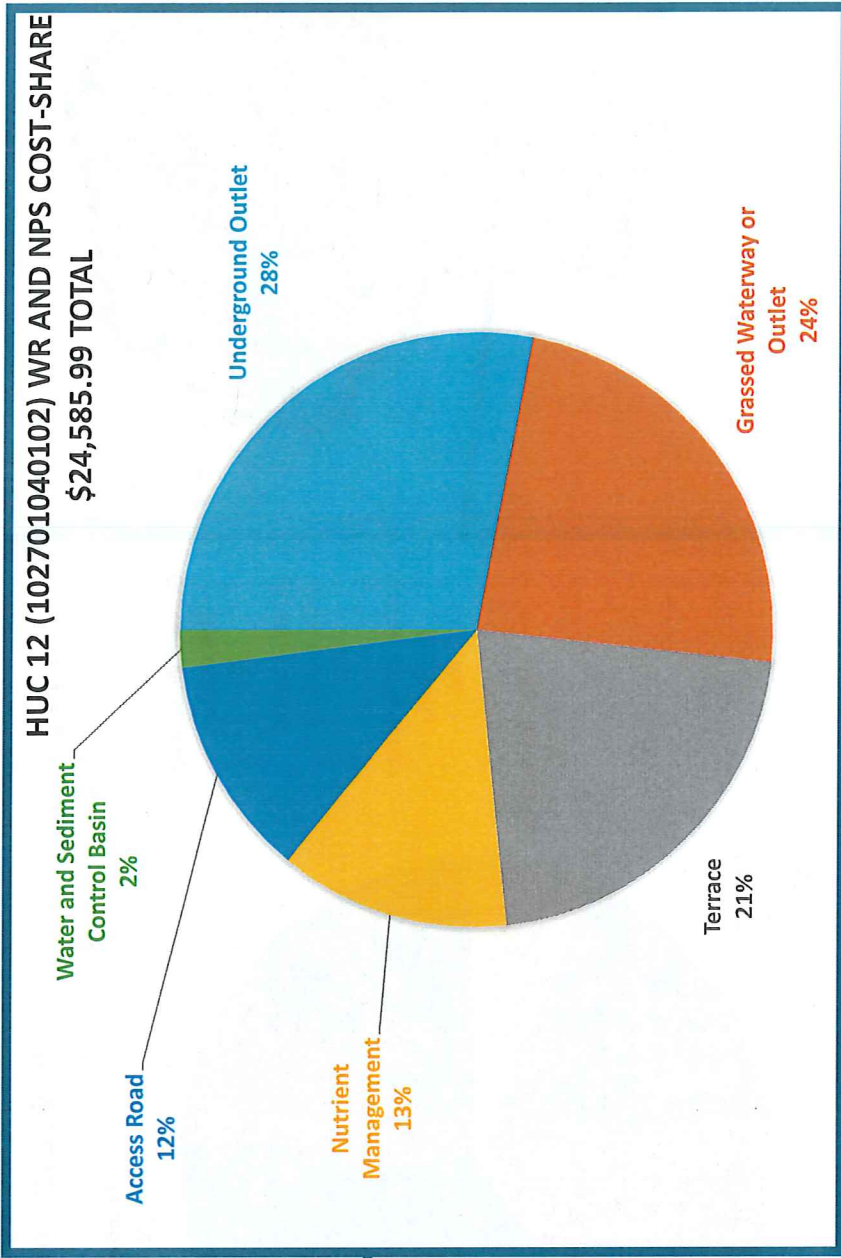
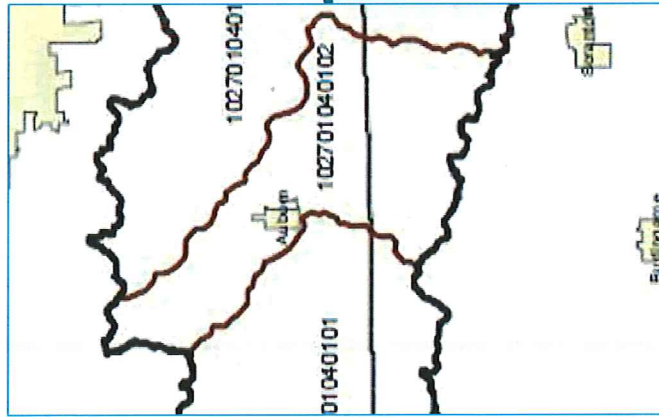


Figure 3.1. Priority subwatersheds in the Upper Wakarusa watershed.

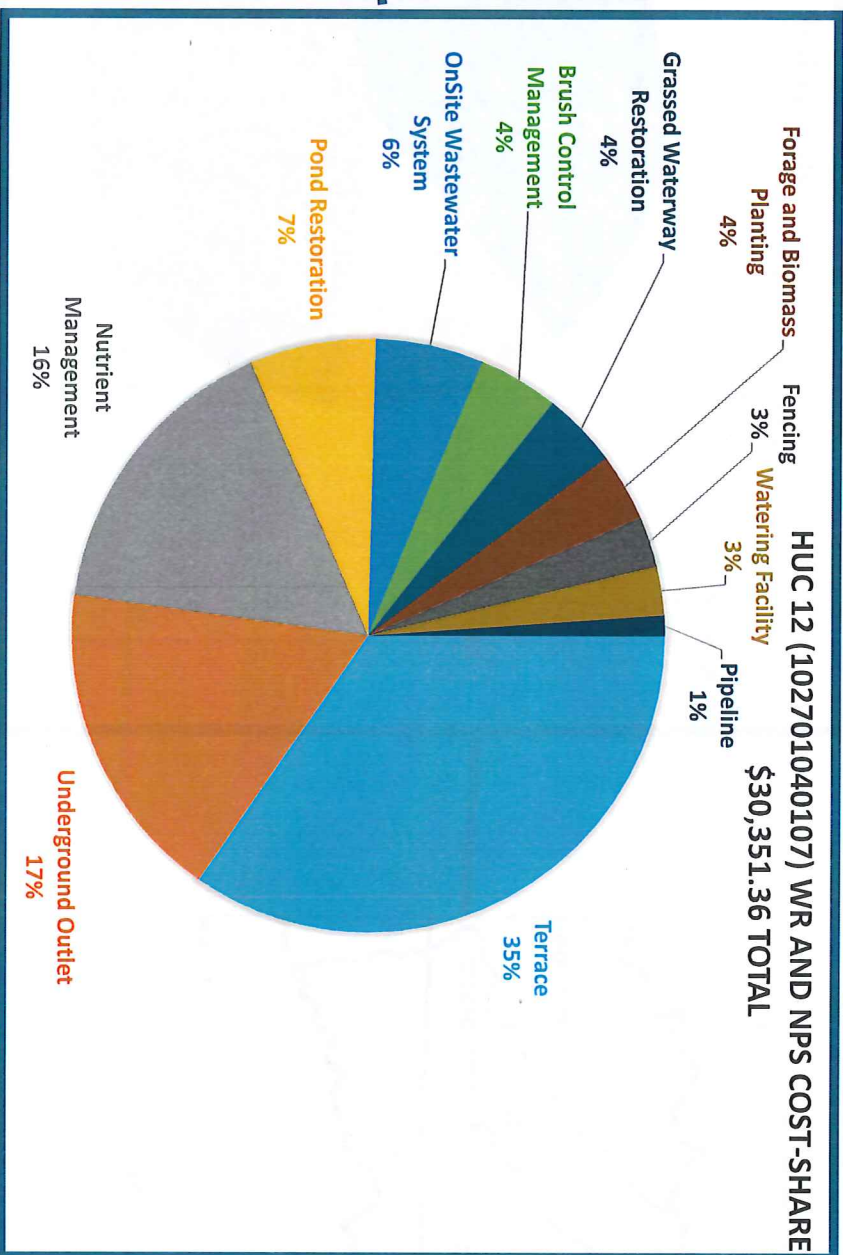
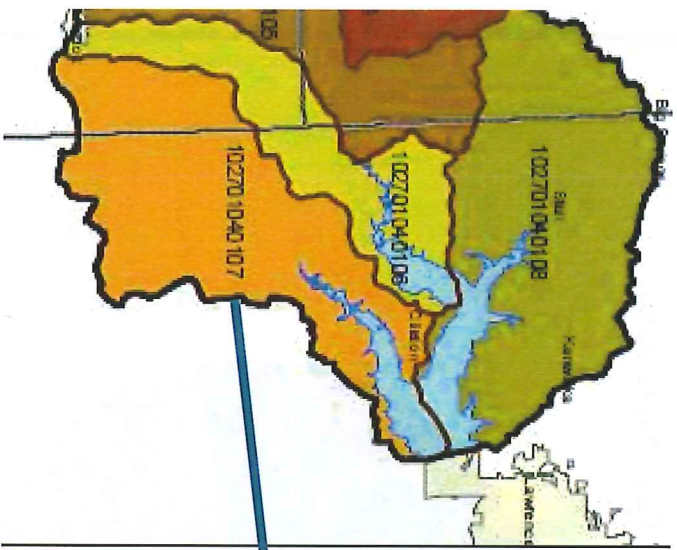
Looking at 5 years of State Cost-Share in One High Priority 9 Element Plan HUC 12 Watershed FY 2007 thru FY 2011



