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## **David Barfield Appointed Chief Engineer**

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky appointed David Barfield chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources in November 2007.

"The depth and breadth of Mr. Barfield's understanding of Kansas water issues make him the most logical choice to fill this important position," Polansky said. "He has the experience and historical perspective needed to ensure continuity and the expertise to address new challenges so our state's water resources are equitably managed for the benefit of all Kansans."

Barfield started working for the Division of Water Resources in 1984. He has worked in all areas of water resource management, including municipal and industrial water use, dam safety and interstate water compacts. He was exclusively involved in interstate water issues from 1992 to June 2007, when he was appointed acting chief engineer. He has a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and a Master of Science in water resources, both from the University of Kansas. He is a licensed professional engineer.

"I am honored by my appointment to this challenging position. I appreciate Secretary Polansky's confidence in me, and I look forward to working with him and Division of Water Resources staff to fulfill our statutory responsibilities," Barfield said. "My immediate plan is to ensure we continue to provide current levels of service while building on the solid foundation left by my predecessor."

Barfield was preceded by David Pope, who retired in June 2007 after 24 years of service as chief engineer.

"Mr. Barfield is a good selection from my standpoint," Pope said. "I worked with him for many years, and I have full faith in his ability to carry out the duties of the position."

The chief engineer is responsible for managing the state's water supply in the public's interest, for ensuring public safety related to the construction and maintenance of dams and representing Kansas' interests in interstate water compacts. The division's work is divided into four areas: (continued)

## David Barfield Appointed Chief Engineer *(continued)*

The water appropriation program manages the state's water supplies through a system of permits, reviews and inspections. It issues water rights, maintains data about water use and administers water rights during times of shortage.

The water structures program inspects and regulates the safety of dams that could, if they failed, endanger lives and property. The program also monitors activities affecting the flow of rivers and streams, and their floodplains, to ensure these activities are properly planned, constructed, operated and maintained.

The water management services program administers the four interstate river compacts and the subbasin water resources management program, which develops plans in conjunction with local agencies and stakeholders to address resource issues in identified subbasins.

The state water plan program encompasses activities from other programs, including interstate water, and basin and floodplain management.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will conserve groundwater and surface water, protect water quality, reduce soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. It is a federal-state-local partnership to provide a voluntary, incentive-based program to landowners. When the program started December 20, 2007, landowners could enroll up to 20,000 acres, with a 5,000 acre per county limit. In May 2008, the Legislature extended the program until June 30, 2009, with up to 40,000 acres. The program operates on a first come, first enrolled basis.

This voluntary program provides incentives and cost sharing to participants who enroll their land in the targeted areas in eligible conservation practices and permanently retire their irrigation water right. Participants will receive annual federal rental payments (\$100 to \$115 per acre for land equipped with center pivot irrigation systems, depending on location; or \$90 to \$105 per acre for flood irrigation), an annual maintenance payment, a state sign-up bonus, and state, federal and private cost-share dollars. The state will make an upfront payment of \$62 per irrigated acre for Tier 1 soils or \$35 per irrigated acre for Tier 2 soils. There also is cost share on optional well plugging.

Much like a traditional CRP contract, land will need to be put into a conservation practice, such as native grass, during the life of the contract. After the contract, the land can be dryland cropped or put to other uses.

The 2007 Kansas Legislature approved \$2 million for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program for payments to producers in 10 counties along the Arkansas River, including two groundwater management districts. The state portion of the funding will come from damage award monies received from the Kansas v. Colorado lawsuit over violations of the Arkansas River Compact. The federal government will provide payments of about \$31 million, when fully enrolled. *(continued)*

County (as of 6/16/08)	Total Acres
Barton	0
Finney	784.7
Ford	0
Gray	3799.2
Kearny	4835.3
Pawnee	241.7
<b>Program Total to Date</b>	<b>9,660.9</b>

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program *continued*

So far, interest has been especially strong in the sandy soil areas south of the Arkansas River in the westernmost counties. In fact, enrollment in Kearny County has come close to the allowable limit.

For general program information, please contact your local groundwater management district or the state CREP coordinator. To signup, contact your local Farm Service Agency office to determine eligibility and individual program payments. Big Bend GMD5: Sharon Falk, (620) 234-5352, [sfalk@gmd5.org](mailto:sfalk@gmd5.org); Southwest GMD3, Mark Rude, (620) 275-7147, [mrude@gmd3.org](mailto:mrude@gmd3.org); State CREP Coordinator Steve Frost (State Conservation Commission), (785) 296-3600 [sfrost@scc.state.ks.us](mailto:sfrost@scc.state.ks.us).

## Tamarisk Knows No Boundaries: The Value of Interstate Cooperation

*Courtesy of the Kansas Water Office*

Tamarisk infestation is not restricted within the borders of Kansas. In order to achieve true, long-term successful control, Kansas will need to actively coordinate with our neighbors. Working collaboratively will allow us to identify opportunities that make the most effective use of our collective resources.

With that in mind, several Kansas partners recently joined with stakeholders in Colorado to initiate a cooperative control project in the Arkansas River watershed. The project seeks to build partnerships and develop local leadership so long-term control will be successful. Treating tamarisk infestation in the watershed will improve the limited streamflow and the interconnected alluvial and High Plains aquifers along the Arkansas River where tamarisk has become a significant problem.



Beyond the interstate control project, the Kansas Water Office has also been cooperating with stakeholders in southeast Colorado to prepare a watershed-wide tamarisk control plan. In August 2007, a partnership was formed to develop a strategic plan for the Arkansas River's riparian areas impacted by tamarisk. This partnership, known as the Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plant Plan, was initiated in Bent County, Colorado, through the leadership of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Many state and federal agencies, local communities, private landowners and nongovernmental organizations are cooperating to prepare this plan.

## Division of Water Resources Publishes Newsletter

The Division of Water Resources' electronic newsletter, DWR Currents, is distributed quarterly, and focuses on providing useful, timely information related to Kansas' water resources. You can subscribe to receive the newsletter via email, or you can view current and past newsletters at [www.ksda.gov/dwr/](http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/)



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Visit [www.ksda.gov/subbasin/mailling\\_list/id/71](http://www.ksda.gov/subbasin/mailling_list/id/71) to sign up to receive the Middle Arkansas Subbasin Newsletter electronically!

## 2007 County Precipitation

Precipitation information is provided by the Kansas State University Weather Data Library at [www.oznet.ksu.edu](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu). Rainfall reports for all stations within a county have been summarized and given as a county average.

County	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Yearly New Normal
Rush	0.37	1.37	3.73	2.18	4.52	3.73	5.34	2.96	1.84	2.08	--	--	28.12	23.63
Pawnee	0.33	0.94	3.58	1.49	8.71	2.95	4.66	1.64	0.89	0.92	--	--	26.08	23.99
Stafford	1.26	0.84	3.00	2.64	13.16	4.43	4.29	3.66	2.65	1.00	--	--	36.93	26.03
Rice	0.95	0.64	4.58	2.61	9.83	3.96	3.43	2.40	2.18	3.78	--	--	34.34	28.25
Edwards	0.63	0.97	5.48	2.60	7.99	3.07	5.43	0.74	1.95	0.17	--	--	29.00	26.75
Barton	0.50	1.58	3.00	2.32	18.25	5.81	2.32	2.86	1.71	0.53	--	--	38.86	26.62