# A LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF WATER SUPPLY IN KANSAS

*Developed based upon input from the citizens of Kansas*

# State of the Resource

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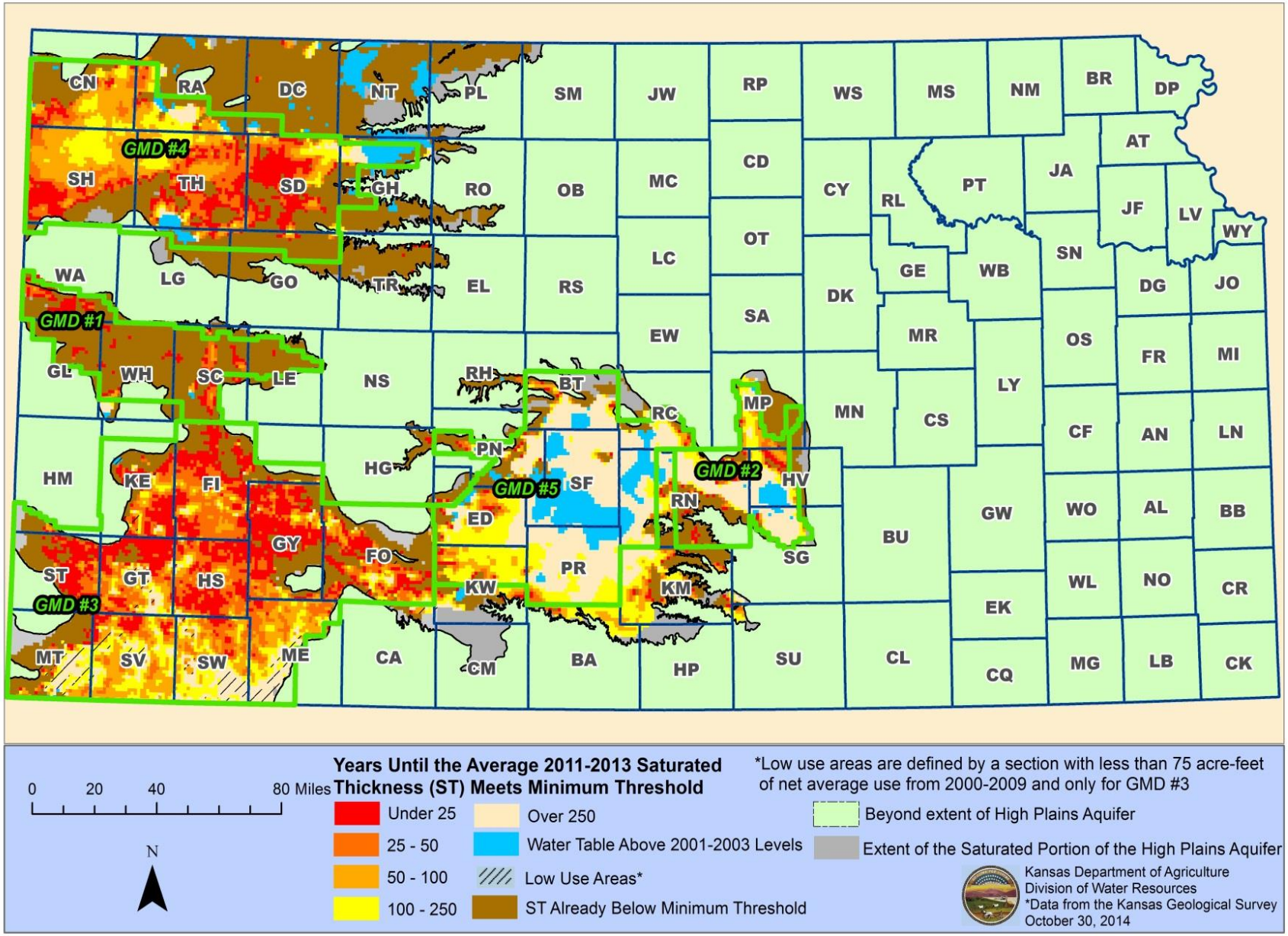
# Estimated Usable Lifetime for the High Plains Aquifer, Kansas*

