

Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project

Quote Sheet

“The groundwater situation in eastern Arkansas has become critical. It is essential that accurate information be presented to the public about the Grand Prairie Area Development Project. If this project is stalled or cancelled and the area is forced to continue depleting the aquifers, the Grand Prairie can no longer support irrigated agriculture by the year 2015.”

- James A. Bodron, P. E.
- Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

“The Grand Prairie Demonstration Project is critical in maintaining the agricultural economy of the area and is a key component in more effective management of the state’s water resources.”

- J. Randy Young, P.E., Executive Director
- Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission

“Groundwater is one of our most precious natural resources. The partners involved in this project are coming together to provide for sustenance of our aquifers by alleviating our dependence on the aquifers. By providing on-farm conservation measures and supplemental water, we are not depleting the aquifers, which would be an enormous loss to our environment as well as to the economy.”

- Gene Sullivan, P.E., Executive Director
- White River Irrigation District

“Being the third generation involved with the water issue in the Grand Prairie means that I am continuing in the efforts of my father and grandfather, who had the foresight many years ago to realize that the aquifers were not a realistic source for long-term irrigation in the area. I feel that providing landowners the opportunity to continue irrigated agriculture in the area is an opportunity that cannot be passed up. The future of this entire area’s economy is based on our ability to provide a supplemental water source and more efficient water management plans for our farms.”

- Lori Dabbs, Executive Assistant
- White River Irrigation District

“The groundwater shortage is critical but if there is a better project out there to be undertaken in terms of water resources, we want to look for that. After careful studies, we think, however, that this is the best project for the nation, Arkansas and for the Grand Prairie region when the many challenges in the area are taken into consideration.”

- Colonel Dan Krueger, District Engineer
- Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

“There are economic benefits to this project for farmers. When farmers get water and cost-shared water conservation features for their farms under this project, they will be able to use this for creating fishing lakes, duck hunting areas and for creating a dove hunting area. This will allow farmers to lease land for hunting and fishing during the off season from farming.”

- Craig Uyeda, Chief, River Basins Section
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

“One foot of water can make a significant difference in those flat bottomlands. Because the Grand Prairie Area Development Project would remove river water during the summer, the peak time for irrigation, it would actually move those waters back more toward their natural seasonal levels.”

- Tom Foti
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

“The objective of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Grand Prairie Project area is to protect Arkansas natural resources while providing a reliable water supply and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. With everyone's help, we can accomplish this goal to benefit the entire state.”

- Kalven L. Trice, State Conservationist
- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arkansas