



NOTES FROM THE RANGE

Sept. 3, 2014

Facts and figures

Ten years ago, EPA approved the state's withdrawal of designated uses for certain ephemeral streams. If ephemeral streams are included as Waters of the U.S. proposes, the miles of stream subject to federal regulation will increase from:

32,00 miles of streams

to 134,000 miles

See the maps on page 2



Federal intrusion on basic water rights for Kansans

Summer is drawing to a close. Students have returned to school, and farmers are beginning to harvest their corn and sorghum. We have been blessed with some much-needed rain and have many reasons to be thankful.

We have several reasons for concern, though, too. The federal government continued its pattern of intrusion into the lives of Kansans through the EPA's proposed "clarification" of definitions under the Clean Water Act.

This new interpretation will vastly expand federal jurisdiction over bodies of water in the state of Kansas, jeopardizing our largest industries – agriculture and energy – and the rights of Kansas land owners.

The impact of this kind of overreach is real: routine agricultural activities may require permits under the new regulations, and some business owners have already decided not to invest or expand because of the EPA's proposed rule.

Kansans understand the importance of water.

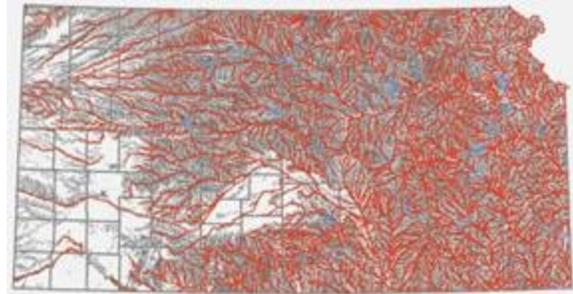
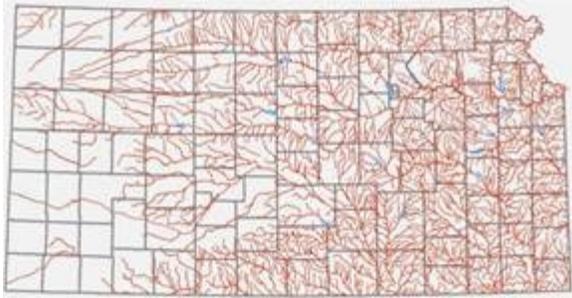
With our water vision, we are taking steps to protect our water supply – and we are consulting with farmers and ranchers in a thoughtful way. The EPA, however, has simply decided it knows more about water issues in our state than Kansans do. That is wrong. This proposed rule will make life more difficult for the farmers and ranchers in our state through increased regulation and cost.

Water management is a state issue, and I have advised President Obama that Kansas is prepared to challenge the rule in court if it is not withdrawn.

The federal government should focus on its core functions and trust that we Kansans best how to manage our own resources. These important decisions about our water resources should be made by Kansans, for Kansans – not by Washington bureaucrats.

Sam Brunback

Pictures From the Road



Regulation of Kansas waters — The map on the left shows the streams and bodies of waters currently subject to regulation by the EPA. The map on the right shows the dramatic increase that will occur under the EPA's proposed "clarification" of definitions under the Clean Water Act. It will vastly expand federal jurisdiction over bodies of water and have a negative effect on agriculture and energy in Kansas.



Cozy Inn — A stop in Salina isn't complete with burgers from Cozy Inn. No wonder it was named one of the Eight Winners of Kansas Cuisine.



New Supreme Court Justice — I was proud to name Caleb Stegall to the Kansas Supreme Court. Justice Stegall takes the seat vacated by Justice Moritz, who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals



Reading with students — Spent some time visiting schools and seeing first-hand the results of intensive reading programs that are preparing students to succeed in school.



Hoffman Family Farms — The Hoffmans are a multi-generational farming family using cutting-edge technology on their property in Hays.