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## Field Summary Update and Improvements

The Basin Management Team has published annual field summaries since 2007. The 2009 Rattlesnake Creek field summary is available on the Basin Management Team [website](#).

As in previous years, the field summary includes an update on water use, as well as on precipitation, surface water (including streamflow) and groundwater levels. 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 30- to 45-inch range. From 1998 to 2008, pumping stayed consistent with a decrease in 2004.

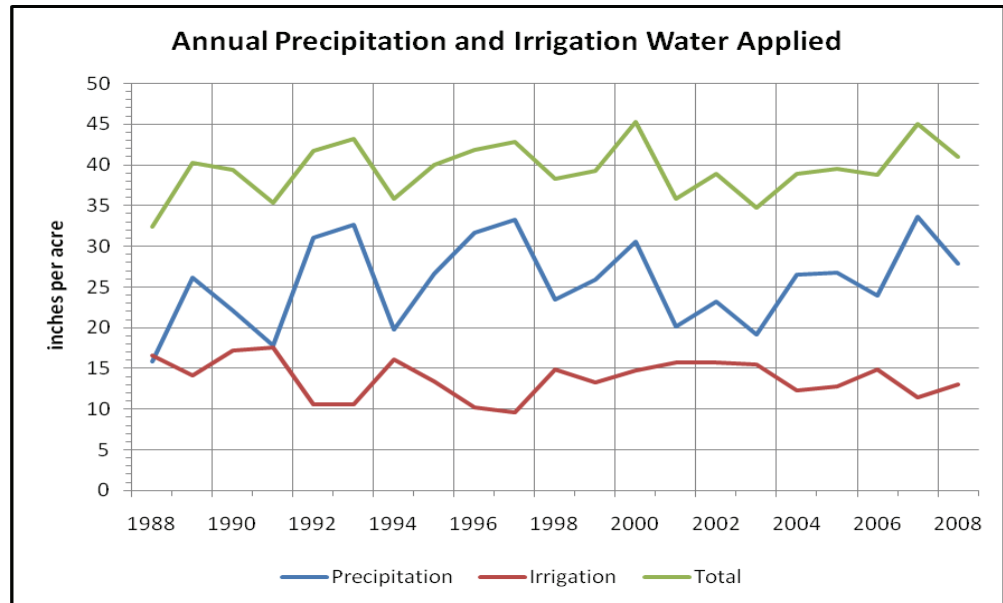


Figure 1: Rattlesnake Creek annual precipitation and irrigation.

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/).

## Upcoming Meetings

Lower Arkansas BAC

9 a.m.

June 30, 2010

Water Center, Wichita

GMD 5 Board Meeting

7 p.m.

July 8, 2010

GMD 5 office, Stafford

## Check Groundwater Levels in Your Area Online

The Kansas Geological Survey maintains an online database of past and current water levels throughout the state. Groundwater level measurements taken by the Division of Water Resources, Groundwater Management District #5, Kansas Geological Survey and other agencies are stored here for easy public access. Users may search by section-township-range, county and GPS. Results can be narrowed to a certain time frame and can be displayed in chart or map form. Questions? Call Lisa at (620) 234-5311. Access the online database at [www.kgs.ku.edu/Magellan/WaterLevels/index.html](http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Magellan/WaterLevels/index.html).

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

Staff from the DWR's Topeka headquarters and Stafford field office shared a booth with the Kansas Water Office at the 3i Show in Great Bend, May 5 through 7. Though the focus of the event was industry, implements and irrigation (the 3 Is), farmers and nonfarmers alike took the opportunity to pick up informational brochures and to visit with staff about the operations and activities of the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources. DWR's booth included a display of hydrologic modeling projects throughout Kansas. Information on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Water Transition Assistance Program was also available to visitors.

