FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 11, 2022

For More Information:
Matt Unruh
(785) 296-3185, matt.unruh@kwo.ks.gov

Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative Accepting Additional Applications
Lands eligible for assistance to enhance reservoir sedimentation reduction

The Kansas Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation, in conjunction with water conservation partners, announces an additional opportunity for applications to be submitted for the Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative (KPRI).

This program provides financial assistance to landowners in priority watersheds to implement conservation practices enhancing sediment-reducing efforts above federal reservoirs where water supply storage is impacted by reservoir sedimentation. Initiative funding is currently targeted above Kanopolis, Fall River, John Redmond and Tuttle Creek reservoirs where 38, 39, 42 and 50 percent of water supply storage has been lost to sedimentation, respectively. Lands located in targeted sub-watersheds in portions of Barton, Butler, Clay, Coffey, Ellsworth, Greenwood, Lyon, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Russell and Washington counties are eligible for assistance.

Funding for the KPRI was supported by Governor Laura Kelly and the 2022 Kansas Legislature as a part of the full restoration of funding for the State Water Plan Fund to address priority water resource issues and projects recommended by the Kansas Water Authority.

Landowners interested in participating are encouraged to contact their local county conservation district or Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Coordinator to apply. Many sediment-reducing conservation practices are eligible through this initiative, however, projects focusing on large gully repair and soil health practices such as reduced tillage and cover crops are highly encouraged. Applications for this continued round of funding will be accepted through the close of business on September 8, 2022. It is not guaranteed that adequate funding will be available to provide financial assistance to all eligible applications.

For additional information, please visit kwo.ks.gov/projects/kansas-reservoir-protection-initiative.
As the state’s water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state. The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation.