

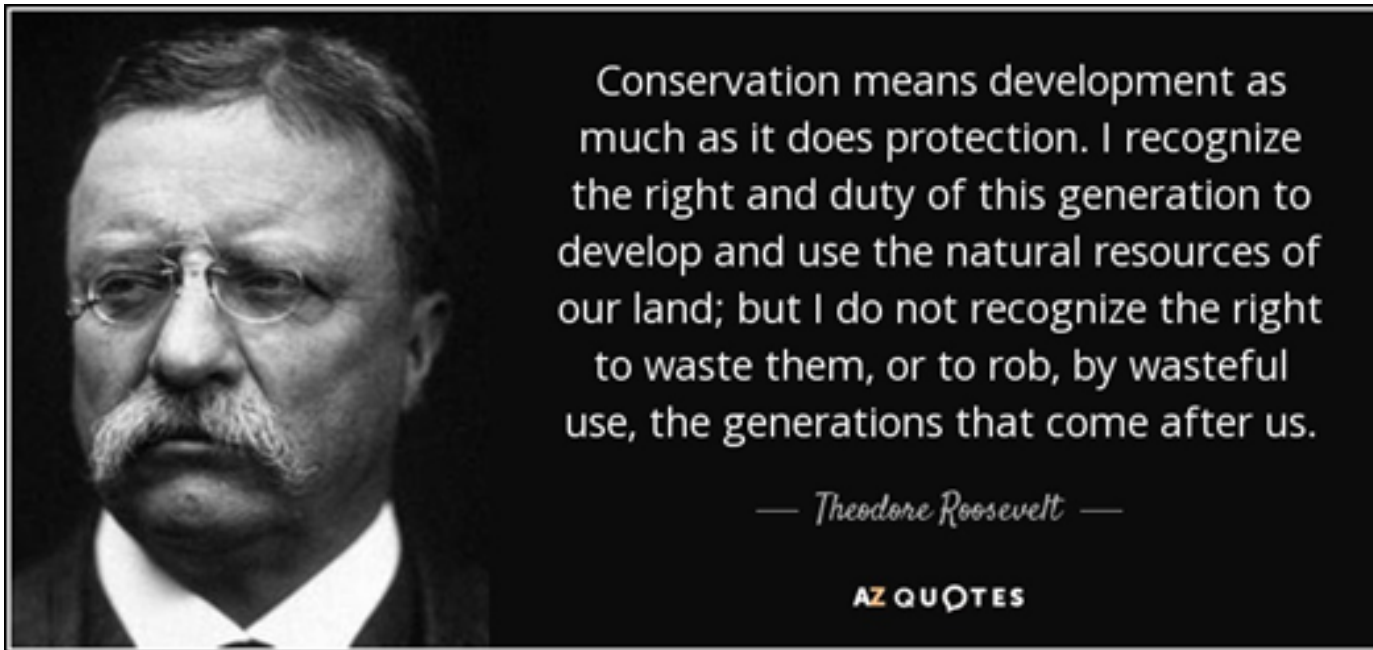
Conservation Division Overview

House Standing Committee on Ag and Natural Resources Budget

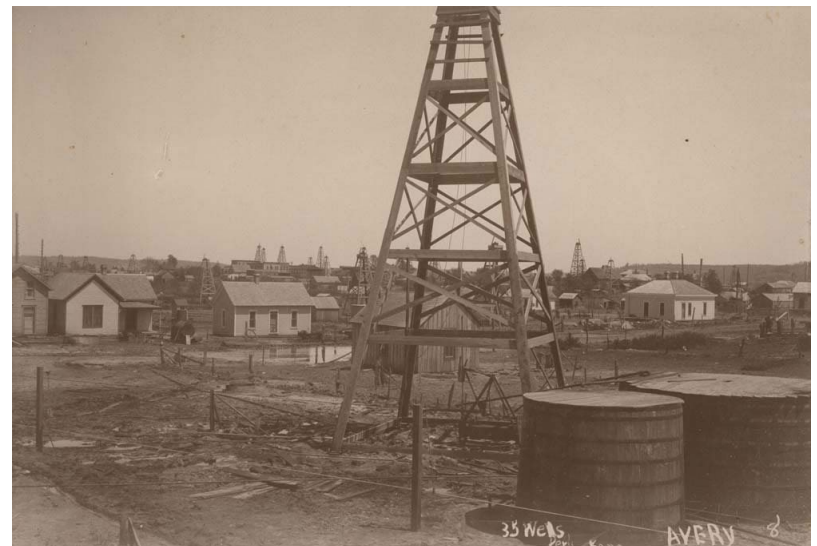
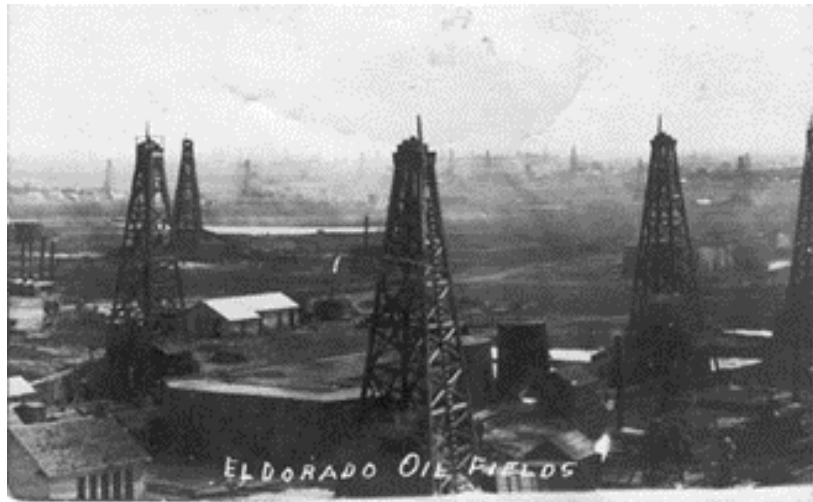
March 3, 2026



Conservation Division



Conservation Division



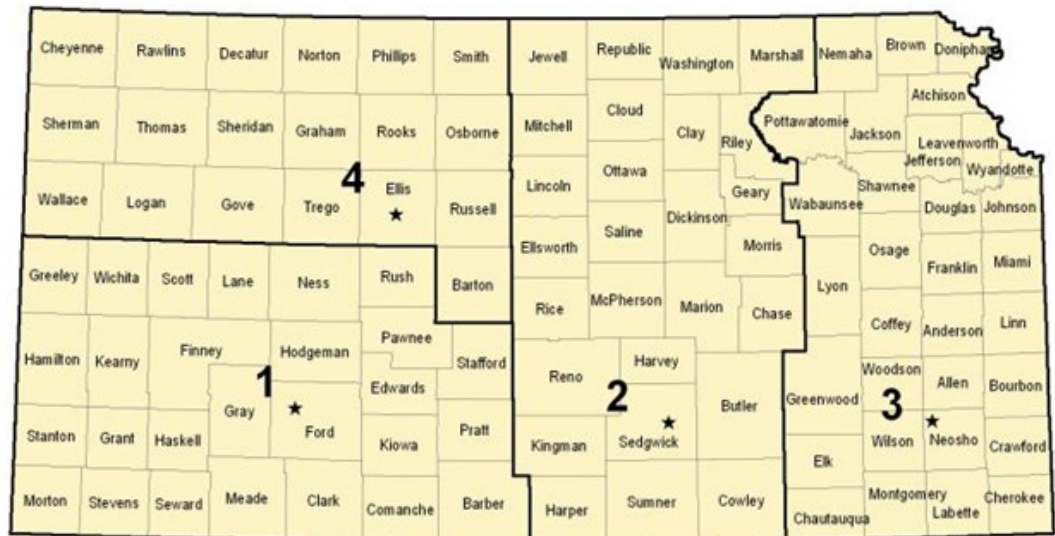
Conservation Division



See KSA 55-800 *et seq.*

Conservation Division

- Current Conservation Division Departments
 - Central Office – Wichita*
 - Administration
 - Production/UIC
 - EP&R
 - Legal/Licensing
 - Customer Support
 - District Offices
 - Sup. Geologist
 - Rem. Geologist
 - Field Inspectors
 - Admin



*KSA 74-606 requires the Conservation Division to be in Wichita

Conservation Division

Overarching Statutory Directives

Prevention of Waste

- KSA 55-602 (oil) and 55-701 (gas)

Protection of Correlative Rights

- KAR 82-3-101(a)(21)

