

# **KANSAS FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

**2000 - 2005**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE KANSAS FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN

## FIVE YEAR STRATEGY FOR DELIVERING STEWARDSHIP SERVICE

The Kansas Forest Stewardship Program will focus on the protection, management, and establishment of forest land and windbreaks. The program will work closely with forest industry to accomplish five year goals. Program focus is on riparian area management to improve water quality and the other multiple benefits riparian forests provide; and windbreak establishment and renovation in the western half of the state.

The five year goals of the Program are to:

1. Provide technical assistance to 3,000 landowners through the Forest Stewardship Program
2. Promote the Forest Stewardship Program to landowners and loggers
3. Prepare 300 Forest Stewardship Plans

Meeting these goals will place 15,000 acres in the Forest Stewardship Program. This assumes an annual average of 60 Forest Stewardship Plans bringing 3,000 acres under management each year through 2005. In addition an average annual 600 landowners will be provided technical assistance through 2005. To reach these goals, the following plan of action will be implemented:

1. Promote understanding of the importance of proper establishment and/or management of riparian forest.
2. Promote tree planting to reduce soil erosion from both wind and water.
3. Increase the awareness and education of the adverse effects of livestock in the riparian zone.
4. Promote the establishment and renovation of windbreaks and living snow fences.
5. Prepare publications to promote forest stewardship and keep landowners up-to-date.
6. Utilize applicable state and federal financial incentives programs to encourage landowners to implement Forest Stewardship Plans.
7. Emphasize the importance of proper harvesting as a silvicultural practice to sustain forest health.
8. Loggers & timber buyers may make more of an impact on forest management than any other group in the state. The KFS will solicit this group to be an advocate for the Forest Stewardship Program especially when working with NIPF landowners. In addition, the KFS will focus a broad educational program directed toward loggers to promote proper silviculture, forestry BMPs, and other pertinent subjects that affect NIPF landowners.

# KANSAS STEWARDSHIP PLAN

## 2000 - 2005

### NATIONAL FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is founded upon the principle that natural resource management can best serve landowners and the public by taking a multiple resource approach to managing non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands. Nationwide, nearly 10 million people own 353 million acres of NIPF land. In Kansas 94% (1.4 million acres) of NIPF forest land is owned by 39,300 private landowners. The program focuses on providing services to landowners not currently managing their forest land based on a multi-resource Forest Stewardship Management plan.

Forest Stewardship Management Plans encourage landowners to become active in planning and managing their forests. This greatly increases the likelihood that their forests will remain productive and healthy, and that the social, economic and environmental benefits of these lands will be realized.

### KANSAS FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Kansas Forest Stewardship Program focuses on proper management of riparian forests to enhance water quality and other multiple benefits that a healthy, productive riparian forest can provide.

The program also emphasizes the importance of planting, maintaining and renovating windbreaks in the western part of the state. Stewardship Plans will emphasize the multiple benefits that are provided by properly designed and maintained windbreaks.

Fiscal Year 1990 was the start up year for the program. Since that time 1,234 Forest Stewardship Management Plans have been written to provide silvicultural recommendations for 77,956 acres. Though the USDA/FS uses this measurement to determine program success the Kansas Forest Service believes the most significant measure of program success is the implementation of sound forestry practices on the ground.

### INTRODUCTION

Kansas is at the western edge of the nation's central hardwood forest region. Thus, its natural woodlands are composed largely of deciduous trees. The type of woodland is closely related to the annual rainfall which ranges from 40 inches in the east to less than 20 inches in the west. Extended dry periods are not uncommon in Kansas. The severe droughts of the 1930s and 1950s are well documented in literature. Short periods of drought also have an effect on the forest resource. For example, short periods of drought were experienced in the early and late 1980s. These droughts, although lasting for only a few years, have a major effect on the tree planting survival and the vigor of native stands.

