



**Kansas Association of Conservation Districts**

*Representing Local Conservation Districts*

**The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts'**  
**FUNDING SOURCE**  
**INVENTORY**

Compiled by the  
District Operations and Outlook Committee  
November 22, 1999  
Re-edited by the  
District Operations and Resolutions Committee  
March 3, 2012

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
FUNDING SOURCE INVENTORY

Conservation districts need adequate and reliable funding to ensure the resource conservation concerns of their constituencies are being met. To obtain adequate and reliable funding, conservation districts must educate their funding sources on the value of the conservation district’s programs and services. Before a conservation district can educate its funding sources, the district must first know who its funding sources are.

A funding source is any entity that originates or directs the flow of resources to a conservation district.

Funding can be divided into two types, direct and indirect. Direct funding is any monies available to the district to use to carry out its programs and accomplish its goals. Indirect funding is any other resource available to a conservation district to use that would save the district monetarily. Examples of direct funding are Aid to Conservation Districts, Water Resources Cost Share Program, grants, sales of services or products, and donations. Examples of indirect funding are in kind services, training and resources provided by cooperating agencies, and volunteers.

Ultimately, all direct public funding originates with the tax paying people of Kansas or the people of each respective conservation district. These funds are raised through income tax, property tax and/or user fees. State public monies are then allocated to various government agencies through the state legislature and governor of Kansas. The monies are then used to fund cost share programs, aid to conservation districts, grants for educational programs and special projects.

All monies used by the conservation district are considered public funds and can only be used for public purposes. For conservation districts, public funds can only be used to carry out activities and functions to implement the Kansas Conservation District Act.

Public funds originating from a county tax are allocated through the local county government. In some cases, public funding may be raised and allocated through a municipal government.

All direct state funding of conservation districts in Kansas is through the Division of Conservation (DOC), Kansas Department of Agriculture.

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**Programs available to conservation districts through the DOC are:**

**Buffer Initiative**

The Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative provides funds to supplement federal CRP rental payments by either 30% (for grass filter strips) or 50% (for riparian forest buffers). Incentives are calculated using established CRP soil rental rates. The supplemental payment provided through this initiative is in addition to the 20% supplement in weighted rental rates for continuous CRP sign-up.

**Water Resources and Cost Share Program**

Provides state financial assistance to landowners for the establishment of enduring water conservation practices to protect and improve the quantity of Kansas water resources.

**Non-Point Source Pollution Control Fund**

Provides state financial assistance for non-point source pollution control practices for the protection or restoration of surface and groundwater quality. Also provides conservation districts funds for implementing program and for information and education.

### **Riparian and Wetland Protection Program**

Addresses the conservation and management of riparian areas (banks of streams or rivers) and wetlands. Funded projects include alternative livestock water supplies, wetland enhancement, riparian fencing, tree plantings, and soil bio-engineering for streambank stabilization.

### **State Aid to Conservation Districts**

Provides State funds to match county funds appropriated by county commissions (up to \$25,000) for the operation of county conservation districts in Kansas.

### **Stream Rehabilitation Program**

Provides financial assistance for planning and implementing approved stream rehabilitation projects. This program addresses streams that have been adversely altered by channel modification.

### **Other public monies available through state agencies are:**

#### **Clean Water Act-Section 319 Non-point Source Pollution Control Grant 319 Grants**

Contact: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Projects to provide information and education, technical assistance, technology transfer and/or demonstrations to result in implementation of water quality protection measures.

#### **Clean Water Neighbor**

Contact: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Projects to increase public awareness of water quality problems caused by non-point pollutant sources and effective solutions of these problems.

#### **Stream Steward**

Contact: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Technical assistance projects to demonstrate water quality protection through protection and restoration of riparian areas and wetlands.

#### **Farmstead Water Quality Protection Initiative**

Identify water quality threats to farmstead water supplies through the application of Farm \*A\* Syst evaluation procedures.

#### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Federal Land and Water dollars, generated by a tax on off-continental shelf oil drilling, are used to finance land acquisition and recreation programs. The Land and Water Conservation fund program was enacted to preserve, develop, and assure access to outdoor recreation resources for all citizens. This program provides matching grants through State and local units of government. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 called for states to develop a wetland priority plan as a part of the outdoor recreation plan. A plan for Kansas Wildlife and Parks: Strategic Plan reflects both wetland preservation and management priorities for the Department.

#### **State Park Planning and Development Program**

The objectives of this program are to continue planning and developing the state park system. There is 50% cost-share money available for land acquisition and park development through federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. State park development is tied to programs of other state and federal agencies. Concerns for wetland and riparian areas may be incorporated into the planning process.

