

ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT OF SEBELIUS RESERVOIR ON NORTON COUNTY

STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to determine the approximate magnitude of the economic impact of the Sebelius Reservoir and the adjoining Prairie Dog State Park in the Norton Wildlife Area on the local economy. Rights to the water in the Sebelius Reservoir are held by the City of Norton and the Almena Irrigation District #5. The Bureau of Reclamation reserves capacity in Sebelius Reservoir for flood control as needed. The water held in Sebelius Reservoir is also used by recreational users and wildlife. The Almena Irrigation District has contracted not to use all of their water right in the past and in the future until 2027. This study provides estimates of the value of water in the Sebelius Reservoir for each of these uses.

This study was jointly commissioned by the Norton City/County Economic Development organization, the Norton County Community Foundation, and the Kansas Water Office.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The total economic impact of the 172,300 recreational users of Sebelius Reservoir on Norton County, Kansas, is estimated to be \$4,848,000 annually.
- The total economic impact of the 172,300 recreational users on the 18-county region in NWKS on Sebelius Reservoir is estimated to be \$5,173,000 annually.
- The direct economic impact to Norton County from recreational users from Nebraska and Colorado is estimated to be \$761,000 annually.
- Kansas sales tax revenue attributed to recreational users from Nebraska and Colorado is estimated to be \$70,500.
- Local sales tax and revenue attributed to recreational users from Nebraska and Colorado is estimated to be \$21,600.
- The gross economic value of the Norton Municipal Water Right (1,600 acre-feet) is slightly more than \$1,777,000 annually.
- The estimated economic value of the water in Sebelius Reservoir for irrigation (water right held by Almena Irrigation District #5) is \$11,500,000 annually.
- The estimated economic value of the irrigation water in Sebelius Reservoir subject to the current lease is \$2,397,086 annually.
- The Annual Return on Investment (ROI) on the \$100,000 contractual payment made to the Almena Irrigation District for increased recreational water use is 4.17% every year. - *The Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Economic Impact of Keith Sebelius Reservoir 2018*

Copies of the full Economic Impact Report can be acquired online at www.nortonccf.org, at the Norton County Community Foundation office or at the Norton City/County Economic Development office.

