



PO Box 957, Erie, Colorado 80516
303.926.0777 ❖ 303.926.8102 Fax ❖ www.pljv.org

September 8, 2021

A new program to address declining aquifer levels will soon be available in Wichita and Greeley counties. The Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project (GRASP), funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), will help producers with voluntary irrigation conservation and efficiency efforts and playa restoration to increase groundwater recharge.

Financial and technical assistance will be available for managing irrigation water, implementing alternative crop rotations, converting to dryland systems, and restoring playa wetlands. Short term annual rental payments will also be available for lands devoted to playa restoration activities.

Two public meetings on September 21 will offer details about GRASP, the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Water Right Transition Assistance Program, and other conservation opportunities.

- **Leoti:** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. CDT at the Wichita County Fairgrounds 4-H building
- **Tribune:** 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. MDT at the Greeley County Fairgrounds 4-H building
- **Virtual:** agriculture.ks.gov/WTAP

A diverse group of partners — including Greeley and Wichita County Conservation Districts, Kansas Water Office, local county and municipal governments, and several conservation organizations — are working to offer this unique program to area producers. NRCS is investing \$1.4 million in this project, with an additional \$1.5 million in partner contributions, which will support local communities through playa restoration and other management practices.

Based on available data, there are approximately 2,690 acres of playas in Wichita County and 2,360 acres of playas in Greeley County. When restored, healthy playas can help recharge the Ogallala Aquifer — and the water that reaches the aquifer through playas is cleaner than water that enters through other channels. GRASP will focus on playa conservation and restoration efforts near municipal and domestic water wells, supporting recharge where it is needed most. As a result, high quality water will reach the aquifer that can be used by generations.

For more information about enhancing groundwater recharge through playas, visit PlayasWorkForKansas.com. To discuss options for restoring your playa, please contact Abe Lollar with Ducks Unlimited (620-214-2693) or Matt Smith with Playa Lakes Joint Venture (785-420-7000).

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Audubon ❖ Bird Conservancy of the Rockies ❖ Bureau of Land Management ❖ Colorado Parks & Wildlife ❖ ConocoPhillips ❖ Ducks Unlimited
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism ❖ National Wild Turkey Federation ❖ Nebraska Game & Parks Commission ❖ New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation ❖ Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever ❖ Texas Parks & Wildlife Department ❖ The Nature Conservancy
USDA Farm Service Agency ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service ❖ US Fish & Wildlife Service, Regions 2 & 6 ❖ US Forest Service