

# The Economic Benefits to Agricultural Producers of Water Right Retirement in Kansas

Linking Stated Preference Valuation Functions to Physical Models

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# Ogallala Water Coordinated Agricultural Project



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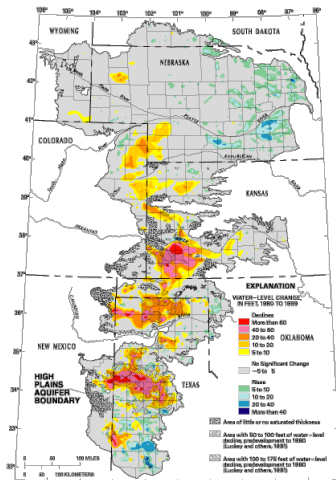
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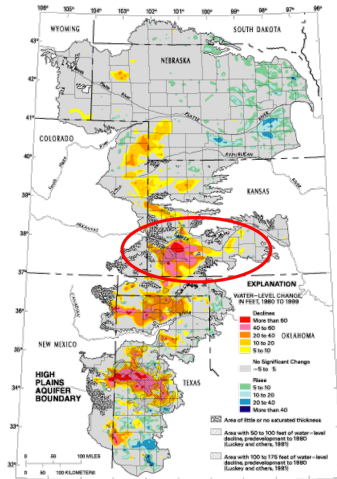
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- Policy options: pumping restrictions, water prices, payments for conservation, etc.

# Groundwater Depletion in the Ogallala Region



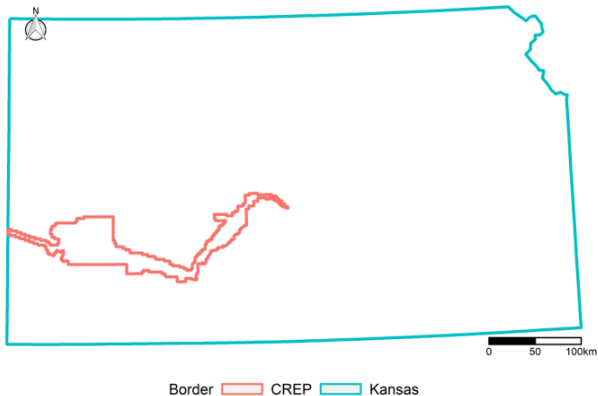
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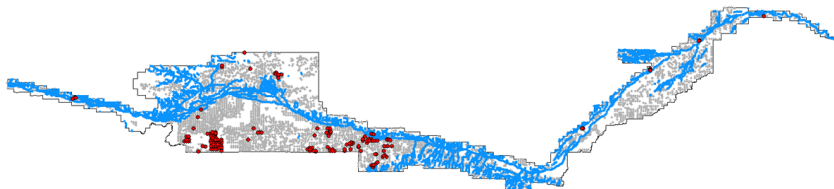
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# Arkansas River Basin in Kansas



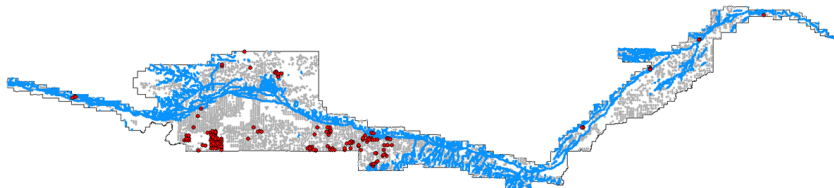


# Well Retirement in the Arkansas River Basin in Kansas



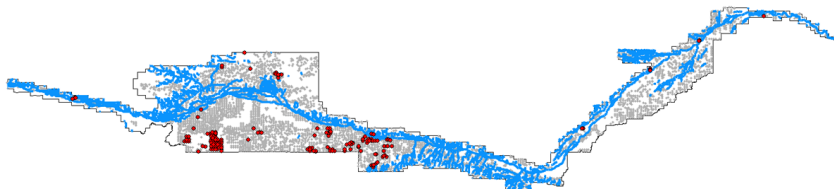
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offers \$153 to \$193 per acre for 15 years to permanently retire irrigated land and its water right
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- Surprisingly little information on the value of program benefits

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- Consider program benefits from 15, 30, and 50 years of retirement

