



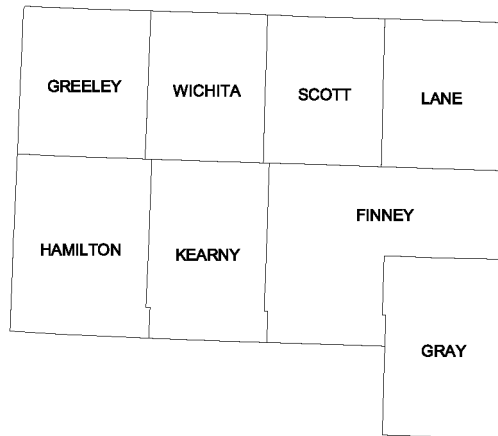
Buffalo Wallow Chapter

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Making the Most of Wetlands and Riparian Areas

Buffalo Wallow Chapter Purpose:

The Chapter serves as a clearinghouse for wetlands and riparian areas information and activities, promotes educational opportunities with a variety of targeted audiences, and facilitates project implementation for wetland and riparian area projects within the participating counties.



KAWS Mission: To ensure the future of wetlands, streams, and their adjacent riparian areas as an integral part of our Kansas heritage and landscape.

KAWS Vision: A public that is well informed and involved in activities that foster the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands and riparian areas in Kansas.

The **Buffalo Wallow Chapter** of the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams organized in October 2001 to meet increasing needs for quality informational and educational materials stressing the importance of the function and values of these areas, to demonstrate how they can be enhanced, restored, and protected; and to encourage closer cooperation between landowners, agencies, municipalities, developers and others that impact these valuable natural resources. **The Chapter** covers: *Finney, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Kearny, Lane, Scott, and Wichita* counties. The group is an affiliate of KAWS and supports its mission and vision.

The Challenge:

The loss of valuable wetland and riparian areas contributes directly to impairment of the stream, rivers and water bodies in the area. Playa wetlands are frequent in this area and many have been farmed for decades. The unique characteristics of these important wetlands have been altered through sedimentation, draining, and removal of native vegetation. Although an arid climate, the rolling topography of the area accentuates soil erosion from cropland and other land uses when high-intensity events occur. Soil erosion along streams and rivers is aggravated altering stream channels, flows, and important hydrologic characteristics. Water quality is degraded through increased sedimentation, fecal coliform, and increased nutrient and pesticide loads. Upstream flooding is more frequent without these natural buffers in place to hold and release runoff water more slowly.

Wildlife habitat has been negatively impacted by the

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reduction and often the elimination of wetlands through draining, dredging and filling for crop production. Additionally, riparian areas have been pushed out to allow farming to bank side or livestock winter or calve in these areas concentrating manure and aggravating soil erosion. This impacts fisheries as well as increasing water temperatures, by removing the shading effect of the trees and shrubs, thus altering the aquatic plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate communities in permanent streams.

The Chapter supports a voluntary, educational approach that relies on open communications between members. The group embraces the KAWS philosophy of building local capacity to get projects “on the ground.”

Who is Involved:

The Buffalo Wallow Chapter of KAWS is providing oversight and support to help get quality wetland and riparian area projects on the ground. Currently, our partner/members include:

Finney County Conservation District	Kearny County Conservation District
Gray County Conservation District	Scott County Conservation District
Greeley County Conservation District	Wichita County Conservation District
Hamilton County Conservation District	Lane County Conservation District
K-State Extension	Lee Richardson Zoo
Santa Fe Trail RC&D	Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas Forest Service	Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Pheasants Forever	Kansas Department of Agriculture
Kansas Water Office	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment	State Conservation Commission
US Environmental Protection Agency	Kansas Rural Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	USDA Farm Service Agency
Kansas Department of Agriculture	Quail Unlimited
StreamLink	National Wild Turkey Federation
KS Assoc. for Cons. and Env. Education	Individuals

How Can You Get Involved:

If you are interested in promoting wetland and riparian area enhancement, restoration or protection in this area, you can:

- Contact the Buffalo Wallow Chapter through the Chapter Coordinator, Lujeana Howell for information and up-coming activities/meeting details
- Discuss your organization’s involvement with your leadership and offer the potential benefits from joining the Alliance - synergy, project technical support, project financial support, and the opportunity to help lead the community you live and work in to maximize the benefits wetlands and riparian areas offer
- Provide information to the Alliance on wetland and riparian area projects you are interested in seeing put on the ground
- Offer your support—technically, financially, or “in-kind” to help the Alliance succeed.
- Membership is free and open to anyone interested.

For More Information:

Contact Lujeana Howell, Chapter Coordinator: (785) 425-7325, or (785) 259-3825; Fax: (785) 425-7325; email: lhowell@kaws.org; or mail to 1835 I Road, Stockton, KS 67669-8800

For more information on KAWS, visit www.kaws.org or contact Harold L. Klaege, Executive Director: (785) 820-1619; Fax: (866) 658-4535; email: hklaege@kaws.org or mail to PO Box 2112, Salina, KS 67402-2112