



Water PACK's Position Paper

Part of the original management plan called for incentive based reduction programs as a way to reduce groundwater pumping. This in the most part relied on legislative action to approve and fund these new programs. During the first several years of this partnership agreement and management plan, virtually little progress was made through the legislature and no new programs were established to help to achieve our goals. Water PACK was actively lobbying along with others to create some new programs and incentives. In the last five years or so, more programs have been created and are newly implemented. Such as WTAP, AWEP, EQUIP, WATER BANKING, CREP and newly eliminated "USE IT OR LOSE IT" pumping laws. We feel that these programs that have more recently been put to use have the potential to greatly contribute to the reduction of ground water pumping. Had these programs been implemented earlier we believe more progress would be realized or achieved by now. It is our opinion there are so many factors that affect stream flow, such as excessive number of volunteer mature trees and improved farming practices all along the Rattlesnake creek. The trees are tapping the water and the farming techniques greatly reduce run off from high rainfall events, which dramatically effect stream flow. We do not think additional reduction in groundwater pumping will guarantee the stream will flow when USFWS needs it.

We feel we can all agree on our usage for water is supply oriented, whether through irrigation pumping, stream flow or rainfall. We feel if USFWS has needs or demands that can't be met when there is little supply, they should pursue other options that may meet their needs, such as augmentation.

WATER RESOURCES
RECEIVED

APR 13 2012

KS DEPT OF AGRICULTURE