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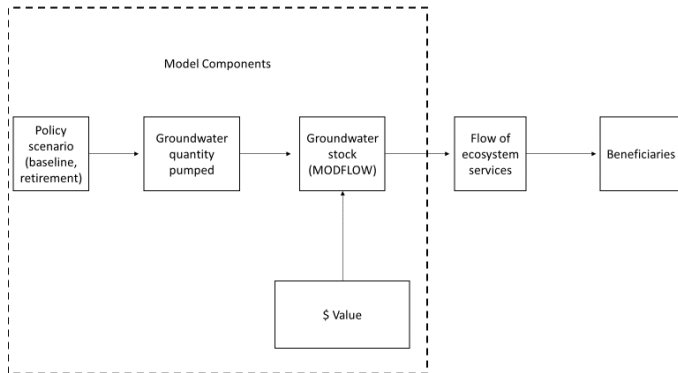
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- We use a stated preference valuation function linked to the output of a physical model to estimate the use and non-use benefits to agricultural producers of a USDA program that conserves GW stocks

# Groundwater Depletion in the Ogallala Region



# Groundwater Terminology

**Saturated thickness** - vertical distance permeated by water, measures resource stock in a location

**Well capacity (yield)**- max flow rate (gallons per minute) a well can sustain over a period of time

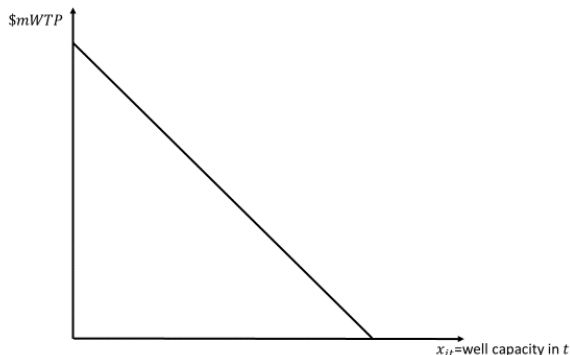
Well capacity is an increasing function of saturated thickness at the well, and is known by producers





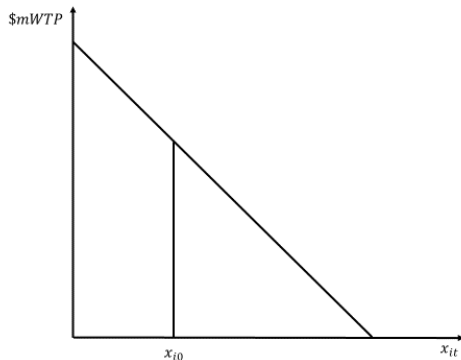
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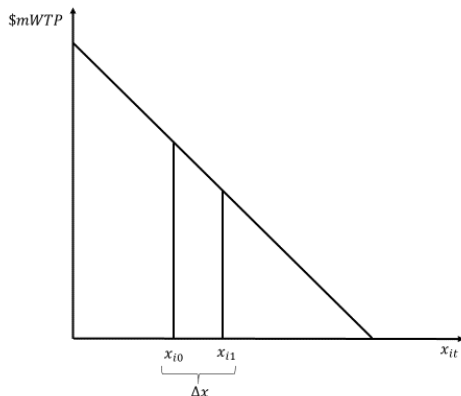
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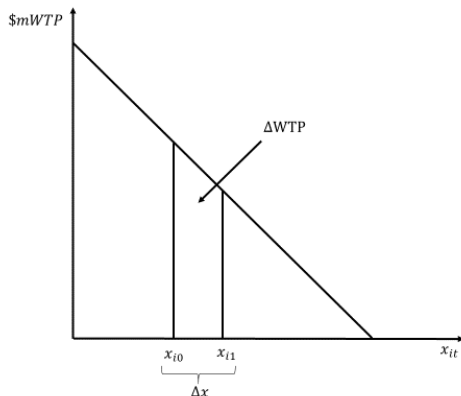
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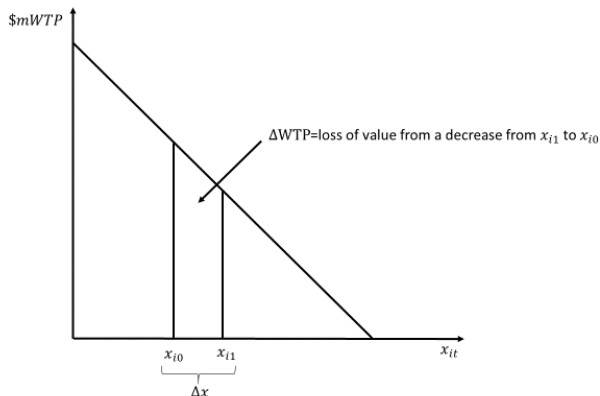
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# Approximating mWTP

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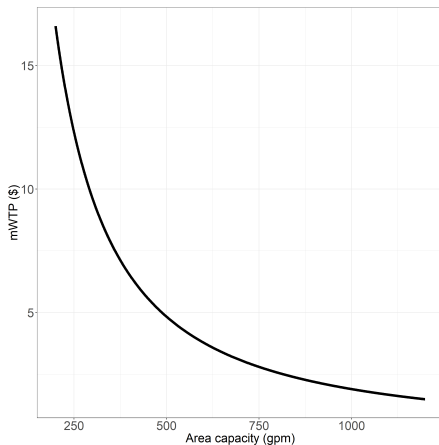
$$\ln(\Delta WTP_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i + \beta_2 z_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (1)$$