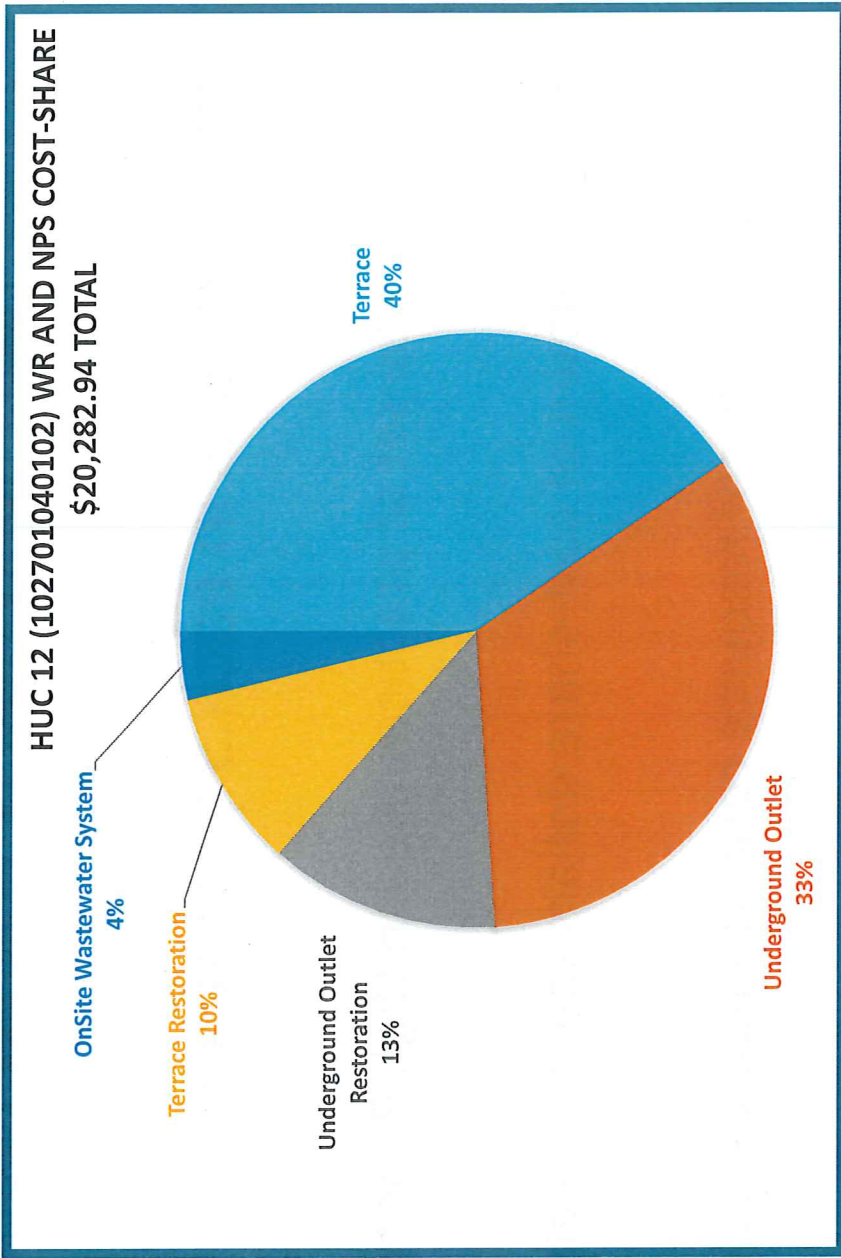
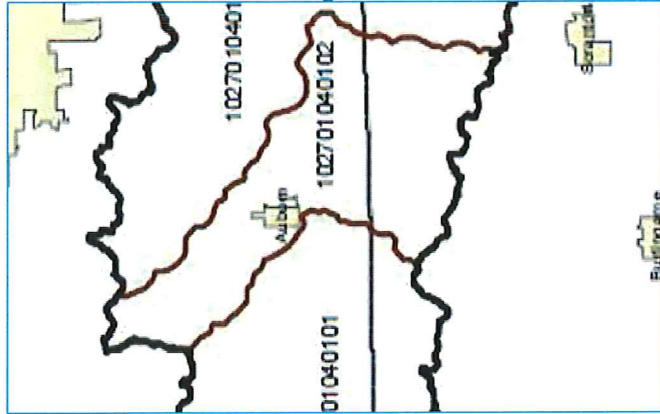
Looking at 5 years of State Cost-Share in One Lower Priority 9 Element Plan HUC 12 Watershed FY 2007 thru FY 2011



Looking at 5 years of State Cost-Share in One High Priority 9 Element Plan HUC 12 Watershed FY 2012 thru FY 2016



Looking at 5 years of State Cost-Share in One Lower Priority 9 Element Plan HUC 12 Watershed FY 2012 thru FY 2016



State Cost-Share FY 2007 thru FY 2011 and
FY 2012 thru FY 2016
High Priority HUC 12 vs Lower Priority HUC 12

Similar Results in each 5 year span:

- More diverse set of practices used in High Priority Area
- Higher amount of cost-share dollars spent in High Priority Area
- Greater number of resource concerns addressed in High Priority Area

2017 Conservation Districts Annual Meeting Information

COUNTY	DATE AND TIME	RSVP	MEETING LOCATION	SPEAKER/PRESENTER	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER'S TELEPHONE	FEE
Allen	February 15 2017 06:30 PM	February 06 2017	Dr. John Silas Bass North Community Center-505 N. Buckeye, Iola, KS 66749	Delbert Shields	Dinner, Annual Meeting, Election, Banker & Poster Awards followed by Cowboy Poet Singer/Song Writer/RFDTV Ride Across America TV Host & Door Prizes	(620) 473-2197	\$200.00
Anderson	February 01 2017 06:00 PM		Saint Rose School 520 East 4th Garnett, Kansas		Overview of past years activities and award winners		
Atchison	February 09 2017 06:00 PM	February 01 2017	ACCHS Effingham, Ks		dinner, business meeting, poster and banker awards		
Barber	January 14 2017 06:00 PM	January 09 2017	Heritage Center Medicine Lodge, KS	Eric Banks	Bankers Awards		
Barton	January 14 2017 06:30 PM	January 06 2017	Barton Community College		door prizes, business reports, awards		
Bourbon	January 21 2017 06:00 PM		Uniontown High School Commons Uniontown, Ks	Ashley Stiffarm	Dinner, conservation awards, poster awards	(785) 370-5255	
Brown	February 15 2017 11:00 AM	February 10 2017	Fisher Community Center, 201 E Iowa St. Hiawatha Ks. 66434		Recap 2016, & Present Banker's Awards to recipients		
Butler	February 02 2017 06:00 PM	January 26 2017	The Benton Church, 14300 SW 20th, Benton, KS	Pending			
Chase	February 07 2017 06:00 PM	January 27 2017	Community Building Cottonwood Falls Kansas	Jeff Davidson	Awards and Entertainment		
Chautauqua	February 13 2017 06:00 PM	February 10 2017	Sedan Country Club, Sedan, KS		Dinner & Awards		
Cherokee	February 27 2017 06:00 PM		Columbus Unified High School Cafeteria and Auditorium, 124 South High School Ave, Columbus, KS		Business Meeting, Election of Supervisors, Presentation of Conservation Award, and Drawing for Door Prizes		
Cheyenne	February 20 2017 06:00 PM		St. Francis Community High School		Meal, Awards presented to KBA, Poster Contest Winners and Doorprizes		
Clark	February 13 2017 06:30 PM	February 06 2017	Minneola Civic Connection, Minneola				

