

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Drought Emergency Triggers Access to Additional Water Storage**

#### *Permit Needed to Use State Fishing Lake and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Reservoir Waters*

On July 25, Governor Sam Brownback updated the Drought Declaration for Kansas with Executive Order 12-10, and placed all Kansas counties in an emergency status. As a result of this action, some state fishing lakes and COE reservoirs are available as an emergency water source for domestic, municipal and livestock uses.

Individuals and communities first must contact the Kansas Water Office (KWO) with their water supply request. They will then be directed to the appropriate Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism or COE office to obtain the necessary permit to withdraw the water.

“The Kansas Water Office’s focus at this time is to ensure communities, livestock producers and farmers have the available water resources they need to cope with this drought,” said Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office and Chair of the Governor’s Drought Response Team. “It is imperative producers contact our office first so we can coordinate access to water supply in closest proximity to them.”

Streeter emphasized that *permission is required* before anyone can draw water from the selected lakes. If harmful algal blooms are present in water then access may be denied. The permit limits the types of water use and a fee may be set for use of the state fishing lakes’ water supply and federal reservoirs.

“State fishing lakes are not intended to be long-term water supply sources,” said Robin Jennison, KDWPPT Secretary. “While we are happy to help if there is an emergency need for water, we have to remember that these are smaller lakes that are managed primarily for fishing. Our state fishing lakes are also affected by the drought, so we have to be careful to conserve water like other Kansans.”

The state continues to encourage farmers and ranchers to keep open dialogue with their local County Emergency Boards as they continue to monitor crop conditions for losses that may have occurred due to drought, severe storms and hail throughout the State.

**Below are the State Fishing Lakes available for withdrawals for emergency status:**

Atchison, Barber, Brown, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Clark, Crawford, Goodman, Jewell, Kingman, Leavenworth, Lyon, Pottawatomie #1, Pottawatomie #2, McPherson, Miami, Mined Lands (Pits), Neosho, Osage, Ottawa, Saline, Scott, Shawnee, Sheridan, Washington, Wilson, Woodson

**Below are the federal reservoirs available for withdrawals for emergency status:**

Big Hill, Elk City, Council Grove, John Redmond, Marion, Fall River, Toronto Clinton, Hillsdale, Melvern, Milford, Kanopolis, Perry, Pomona, Wilson, Tuttle Creek

This Executive Order shall remain in effect for those counties so identified as emergency status until rescinded by Executive Order or superseded by a subsequent Executive Order revising the drought stage status of the affected counties.

For more information please visit the Kansas Water Office website, [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org), or call [\(785\) 296-3185](tel:7852963185) or [\(888\) 526-9283](tel:8885269283) (KAN-WATER).

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*As the state's water office, KWO conducts water planning, policy coordination and water marketing as well as facilitates public input throughout the state.*

*The agency prepares the KANSAS WATER PLAN, a plan for water resources development, management and conservation. KWO also reviews all water laws and makes recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for needed legislation.*