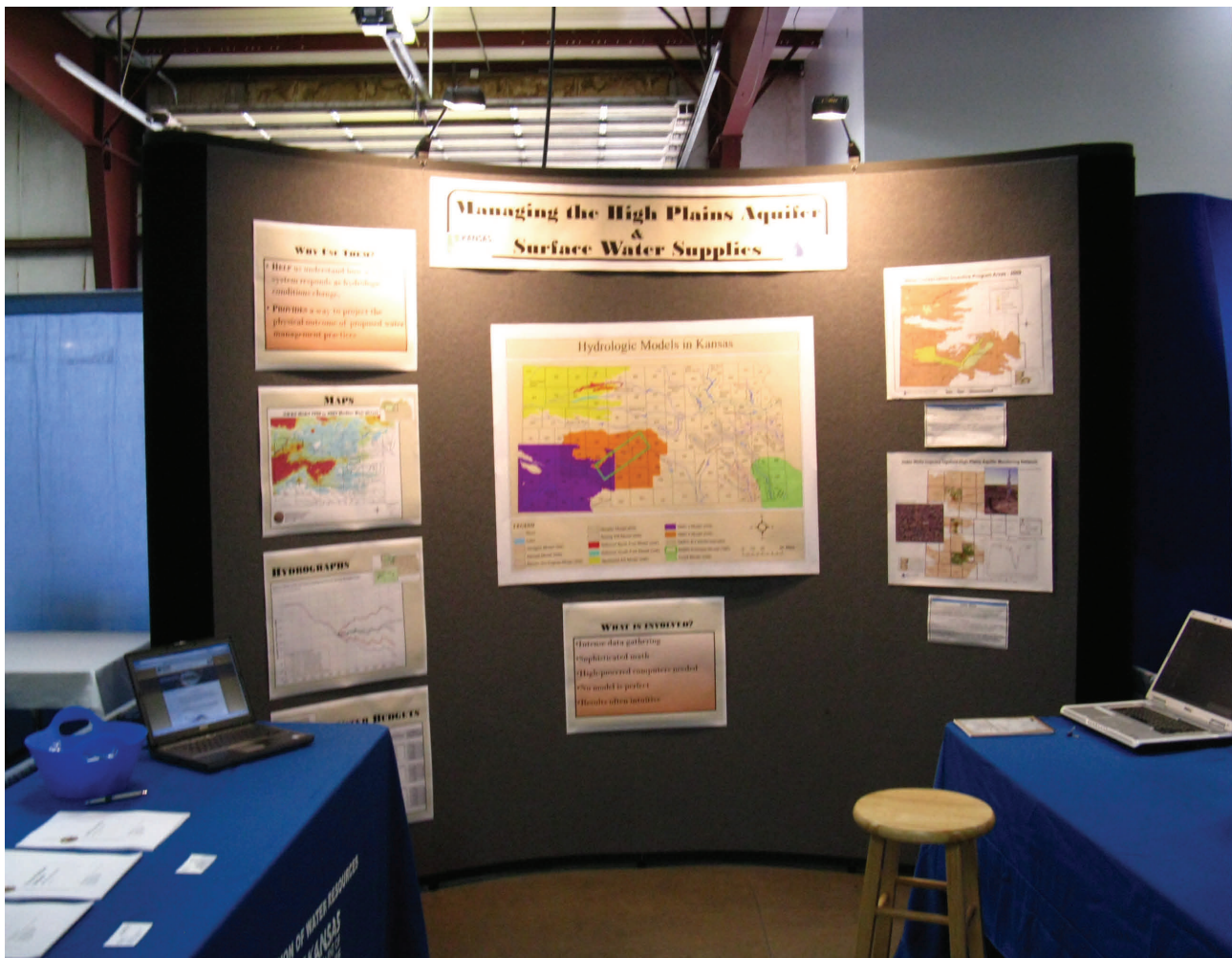


Figure 2: KDA-DWR and KWO 3i Show booth.

# Groundwater Management District No. 5 Submits Application for AWEP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is funding the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program again in 2010. It is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface water and groundwater and improving 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.

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 submitted an Agricultural Water Enhancement Program proposal that focuses on removing end guns in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin. There are about 1,200 center pivots within the subbasin with end guns covering approximately 9,000 acres. The GMD 5 proposal estimates that removing 55 percent of the end guns would provide a reduction of 4,950 irrigated acres and an annual savings 5,940 acre-feet of consumptive water use. The GMD 5 proposal requests \$3,541,808 from NRCS and commits GMD 5 to provide \$614,000 for incentives, planning and monitoring services. The project would run from 2010 through 2014. The cooperation between GMD 5 and NRCS could reduce acre-feet used in the Rattlesnake Creek subbasin and help GMD 5 reach partnership goals. NRCS will announce the winners later in 2010.