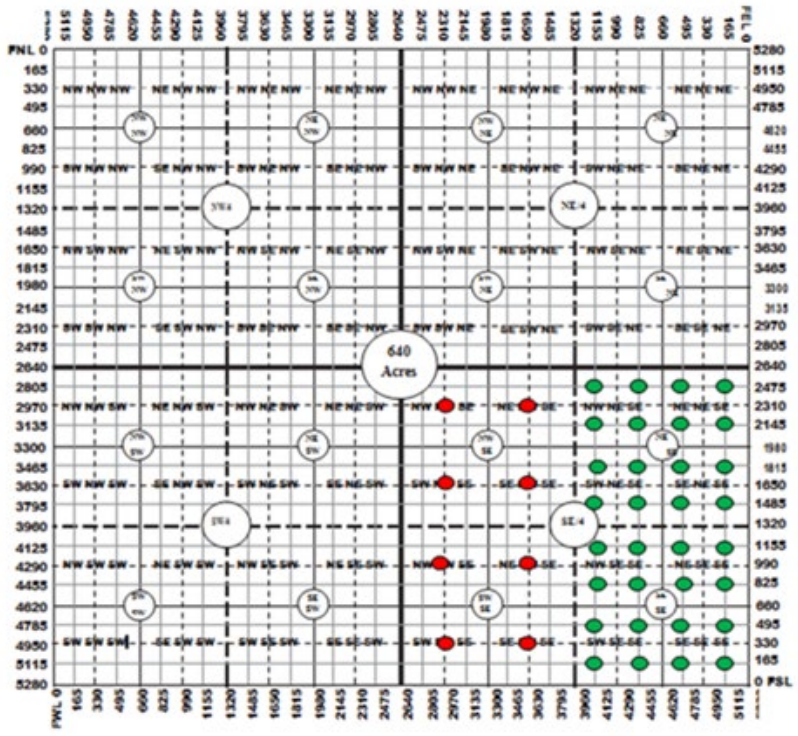
Protection of Usable Water

- KAR 82-3-101(a)(78)



Conservation Division

- Well Spacing and Production Allowables
 - Waste and Correlative Rights

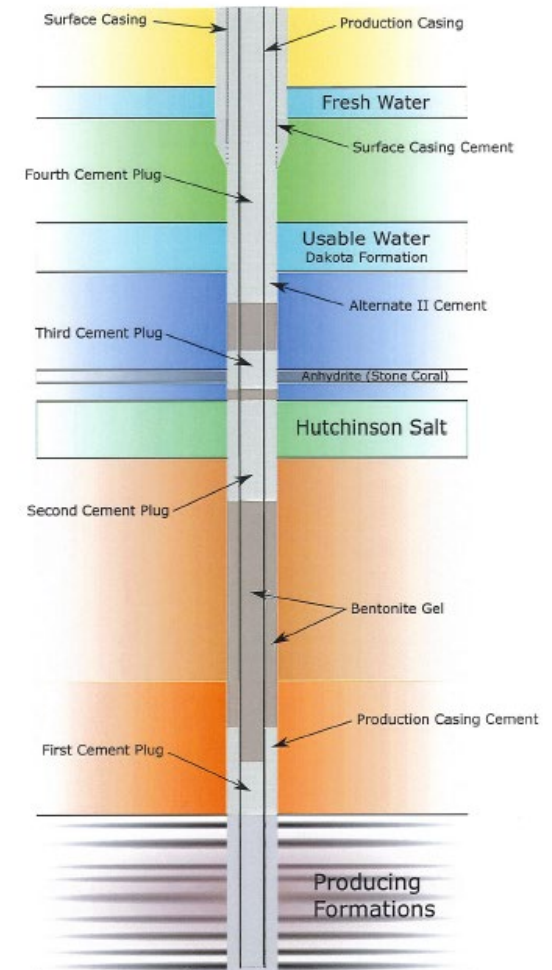
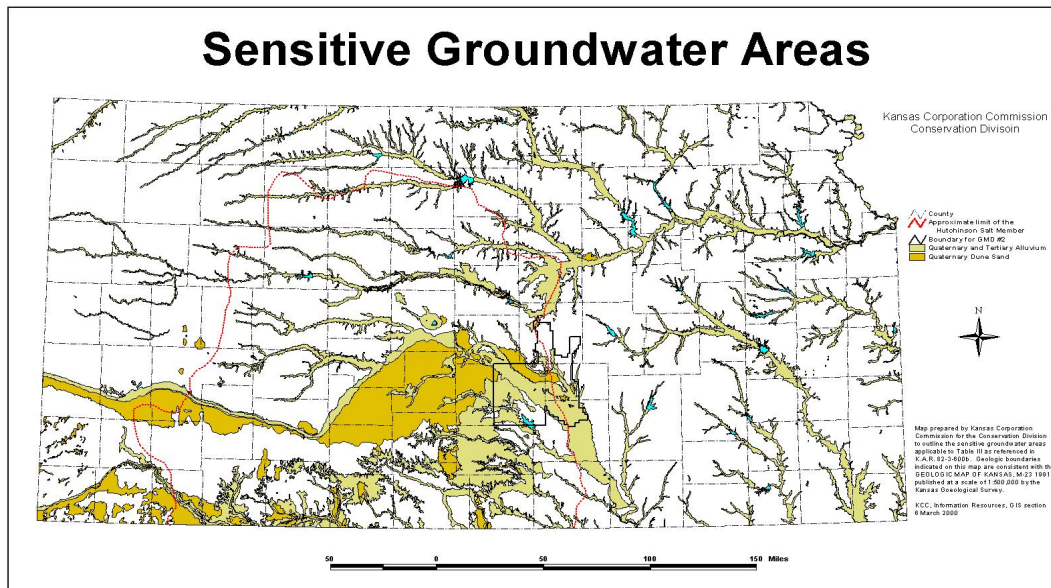


