

## 10/01/2004 Moran to Study Kansas Conservation Efforts

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Conservation Chairman Frank Lucas to Join Tour of South Central Kansas

CHEYENNE BOTTOMS - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will hold a conservation tour later this month to learn more about conservation efforts in south central Kansas. This year's tour will feature stops in Barber, Barton, Pratt, Reno and Stafford counties on Thursday and Friday, October 21 and 22. Joining Moran on the tour will be the Chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research, Congressman Frank Lucas (OK-03).

"Protecting and conserving our natural resources is critical for our state, and it is important that we recognize and support actions being made in this area," Moran said. "This conservation tour will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about and bring attention to the efforts of private landowners, conservation groups and government programs to protect our state's precious resources and environment."

Since coming to Congress, Moran has held regular conservation tours to study conservation practices in various parts of the state. This year's tour will focus on a variety of conservation issues important to Kansas including water quality, wildlife habitat protection, grazing lands management, the Conservation Reserve Program and the preservation of wetlands.

On Thursday, October 21, the group will visit the Cheyenne Bottoms wildlife area in Barton County. Cheyenne Bottoms is one of the largest wetlands areas in the central United States. The group will also visit the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Located in parts of Reno, Rice, and Stafford Counties, the refuge was established to provide wintering habitat for migratory birds moving up and down the Central Flyway.

On Friday, October 22, stops include the Cheney Watershed protection program. The Cheney Watershed covers over 633,000 acres in south central Kansas and provides over 60 percent of the drinking water supply to the city of Wichita. The group will also visit sites in Pratt, Stafford and Reno Counties to look at issues such as rotational grazing, endangered species habitat protection, intensive grazing practices and carbon sequestration.

A detailed agenda of the conservation tour will be released in the near future.

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