

landowners are concerned about the future of the Ogallala Aquifer, not all understand playas' crucial role in groundwater recharge. Of 13 possible resources that might warrant additional conservation effort, landowners say they support "more conservation than now" for only one: the Ogallala Aquifer. However, about 50% of landowners say they do not know whether or not playas recharge groundwater, when in fact playas are the primary source of recharge for the aquifer.

Survey details

The High Plains Landowner Survey was conducted from March through

May 2006 by DJ Case and Associates on behalf of the PLJV.

The 21-question survey was mailed to 1,800 landowners randomly selected from a Farm Service Agency list of agricultural producers in a six-state region that includes eastern Colorado and New Mexico; western Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma; and the Texas Panhandle.

Final response for the survey was 26% (429 respondents). Confidence level for this sample is plus/minus 2% to 5% points.

■ **Complete survey results and an executive summary are available on the PLJV Web site at www.pljv.org.**

Playa wetlands found in six states

PLAYAS are seasonal wetlands found in abundance throughout the southern and western High Plains. There are more than 60,000 playas, or 500,000 playa acres, in a six-state area of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Playas are the primary source of recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer and are critical habitat for migratory and resident birds and other wildlife in the region. More than 70% of all playas have been altered from their natural state and have lost much of their wetland values. Sedimentation is the No. 1 threat to playas, and more than 50% of the wetlands have been buried by eroded soils and are effectively "fossilized," meaning they no longer function as wetlands.

The Playa Lake Joint Venture is a partnership of state and federal wildlife and agriculture agencies, national and local conservation groups, businesses, and private landowners dedicated to conserving playas, other wetlands and grasslands for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people in the High Plains.



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