(Based on groundwater trends from 2001-2003 to 2011-2013 and the minimum saturated thickness required to support well yields at 400 gpm under a scenario of 90 days pumping with wells on 1/4 section)




0 20 40 80 Miles

N

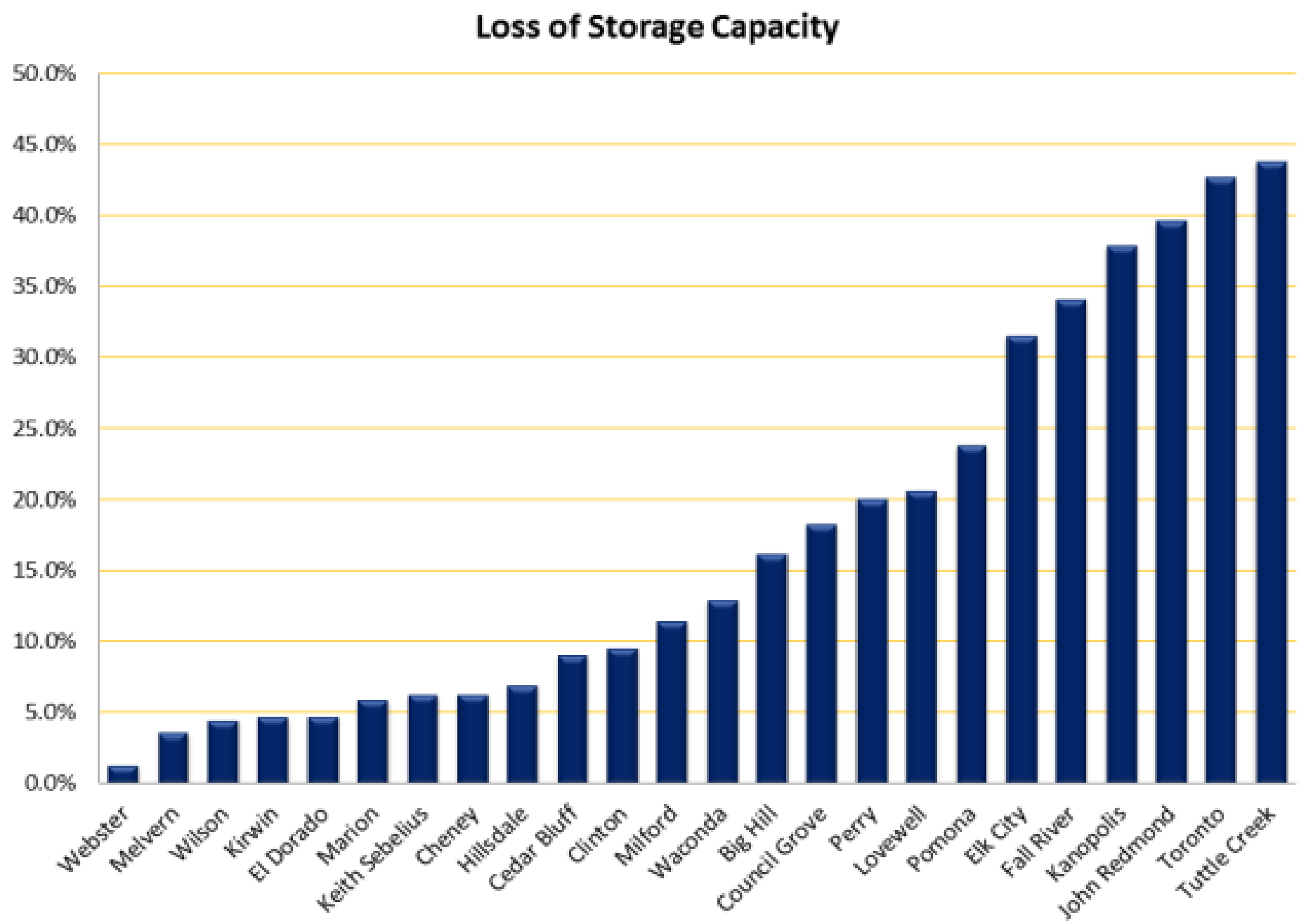
**Years Until the Average 2011-2013 Saturated Thickness (ST) Meets Minimum Threshold**