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Clay	February 06 2017 06:30 PM	February 01 2017	United Methodist Family Life Center 921 5th St Clay Center KS 67432	Thad Beach	Meal, awards, and entertainment by Thad Beach	(785) 577-5182	350
Cloud	February 02 2017 06:00 PM	January 26 2017	Catholic Parish Hall, 307 East 5th Street, Concordia, Kansas 66901	CCCC Choir	A free meal will be furnished, followed by our meeting and entertainment.	(785) 243-1345	0.00
Coffey	February 01 2017 06:00 PM	January 20 2017	Burlington High School		Conservation Awards Program		
Comanche	January 14 2017 06:30 PM	January 03 2017	Coldwater Veterans Building		Annual Business Meeting and Bankers Award		
Cowley	February 09 2017 06:00 PM	February 01 2017	Baden Square, 700 Gary St., Winfield, KS 67156		Cowley County Conservation District Annual Program and Meeting		0.00
Crawford	February 18 2017 06:00 PM		Girard High School Cafeteria		Present Bankers Award, Continued Conservation Award, Poster & Essay Awards, and Election of Board Members		
Decatur	February 06 2017 06:30 PM	January 25 2017	Gateway Civic Center 1 Morgan Drive Oberlin, KS		Banker Awards; Poster Awards; Financials of DCCD		
Dickinson	February 09 2017 06:00 PM		619 N Rogers St Abilene, KS 67410		Annual Business Meeting, Election, and Awards Dinner		
Doniphan	January 30 2017 06:00 PM	January 20 2017	Troy Community Center, 1225 Last Chance Rd, Troy, KS	none	Poster Contest awards, Kansas Banker awards, supper, brief business meeting.		na
Douglas	February 09 2017 06:00 PM	February 02 2017	2110 Harper St. Lawrence, KS		Annual meeting and banker's awards		0
Edwards	February 18 2017 06:30 PM		1305 S Niles Ave Kinsley, KS 67547	McKinney Sisters	Business Meeting, KBA, Poster Contest Awards		Donation
Elk	February 15 2017 06:00 PM	February 10 2017	Cox Building, Corner of Washington and Wabash, Howard, KS		Dinner and Awards		
Ellis	January 26 2017 06:30 PM	January 20 2017	2590 Hwy 40, Rose Garden Ballroom, Hays, KS	Trilogy	Singing group from Victoria, KS		250.00
Ellsworth	January 30 2017 06:00 PM	January 23 2017	American Legion, East Highway 40		Conservation Awards		
Finney	February 16 2017 09:30 AM	February 09 2017	4-H Building, Finney County Fairgrounds		*Date & Agenda are Tentative* Drones in Agriculture, Program Updates and Bankers Awards		

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Ford	February 04 2017 06:00 PM	January 27 2017	Ford Co. 4-H Fair Bldg., 901 W. Park Street, Dodge City	Dave Webb	Kansas Characters Program	(620) 622-7375	200.00 - Total Fee
Franklin	January 19 2017 12:00 PM	January 12 2017	Franklin Co Fair Grounds		annual business meeting and bankers awards		
Geary	January 26 2017 06:30 PM	January 20 2017	Geary County Senior Center Spring Valley Road, Junction City, KS		Contest winner presentations and Award Winner presentation		
Gove	February 06 2017 07:00 PM	January 29 2017	American Legion Grainfield, Kansas	Tanya Allemang			
Graham	January 23 2017 06:00 PM	January 13 2017	1 Ringneck DR - Hill City, KS (Hill City JR- SR High School Auditorium / Cafeteria)	Un-called 4	2016 Annual reports / business / music entertainment / awards	(785) 421-2017	donation
Grant	January 20 2017 12:00 PM		524 S Main Ulysses KS Board Room				.00
Gray	February 18 2017 06:30 PM	February 13 2017	Gray Co Rec Center, Newman Bldg. 17002 US Hwy 50, Cimarron, KS	Pending	KBA awards, poster contest awards, scholarship awards, dinner, presenter, and business meeting		
Greeley	February 13 2017 06:00 PM	February 03 2017	4-H Building - Tribune Ks	Barry Ward	Country Music	(303) 243-1978	
Greenwood	January 28 2017 06:00 AM	January 25 2017	Eureka High School, Eureka, KS		meal, present awards, meeting and election of board members		0
Hamilton	February 13 2017 12:00 PM		Hamilton County Fairgrounds				
Harper	February 27 2017 06:30 PM		Municipal Hall -130 E Main St., Anthony, KS 67003	Not determined	We All need Trees Festival/Fair Type Setting		
Harvey	February 06 2017 06:00 PM	February 01 2017	Halstead High School USD 440	Chance Hayes	Chance will be talking about weather and the changes over time	(316) 942-8483	0
Haskell	January 30 2017 12:00 PM	January 27 2016	Haskell County Fairgrounds Commercial Building				
Hodgeman	February 25 2017 06:00 PM	February 17 2017	Elks Plaza (High School), Hanston, Kansas	Scott Roberts / Storm Chaser	Dinner, Annual Meeting, Awards Program, Speaker	(316) 619-6376	
Jackson	February 15 2017 06:00 PM	February 08 2017	First United Methodist Church, 1401 West 4th Street, Holton, KS, 66436				

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Jefferson	January 25 2017 12:00 PM	January 20 2017	Colonial Acres - 8998 US 59 HWY, Oskaloosa, KS 66066	David Abramovitz	Meal, business meeting, presentation of banker awards	0.00
Jewell	February 15 2017 06:30 PM	February 08 2017	Community Building @ 214 N. High Street in Mankato, KS	Tom Jensen & Steph Thayer	Free Meal, Annual Report, Election, Awards, Poster Contest Winners, Music Entertainment	
Johnson	January 10 2017 06:30 PM	January 05 2017	11811 S. Sunset Dr, Olathe KS 66061		Awards and Recap	
Kearny	January 23 2017 06:00 PM	January 18 2017	Deerfield Community Building, Deerfield Ks	John Klempa	Annual Meeting, Election, grassland, windbreak and bankers awards	donation
Kingman	January 23 2017 06:30 PM	January 17 2017	Kingman VFW - 126 N Main St.			
Kiowa	February 22 2017 06:30 PM	February 13 2017	600 West Lincoln Ave. Greensburg, KS	Banker Awards	Annual Business Meeting, Banker Awards and Poster Winners Recognized	0.00
Labette	January 28 2017 06:00 PM		Labette County High School 604 S. High School St. Altamont, Kansas		Business Meeting; Election of Supervisors; Presentation of KBA Conservation Award, Sharp Bros Seed Grassland Award, and KACD Poster Contest Winners Awards	
Lane	January 28 2017 06:00 PM	January 20 2017	St. Theresa Catholic Hall, 335 S. 1st, Dighton, KS	Sternberg Museum	Dinner, Annual Meeting, Awards Banquet, Entertainment	mileage
Leavenworth	January 28 2017 06:00 PM		Lansing Community Center, 800 Terrace, Lansing Ks.	OpWildLife	Wildlife management featuring live owls.	(785) 542-3625
Lincoln	February 11 2017 06:00 PM	February 01 2017	Lincoln Elementary School Gymnasium, 304 S. 4th Street, Lincoln, KS	Geff Dawson	KFRM Program "Echoes of the Trail" - Cowboy Poetry	(785) 765-2357
Linn	February 08 2017 06:30 PM	February 03 2017	Jayhawk Elementary, Mound City, KS	FFA Chapters	Meal, Business Meeting, Awards Program	0.00
Logan	January 30 2017 07:00 PM		Buffalo Bill Center, Oakley			
Lyon	February 06 2017 06:00 PM	January 27 2017	Anderson Building Lyon County Fair Grounds Emporia, KS	Jeff Davidson	Awards & Entertainment	
Marion	February 18 2017 06:30 PM	February 09 2017	105 Eastmoor Drive, Marion, Ks.	Theresa Hoffman	Program on old Barns	(620) 382-8830
Marshall	January 18 2017 06:30 PM	January 13 2017	American Legion 310 Veterans Memorial Drive Marysville KS	NA	Conservation & poster contest awards	NA

Tom Jensen
Steph Thayer

McPherson	January 23 2017 06:30 PM	January 18 2017	4-H Building, 710 W. Woodside, McPherson KS	Larry Hatteberg	Kansas People and Places	
Meade	February 18 2017 06:00 PM	February 03 2017	Meade High School	pending		
Miami	January 17 2017 06:00 PM	January 10 2017	Town Square, 15 West Wea St, Paola, KS	Lesley Rigney	Dinner; Annual Meeting; Election; Banker, Grassland, Buffer Awards; Hillsdale Watershed Project	(913) 294-3751
Mitchell	February 15 2017 06:30 PM	February 08 2017	Plum Creek Restaurant 121 W Court St. Beloit, KS 67420			
Montgomery	February 09 2017 06:00 AM	January 30 2017	Independence High School cafeteria	Derick Schmidt		0
Morris	January 28 2017 06:30 PM	January 25 2017	Morris County Community (4-H) Center - 614 U.S. Hwy 56, Council Grove	Tallgrass Express String Band	American Roots Music from the Tallgrass Prairie	(620) 273-8301
Morton	February 25 2017 07:00 PM	February 13 2017	Morton County Civic Center 400 Orchard St.	Pending	Morton County Conservation District Annual Program and Meeting	
Nemaha	February 16 2017 06:00 PM		Nemaha County Community Building 1600 Community Dr Seneca KS 66538		Meal 6 pm Meeting 7 pm Business Meeting, Election of Supervisors, KACDBankers Awards, Poster & Limerick Awards	(785) 336-2186
Neosho	February 06 2017 06:00 PM		Tony's Function Junction, 10300 Hwy 59, Erie			
Ness	February 20 2017 06:30 PM	February 13 2017	Sacred Heart School Gym	Pending		
Norton	January 16 2017 06:00 PM	January 11 2017	St. Francis Parish Hall - Norton, KS		Will have power of Banker Awards Winners & recognize poster winners	
Osage	January 30 2017 06:00 PM	January 25 2017	Osage City School lunchroom, 420 S 4th St, Osage City	none	presentation of banker/conservation district awards and poster & limerick contest awards	
Osborne	January 30 2017 06:30 PM	January 20 2016	St. Aloysius Parish Center, 219 N. Elm, Osborne, Kansas.	pending	Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony	
Ottawa	January 28 2017 06:00 PM	January 20 2017	Minneapolis Grade School, 312 Della, Minneapolis KS 67467	The McKinney Sisters (e-mail: themckinneysisters@gmail.com)	poster/essay awards, bankers tour awards	Donation