Kansas woodlands have changed appreciably in the past 30 years. The most drastic change occurred between the 1965 and 1981 Forest Service inventory. During that period, the volume of American elm dropped drastically due to Dutch elm disease. Even today stands of timber are changing because of the increased harvesting of small diameter logs, especially black walnut. Many harvested areas are being naturally restocked with hackberry because a seed source of other species is not available or site conditions are not ideal for regeneration. Hackberry stands have very little diversity and require forest management practices that, at the present time, may not be profitable. Therefore, the need for the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is essential in Kansas to encourage landowners to not only manage their forest land before and after harvest, but to consider all the multiple benefits that the managed forest provides.

Kansas is a very diverse state in both climate and vegetation. The highly productive forest land in the eastern one-third of the state gradually diminishes as you travel west. In western Kansas natural forests are mainly found along major drainages. However, windbreaks on the western plains are very important in controlling wind erosion just as the trees in the east control erosion by water. Because of their relative scarcity, both the natural forest and windbreaks provide crucial wildlife habitat.

Kansas has a rich tradition of tree planting. Early settlers planted trees for wood products and crop and farmstead protection. Many of the field border plantings in central and western Kansas resulted from the massive Great Plains Shelterbelt Program of the 1930s. Most woodland ownerships are small however, opportunities still exist to further develop the woodland resources and their multiple benefits such as, wood products, erosion control, water protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

FOREST RESOURCE

Ninety-four percent (1.4 million acres) of timberland (forested land capable of producing a commercial product) is in private ownership. Farmers alone own 62 percent of the State’s timberland. Thirty-four percent is miscellaneous private landownership and only 5 percent is state or federal land. Sixty-one percent of nonindustrial private timberland is owned by people who control fewer than 50 acres of timberland. Figure 1 shows the ownership of timberland by acres.

### Timberland Ownership by Size Class

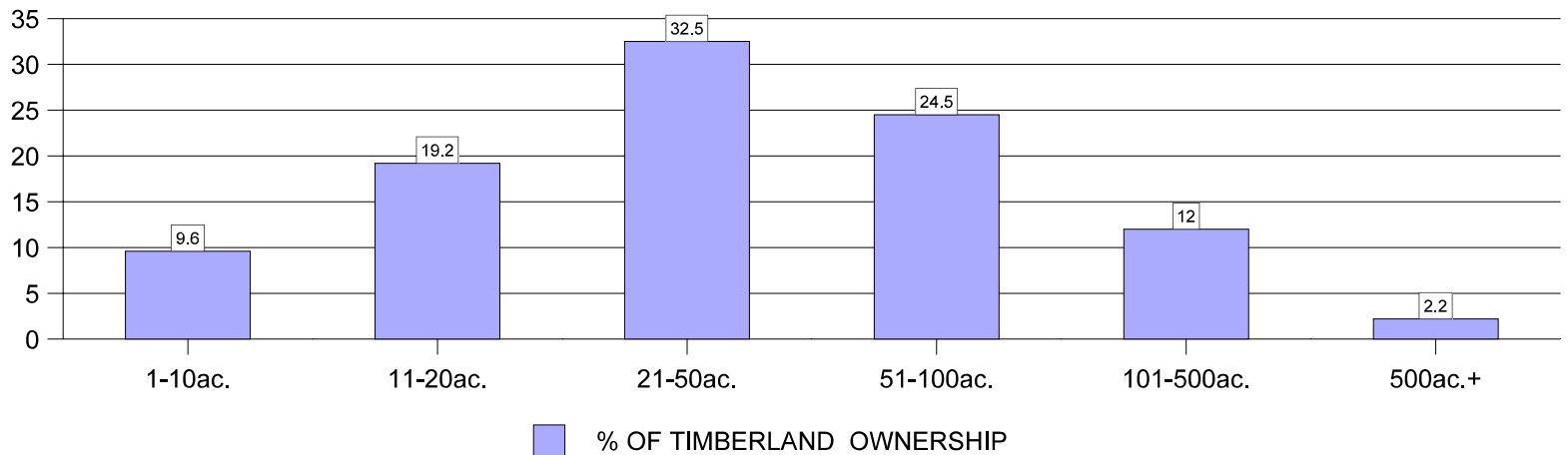


Figure 1. Timberland Ownership by Size Class

Sawtimber stands in Kansas account for the largest area of any stand-class. Figure 2 shows the comparison for timberland by stand class. Timberland with stocking of trees less than 10 percent is classed as nonstocked.