- Under 25
- 25 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 250
- Over 250
- Water Table Above 2001-2003 Levels
- Low Use Areas*
- ST Already Below Minimum Threshold

*Low use areas are defined by a section with less than 75 acre-feet of net average use from 2000-2009 and only for GMD #3

- Beyond extent of High Plains Aquifer
- Extent of the Saturated Portion of the High Plains Aquifer

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
*Data from the Kansas Geological Survey
October 30, 2014


Loss of Storage Capacity
50.0%
45.0%
40.0%
35.0%
30.0%
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%
Webster
Melvern
Wilson
Kirwin
El Dorado
Marion
Keith Sebelius
Cheney
Hillsdale
Cedar Bluff
Clinton
Milford
Waconda
Big Hill
Council Grove
Perry
Lovewell
Pomona
Elk City
Fall River
Kanopolis
John Redmond
Toronto
Tuttle Creek

# VISION

***Kansans*** *act on a shared commitment to have the water resources necessary to support the* ***state's social, economic and natural resource*** *needs for* ***current and future generations****.*

# MISSION

***Provide Kansans*** *with the framework, policy and tools,* ***developed in concert with stakeholders****, to manage, secure, and protect a reliable, long-term state-wide water supply while balancing conservation with economic growth.*

# Guiding Principles

- Locally driven solutions have the highest opportunity for long-term success.

- Policies and programs should not unintentionally penalize those who have already demonstrated good stewardship with the state's water resources; and

- Voluntary, incentive and market-based water conservation and land management activities are the preferred tools for ensuring a reliable state-wide water supply.

# Immediate Priority Action Items

- Improve coordination on water related issues by the state's primary water related agencies through the creation of the Governor's Water Resources Sub-Cabinet at the Executive level with additional regular agency collaborative activities to implement joint activities.

- Establish a Blue-Ribbon Task Force to develop a balanced, affordable and sustainable method to provide financing for water resource management and protection; including alternatives that utilize public and private partnerships.

# Water Conservation

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# Water Conservation

- Strategically emphasize information and education regarding the importance of water and water conservation practices
- Implement additional or enhanced water conservation policies and practices
- Reduce barriers and increase development of locally driven conservation and management plans
- Encourage conservation planning in economic development and business recruitment
- Increase adoption of watershed practices that reduce future water supply loss

# Water Management

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# Water Management

- Modify reservoir operations and downstream targets to most efficiently operate reservoirs for water supply
- Improve interstate cooperation so that Kansans' water needs are met and protected
- Increase the regionalization of water supply to improve long-term water supply reliability
- Evaluate changes to the Kansas Water Appropriation Act and Rules and Regulations to promote better balance between efficient water use and economic benefit
- Evaluate and improve state agency coordination and collaboration

# Technology & Crop Varieties

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# Technology & Crop Varieties

- Promote irrigation efficiency technologies
- Increase utilization of less water intensive crop varieties
- Implement research-based technology aimed at better understanding our state's water supply
- Develop career and technical education programming related to water resource management and technology to build the needed workforce

# Additional Sources of Supply

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# Additional Sources of Supply

- Restore water supply lost to sedimentation through dredging and other in-lake sediment management techniques
- Allow for the transfer of water supplies between basins where feasible and cost effective
- Evaluate the sources and potential uses of lower quality water
- Secure all available storage at Federal reservoirs including reallocating storage where such actions are possible
- Increase other sources of storage available for water supply