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Pawnee	January 28 2017 06:00 PM	January 20 2017	Haas Building						
Phillips	February 11 2017 06:30 AM	February 08 2017	Fairgrounds building north of Phillipsburg	Ken Rahjes		Meeting and presentation of awards		0	
Pottawatomie	January 23 2017 06:00 PM	January 17 2017	St. Columbkille Parish Hall in Blaine, Kansas			Business Meeting and Supervisor Election, Speech Contest winner, State Essay Contest winner, Poster, Limerick and Essay awards, Banker Award and Grassland Award Presentations			
Pratt	January 30 2017 06:30 PM	January 23 2017	Pratt Area 4-H Center, 81 Lake Road, Pratt, KS 67124			Dinner then business meeting, Banker Awards and poster, essay and limerick winners recognition			
Rawlins	January 17 2017 06:00 PM	January 06 2017	Columbian Hall, Lake Road, Atwood, KS 67730	Jami Seirer, Area Forester		Cake and Punch for 70th year, Meal, Awards presented to KBA, Poster Contest Winners and speaker			
Reno	February 09 2017 06:00 PM	February 02 2017	South Hutchinson Community Center, 101 W. Ave C, South Hutch, KS 67505	n/a		Present conservation awards, fellowship with customers, give doorprizes			
Republic	January 26 2017 06:00 PM	January 23 2017	Cuba Community Hall, Main Street, Cuba, Kansas	Republic County Show Choir		Musical Presentation	(785) 527-2281	Donation	
Rice	January 23 2017 06:00 PM		American Legion in Little River, Kansas						
Riley	February 02 2017 06:30 PM	February 01 2017	Pottorf Hall Manhattan, KS	Kevin Larson		Historical churches of Riley county		0	
Rooks	February 13 2017 06:30 PM	February 06 2017	Stockton High School, Stockton, KS			Bankers Awards and Poster Contest			
Rush	January 28 2017 06:30 PM	January 23 2017	St. Michael's Parish Center, 917 Lincoln St, LaCrosse			Entertainment TBA, 2016 Accom Presentation and Presentation of Banker Awards and Poster Winners			
Russell	February 13 2017 06:30 PM	January 30 2016	4-H Building Russell, KS			Banker Winners, Poster & Limerick Winners			
Saline	January 19 2017 06:30 PM	January 13 2017	Webster Conference Center			Report, Business Meeting, Entertainment			
Scott	February 02 2017 12:00 PM	December 05 2016	Scott County Free Fair - Exhibit Building			Meal and meeting			
Sedgwick									
Seward	January 14 2017 06:30 PM	January 10 2017	Seward County Community College 1801 N. Kansas Ave. Liberal Ks	Finney County Zoo		program on their animals		\$228.00	

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Shawnee	February 09 2017 06:30 PM	February 01 2017	KS Historical Society & Museum, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka	Conservation awards and highlight 2016 District activities		
Sheridan	January 30 2017 12:00 PM		Sheridan Co. 4-H Building	pending		
Sherman	February 13 2017 12:00 PM	February 01 2017	1006 Center Street Goodland, KS 67735	NRCS Programs	(785) 899-3070	0.00
Smith	February 06 2017 06:30 PM	January 30 2017	Smith Center National Guard Amory, 101 Amory Rd, Smith Center, KS 66967			
Stafford	February 13 2017 07:00 PM		USDA BOARD ROOM @ 804 E FIRST AVE, ST JOHN KS	REVIEW OF FISCAL REPORT		
Stanton	January 24 2017 06:00 PM	January 20 2017	4-H Building, Johnson, Kansas	meal, windbreak award, poster & coloring contest awards		
Stevens	February 25 2017 06:30 PM	February 15 2017	Memorial Hall, 6th 7 Monroe, Hugoton, KS 67951	Appreciation Banquet, Business & Election.		expenses
Summer	February 18 2017 06:00 AM	February 10 2017	Raymond Frye Complex 320 N Jefferson Wellington KS	Possible Pollinator Program Producer Presentation		
Thomas	February 08 2017 12:00 PM	January 31 2017	Colby Community Building, Little Theatre	Producer Appreciation Meal, Business Meeting, KBA Awards Presentation		0.00
Trego	February 13 2017 07:00 PM		Western Cooperative Electric Meeting Room			
Wabaunsee	January 19 2017 06:30 PM	January 12 2017	Wabaunsee High School Commons Area, Alma	meal, Recognizing 2016 Conserv Award Winners & Poster Contest Winners		
Wallace	January 23 2017 06:00 PM	January 06 2017	Wallace County High School Commons Area, Sharon Springs	annual meeting, conservation awards, musical entertainment		
Washington	February 04 2017 06:30 PM		Washington County High School Gymnasium	Conservation and Poster Awards		
Wichita	January 30 2017 06:30 PM	January 25 2017	Leoti Community Building	History of Kansas through verse and song.	(620) 583-4437	\$350 + expenses

Shawnee

NRCS

Terry Clardy

Brook

Prince

Wilson	January 21 2017 06:30 PM	January 10 2017	Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson, Fredonia KS 66736	Supervisors	Poster Winners, Teacher, Bankers' Award and Grasslands Winner Recognition	0
Woodson	February 04 2017 06:30 PM		Community Building South Fry Street Yates Center, KS	None	72nd Annual Meeting and Meal	None
Wyandotte	February 09 2017 06:30 PM	February 01 2017	323 n. 3rd street		Musics, wildlife	

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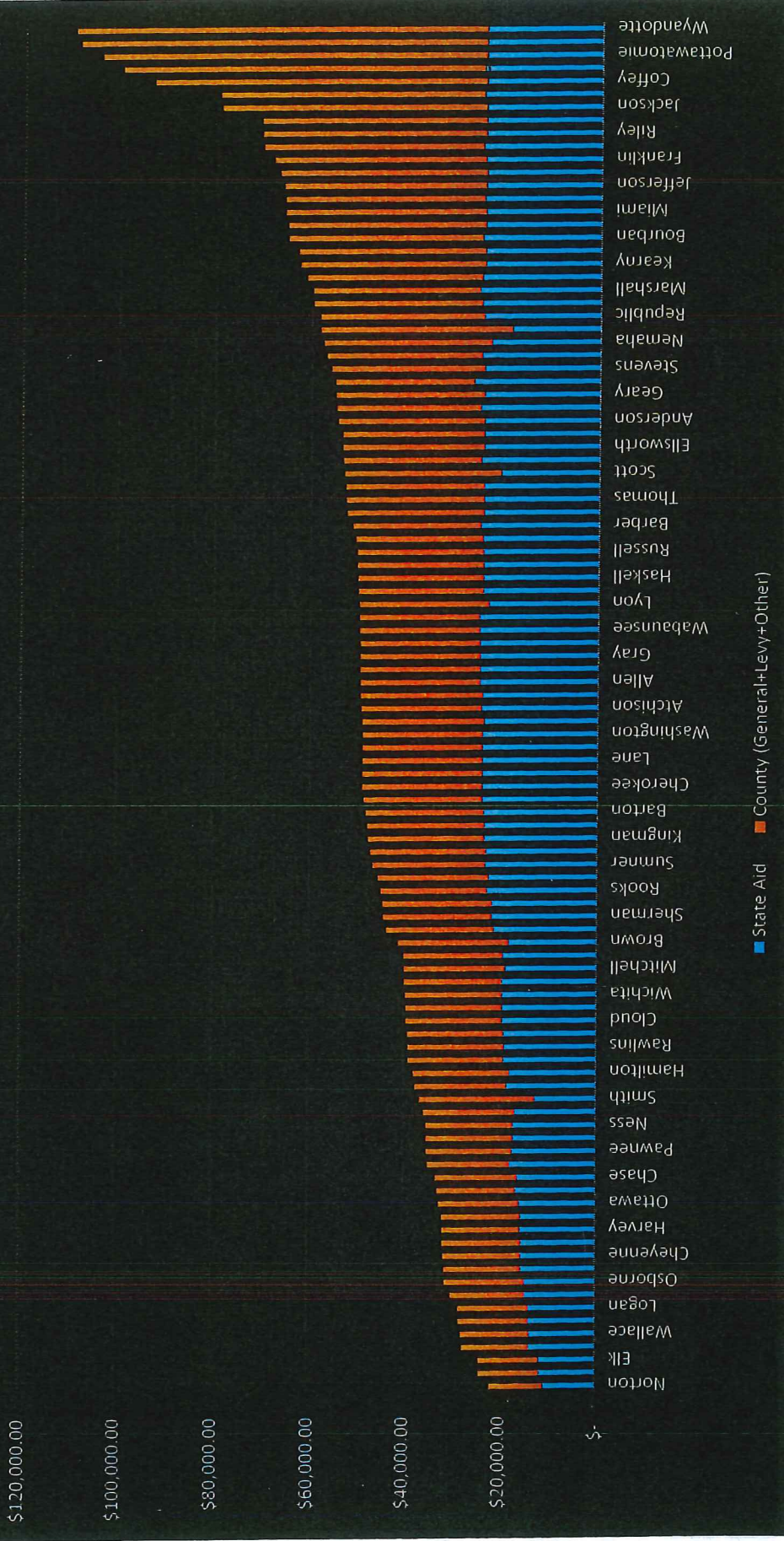
Agenda 2017 SCC Spring Workshops

