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The deadline for enrollment in a new Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) is quickly approaching. Enrollment must be completed by October 1 for a 2013 MYFA. Contact our office or DWR to discuss the options available.

GMD # 5 WEATHER STATIONS

1 GREENSBURG	(620) 723-2193
2 LEWIS	(620) 324-5866
3 ROZEL	(620) 527-4531
4 CULLISON	(620) 895-6505
5 MACKSVILLE	(620) 348-2238
6 RADIUM	(620) 285-2796
7 GREAT BEND	(620) 793-5798
8 STERLING	(620) 278-2632
9 CAIRO	(620) 672-3359
10 STAFFORD	(620) 234-5667

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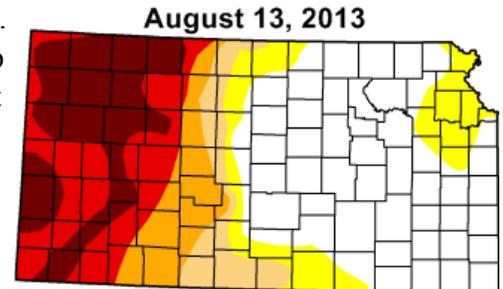
GROUNDWATER HI - LITES

August 2013

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5

Recent rainfall eases immediate drought concerns

August has brought welcome moisture to our area. The District maintains ten weather stations throughout the area. Most of the stations report a total of 5+ inches in the month of August, with some reporting over 8 inches. In addition, the temperatures for August have been mild. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map indicates that the eastern half of the District is now considered out of the drought conditions. NOAA projections for the upcoming three months indicate equal chances for wet and dry conditions.



Central Kansas Water Bank Association

The Central Kansas Water Bank Association (CKWBA) is fully chartered and ready to provide another tool to area water users. The CKWBA allows water to be deposited from one location and leased to another within the same hydrologic unit. If you are interested in depositing water for use elsewhere, the deadline is April 1, 2014 for 2014 water use. In addition, the CKWBA also allows for a portion of unused water to be saved for use in future years. December 31, 2013 is the deadline to enroll in a safe deposit account with the CKWBA for 2014. Be sure to call our office or check our website if you have questions www.gmd5.org/Water_Bank/index.htm.

Rattlesnake Creek Impairment

Following the filing of the impairment claim by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Water Resources (KDA-DWR) has initiated the impairment investigation to determine if Water Right File No. 7571 is being impaired by water rights junior to its priority date. At this point, there is no official estimation of the delivery of the investigation report by KDA-DWR. Any speculation on the outcome of that report is still too premature. GMD5 will keep the water users of the district informed as new information is available.

Rattlesnake Creek Basin Invasive Species *by Mike Oldham (USFWS)*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with other partners applied for a grant with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to help fund the removal of invasive trees along the Rattlesnake Creek Basin. Initial partners collaborating on this invasive program are the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, Kansas Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tamarisk Coalition, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and private landowners. This "Rattlesnake Creek Basin Invasive Species Task Force" will have a goal of maximum control of woody phreatophytes to restore structural and functional components of the Rattlesnake

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(cont.)

Creek watershed in the area of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, highlighting benefits to water resources and native and endangered wildlife.

The grant, along with matching contributions from partners will fund on-the-ground projects to reduce salt cedar and other invasive trees, and promote targeted public outreach. Results will increase awareness and adoption of control measures utilized to improve aquatic system function and enhance critical habitat for Federal Trust species on public and private lands. The main goal is to strive for long-term maintenance of invasive trees through outreach, monitoring, follow up treatments, managed grazing and prescribed burning. If you have any questions or interest in future partnerships, please call Aron Flanders (USFWS-Partners for Fish & Wildlife Biologist) at Quivira NWR, 620-486-2393.

Meter Compliance & Accuracy

Accurate measurements of water use are important for determining compliance with water rights, and when necessary, administering water rights. Water flowmeters must be certified for conformity with state specifications and must meet other criteria for spacing, installation in accordance with manufacturer's specifications, full pipe flow, and totalizer capacity.

Meter sealing will be done by District staff when an ultrasonic meter test finds the meter to be accurate. While backup measurement devices, such as hour meters, are not a requirement, we strongly encourage water users to maintain alternative measuring devices and record keeping. If you suspect your flowmeter is not operating properly, a backup alternative measurement device is the only method of verifying water used.

Governor's Conference

The Governor's Water Conference will be held Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25, 2013 at the Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center in Manhattan, KS. The Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will highlight the latest policy and research developments of water issues in Kansas. Many great speakers and topics are planned. Legislators, water managers, scientists, state, federal, city and county administrators as well as organizations, irrigators and citizens who share an interest in Kansas water resources are encouraged to attend. Registration is now available online at www.kwo.org. The registration deadline is October 15. Conference details, brochure, speakers and sponsors can be found online as well.

Do we have your correct mailing address?
Let us know at 125 S. Main St., Stafford, Kansas 67578 or call 620-234-5352.