### Timberland By Size Class

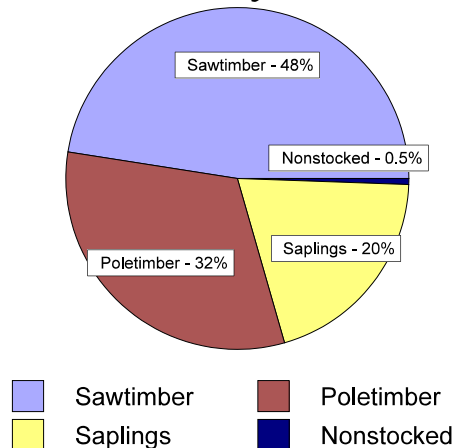


Figure 2. Stand Size Class

The oak hickory type makes up about one-quarter (25%) of the commercial forest area. This type is generally found on dry upland sites in the eastern part of the State. The elm-ash- locust, usually found on moist sites along stream bottoms, comprises about 32 percent. The other major type is the lowland plains hardwood at 22 percent. These three forest types together comprise a little over three-fourths of the State’s timberland. See Figure 3 for comparison of the forest types.

## Timberland Acres By Forest Type in KS

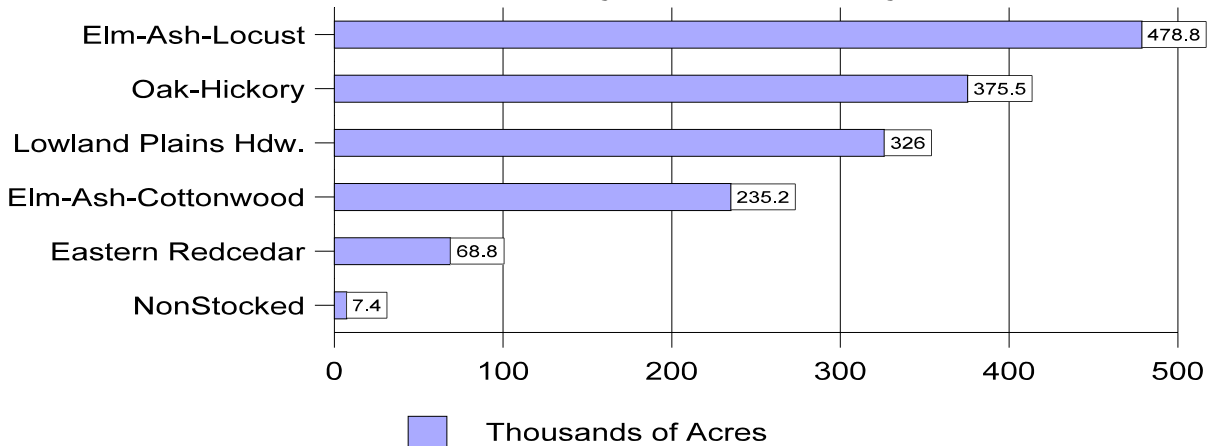


Figure 3. Acres By Forest Types in KS

Wooded strips are lands that meet all the requirements for timberland except they support trees in stands less than 120 feet wide. Many of the wooded strips have been removed to increase cropland.

The most recent statewide forest inventory (1994) shows that 7,400 acres of timberland is understocked to the extent that tree planting is needed within ten years to bring these lands up to their productive potential.

Between 1981 and 1994 only 33% of Kansas forest annual growth was harvested. This indicates that a great opportunity exists to sustain forest health and productivity through proper silvicultural harvests.

Field windbreaks are a proven effective measure against wind erosion of soils on cultivated farmlands. The increased wildlife habitat and hunting potential they provide are also very important to Kansas residents.