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
9:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION	Division of Conservation (DOC)
9:15 a.m.	Welcome / Introductions / Comments	SCC Area Commissioner
9:35 a.m.	DOC Report / Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Update • FY 2018 State Cost-Share Program Revisions • CSIMS 2.0 Upgrade 	DOC Staff
10:25 a.m.	NRCS Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs Update • Budget Update 	Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m.	KACD Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Update • 2017 NACD & 2017 KACD Convention • State Fair Booth – Agriland • Employees Organization Report 	Jim Krueger, KACD Executive Director Area KACD-EO Representative
11:30 a.m.	Kansas Forestry Topics (Areas I & II)	Kansas Forest Service, Bob Atchison
11:30 a.m.	Kansas Forestry Topics (Area III)	Kansas Forest Service, Dennis Carlson
11:30 a.m.	Kansas Forestry Topics (Areas IV & V)	Kansas Forest Service, Larry Biles & Jarran Tindle
12:00 p.m.	Lunch catered - Attendees will pay for catered meal at site.	
1:00 p.m.	Water Vision / RAC's	Kansas Water Office
1:30 p.m.	Playa Lakes – Wetlands Protection & Restoration (Areas I, II & III)	DOC Staff
1:30 p.m.	Streambank Stabilization (Areas IV & V)	DOC Staff
2:00 p.m.	Irrigation Technology (Area I)	KSU Extension, Freddie Lamm
2:00 p.m.	Irrigation Technology (Area II)	KSU Extension, Jonathan Aguilar
2:00 p.m.	Cover Crop Study (Areas III & IV)	KSU Extension, Nathan Nelson
2:00 p.m.	Turkey Litter Study (Area V)	KSU Extension, Dan Sweeney
2:30 p.m.	State Aid to Conservation Districts	DOC Staff
3:00 p.m.	Open discussion/participation	ALL
3:15 p.m.	ADJOURN	SCC Area Commissioner

2017 SCC Spring Workshops

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 7, 2017	AREA I American Legion Hall 235 Main Street Grainfield Fried chicken meal catered by <i>Main Street Dugout</i> - \$9
March 8, 2017	AREA II Finney County Fairgrounds Grandstand Meeting Room 409 Lake View Avenue Garden City Pork chop meal catered by <i>Webb's BBQ</i> - \$10
March 9, 2017	AREA III Prairieland Partners 2401 E Northview Road McPherson Roast beef meal catered by <i>Hungry Man Café</i> – \$9.50
March 16, 2017	AREA IV CiCo Park – Pottorf Hall 1710 Avery Avenue Manhattan Chicken/pork/beef meal catered by <i>Ricky's</i> - \$8.25
March 15, 2017	AREA V Old Iron Club 10392 Jade Road Fredonia Ham meal catered by <i>Call Me for Dinner Catering</i> - \$9.50

State + County (General, Levy, Other) Funds



Handwritten signature

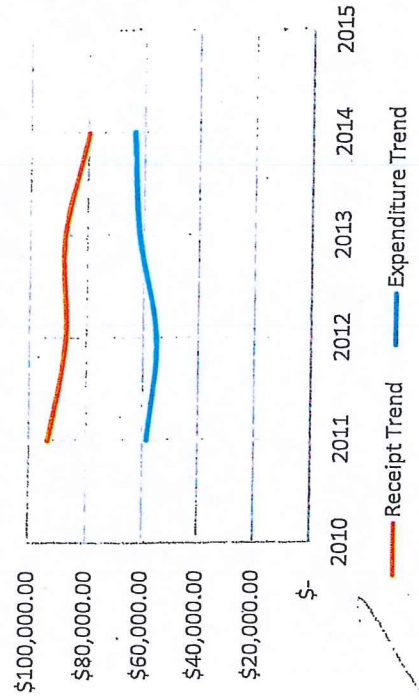
Budget

County

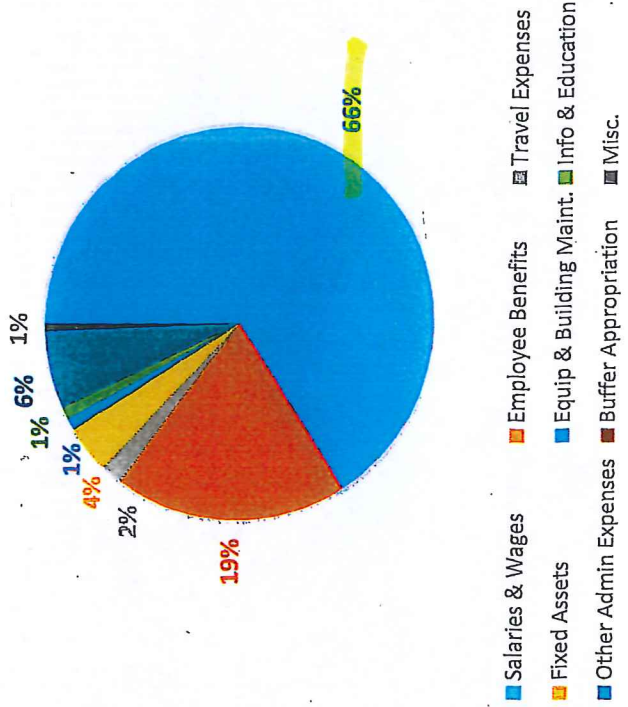
EXPENDITURE	AVERAGE TOTAL	AVG % OF TOTAL EXP
Salaries & Wages	40858.75	68%
Employee Benefits	11951.6775	20%
Travel Expenses	1171.2625	2%
Fixed Assets	2419.19	4%
Equip & Building Maint.	630.2725	1%
Info & Education	598.5166667	1%
Other Admin Expenses	3952.9075	7%
Buffer Appropriation		0%
Misc.	398.14	1%
TOTAL	59718.09	

Average Difference between Proposal and Actual			
Expenditures:	\$	24,825.45	
Receipts:	\$	(8,164.15)	
State Funding Portion of Receipts			
2011	2012	2013	2014
26%	28%	28%	28%

Trend Lines



AVERAGE EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY



2014 Budget

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

February 13, 2017

Eric Banks
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway Boulevard
Salina, KS 67401-4604

RE: Kansas Technical Committee

Dear Mr. Banks,

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) is respectfully requesting membership of the Kansas Technical Committee (KTC). The SCC's request is based on several considerations. Participation in the KTC would provide valuable insight to elected Commissions about the perspectives of our partners and their program goals. This should benefit the SCC in making informed decisions regarding program policy. The opportunity for input from the volunteer locally-led conservation perspective is greatly appreciated. Building better relationships with members of the KTC is a goal as well as we strive to accomplish our mutual missions.

SCC board members are devoted advocates of conservation and attend as many meetings as possible promoting conservation. It is also requested that an elected commissioner or alternate can attend KTC meetings as their busy schedules allow.

On behalf of the SCC, we anxiously await your decision. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rod Vorhees
State Conservation Commission



United States Department of Agriculture

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- Conservation Planning
- Data, Maps, & Analysis
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- Engineering
- Land Use
- State Technical Committee
 - STC Minutes
 - STC Agenda

State Technical Committee

Kansas Technical Committee

The Kansas Technical Committee (KTC) provides advice on a number of issues within a variety of conservation programs. Although the Technical Committee has no implementation or enforcement authority, USDA shall give strong consideration to the Committee's recommendations.

Subcommittee and KTC meetings have been scheduled in April 2017 - Dates and agenda.

