

Table 1. Kansas Common Resource Area (CRA) Descriptions

MLRA SYMBOL	NATIONAL CRA SYMBOL	NATIONAL CRA NAME	NATIONAL CRA DESCRIPTION
72	72.1	Central High Tableland	The Central High Tableland CRA is broad, level to gently rolling, loess mantled tableland. Local relief is measured in feet on the tableland tens of feet and major river valleys are bordered by steep slopes. Soils are deep. Presettlement vegetation was short grass prairies. Nearly all of this area is in cropland, both dryland small grain crops and irrigated corn and grain sorghum.
73	73.1	Rolling Plains and Breaks	The Rolling Plains and Breaks CRA is dissected plains having broad undulating to rolling ridgetops, loess mantled, and hilly to steep sideslopes. Local relief reaches 300 feet and is dissected with narrow drainage ways and river valleys. Soils are deep on the ridgetops and moderately deep to shallow on the sideslopes. Presettlement vegetation was mid grass prairies. Most of this land is in farms, both small grain crops and native grasses.
74	74.1	Central Kansas Sandstone Hills	The Central Kansas Sandstone Hills CRA is undulating to hilly plains interrupted by escarpments in which Cretaceous sandstone bedrock is regularly exposed. Local relief reaches 300 feet and is dissected with broad river valleys. Soils are shallow to moderately deep underlain by sandstone or shale bedrock. Presettlement vegetation was mid grass prairies. Most of this land is in farms, both native grasses and cropland.
74	74.2	Central Kansas Aluvial Plain	The Central Kansas Alluvial Plains CRA is a level to nearly level plain mantled by loess and underlain by unconsolidated alluvial sediments. This CRA interfingers in the Central Kansas Sandstone Hills as broad river valleys and terraces with a local relief in the tens of feet. Presettlement vegetation was tall to mid grass prairies. Most of this land is in farms, dominantly small grains and hay.
75	75.1	Central Loess Plains	The Central Loess Plains CRA is a nearly level to gently rolling plains mantled by thick beds of loess. Local relief reaches 100 feet with narrow streams. Presettlement vegetation was tall to mid grass prairies. Most of this land is in farms, dominantly corn under irrigation from wells.
76	76.1	Bluestem Hills	The Bluestem Hills CRA is a rolling plain interrupted by high, ragged escarpments in which limestone bedrock is regularly exposed. Local relief reaches 250 feet in the escarpment zones. Valley bottoms are narrow with steep sided slopes. Geologic parent materials are mainly thin-bedded Permian limestones and shales. Presettlement vegetation was tallgrass prairie. The land is in ranches.

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77A	77A.1	High Plains, Northern Part	This unit is characterized by nearly level plains with playa depressions and sloping breaks along rivers and creeks. Soils are generally deep, fine-textured, and occur in a mesic soil temperature regime. Native vegetation on the plains landscape is a short-grass community, while mid-grasses grow on more sloping areas. Current land use is evenly split between cropland (dryland and irrigated) and rangeland. The major crops are wheat and grain sorghum, with corn and soybeans grown under irrigation.
77E	77E.1	High Plains, Northeastern Part	This unit occurs along moderately sloping breaks and steep escarpments associated with dissecting river systems and erosional margins of the Southern High Plains. Soil temperature regime is thermic and soil moisture regime is ustic bordering on aridic. Loamy and sandy soils are generally well drained, range from shallow to deep, and developed in Ogallala Formation sediments. Native vegetation is a short-grass community. Current land use is rangeland and wildlife habitat with minor cropland.
78C	78C.1	Rolling Red Plains, Eastern Part	This unit is characterized by moderately dissected, rolling plains with prominent ridges and valleys and numerous terraces adjacent to dissecting streams. Loamy and clayey soils are generally deep, well drained, and developed in calcareous and gypsiferous sediments of Permian age. Vegetation consists of native grasses and shrubs with scattered infestations of mesquite. Current land uses are rangeland, pastureland, wildlife habitat, and cropland. Dryland crops include cotton, wheat, and grain sorghum.
79	79.1	Great Bend Sand Plains	The Great Bend Sand Plains CRA is narrow, undulating to rolling hills and valleys consisting of irregular sand dunes stabilized by native grasses. Local relief is measured in tens of feet. Soils are deep and formed in eolian sand. Presettlement vegetation was tall grass prairies. Nearly all of this area is in rangeland. Some nearly level are cultivated for growing irrigated corn and alfalfa.
79	79.2	Great Bend Alluvial Plain	The Great Bend Alluvial Plain CRA is a level to nearly level Arkansas River paleoterrace mantled by loess and underlain by unconsolidated alluvial sediments. This CRA interfingers in the Great Bend Sand Plains as narrow flood plains and terraces with a local relief in the tens of feet. Presettlement vegetation was tall to mid grass prairies. Most of this land is in cropland, dominantly small grains and hay.

