



June 2010

**Inside this issue:**

[Field Summary Update and Improvements](#)

1

[Northwest Kansas GMD No. 4 Update](#)

2

[KDA-DWR and KWO Share a Booth at 3i Show](#)

3

[Solomon Basin Advisory Committee Update](#)

3

**Upcoming Meeting**

Solomon BAC

6 p.m.

Tuesday

June 8, 2010

Stockton Field Office

## Field Summary Update and Improvements

The Basin Management Team has published annual field summaries since 2007. The 2009 summaries for all three subbasins — Upper Solomon, Lower Solomon and Mainstem Solomon — are now available on the Basin Management Team [website](#).

As in previous years, the field summary includes an update on precipitation, surface water (including streamflow) and groundwater levels, and water use. The 2009 summary includes a new analysis with two charts in the water use section.

In crop production, precipitation and irrigation complement one another.

Figure 1 illustrates this relationship and may offer some insights into other characteristics of water use in the subbasin. For instance, from 1988 to 1997 it appears that irrigators preferred to keep the total precipitation and irrigation in the 35 to 40 inch range. From 2000 to 2004, pumping sharply increased in response to dry conditions. The irrigation peak in 2002, and the accompanying minimum of total water applied, indicates that irrigators may have been unable to pump enough to satisfy crop demands.

*(continued on page 2)*

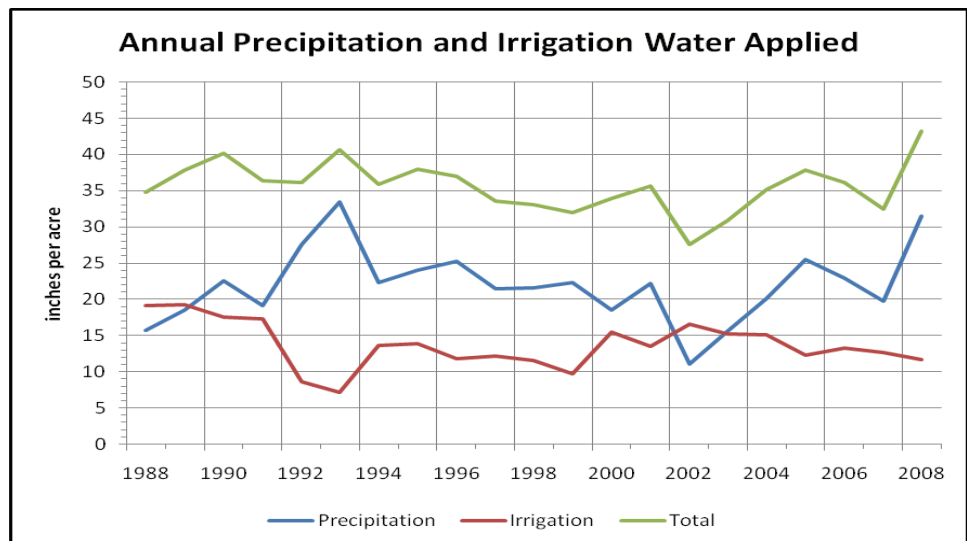


Figure 1: Precipitation and irrigation in the Upper Solomon subbasin.

## Field Summary Update and Improvements

*(continued from page 1)*

The National Climatic Data Center provides the precipitation data and the water use data is from water use reports submitted to KDA-DWR. Figure 1 charts annual precipitation. The analysis in the field summaries includes an additional graph that charts only irrigation season (May—October) precipitation.

The purpose of the field summaries is to provide accurate and relevant information to decision makers and the public. The Basin Management Team welcomes feedback and suggestions on ways to improve the usefulness of these reports. Please feel free to contact us with your comments at: [www.ksda.gov/subbasin/](http://www.ksda.gov/subbasin/)

## Northwest Kansas GMD No. 4 Update

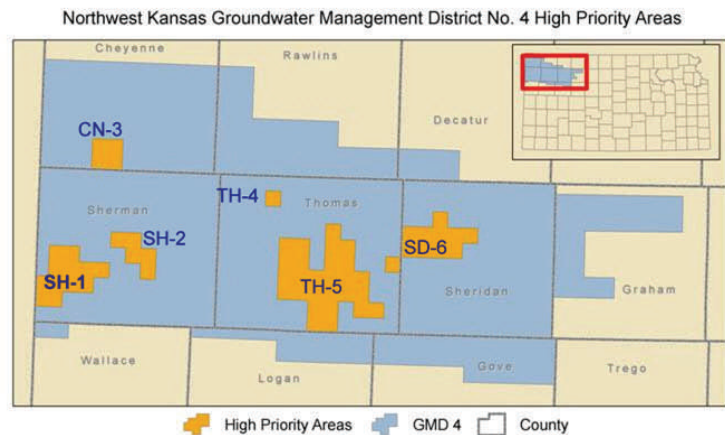
The Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 created six high-priority areas within their boundary for enhanced management in March 2007. These high-priority areas were created to address localized groundwater declines. Each priority area sets a water use reduction goal for the enhanced management process. Parts of two priority areas, Thomas 5 and Sheridan 6, fall within the Upper Solomon subbasin. The

Sheridan 6 high-priority area has set a water use reduction goal of 12,000 acre-feet in September 2008. For more information on high-priority areas, visit [www.gmd4.org/EnhancedMgt/protocol.htm](http://www.gmd4.org/EnhancedMgt/protocol.htm).

