

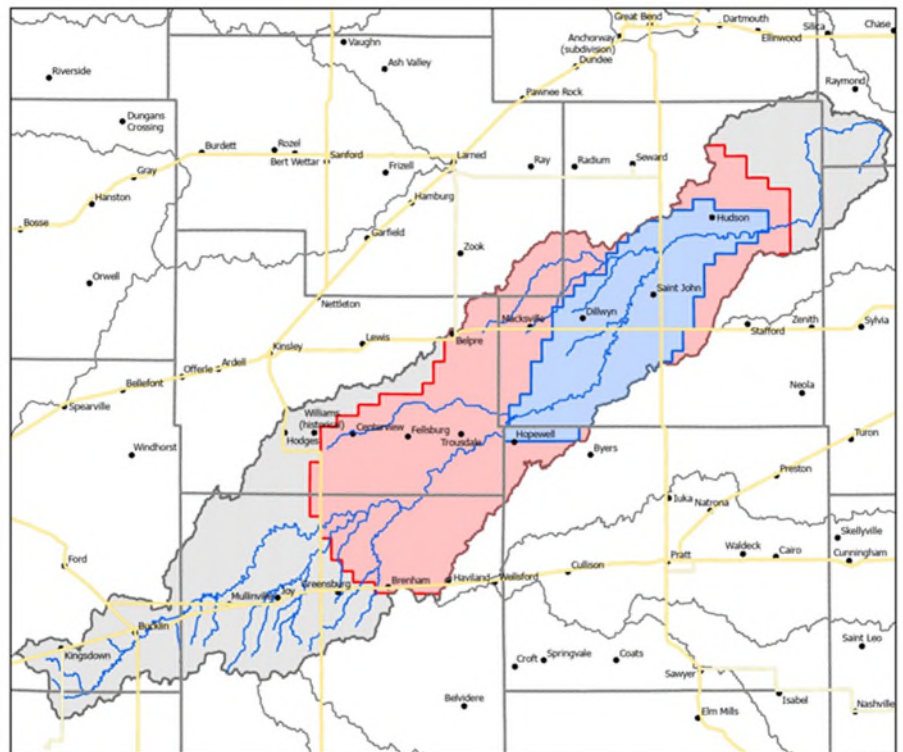
PUBLIC NOTICE

Rattlesnake Creek WTAP Sign-up to Open

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will conduct a Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) enrollment in the Rattlesnake Creek target area from February 15 – March 31, 2026.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based water conservation 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 2026 enrollment will be given to retiring irrigation water rights that have the greatest impact on the local stream / aquifer system in the basin areas as shown below.

Rattlesnake Creek Subbasin WTAP



High Impact Area 1
High Impact Area 2
Rattlesnake Creek Basin

0 2 4 8 12 16 20 Miles



Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
February 9, 2026

To be eligible, water rights must be in good standing with the KDA 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 KDA Division of Conservation for up to \$6,000 per acre-foot of the "Historic Consumptive Water Use" value as calculated over the last 10 years of reported annual water use of the water right(s) proposed for acceptance. To help increase incentives to landowners, WTAP grants can be combined with other government or private conservation programs which also offer financial assistance.

This WTAP enrollment is part of a special water conservation project being funded by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Application forms and other details are available on KDA's Division of Conservation website at www.agriculture.ks.gov/waterconservationprograms. Contact Jake Dooling at (785) 477-4339 or jacob.dooling@ks.gov for more assistance. Water right information is also available from Big Bend Groundwater Management District No.5 in Stafford at (620) 234-5352, and at the Division of Water Resources field office in Stafford at (620) 234-5311.