### **Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)**

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will participate in the Protection Program via the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). WHIP is a program that addresses the basic long-standing wildlife problem-habitat loss. All Kansas landowners are eligible to participate in WHIP. This program is to improve or develop wildlife habitat on private lands with little or no sacrifice of agricultural production.

### **Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)**

The Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance to landowners to encourage proper management of their forest and related resources. The program focuses on proper management of riparian forests to ensure water quality, reduce erosion, and provide other benefits that riparian forests can provide. Plans are developed by the District Forester with assistance from appropriate federal and state agencies. These plans must be followed for landowners to qualify for financial assistance under the Stewardship Incentive Program. Landowners must include all their forestlands in the plan.

### **Kansas Conservation Tree Planting Program**

Low-cost tree and shrub seedlings are offered for use in establishing riparian filter strips, woodlots, erosion control plantings, wildlife habitat plantings, windbreaks, and other conservation tree planting. The program is available statewide. District Foresters are available to prepare management plans. Educational assistance may include publications, news releases, field demonstrations, and presentations at public meetings.

### **Stewardship Incentive Program**

Provides financial assistance to landowners with an approved Stewardship Plan. The cost-share rate is 70% and the area which practices are applied must be at least one acre in size. Riparian and Wetland protection and improvement (SIP-6) is among the practice categories available. Specific practices that are approved for cost-share include, tree planting and maintenance, fencing, timber-stand enhancement, streambank stabilization and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. District Foresters are available to develop the forest Stewardship Plan and approve the cost-share practices. Cooperating state and federal agencies may be involved in the plan.

### **Well Head Protection Program**

Contact: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Groundwater is the source of drinking water for approximately 85% of the Kansas population. The Wellhead Protection Program is designed to assist communities in protecting water supplies. This program identifies areas around wells that should be managed to protect wells from activities that could contaminate groundwater. Some wetlands and riparian areas recharge groundwater and may be managed to prevent contamination of water supplies. Provides technical assistance and information/education.

### **Related private organization funding sources are:**

#### **Landowner Assistance Program**

Contact: Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

Local PF & QF chapters offer financial assistance to landowners for planting trees and shrubs in riparian areas, and for fencing or riparian areas to restrict grazing.

#### **Matching Aid to Restore State's Habitat (MARSH)**

Contact: Ducks Unlimited

Approximately 70 active Ducks Unlimited chapters operate in Kansas, which raise \$800,000 to \$900,000 annually for wetland habitat conservation. Since 1985, 7.5% of the income raised in Kansas is allocated to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, other governmental or nonprofit groups for MARSH acquisition and/or development in the state. Also, DU has provided financial assistance (\$272,000), plus biological and engineering review assistance in the Cheyenne Bottoms restoration process. In addition to the Ducks Unlimited magazine distributed to DU members, Kansas DU publishes a periodic newspaper called Wetland Watch.

## **Kansas Wildscape**

Contact: Kansas Wildscape

The Kansas Wildscape Foundation was created as an independent fund-raising entity for the purpose of generating and distributing moneys to enhance Kansas's vast, but often overlooked, natural assets. The general goals are environmental education, land and wildlife habitat acquisition, conservation improvements to state parks and other state lands, and other worthy projects. The Kansas Wildscape Foundation is dedicated to conserving and perpetuating the land wild species, and the rich beauty of Kansas for the use and enjoyment for all.

**For the sake of convenience, federal programs will be listed together. These can be considered direct and/or indirect funding:**

### **EPA Grants**

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has money available for environmental programs the Conservation districts can access directly or through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

### **Ecosystem Restoration Services Section 1135**

The objective of the Ecosystem Restoration program is to improve the quality of the environment through the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat at existing Corps of Engineers civil works projects. The federal government and a non-federal sponsor can participate in an environmental restoration project by modifying structures or operation of a permanent project constructed by the Corps.

### **Wetland Development Program**

Contact: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

The goal of this project is to develop plans for restoring, protecting, and enhancing wetland and riparian areas on reclamation projects. Cooperative arrangements are developed with federal, state, local, and conservation organizations to enhance and preserve wetlands.

### **Fish and Wildlife Enhancement**

Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This program predicts on fish and wildlife habitat associated with proposed land water developments, recommends methods for enhancing effected habitats, assists agencies responsible for managing natural resources, and supplies information to the public on natural resources. Emphasis is given to wetlands, threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and environmental contaminants.

### **Private Lands Program (Partners for Wildlife)**

Contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The private lands program in Kansas is designed to provide landowners with opportunities to restore, enhance, or create wetlands at minimal expense. Depending on the site, contracts are made from 1 to 29 years. Landowners retain all rights. Technical advice and partial payment for construction is provided.

