



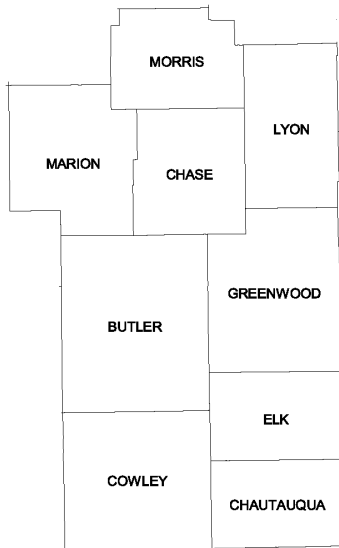
Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams

Flint Hills Chapter

Making the Most of Wetlands and Streams

Flint Hills 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 **Flint Hills Chapter** of the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams organized in December, 2002 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 **Morris, Marion, Chase, Lyon, Greenwood, Butler, Cowley, Elk and Chautauqua** 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. The often steep to rolling topography of the area accentuates soil erosion from cropland and other land uses. Gullies, frequently extreme incisions, are costly and difficult to remedy. Soil erosion along streams and rivers is aggravated and alters stream channels, flows, and important hydrologic characteristics. Water quality is degraded through increased sedimentation, fecal coliform from animal and human wastes, 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 reduction and often the elimination of wetlands through draining, dredging and filling for crop pro-

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duction. Additionally, riparian areas have been pushed out to allow farming to bank side. This impacts fisheries by increasing water temperatures and removing the shading effect of the trees and shrubs, thus altering the aquatic plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate communities.

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 Flint Hills 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:

Morris County Conservation District	Marion County Conservation District
Chase County Conservation District	Lyon County Conservation District
Butler County Conservation District	Greenwood County Conservation District
Elk County Conservation District	Cowley County Conservation District
Chautauqua County Conservation District	Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District
K-State Research and Extension	Kansas Forest Service
Quail Unlimited	Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks	Pheasants Forever
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Kansas Water Office
Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment	US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Environmental Protection Agency	State Conservation Commission
Kansas Rural Center	Western Resources
Kansas Department of Agriculture	Ks. Center for Ag Resources and the Envir. (KCARE)
KS Assoc. for Cons. and Env. Education (KACEE)	National Wild Turkey Federation
Individual landowners	Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association
City of El Dorado	Butler County Community College

How You Can Get Involved:

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

- Contact the Flint Hills Chapter through the Flint Hills RC&D for information and upcoming 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 the Flint Hills RC&D at (620) 273-6321, fax (620) 273-8679, or mail to Box 260, Strong City, KS 66869. For more information on KAWS, contact John Bond, Chapter Coordinator, at (785) 463-5804, fax is same as phone, email johnloribond@yahoo.com, or mail to Box 414, Wakefield, Ks. 67487.

