

Water and forest resources in the mid to upper High Plains have faced ever-increasing risk for more than a century, and they're now facing serious problems for the future.

Startup money for the partnership comes from a grant under a conservation initiative outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill. The partners hope, however, to bring another \$800,000 to the area over the next four years to bolster landowners' efforts in planting trees along streams, renovate windbreaks and improve forest stands.

Kansans will continue to apply for cost-share money through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for Forestland Health, Atchison said.

“County NRCS offices can take landowner applications at any time,” he said, “but the application cutoff date for fiscal 2011 funds is November 15. That’s really soon. Landowners who can get in before that deadline, however, may have better odds

- Sedimentation from stream-bank erosion has reduced the storage capacity and thus the lifespan of many Kansas reservoirs by 50 to 100 years, creating a real potential for water-supply shortages.