

Historical Overview of the High Priority Area (HPA) Process



GMD 4's Approach

Today's Agenda:

1. Provide background on policy framework - How did we get to this point
2. Present current hydrology conditions for the HPA
3. Begin discussion on possible goals and management strategies

High Priority Area Overview

Early 1999.....

Legislature: KWA to study issues and make recommendations - Including:

Aquifer resources...and long-term prospects for transitioning to dry land farming in areas to maintain sustainable yields...;

The competition for future water and means of addressing it

Late 2000.....

KWA management recommendations to Legislature were:

- 1) Use the state water planning process to:
 - develop state policy for sustainable groundwater for healthy communities;
 - administer transitional guidance to areas when recharge is exceeded;
- 2) Produce aquifer subunits of similar aquifer areas that quantify recharge

High Priority Area Overview....

Late 2000....

KWO Introduces the 2-Pools Management Concept for the High Plains:

Proposal is opposed by many across the state - KWO withdraws proposal

Early 2001....

KWO forms Management Advisory Committee (MAC) for the Ogallala

- All participants were local stakeholders
- Asked to devise an approach to declining groundwater levels in Ogallala

October 2001, MAC agreed on 5 recommendations and 17 guiding principals

High Priority Area Overview....

2001 MAC Recommendations.... (All)

1. Delineate Ogallala into subunits for enhanced management;
2. GMDs identify subunits in decline and set goals to extend and conserve aquifer;
3. Set subunit priorities to extend aquifer's life and sustain region's vitality;
4. Support and expand programs and activities to extend and conserve aquifer's life;
5. Support and expand research and education regarding aquifer conservation.

2001 MAC Guidelines.... (Selected)

- Use current legal framework for management – (no new laws);
- Use current organizational structure (GMDs and DWR) for management;
- Use voluntary, incentive-based approaches over regulation, where possible;
- Management should be through aquifer subunits;

High Priority Area Overview....

March, 2006....

GMD 4 includes HPA Process into Management Plan and begins process which includes 7 Tasks:

Task 1 - Cluster Aquifer Sub-units (Completed)

Task 2 - Prioritize Aquifer Sub-units (Completed)

Task 3 - Verify data for each high priority aquifer sub-unit (Completed)

Task 4 - Set water goals and management for HPA sub-units after public input

Task 5 – Assess management program per board decisions based on Task 4

Task 6 - Develop plans to transition to dryland for appropriate acreages

Task 7 - Review, evaluate and reiterate

Look at Tasks 1 - 4 in more detail....

High Priority Area Overview....

2006....

GMD 4 Tasks 1 & 2 - Aquifer Sub-unit Delineation:

High Priority Sections would be:

