

Kansas Wildlife Parks and Tourism, Region 2 Public Lands

Dustin Mengarelli
Region 2 Public Lands Supervisor

Summary

- Manage 57000+ acres
 - Milford – 19000
 - Tuttle – 18000
 - Perry – 10500
 - Clinton – 9200
- ~11300 acres of ag production
- ~46000 acres of grasslands, wetlands and timber

Public Lands

- Manage State and Federal Properties for Wildlife benefits
- Utilize Agricultural Leases on WA under our Ag Policy Manual
- Require Soil tests, terrace and waterway maintenance
- No tillage after harvest until March 1st of following year
- Frequent Flooding leads to fallow fields

Milford

- Last several years
 - Removed 360 acres from production
 - Planted 85 acres of field buffers
 - Lots of Terrace and waterway work
- Continue to work with Republican WRAPS to establish cover crops.
 - Many Producers have no interest in Cover crops even with almost full cost share.

Tuttle Creek

- Depending on the year between 30%-90% of the area is fallow from flooding
- 65 acres of cover crops were planted of the 530 acres planned in 2017
- Removing 100 acres from production 2018
- Planning additional 1000 acres of cover crops by manager
 - Ag producers have little interest in cover crops
- Large scale half mile streambank project

Clinton

- Since 2018 – 100% no-til
- 200 acres of cover crops annually
- 3 year plan on terrace and waterway maintenance
- Coordination with KDHE on application of cover crops 2020.

Perry

- 4 streambank stabilization projects planned over two mile stretch
- Cover crops – Required 20% (2016)
 - 2015 – 143 ac
 - 2016 – 398 ac
 - 2017 – 385 ac
- 53 grass strips or 231 acres
- 75% of area is no-til

Cover Crops

- 2015 Cover Crop requirements placed on all competitive bid contracts
 - 20% of annual planted acres to be established
 - Mixed results (weather, tenant, etc)
 - Rye grass minimum, more tenants now converting to mix
 - Just under 1,300 acres total, 260 acres cover crops required
- 106 acres converting to competitive bid in 2021
 - 21 acres more cover crops
- 2025 Remaining priority share tenants contracts going to competitive bid
 - About 700 more acres converting to cover crop requirement
 - Resulting in another 140 acres of cover crops
 - All contracts will rebid in 2025
 - Potentially change percentage on new contracts/future contracts?

Sedimentation – West River Ramp

- About \$50,000 total cost for dirt work and gravel replacement
- High use area for fishing and waterfowl hunting access
- Major damage in 2015 flood event with siltation
- Area totally unusable after 2019 flood
- Silt/dirt removal from around parking area, boat ramp, and roadway.
- Reclaiming of ditches along roadway and around parking area
- Area cleared to the North and South for future silt depositing
- All areas cleared to be seeded to NWSG this Fall

Sedimentation – 2019 Flood

- All flood plains in Reserviors gained silt deposits.
 - Ranged from inches to feet.
- Flood clean slated most of the Wildlife areas of permenant grassland vegetation.
- Some Roads closed indefinitely as silt removal is counter productive.

Moving Water dynamics

- Straightening of river systems as led to larger problems
- Stream bank erosion is minimal on wildlife areas compared to silt deposit.
- Tile outlet terraces allow water off fields faster and fill river channel more quickly.
- Channelization of river creates deeper river channel/higher banks.

Conclusion

- We have many management practices in place.
 - Is there more to do, YES!
- As old contracts expire we add new stipulation to improve our management practices.
- The wildlife areas are significant sediment traps that continue to challenge management.