In Kansas, there are approximately 78,000 windbreaks which cover 114,000 acres protecting farmsteads, livestock and crops. Fifteen percent of the 20,000 miles of windbreaks are in poor condition, 34% fair, 38% good and 13% excellent.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

Traditionally the management objectives for Kansas landowners have emphasized timber production or improvement of wildlife habitat. Federal programs have been available in the past that emphasized timber production while state programs have encouraged wildlife habitat. However, other benefits of the forest, especially water quality are now becoming more important to the landowner as well as society in general.

The Kansas Stewardship Program emphasizes the improvement of water quality by protecting, managing and establishing riparian forest.

Foresters traditionally have encouraged good stewardship practices. However, the emphasis is now placed on cooperation with other state and federal agencies to share areas of expertise to better serve the objectives of the landowner. This will only occur on a limited basis until additional funding is invested to deliver such service.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Because nonindustrial forest landowners own 94 percent of timberland they control the destiny of the States' forest resources. Improvement will be slow unless many of these landowners become convinced that timber management is economically attractive. The Forest Stewardship Program encourages landowners to invest in forest management for economic returns. Hopefully, the new Farm Bill will offer a new cost-share program to replace the Stewardship Incentives Program which is no longer funded. Until that time the Forest Stewardship Program in Kansas will focus on Continuous CRP, Forestry Incentives Program, United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Wildlife and other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state funded programs to implement forestry practices.

The 1994 survey indicated black walnut growing stock increased 36 percent since the 1981 survey. However, volume of walnut in the larger diameter classes represent a smaller share of total walnut volume than in 1981. This indicates that the potential exists for black walnut management, however, the landowner must be convinced that it is more desirable to sell walnut at larger diameters. Maintaining diversity of the stand is good forest management and provides other forest benefits.

Grazing should be eliminated or at least managed in riparian forest to improve water quality and regeneration. Water supply and need for cover are major reasons landowners run livestock in riparian forest. Alternate sources of water and other Best Management Practices (BMPs) need to be developed to reduce the adverse effect of livestock in riparian forest. Alternate areas for winter protection must also be provided to protect the riparian zone.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Comprehensive forest management plans will be developed to accomplish the goals of the Forest Stewardship Program and the objectives of the landowner. Management plans will outline the immediate objectives, 5-year goals and long-range goals for the multiple benefit management of the resource. All forest land will be included in the management plan.

State and federal cost-share programs will be available to the landowners and incorporated in

the Forest Stewardship Plan, where appropriate, to allow incentives for implementation of the plan.

Plans may be prepared by several agencies (Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Wildlife and Parks, etc.) but must be approved by a district forester.

## LANDOWNER REQUIREMENTS AND RECOGNITION

The Kansas Forest Service recognizes landowners who implement portions of their Forest Stewardship Plan as "good stewards". However the Kansas Forest Service also believes it takes a minimum of 5 to 10 years in many cases before a landowner's stewardship ethic can be determined. Therefore, not every landowner who has a forest stewardship plan receives "Forest Stewardship status". Instead, each year each District nominates a Forest Stewardship Landowner award winner. From this group a state award winner is selected. Often times the state award winner demonstrates more than 20 years of a forest stewardship land ethic. State award winners receive a walnut plaque, and a state award winner's sign to be posted on their property. District Award winner's receive a certificate and a district award winner's sign to be posted on their property.

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS

Forest Stewardship Plans are prepared for each participating landowner. Plans are prepared with the landowners objectives in mind. All the resource values will be addressed where appropriate and other agency input will be included as needed. Plans include information about the landowner, location of the property, and a description of the forest resource and past management practices. Their goals, objectives, and how they are to be accomplished will be detailed. A schedule designating when all activities should be performed will be included. The plan will include both short-term and long-term management goals for the landowner. It will be updated as needed to encourage landowner participation in the Forest Stewardship Program. The plan will require approval by the landowner. A signature page must be signed by the landowner, district forester and other resource management professional if prepared by someone other than the district forester.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Kansas Stewardship Committee was organized in 1990. Members generally serve a 3-year term, however, several members have been reappointed for consecutive terms. The Committee has met each year to provide direction and planning to the Kansas Forest Stewardship Program. Current Committee Members are listed below.