### **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance**

Contact: National Park Service

Conservation works today at the local level. Citizens in thousands of grassroots groups are protecting places that are important to them: nearby rivers, open space for the community, trails linking town and country. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) supports this grassroots movement as an important part of the National Park Service (NPS) mission to protect America's natural and cultural resources. By assisting community-based efforts, the NPS can leverage scarce federal resources while providing alternatives to long-term federal involvement.

**Contact for the following programs are USDA, NRCS and FSA.**

**Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

The purpose of the program is to assist land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. The purpose of the conservation systems are to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding, and improve woodlands.

**Conservation of Private Grazing Land Initiative (CPGL)**

The Conservation of Private Grazing Land Initiative will ensure that technical, educational, and related assistance is provided to those who own private grazing lands. It is not a cost share program.

**Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**

The overall goal of the program is to increase the number of small or limited resource and minority producers and directly improve the farm income of these producers. Objectives are to make grants and enter into agreements with community-based organizations and educational institutions to provide outreach and technical assistance.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The Conservation Reserve Program encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Fifty percent of the funding available for the program will be targeted at natural resource concerns relating to livestock production. The program is carried-out primarily in priority areas that may be watersheds, regions, or multi-state areas, and for significant statewide natural resource concerns that are outside of geographic priority areas.

**Farmland Protection Program (FPP)**

The Farmland Protection Program provides funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA joins with state, tribal, or local governments to acquire conservation easements or other interests from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

**Flood Risk Reduction Program (FRR)**

The Flood Risk Reduction Program was established to allow farmers who voluntarily enter into contracts to receive payments on lands with high flood potential. In return, participants agree to forego certain USDA program benefits. These contract payments provide incentives to move farming operations from frequently flooded land.

**Watershed Surveys and Planning**

The purpose of the program is to assist Federal, State, and local agencies and tribal governments to protect watersheds from damage caused by erosion, floodwater, and sediment and to conserve and develop water and land resources. Resource concerns addressed by the program include water quality, opportunities for water conservation, wetland and water storage capacity, agricultural drought problems, rural development, municipal and industrial water needs, upstream flood damages, and water needs for fish, wildlife, and forest-based industries.

### **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and USDA agrees to provide cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of wildlife habitat development practices.

### **Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)**

Contact: USDA, Forest Service

The Stewardship Incentives Program provides technical and financial assistance to encourage non-industrial private forest landowners to keep their lands and natural resources productive and healthy. Qualifying land includes rural lands with existing tree cover or land suitable for growing trees and which is owned by a private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other legal private entity.

### **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program to restore wetlands. Participating landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration, or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land and 100 percent of the restoration costs for restoring the wetlands.

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. The program is available in all 50 States, the Caribbean Area and the Pacific Basin area. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.

### **Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC&D)**

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas. It improves the capability of State, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development.

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### **County General Fund and Special Mill Levy**

Public monies raised in the respective counties are usually allocated directly to the local conservation district. These monies may come from the county's general fund and go toward District operations or may fund local cost share programs. In addition to moneys from the county general fund, the board of county commissioners may levy an annual tax against the taxable tangible property within the district, not to exceed 2 mills or \$55,000 whichever is less, to provide additional moneys for the operation of the conservation district. This mill levy is subject to any limitations of mill levies set by the state. **(Kansas Conservation District Act, Article 19, 2-1907b. Finance of operation of conservation district; moneys from county general fund; tax levies; use of moneys.)**

## Other methods of Kansas conservation districts obtaining direct funding are:

GRANTS – Grants are available for a large variety of environmental projects from various sources, public and private. Grant money must be used for specific purposes. A conservation district must decide specifically what they want funded and seek the grant that will fund that type of project. Grant writing or grantsmanship, may require special training to help insure success in obtaining a grant. A conservation district may have to spend resources for an employee to attend a grant writing workshop. These workshops will help direct you to specific sources for the type of grant your district needs. In addition to grants from public sources previously mentioned, private companies and organizations also have grants available.

Examples are:	Utilities	Agribusinesses
	Farm organizations	Wal-Mart
	Quail Unlimited	Ducks Unlimited
	Wild Turkey Federation	Pheasants Forever
	Universities	Historical Society
	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	RC&Ds
	Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs	

DONATIONS – Soliciting donations from individuals, organizations, or businesses is a method used by most conservation districts. Donated resources can be monetary, goods or services. Many of the entities listed under grants will also contribute donations.

Sources for donations include:	Individuals	Banks
	Contractors	Developers
	Machinery Dealers	Local Coops
	County Farm Bureaus	Local Businesses
	Conservation Suppliers	Agribusinesses
	Farm Supply Stores	Memorials
	Pipe Vendors	Seed Companies
	Farm Credit Union	Plumbing Contractors
	Any of the entities listed under Grants	

SALES OF ITEMS OR SERVICES – Kansas Conservation District Law allows districts to make a profit on goods or services for the benefit of the conservation district. Many districts offer a variety of items for sale or act as mediaries and collect a commission from vendors. A conservation district must keep in mind, when charging fees for services, that the Natural Resources Conservation Service cannot charge fees for their services and should not be put in a position where a district collects a fee for NRCS services. NRCS staff should never collect payment for anything on behalf of a conservation district.

