

SECURING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING OUR KANSAS RESERVOIRS

Issue Statement

Surface water reservoirs in Kansas serve as the source of municipal and industrial water for more than two-thirds of the state's population. Nearly 60% of the energy produced in Kansas relies on the storage in our reservoirs. These reservoirs are filling with sediment and associated nutrients, decreasing the storage available and sometimes compromising its use for water supply and other purposes due to nutrient enrichment.

Importance of the Issue

If a multi-year severe drought occurred in the foreseeable future, water supply shortages could occur due to diminished storage in several basins. For the communities and industries reliant on the storage provided by our reservoirs, lack of reliable reservoir storage will hamper growth and result in significant economic losses. For example, if insufficient water supply storage is available from John Redmond Reservoir to maintain the cooling lake at Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station, online electric power would be bought at a replacement cost of nearly \$23 million per month.

Needs to be Addressed

In 2010, the Kansas Water Office developed a Reservoir Roadmap outlining the statutory changes and financial resources needed to secure, protect and restore reservoir storage to meet the needs of the citizens of Kansas. Needs include addressing an unfunded liability in the Water Marketing Program, improving implementation of best management practices to the highest priority areas, and restoration of water supply through dredging.

Closing the Gap

Actions taken at or above our reservoirs such as storage reallocation, nutrient reduction and streambank stabilization will help expand both the supply available and its quality and reduce future sedimentation and pollution problems.

As we continue work to restore and protect the watersheds above water supply reservoirs, more efforts need to be focused on securing additional storage, particularly in federal reservoirs, and restoring storage lost to sedimentation. The cost of water purchased from federal reservoirs under either the marketing or assurance programs needs evaluat-

ed to ensure sufficient revenue is available to implement protective measures to ensure long term supply. Removal of sediment through dredging at John Redmond will serve as the template for not only other Kansas reservoirs but nationwide for large scale storage restoration at federal projects.