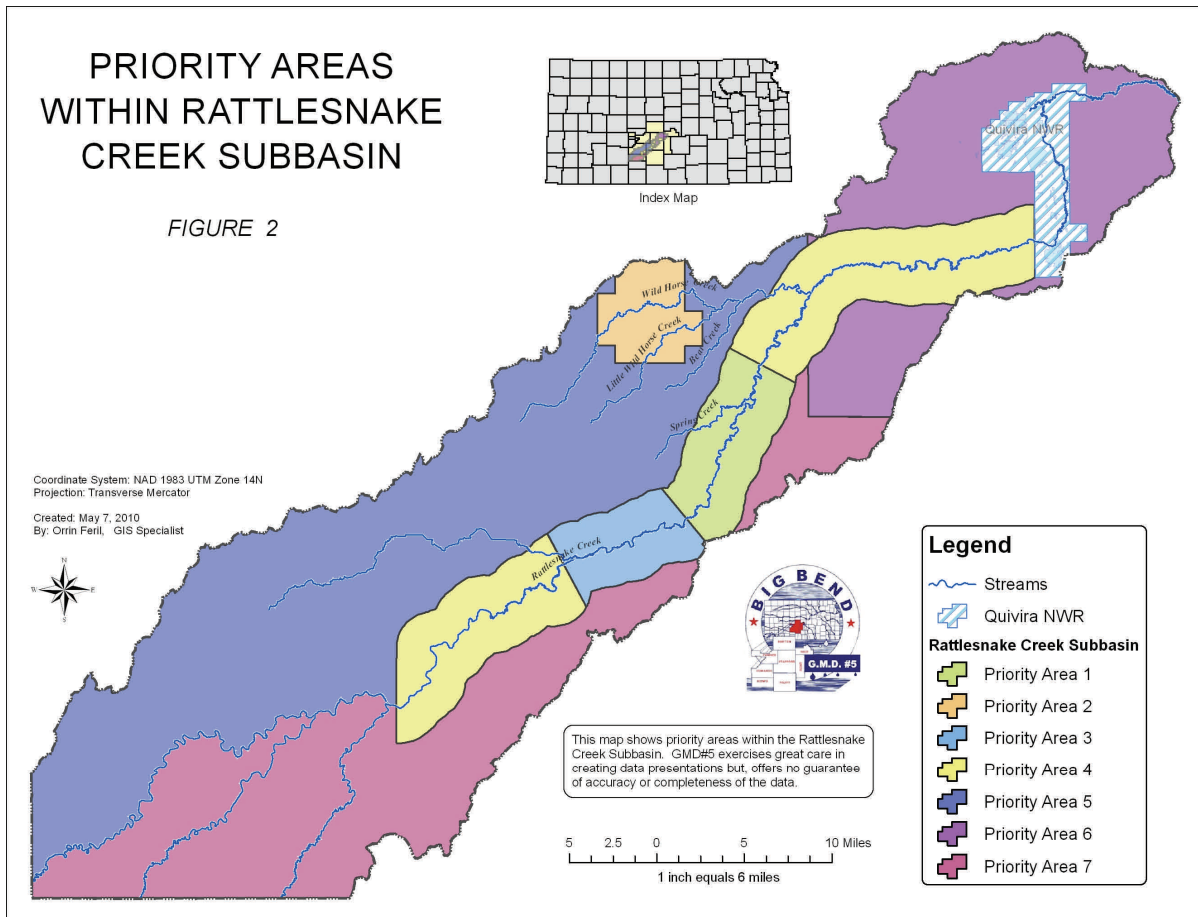


Figure 3: Rattlesnake Creek Priority Areas.

To sign up for other Basin Team newsletters, please visit [www.ksda.gov/subbasin/mailling\\_list/](http://www.ksda.gov/subbasin/mailling_list/).

## Central Kansas Water Bank Review

Written by Susan Stover - Kansas Water Office

A water bank is one of the conservation strategies called for in the Rattlesnake Creek management program. The Kansas Water Banking Act requires that a water bank be evaluated no later than five years after it is established. Although the enabling legislation allows up to two water banks to be established, to date, the Central Kansas Water Bank Association is the only one created in Kansas. This groundwater bank was chartered in June, 2005, for a period of up to seven years, at which time, the chief engineer, in accordance with the evaluation team's recommendation, may extend the bank's charter for up to another seven years or allow the charter to lapse.

The bank was established to accomplish two main objectives: To allow flexibility in where surplus water may be used in the same hydrologic unit, and to provide conservation of water. A groundwater right may be deposited for up to five years, and only the portion that was unused in the previous year and does not exceed the historically consumed quantity, can be put into the account for leasing. The lease of the water must be used within the bank boundary and the same hydrologic unit as the deposit. Individual safe deposit accounts are also allowed. Additionally, there is to be at least 10 percent water conservation. The Central Kansas Water Bank Association operates out of Big Bend Groundwater Management District office, although it is a separate entity.

The Kansas Water Office will convene an evaluation committee composed of a wide variety of experts and users as outlined in state statute (K.S.A. 82a-767). The timeline for the evaluation is to have a report with recommendations for the chief engineer completed by the end of the calendar year.



### **Basin Management Team Mission Statement**

*To analyze aquifers and stream systems in targeted areas and collaborate with stakeholders to develop and assess water resource management tools and strategies to protect water rights and improve water resource sustainability. Visit [www.ksda.gov/subbasin/](http://www.ksda.gov/subbasin/) to learn more.*

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