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80A	80A.1	Central Rolling Red Prairies	This unit consists of dissected plains with gently rolling hills, steep hillsides and sideslopes, and wide flood plains associated with large streams. Loamy and clayey soils range from shallow to deep and developed in calcareous sediments of Permian age. Native vegetation is mid-to tall-grass prairie. Current land uses are rangeland and cropland with minor urban land, woodland, and pastureland. Important crops are winter wheat, alfalfa, grain sorghum, peanuts, and soybeans.
84A	84A.1	Northern Cross Timbers	This unit consists of hilly uplands and nearly level to strongly sloping ridgetops dissected by narrow stream valleys. Loamy soils are shallow to very deep with deeper soils on ridges or footslope positions and shallower soils on shoulder and backslope positions. Soils developed in sandstones and shales of Permian and Pennsylvanian age. Pre-settlement vegetation was mainly post oak and blackjack oak with mid-to tall-grass understory. Current land use is rangeland, woodland, pastureland, and cropland.
106	106.1	Nebraska and Kansas Loess Drift Hills	The Nebraska and Kansas Loess Drift Hills is a dissected glacial drift plain mantled by thick loess. The nearly level to strongly sloping ridgetops are broad and smooth. The stream valleys are narrow with steep sideslopes. Local relief reaches to 200 feet. Soils are deep with high clay content. Presettlement vegetation was native tall grasses on the hills and trees along the streams and intermittent drainageways.
107B	107B.4	Missouri Loess Hills	The Loess Hills CRA is distinguished by a thick loess mantle (10 to 25 feet) and loess soils. It is a hilly region characterized by broad, rounded ridges, moderate slopes, broad stream valleys, and a local relief of 100 to 150 feet. Bedrock and glacial till are exposed in the deeper valleys. Most of the CRA is in farms, but substantial tracts in the breaks along the Missouri River are thickly wooded.
112	112.1	Scarped Osage Plains	The Scarped Osage Plains CRA is a smooth plain interrupted by low, ragged escarpments trending southwest-northeast in which limestone bedrock is regularly exposed. Local relief reaches 150 feet in the escarpment zones but elsewhere averages less than 100 feet. Valley bottoms are exceptionally broad for the size of the streams. Geologic parent materials are mainly thin-bedded Pennsylvanian limestones and shales. Presettlement vegetation was mostly prairie, with belts of scattered timber along limestone scarps and valleys. Most of the land is in farms, both pasture and cropland. The Kansas City metropolitan area exerts urbanization pressure on land use in the northwest.

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112	112.2	Cherokee Plains	The Cherokee Plains CRA is one continuous plain of very low relief (usually less than 80 feet) mostly on Pennsylvanian sandstones and shales, but with associated thin-bedded limestones and coal. Streams have hardly dissected the surface, and valleys are topographically subdued. Wetlands are abundant throughout the wide, flat alluvial plains. Claypan soils add further distinction to the CRA. Presettlement vegetation was both upland and wet prairie, with timber confined to narrow strips along the stream courses. Most of the land is in farms, both pasture and cropland, with local areas of extensive strip mines. Substantial prairie remnants occur, many in conservation ownership.
116B	116B.1	Springfield Plain	This CRA is a large smooth plain. Relief is generally less than 150 feet, which is accounted for by slight dissection along streams. The plain is underlain by Mississippian cherty limestones that are responsible for several areas of well-developed karst and numerous springs. Much of the subsection is pasture, but forests occur in hillier portions.