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Bennett vs. State Corporation Commission, 157 Kan. 589, 142 P.2d 810 (1943)

Conservation Division

- Protection of usable water
 - Well construction and plugging standards
 - Sensitive ground water areas



Conservation Division



- **Other Methods of Protecting Usable Water**
 - 1984 Class II Underground Injection Control (UIC) Primacy
 - 1986 Statutory Changes – exclusive jurisdiction over oil and gas regulation
 - KCC creates Environmental Protection and Remediation Department (EP&R)
 - 1988 committee recommended most of today's environmental protection regulations
 - Pit/dike rules
 - Spill notification/remediation
 - Waste transfer

Conservation Division

- Abandoned Wells
 - State Program formally established in 1996
 - Two funds eventually combined
 - Legacy and Plugging Assurance
 - KSA 55-179 is used to determine who is responsible for plugging abandoned wells
 - Liability limited to six categories of persons, but more than one category of persons can be responsible for the same well
 - Funding is limited and competition with industry for contractors has increased post-COVID – meaning less wells are plugged with state funds
 - Current contract has the most plugging contractors available in the history of the program – available ≠ actively participating
 - Current unencumbered balance \$3.4 M*

Conservation Division

- Abandoned Wells
 - Federal Program
 - BIL contained three separate well plugging grants
 - Initial Grant - small or large
 - Formula Grant - # of wells, cost, and lost jobs \$33.6M
 - Performance Grants - Matching and Regulatory Improvement
 - Large Initial Grant funded and plugging began 1/16/2023
 - Formula Grant project bids currently under review
 - Performance and Matching Grant Guidance

Conservation Division

Federal Initial Grant Projects

Wells Plugged

1/16/2023 - 06/30/2025



- 2023FP1-02: District 1, Project 2 - 22 Wells **Project Complete**
- 2023FP3-03: District 3, Project 3 - 490 Wells **Project Complete**
- 2023FP3-01: District 3, Project 1 - 814 Wells **Project Complete**
- 2023FP3-04: District 3, Project 4 - 691 Wells **Project Complete**
- 2023FP3-02: District 3, Project 2 - 502 Wells **Project Complete**
- 2023FP4-01: District 4, Project 1 - 31 Wells **Project Complete**