Get Involved - Local Working Groups

Kansas Technical Committee Membership

Kansas Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Contact

Monty Breneman

Technical Resources

- [Conservation Planning](#)
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KTC Membership

Kansas Technical Committee Members

Name	Title	Organization
Calvin Adams	Rancher	Smoky Hills Graziers Association
Trevor Ahring		Southwest Kansas Groundwater Mgt. District No. 3
Corey Alderson	Forester	Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Jeff Allen		Sharp Brothers Seed Company
Kent Askren	Water Resources Specialist	Kansas Farm Bureau
Robert Atchison	Rural Forestry Coordinator	Kansas Forest Service
Daniel Baffa		Smoky Hills Audubon
Debra Baker	Contractor	Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams
Mike Beam	Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division	Kansas Livestock Association
Chris Berens		Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Kolt Bevin	Wetlands Program Manager	Kickapoo Tribe
Larry Biles	State Forester	Kansas Forest Service
Tim Boese	Manager	Equus Beds Groundwater Mgt. District No. 2
Ronald Brown		Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and State Association of RC&Ds
Ken Brunson	Red Hills Project Coordinator	The Nature Conservancy
Barth Crouch	Coordinator	Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition
Bob Culbertson	Wetland and WRAPS Coordinator	Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams
Mike Disney	Private Land Supervisor	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Orrin Feril	Manager	Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5
Ryan Flickner	Senior Director, Public Policy	Kansas Farm Bureau
Jim Hays	Conservation Projects Coordinator	The Nature Conservancy
Douglas Helmke		Kansas Rural Water Association
Mike Irvin	Staff Attorney	Kansas Farm Bureau
Jeff Keating	Partnerships Biologist	Department of Army
Kenneth Kepp	Source Water Protection Specialist	Kansas Rural Water Association
Jan King	Manager	Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1
Ron Klataske	Executive Director	Audubon of Kansas
Kris Knight	Director of Conservation Programs	The Nature Conservancy
Joe Kramer	Wetland Coordinator	Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, Ducks Unlimited
Andrew Lyon	Watershed Management	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Jordan Martincich	Development Officer	Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
Jesse McCurry	Regional Director	Sorghum Growers
Terry Medley	Programs Manager	Kansas Department of Agriculture
Heidi Mehl	Healthy Streams Initiative Manager	The Nature Conservancy
Howard Miller	Outreach Coordinator	Cheney Lake Watershed
Katie Miller	Conservation and Environment Representative	Kansas Basin Regional Advisory Committee, Kansas Water Office
Mark Nelson	Director of Commodities	Kansas Farm Bureau
Amanda Reed	WRAPS Program Manager	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Rob Reschke	Executive Director	Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation
Stephanie Royer	President	Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Employees' Organization
Mark Rude	Executive Director	Southwest Kansas Groundwater Mgt. District No. 3
Matt Smith	Farm Bill Coordinator	Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
Steven Sorensen	Conservation Vice President	Kansas Wildlife Federation
Tracy Streeter	Director	Kansas Water Office

Last Updated: 12/23/2016

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STC Agenda

Kansas Technical Committee (KTC) Subcommittee meetings and KTC meeting have been scheduled for April. Below is the subcommittee meeting schedule. All meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. and are held at the NRCS Conference Center, 747 Duval, Salina, KS.

KTC meeting will be April 28.

Monday, April 3, 2017

[EQIP Subcommittee Meeting Agenda \(PDF; 239 KB\)](#)

Livestock Waste
 Water Quality
 Sedimentation above Federal Reservoirs

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

[EQIP Subcommittee Meeting Agenda \(PDF; 239 KB\)](#)

Water Quantity
 Ogallala Aquifer
 Soil Health

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

[EQIP Subcommittee Meeting Agenda \(PDF; 239 KB\)](#)

Forestland Health
 Grazing Land Health
 Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative
 Wildlife Habitat

Thursday, April 6, 2017

[Subcommittee Meeting Agenda \(PDF; 243 KB\)](#)

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)
 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)



**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the meeting of the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MANHATTAN, KANSAS
February 13, 2017**

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- Kansas has received our full-year funding allocation for the mandatory programs. However, we only have funding through the continuing resolution to April 28, 2017 for discretionary programs. Overall, our full-year funding outlook for technical assistance is that we will be able to meet most of our mission needs. We still received technical assistance funds to implement our obligations under the repealed Farm Bill Programs.
- Four recent retirements include:
 - Larry Sabata, Soil Scientist, Topeka
 - Muriel Morgenthaler, Secretary, Salina
 - Darla Juhl, District Conservationist, Norton
 - Keith Kisner, Supervisory District Conservationist, Atwood
- New Supervisors include:
 - David Kohake, Soil Scientist, Manhattan
 - Fred Cummings, PMC Manager, Manhattan
 - Dennis Doring, SDC, Hays
- Six vacancies were filled in November, December and January.
- USDA is currently under a hiring freeze following the President's Executive Order signed January 23, 2017.

PROGRAMS

- Completed Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance Training, jointly with FSA, RMA and USCOE for approximately 400 USDA Service Center employees from NRCS, FSA, and Conservation Districts.
- FY2017 Conservation and Easement Programs Rollout Training is scheduled in February. Conservation District Managers and interested supervisors are invited to attend.
- Kansas Technical Committee (KTC) Sub-Committee meetings are scheduled for the week of April 3-6, 2017. Full KTC Meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2017

Conservation Stewardship Program

- 248 FY 2017 Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) Renewal contracts covering 620,000 acres with annual payments of \$5 Million were obligated in December 2016.
- February 3, 2017 was deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program 2017 general applications. Over 300 applications were received.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 1,850 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) eligible applications will be evaluated for possible funding in 2017.
- Kansas Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) requests are due March 15, 2017. \$200,000 is available for CIG agreements in 2017.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)

- Two of the three FY2015 ACEP-WRE enrollments have been closed and easements recorded at the respective county courthouse.
- FY2016 ACEP-WRE applications: Offers were extended to five landowners for enrollment. All five subsequently have had boundary surveys completed and now awaiting title work to be done.
- It's been a record year for WRE applications in Kansas. To date we have received 39 fiscal year (FY) 2017 WRE applications. Field, area, and state office staff are currently making site visits, developing preliminary cost estimates, and determining eligibility. The deadline to have the applications ranked was February 3, 2017.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

- NRCS received EWP funding approval (\$915,000) for 12 sites in Dickinson and Ottawa counties to assist with debris removal in stream reaches above county bridges from the May 25, 2016 tornado. Bids have been solicited and 9 of the 12 sites are moving forward with debris removal. The remaining 3 sites including 2 in Dickinson and 1 in Ottawa have been cancelled due to being unable to obtain land rights.
- NRCS processed requests and received EWP funding approval for 4 sites in Brown (\$262,500) Doniphan (\$31,350), Marion (\$415,500), and Wabaunsee (\$36,262) counties to assist with Streambank Stabilization and Debris Removal projects associated with April, July, and September 2016 flooding events that resulted in a threat to life and property along township and county roads. Two of the four sites were declared exigencies.
- The Doniphan County exigency streambank stabilization project along old Highway 7 was completed by the county using its own county crew. The \$28,000 project was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.
- The Brown County exigency streambank stabilization project along 205th Road near Robison, Kansas is currently under construction. Construction Inspection reports indicate the \$350,000 project will be completed under budget and basically on schedule. The size and complexity of the project did require a State Conservationist performance time extension of 10 days.
- NRCS also processed requests for EWP assistance from Doniphan County for another 3 non-exigency Streambank Stabilization projects damaged during fall flooding events. One of the three sites determined eligible as a non-exigency site has received local sponsor match commitment and is being submitted to National Headquarters (NHQ) for funding consideration.
- Requests for EWP assistance have also been received from Elk and Greenwood counties related to flooding damages to Watershed Dam Auxiliary spillways. Two site visits were completed and determined eligible. Rough cost estimates are being provided for the local sponsors to consider the 25 percent local match requirements. The Greenwood County site, with Upper Verdigris Watershed District as sponsor, has now been submitted to NHQ for funding consideration.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- Draft Supplemental Watershed Plans for Upper Walnut have been received and reviewed by the National Water Management Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Kansas submitted a FY17 Watershed Rehabilitation Program funding request for \$932,200 to cover anticipated design expenses of 5 watershed dams as well as another eight Dam Assessments involving High Hazard structures.

TECHNOLOGY**Engineering**

- Paul Larson, Civil Engineer, on the NRCS engineering staff in Salina has been selected as the National Federal Engineer of the Year for NRCS. He will travel to a ceremony in Washington, DC in

February to receive his award and compete against other federal agencies for the grand prize of Federal Engineer of the Year for all agencies.

- State Office Engineering staff was represented at SAKW annual meeting in Topeka on January 17 and 18. Pete Clark, NRCS Civil Engineer, Salina gave a presentation on NRCS hazard classification Breach routing procedure using LiDAR and HEC RAS 5.03 tools.
- Curtis Janssen, State Conservation Engineer, spoke to conservation contractors at the KLICA annual convention in Topeka on January 30.

Resources

- Ray Moranz, Pollinator Ecologist, is a recent addition to the conservation team in the central region. He serves in the role as a liaison between NRCS and Xerces. Ray provides producers and NRCS technical assistance to Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- NRCS is partnering with Xerces Society to hold Conservation Biological Control Short Course at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center, April 12 and a Pollinator Conservation Short Course in Barton County along with another location in Western Kansas in August.
- Kansas NRCS continues to invest heavily in LiDAR technology with a new agreement to acquire 6 counties in northeast and east central Kansas. NRCS has traditionally partnered with the Kansas GIS Board and USGS in the acquisition of LiDAR.