- $x_i$  is well capacity averaged across producer  $i$ 's wells
- $z_i$  is climate in the county (30-year average temperature and precipitation during the growing season (PRISM))



# Approximating mWTP in the Study Area

- We predict  $\frac{\Delta WTP_i}{\Delta x_i} \approx mWTP_i$  for each well in the Arkansas River Basin of Kansas as a function of average well capacity (GPM) within 1 mile and climate at that well



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  - Integrate from current to future well capacities at all wells, sum across wells and compare change in values

# Results: Policy Impacts

Impacts of CREP			
	15 years	30 years	50 years
Additional Saturated Thickness (ft)	3.9	7.5	12.7
Additional Well Capacity (GPM)	10.8	19.5	27.6
Current Value of Additional GPM (\$)	1.2 million	3.7 million	13.5 million
Present Value (\$) (5% discount rate)	0.58 million	0.9 million	1.2 million
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Additional Saturated Thickness	13.49	12.58	12.89
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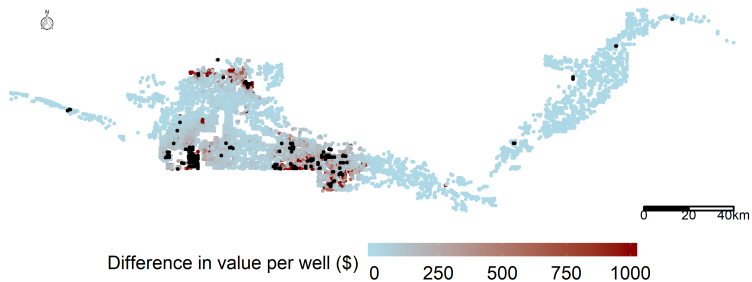
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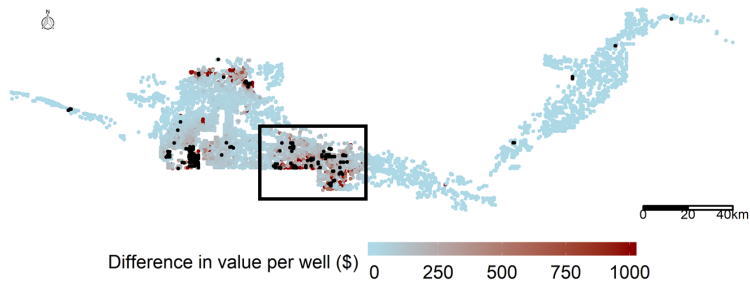
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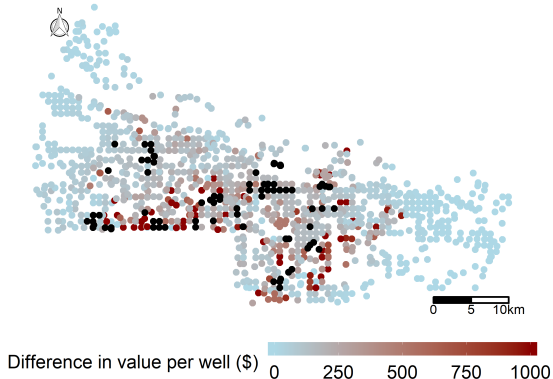
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- Local nature of impacts suggests the importance of spatial targeting

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  - How does policy change (beliefs about) resource dynamics and competition, and become capitalized in resource values (Edwards 2016)?
  - Better to directly value a stock or value the flows over time?



# Thanks!

Table 5: Baseline Change in Groundwater and Value

	Variable	15 years	30 years	50 years
1	Saturated thickness (ft)	-28.933	-59.611	-98.543
2	Well capacity (GPM)	-81.323	-164.564	-258.277
3	Value (\$)	-5,482,229	-17,447,124	-48,207,468
4	Present value (\$)	-2,637,046	-4,036,871	-4,203,871
5	Value per well (\$)	-1,080.455	-3,438.534	-9,500.881
6	Present value per well (\$)	-519.717	-795.599	-828.512

Table 4: Impact of Saturated Thickness on Well Capacity

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	Well capacity
Saturated thickness	3.584** (1.593)
Observations	76,266
R <sup>2</sup>	0.006
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	-0.118
F Statistic	0.818 (df = 464; 67815)

Note: Model includes controls for well and county-year fixed effects

\*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

Table 3: Coefficient Estimates from Logit Model

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	Support
Log well capacity	-0.591** (0.283)
Log mean temperature	4.747*** (1.618)
Log mean precipitation	-2.130*** (0.613)
Log project cost	-0.439*** (0.134)
Constant	0.608 (5.902)
Observations	532
Log Likelihood	-267.616
Akaike Inf. Crit.	545.232