# Measuring Success with a Regional Approach

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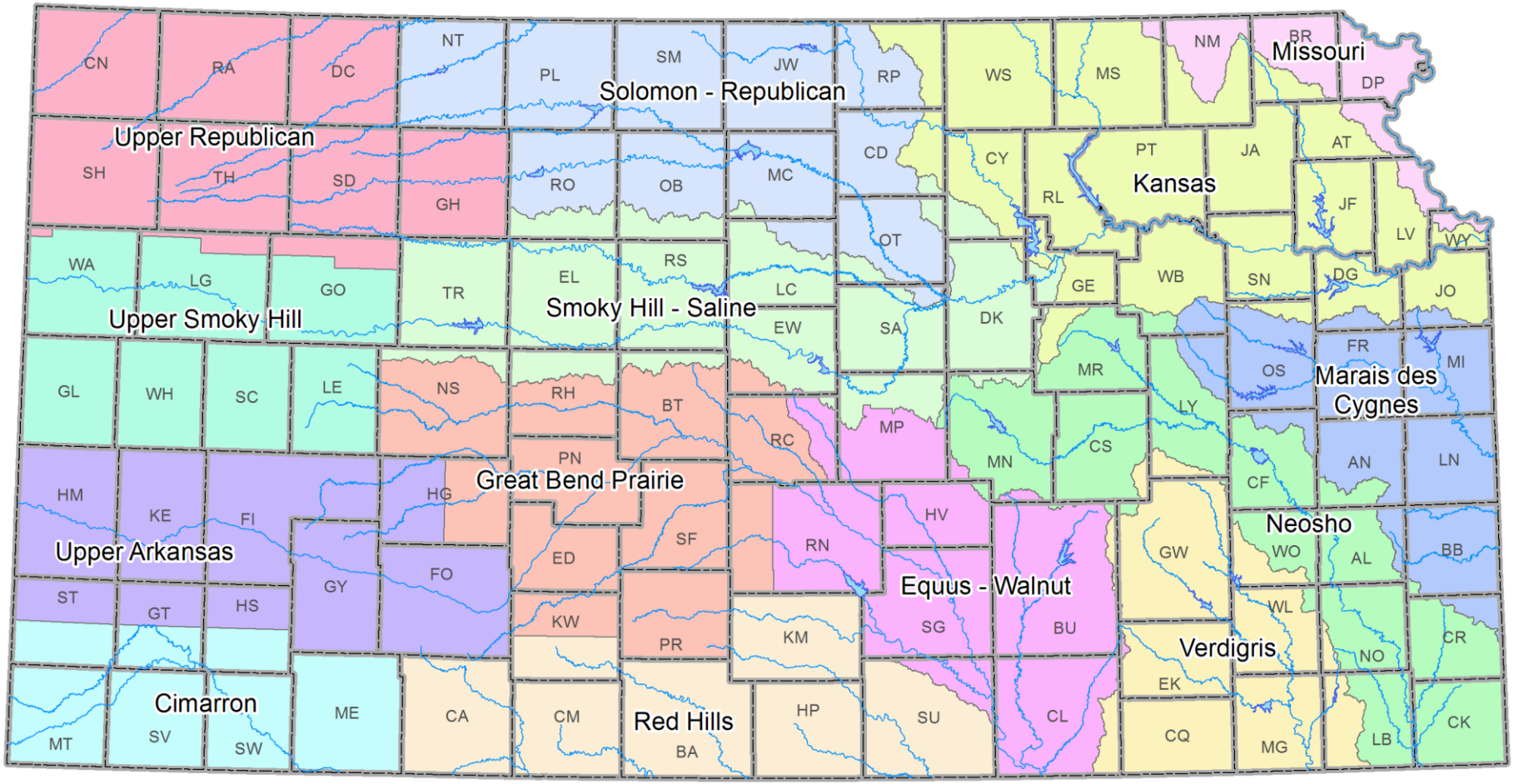
# Draft Regional Planning Areas

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# Legislative Items

- Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) Carry Over
- State Revolving Loan Fund Availability
- Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) Changes to Add Sponsors Other than GMDs
- Change Application for Place of Use
- Protecting Conservation Efforts in Future Actions
- Third Party Conservation Easements
- Augmentation as a Tool

# Questions & Discussion

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