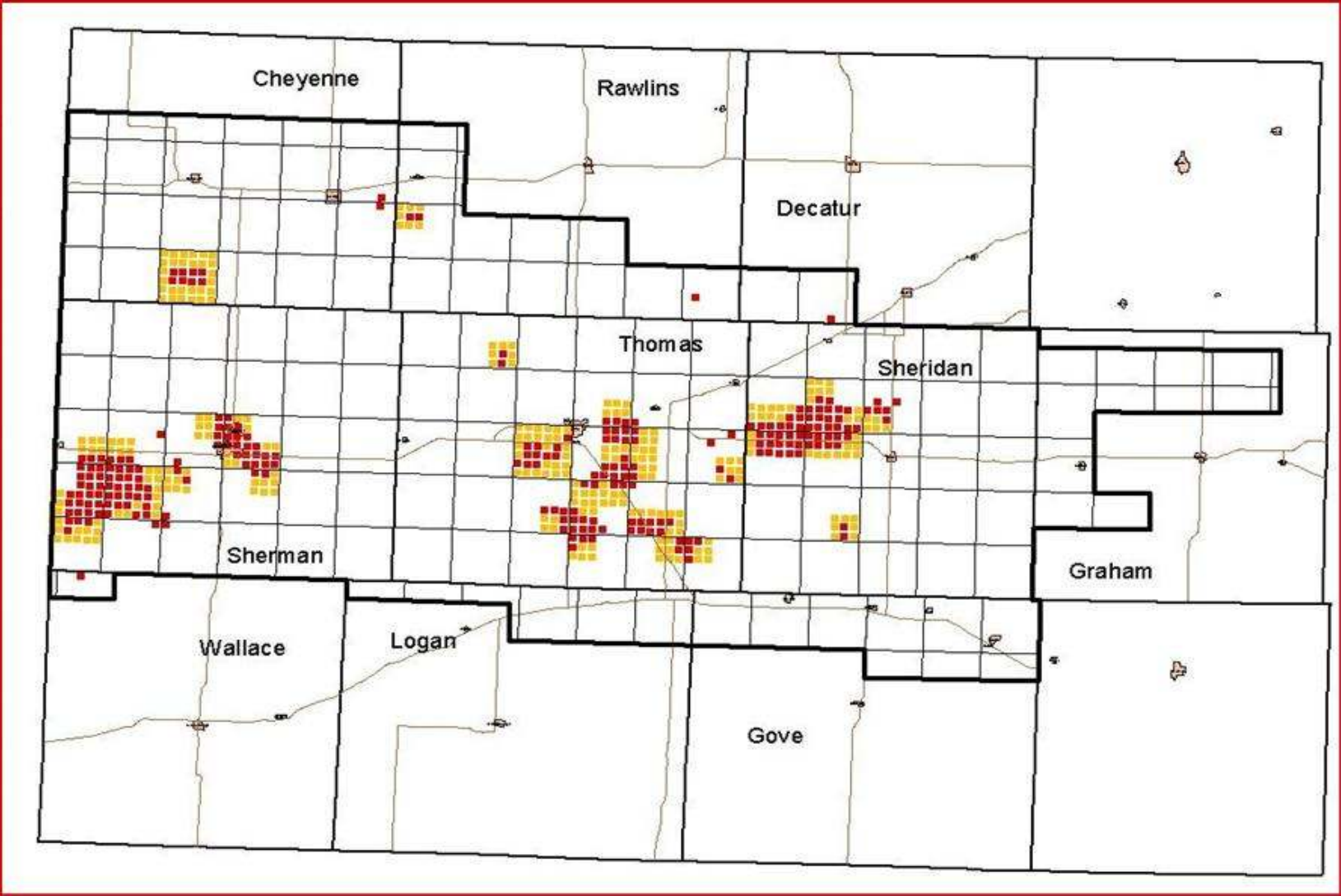
- 9% or more decline between 1996 and 2002, OR,
- 2-mile reported water use density exceeding 275 AF per section
(provided at least 15 feet of ST and 25 AF of reported water use density)

High Priority Sub-units would be:

- Any 1/4 TWP having 2 or more High Priority Sections

Additionally, any area upon a local request of involved persons wanting additional management could also be designated a HPA