Note: \*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

Table 6: Well Retirement Policy Benefits

	Wells	Variable	15 years	30 years	50 years
1	All wells	Saturated thickness (ft)	3.862	7.470	12.679
2	All wells	Well capacity (GPM)	10.778	19.548	27.617
3	All wells	Value (\$)	1,215,256	3,708,376	13,535,172
4	All wells	Present value (\$)	584,559	858,034	1,180,317
5	All wells	Value per well (\$)	239.507	730.858	2,667.555
6	All wells	Present value per well (\$)	115.207	169.104	232.621
7	Within 1 mile	Saturated thickness (ft)	9.335	18.455	32.726
8	Within 1 mile	Well capacity (GPM)	31.916	57.017	80.239
9	Within 1 mile	Value (\$)	479,589	1,843,511	5,279,023
10	Within 1 mile	Present value (\$)	230,690.9	426,546.8	460,350.5
11	Within 1 mile	Value per well (\$)	769.807	2,959.086	8,473.552
12	Within 1 mile	Present value per well (\$)	370.290	684.666	738.925

Note: All wells represents the aggregation across the entire study area. Within 1 mile represents the impacts only on wells that are within 1 mile of a well participating in CREP.

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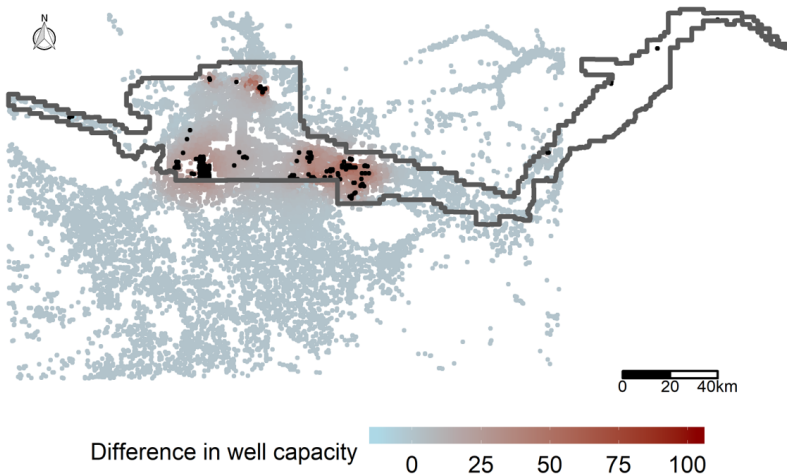
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  - Depends on beliefs about the change in  $x_{it}$  moving forward as producers in an area make optimal pumping decisions
- With constant marginal utility of non-farm income,  $\delta$ , the mWTP for GW is  $\frac{1}{\delta} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_{it}}$

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- We model a producer's marginal WTP (mWTP) for GW, conditional on the current stock, measured by **well capacity**,  $x_{it}$ , in the area of a well
- Indirect utility depends well capacity around producer  $i$ 's well at time  $t$  and on exogenous non-farm income,  $m_i$
- $V(x_{it}, m_i)$  is the discounted flow of utility from time  $t$  to the end of a planning horizon,  $T$ 
  - Depends on beliefs about the change in  $x_{it}$  moving forward as producers in an area make optimal pumping decisions
- With constant marginal utility of non-farm income,  $\delta$ , the mWTP for GW is  $\frac{1}{\delta} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x_{it}}$
- We examine the value to producer  $i$  of changes in well capacity between two levels,  $x_{it}^0$  and  $x_{it}^1$  (Fenichel and Hashida 2019)

# Results: Policy Impacts



# Results: Policy Impacts

Table A2: Well Retirement Policy Benefits, including Wells Outside The Arkansas River Basin

		Variable	15 years	30 years	50 years
1	All wells	Saturated thickness	1.703	3.326	5.686
2	All wells	Well capacity	5.748	10.496	14.651
3	All wells	Value	1,530,901	4,729,176	18,358,190
4	All wells	PV Value	736,389	1,094,225	1,600,903
5	All wells	Value per well	132.660	409.807	1,590.831
6	All wells	PV Value per well	63.812	94.820	138.726
7	Within 1 mile	Saturated thickness	9.210	18.186	32.342
8	Within 1 mile	Well capacity	32.332	57.484	80.663
9	Within 1 mile	Value	542,969	1,962,197	5,658,792
10	Within 1 mile	PV Value	261,177	454,008	493,467
11	Within 1 mile	Value per well	847	3,061	8,828
12	Within 1 mile	PV Value per well	407	708	769