

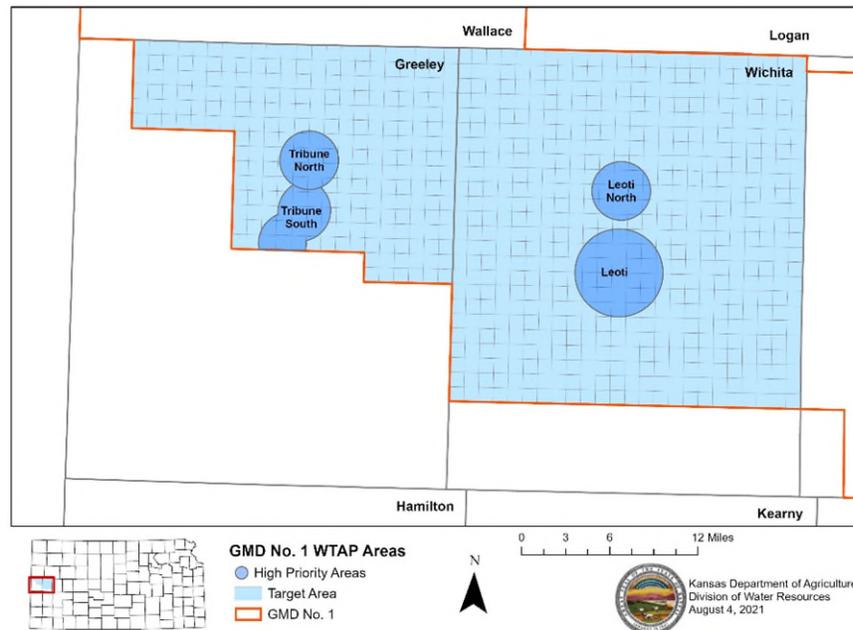
Fall 2021 WTAP Enrollment

Greeley & Wichita Counties Target Area

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will conduct a Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) enrollment in Greeley and Wichita counties from October 1 – November 15, 2021.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to manage aquifers and streams in critical need of restoration by compensating landowners for the permanent retirement of irrigation water rights. Priority in the fall 2021 enrollment will be given to retiring water rights that have the greatest impact on the local aquifer system surrounding the municipal water supplies of Tribune and Leoti as shown below.

Approved GMD No. 1 WTAP Target Area



Because of significant historical water level declines, the Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 proposed that a WTAP target area in Greeley and Wichita counties be designated by KDA's Division of Water Resources. **This target area is determined to be in need of aquifer recovery and is now closed to further water appropriations with minor exceptions.** In addition, GMD #1 requested that the Chief Engineer delineate municipal water supply areas around the cities of Tribune and Leoti as "High Priority Areas" to be eligible for WTAP retirement grants.

To be eligible, water rights must be in good standing with the Division of Water Resources.

Dryland farming is permitted after a water right is retired. Limited irrigation can also be temporarily allowed to establish a permanent cover on the land being transitioned from irrigation. Partial water right reductions will also be considered for retirement grants.

WTAP grants are approved on the basis of competitive bids. WTAP grants can be considered by the Division of Conservation for up to \$2,000 per acre-foot of the "Historic Consumptive Water Use" value as calculated over the last ten years of reported annual water use of the water right(s) proposed for acceptance. WTAP grants can be combined with other federal or local water conservation programs which offer financial incentives to help increase financial incentives to landowners.

This WTAP enrollment is part of the larger Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project (GRASP).

Contact Steve.Frost@KS.gov at (785) 564-6622 for information. Application forms and other details will soon be available on the Division of Conservation's website at www.agriculture.ks.gov/WTAP.