Red Willow Dam, Nebraska
Photo by Reclamation Staff
Aaron Thompson represents the Missouri Basin Regional Director with various private, public and government stakeholders, pertaining to the management, development and protection of water and related issues. He carries out these responsibilities with a 45-person employee workforce managing Reclamation projects in Nebraska, Kansas, and a portion of eastern Colorado.

Thompson entered federal service in 2001 as a Mechanical Engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation at Hoover Dam. He later held positions as Facility Manager at Davis Dam, southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada, and as Deputy Area Manager for the Wyoming Area Office. Thompson became the Nebraska Kansas Area Manager in August 2007.

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Thompson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1998 from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and a Master’s in Business Administration in 2005 from the University of Phoenix.
The Nebraska-Kansas Area Office (NKAO) is in McCook, Nebraska, with a field office in Grand Island, Nebraska. NKAO manages Reclamation projects in Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado. The management area for NKAO includes all of Nebraska, except the North Platte Project Area; the northern portion of Kansas within the drainage basin of the Missouri River; and a portion of northeast Colorado that encompasses Bonny Reservoir.

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Reclamation’s work in Nebraska began soon after the agency was created in 1902. Facilities in Nebraska provide water to over 250,000 acres of farmland which provide about $170 million worth of crops each year.

Located in the country’s heartland, Kansas was settled during the late 1880’s primarily by farmers. Today, about 95 percent of the state is devoted to agricultural production. Dryland farming was marginally successful, but farmers were soon digging wells and banding together to sink deep wells for irrigation. The Bureau of Reclamation’s first involvement in Kansas came in the mid-1940’s as projects were started to provide storage for irrigation and to protect the land from devastating floods.

**PROJECTS**

**NEBRASKA**
- Ainsworth Unit
- Frenchman-Cambridge Division
- Mirage Flats
- North Loup Division

**KANSAS**
- Alma Unit
- Cedar Bluff Unit
- Glen Elder Unit
- Kirwin Unit
- Wichita Project

**COLORADO**
- Red Willow Dam
- Superior Courthouse Diversion

**DAMS**

**NEBRASKA**
- Bartley Diversion
- Box Butte
- Cambridge Diversion
- Culbertson Diversion
- Davis Creek
- Dry Spotted Tail Diversion
- Dunlap Diversion
- Enders
- Kent Diversion
- Lake Alice No 1
- Lake Alice No 1 and 1 Half
- Lake Alice No 2
- Medicine Creek
- Merritt
- Minatare
- Red Willow Creek Diversion
- Red Willow Dam

**KANSAS**
- Almena Diversion
- Cedar Bluff
- Cheney
- Glen Elder
- Kirwin
- Lovewell
- Norton
- Webster
- Woodston Diversion

**COLORADO**
- Bonny