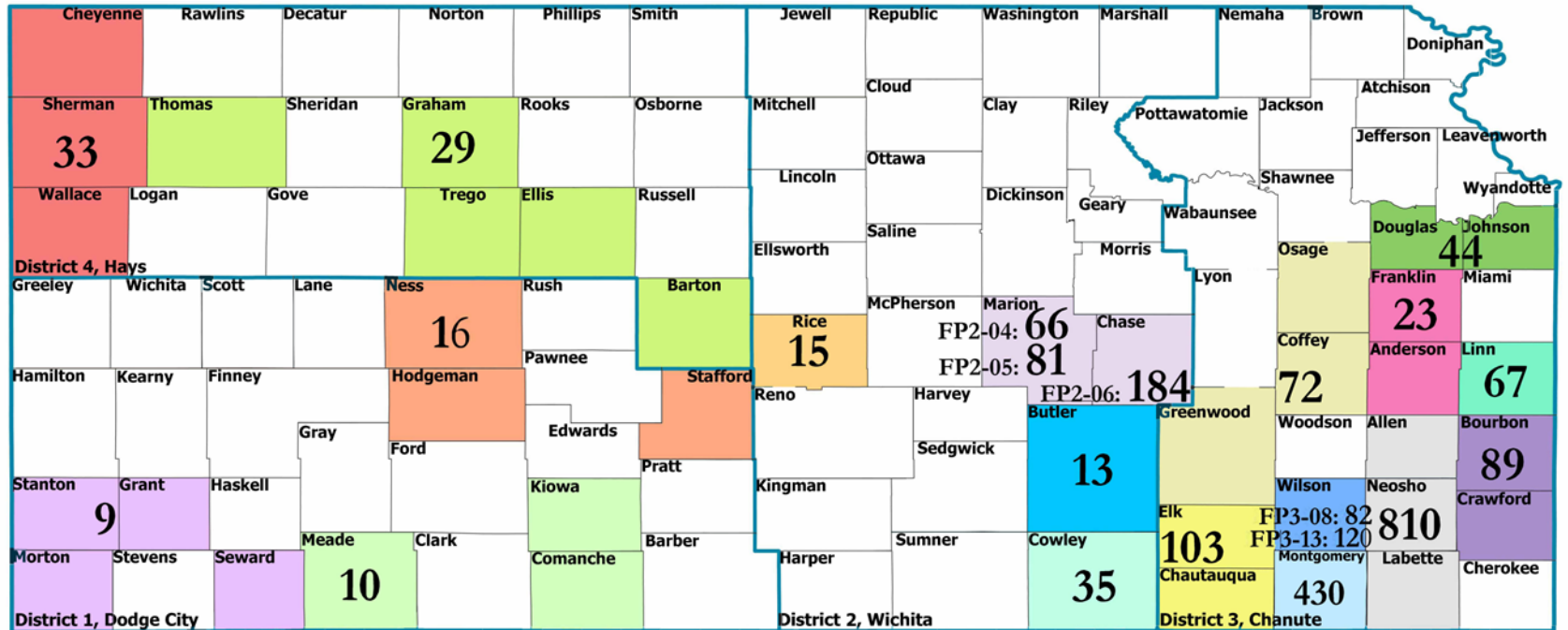
Map indicates the number of wells plugged in each county using federal funding from the initial grant. Number in legend indicates the total number of wells in each project.

State-wide total of wells plugged to-date: 2,550
 Amount paid to contractors for wells invoiced: \$25,688,192.30

Kansas
 Corporation Commission
Conservation Division (Oil & Gas)
 266 N. Main St., Ste. 220
 Wichita, KS 67202-1513
 Phone: (316) 337-6200
 Fax: (316) 337-6211