Raymond G. Aslin	State Forester
Vacant	Quail Unlimited
Craig Freeman	Kansas Biological Survey
John Brown	Kansas Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Rick Davis	Dept. of Health and Environment
Joe Hartman	US Forest Service
Charles Barden	Extension Service
Troy Schroder	Dept. of Wildlife and Parks
Dennis Gashler	Farm Service Agency
Rex Naanes	KS Tree Farm Committee
Marty Hewins	Forest Industry
Bob Atchison	Stewardship Coordinator
Greg Wingfield	The Nature Conservancy
Ken Sherraden	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Phil Balch	State Conservation Commission
David Bruckerhoff	District Forester, Kansas Forest Service
Barth Crouch	Pheasants Forever
Greg Kramos	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Wayne Geyer	Consulting Foresters
Susan Gray	USDA Forest Service, Region 2
Jim Ruder	Landowner
Doug Lindahl	Landowner
Greg Wold	Prairie Band of the Pottawatomie Tribe
Vacant	Kansas Department of Agriculture
Vacant	National Wild Turkey Federation

Special sub-committees will be appointed to address specific problems or concerns of the Stewardship Committee. Meetings will be scheduled as often as necessary to address the needs of the program. The Committee will be an important avenue for the members representing various interests to have input into the Forest Stewardship Program.

# STRATEGY FOR DELIVERING STEWARDSHIP SERVICE

## General

The present funding level does not allow sharing of stewardship funds with other agencies. However, the Kansas Forest Service has developed an excellent working relationship with other state and federal agencies. The Kansas Forest Service will promote tree planting, direct seeding, proper management, protection and establishment of riparian forest, timber harvests as a silvicultural practice and the establishment and management of windbreaks in cooperation with other natural resource agencies and organizations.

The Kansas Stewardship Program will provide an opportunity to capitalize on a number of multi-agency efforts.

The following are some of the multi-agency programs that can support and complement the Stewardship Program and vice versa.

C Clean Water Action Plan - The Kansas Forest Stewardship Plan will target program delivery of riparian forest management based on the *Kansas Unified Watershed Assessment* (1998) watershed restoration priorities. This includes forestry technical assistance, information and education and financial assistance. In watersheds where Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have been established (where pollution concentrations exceed the Kansas water quality standard) the Kansas Forest Service will target program delivery of forestry practices where they are capable of effectively ameliorating nonpoint source pollutants.

C Kansas Non-point Source Pollution Control Fund - The Kansas Nonpoint Source Program is a coordinated effort of state and federal initiatives. The state initiative is through the *Kansas State Water Plan Fund* which provides funding for the *Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund*. The federal initiative is through the ***Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan*** stipulated by section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan is maintained by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Bureau of Water Nonpoint Source Section. **The Kansas Forest Service is a member of the Kansas**

***Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee*** whose task is to assure that state, federal and local programs and activities are executed in a coordinated and collaborative manner to achieve the goals of the Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan. The Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund is administered by the State Conservation Commission and provides financial assistance for implementation of nonpoint source pollution control measures. The Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan provides the overall guiding vision and program plan for guiding implementation of water quality protection and pollution control measures to protect and restore Kansas' water resources from the damaging impacts of nonpoint pollutant sources. The Kansas Forest Stewardship Program compliments the Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan by providing technical, financial assistance and information and education to encourage and facilitate the Water Quality Protection Measures described in Appendix I of the Kansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan. These water quality protection measures **maintain all existing and naturally occurring features of the watershed including permanently vegetated riparian areas, wetlands and ponds. Protection measures also maintain and restore existing hydrology and streambed geomorphology.**

C Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Committee - The Kansas Forest Service will continue to serve on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Committee to implement the TMDL plan for the Kansas/Lower Republican, Arkansas and Cimarron River Basins. The Kansas Forest Service will work closely with 5 KSU Research and Extension Water Quality Specialists to promote and establish best management forestry practices.

C Native American Tribal Lands - The Kansas Forest Service will contact Kansas Native American Nations or Tribes annually to make sure they are aware of services and opportunities available through the Forest Stewardship Program.