Soils

- Updated Soil Survey information was published to the Web Soil Survey and Soil Data Warehouse in late October for FY 2017.

OUTREACH

Outreach

- 20 short papers were written by Kansas NRCS scientists and technicians from around the state for publication in local conservation district's newsletters and annual reports. The topics covered such things as soil health, grazing practices, biosecurity, and wetlands. These papers (and prior year editions) are posted on the Kansas NRCS Web site in the "Feature" section under "Newsroom."
- The National Agriculture Statics Service (NASS) has requested NRCS to pass along to other agencies that the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) survey, which began in November 2016, will continue to the end of February 2017. NASS is surveying about 16,000 farmers in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. The purpose of the survey is to collect on-farm conservation accomplishments. The data is used to measure the benefits of conservation practices, and to develop science based conservation practices, which in turn, will help Kansas farmers and ranchers improve their conservation efforts.
- Kansas NRCS attended the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council Winter Conference and Annual meeting in Wichita. Kansas NRCS had an informational booth to answer questions and provide information on NRCS programs and practices.
- Kansas NRCS attended the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita. Kansas NRCS had an informational booth to answer questions and provide information on NRCS programs and practices.
- Kansas NRCS is assisting the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom summer event in June. Teachers at this conference gain the knowledge and skills for teaching agriculture topics in the classroom.
- Kansas NRCS is presenting two workshops at the Women Managing the Farm Conference event in February. One workshop educates attendees on ACEP, and the other workshop on the benefits of using USDA's Conservation Client Gateway and how to sign-up and use the software. We will also have an educational booth.

Press Releases

- **NRCS Continues Investment in Water Conservation and Improvement in Nation's Largest Aquifer**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced it is investing \$8.1 million in the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative (OAI). Kansas has received over \$1 Million for the OAI and will provide an additional \$100,000 from the general EQIP allocation for this effort.

- **USDA Announces Applications Available for Updated Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

NRCS is taking CSP applications until February 3, 2017. Information about CSP, including national and state ranking questions and enhancement descriptions, is available on the Kansas NRCS Web site. The CSP changes now offer greater rewards for producers who put more conservation practice on the ground, and new tools have been created to help farmers and ranchers understand payment scenarios early in the application process.

- **Need Help Funding a Conservation Innovation?**

NRCS is taking applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). The cut-off date for submitting applications for the CIG program is March 15, 2017. NRCS will award up to \$50,000 in matching funds per project. Projects can be a single year or multi-year project (up to 3 years). Prior project awards have ranged from a few thousand dollars up to the \$50,000 limit. For 2017, NRCS has set aside \$200,000 to fund Kansas projects.

- **NRCS Adding Two Kansas Watersheds under the National Water Quality Initiative Program**

Applicants in the targeted watersheds have until April 20, 2017 to apply for fiscal year 2017 funds. Landowners in three Kansas watersheds can apply now for assistance to improve the water quality in the targeted watersheds. NRCS is providing funds through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) program. This program helps landowners improve small watersheds by remediating issues such as nutrient and sediment runoff, or water with excessive pathogens.

Water/Environment Projects and Priorities

Kansas State University Research and Extension

by
 Daniel L. Devlin
 Director of the Kansas Center
 for Agricultural Resources and the Environment
 and the Kansas Water Resources Institute
 (ddevlin@ksu.edu)

February 2017

Kansas State University is conducting research to develop and evaluate new technologies and management options to improve environmental (air, water, soils) management and sustainability. Our research programs are finding solutions to environmental challenges and then using our extension programs utilizing field demonstrations, field experiences, educational meetings and consultations to get those solutions implemented.

Water was prioritized in K-State Research and Extension's 2025 plan, which has resulted in additional resources being directed toward research and extension faculty replacement and program enhancements in water. KSU has also increased extramural grant funding efforts and improved collaborations and partnerships with agencies and private industry. K-State has major efforts in both water quantity and water quality as well as other environmental issues.

WATER

Water Research and Extension Projects to Reduce Water Consumption and/or Sustain the High Plains Aquifer and the Economy of Western Kansas

- Enhanced research efforts with grain sorghum. Grain sorghum is a more drought hardy crop than corn and increasing the yields and improving the economic competitiveness of grain sorghum is one of several possible solutions to sustain irrigated agriculture and the economy of western Kansas. Our grain sorghum efforts are led by the Center for Sorghum Improvement at K-State.

A new collaborative investment in sorghum, "Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program" is housed at the K-State Center for Sorghum Improvement. The Collaborative Sorghum Investment Program was launched in the spring of 2016 with investment from the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, United Sorghum Checkoff Program, Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas State University. Both the Program and Center are strategically targeting sorghum advancement to capitalize and enhance sorghum's water saving attributes. The Program is focused on enhancing sorghum yield to a national average of 100 bushels per acre, increasing value to no less than a two percent discount to corn and growing the industry to a 1.25-billion-bushel demand market annually. K-State is also responding to growing interest in finding alternative crops to corn silage and preliminary research has demonstrated that forage sorghum can produce yields similar to corn silage with less water.

- Major research effort in wheat breeding and genomics. One of the major objectives of this program is to increase the yield potential through improved heat and drought tolerance of wheat. This would make it a more competitive irrigated crop in western Kansas. Since it is a winter annual, wheat requires less irrigation than corn or grain sorghum, therefore improved wheat varieties could lead to reduced irrigation water use and be an important future option. There is increasing interest by farmers in developing feed wheat varieties and we are currently studying the possibilities.

- New Multistate USDA-NIFA CAP Grant Funded Project, “Sustaining Agriculture through Adaptive Management Resilient to a Declining Ogallala Aquifer and Changing Climate,” Year 1 of a \$10,000,000, 4 year project.
- Development, evaluation and implementation of new irrigation technologies. We have prioritized by hiring new faculty and enhancing our research capabilities in the Departments of Ag Engineering, Agronomy and Ag Economics and the Garden City and Colby Experiment Stations. Current areas of research:
 - Deficit irrigation management protocol for various crops
 - Mobile drip irrigation (MDI)
 - Soil and plant water status sensors
 - Remote sensing using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
 - New and enhanced irrigation scheduling tools
 - New multi-year crop water allocation tool
 - Subsurface drip irrigation (SDI)
 - Improved center pivot irrigation management
 - Precision irrigations
 - Nitrogen and phosphorus management under limited irrigation
 - Crop rotations suitable for limited irrigation
- Water policy and economics of policy and practice changes
 - Economic evaluation of the Sheridan LEMA
 - Economic Evaluation of the Willis-O-Brate Technology Farm
 - Economic evaluation of potential LEMAs in Southwest Kansas
 - Economic studies to evaluate irrigate management changes
 - Impact of management and policy changes to producer and community economics
- Technology farms
 - On-farm research and demonstrations of new technologies to improve irrigation efficiency and reduce water consumption
 - Partnership between K-State, irrigators/land managers, agencies and private industry
- Kansas Weather Library and Mesonet Program
 - Reorganized the program
 - State climatologist hired and program now nationally certified
 - Approximately 60 modern weather stations are in operation across the state and quality weather data is available to be used for irrigation scheduling and other uses
- Western Kansas irrigation water quality
 - Concerns with the impact of irrigation depletion on water quality
 - Researching the impact of poor water quality on plant growth, development and yield.
- Development of advanced dryland production systems
 - Tillage
 - Cover crops
 - Development of alternative crops and forages
 - Crop rotations
- Research into understanding recharge of the High Plains Aquifer

Water Research and Extension Projects to Understand and Improve Water Quality

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Programs
 - Help develop and implement watershed management plans
 - Best management practices (BMPs) selection and impacts developed through K-State research
 - Currently, have 5 extension watershed specialists working directly with the watershed groups to implement pollution control practices
- Developed a new, large in-field water quality laboratory at the Ashland Experiment Farm near Manhattan to develop and verify BMPs in cropland. Studies runoff and BMPs for nutrients/fertilizer, tillage, crop rotations and cover crops. This was one of three projects funded nationally by the fertilizer industry.
- Understanding the causes, impacts and solutions to ephemeral gully formation in cropland.
- Kansas Daily Erosion Project on estimating soil erosion rates from agricultural land on a daily basis and presenting the results online using a web mapping service.
- Projects in the Smoky Hill/Kanopolis and Little Arkansas Watersheds collecting water samples in priority watersheds to determine the impacts of best management practices.
- In Saline County, developed and installed new, innovative, less expensive methods for streambank restoration. Just started a 3-year study to determine their effectiveness.
- Worked with local WRAPS groups, KDA-Division of Conservation, county conservation districts and farms to reduce the impact of poultry waste application on water resources.
- With the city of Wichita and the local WRAPS project – developed an offsite best management practices program that developers in Wichita can use to reduce storm water regulatory costs while improving water quality.
- Project on reservoir sedimentation and how higher infilled sediments in our federal reservoirs impacts water supply. Project on sedimentation in small impoundments (farm ponds) and study how the network of these small waterbodies are a source for water storage and sediment capturing.
- Project on wetland development in the upstream of the federal reservoirs and how those wetlands can improve the water quality of the whole reservoir basin.