Conservation Division

Potential Federal Formula Grant Projects



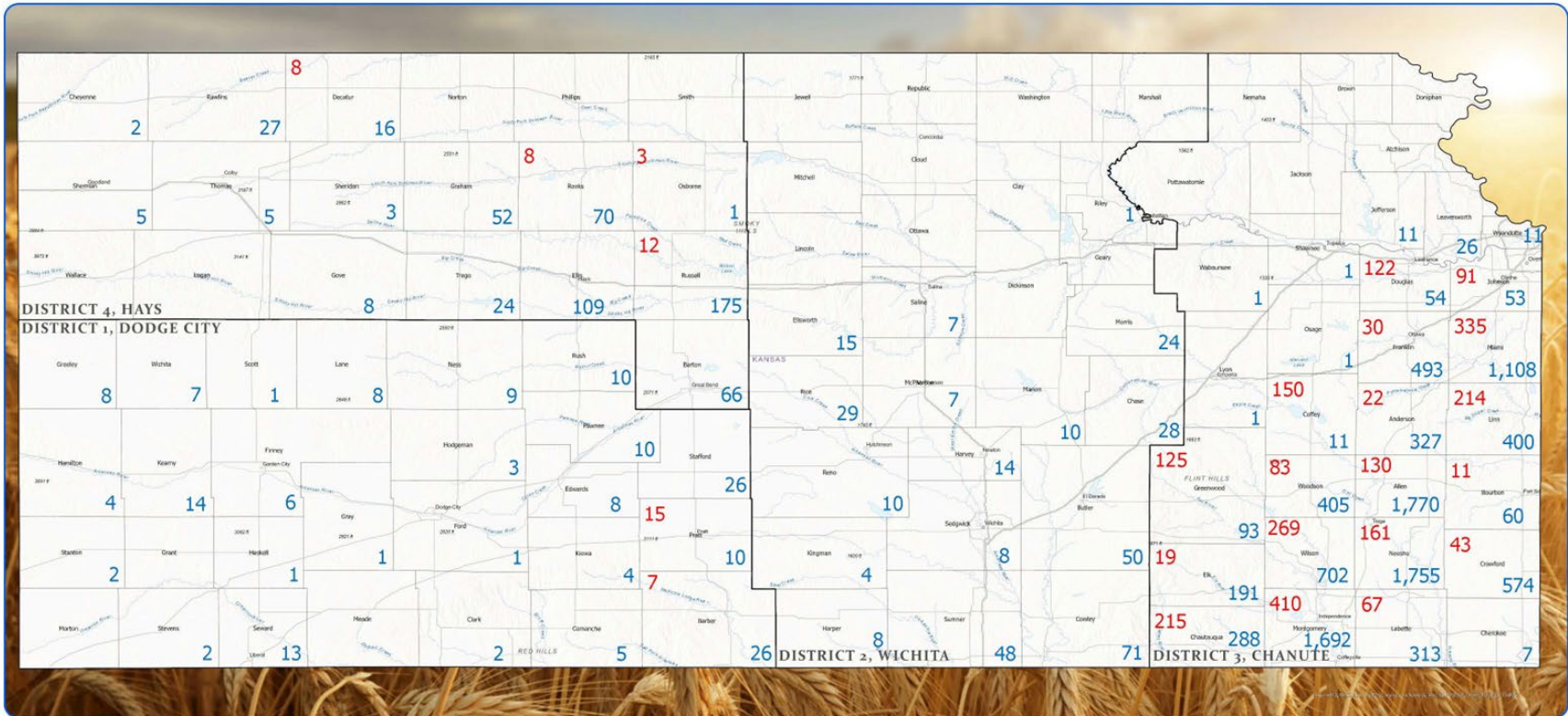
Numbers on the map represent the number of wells to be plugged in each project.

Projects

- 2026FP1-03: District 1, Project 3 - 15 Wells
- 2026FP2-04: District 2, Project 4 - 66 Wells
- 2026FP3-07-2: District 3, Project 7-2 - 23 Wells
- 2026FP3-13: District 3, Project 13 - 120 Wells
- 2026FP1-04: District 1, Project 4 - 10 Wells
- 2026FP2-05: District 2, Project 5 - 81 Wells
- 2026FP3-08: District 3, Project 8 - 82 Wells
- 2026FP4-03: District 4, Project 3 - 29 Wells
- 2026FP1-05: District 1, Project 5 - 9 Wells
- 2026FP2-06: District 2, Project 6 - 184 Wells
- 2026FP3-09: District 3, Project 9 - 103 Wells
- 2026FP4-04: District 4, Project 4 - 33 Wells
- 2026FP2-01: District 2, Project 1 - 13 Wells
- 2026FP3-06-1: District 3, Project 6-1 - 72 Wells
- 2026FP3-10: District 3, Project 10 - 430 Wells
- 2026FP3-06-2: District 3, Project 6-2 - 44 Wells
- 2026FP3-11: District 3, Project 11 - 810 Wells
- 2026FP2-02: District 2, Project 2 - 35 Wells
- 2026FP3-07-1: District 3, Project 7-1 - 67 Wells
- 2026FP3-12: District 3, Project 12 - 89 Wells
- 2026FP2-03: District 2, Project 3 - 16 Wells



Conservation Division



Abandoned Wells Plugged by the Kansas Corporation Commission

Funding Source for the Plugging Activity

Blue Indicates the Number of Wells Plugged in Each County Using State Fee Fund Money

Red Indicates the Number of Wells Plugged in Each County Using Federal Grant Money



Abandoned Wells Plugged in Each KCC District

	KCC Fee Fund	Federal Funding
District 1	181	22
District 2	334	0
District 3	10,347	2,497
District 4	562	31
Statewide Total	11,424	2,550

Kansas Corporation Commission Data Since 1996. Numbers updated: 2025

Thank You!

Ryan A. Hoffman, Director
Conservation Division
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