- C Kansas Wetland Riparian Area Alliance - The Kansas Forest Service will continue to serve on the Executive Committee of the Alliance to promote the protection, management, and establishment of riparian forest buffers through projects implemented by local chapters around the state.
- C State Water Planning - The State Water Plan is the result of a continuous processes that involves many federal, state and local agencies as well as the general public in assessing state water needs and making annual recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. As a result of Legislative action by the 1989 Kansas Legislature, a dedicated funding source of \$17 to \$18 million is available on an annual basis for implementing recommendations in the State Water Plan.
- C Environmental Protection Grants - Administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), this is another program funded through the State Water Plan Fund. It provides grants to local units to prepare plans and programs for environmental protection – primarily for the protection of water quality. Non-point source pollution is a major element to be addressed in these grants. KDHE is the state agency designated by the Governor to coordinate non-point source pollution efforts.
- C State Water Resources Cost-Share Program - The State Water Resources Cost-Share Program is administered by the State Conservation Commission to provide land treatment cost-share to landowners for erosion control and water quality protection. Establishment of the State Water Plan Fund allowed significant increases in this program. Tree planting is one of the practices provided for in this program.
- C Riparian and Wetland Protection Program This state law mandates that the county conservation districts in coordination with the State Conservation Commission and other appropriate agencies develop a program to protect riparian and wetland areas. County conservation districts have developed long-range plans for the protection and/or restoration of riparian and wetland areas. These plans will be implemented with assistance to Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Natural Resource Conservation Service. Also, the Legislature provided the legal authority for conservation easements on riparian and wetland areas.
- C Environmental Coordination Act - This state law requires the Division of Water Resources and the State Board of Agriculture to perform an environmental review of state permit applications related to stream obstructions or channel changes.
- C Kansas Forest Landowner Associations - The Kansas Forest Service will work closely with the Kansas Tree Farm Program and the Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council to accomplish the goals of the Forest Stewardship Program.
- C Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) - The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is shifting its emphasis in this Program to work with private landowners to better manage their riparian and other critical habitat areas for wildlife benefits. This also includes tree and shrub planting efforts.
- C The Governor's Buffer Initiative - A part of the Governor's Water Quality Initiative. The GBI provides a state financial incentive for landowners who enroll in Continuous CRP to increase the rental rates for those who establish riparian forest buffers or grass filter strips.
- C Water Quality Studies and Demonstration Projects - In cooperation with the Kansas Biological Survey and KDHE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is funding a number of studies of watersheds to measure water quality in streams related to land use.
- C Stream Stewardship Program - Kansas Department of Health & Environment receives EPA funding to implement projects to manage riparian areas for water quality protection on both public and private property.

- C Clean Water Neighbor Program - Kansas Department of Health & Environment receives EPA funding to implement projects that abate Nonpoint Source Pollution on both public and private property.
- C Clean Water Farms - Kansas Rural Center Clean Water Farms Program provides cost share grants up to \$5,000 to farmers and ranchers willing to demonstrate low-cost e farming/conservation practices that reduce agricultural pollution. This includes the establishment of riparian forest buffers.
- C Partners for Wildlife - US Fish & Wildlife Service provides funding to restore and protect wetland and riparian areas. This has been an important partner with the Stewardship Incentives Program.
- C USDA Programs - Programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous CRP, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Forestry Incentive Program (FIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and others all have potential to be important partners in delivering the Forest Stewardship Program. Continuous CRP closely matches the goals of the Kansas Forest Stewardship Program and is one of the most financially lucrative programs for landowners.

All of these programs provide a favorable climate for a focus on proper management, retention and re-establishment of riparian forest areas.

Since it takes a broader approach to the problem, the watershed approach has been effective in uniting farmers in their efforts to combat soil erosion. The proposed concentrated cooperative forestry effort on the riparian zone should reach many landowners who have not managed either their riparian areas or other forest lands in the past.

