

# Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas



At the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Governor Brownback issued a call to action to address the need for a **Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas** that meets the state's needs now and in the future.

The Governor charged his administration, including the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Agriculture, and Kansas Water Authority, along with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to lead the vision and called upon his Council of Economic Advisors to engage in the planning since water and the economy are closely linked.



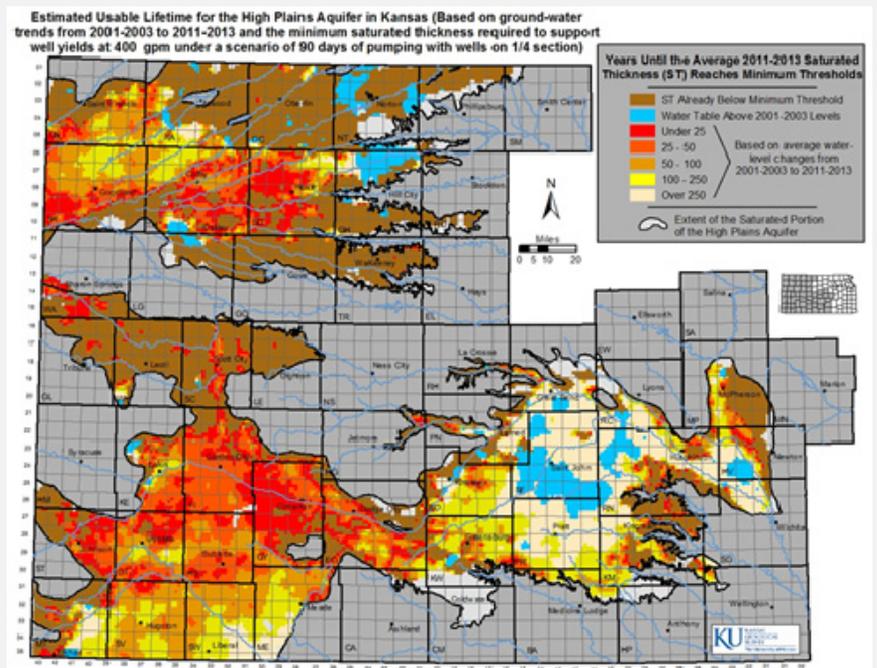
*“Water and the Kansas economy are directly linked. Water is a finite resource and without further planning and action we will no longer be able to meet our state's current needs, let alone growth.” - Governor Sam Brownback*

One of Kansas' greatest challenges is to provide a reliable water supply to maintain and support a growing Kansas economy. The Vision will address plans to ensure supply is sufficient to meet the future needs of our state.

The Ogallala Aquifer is declining faster than it is recharging. Reservoirs which are critical water storage structures are filling with sediment.

**If we take no action in the next 50 years:**

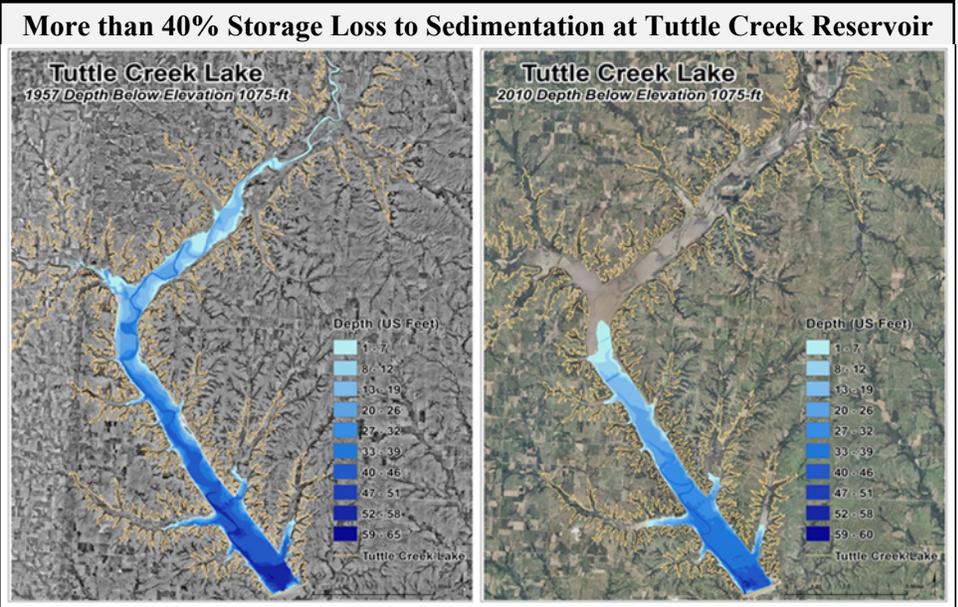
- The Ogallala will be 70% depleted
- Another roughly 40% of the area irrigated with Ogallala water won't support a 400 gallon per minute irrigation well
- Our water supply in federal reservoirs will be 40% filled with sediment
- Five of the seven basins in which reservoirs support our municipal and industrial water use won't be able to meet demands during a drought



The *Kansas Water Plan* (KWP) will remain the state’s plan to coordinate the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the state.

**Economic impacts would be devastating:**

- The irrigated cropland in Ogallala region has a \$5 billion value
- The Ogallala was responsible for \$1.75 billion in corn production and \$2 billion in beef production
- Reservoirs provide water in some manner to two-thirds of Kansas’ citizens
- 60% of the electricity production in Kansas at a value of \$1.96 billion relies on our state’s reservoirs



To be successful in achieving the Vision, we will need to set 10 to 20 years goals and milestones divided further into 5-year action plans. The KWP will help measure our success towards meeting the goals.



As a state, we know we need to develop plans to improve water quality; reduce our vulnerability to extreme events, like floods and drought; develop and maintain water infrastructure; and improve recreational opportunities available to our citizens. However, water supply will be the focus in this Vision.

A Visioning Team is embarking on a one-year mission to seek input from water users, compile data, conduct research and chart a path forward.





We need your help and input in this process. Give us your feedback and ideas during townhall meetings and through other outreach events. ***Be a part of the solution.*** If you are interested in this process, here are a few public meetings you may want to attend: April 2, Manhattan, KS, May 21-22, Garden City, KS, August 21-22, Olathe, KS. For additional meetings please check out the Kansas Water Office web site.

### **Kansas Water Vision Team**

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You are encouraged to visit the Vision page at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org) and share your comments and input for the future of water in Kansas.