Current Fertilizer Research Fund Funded Projects

- N management approaches for maximizing yield and N use efficiency in corn
- Evaluation of nitrogen fertilizer volatilization from topdressing wheat under different environmental conditions
- Fertility management under narrow row sorghum in Southwest Kansas

- The partial contribution of nutrients and crop production practices to grain yield under standard and intensive wheat management
- Improving corn yields and nitrogen use efficiency with late-vegetative nitrogen applications using high clearance equipment

Current Projects Funded by the Kansas Water Resources Institute (2nd year of 2 year projects)

- Monitoring the effectiveness of streambank stabilization projects in northeast Kansas
- Contaminant barriers or pathways? Hydraulic and chemical methods to improve characterization of shallow aquitards
- Examining sedimentation and water quality of small impoundments: sediment capturing opportunity upstream of federal reservoirs
- Quantifying ephemeral gully erosion and evaluating mitigation strategies with field monitoring and computer modeling
- Project title: assessing the impact of constructed wetlands on nitrogen transformation and release from tile outlet terraces (TOTs) in Kansas.

Studies on the Interactions of Agriculture and Climate Change

- Resilience and vulnerability of cattle production in the southern Great Plains under climate change, land use and markets – USDA-NIFA CAP Project, \$10,000,000 Year 4/5 year project

Flint Hills Burning Projects

- Kansas Flint Hills smoke management plan
- Great Plains Fire Exchange

Some funding sources/partnerships: State of Kansas, Kansas Counties, KDA-Division of Water Resources, KDA-Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Water Office, Kansas Water Authority, Kansas Geological Service, Kansas Biological Survey, NASA, US EPA, Groundwater Management Districts, USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Geological Survey, Kansas Corn Commission, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, Kansas Wheat Commission, Teeter Irrigation, Servi-Tech, Inc., Monsanto and others.

Donna Meader
DOC Staff Report @ 2/13/2017 SCC Commission Meeting

Cost-Share & Operations Reviews - Completed reviews in 10 Counties/3 Management Units.

They are as follows:

Brown (\$226.30 overpayment), Jackson & Nemaha

Douglas, Osage & Shawnee

Atchison, Doniphan Jefferson & Leavenworth (\$4,289.20 overpayment)

Annual Meeting Attendance – Attended annual meetings @ Neosho, Pottawatomie & Wabaunsee Counties

New Employee Training – On 2/6/17, I trained the new District Manager, Joyce Kramer, in Labette County.

District Visits – Made district visits at Coffey, Osage & Woodson Counties.

Workshops/Conferences – Attended the following workshops/conferences:

Nemaha County Women in Ag Conference

No-Till Producers Workshop

Jackson County Soil Health Workshop

I will be attending the Ag Stewardship Conference this Friday in Overbrook (multi-county Douglas, Franklin, Osage & Shawnee); will have display board w/pie charts displaying what type of practices are installed with funding received from the state water plan fund.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

SCC Meeting on February 13, 2017

Watershed Dam Construction Program

Watershed Districts:

Met and presented along with DWR with a group of landowners interested in creating a watershed joint district (encompassing approximately 220 sq. ml. in LN, BB, AN and AL Counties). About 15 interested landowners attended the meeting and Frank Young of Agricultural Engineering and Associates.

3 Party Easement Holder:

The 2015 Session Laws of Kansas: HB 2061 allowed the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation in consultation with the State Conservation Commission to take action necessary to restore, establish, enhance and protect natural resources with conservation easements for the purpose of compensatory mitigation required under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

All expenses shall be paid by the Watershed District.

KSA 2-1904 (3) (f):

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation in consultation with the State Conservation Commission shall the following duties and powers:

(C) Establishing fees for the acquisition and administration of conservation easements held on behalf of Watershed Districts.

This process will be documented:

1. MOU between KDA-DOC and Watershed District
2. COE Conservation Easement Template: Between KDA-DOC and the Landowner
3. Closing Checklist

Mitigation Plans Approved and Easement Identified.

Hakim's Report ①
IMPINSHI BUSINESS
→

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

Hakim's report

(2) Water Supply Restoration Program

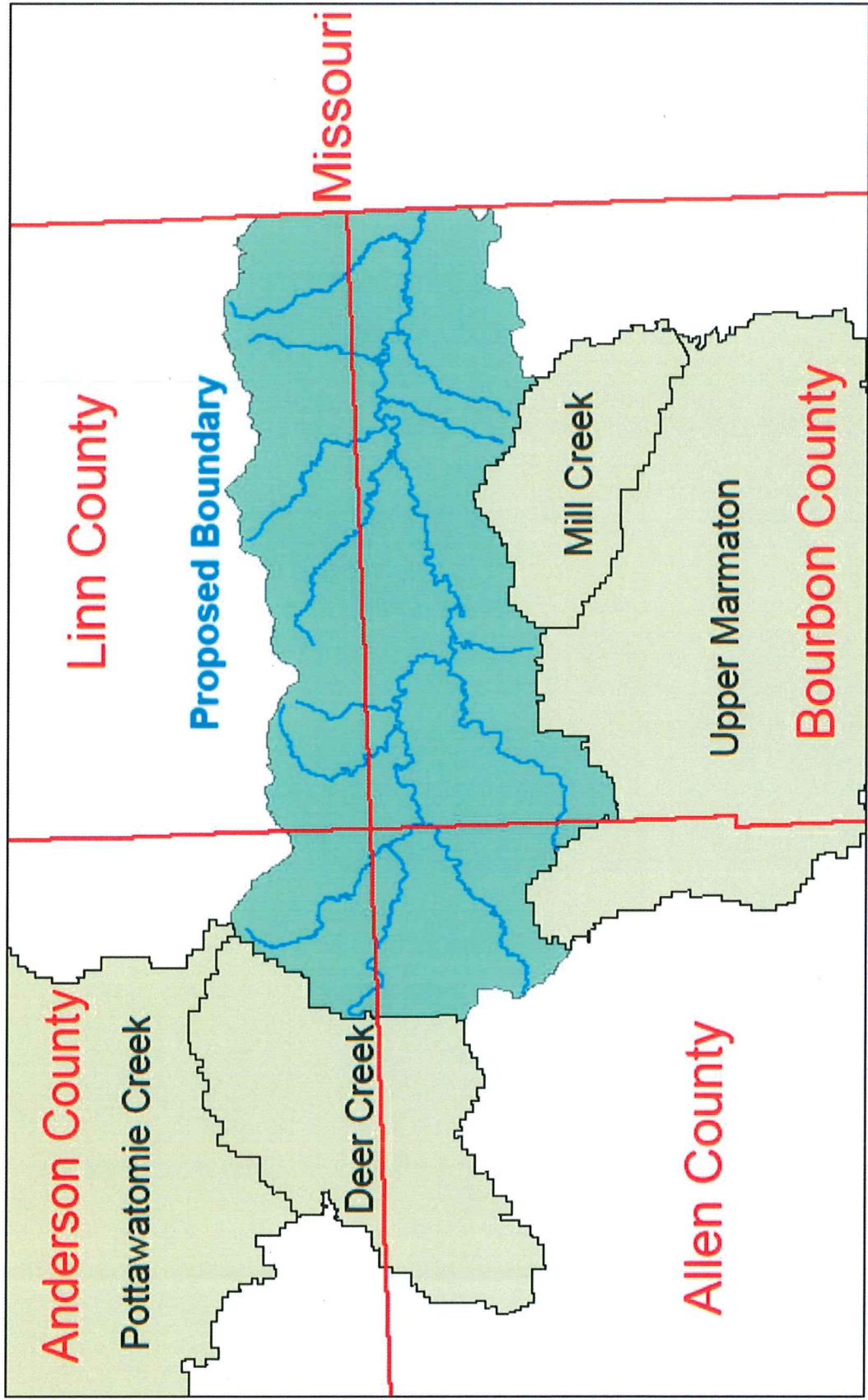
- 1) WS CO RWD 1, Funded FY 2009 - \$862,000.
Completed, Final Inspection conducted on February 8, 2017:
 - 2 wells (62 gpm)
 - 10 miles of 2-in pipe
 - 4.5 miles of 4-in pipe
 - New pump house

1. Post Rock RWD 1 - \$235,000, FY 2016: Rehabilitation work started, taking advantage of the good weather: Extend the existing 16-inch intake pipes further into the lake, as per plans and specifications, where the lake floor is deeper, to reduce sedimentation of the intake system.

- 2) Gardner City Lake
Letter of Intent:

As required by KAR 11-6-6 was put on public Notice on January 8, 2017.

Proposed Boundary for Little Osage River Watershed Joint District



Boundary Area (ac)	Little Osage River Watershed	Allen County	Anderson County	Bourbon County	Allen County
	233400	15690	70460	111740	35510

