Kansas Forest Service 2018 Report

SCC Spring Workshops

- Fire Program Vision and Staff changes
- First 580 Streambank Shoreline Protection Practices through RCPP!!
- Interviews for Outreach Coordinator Water Quality Advocate Network
- Update on Arkansas River Restoration Project and Phase II
- Kansas Agroforestry Award and Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year
- Great Plains Windbreak Initiative Inventory
- About My Woods App Available!!
The number of fires occurring each year has tripled in the Great Plains during the past three decades. The average area of land annually burned by wildfire has grown by more than 400 percent, from thousands of acres per year between 1985 to 1994 to millions of acres per year from 2005 to 2014. Great Plains states have recorded some of their worst wildfire seasons on record during the past 10 to 15 years.

Ross Hauck Retires as Fire Program Section Leader

University of Nebraska Study Shows Dramatic Increase in Great Plains Fires

Surging Wildfire Activity in a Grassland Biome, 6.16.2017
Donovan, Wonkka & Twidwell, Univer of NE

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- Average area of land annually burned by wildfire has grown by more than 400 percent, from thousands of acres per year between 1985 to 1994 to millions of acres per year from 2005 to 2014.
- Great Plains states have recorded some of their worst wildfire seasons on record during the past 10 to 15 years.
- KFS Fire Program Vision and State Audit
Current Building
Arkansas River Restoration Grant Update

- Restores 3,000 acres on Ark River
- GIS Classifications
- Revises State-wide Action Plan
- Partners:
  - USFWS PFW
  - Tamarisk Coalition
  - KDA – DOC & PPWC
  - KWO – RACs
  - The Nature Conservancy – KS
  - KSRE – SW Area Center

July 2017 - September 2021
Goals: 1) Restore 21 stream miles; 2) Remove 3,000 acres of tamarisk 3) Develop Plan
Accomplished: 1) Restored 20 stream mi./777 ac.; 2) Removed 4,032 ac. of tamarisk

"The Salt Cedar is invasive and not natural part of original plant community. It has been on this ranch for the 50 years that we have owned it. I am excited to see some of it under control. The amount of grass that that area can grow along the river that was inhabited by the Salt Cedar will definitely run some additional cattle. The shear economics of it will pay for the spraying." Bill Barby B bar B Ranch
Windbreak Inventory

- Evaluate 10 windbreaks per county
  1. Primary Function
  2. GPS centerpoint or end point from road
  3. Orientation
  4. Tally the number of rows
  5. Identify majority species for each row
  6. Estimate Row height
  7. Estimate windbreak density / porosity
  8. Tree Function Condition
  9. Tree Function Age

- Inventory 1 windbreak per county (10%)
  Complete a 30 tree transect in each row:
  1. Identify Species
  2. Measure DBH
  3. Estimate Height

Overview

A $550,000 USFS, State and Private Forestry grant awarded to state forestry agencies in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas in 2016 to establish geospatial tree canopy layers in each state using 4-band National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) photos. Thanks to USFS, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis, for the first time, states will be able to identify location and extent of windbreaks in each respective state. Each state receives $123,400 with the exception of Kansas which receives $179,800 to coordinate the project. The grant ends September 30, 2019.

In addition to the creation of geospatial tree canopy data the project will accomplish the following deliverables:

- Condition assessment of windbreaks
- Ecosystem service values of windbreaks
- Geospatial data of Wind Erodibility Index of 87 or higher for new windbreak establishment
- Risk assessment and estimates of economic impact of invasive species
- Targeted outreach plan using Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) to engage priority landowners in windbreak renovation, establishment and invasive species control
- A final report to be presented at the 2019 USFS/NRCS Two Chief's Partnership Summit meeting

Great Plains Initiative II
Kansas Water Quality Advocate Network Grant

Interviews for Outreach Coordinator – March 6 and 16th – Housed at KDA-DOC

What it accomplishes...

- Fosters peer-to-peer promotion and learning
- Focused in KFS RCPP Watersheds
- Creates a network of trained advocates/mentors
- Develops target marketing approaches based on local focus groups
- Restores 3,400 acres of riparian forest
- Hires a coordinator for mentors/advocates
- Partners:
  - KSRE Communications
  - KS Rural Center
  - KS Forestry Association
  - KS Farmers Union
  - KS Alliance of Wetlands and Streams (KAWS)

KS DOC, KACD and County Conservation Districts are Critical Partners!!

Looking for mentors
Still taking award nominations through April 3rd!!

Go to: http://www.kacdnet.org/convention.html for nomination forms

FOREST STEWARDSHIP TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD
2018 NOMINATION FORM

KANSAS AGROFORESTRY AWARD
2018 NOMINATION FORM
Stream Stabilization

This northeast Kansas creek has migrated through the edge of its riparian forest. The landowner recognized that without the protection of tree roots, bank erosion was about to become a problem. He ensured short-term bank stability by anchoring large dead trees and live willow cuttings at the toe of the bank. Long-term bank stability will be maintained here by the several rows of hardwood trees he planted along the edge of the field.

Eligible Practices and Rates*

A partial listing of practices and payment rates are listed below. These are the actual rates qualifying applicants receive.

- Streambank Stabilization (bioengineering) $19.34/Lf/R
- Streambank Stabilization (structurally sound, with hunch) $87.50/Lf/R
- Channel Bed Stabilization (log and boulder check dam) $734.54/EA
- Tree/Shrub Site Prep (mechanical) $56.74/AC
- Tree/Shrub Site Prep (chemical) $154.47/AC
- Riparian Forest Buffer $1,022.97/AC
- Riparian Forest Buffer $1,397.21/AC
- Riparian Forest Buffer (direct seeding of trees) $719.16/AC
- Tree Planting $4.22/EA
- Tree Planting $7.30/EA
- Herbaceous Weed Control (herbicide within tree plantings) $40.93/AC
- Herbaceous Weed Control $154.52/AC
- Forest Stand Improvement (single stem treatment) $269.86/AC

* Payment rates are the actual figures landowners receive based upon regional average costs. They are subject to change on a yearly basis.

State NRCS Engineer Shawn Sherraden assesses 580 RCPP Site

Financial assistance for managing Kansas streams and streamside forests

Trees for Clean Water

Addressing water quality issues in Kansas through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Kansas Forest Service
785-532-3340