### Program Implementation

The following agencies have offered their support in implementing the Forest Stewardship Program:

County Conservation Districts (CCD)  
Research and Extension (KSU)

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP)  
State Conservation Commission (SCC)  
Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)  
Kansas Water Office (KWO)  
Kansas Biological Survey (KBS)  
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Other agencies and organizations also participate in the program as is evidenced by their representation on the Forest Stewardship Committee.

Emphasis will be placed on retention of riparian forest areas and re-establishment where riparian forests have been destroyed. Landowners with riparian areas will be contacted by the KFS and opportunities to improve their riparian zones will be discussed. Cost-share programs available through both federal and state programs will be explained. The many benefits of forest management, such as, improved water quality, increased timber production, wildlife habitat improvement, control of soil erosion, and stream bank stabilization in the riparian zone will be explained to the landowners.

Forest management opportunities on the rest of the land owned by the cooperator will also be included in a management plan for the farm. Plans will include recommendations on planting, timber stand improvement, timber harvest recommendations, reduction of soil erosion, wildlife habitat improvement, and fencing.

The KFS will contact landowners through meetings, mailings, and personal visits. An effort will be made to initiate landowner interest rather than waiting for requests for assistance from the landowners.

### RELATIONSHIP TO WATER QUALITY GOALS

Healthy, productive riparian forests can provide an effective buffer between adjacent cropland or pasture land and the stream for nonpoint source pollution. The filtering benefits of these riparian forests in terms of sediment control, nutrient

uptake, and other nonpoint source pollutant control has been demonstrated repeatedly in wide-spread research efforts. The Kansas Forest Stewardship Program emphasizes the improvement of water quality by managing existing riparian forests, planting trees to establish riparian zones and protecting riparian forests from grazing and other destructive influences.

By concentrating on improved riparian forest management in relatively small watersheds where some stream water quality assessments have been made, limited resources will be focused to achieve significant impacts where relationships to future water quality changes might be determined. These limited resources would include technical assistance and cost sharing on improved forestry practices for multiple benefits. Close coordination with NRCS, FSA, KDWP, KDHE and SCC will explore the effective use of stewardship funds to complement other assistance and cost-share efforts of other agencies to achieve water quality and other multiple benefit goals.

#### STAFF SUPPORT

The State of Kansas is divided into 8 forestry districts with one service forester in each district. Funding availability determines the amount of time or total number of FTE's assigned to each District Forester working in the program. Currently 4.13 FTE's are divided among 8 District Foresters and 2 FTE's are assigned to State Staff. In addition to Forest Stewardship these FTE assignments include FIP and CRP responsibility

Continued effort will be made to encourage cooperation among all related agencies to gain the most from the Forest Stewardship Program in Kansas.

All publications, training sessions and workshops will be open to all Kansans and coordinated with other related agencies.

#### PLAN OF ACTION

The action plan for the Kansas Forest Stewardship Program will involve as many partner agencies as possible to achieve the goals of the program.

The eight goals listed in the Executive Summary will be accomplished by following the yearly

plans of action is listed below.

#### **FY 2001**

- < Prepare 60 Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners for 3,000 acres;
- < Provide 600 technical assists;
- < Prepare publications on weed barrier fabric mulch for tree plantings, planting black walnut for timber and chainsaw safety operation & tree felling;
- < Conduct 2 rural forestry workshops targeting landowners, loggers, to promote riparian forest and windbreak management, protection & establishment;
- < Promote forest stewardship through the media and by working through local KSU Research & Extension County Agents, County NRCS personnel, KDWP wildlife biologists and County Conservation Districts;
- < Conduct 3 Project Learning Tree workshops;
- < Revise State 5 year Stewardship Plan
- < Promote & participate in a regional woodland stewardship conference.
- < Present State and District forest Stewardship Awards;

#### **FY 2002**

- < Prepare 60 Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners for 3,000 acres
- < Provide 600 technical assists
- < Prepare an audio visual presentation on establishing riparian forest land

