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Padre says:

**“Remember
that
conservation
pays.”**

Kansas Land Trust Promoting Efforts To Conserve Flint Hills Prairies On WIBW

Native tall grass prairies, with the diverse vegetation, water sources, living creatures and unique environment within, are in danger of being lost forever.

“Thus, the Kansas Land Trust was incorporated in 1990 to help protect and preserve lands of ecological, agricultural, scenic, historic or recreational significance in Kansas,” explained Ginny Moore, executive director of the Kansas Land Trust, Lawrence.

In brief, the Kansas Land Trust accepts only conservation easements granted in perpetuity while committing to uphold terms of the easement forever. “Future owners cannot alter the land contrary to the owner’s originally specified wishes,” Moore confirmed.

Over the past two decades, the Kansas Land Trust has developed and monitors 48 conservation easements on 16,832 acres in 14 counties. This includes more than 11,000 acres in the Flint Hills.

The Kansas Land Trust and its conservation partners would now like to preserve 13,000 additional acres. “We have limited funding available for qualified landowners and are now looking for Flint Hills landowners who would like to protect their tall grass prairie and rangeland,” Moore said.



Ginny Moore

As a sponsor of the Beef Producers Information Seminar hosted by 580 WIBW recently at Emporia, the Kansas Land Trust staff was in attendance distributing informational materials and discussing opportunities to interested landowners. An extensive campaign about this special opportunity is now airing on 580 WIBW.

“The objective is to support the protection and enhancement of tall grass prairies while promoting vegetative resilience and restoring habitats to benefit the great prairie chicken, grassland birds, migrating and nesting birds and other grassland dependent wildlife,” Moore said.

Terms of the conservation easements are negotiable, but the goal is to ensure high quality tall grass in the future, so all easements must be permanent to the extent allowable and enforceable by Kansas law.

“Although it is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the Kansas Land Trust, there are some limited uses of the property in order to protect natural resources in perpetuity,” Moore informed.

“Each conservation easement is custom-tailored to protect natural resources and to provide economic incentives to help landowners preserve ranchland far into the future,” Moore emphasized.



A deadline of August 31, 2012, has been set by the Kansas Land Trust for this special acquisition, according to Moore, who can be contacted at 785-749-3297, or gmoore@klt.org.

“Love your ranch? Love the Flint Hills? Love it enough to save it forever? Then, let’s talk turkey,” Moore challenged. Additional details are also available at www.klt.org.