District sales include:	Grass Seed	Wildflower Seed
	Flags	Hay
	Trees and Shrubs	Tree Protectors
	Gypsom Blocks	Moisture Meters
	Bentonite Clay	Mushrooms
	Plant Fertilizer Paks	County Plat Books
	T-shirts	Conservation Education Materials
	NACD Products	Commission on Sales from Nurseries
	Copies	Spring Boxes
	Pipe	Tanks
	Soil Probes	Infiltration Septic Chambers
	Advertising in Newsletters	Drip Irrigation Systems and Parts

Used Equipment	Personalized Children's Books
Weed Barrier Fabric	Securing Pins
Protec Clips	Root Plow
Wildflower Books	
Environmental Assessment Packets	
Garlic Sticks (to keep varmints away from nursery stock)	
Sale of Sponsorship for Annual Meeting Booklets	
Sale of Booth space at Special Events such as Contractor Meetings or Environmental Fairs	
Auction or Sale of Donated Goods at Annual Meeting (In Missouri, conservation districts sell Scrap Bird Houses at their Annual Meetings.)	

RENTAL – Renting equipment to patrons of a conservation district provides a two-fold service. It provides patrons the use of specialized equipment that may be too expensive for an individual to own, such as a grass drill. And it raises revenue for the district.

Ellis County Conservation District owns the building where it's USDA Service Center is located. The District uses the revenue from the building rent for cost-share programs, staff, equipment, and other expenses.

Items rented by districts include:	Grass Drills	EnviroScope
	No-Till Planters	Burn Equipment
	Aerway Tool	Disc Grading Terrace Plow
	Bale Processor	Mowers
	Scraper	Mulcher
	Landplane	Seed Broadcaster
	Laser Level	Disc Plow
	Water Meter	Tractor
	Water Level Meter	Tent Awning
	Weed Barrier Machine	Tree Planter
	Custom Drilling Service	Heavy Construction Equipment

#### Other Sources of District Income:

Certificate of Deposit	Districts with idle or excess funds often invest them in interest-bearing accounts.
Certificate of Indebtedness	
Money Markets	
Savings Accounts	

Affiliation Dues	Some districts charge dues for membership. Patrons then receive newsletters and notices of events.
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Awards	Cash awards are available for winners in the National Association of Conservation Districts Awards Program.
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## INDIRECT FUNDING

Natural Resources Conservation Service	NRCS provides office space, equipment, education material and assistance, supplies, some repairs, training, vehicle use, and technical assistance.
Farm Service Agency	Cost-share programs, share expenses, use of office equipment
Division of Conservation	Training, technical assistance, program assistance
Extension Service	Technical assistance, information and education assistance, satellite downlink, publications
Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Training, technical and program assistance
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks	Technical assistance, use of equipment (i.e. tree planter, weed barrier machine, grass seeders), donate material
Kansas State Forest Service	Educational and technical assistance
Kansas Department of Transportation	
Division of Water Resources	Program assistance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Technical assistance
Resource Conservation and Development	Technical, program and education assistance
Other Conservation Districts	Share resources, equipment, conduct joint education programs
Local Environmental Protection Group	NPS, technical, and educational assistance
Ground Water Management Districts	
City Government	Well head protection
Thomas County Sheriff Department	Vehicle use
Appraisers Office	GIS information
County Correctional Facility	
City Tree Boards	
Universities/Colleges	
High Plains Pilot Project	Northwest Kansas, cost-share technical program and education assistance
Wildlife Partners	Planning assistance

Pheasants Forever	Planning assistance
Quail Unlimited	Native grass seed cost-share
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts National Association of Conservation Districts	Lobbying, information, issue education, training
Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts	Information, training, technical assistance, education
Libraries	Display materials
Residue Alliances County Farm Bureaus	Share expenses, educational material, provide meeting rooms, donate material, well plugging
Local Businesses	
Rotary/Civic Groups	
Volunteers:	
District Supervisors	District Employees
NRCS Staff	SCC Staff
FFA	Sponsors
4-H	School Groups
Boy/Girl Scouts	Key Banker
Farm Producers	Clergy
Earth Team	Contractors
Advisors	Green Thumb
Retirees	Kansas Rural Center
Realtor Associations	RC & Ds
Other Agencies Public/Private	Teachers
Public Officials/Celebrity Speakers	
Envirothon	
Reduced Rates from Vendors	
Churches	Stewardship assistance