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**Utilizing GIS Mapping Strategies to Assist Local Watershed Organizations
Visualize Watershed Conditions More Effectively**

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Abstract:

Kansas State Research and Extension has been working since 2003 with Stakeholder Leadership Teams (SLTs) across the State of Kansas to improve or protect their water quality. This goal is obtained through participation in a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) where the SLT will determine how to apply best management practices and distribute educational information specific to the conditions in their watershed. As part of this process, GIS (Geospatial Information Systems) maps have been incorporated into the WRAPS learning process to assist stakeholders visualize their watersheds. The Big Hill Lake, Lower Big Blue and Upper Ark Lake McKinney watersheds are included in this poster as examples. The first step in working with stakeholders is to assemble resident contact information. A map with quadrants showing section, township and range is drawn and labeled for this purpose. Next, at an initial meeting, stakeholders are exposed to aerial photographs with Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) delineations to assist them in locating their homes and visualize where surface water (with possible pollutants) travels after it leaves their property. Subsequently, maps are produced to be viewed by the SLT and included in the final report of the WRAPS process. These maps include: elevation, land use, TMDL water segments and water bodies, sensitive groundwater areas, precipitation, aquifers, monitoring sites, and nonpoint pollution source sites.

Impact Statement:

These maps will reinforce an entire watershed perspective among the SLT and emphasize the statement that "Everyone Lives Downstream".

Category: Watershed Assessment and Restoration

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation