

# STATE NEWS

## Federal officials won't take action on Kansas wildlife refuge's lost water

BY: ANNA KAMINSKI  
Kansas Reflector

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not allocate water in 2026 to a Kansas wildlife refuge that serves as a key destination for hundreds of species of migrating birds.

Kansas Republican U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran in an Aug. 14 announcement applauded the service's decision to take no action to honor water rights for the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, a more than 22,000-acre marsh and sand prairie in central Kansas.

Federal officials made the same decision in 2020 and again in 2023, despite a report from Kansas regulators that found the refuge received insufficient amounts of water in two out of every three years between 2008 and 2021.

"I met with FWS Administrator Brian Nesvik and emphasized the need for long-term solutions led by stakeholders at the local level, and I am pleased by the recognition of the progress that is being made," Moran said in a news release.

Moran did not specify what progress entails, but he said the service acknowledged a Kansas



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in 1955 to protect migratory birds, pictured here in 2011. (Dan Severson/USFWS)

Department of Agriculture group's conservation efforts.

A 2016 analysis determined that irrigators upstream from Quivira were infringing on its state water rights, which entitle it to more than 14,000 acre-feet of water each year, equivalent to about 4.6 billion gallons. Irrigators reduce the groundwater in Rattlesnake Creek, which flows into the refuge. Conservationists

say lower flows threaten endangered species.

In 2024, the refuge reportedly used none of its allocated water for the first time since 2017, according to state water rights data. In 2023, it used 45 acre-feet.

U.S. Rep. Ron Estes, a Republican representing Kansas' 4th District, wrote a letter in February to U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, asking for assurance that the de-

partment wouldn't call for water allocation for Quivira.

"Agriculture is the basin's primary industry, generating millions of dollars in direct and indirect revenue," Estes said. "Losing the ability to irrigate crops would reduce these revenues by tens of millions of dollars, forcing many of these already struggling family-run farms to exit the industry entirely."

# U.S. & WORLD

## Trump says Putin, Zelenskyy must be flexible as he pushes summit

HADRIANA LOWENKRON and  
JENNIFER A. DLOUHY

Bloomberg News

Donald Trump urged Russia's Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy to show some "flexibility" as the U.S. president accelerates his efforts to end the war in Ukraine and encourages the two leaders to hold a bilateral summit.

"I hope President Putin is going to be good, and if he's not, it's going to be a rough situation," Trump said Tuesday in an interview on Fox News. "I hope that Zelenskyy, President Zelenskyy, will do what he has to do. He has to show some flexibility also."

Trump's comments follow a whirlwind stretch as the U.S. president pushes to bring Russia's war against Ukraine — now in its fourth year — to an end. Trump held a summit in Alaska with Putin last week and talks at the White House with Zelenskyy and European allies on Monday.

Trump spoke with Putin again on Monday and urged him to begin making plans for a bilateral summit with Zelenskyy — a sit-down that would mark the first time those leaders meet face-to-face since Russia invaded its neighbor in Feb. 2022. Trump said that if that meeting goes well, he'll look to follow up with a trilateral summit with Putin and Zelenskyy.

"I wouldn't say they are ever going to be best friends, but they're doing OK, and we're just going to see," Trump said. "You know, they're the ones that have to call the shots."

The details of the plan, however, appear to still be in flux — with Trump acknowledging a time and location for a gathering had not yet been set, and Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov saying only that Trump and Putin had discussed the idea of direct talks with Zelenskyy.

A meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy could take place within two weeks, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told reporters Monday. French President Emmanuel Macron signaled the trilateral summit could happen within three weeks.

In Tuesday's interview, Trump by turns cast blame for the war on former President Barack



This combination of pictures created on Aug. 18, 2025, shows President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 18, 2025, and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, on Aug. 15, 2025. President Donald Trump said he had started arranging a two-way peace meeting between Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky and Russia's Vladimir Putin -- to be followed by three-way talks involving himself. (Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS)

Obama, his immediate predecessor President Joe Biden and Ukrainian efforts to join NATO. He said that he has a strong relationship with Putin, but emphasized that relationship means little if it doesn't translate into an agreement to end the war.

"We're going to find out about President Putin in the next couple of weeks — that I can tell you — and we're going to see where it all goes. It's possible that he doesn't want to make a deal," Trump said.

### SECURITY GUARANTEES

The tone of Monday's White House meetings was much improved from a February visit in which Zelenskyy bitterly clashed with Trump. Zelenskyy said Trump agreed to participate in security guarantees as part of any peace deal and reserve discussion of territorial exchanges for direct talks between Zelenskyy and Putin.