As part of enhanced management, GMD No. 4 has applied for the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land to conserve surface water and groundwater and to improve water quality. As part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program operates through program contracts with producers to plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through partnership agreements. To learn more, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep/).

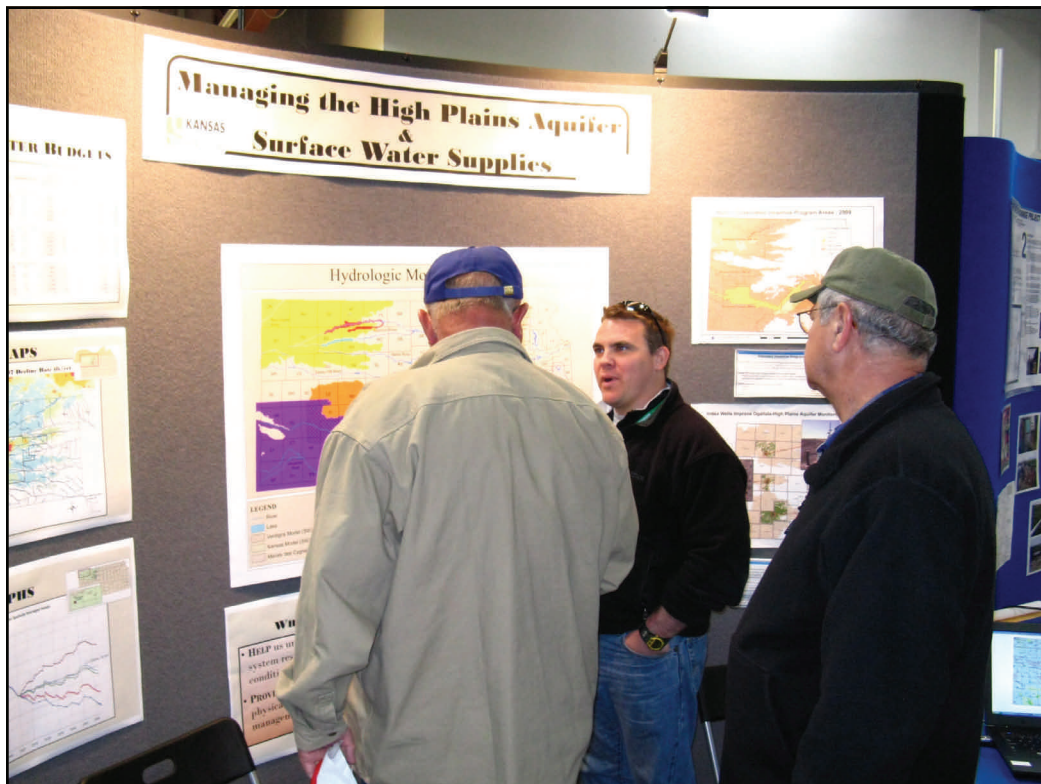
Before the May 17, 2009, deadline, GMD No. 4 applied for \$9 million to permanently convert up to 6,500 acres of irrigated land to nonirrigated (dryland) farmland; which would conserve up to 7,900 acre-feet of groundwater compared to historical use. If GMD No. 4 is successful, land within any of the six high-priority areas will be eligible to apply for the program.

Thanks to Wayne Bossert for contributing to this article.



## KDA-DWR and KWO Share a Booth at 3i Show

Staff from the Division of Water Resources' Topeka and Stafford field offices shared a booth with the Kansas Water Office at the 3i Show in Great Bend, which ran from May 5 through 7. Farmers and nonfarmers alike took the opportunity to pick up an informational brochure and to visit with staff about the operations and activities of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources. The booth display highlighted hydrologic modeling projects throughout Kansas. Information on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Water Transition Assistance Program was also available to visitors.



*Andrew Lyon speaks with constituents about the modeling efforts in Kansas.*

## Solomon Basin Advisory Committee Update

**Contributed by Hank Ernst—Kansas Water Office**

The Solomon Basin Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Stockton field office at 820 S. Walnut in Stockton. Agenda items will include legislative and budget updates and ideas for an expanded Solomon River basin information and outreach plan. Part of that plan is a Solomon basin-specific web page on the Kansas Water Office's website at [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org). In the first edition, Solomon BAC chair Ray DeBey of Cawker City tells about his interest in water issues and the role of the basin advisory committee. Read his comments at [www.kwo.org/BACs/SOL/SOL.htm](http://www.kwo.org/BACs/SOL/SOL.htm)