

Priority Goal #3: Reduce sediment and total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations within the lakes and streams within the Smoky Hill – Saline Planning Region. Method of attaining goal can include the continued support of best management practice (BMP) implementation for practices which reduce sediment runoff. Focus BMP implementation within priority areas identified in Big Creek Middle Smoky Hill River Watersheds 9 Element Watershed Protection Plan. Timeframe of implementation: Complete by 2040 - Final year of 9 Element Watershed Protection Plan is 2034. Result of efforts: 26% reduction of TSS concentrations on the Smoky Hill River at Ellsworth as noted within the 9 Element Watershed Protection Plan. Remove sediment-impaired waters from the KDHE TMDL list.

Action Steps

- ❖ Continued support of locally led and driven efforts, such as the WRAPS program and projects within the region, within watersheds and the BMPs noted for implementation within the 9 Element Watershed Plans.
- ❖ Continue to support NRCS programs/initiatives such as RCPP, EQIP, easement programs, WRP, CSTP, etc., which can be utilized to implement sediment-reducing BMPs as well as improve soil health. Identify sources of sediment contributing to TSS/sediment in water bodies (i.e. streambank assessments, etc.).
- ❖ Continue to support KDA-DOC programs/initiatives such as the nonpoint source program, watershed program, water resource conservation program and the funding provided to DOC through the State Water Plan fund.
- ❖ BMP implementation above water supply waters to help facilitate settling out of solids before entry into water supply water (i.e. forebays, settling basins).
 - ◇ BMP implementation should continue to reduce sedimentation rate of Kanopolis Reservoir as well as other water supply sources.
- ❖ Enhance and continue to support information/educational (I&E) efforts focused towards landowners to help reduce sediment runoff on their respective property.
- ❖ Include consideration of Wilson Reservoir and the upstream watershed of sediment sources which could impact capacity including bathymetric survey analysis to help quantify current capacity of lake.
- ❖ Evaluate sediment and nutrient loading originating from watershed above Herington Reservoir which could impact its viability as a public water supply source. Utilize the June 2008 bathymetric surveys on Herington Reservoir and Herington City Lake as baseline characterization of current capacity lost in lakes due to sedimentation.

Responsible Agencies/Organizations:

- ❖ Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (including WRAPS Program), Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas Biological Survey (KBS), Kansas State University.

Other Assisting Agencies/Organizations:

- ❖ Local conservation districts, county governments, municipalities, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, K-State Research & Extension, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education (KACEE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Kansas Rural Center (KRC), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, local industry/commerce, Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA), local watershed districts, colleges/universities, Quail Forever, Pheasants Forever, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams (KAWS), other local groups.

Resources Needed:

- ❖ WRAPS program to provide coordination of efforts among other agency/organizations needed.
- ❖ Planners/designers and implementers for BMPs to be implemented for specific projects (i.e. streambank stabilization projects.).
- ❖ Cost estimates to fully implement WRAPS 9 Element watershed plans within Smoky Hill-Saline Planning Region is approximately **\$1.56 million annually**.



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- ◇ Additional costs outside of this annual cost would be expected as well.

Timeframe of Completion:

- ❖ Actions to be completed by 2040

Geographic Scope:

- ❖ WRAPS project areas within Smoky Hill-Saline Planning Region
- ❖ Saline drainage above Wilson Reservoir
 - ◇ More assessment information needed in this area to characterize BMP needs.

Regulation/Policy Changes:

- ❖ Continue to oppose current Waters of the United States (WOTUS) efforts.
- ❖ Streamline process and provide latitude to acquire necessary permits for streambank stabilization or other BMPs to reduce/remove additional requirements and costs.