Trump on Tuesday indicated there would be some form of security assurances, perhaps in the form of air support from the U.S., even as he reiterated that he would not allow Ukraine to join NATO. European countries would supply ground troops, Trump said.

"We're willing to help them with things, especially, probably you could talk about by air, because there's nobody that has the kind of stuff we have," the president said.

Trump also said Zelenskyy would have to forfeit his ambi-

tions of retaking Crimea, which Russia illegally seized by force in 2014.

"Both of those things are impossible," the president said, referring to the Crimean Peninsula and NATO membership for Ukraine.

A package of security guarantees could build on the work of the so-called coalition of the willing, a European group led by the U.K. and France, potentially including a multinational force. European Union leaders are due to be briefed remotely on Tuesday on the outcome of the talks in Washington.

Trump, when asked if European leaders pushed him on the reliability of U.S. security guarantees under a future president, said "they did. We talked about it."

"You know, it is what it is. I could say the same thing about them. I say, suppose you get a terrible leader in U.K. or France or, you know, we had Ursula there, who runs the whole gamut," he added referring to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Asked if he called the Russian president on Monday in front of European officials he was meeting with at the White House, Trump said he did not, saying he thought it would be "disrespectful" to the Russian leader.

"President Putin wouldn't talk to people from Europe. I mean, that was part of the problem. He, they had no communication," Trump said.

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Reporter

### 200 Public Notice

(First published in the Independence Daily Reporter August 14, 2025)  
Millsap & Singer, LLC  
8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
(913) 339-9132  
(913) 339-9045 (fax)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
Montgomery County, KANSAS  
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

Zachary Zahniser, Jane Doe, and  
John Doe, et al.,  
Defendants

Case No. MGC-2025-CV-000048  
Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved  
Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

### NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Montgomery County, Kansas by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

LOTS 15 AND 16, BLOCK 1, CITY PARK ADDITION TO THE CITY OF COFFEYVILLE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS Parcel ID No. 063-197-36-0-30-03-013.00-0. Commonly known as 102 W 2nd Street, Coffeyville, KS 67337 ("the Property") MS 214242

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before September 24, 2025 in the District Court of Montgomery County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC  
By:  
s. Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533  
dduncan@msfirm.com  
612 Spirit Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63005  
(636) 537-0110  
(636) 537-0067 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
MS 214242.459585 KJFC

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS  
ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A  
DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION  
OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR  
THAT PURPOSE.

August 14, 21, & 28, 2025

### Helpful Tips

#### Family activities to get kids off the couch

Thanks to increasingly busy weekday schedules that have families running in different directions for work, school and extracurricular activities, weekends are an ideal time to recharge. Too often, however, family members retire to their respective rooms, devices in hand.

Kommando Tech says people spend an average of three hours and 15 minutes on their phones each day, with Americans spending 5.4 hours a day using phones. Those statistics do not include how much additional time is likely spent on devices like tablets or laptops.

Chances are phones are being used while lounging on the couch or bed, something that has negative health consequences for many children and adults. A sedentary lifestyle can lead to weight gain, loss of muscle strength, weak bones, diminished immune system response, and poor blood circulation, according to the health information site Medline. These fun activities can get kids and parents off the couch on weekends.

Take a family bike ride  
Inflate those tires and tighten your helmet chin straps. A family bike ride is an ideal activity for the family because it is something that can be enjoyed by ax for the very young or the elderly), and enjoy exercise in the great outdoors.

Wash the cars  
It's a chore, but it's one that has the potential for lots of laughs along the way - and possibly a suds fight. Washing vehicles also is a great way to cool off when the weather is warm.

Engage in sports training  
Whether the children participate in organized sports or not, set up an obstacle course or fitness circuit in the backyard. Everyone takes turns going through the course. The family can spend time together as everyone gets beneficial exercise.

Do a walking tour  
Educational attractions like museums, zoos, aquariums and arboretums are great to visit on weekends. The family will see new sights and learn important information about exhibits, all the while walking a few miles.

Visit an amusement park  
Research the nearest amusement park and take a road trip for the day. Hours will be spent walking around the park and going on thrilling rides. Consider discounted memberships or season passes if this is the type of activity the family plans to repeat.

Check out a driving range  
Practice golf swings at a driving range or a virtual driving range. Everyone can compete to see whose drive is the longest. The possibilities for physically active family engagement are endless and beneficial for the body in myriad ways.