**FY 2002 (cont.)**

- < Prepare publications on establishing forestland by direct seeding, economic fact sheet on riparian forest buffers, forestry best management practices and forest resources of Kansas.
- < Prepare publication to promote the Forest Stewardship Program that includes an application to receive assistance from the Kansas Forest Stewardship Program
- < Prepare a landowner Forest Stewardship assessment form to collect information from the landowner prior to preparing a Forest Stewardship Management Plan
- < Conduct 2 rural forestry workshops targeting landowners and loggers to promote riparian forest and windbreak management, protection and establishment
- < Promote the Forest Stewardship Program in the media and by working through local KSU Research and Extension County Agents, County NRCS personnel, KDWP wildlife biologists and County Conservation Districts;
- < Update landowner Kansas Forest Stewardship Plan criteria and guidelines;
- < Present State and District Forest Stewardship Awards;
- < Conduct 3 Project Learning Tree Workshops;
- < Promote and participate in a regional woodland stewardship conference.

**FY 2003**

- < Host the National Walnut Council Meeting;
- < Prepare 60 Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners for 3,000 acres;
- < Provide 600 technical assists;
- < Promote and participate in a regional woodland stewardship conference;
- < Promote the Forest Stewardship Program in the media and by working through local KSU Research and Extension County

Agents, County NRCS personnel, KDWP wildlife biologists and County Conservation Districts;

- < Conduct 2 rural forestry workshops targeting landowners and loggers to promote riparian forest and windbreak management, protection and establishment;
- < Conduct 3 Project Learning Tree Workshops;
- < Review KS statutes effecting tax codes on forest land and make recommended changes in tax codes to promote forest protection, management and establishment.
- < Present State and District Stewardship Awards;

**FY 2004**

- < Prepare 60 Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners for 3,000 acres;
- < Provide 600 technical assists;
- < Conduct 2 rural forestry workshops targeting landowners and loggers to promote riparian forest and windbreak management, protection and establishment;
- < Promote the Forest Stewardship Program in the media and by working through local KSU Research and Extension County Agents, County NRCS personnel, KDWP wildlife biologists and County Conservation Districts;
- < Present State and District Stewardship Awards;
- < Prepare a publication on the effect of uncontrolled livestock on riparian woodlands and suggested management practices to minimize damage to forest health.

**FY 2004 (cont.)**

- < Update State Forest Stewardship Plan;
- < Present Stewardship Awards;
- < Conduct 3 Project Learning Tree Workshops;
- < Promote and participate in a regional woodland stewardship conference.

**FY 2005**

- < Prepare 60 Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners for 3,000 acres;
- < Provide 600 technical assists;
- < Promote and participate in a regional woodland stewardship conference;
- < Conduct 2 rural forestry workshops targeting landowners and loggers to promote riparian forest and windbreak management, protection and establishment;
- < Present State and District Stewardship Awards;
- < Promote the Forest Stewardship Program in the media and by working through local KSU Research and Extension County Agents, County NRCS personnel, KDWP wildlife biologists and County Conservation Districts;
- < Promote and participate in a regional woodland stewardship conference;
- < Conduct 3 Project Learning Tree Workshops;
- < Update the 5 year State Forest Stewardship Plan.

promote among landowners.

Efforts to establish, manage and protect riparian forest have been less successful, though research indicates that trees provide greater bank stabilization than any other vegetative type. Streambank erosion is responsible for the majority of sediment entry into Kansas streams. In addition to water quality benefits, the most valuable timber products, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities occur on riparian forest land.

#### CHALLENGES IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS

- ' Creating a delivery system to implement forestry practices "on the ground"
- ' Reach a higher percentage of landowners
- ' Revising federal standards for Forest Stewardship Plans for Windbreaks
- ' Improving the quality of Forest Stewardship Plans
- ' Changing farmer's attitudes toward trees and the role they play on their property

#### ASSESSING THE LAST DECADE OF THE KANSAS FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Evaluation of the last decade of the Kansas Forest Stewardship Program is for the most part synonymous with the findings of Esseks and Moulton's *Evaluating the Forest Stewardship Program Through a National Survey*.

Most landowners who received Forest Stewardship Plans implemented at least one forestry practice. The Program has been extremely successful in establishing windbreaks for livestock, farmsteads and wildlife purposes. However, few field windbreaks have been established and continue to be difficult to