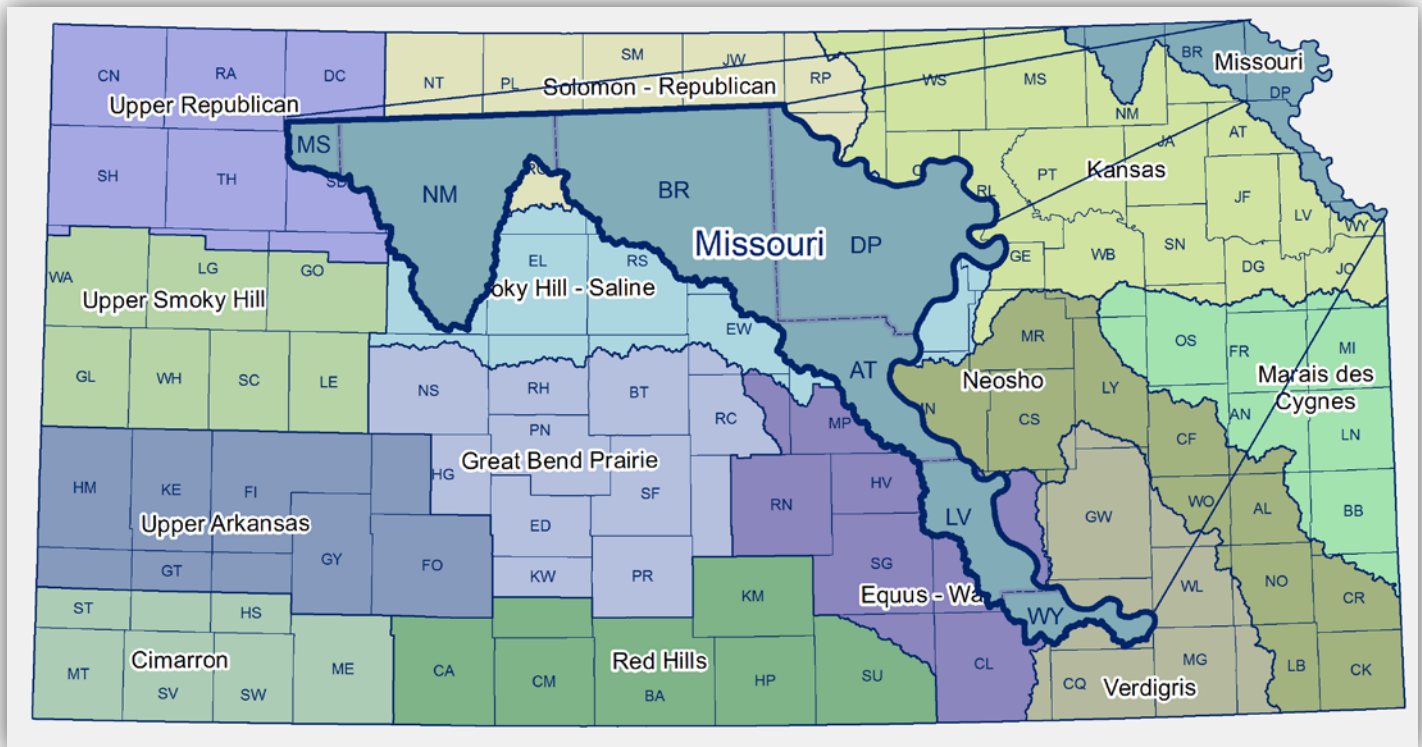


Missouri Regional Planning Area

Guiding Principles

Over the next 50 years, there needs to be an adequate, sustainable and affordable quality water supply in the Missouri Region, while protecting Tribal water rights and sacred and cultural sites. All government agencies, local through state, shall vigorously uphold and enforce all water conservation and management rules and regulations throughout the state.

Assure any future water transfers from the Missouri River be based upon the protection of the priority of water supplies in the Missouri region, protection of private property rights, protection of cultural and heritage sites and consideration of environmental impacts. Ensure any beneficiary of transferred water would have exhausted all other alternatives, including crop types, irrigation practices and all other appropriate conservation measures.



- 1. Since groundwater quality is not well known, compile existing and collect additional data over the next 5 years to establish a baseline. Within 3 years after the baseline is established, a plan to implement best management practices will be developed to maintain and improve existing conditions. Monitoring and reevaluation of groundwater quality conditions and should continue at 5 year intervals.**
2. To ensure a reliable surface water supply in the future, best management practices will be implemented so surface water quality in identified drainages is maintained or improved using goals and milestones as identified in the Missouri Watershed Restoration and Protection area 9 Element Plan.
3. Collect additional information to improve safe yield estimate of groundwater and tributary streams within 3 years. Place a moratorium on additional permits until safe yield is identified. Once determined, only issue permits that do not exceed that yield. Safe yield should then be continuously monitored.
4. Within 3-5 years the state should initiate a comprehensive education and outreach program. By the time of 8th grade graduation, kids should know where their water comes from, understand the basics of the water cycle, know basic water conservation principles and understand that their actions impact water quality and water quantity. Schools, water providers and conservation districts should be the primary deliverers. A component of the comprehensive program should include enhancing information and outreach on research, technology and management practices using social media and public information outlets.