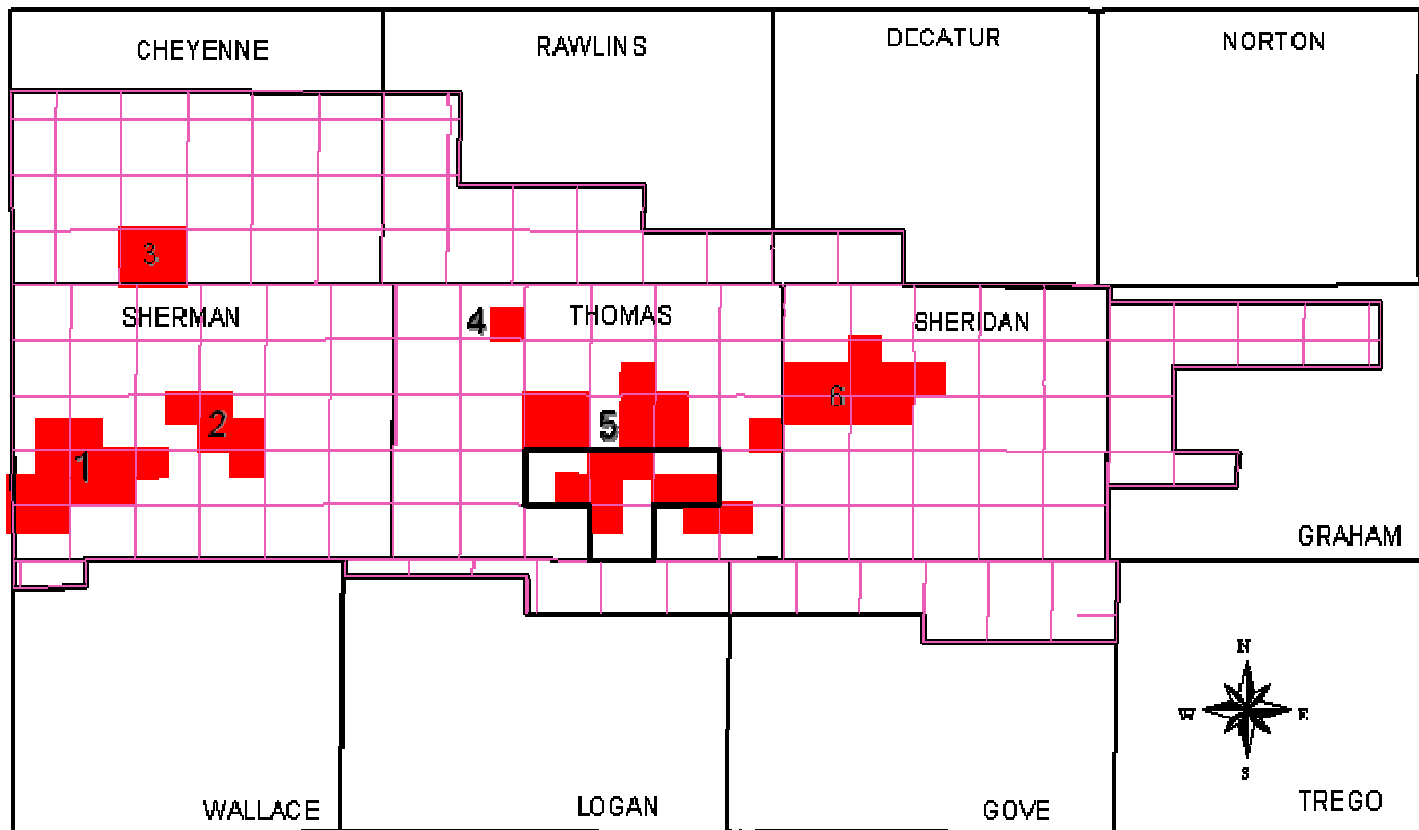
Red = High Priority Sections; Yellow = High Priority ¼ Townships



Red = Hydrologic Derived Areas

Black = Local Requested Areas

GMD4 High Priority Areas Adopted March 8, 2007



High Priority Area Overview....

Task 4 - Set goals and management for high priority sub-units - after public input

Board is to conduct public meeting(s) within each HPA to:

- a) inform public of the district's process and findings;
- b) discuss the area's future outlook based on known data;
- c) request input on preferred future actions - specifically a groundwater budget;
- d) discuss management actions for adoption by the board to achieve the budget

We are here today to begin this Task 4 process

Task 4: ...Overview Closing Comments....

- 1) No pre-conceived problems or solutions – everything is open for discussion
- 2) No hurry on the Task 4 process – multiple meetings may be needed
- 3) Both voluntary and/or regulatory approaches can be considered
- 4) Each issue will have hydrologic, economic/social, and legal implications

Questions? Comments?



Next step: Task 5

Following public meetings the board next decides (Task 5):

- Appropriate goals (groundwater budgets)
- Management approaches for each subunit
- Incorporate into the management program before being undertaken