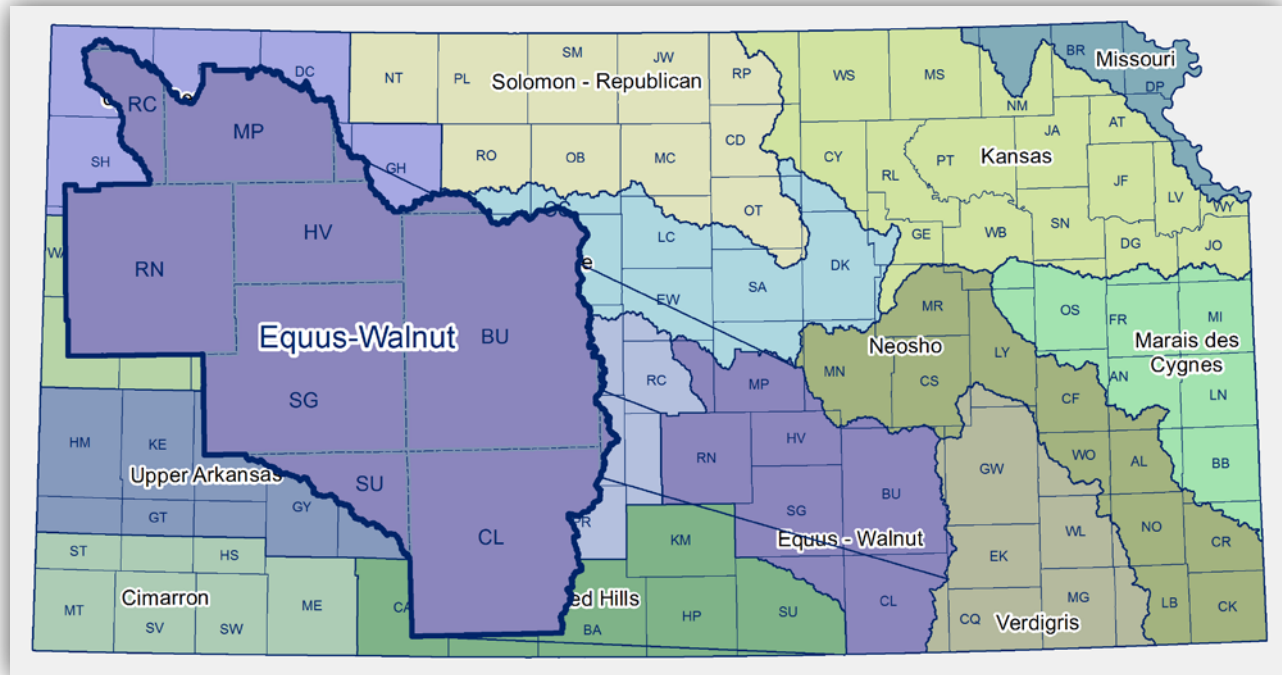


Equus-Walnut Regional Planning Area

Guiding Principle

The Equus-Walnut Regional Goal Leadership Team recognizes that education at all levels is the highest priority for long-term success. Proper and adequate funding for educational resources is essential to ensure success in achieving the water supply goals for this region. An overarching goal is that every Kansan in the region should know the water resources in the region, the dangers potentially impacting the resource, and the value of and the actions necessary to protect it. The Goal Leadership Team supports promoting good stewardship, conservation and improved efficiency, balanced with economic growth, as tools towards achieving the goals described below.



- 1. Achieve and maintain sustainable balance of groundwater withdrawals with annual recharge in the Equus Beds Aquifer by 2020. Ensure safe yield and recharge rate calculations in the Equus Beds Aquifer are accurate through a district wide, integrated groundwater and surface water model by 2018.**
2. Each public water supplier in the region will develop a long term water supply plan and revise every five years to meet their individual forecasted needs. Water suppliers should consider alternative uses of non-potable water and existing water supplies before developing any new water supply projects.
3. Implement and maintain watershed protection activities to maintain regional reservoir storage capacity for an additional 100 years beyond the design life.
4. Maintain or reduce the rate of sedimentation and nutrient loading through the encouragement of best management practices (BMPs) on 50% of the high priority acres in the watershed above water supply reservoirs. Ensure practices are sustained and maintained for the long-term and priorities are reassessed every five years.
5. Allocate necessary resources (\$1-5 million) within five years to identify and prioritize current contamination issues impacting the Equus Beds Aquifer and develop a plan to manage and mitigate the contamination. Review existing studies and emerging technologies to develop a new conceptual plan with estimated costs. Begin implementation of the plan within 10 years of completing the study.
6. While focused on the preservation of our water resources agricultural water users will double the value of irrigation-based production over the next 50 years. Coordinate with public/private research and development programs to develop and promote less water and nutrient intensive crops. Provide incentives for operators to implement irrigation efficiency improvements immediately. Increase efforts to implement water conserving agricultural production practices utilizing no-till methods, cover cropping systems and a rangeland cedar tree management program.
7. Encourage municipal, commercial, and industrial users of water to increase the efficiency of net water use by reducing the volume of water used per unit of measure by 5% per decade. Provide incentives for users to implement water efficiency improvements.