OGALLALA
LAND & WATER CONSERVANCY

**PROTECTING OUR LAND.
SAVING OUR WATER.
SUSTAINING OUR LEGACY.**

The Ogallala Land & Water Conservancy (OLWC) is a nonprofit organization based in Clovis, N.M. dedicated to conserving the groundwater resources of the Ogallala Aquifer. Through our voluntary, market-based model, we negotiate conservation easements and lease agreements on behalf of farmers, ranchers, landowners and businesses to protect the long-term water supply needs for Eastern New Mexico.

THE OLWC MODEL:

- Landowners can start small before making long-term agreements
- Landowners are provided with technical resources & planning assistance
- Landowners receive annual compensation and long-term funding for retiring their irrigation wells
- Legal services, appraisals & due diligence are often covered at no cost

PHASE 1 (Short-Term)	PHASE 2 (Long-Term)
Water Right Lease Agreements	Groundwater Conservation Easements
3 Year Term	In Perpetuity
Irrigation wells are metered and groundwater value is appraised based on fair market data and future anticipated land use (dryland cropping, pastureland or grazing)	100% of the groundwater and associated water rights remain with the landowner. Of that, 80% is permanently retired to protect the aquifier, while the landowner retains 20%
Landowners are compensated annually based on appraised groundwater value	Landowners are compensated one time based on appraised conservation easement value
Irrigation wells are voluntarily retired for 3-year lease term, with optional 1-year extensions as needed	Irrigation wells are voluntarily retired in perpetuity.
Water use during lease limited solely to livestock watering, household supply, and well maintenance.	Water use during conservation easement limited to livestock watering and household supply; up to 20% of groundwater remains unused or may be leased for municipal use.

Water Right Lease Agreement Payment Example (Phase 1)

1650 Gallons Per Minute (GPM) — Annual Water Production

X $250 — Appraised Value of the Groundwater

X 3 — Number of Years

= $1,237,500 Total Lease Payment

$412,500/Yr for 3 Years

Payments vary based on individual water production, crop history, and property appraisals.

OUR VALUES

Trust & Transparency

We know trust is earned. That's why we work transparently as we seek to build relationships with landowners over time.

We recognize that conservation easements and water right lease agreements can be complicated, so we offer the legal and professional support necessary to handle financial transactions openly and honestly.

Through voluntary landowner participation, we emphasize a local, landowner-driven model that is data-driven and communicated every step of the way.

Financial Certainty

As landowners face growing pressures, it's more important than ever to give them financial certainty over time. That means ensuring they are fairly and fully compensated if they choose to retire their irrigation wells and move from irrigated farm and ranchland to dryland cropping, pastureland or grazing.

In exchange for their groundwater rights, landowners receive annual payouts that factor in profits from previous farm sales - all while retaining ownership of their land and maintaining a baseline water supply for household or livestock uses.

Flexibility

A unique aspect of our work is giving landowners the ability to start small and take it one step at a time. Phase 1 involves a three-year trial period for water rights lease agreements. Phase 2 involves voluntary conservation easement agreements that retire irrigation water in perpetuity, guaranteeing landowners a long-term funding source.

After Phase 1, a landowner can reassess without committing themselves to anything, and if they decide the relationship is not for them, they can simply opt-out. We don't believe in hard-sell, take-it-or-leave-it approaches - it's not who we are or how we work.

OUR PROGRESS

10 participating landowners

56 wells metered & retired

12.05 billion gallons saved

11,120 acres transitioned to non-irrigated uses

$28 million invested

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